Henry Ramsey, Jr. (’60) fondly recalled his experiences as a UCR student. The former prosecutor, private practitioner, law professor, judge and law-school dean donated $20,000 to establish The Henry Ramsey, Jr. Revolving Emergency Loan Fund (RELF) designed to help undergraduate students with short-term financial emergencies.

Ramsey had a real passion to see financially strapped students succeed. “As a young student, I needed this kind of emergency assistance on an occasion or two,” recalled the retired judge. Ramsey received his undergraduate philosophy degree from the University of California, Riverside and his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) in 1963.

His experience as a law school dean gave him the opportunity to hear different stories, many of which he could easily relate to his own academic career. “When I was a student, I received an emergency loan, and it made the difference in my being able to complete my degree,” he said.

The loan program allows undergraduate students with financial need to borrow up to $1,000 with no interest. Students have used the loan program to help pay for school fees, textbooks and living expenses. “The school (UCR) did me good,” said Ramsey. “I'm happy that I can give back.”

From 1971 to 1980 Ramsey served as a member of the law faculty at Boalt Hall where he achieved the rank of full professor. During his tenure, he also served as a member of the Berkeley city council from 1973 to 1977.

Ramsey served on the superior court of California from 1981 until 1991, and he was a presiding judge in 1987-1988. In the fall of 1987, Ramsey was honored with the UCR Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. The award is the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Association and is given in recognition of national and international distinction in one’s field and significant contribution to humankind. In 2003, he was similarly honored with Boalt’s Citation Award, the highest honor recognizing exceptional achievement by a graduate of the law school.

Ramsey was dean of Howard University School of Law from 1991 until 1996. He served as chairperson of the American Bar Association section of legal education and admissions to the bar, was a life member of the American Law Institute and was the recipient of the 2000 Robert J. Kutak Award for promoting understanding between legal education and the active practice of law.

Ramsey also served as chairperson of the Law School Admission Council’s bar passage study committee, a member of the National Commission on Trial Court Performance Standards, Chief of Party of the USAID funded Nigerian Rule of Law Project (2002), a member of the ABA Commission on Evaluation of the Rules of Professional Conduct (Ethics 2000), and as a member of the ABA’s Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Judge Ramsey passed away on March 14, 2014.