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Report on Giving 2003–2004

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The Art Vertlieb, Q. C. Award

Vancouver lawyer Art Vertlieb, Q.C. has never shied away from making a commitment – except when he was deciding on a career. His mother wanted him to be a doctor, and so to please her he enrolled in pre-med at the University of Arizona. But on the first day of orientation when he heard the dean speak about the curriculum, Vertlieb became so bored he left the session an hour later declaring, “I want to go into law.”

Vertlieb went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science and Business Administration from the University of Arizona in 1969 (the Canadian equivalent of a Bachelor of Commerce) and then an LLB from Osgoode in 1972. To this day, his love for the law and the legal profession – and for Osgoode – knows no bounds.

“Everything I am in life falls from the wonderful opportunity I had to get a legal education at Osgoode,” says Vertlieb who is one of the Law School’s most passionate alumni. He was the driving force behind a generous gift of \$78,872 from the Class of 1972 three years ago, and has helped organize numerous class reunions and other Law School events in British Columbia. In addition, he was involved with the Osgoode Centennial Campaign (1989 to 1994) that raised \$6.9 million and was honoured in 2002 with an Alumni Gold Key Award for his outstanding contributions to the Law School.

Father of three sons and partner in Vertlieb Dosanjh, Vertlieb’s enthusiasm, keen mind, strong leadership skills and passionate commitment are evident in everything he does. “It’s important to do things that matter and not put yourself first all the time,” he says.

Vertlieb, who is a founding member of the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia as well as the Lawyers Assistance Program, which helps lawyers and their families struggling with addiction, has generously donated The Art Vertlieb, Q.C. Award to financially assist an Osgoode student from B.C. who has demonstrated leadership through extracurricular activities and has good academic standing.

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