Mr. Peter A. Allard, QC  
Remarks at the Faculty naming announcement at Norman Mackenzie House.  
January 22, 2015

Dear Friends, Family and Honoured Guests,

It is a privilege and an honour to be here on this momentous day, which is the culmination of a progression of events from the naming of the UBC Law building in September 2011 and the development and awarding of the first Allard Prize for International Integrity by the Faculty in 2013.

A key purpose of the Allard Prize is to establish UBC’s Law School internationally, in terms of a vision for integrity and ethics in the law. But the overarching goals of the Prize are to recognize those chosen from countries around the globe for their fearless and enduring fight to make this a better world, and to inspire all of us, whether lawyers or citizens, to renew our commitment to the six foundational principles recognized by the Prize: courage, leadership, transparency, accountability, Rule of Law, and anti-corruption.

Today’s announcement is about the creation of several permanent endowments to support the long-term success of the Faculty, to enable the Faculty to establish and maintain “pillars of excellence” in human rights and international integrity and ethics, to build a vision, to take a leadership role and to raise the recognition of the Law School internationally:
First, a student support endowment, to ensure that the most promising students are able to access legal education at the Faculty through scholarships or bursaries, summer employment and otherwise, and to support best practices with respect to admissions;
Second, a faculty recruitment and retention endowment, to ensure that the Faculty has the best and the brightest teachers and researchers from around the world; and
Third, a student learning endowment, to ensure excellence in the programs offered by the Faculty, as well as further funding for the Allard Prize itself.

The creation and sustaining of wealth does not happen by accident. It involves constant risk assessment, diversity of assets, good management, faith and in some cases a little luck. My ability to give to the Law School has occurred through a process of “thinking long term” and with much diligence and cooperation and collaboration, with business associates, lawyers, engineers, planners, accountants and financial advisors, including my friends Stewart Hayashi, Geoff Lyster and Rick Wong, who are here today, and last but not least my faithful and extremely diligent secretary-paralegal Dennie Flynn and office assistant Jane Turnbull, who have to remind me often of what day it is and where things are.

In fact, my gifts for current and future generations coming through the Faculty are the result of the labours of three generations of family members, working separately or together at times, who have created capital for me, and worked with me to grow it, by providing services and products, and through investments. It started with my father, who had vision with respect to
many businesses that could be started right away and where there were opportunities to acquire assets for long-term development. My father’s investments were visionary, diverse and prudent. As my father neared his 60th birthday, his strategy and approach moved from entrepreneurial risk taking to the preservation of assets. This responsibility was entrusted to my sister Cathy who carried out the assignment superbly.

My older brother Cam and his capable and competent children, Robert Manning (who was my fathers’ right-hand man), my nephew Rob King, and all their loyal and capable staff, are the sole reason The Highbury Foundation, which will likely provide some of the gift, has risen to many times its original funding 21 years ago. They did this through the creation of services and housing, industrial and commercial building developments over many decades, successfully and prudently, to meet the needs of our burgeoning economies in Western Canada and the US.

And my gifts are also the result of the tradition of giving on the part of my father, brothers and sisters and other family members over the past 50 years, and the powerful example set by my mother of always helping wherever she could, however she could. It is with heartfelt thanks that I want all of them to know that this is very much a donation and legacy on their behalf, as it is mine.

It is in this context that I wish UBC’s Investment Management Trust Inc. or IMANT (which will manage the endowments), the University administration, and the Law School administration, faculty and students involved here today and in the future to know that these funds are given to them as a sacred trust to manage and grow prudently and judiciously for all future law students and faculty, so that the Faculty can long endure and prosper, and effect positive change in the world.

Bob Lee persistently encouraged me to take the opportunity to fund Allard Hall, telling me that I would never regret it. Since the opening of Allard Hall, it is Dean Mary Anne Bobinski, Assistant Dean, External Relations Kari Streelasky, all members of the Allard Prize Committee, its management team and students, my lawyer Geoff Lyster, and my nephew Rob King, who have taken the idea of an international prize for integrity and raised it to a reality beyond anything I could possibly imagine.

The Faculty’s dedication of its belief and energies in the vision is what drew me to this further level of commitment. The personal commitment of Mary Anne Bobinski and Kari Streelasky has been truly extraordinary, and the approach and dedication of other senior University representatives, including Heather McCaw, Associate Vice-President, Development, has been uniformly positive, supportive and appreciated.

The monies that are being committed today are to establish one of the world’s truly great law schools, in significant part by giving this Law School the ability to steadfastly and rigorously advance the principles of the Allard Prize, encourage their adoption and multiply the beneficial effects in our day-to-day life, and work with those in the legal community and beyond, locally, nationally, and internationally, to make a better world. I believe these principles, which respect
the concept that all human beings are of value and worthy of our energies, are critical to the future success of our societies.

We have the power and ability to follow the path of honesty and integrity and restore (or, in many cases, introduce) these principles in our institutions. My desire is that, now and hereafter, the Peter A. Allard School of Law use my gifts to secure its leadership role in this campaign to move the principles of the Allard Prize forward to a concept of “we” versus “I”, and be a beacon of hope, and a catalyst for positive change, around the world.