The Law School has established an endowed professorship in honor of an alumna who was the first African American woman to serve on a state supreme court in the United States.

The Juanita Kidd Stout Professorship has been endowed by $1 million in pledges and gifts from faculty members, friends of the law school and alumni. It is the first professorship in the history of Indiana University to honor an African American woman and the law school’s first scholarship named after a woman of color.

Stout earned a JD degree from IU in 1948 and an LLM in 1954. After graduation, she moved to Pennsylvania and opened a law practice. She then worked in the district attorney’s office and was elected to the Philadelphia Municipal Court in 1959, making her the first African American woman in the country to be elected to a court of record.

Later, she became the first African American woman to be appointed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the first African American woman to serve as a state supreme court justice in the United States. She received an honorary degree from Indiana University in 1966 and was inducted in 1986 into the law school’s Academy of Law Alumni Fellows, the school’s highest honor.
When Stout died in 1998, she left an indelible legacy of service and accomplishment. Philadelphia named the Juanita Kidd Stout Criminal Justice Center in recognition of the difference she made in thousands of lives as a lawyer and public servant.

“Justice Kidd Stout has long been a personal hero of mine,” said Lauren Robel, IU Bloomington provost and executive vice president, and the Val Nolan Professor of Law. “She lived a remarkable life of historic firsts marked by courage and compassion while shattering barriers to women and African Americans in the legal profession.”

Robel has made a lead gift to the endowment, and 11 other law school faculty, alumni and friends of the law school have added to it.

Those who join Robel in establishing the endowment include:

- Alfred C. Aman Jr., Roscoe C. O’Byrne Professor of Law
- Sarah Evans Barker, senior judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
- Kevin Brown, Richard S. Melvin Professor of Law
- Robert L. Fischman, George P. Smith, II Distinguished Professor of Law
- Luis Fuentes-Rohwer, Class of 1960 Herman E Wells Endowed Professor
- Charles Gardner Geyh, John F. Kimberling Professor of Law
- Dawn Johnsen, Walter W. Fossett Professor of Law
- Julia C. Lamb, professor emerita of law
- Leandra Lederman, William W. Oliver Professor of Tax Law
- Austin L. Parrish, dean and James H. Rudy Professor of Law

“The greatest law schools have great minds — faculty who are simultaneously creative scholars and engaging teachers,” said Dean Parrish. “Endowed professorships are a crucial tool for retaining our world-class faculty, for continually enriching our academic environment and, in turn, for attracting the most talented students. It will be a tremendous honor for a faculty member to be named the Juanita Kidd Stout Professor of Law.”

Justice Stout will be further honored with a historical marker as part of IU’s Bicentennial. The marker will be affixed to a boulder made of Indiana limestone and placed in a natural setting on the Bloomington campus. In addition, Justice Stout joins five trailblazing alumni on prominently placed banners outside Baier Hall: Hoagy Carmichael, ’26, the American Songbook composer and lyricist; Sam Dargan, 1909, our first African American graduate; Harriet Bouslog Sawyer, 1936, the labor relations pioneer; Hon. Sherman Minton, 1915, associate justice of the US Supreme Court; and Tamar Althouse Scholz, 1892, our first woman graduate.