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Document[Basic](#)[Advanced](#)[Saved](#)[Page Prints](#)[Help](#)[Start a New Search](#)**Other Formats:**[Abstract](#)[Full Text](#)[Page Print](#)[Printer Friendly](#)**New York environmentalist donates \$1 million to Pace Law School**

The Journal News - White Plains, N.Y.

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WHITE PLAINS -A veteran labor negotiator is donating \$1 million to Pace University Law School to fund a dispute-resolution program on environmental issues, a discipline school officials say will grow with burgeoning problems such as climate change and open-space protection.

Theodore W. Kheel, a member of the state bar since 1937 and author of "The Keys to Conflict Resolution," spent most of his legal career hammering out agreements between labor and management.

In 1988, The New York Times called Kheel "perhaps the most influential industrial peacemaker in New York City" in the previous half-century.

He had worked to resolve airline, rail, newspaper and other strikes for presidents and New York mayors since the 1960s.

His resume, however, includes as much on sustaining the Earth's habitat as it does on bringing stability to the workforces of major industries.

"Ted Kheel has been interested in the environment for a long time," said Nicholas Robinson, one of the founding professors of the school's nationally ranked environmental-law program.

"He worked very hard on the Earth Summit in 1992 in Brazil. People know him as a labor negotiator, maybe the nation's leading labor negotiator, but they don't know he has an equally strong interest in environmental protection."

The 93-year-old New York City resident was born in Brooklyn and as recently as January issued the results of a congestion-pricing study he commissioned on mass transit that showed vehicular traffic would decrease by 25 percent if the Metropolitan Transportation Authority dropped subway and bus fees in Manhattan.

His donation, announced Friday at the New York City Bar Association in Manhattan, will help start the "Kheel Center on Resolution of Environmental Interest Disputes" at the law school.

"Ted Kheel is a force of nature all by himself," said Stephen J. Friedman, Pace's president, in accepting the grant. "He has brought not just funds, but an incredibly exciting idea to Pace Law School. It's terribly important to us and we're very grateful."

After a well-received speech at Pace two years ago, Kheel began talking to school officials about combining his concern for the Earth with his negotiations work to give law students opportunities to focus on conflict resolution across a spectrum of environmental issues.

The school already offers some of the coursework necessary for conflict resolution, but will expand its offerings using the grant.

School officials said problems as local as not-in-my-backyard interests versus developers and as global as border disputes between countries with different air-quality standards can benefit from the dispute resolution, not to mention huge savings in legal costs.

Kheel said he primarily wants to promote sustainable development.

"Getting the facts straight is the key to conflict resolution, and it's something unique that lawyers can do," Kheel said Friday.

"But it is the most serious problem we have to address - more important than Iraq and health care - because it has to do with the ability of the people of the world to survive."

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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