SINGAPORE: A lawyer is showing her gratitude to society by giving S$1 million to help law students at the National University of Singapore.

The money from Ms Ella Cheong, who is a pioneer in the field of intellectual property law in Asia, will be used for scholarships, bursaries and student loans.

"My reason for the gift is simple - the money was generated as a direct result of my having been chosen to set up an Intellectual Property practice in Singapore in the 80s," she said.

"Since this is money earned in Singapore which I would never have had otherwise, I felt it only right and proper that it in turn benefits to a very small degree the country which had been so generous in giving me this wonderful opportunity."

The Ella Cheong Intellectual Property Scholarship will be for well-performing law students, while the Ella Cheong Bursary will support law students who need financial assistance.

"The financial support that the donation provides will be immensely useful to the recipients and I hope that when they graduate, it will be an example and inspiration for them to give back to the community that has provided them with the opportunities to succeed," said Professor Tan Cheng Han, Dean of NUS Faculty of Law.

Up to three bursaries and two scholarships will be given every academic year.

"I am very thankful for the bursary that Ms Ella Cheong had kindly granted. This award not only keeps my mind off my own financial issues, on a larger scale, it also bears witness to the importance of contributing back to society," said Seng Han Ting, a first-year student at the NUS Faculty of Law. - CNA/vm