In July, 1954, following the merger with The Columbus School of Law, the Catholic University law school moved off campus, where it had been since its founding in 1895. The merged schools opened in September, 1954 with multiple divisions at what had been the Columbus University location at 1323 Eighteenth St. N.W. The building was originally the home of John W. Foster, the grandson of John Foster Dulles, and before Columbus University took it over, Robert Lassig, another secretary of state lived in it. Columbus University was approved by the American Bar Association in 1944.

The graduates of the Columbus University were prominent members of the bar, particularly in the Washington area, and particularly in government service. Columbus was founded in 1922 specifically as a part-time school for government workers.

The Catholic University School of Law brought a distinguished history to the merger. Its first degrees were granted in 1889. It has been on the approved list of the American Bar Association and a member of the Association of American Law Schools for more than thirty-five years.

Its founders planned it to be a small school. Over the years, its over 800 graduates have served the nation as governors, judges, legislators and successful practitioners in every part of the country.

By 1900, there were 47 students in the Catholic University of Law, though 18 of them carried on their studies in absentia, at a location other than the school itself.

There have been outstanding deans, from the beginning. The first was the Honorable William Callynan Robinson, who came to the University at the peak of a brilliant career. He was one of the founders of the Yale Law School, and, in fact, the man who in 1895 organized the Department of Law at The Catholic University just before it was raised to the status of School. In 1912, Dr. Thomas C. Corrigan became Dean. During his tenure, the School became a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Dr. Peter J. McLaughlin was named Dean in 1922, and was at the head of the School when it became the first one in the District to receive ABA recognition. The Honorable William H. De Lacy was appointed Dean in 1928, and was succeeded at his death in 1930 by John McDill Fox, who reorganized the School and its library and raised entrance requirements. He was succeeded by the Reverend Robert J. White in 1937, who had practiced law extensively before entering the seminary. He strengthened faculty and curriculum. Dean Brendan F. Brown became Dean in 1949, and was a major influence in shaping the jurisprudence of the School. The first issue of the Law Review was also published during his tenure. He was succeeded by Dr. Miller, who became the seventh Dean of the Catholic University Law School in 1954. At the time of the merger, it was stated: “This merger, which has been under consideration for some time, is intended by Trustees of both institutions to result in an expanded and strengthened School of Law.” This has, in fact, been the result.

Since the merger, the present Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America has maintained two divisions, a day division for full-time students and an evening division for part-time students who are employed in the daytime. Courses of study, standards and faculty are identical for both.

The present enrollment is 229 full-time and 185 part-time students. There are twenty-five Faculty members including the part-time Lecturers. Because of the size of the school, it has been possible, Dean Miller notes, to experiment effectively with curriculum revision within a relatively short period. “We change our sights, often as we learn from experience. During past years we have reshaped most of our courses, introduced survey courses, and integrated many courses into new combinations, such as the public law survey.” The library, too, has been strengthened, and now has over 36,000 volumes, and extracurricular activities have been much expanded. The moot court program of the University has had great success in recent years in national competition. The Law Review has just become a quarterly, its first issue on this basis appearing this month.

The School's professional strength derives essentially from the high competence and experience of its faculty. Strength is also derived from the many resources of the University's ten schools and twenty-seven departments. With these resources, opportunities for graduate work in Law are many and special.

As Dean Miller has written, "It is not for us in the Law School to appraise our school or to evaluate our achievements. It is enough to say that we are struggling to relate Catholic social philosophy to the problems of politics as they are reflected in court decisions, legislation and the tradition of the common law. . . . Our school is small. We think that a close relationship between faculty members and students helps to develop a feeling of solidarity and an appreciation of professional responsibilities. Our full-time law teachers have been practitioners who are now dedicated to the teaching of law. They know their students individually. They do not all think alike on political questions or legal issues, but they do have in common an appreciation of the profound implications of Catholic philosophy as it relates to social questions."