The Building For the Future

Columbus School of Law
Dedication, October 1, 1994

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
Dear Friends of the Columbus School of Law:

In the provision of the new edifice, The Catholic University of America makes a deeply serious commitment to legal studies as a vital component of its total mission. While the self-perpetuation of its eminent faculty, the active loyalty of its graduates, and the dedication of capable students are in fact constitutive of the Law School, there is still much to be said for the symbolism of suitable facilities and the message they send.

All of us here are conscious, moreover, of the defining character of this complex as it gives shape to the campus on its eastern boundary, and greets the Metro and Marc publics. The siting decision was sensitive to the convenience of students and to the needs of our legal-aid clientele, showing that the School and indeed the University means to dwell in the real world of the District.

While the note of a bright future is clearly sounded here, there is also homage — not to the past considered nostalgically — but to the timeless in terms of principles: persons are sacred, law civilizes, service is better than greed. Such awareness leads both to distinction and — perhaps sadly — to distinctiveness. In congratulating all concerned, I wish you both.

Sincerely yours,

Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C.

Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C.
President
The new law building is both architecturally impressive and uniquely designed for legal education into the 21st century.
The three-story atrium with its natural light is the focal point of the building’s interior.
The Building
For the Future

At the outset of the project, the law school community set out its hopes and dreams for a new facility. Five themes emerged:

- The building should be a distinguished design reflecting the school’s quality and aspirations.
- The building should encourage discourse and dialogue.
- The building should be a comfortable, attractive, and welcoming place responding to needs of students, staff, and faculty who spend many hours on campus.
- The building should make it easy to experiment with educational methods and keep abreast of new technologies for teaching, administration, and research.
- The building should not become obsolete in five, 10, or even 50 years with respect to quality of construction and flexibility of space as needs change.

The law school also challenged the building designers to create a facility that “would strengthen and improve the visual character and quality of its University campus.” The resulting design references architectural features from the university’s most distinguished buildings: gables and dormers; strongly vertical windows trimmed in material contrasting with the walls; complex assemblies of building elements with bays, dormers, and porches; a brick pattern recalling the texture of the campus’ stone buildings. The building echoes Romanesque Revival, Collegiate Gothic, and the Italianate features from the campus’ finest existing architecture. The result is a clearly contemporary building that freely borrows and combines these visual elements into a language that is uniquely that of The Catholic University of America — familiar to the campus but distinctive.

Features throughout the building — the spacious atrium, open stairways, comfortable cafe and student lounge, wide halls outside classrooms — encourage people to greet each other and linger to talk and debate ideas. Many large and small features — beautiful outdoor spaces, food service, lockers for every student, indoor parking, phones throughout the building — create a “home away from home” for the people who put in long hours at the law school.

A total of 120 miles of voice, data, and video cable provide the “highway” for audio-visual, computer, and telecommunications technology throughout the build-

ing. Many hours were spent designing systems that can produce sophisticated programming while remaining “user friendly” for the professor who merely wants to show a video tape to a class. The system also allows for quick and easy retrofit for constantly changing technology.

The mix of large and small classrooms, rooms for simulations of various sizes, and clinical teaching spaces provides flexibility to preserve the best of traditional law teaching while introducing new methods for 21st century legal education. Throughout the building, materials, construction methods, and furnishings were chosen for a building that will remain handsome and sturdy for many years to come.
AN OUTSTANDING
SPACE FOR LEGAL
STUDY AND RESEARCH,
THE JUDGE KATHRYN
J. DUFOUR LAW
LIBRARY IS A MODEL
LIBRARY FOR THE
STUDY OF LAW TODAY
AND INTO THE FUTURE.
The Judge Kathryn J. DuFour Law Library

From its traditional design to its modern electronic communication arteries, the Judge Kathryn J. DuFour Law Library is the model of a distinguished law library that reflects the changing patterns of legal research. This handsomely appointed space covers some 55,000 square feet of the building. Designed to accommodate more than 220,000 volumes, the facility can seat 500 patrons at fully equipped carrels, lounge areas, computer labs, spacious tables, and in six group study rooms.

Three floors of reading rooms and stack areas are traversed by an elegant staircase, which serves as the central passageway for library patrons. This architectural feature lifts both eye and spirit to the skylight above. Walls of windows provide plenty of natural light and beautiful views of the campus, including the campanile and blue dome of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The library’s overall ambiance is inviting.

Judge Kathryn J. DuFour

Large windows and comfortable seating provide a quiet setting in the library lounge.
Distinguished in its stately proportions and handsome decor, the Clark Reading Room is reminiscent of a classic reading room.
Prominently situated on the second floor amidst the library's treatise collection is the Clark Reading Room. Its stately proportions reflect the atmosphere of centuries-old reading rooms, particularly those found at the English Inns of Court and at some older American law schools. Cherry wood bookcases and wainscot detail compliment the style. Handsome tables and chairs, crafted by Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers of Auburn, Maine, provide study and research space. Recessed lights, table lamps, and a pendant chandelier offer beautiful and functional lighting. Large windows overlooking the courtyard fountains complete the setting.

The Government Documents and Microforms Reading Room is also located on the second floor. A large selection of Congressional publications, such as United States Congressional hearings, prints, reports, House and Senate journals and the Congressional Record, are stored there in hard copy and micro format. The room also includes a wide selection of individually prepared legislative histories and, the law library's microfiche and microfilm collection, which is quickly approaching 100,000 volume equivalents.

The library also boasts two state-of-the-art computer labs to accommodate student word processing, electronic mail, and computer training. Both computer labs also offer access to Dialog, Lexis, Nexis, Westlaw, communication via Internet, and a variety of other research services and automated office programs. Here students can complete course assignments and connect to law school and university networks. In addition, 20 extra-large carrels on the fourth floor were custom built to accommodate personal computers and printers.

Our Guiding Principle

"DO JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, AND WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD." Micah 6:8

The quote, which appears on the library wing facing the campus, is a statement of the school's mission in imparting knowledge of the law and relating it to the university's religious identity.

The law school faculty recommended inscribing the quote on the exterior.

The tablets on each end of the library gable on the campus side give the founding dates of the two schools that merged to become the Columbus School of Law in 1954. The Catholic University of America law school was founded in 1897. The Columbus University School of Law was established by the Knights of Columbus in 1922.
The Judge Kathryn J. DuFour Law Library, encompassing the entire west wing of the building, can accommodate more than 220,000 volumes and can seat 500 patrons.
Also among the highly praised features of the library are the 228 state-of-the-art study carrels. Each 30-inch by 45-inch unit has been individually handcrafted by Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers. Dubbed the "Columbus Carrel," each is built of the finest cherry wood to the library's special requirements, which include a shelf large enough for law books or a computer printer; a hidden wire channel; a durable, high quality laminated writing surface; and end panels emblazoned with the university seal.

Law librarians anticipate dramatic changes in the way students will use the library in the future. Thus, all carrels are equipped with task lighting, power outlets and a data port capable of connecting personal lap-top computers to available communication systems. Such data ports will offer easy access to class assignments, student discussion groups, registration information, Lexis, Westlaw, and Internet.
THE WALTER A. SLOWINSKI COURTROOM IS ONE OF THREE ROOMS DESIGNED FOR TRIAL AND APPELLATE ADVOCACY TEACHING AND MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS.

This page made possible through a gift from Baker & McKenzie in memory of Walter A. Slowinski, the founder of its Washington, D.C. Office on April 1, 1957.
Spaces for Teaching Professional Skills

In the past, the law school's excellent full-time and part-time faculty members who taught advocacy skills labored with only one inadequate courtroom. The school's fine tradition in advocacy training and moot court competitions flourished despite poor facilities.

Now the professional skills curriculum and moot court program have three handsome rooms for trial and appellate advocacy teaching. The Slowinski Courtroom off the atrium and the Haislip and Yewell Courtroom both feature a fine handcrafted cherry bench, jury box, railing, and counsel tables, and carved and molded seals of the university.

The Slowinski Courtroom can be adapted for up to five appellate judges, a trial court, a legislative hearing room or a city council dais. The Haislip and Yewell Courtroom is specially designed as a "teaching court" so students face the jury with a clear view of them, as well as the judge and advocates. One of the seminar rooms flanking the atrium was designed with wainscot and an area where portable risers can simulate the well of a court, providing a third space for trial and appellate advocacy classes. All three court spaces have provisions for video taping.

Two richly appointed judge or jury rooms can serve either courtroom. They also can simulate a law firm conference or board room for negotiations and other professional skills exercises.

A suite of six rooms on the first floor serves the on-campus placement interview program in the fall, but year-round provides spaces for exercises in interviewing, counseling, and negotiation courses with audio-visual taping capacity.

THE HAISLIP AND YEWELL COURTROOM IS THE "TEACHING COURT" FOR DEVELOPING TRIAL SKILLS.
Service • Truth • Justice – The tradition continues. Congratulations Arnold & Porter.
The Columbus School of Law building offers students and faculty a stunning setting for study, research and learning. The structure fronts a new campus quadrangle with walkways that link the law school with the rest of the university.
THE WILLIAM J. BYRON, S.J., AUDITORIUM,
DESIGNED TO USE THE LATEST AUDIO-VISUAL
EQUIPMENT, IS INTENDED FOR SPECIAL EVENTS
AND LECTURES. THE AUDITORIUM IS DIVIDED
INTO TWO CLASSROOMS FOR DAY-TO-DAY USE.
State-of-the-Art Space for Legal Education

In keeping with the school’s tradition of small class size, the classroom wing contains 40-seat, 76-seat, and 85-seat tiered rooms on each level. In addition, two 112-seat classrooms off the atrium can be combined to create the William J. Byron, S.J., Auditorium, named in honor of former university President Byron. Each classroom is outfitted with a retractable projection screen and audiovisual equipment. All rooms are wired for a video-beam projector.

Six seminar rooms are located throughout the building to handle the trend in legal education toward small classes. Additional small rooms accommodate special programs and meetings.

The third-floor media center can control taping and video display throughout the building. It also will provide editing equipment to produce materials for classroom use. The classroom video projection equipment is “user friendly,” so that a professor can use it without the assistance of a technician. The Communications Law Institute suite houses a studio with enhanced light and wiring for cameras to allow production of first class educational programming.

The new facility is a model in the use of information technology in legal education. It was designed to take advantage of the evolving computer information age. A high-speed connection to the Internet provides students and faculty with a vast highway of legal data and information, including rapid access to Westlaw and Lexis.

The building has approximately 1,200 network connections. Students and faculty can “plug-in” lap-top computers at any jack to get on the Internet or access electronic mail. Professors can use computer projection displays in their teaching, and two classrooms are fully wired for network and electrical connections at each seat.

The state-of-the-art wiring and electronics used in the building are designed to take advantage of future technologies involving massive databases, video teleconferencing, and other capabilities.

Above, in keeping with the school’s tradition of small class size, the classroom wing contains 40-seat, 76-seat and 85-seat tiered rooms on two levels. Below, a computer lab enables students to take advantage of evolving technology.
THE COURTYARD WITH ITS REFLECTING POOL AND FOUNTAINS IS THE CENTERPIECE OF THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN. IT IS A FAVORITE SPOT FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF TO RELAX.
Student Comfort — A High Priority

Student comfort and an attractive environment conducive to individual study and dialogue with others was a primary design goal. The classrooms and library feature an abundance of natural light and generous work space.

In addition to class time, many students are in the building from early morning to midnight studying in the library, working on journals or moot court projects, representing clients in the clinic, and taking part in programs sponsored by student groups. The first floor houses a locker for every student and mail folders for individual messages.

Students can relax in the circular lounge, featuring an espresso cart, that opens onto the light-filled dining room served by a cafeteria/snack bar and vending area. In addition, the atrium, courtyard, and grassy quadrangle are outfitted with benches inviting students to stop and talk with others or sit quietly during a busy day. Halls outside the classrooms and the library include comfortable lounge chairs.

A video display system and message boards throughout the building enhance communication, as does the school's electronic mail system, which is rapidly expanding from faculty and staff to students.

The building provides plenty of space for co- and extra-curricular student activities. The Catholic University Law Review, Journal of Contemporary Health Law, and the CommLaw Conspexus editorial offices and work rooms are on Level II, along with the Moot Court Board suite. Level I includes work stations for the school's more than 25 other student organizations, an office for the Student Bar Association and school newspaper, and a student organization conference room, all convenient to the student lounge.

On level III, a Catholic chapel is being completed. It offers warm and respectful hospitality to people from the many diverse religious backgrounds represented in the law school community. The adjacent St. Thomas More classroom provides a larger space for the celebration of Mass and other worship services.
Legal Careers —
Making the Right Choice

The Office of Legal Career Services is on Level I close to the hub of student activities. The area was designed to assist students and alumni with job searches and career management needs. Career counselors’ offices, interview rooms, and a resource library are in close proximity to each other, making it easy for students to use the services offered by LCS.

Six interview rooms are available for prospective employers to meet with students in comfortable and professional surroundings. When not being used for this purpose, the rooms can be used by LCS staff to conduct mock interviews to prepare students for job recruitment and to serve as simulation space for interviewing, counseling, and negotiation courses.

The architects designed the building to be distinctive, but compatible with other campus structures.

Interview rooms and a resource library are situated in the Legal Career Services office.
Reaching Out
To the Community

Columbus Community Legal Services, the law school’s in-house clinic, previously located in a townhouse on North Capitol Street, N.E., occupies 5,000 square feet on the building’s first level. The clinic continues to provide legal services to indigent clients from all parts of the city, while at the same time affording students valuable lawyering experiences.

A separate clinic entrance ensures easy entry to clients and others in the community who interact with the clinic staff. The space includes a comfortable waiting/play area for clients and their children, a conference room, library, one large and two smaller work spaces with individual stations for 35 students, and faculty and staff offices.

The proximity of the new building to the Metrorail station and Brookland Metro bus terminal makes the clinic readily accessible to clients. In addition, the clinic offers an opportunity to enhance the school’s bond with the Brookland community.

Virtues and Values Etched in Stone

These 16 words chiseled into the McCormack Road facade were selected by the law school as virtues and values to which lawyers and the legal system should aspire.
Faculty and Staff Space
To Better Serve Students

The school's dedicated and nationally respected faculty is housed in space commensurate with the professors' fine reputations for legal scholarship and teaching. The faculty and support staff wing is located on Level IV. Each faculty office has a window view of either the atrium or the outside environs.

Faculty members were able to tailor their individual office furniture preferences. Computers and Integrated Services Digital Network phones allowing transmission of voice, data and video are available to all faculty.

The faculty floor also includes three conference rooms; a faculty lounge for picking up mail, reading the paper, and informal gatherings; the copy center; the administrative dean's office; and a staff lounge.

All deans and administrative offices that students visit regularly are in pleasant sunny offices on a third-floor corridor overlooking the atrium. This location provides easy access for students, convenience for staff, and a high level of connectedness to the day-to-day activities of the school.
Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends:

There is an expected air of joyous celebration to this Dedication Weekend — ceremonial ribbon-cuttings and festive gatherings, happy congratulations all around, warm pride within the law school and throughout the CUA community, and gratefulness to those whose work and generosity made this building real. All of these sentiments are apt, and deserved. To every one of you participating directly, or vicariously, in this weekend's events, I extend greetings, best wishes, and thanks.

The focus of this weekend, though, is not on the end of a construction project. The building is not a monument to the past, meant merely to endure without regard for the human activity that occurs within. Rather, we join to dedicate this building as the embodiment of a living commitment of people to people, to continue quality legal education in the Columbus School of Law for a second century. It is an institutional expression of confidence and faith to all those who will work and study here for generations. We are dedicating ourselves — and charging our successors — to design, conduct and support that educational program to the best of everyone's abilities.

The design and construction of this building therefore finishes nothing (except the era of inadequate space). It begins a new age of challenge and opportunity for the Columbus School of Law. It removes any excuse to compromise on the aspirations of the school, or to be satisfied with anything less than their full attainment.

Onward!

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Rohner
Dean
Level I

1 Columbus Community Legal Services
2 Legal Career Services
3 Student Lockers
4 Student Lounge
5 Dining/Kitchen
6 Student Organizations
7 Parking/Library Expansion
8 Parking

Level II

1 Library
2 Journals
3 Trial Courtroom
4 Judge/Jury/Seminar Rooms
5 Courtroom
6 Moot Court Board
7 Two 112-Seat Classrooms (auditorium)
8 Classroom Wing
9 Seminar Room
10 Courtwell Seminar Room
11 Atrium
12 Courtyard
Level III
1 Library
2 Deans/Student Services
3 Chapel
4 Classroom Wing
5 Seminar
6 Seminar
7 Communications Law Institute
8 Clinical Programs

Level IV
1 Library
2 Administration
3 Faculty and Support Offices
Acknowledgements

The Building Committee

Faculty: Leah Wortham (Chair),
Dean Ralph J. Rohner, John L.
Garvey, Harvey L. Zuckman, David
A. Lipton, Robert A. Destro, Lisa
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Howard Levo, CUA Director of
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Assistance on audio-visual planning:
Richard A. Hindman, ’89

Each person listed served on the commit-
tee for some period of time since 1987.
Not all served for the total period.

Thanks to Roger Lewis, F.A.I.A., and
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Architecture and Planning, CUA, for
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James Madison Cutts
Structural Engineers

Heller Metzger
Specifications
MMP International
Cost Estimators
Wheel Gersztoff Friedman Shankar
Lighting
Cini Little International, Inc.
Food Service
Acentech, Inc.
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OMNI Construction, Inc.
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Donnie Norwood,
CUA Director of Publications
Matthew Barrick,
CUA Photographer
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Architectural Photographer

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Building Facts

Groundbreaking Ceremony ............... April 12, 1992
Construction begun .................. August 1992
Cornerstone Ceremony ............... April 17, 1993
Construction completed ............... June 1994
Dedication ................................ October 1, 1994

Total square feet .......................... 170,000
Windows .................................. 345
Bricks .................................... 180,000
Pre-cast concrete panels .......... 1,400
Tons of steel .............................. 1,100
Cubic yards of concrete .......... 18,000
Sheets of drywall ...................... 10,000
Square feet of slate .................. 16,684
Staircases .................................. 12
Student lockers ......................... 910
Seats in cafeteria and terrace ...... 96
Miles of voice, data and video cable 120
Satellite dishes ......................... 2
Telephones (2 TDD for hearing impaired) 180
Doors ...................................... 426
Light fixtures ............................. 3,500
Square yards of carpet ............. 16,000
Restrooms .................................. 24
Water fountains ......................... 9
Elevators .................................. 3
Underground parking spaces ....... 560
CUA seals ................................ More than 600

Library
seats ...................................... More than 500
Study carrels .............................. 248
Linear feet of shelving .............. 32,000
ten-foot study tables .................. 26
Eight-foot study tables .............. 9
Computers .................................. 75
Student study rooms .................. 6
Faculty study rooms .................... 6
Lexis-Westlaw rooms ................. 3
Photocopy rooms ....................... 3

Landscaping
grass quadrangle ...................... 410-foot by 175-foot
Paved courtyard ...................... 95-foot by 110-foot
Courtyard benches ..................... 12
Iron street lamps in courtyard .... 8
Honey locust trees ..................... 53
Yoshino cherry trees ................. 33
Autumn flowering cherry trees .... 16
Ash trees .................................. 15
Red oaks .................................. 13
Korean dogwoods ....................... 9
Southern magnolia ..................... 1

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