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Building a Dynamic Future

University of Michigan Law School

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BUILDING A DYNAMIC FUTURE

Michigan Law
University of Michigan Law School
BUILDING A DYNAMIC FUTURE
NEW ERA, NEW SPACES FOR MICHIGAN LAW

Michigan Law is meeting the needs
of 21st-century legal education
by extending and enhancing the School's campus
with a new Student Commons and Academic Building.
With these additions the Law Quad will be greater
than the sum of its parts—dynamic, collegial, and
infused with the spirit of community that has always been
the hallmark of Michigan Law.

Artist's rendering of the new academic building, as seen from the
northwest corner of State and Monroe streets.
Why we must build

*Dean Evan Caminker on the evolution of legal education*

A world-class law school deserves a world-class home.

Since 1933 Michigan Law has been proud to call the William W. Cook Law Quadrangle home. The building of the Law Quad gave Michigan a competitive edge in attracting great students and top-tier faculty. For nearly eight decades the Quad has been the site of the best legal education anywhere in the world.

But today's law school is more than cavernous classrooms inhabited by professors straight out of *The Paper Chase*. Today's Michigan Law student learns in and out of the classroom, through lectures, seminars, clinical experiences, technology, and in leadership roles of our many student organizations and journals.

The venerable Quad is bursting at the seams. Now, we must ensure the stature of Michigan Law by giving it a home for the 21st century.

In determining the shape, look, and feel of the additions to our space, we have worked with Hartman-Cox Architects of Washington, D.C., experienced designers of additions to signature buildings like the Quad.

We are thrilled with the results.

The new four-story, stone-clad academic building across Monroe Street will answer our need for additional spaces for students and faculty and will be fully integrated into the life of the School. The new Law School Commons within the Quad will combine classic and contemporary styles to be a gathering place for our learning community and a hub of student life.

On paper, the project adds 116,000 square feet of new space to our historic home. But in reality it multiplies everything we do—increasing our spirit, our functionality, our collegiality, and, significantly, our competitive edge. It combines the very best of our traditions and our future.

We invite you to help us build our new home.

Evan Caminker
Dean and Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law
Respecting tradition while meeting contemporary needs
The New Law School Commons

*Introducing fresh new space and functionality*

As the main gathering place for the Law School community, the Commons will fill a previously unused space between buildings on the Quad. It will be covered by a glass and steel roof that affords breathtaking views of surrounding stone walls and leaded glass windows.

The Commons will include two levels: a main floor with a café and a variety of seating options, and a lower level, designed with student social needs in mind.

The new gathering spot will fulfill the Law School's real need for functional, informal social space. Students, faculty and staff can interact in a comfortable and light-filled setting, all with the majesty of the Law Quadrangle's classic Gothic architecture surrounding them.
The New Academic Building
*Blending classic style with contemporary feel*

What is the appropriate design for a project that both respects the Quad and its surroundings and ensures that the whole Michigan Law campus continues to be more than the sum of its elements?

This was the challenge for Hartman-Cox Architects, whose portfolio includes renovations and restorations of major historic and monumental buildings, including the National Archives Building, the Patent Office Building, and the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, all in Washington, D.C. Hartman-Cox has developed a particular expertise in the Collegiate Gothic design style that marks the Law Quad and has worked on academic projects for many other law and business schools.

Designed in a modified Collegiate Gothic style, the four-story academic building will clearly be part of the Law Quad "family" of buildings but will not imitate them. The new structure will be clad in stone and roofed in slate. A monumental entrance on Monroe Street will directly face an entrance to Hutchins Hall.

The building project also provides the opportunity to re-clad the metal siding on the Legal Research Building. The corrugated metal will be replaced with a stone facing that is an appropriate complement to the Law Quadrangle's distinguished look and feel.

The new four-story building is Michigan Law's first academic addition in more than 75 years.
Building architectural significance and timeless beauty
Much has changed inside the walls of the Quadrangle since it was completed in 1933. For Michigan and its peers, legal education is a more complex enterprise than ever before. We have ambitious plans for the future to maintain our global leadership, and this vision demands a significant increase in space and infrastructure.

We want to build contiguous space for our renowned clinical law program, where student attorneys can serve clients in a professional environment. Clinical legal education and practical engagement learning opportunities are an integral and vital part of today's curriculum.

We must add more learning spaces of different sizes, fully technologically equipped. We offer four times as many classes as in 1933, but most have fewer than 50 students, including seminars and small classes where students routinely interact with professors and each other.

We need more functional gathering space for social interaction. Both the new Commons and the inclusion of a comfortable student lounge in the new academic building will address one of the Law Quad's most familiar challenges: the lack of functional social space where students and faculty can interact in informal settings.

We need more meeting space for student life and student organizations on the Quad. Student organizations (more than 50 of them) have become an integral part of law-school life, yet two-thirds of the student body lives away from the Law Quad.

We must increase the size of our faculty and the accompanying office space to meet our current needs and future aspirations. In 1933, when the Quad was completed, we had 500 students and 17 faculty members. Today we have more than 1,100 students and more than 150 full-time, adjunct, and emeritus faculty. Our power to add faculty has been severely compromised by our current inability to provide functional office space.

We want to pull together today's critical student services under one roof to improve student support. Service offices with a direct impact on student life, such as admissions, financial aid, and career services, have been added since the Quad was built.
For the next generation

Seminars, real-world practice, and gathering space for 2012 and beyond

Great Hall, new academic building

Seminar room, new academic building

Clinic area, new academic building
What's in the new space?

A floor-by-floor description

The New Academic Building

Fourth Floor
Administrative offices comprise most of the fourth floor, including the Law School's offices for finance, facilities, and development/alumni relations.

Third Floor
Clinical and research faculty offices fill the third floor, along with conference spaces where faculty can easily meet for professional discussions, meet with small groups of students, or just share lunch.

Second Floor
The second floor will house the Clinical Law program's office suite. The floor will also be a hub for current students seeking information from the Financial Aid Office and prospective students coming to the Admissions Office for tours of Michigan Law. The School's office of communications and media relations is also on this floor.

Main Floor
The busy main floor expands our instructional space by adding a large classroom, two medium classrooms, and three seminar rooms. The offices of Career Services and Public Service are also here for easy access to students as they determine their career paths. A lounge offers space for study or discussion between classes.

Lower Level
Rounding out our new instructional spaces are another large classroom and another medium classroom, as well as mechanicals.
The New Commons

Main Floor
Lively, light and open, the main floor of the Commons adjoins the first floor of Hutchins Hall and includes a large seating area where students can gather to study in groups or individually, socialize, or meet informally with faculty. Also on the main floor is a café—a coffee-house style space whose warm welcome helps ensure that the Commons will be the vibrant new heart of the Quad.

Lower Level
The lower level of the Commons is designed with student social and organizational needs in mind. Student groups can meet informally here, or can host seminars or speakers. Floor openings at the perimeter bring in natural light from above and connect the two levels visually.
The time is now

How you can help

The total cost of the new academic building and the Law School Commons is $99 million. We will spend an additional $3 million to reclad the siding on the Legal Research Building with a stone facing.

The University, recognizing the Quadrangle's importance to the campus, has committed $18 million to the project, and Law School resources will contribute an additional $14 million. The remaining $70 million must come from private support.

We are well on our way to reaching that goal, thanks to the great generosity of donors who recognize the importance of the building project to the Law School's mission and ability to remain competitive.

But we still need your help. The time is now. We are asking alumni and friends of the Law School to partner with us to make this transformational project a reality. Please join us in helping Michigan Law take the next exciting step in its distinguished history.

Leading the way to Michigan Law's future

We would be pleased to talk to you about opportunities to name major spaces in the new academic building, the Commons, and across the Quad. All donors of $50,000 or more will be recognized on a permanent display in the new building.

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