

# Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)

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## Dean's Message

University of Michigan Law School

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## A message from Dean Caminker

1933.

That was the year the University of Michigan and its Law School completed the most iconic and dramatic academic complex on campus, and among the most impressive on any campus in this country, for that matter. The Law Quadrangle's distinctive architectural style immediately epitomized Michigan Law's academic rigor and special sense of community. This remarkable collection of buildings has been a source of great pride for generations of Michigan students, faculty, and alumni. We smile when visitors catch their breath upon entering the Reading Room, or delight in discovering the gargoyle-like faces hidden in the stonework.

And yet, Michigan's legal education is vastly different today than in the days those stones were first laid. The spaces first designed for 500 students and 17 faculty members now house 1,150 students, 81 full time faculty members and 60 adjuncts and visiting professors. And the needs of our academic community have changed along with the times: technologically, pedagogically, socially. It is our responsibility both to honor our unique architectural history and to address these increasingly pressing contemporary needs.

Last December the University's Board of Regents approved the Law School's major building and expansion project. We will add a new academic building south of the Quad, at the corner of State and Monroe Streets, along with an enclosed Law School Commons within the Quad between Hutchins Hall and the Legal Research building. The new facility will give us much needed seminar and classroom space, offices for the legal clinics, space for student organizations, and faculty offices. The Commons will provide the first indoor gathering spot outside the dining hall the School has ever had. All of this will support our efforts to provide the best possible legal education and further the collegiality for which we are justly celebrated.

First as a member of the faculty and now as dean, I have enjoyed the sense of historic significance that enfolds our community; and yet we must build out our facilities to support our Law School's scholarly energy and national leadership. I have established building committees of faculty, staff, and students to help us define our needs for academic space. This work has built a tremendous sense of momentum because these facility plans are not just blueprints for bricks and mortar—they house our vision for the future.



You can read more about the project and the lead architects, Hartman-Cox from Washington, D.C., on pages 10–15. The firm has a well-deserved reputation for award-winning design married to existing buildings of architectural significance. We are excited to enhance the Law School's signature complex as we add critical 21st century features and facilities that will benefit students for generations to come.

It seems especially appropriate to care for our historic architectural treasures as we look ahead to the Law School's sesquicentennial in 2009. Already we are renovating the Reading Room with a generous gift from U-M alumnus Charles Munger and have watched with keen interest as craftsmen lower chandeliers in preparation for restoration and design considerable functional improvements in tabletop, overhead, and hallway lighting. The lighting will enhance the learning environment while it revitalizes the room's decorative and distinctive design. You can see some of the work in progress on page 74.

We will celebrate the groundbreaking for the new building and the completion of the Reading Room restoration as part of the School's sesquicentennial activities. The birthday celebration will kick off early in 2009 and include an autumn gala dinner for alumni and many other special events throughout the sesquicentennial year.

Our Winter 2009 issue of *Law Quadrangle Notes* will be dedicated to the 150th anniversary. This anniversary edition will include historical highlights, special feature stories, a schedule of sesquicentennial events, and the architectural renderings for our new facilities as we look to the future of Michigan's renowned and rigorous legal education.

We have long relied on *LQN* to bring news of the Law School to our alumni and friends. Look for graphic updates and even more feature stories in upcoming issues as we continue to enhance this publication—such as the cover story on alumnus Jeff Fisher on page 6. In addition, we wish to expand our communication opportunities to include more timely and regular news. So beginning this year we will produce two print issues of *LQN* annually along with our new monthly electronic newsletter. The newsletter offers brief updates in a multi-media format, while *LQN* will continue to provide the more in-depth information readers have come to expect from our Law School magazine. If you wish to read the monthly e-news but have not yet received it via e-mail, visit the alumni and friends section of our website at [www.law.umich.edu](http://www.law.umich.edu).

We have much to celebrate and look forward to in the days ahead. Whether you are a regular at class reunions or you haven't stepped foot in the Quad since graduation, I hope you will come for a visit during our anniversary year. The architectural grandeur of the Law Quadrangle—and the spirit of the community within—will welcome you back.

*Evan Caminker*

Dean Evan Caminker

