The dapper ladies and gents pictured above were law students in the late 1800s. At the time, the Law Department was housed in a building at the southeast intersection of South State and North University. The building later would be known as Haven Hall, until it burned down in 1950. The corner now is home to trees, grass, and a walkway at the northwest corner of the Diag.

Today, students are more likely to kick back in casual clothes, with their laptops close at hand, when they study in the Reading Room in the William W. Cook Legal Research Library. Though they are probably unaware of the beauty that surrounds them when they focus on preparations for finals, these students are sitting in a beloved architectural masterpiece. Indeed, the Legal Research Library was selected as one of the top 100 buildings, bridges, monuments, and memorials in a recent American Institute of Architects’ public poll—ahead of Radio City Music Hall, Penn Station, and Fenway Park.
The Regents of the University of Michigan
Julia Donovan Darlow, Laurence B. Deitch, Denise Ilitch, Olivia P. Maynard, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, S. Martin Taylor, Katherine E. White, Mary Sue Coleman, ex officio

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