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A Conversation With Dean West

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MLaw Hits 100 Clerkships for 2013

By John Masson

For the second time in a decade, at least 100 recent Michigan Law graduates have secured coveted clerkships in judges' chambers across the country and around the world.

Many of those chosen will serve as "elbow clerks" in courts including the Supreme Court of the United States; federal appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts; and state supreme courts. Michigan grads are also heading to the European Court of Justice, the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, and the International Court of Justice.

For students and recent alumni who were selected—this year's breakdown was 49 students and 51 graduates from 2012 or earlier—it's a chance to earn priceless experience, an influential, lifelong mentor, and a built-in network of older and younger attorneys who share similar experiences with the same judge.

"The process of applying and interviewing for a Supreme Court clerkship was both exciting and a bit nerve-wracking, and I felt that no matter what happened afterward, it was a remarkable experience to sit down with a Supreme Court justice and talk about the law," says Michael Huston, '11, who clerked for Judge Raymond Kethledge, '93, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and recently began clerking for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Michigan Law provided tremendous assistance throughout the process," Huston adds. "Joan Larsen is surely one of the most effective clerkship advisers at any American law school, and she provided invaluable guidance." Larsen is counsel to the associate dean for student and graduate activities, as well as a lecturer.

Teamwork is the key to placing so many students so successfully, says Attorney-Counselor Robin Kaplan of the Office of Career Planning (OCP).

"The professors know how to do this. They know how to advocate for students by writing very personalized letters of recommendation, as well as calling judges on students' behalf," Kaplan says.

Sarah Zearfoss, '92, the senior assistant dean for admissions, financial aid, and career planning, agrees. "This is a satisfying achievement precisely because it's a team effort," says Zearfoss, who began her career at Michigan Law as the school's

judicial clerkship adviser. "Our career staff worked with students to help them identify opportunities and perfect their materials; students and alumni worked diligently to pursue these great opportunities; and faculty and their assistants worked hard to make sure judges got strong and detailed letters of support. And of course our alumni clerks and judges have shown their usual dedication in seeking out great Wolverine candidates."

The Law School also provides support in several ways beyond letters of recommendation, Kaplan says. Larsen, a former clerk for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, draws on her own experience in working closely both with OCP and with students who are seeking positions.

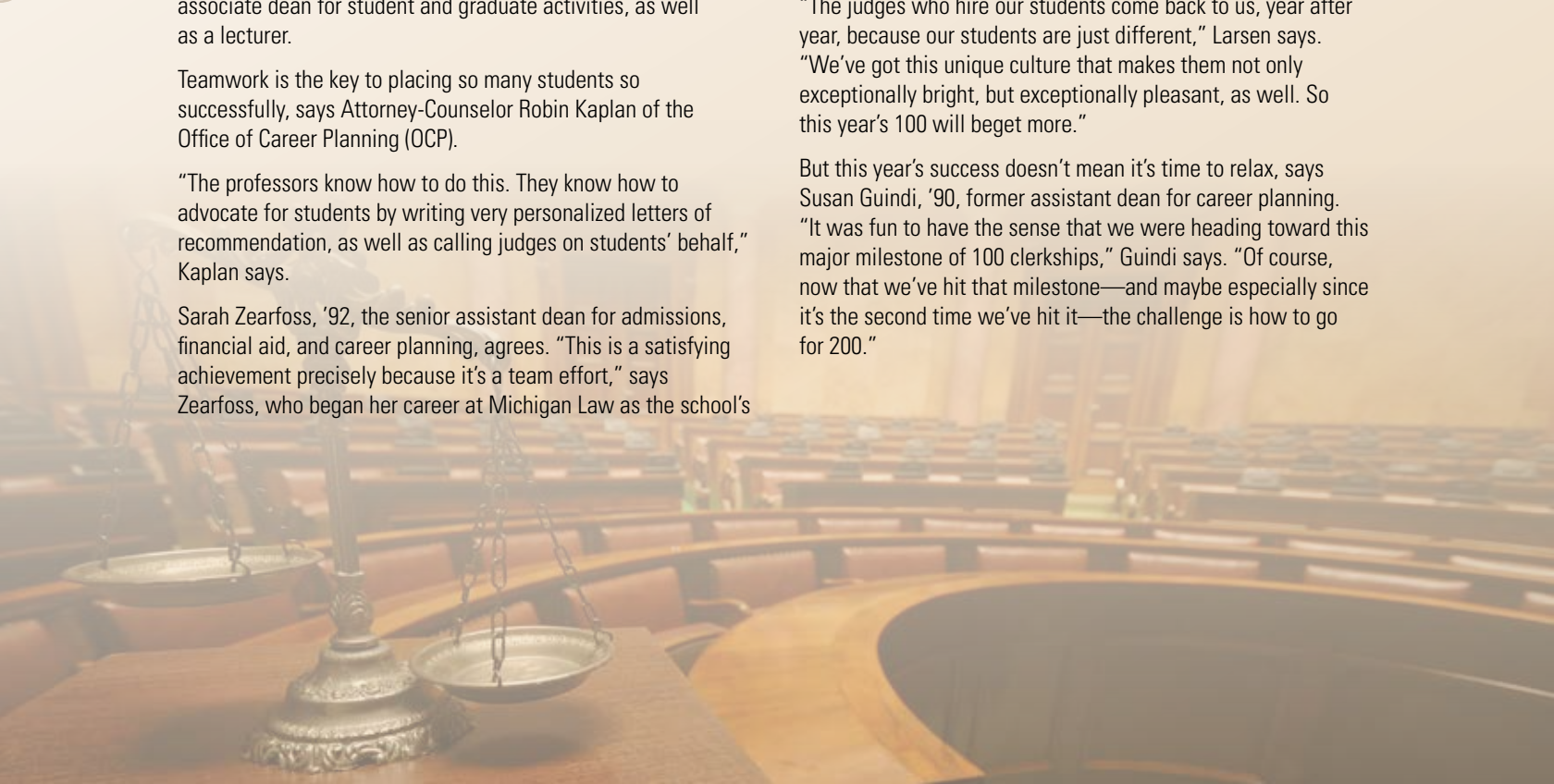
Larsen says one significant advantage for Michigan is its culture of collegiality. Cooperation, not competition, is key in the close environment of a judge's chambers, where both brilliance and diplomacy are valued qualities.

"Our students are interested in, and certainly attain, academic excellence, but at the same time they're amazingly supportive of one another," Larsen says. "They collaborate more than they compete, and if you're a judge, that's exactly what you're looking for: three or four extremely bright people who will do the work in a cooperative fashion and make your day-to-day interesting and pleasant. Our students are just made for that kind of environment."

Furthermore, Larsen says, each year's placements build even more success in the future because judges remember their exceptional clerks—and they remember where those clerks went to law school.

"The judges who hire our students come back to us, year after year, because our students are just different," Larsen says. "We've got this unique culture that makes them not only exceptionally bright, but exceptionally pleasant, as well. So this year's 100 will beget more."

But this year's success doesn't mean it's time to relax, says Susan Guindi, '90, former assistant dean for career planning. "It was fun to have the sense that we were heading toward this major milestone of 100 clerkships," Guindi says. "Of course, now that we've hit that milestone—and maybe especially since it's the second time we've hit it—the challenge is how to go for 200."



Alum Earns Coveted Clerkship with Justice O'Connor

When he got the call advising him he'd been selected to clerk for Sandra Day O'Connor, Eli Savit, '10, began his metaphorical launch into lunar orbit.

"I'm absolutely over the moon," says Savit, who starts work next summer, in time for the October 2014 Supreme Court term.

Part of the reason for the elation: the special circumstances that attend clerking for a retired Supreme Court justice. Generally, clerks in those positions—each retired justice gets a single clerk—spend part of their time working directly for their retired justice, and the rest of it working as a fifth clerk for one of the active justices.

It's the best of both worlds. Retired justices sit by designation on courts of appeal, so there's plenty of work for a clerk supporting that role. Then there's the opportunity to participate in the work of the active justices, such as helping determine which cases are heard by the high court, preparing for oral argument, and assisting in preparation of opinions on the merits.

Retired justices maintain chambers in the Supreme Court building, so that is where their clerks spend the bulk of their time. "Because they get 'adopted' by a sitting justice, they actually get to build a strong, personal connection with two justices. There are certainly advantages to that kind of position," says Professor Joan Larsen, who coordinates clerkship applications for Michigan Law and who was a clerk herself, for Justice Antonin Scalia.

Josh Deahl, '06, who clerked recently for Justice O'Connor, agrees. "Justice O'Connor stays very busy," says Deahl, now an appellate attorney in the D.C. Public Defender's Office. "She sat with four different circuits during my year, and I ended up traveling with her to Arizona, Chicago, Florida, and New York."

TOREHAN SHARMAN



Eli Savit, '10

He adds: "She's got a great personality. She's one of those people you meet and immediately feel like you're an amateur at conversation. You also feel that she's immensely more interested in things you have to say than she should be."

Savit, who already has clerked for two Court of Appeals judges—Judge Carlos Bea of the Ninth Circuit and Judge David Tatel of the D.C. Circuit—is now with Williams & Connolly in Washington. He also spent two years in the Bronx with Teach for America, so he's particularly excited about helping Justice O'Connor promote civics education, one of the justice's top priorities since she retired from the Court.

"She uses computer games to show how different branches of government work, or how to argue cases in court; there are a dozen games right now that kids can play," Savit says. "I'm sure it's going to be a really exciting and incredibly busy year." —JM



COURTESY OF THE SUPREME COURT

11 ALUMNI INDUCTED INTO SUPREME COURT BAR

Eleven alumni from around the country were inducted into the Supreme Court Bar in April. Their membership on the Bar was sponsored by then-Dean Evan Caminker. The day began with a continental breakfast at the Supreme Court and a visit from Jeff Minear, '82, counselor to Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. The inductees are (front row, from left): Kerry A. Galvin, '86, Seth E. Jacobson, '88, former Dean Evan Caminker, John Rayis, '80, Jack A. Molenkamp, '79, and Steven T. Hoort, '75; (back row, from left): Stephen G. Tomlinson, '84, Rex L. Sessions, '84, Stuart M. Finkelstein, '85, Sanford E. Perl, '90, Barry A. Adelman, '69, and James C. Melvin, '90.

Jarrett, Nannes, St. Antoine Honored as Distinguished Alumni

By Amy Spooner



Michigan Law presented the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awards at a ceremony held during Reunion Weekend on Oct. 4. This year's recipients of the annual award—which highlights individuals who have made an exceptional impact on their profession, community, and/or Michigan Law—are **Valerie Jarrett**, '81, **John Nannes**, '73, and **Ted St. Antoine**, '54.

"Valerie, John, and Ted are wonderful examples of the very best of Michigan Law," says former Dean Evan Caminker, who announced the award recipients and oversaw the selection process. "Not only have they excelled at their careers, but they have chosen very different career paths, all while maintaining an unwavering commitment to the Law School."

Jarrett, of Washington, D.C., is a senior adviser to President Barack Obama and also is the chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls. Prior to joining the Obama administration, she was CEO of the Habitat Co., based in Chicago. She also served as co-chair of the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team and was senior adviser to Obama's presidential campaign. Jarrett has held positions in both the public and private sectors, including chairman of the Chicago Transit Board, commissioner of planning and development for the city of Chicago, and deputy chief of staff for Mayor Richard M. Daley. She also practiced law with two private firms. Jarrett has served as a director of several corporate and nonprofit boards, including chairman of the board of the Chicago Stock Exchange, director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, and chairman of the University of Chicago Medical Center's Board of Trustees. In 2013, she was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people as well as the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Newsmaker of the Year. Due to the government shutdown, Jarrett was unable to attend. Jarrett's friend Broderick Johnson, '83, accepted the award on her behalf.

Nannes, of Washington, D.C., is a partner in Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. He has served on numerous Law School alumni committees over the past 40 years, including the National Committee for the Law School Fund, the Committee of Visitors, the Dean's Advisory Council, and multiple campaign steering committees. He currently chairs the Development and Alumni Relations Committee. Nannes conceived and funded the 3L Challenge, which annually offers third-year students the chance to designate \$250 to the Law School student activity of their choice in exchange for their commitment to contribute to the Law School in each of their first four years after graduation and thus introduces students to the importance of alumni support. Following graduation from the Law School and a clerkship with Justice William Rehnquist, Nannes was a special assistant to Tom Kauper in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice before becoming the first associate in the new Washington office of Skadden. He has remained at Skadden, except for when he served as deputy assistant attorney general and then acting assistant attorney general in the Antitrust Division from 1998 to 2001.

St. Antoine, of Ann Arbor, is the James E. & Sarah A. Degan Professor of Law Emeritus at Michigan. He practiced labor law in Washington, D.C., with Woll, Mayer & St. Antoine before joining the Michigan Law faculty in 1965, with teaching specialties of labor and employment law and contracts. He was dean of the Law School from 1971 to 1978. St. Antoine has been a labor arbitrator for more than 40 years and is a past president of the National Academy of Arbitrators. For his writing and activities in the labor and human rights fields, St. Antoine received the State Bar's Champion of Justice Award and the Labor Law Section's Distinguished Service Award. He is co-editor of a leading labor law casebook, now in its 12th edition, and editor of the National Academy of Arbitrators' publication, *The Common Law of the Workplace: The Views of Arbitrators* (2d ed. 2005). St. Antoine has been a visiting professor at universities in the United States and abroad, and has taught at the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies. He also has lectured widely on labor and employment law in Europe and China.

To submit a nomination for the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award, visit www.law.umich.edu/alumniandfriends/Pages/DistinguishedAlumniAward.aspx.

Adjunct, Alum Valenstein Honored for Work with ITC, Habitat for Humanity

Adjunct Professor Carl Valenstein, '83, says two important messages were delivered when his firm, Bingham, recently honored him with a public-service award for his work setting up a microfinancing fund with the Law School's International Transactions Clinic (ITC) and Habitat for Humanity.

Those messages? Pro bono: It's not just for litigators anymore—and it's not just for associates, either.

"I think I have pro bono work in my DNA," says Valenstein, a Bingham partner. "But I'm a deal lawyer, and it seems so many pro bono opportunities are for litigators. So when I found this microfinance space, it became clear that this is something a transaction lawyer can do to give back."

Bingham agreed, recognizing with its John J. Curtin Public Service Award the complex legal work done by Valenstein and his Bingham pro bono team in collaboration with the student lawyers from the ITC. The award is named after a Bingham of counsel and public-service advocate who served a term as president of the American Bar Association.

In his role as a Michigan Law adjunct, Valenstein was the ITC's supervising attorney—in addition to his pro bono role at Bingham—on a groundbreaking Habitat for Humanity deal that could help thousands of under-housed families in countries around the globe. The deal established MicroBuild, a microfinancing fund for people in developing countries that's designed to help low-income families improve and maintain their homes, or even build new ones.

MicroBuild is tailored to make small loans through financial intermediaries to people living in places where traditional financing is unavailable—about 95 percent of the developing



COURTESY OF BINGHAM

Bingham Chairman Jay Zimmerman presents the award to Carl Valenstein, '83 (right).

world, as it turns out—and where home construction is often incremental and ad hoc. It was established with \$45 million in financing and \$5 million in equity from Habitat for Humanity, the Omidyar Network Fund, and Triple Jump, a Dutch fund manager. Valenstein's team spent years on the project, and student attorneys from the ITC helped create the legal documents that brought MicroBuild to life.

"I think the ITC is unique in that respect," Valenstein says. "There are a lot of other experiential learning clinics, of course, but they're not doing deals like this. The deals in most clinics tend to be local projects and not as big in terms of the dollars involved or potential impact. That's what makes the ITC different."

Valenstein and a team from Bingham and the ITC, where Valenstein has taught for five years, collaborated on the work. The Bingham team filled in when the ITC students were out of school.

Valenstein had co-taught courses at his alma mater before, but was drawn to do more teaching after Professor Deborah Burand founded the ITC with Professor Michael Barr five years ago. "Deborah had been a pro bono client of mine years before, when she worked with several microfinance institutions, and I was reading *Law Quadrangle* magazine and saw that she'd come to work at Michigan," Valenstein says. "When Michael Barr went into the Obama administration, she needed help, and I saw that this was a way of using my skillset to help develop the next generation of international lawyers and participate in a novel clinical program at my alma mater." —JM



COURTESY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

Lawyers Club Reopens Following Renovations



By Jenny Whalen

To paraphrase a well-known adage: Don't judge a building by its façade.

At first glance, the Lawyers Club remains a celebrated example of the Law School's Collegiate Gothic style. But following a total interior renovation, made possible in large part by a \$20 million gift from Charles T. Munger, HLLD '10, the structure has been transformed into a 21st-century living space.

"It is fitting that we end the facility renewal process right here at the Lawyers Club, where it began some 90 years ago," then-Dean Evan Caminker said at the grand reopening celebration August 19. After all, he said, it was due to the support of another visionary that the Law Quad was built in the first place. Recognizing the merit of a community where students both live and learn, William W. Cook, 1882, funded construction of the entire collection of Law Quad buildings. It all began with the Lawyers Club and Dormitory in 1923.

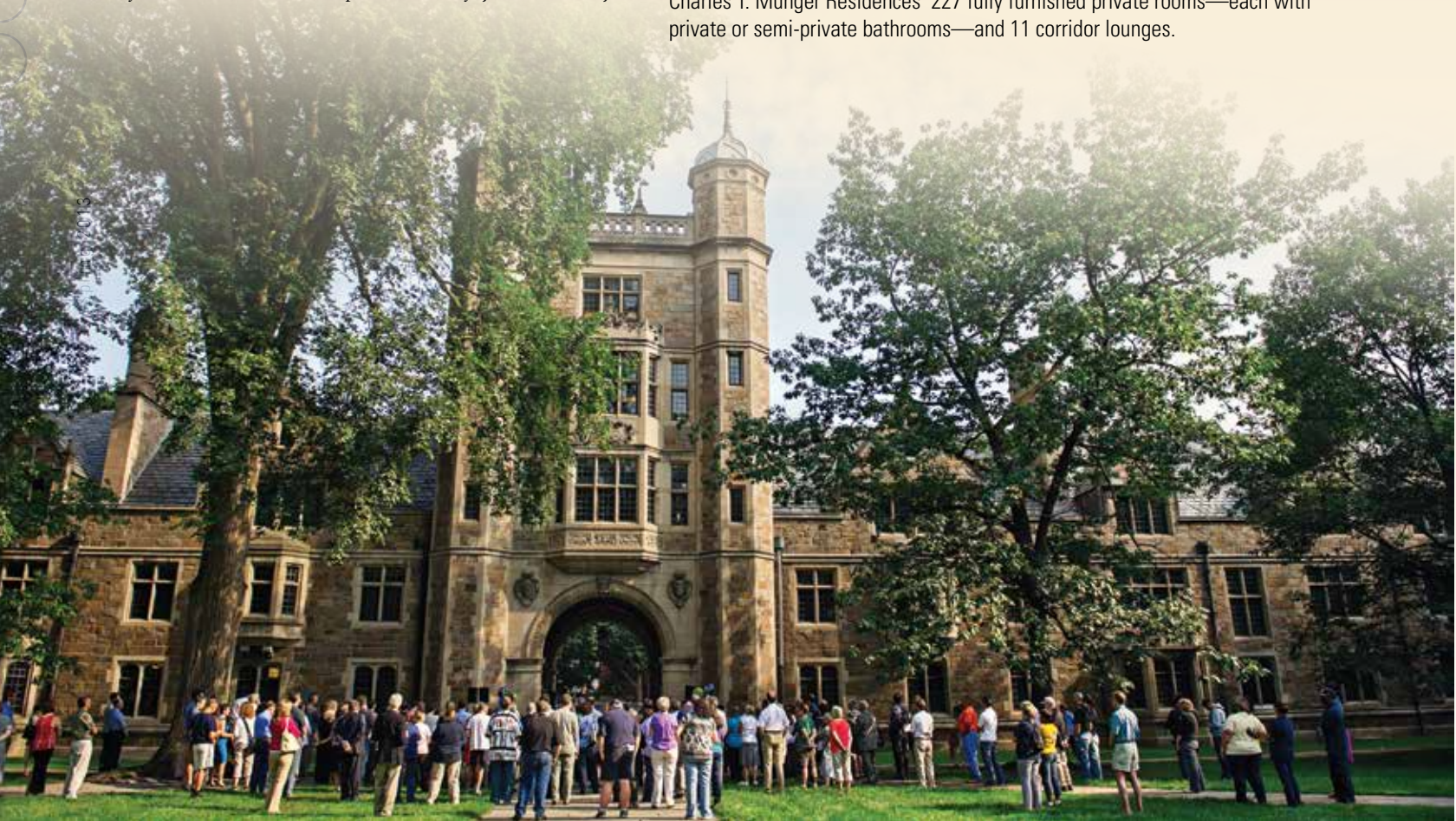
For decades, thousands of Michigan Law students have called the Lawyers Club home, but with the passage of time also came the realization that Cook's state-of-the-art facility was no longer meeting the needs of modern students.

"I've watched students move in year after year, and clearly the definition of 'sufficient closet space' has changed over time," Caminker joked. He added that the "burden of 90-year-old infrastructure" meant the Lawyers Club would have had to be rebuilt or condemned.

And so Munger's gift, along with matched funds from the central University's investment proceeds and the Lawyers Club—which is run by a separately incorporated, self-sustaining nonprofit organization—made possible a total interior renovation that resulted in the construction of the Lawyers Club and Charles T. Munger Residences' 227 fully furnished private rooms—each with private or semi-private bathrooms—and 11 corridor lounges.



The renovations include a total of 227 fully furnished private rooms, all with private or semi-private bathrooms. The living arrangements include all utilities, high-speed wireless Internet access, and 12 meals per week, served in the dining hall. Some of the unseen elements of the renovation include new plumbing, heating, and ventilation; installation of a wireless high-speed network and swipe-card entry controls; repair of the historic windows; and improvements to safety and accessibility.





Each of the student rooms comes furnished with an extra-long, full-size bed and mattress (designed to accommodate under-bed storage), a nightstand, a desk, a rolling desk chair and a guest side chair, a microwave, a small refrigerator with freezer compartment, built-in overhead lighting, full-privacy window treatments, wood-grained tile flooring, a card-operated door lock, individual heating and cooling control, and smoke-detection and fire-suppression systems.



Eleven corridor lounges, known as Club Rooms, are new to the Lawyers Club. The Club Rooms are designed to foster community and camaraderie. Many include kitchenettes and flat-screen televisions with full audiovisual capabilities, making them as useful for group class assignments as they are for watching Big House football.



Many of the modular ensuite bathrooms were completed offsite and brought into the structure. The efficient bathrooms feature fine tile and marble finishes. Medicine cabinets, vanities, storage cabinets, towel bars, and robe hooks are standard in all bathrooms.

(Left) Preserving the Lawyers Club's majestic Collegiate Gothic façade was a priority in the renovation, made more difficult because, in essence, an entirely new building was erected behind the original walls. The interior demolition—completed with painstaking care so as not to damage the exterior walls—took six months to complete. New interior architectural flourishes—such as nine-panel oak doors, ogee molding, hand-wrought iron railings, and salvaged ventilation grates—nod to the building's past.