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Why
The College of Law of West Virginia
University
Needs
A Safe and Commodious Building
For
Its Exclusive Use



From the
Report of the Committee on Legal Education
West Virginia Bar Association
1916

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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WHY THE COLLEGE OF LAW NEEDS A SAFE AND
COMMODIOUS BUILDING FOR ITS
EXCLUSIVE USE.

Importance of the College of Law to
West Virginia.

The College of Law is of importance to the people of West Virginia because:

1. It is supported by the State.
2. An efficient and well educated bar is of great value to the people of any state.
3. It gives that special training in the pleading and practice and the statutory and substantive law of the State which is necessary to the lawyer practicing in West Virginia. Medical remedies are the same in West Virginia as in Ohio and Pennsylvania, but legal rights and remedies are far different. The College of Law can give this special training because it is a state school and because 98 per cent. of its students intend to practice here. No other law school has sufficient West Virginia students to justify it in giving special attention to pleading and practice in this State.

In many states there are privately endowed law schools which supplement the state law school and supply this need if the state does not. Virginia has two, Ohio nine, and Pennsylvania five privately maintained law schools which also train for practice in their courts. The College of Law is the only law school in West Virginia.

4. It is the only place where the future West Virginia lawyer may know well a considerable number of men from all over the State who will be the judges, practitioners, legislators, and voters of the State in their own time. No where else is there an opportunity of associating daily with 1,100 fellow West Virginians who will be prominent among those who will govern the West Virginia of tomorrow. Any man in the public life of the State will bear witness to the inestimable worth of such an acquaintanceship. One-third of the members of the present bar of West Virginia received their legal training at the College of Law.

Inadequacy of the Present Quarters Prevents Further Development of the College of Law.

Legal education has made great progress during the last twenty years, and in most respects West Virginia has kept pace with this advance. The requirements for entrance and graduation of the College of Law have been raised, a strong corps of law teachers secured, a thorough and complete course of study provided, and the foundations laid for a valuable law library. The admission of the College of Law to membership in the Association of American Law Schools in 1914 shows that it is standard in these respects. All this has, however, been accomplished in spite of the fact that it has the most inadequate accommodations of any law school of its educational rank in the country.

The College of Law has occupied the same quarters for over fifteen years. Within this time, the law faculty has grown from three to six members, the course of study has been lengthened from two years (often completed in one year) to three years, and the law library has increased from less than two thousand to nearly ten thousand volumes. There are now over sixty students in the College of Arts and Sciences, alone, not counting those in other institutions and elsewhere who are preparing to study law. They cannot be accommodated in the present quarters. Further progress seems impossible with existing accommodations, and a lowering of standards is probable unless adequate accommodations are secured soon.

Respects in Which the Present Quarters are Inadequate.

1. **Recitation Rooms.** The College of Law has only one small class room and a small practice court room, also used for class room instruction, for the classes of six full-time instructors. Fifteen years ago, three instructors had three class rooms. The two rooms now used require artificial light nearly all of the time, are ventilated only by windows at one end, are in use during practically the entire forenoon and afternoon, and are noisy from the sounds of a music school directly overhead. With only two rooms it is impossible to arrange the program of classes so as to meet satisfactorily the needs of either students or faculty. The College of Law should have a building containing three commodious, well lighted, adequately ventilated, sound-proof class rooms, capable of accommodating from fifty

to one hundred each, and in addition a properly equipped practice court room.

2. Study and Reading Room. The present study and reading room accommodates only one-half of the student body, is disturbed by the sounds from a music school directly overhead, is so dark that artificial light is necessary practically all of the time, has no conference rooms where students may do necessary work together without disturbing those who are studying, and is deficient in book shelf space. There are no special facilities for lawyers desiring to use the library. A quiet, well ventilated, properly lighted reading and study room, large enough to accommodate the entire student body, where reference books will be readily accessible, and with adjoining student conference rooms, should be provided. An adjoining room should also be provided for the convenience of lawyers who wish to confer with others or dictate briefs while using the law library.

3. Protection of Law Library Against Fire. The law library is now housed on the second floor of a building with wooden floors and wooden stairways. The risk of fire is increased by the presence of a cooking school, a carpenter shop, and an incinerator in the basement underneath. The law library contains nearly 10,000 volumes, including 400 volumes of briefs and records of cases decided by the Supreme Court of Appeals few of which could not be replaced if burned, a large collection of rare Virginia Codes, Acts, and other valuable Virginia law books which is one of the most complete in existence and could be duplicated only at great expense and with great difficulty. The library also contains the reports of all the states except two, of all the Federal courts, the English reports, the complete National Reporter System, and over 2,000 volumes of text books, statutes, digests, and miscellaneous law books. If the law library were destroyed the cost of replacing that portion which could be duplicated would be at least \$30,000.00, and in the meantime the work of the College of Law would be interrupted for months. The building needed to house this growing and increasingly valuable library should be fire-proof.

4. Additional Library Space. There will be no room in the present quarters for additions to the law library after the current year, unless the present inadequate reading and study room space is still further reduced, or the building endangered by overloading floors with

book stacks they were not built to hold, or wall shelves built to a height which may be reached only by ladders.

5. Practice Court Accommodations. The teaching of practice in law schools is justly growing in importance and success. A properly equipped court room and clerk's and sheriff's offices are necessary for satisfactory work. The present practice court room is poorly equipped, dark, badly ventilated, too small, and noisy from the music school. The court room and clerk's and sheriff's offices are recognizable as such only when properly labeled.

6. Other Inadequacies of the Present Quarters. Other needs of the College of Law are commodious, sound-proof, well lighted offices for instructors; lockers where students may safely deposit their hats, overcoats, umbrellas, and extra books while in class or using the library instead of strewing them about the halls, stairways, class rooms and library as at present; an adequate room for the use of the secretary to the Dean and the librarian; a room for the use of the student editorial board of The Bar; a room for law club meetings; toilet rooms nearer than two floors to the class rooms and the library; and a reading room containing a few of the daily and local papers. These things are not possessed by the College of Law; other law schools have them.

Development of Professional Spirit.

In the College of Law there is a need for the development of a professional atmosphere, for the creation of a legal esprit de corps, development of an institutional life and spirit, and greater freedom from the distractions and disturbances prevalent in undergraduate life. A separate building where the majesty and importance of the law may be typified in stately form will be a powerful force in securing these ends.

The Cost of a Suitable Building.

Based on the number of persons studying law in proportion to population, and looking forward to reasonable needs in years to come, the College of Law should have a suitable building capable of accommodating three hundred students. The cost of such a building will be not less than \$100,000.00, exclusive of the furniture and fixtures. This estimate is based on the experience of other states having no greater needs than our own. The cost of the law school buildings of some other Universities is as follows:

University of California,.....	Erected	1910,	Cost	\$150,000
University of Iowa.....	"	1910,	"	137,000
University of Nebraska.....	"	1913,	"	95,000
Ohio State University.....	"	1891,	"	110,000
(Partially fire-proof.)				
University of Oklahoma.....	"	1912,	"	125,000
University of Pennsylvania..	"	1900,	"	372,000
University of Virginia.....	"	1910,	"	70,000
(Semi-fire-proof)				
University of Wisconsin.....	"	1893,	"	86,000
(Not fire-proof)				

**Advantages of a Separate Law Building as Stated
by Various Legal Educators.**

That the Committee is not unsupported in its idea that a separate building is advisable for carrying on professional education in law, is shown by the responses of various legal educators to the following interrogatories sent out by a member of the Committee:

1. Do you believe that professional education in law should be carried on in a building devoted exclusively to such uses?
2. What advantages, if any, follow from the use of a separate, exclusive building?
3. What disadvantages, if any?

William M. Lile, Dean, University of Virginia Law School: "1. Yes. 2. It gives a certain prestige to the law school and I think increases the interest of the teaching staff and student body in the work of the school. It gives the building a legal atmosphere and brings faculty and students in closer touch. The faculty see more of each other and more of the students, and the students see more of each other, producing a solidarity before lacking. For many years we were without such a building and have found a marked change since we became freeholders instead of mere tenants at will."

Martin P. Burks, Dean, Washington and Lee University School of Law: "1. Yes. 2. The special advantage is the law school is separated from the noises and distractions incident to a commingling of students. The law library and reading room are all in this building, and there are students at work in them at all hours of the day and until twelve o'clock at night and it is desirable that they should be disturbed as little as

possible. Law students belong to the older and more serious class of students, are less given to frivolities, and do not desire during working hours to be surrounded by a class of students not so intent on their work, or who are engaged in work of an entirely different nature. They much prefer those who have the same troubles and with whom they can confer."

W. R. Vance, Dean, University of Minnesota Law School, formerly professor of law in Washington and Lee University: "1. Yes. 2. The more efficient development of the needed institutional life and spirit."

Wm. Herbert Page, Professor of Law, Ohio State University: "1. Yes. 2. Freedom from distractions of student activities, especially of a social kind, and concentration on professional work. 3. None to my knowledge."

Edwin C. Goddard, Secretary and Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School: "1. By all means. 2. A spirit of unity and purpose that enables us to reach a higher standard. The fact that all our work is in one building and that no other work is there, has given solidarity to the student body, a closeness of touch between faculty and students, and an ability to give a distinct tone and spirit to law work that would be impossible if we had been scattered or mixed with men in other lines of study. In a professional school this is possible and seems very desirable. 3. No disadvantages occur to me."

Substantially similar answers to the same inquiries were received from the law schools of the following additional institutions:

Indiana University
University of Wisconsin
University of Chicago
University of Pennsylvania
University of Oklahoma
University of California
University of Colorado
University of Iowa
Northwestern University
University of Missouri
University of Kansas
University of Montana
University of Illinois
University of Texas
University of Florida

Leland Stanford University
University of Maine
Western Reserve University
University of Alabama
George Washington University
Cornell University
University of Denver

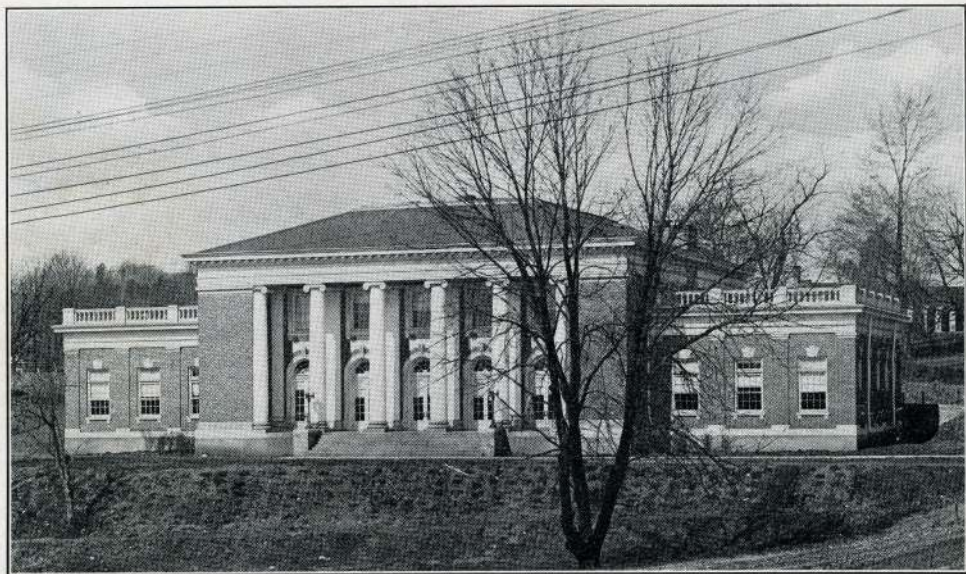
Some Universities Having Separate
Law School Buildings.

University of Virginia
Ohio State University
Washington and Lee University
Boston University
University of California
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dickinson College
Drake University
University of Denver
Emory University
University of Florida
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
University of Illinois
Indiana University
State University of Iowa
University of Kansas
Leland Stanford Jr. University
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska
University of North Dakota
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Dakota
Syracuse University
University of Texas
Washburn College
Western Reserve University
University of Wisconsin
Yale University

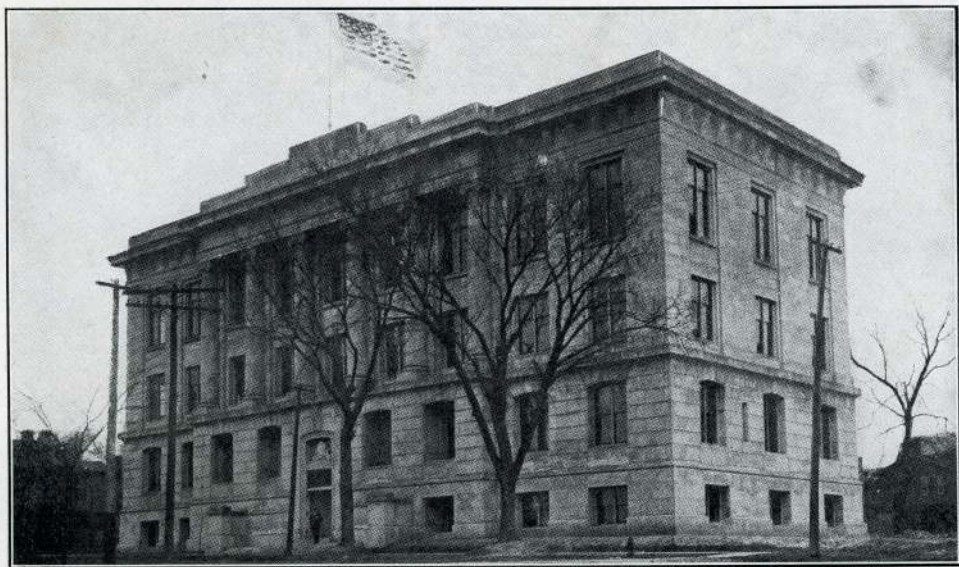
The facts set forth were furnished by H. C. Jones, Esq., Dean of the College of Law of the West Virginia University, who is a member of the Committee on Legal Education of the West Virginia Bar Association. The Committee is satisfied that such statement of the facts is correct in all respects, and is not exaggerated. In view of the situation disclosed by this statement, and for the reasons set forth above, the Committee believes that the West Virginia Bar Association should cooperate with the authorities of the University in securing an adequate appropriation from the next Legislature for the erection of a safe and commodious building for the separate use of the College of Law.

ROBERT S. SPILMAN
GEORGE E. PRICE
S. BRUCE HALL
M. G. AMBLER
CHARLES E. HOGG
CHARLES G. COFFMAN
H. C. JONES

For the Committee on
Legal Education.

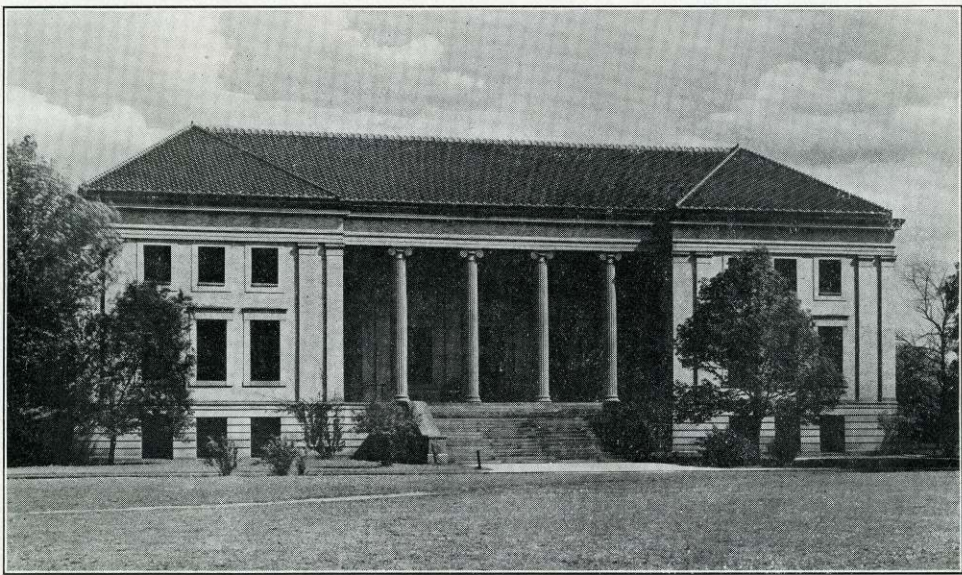


LAW BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, ERECTED 1910, COST EXCLUSIVE OF FURNITURE \$70,000.
SEMI-FIRE-PROOF.



LAW BUILDING, STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, ERECTED 1910, COST \$137,000. ABSOLUTELY FIRE-PROOF.

THREE MODERN LAW SCHOOL BUILDINGS



LAW BUILDING, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, ERECTED 1891, COST \$110,000. PARTIALLY FIRE-PROOF.

See page seven for universities having separate law school buildings.

