



An open letter to the Minnesota Legislature:

"Why we say a new Law School Building is needed...for the people of Minnesota!"

DEAR LEGISLATOR:

The people of Minnesota need a new Law School building. The present building, Fraser Hall, was designed for a maximum of 450 students and a faculty of 21. It is now literally 'bursting at the seams' with more than 700 students, a faculty of 37 and a civil service staff. Library study space fails to meet the minimum American Bar Association accreditation standards for even the weakest law school. Without improved facilities, the state's program of legal education will be jeopardized.

The University of Minnesota Law School is the *only* full-time law school in Minnesota. Nearly 80% of its graduates become practicing lawyers in the state.

A truly accurate picture of the inadequacies of the present law building can only be obtained by visiting the school. We invite you to do so, but recognize that this may not be practical for each of you. This brochure is presented as an alternative—to provide you with a close-up view of the law building.

Please examine the contents of this brochure carefully and decide for yourself.

Respectfully yours,



Greer Lockhart, President
University of Minnesota Law Alumni Association

No University or other public funds were used to pay for this brochure. It was prepared and paid for by the University of Minnesota Law Alumni Association.

■ The classrooms are overcrowded and inadequate

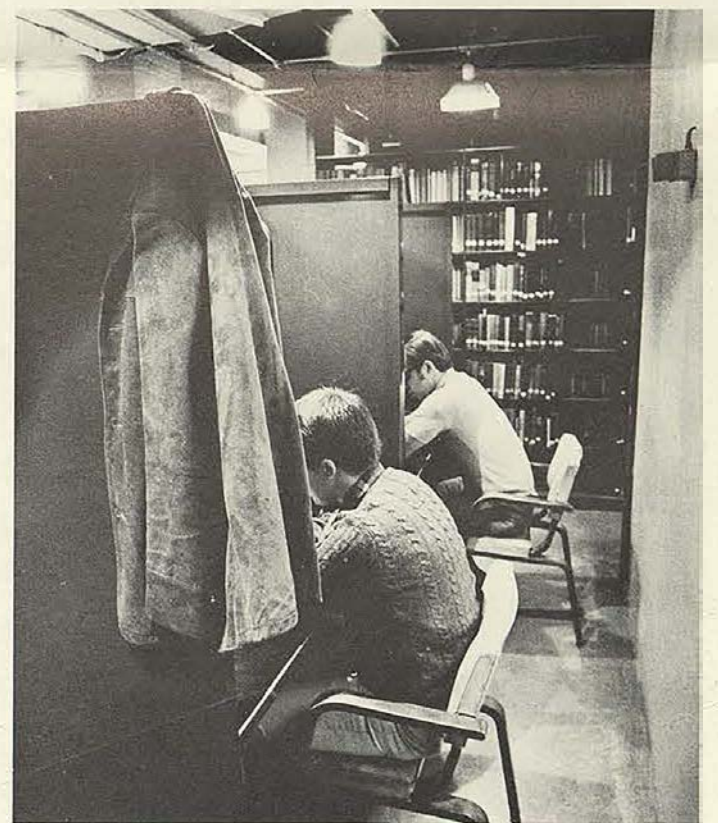
Classrooms designed for mass lectures are totally inadequate for the discussions and problem-solving approach used in modern legal education. They do not provide the flexibility necessary for effective teaching. Students cannot hear or see properly in the present classrooms. Poor ventilation throughout the year creates further difficulties.



■ Student study space and work areas are badly lacking

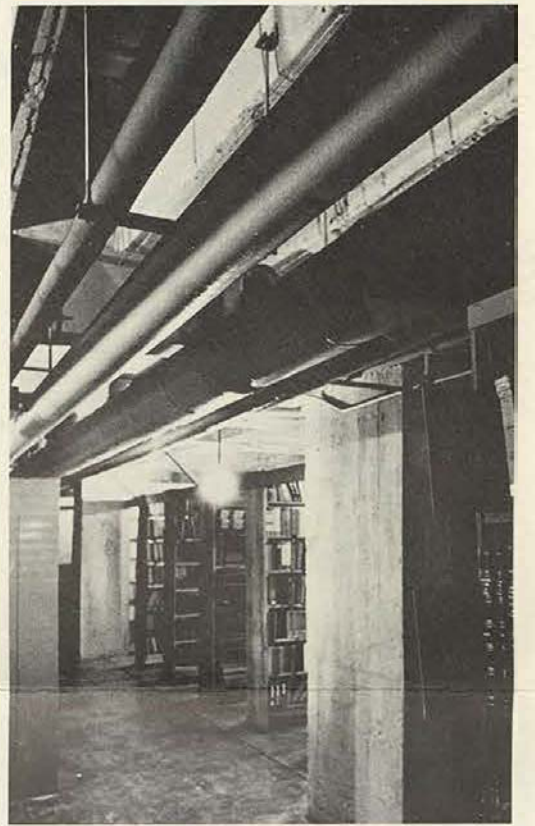
There is library study space for only 43% of the Law School's student body. This is in direct violation of the minimum American Bar Association accreditation standards for even the weakest law school. Efforts to extend and improve clinical-type training are severely handicapped by the lack of small rooms or other areas where students may work together in problem-solving discussions, practice presentations and negotiation. The privacy necessary for interviewing witnesses for trial and conferences with associates is just not available within the Law School building. There is simply no room for these vital aspects of clinical training at a time when the Law School seeks to improve and extend the skills of the advocate and counselor.

A single room serves as both student lounge and eating area. It is windowless and lacks ventilation, making occupancy unpleasant for the large number of students it must accommodate. The tiny faculty lounge must accommodate as many as 34 people. Its basement location is windowless and airless.



■ The 6th largest law school library in the U.S. is antiquated

The library which contains an exclusive and irreplaceable collection of legal materials, is housed in an area that is far too small. The current collection of 348,000 volumes is growing by 12,500 volumes annually. Thousands of books are stored in an unfinished sub-basement and also outside the building where they are not readily available to students and faculty. Obsolete stack construction prevents the installation of proper fire protection equipment, creating fire hazard.



■ The State Public Defender also works in sub-standard quarters

The State Public Defender and his staff occupy a sub-standard basement room. Having the State Public Defender in the Law School makes it possible for students to receive important clinical training not otherwise available. Other essential educational functions—The Legal Aid Clinic and the Law Review—are housed outside the building making access to the Law School and library difficult.



The board of regents has given a new Law School Building TOP PRIORITY!

The Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota has made a new Law School building a first priority item, exclusive of the Health Sciences, in its Legislative Building Request. This is in accord

with the University policy to give 'top priority' to professional and graduate programs which are unique in Minnesota.

What's been done so far:

- 1967—Law Faculty adopted a long-range plan for the development of legal education at the University of Minnesota
- 1968—The long-range plan was translated into definite space requirements
- 1969—The University requested the Legislature to appropriate \$526,800 for planning, schematics and working drawings for a new law building. The legislature appropriated \$80,000 for planning.
- 1970—The firm of Parker Klein Associates-Architects was retained to design a new law building
- 1971—Schematic planning was completed in early 1971. This was made possible by a \$25,000 gift from a Law School alumnus to supplement the \$80,000 appropriated by the Legislature in 1969.
- The University requested \$14,035,000 for working plans, drawings and construction
- The Legislature passed Laws 1971, Chapter 963, Section 8, Subdivision 2(8) providing:

In the event that the Legislature Building Commission determines in favor of constructing a new Law School building, the Commissioner of Administration is directed to transfer to the Board of Regents from the higher education facilities contingent account an amount approved by the Legislature Building Commission for working plans and drawings.

What we're now asking for

The University is requesting \$11,500,000 for working plans, drawings and construction. An additional \$1,000,000 will be raised privately by the Law School alumni, for a total project cost of \$12,500,000.

The new Law School building would accommodate:

- Students—1,000 Daily Full-Time Enrollment
- Faculty—60
- Civil Service Staff—30

Why a 1,000—student Law Building?

The six-year table below indicates applications for admission to the U of M Law School from 1967 to 1972; the number of students admitted to the entering class and the total number of students enrolled:

Year	Applications for Admission	Size of First Year Class	Total Enrollment
1967	390	270	611
1968	642	203	532
1969	851	287	593
1970	1,127	307	696
1971	1,726	239	737
1972	1,776	253	748

The current demand for legal education in Minnesota far exceeds the capacity of the law school. It is highly unlikely that the applications for admission could decrease so sharply as to not support a first year class of 360 students.

Careful study shows that the demand for legal services in Minnesota and the nation will support the contemplated increase in Law School graduates. Moreover, wide sections of the Bar are concerned with assuring the availability of legal services for all people who need them in the years ahead.

The Minnesota State Bar Association is on record in support of the Law building.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE PRESENT LAW BUILDING?

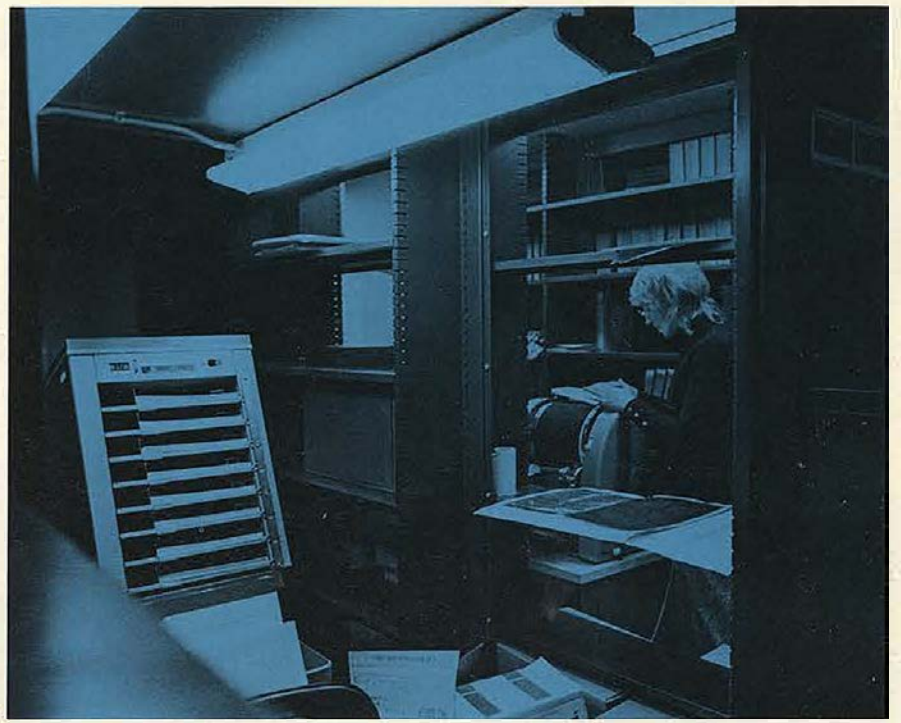
The existing facility, Fraser Hall, will find important use in the University system once a new Law School is operational. The Board of Regents has proposed that Fraser Hall, together with Appleby Hall and a link building, be used by the College of Education for classrooms, seminars, a resource center and offices.

The Law School Building appropriation is important—for legal education and the future of legal services in Minnesota

Much is at stake in the 1973 Legislature's decision regarding the new University of Minnesota Law School building project. At the last annual meeting of the American Law Institute, Chief Justice Burger called attention to the proportionately insignificant allocation of the nation's resources to the administration of justice. "Surely", he said, "an effective system of justice is as important to the social, economic and political health of the country as an adequate system of medical care is to our physical health."

Building an effective system of justice for our nation begins in the law school with the education of our future lawyers, judges, legislators and administrators.

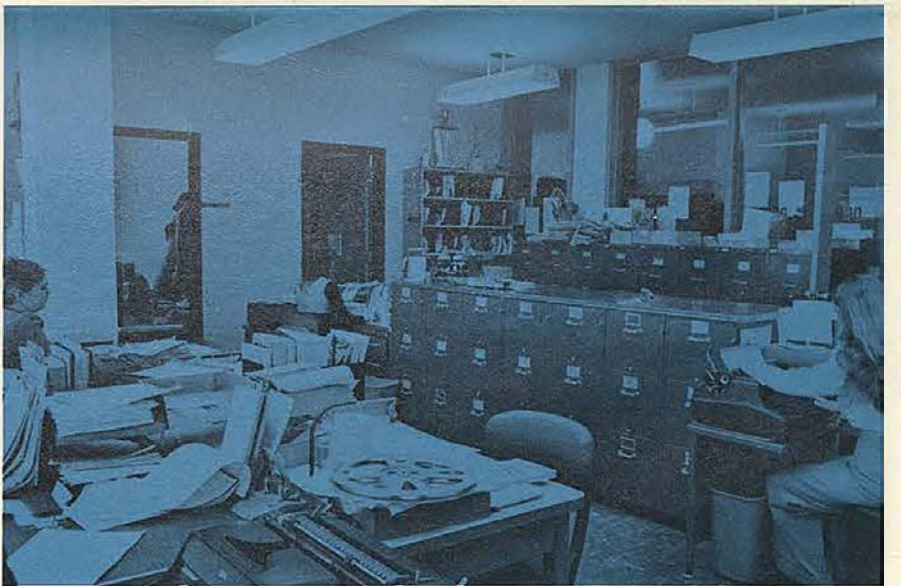
The concerned alumni of the Law School urge you to consider seriously the University of Minnesota's request to create the important Law School facility the people of Minnesota require.



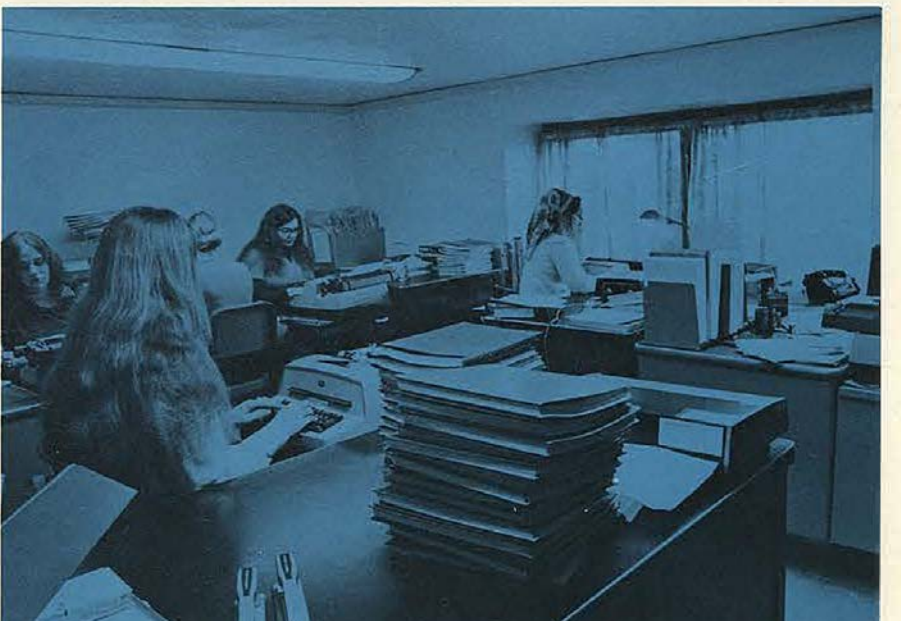
Valuable library stack space is taken because there is no room elsewhere for duplicating facilities.



This is the main work area for incoming library materials. Very little space is available for unpacking the many new books and other materials that arrive regularly.



The civil service staff is cramped into the tightest possible area. In the Dean's Office, six secretaries occupy a 25'x10' space which also contains the reception area and service desk.



In the faculty stenographic pool, six women are crowded into a sub-standard room measuring 14'x17' with a low ceiling and half windows.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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