The Law School Records at the University of Michigan: An online exhibit

The Bentley Historical Library holds 120 linear feet of records from the University of Michigan Law School. The records date from before the School's founding in 1859 until 1999, and include photographs of students, deans and facilities; correspondence files of deans after 1904; architectural records of the Law Quadrangle; and records from some of the law students' organizations. The records are fully described in the Bentley Library Law School finding aid.

This exhibit was designed by Jennifer Jacobs, assistant archivist, University Archives and Records Program. The site became part of the Bentley Library exhibit collection in June 2001. The images used in the exhibit are from collections housed at the Bentley Library. Digital facsimiles of the photographs were made specifically for this exhibit. Access to the Law School digital images and other digital images from the Bentley Library see: The Bentley Library Image Bank.

THE LAW QUADRANGLE

The Law School moved to its new quarters in 1930. At the specifications of benefactor William W. Cook the Quadrangle was modeled on the architecture of Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Cook had earlier donated funds for construction of the Lawyers' Club and Martha Cook women's dormitory.

View more images of the Law Quad

THE OLD LAW SCHOOL BUILDING

The first Law Building on campus was located on the northwest corner of the Diag. Built in 1863 at a cost of $15,000, it was renovated and enlarged in 1893 and again in 1898. When the Law School moved to its new quarters the old Law Building was renamed Haven Hall after former UM President Erastus O. Haven. Haven Hall burned in 1950.

View more images of the Old Law Building
The Law School Deans

James V. Campbell, 1859-1871
Thomas M. Cooley, 1871-1883
Charles A. Kent, 1883-1886
Henry Wade Rogers, 1886-1891
Jerome C. Knowlton, 1891-1895
Harry B. Hutchins, 1895-1910
Henry M. Bates, 1910-1939
E. Blythe Stason, 1939-1960
Allan F. Smith, 1960-1965
Charles W. Joiner (acting), 1965-1966
Francis Allen, 1966-1971
Theodore J. St. Antoine, 1971-1978
Terrance Sandalow, 1978-1987
Lee C. Bollinger, 1987-1994
Jeffrey S. Lehman, 1994-2003
James V. Campbell, 1859-1871
Thomas M. Cooley, 1871-1883
Charles A. Kent, 1883-1886
Henry Wade Rogers, 1886-1891
Jerome C. Knowlton, 1891-1895
Harry B. Hutchins, 1895-1910
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Francis Allen, 1966-1971
Theodore J. St. Antoine, 1971-1978
Terrance Sandalow, 1978-1987
Lee C. Bollinger, 1987-1994
Jeffrey S. Lehman, 1994-2003
Evan H. Caminker,
The Law School Quad

THE LAW QUADRANGLE

William W. Cook's vision for the Law School was nearing realization in 1930 as the Quadrangle was completed with construction of the Legal Research Building.

WILLIAM W. COOK

William W. Cook was the benefactor who built the four buildings of the Law Quadrangle. A graduate of the Law School, Class of 1882, Cook amassed a fortune as a Wall Street lawyer. Though he followed the design and construction process with concern for the smallest detail, Cook died in 1930 without ever visiting Ann Arbor to see what his gift had wrought. This image is of a bust molded from his death mask, as he would not pose for photographs during his life.

THE LAWYER'S CLUB

The Lawyers' Club—a dormitory and dining hall for law students—was the first building on the Law Quad.

THE LEGAL RESEARCH BUILDING

The reading room of the Legal Research Building.
In the 1970s, when many of the books in the Law Library were inaccessible due to space constraints, it was not financially possible to build an addition in the ornate Gothic style of the extant Law Quad. Gunnar Birkerts, an architect from Birmingham, Michigan, was hired to solve the problem of integrating the new addition with the old Legal Research Building. Below are images from the construction of the underground addition, which is three floors deep, and lit by a large glass moat that brings light and reflections of the original Gothic structure to each level.

Image Citation: Box 117, Folder: Photographs, Construction of Law Library Addition, Law School (University of Michigan) records, 1852-1994, Bentley Historical Library.

These two photographs are just a small sample from the Gunnar Birkerts collection. The Bentley Library is the repository for the architectural drawings, photographs, and papers of Mr. Birkerts.
EXHIBIT CONTENTS

- Introduction
- The Law School Deans
- The Law Quad
- Student Life
- Faculty Papers
- Class Photos

Student Life

LAW SCHOOL CLASS OF 1886

On verso, this image reads "Papa's graduating class - Ann Arbor - Michigan University."

THE LAW SCHOOL DURING WORLD WAR II

The Judge Advocate School was located at the Law School during the War.
THE 1970S

Judge Advocate General's School drill with helmets in the Law Quadrangle.

Judge Advocate General's School graduation banquet.

Two students--without helmets or shoes--rest in the Law Quadrangle, circa 1970.
The Bentley Historical Library, archives of the University of Michigan, holds manuscript papers, oral history interviews, lectures, and related historical material including photographs for a number of Law School faculty. Manuscripts of some faculty relate to their teaching and research; in other collections, the papers concern the faculty’s associated university activities, legal work, political activity, government service, or social and family life. The size of related material for an individual faculty member ranges from a few items to over thirty linear feet.

All faculty manuscript collections are cataloged in MIRLYN, the University of Michigan’s online catalog. For most manuscript collections, there is at least a folder-level description, or “finding aid,” available at the library. In addition, some manuscript collections have an online finding aid available as a link via MIRLYN. (MIRLYN will always indicate whether a finding aid is available, either online or at the library). Recent oral history interviews and compiled lectures of a century ago (1881-1919) are listed in separate finding aids. The list below indicates availability at the Bentley of manuscript papers [finding aid], or lecture per individual faculty member [lec].

Administrative records relating to the Law School are also preserved and made available through the Bentley Historical Library, with a finding aid updated regularly. The Bentley also holds copies of most Law School publications and records of the Law Library.

1859-1874
- Campbell, James V. (1859-85) [finding aid]
- Cooley, Thomas M. (1859-84) [finding aid]
- Walker, Charles I. (1859-87) [finding aid]
- Kent, Charles A. (1868-86) [finding aid]
- Wells, William P. (1874-91) [finding aid]

1875-1899
- Felch, Alpheus (1879-83) [finding aid]
- Rogers, Henry W. (1883-90) [finding aid]
- Hutchins, Harry B. (1884-87, 1895-1910) [finding aid]
- Knowlton, Jerome C. (1885-1916) [finding aid]
- Griffin, Levi T. (1886-97) [finding aid]
- Conely, Edwin F. (1891-93) [finding aid]
- Angell, Alexis C. (1893-96) [finding aid]
- Wilgus, Horace F. (1895-1929) [finding aid]
- Johnson, Elias F. (1896-1901) [finding aid]
- Lane, Victor H. (1897-1928) [finding aid]

1900-1924
- Goddard, Edwin C. (1900-35) [finding aid]
- Sunderland, Edson R. (1901-18) [finding aid]
- Bates, Henry M. (1903-39) [finding aid]
- Holbrook, Evans (1907-32) [finding aid]
- Algier, Ralph (1910-54) [finding aid]
- Waite, John B. (1912-51) [finding aid]
- Shartel, Burke W. (1920-68) [finding aid]
- Stason, E. Blythe (1924-72) [finding aid]

1925-1949
- Blume, William W. (1926-66) [finding aid]
- Niehuss, Marvin L. (1933-2003) [finding aid]
- Kauper, Paul G. (1936-74) [finding aid]
- Plant, Marcus L. (1946-85) [finding aid]
- Palmer, George E. (1946-94) [finding aid]
- Joiner, Charles W. (1947-88) [finding aid]
- Bishop, William W. (1948-87) [finding aid]
- Reed, John W. (1949-64, 1968-) [finding aid]

1950-1974
- Brown, Elizabeth G. (1951-1968) [finding aid]
- Pierce, William J. (1951- ) [finding aid]
- Conard, Alfred F. (1954- ) [no online finding aid]
- Stein, Eric (1955- ) [finding aid]
- Proffitt, Roy F. (1956- ) [no online finding aid]
- Polasky, Alan N. (1957-76) [finding aid]
- Harris, Robert J. (1959-74) [finding aid]
- Watson, Andrew S. (1959-98) [finding aid]
- Kennedy, Frank R. (1961- ) [finding aid]
- Kamisar, Yale (1965- ) [finding aid]
- St. Antoine, Theodore J. (1965- ) [finding aid]
- Sax, Joseph L. (1966-86) [finding aid]
- Sandalow, Terrance (1966-) [no online finding aid]
- Fleming, Robben W. (1968- ) [no online finding aid]
Law School Class Photographs, 1873-1966

Beginning in 1873, composite class photographs of each Law School graduating class were created. The practice was discontinued in 1966. Some photos include identifications directly under the individual images, in others the images are numbered with legend at the bottom or side of the composite. The Bentley Historical Library and the Law Library combined their collections to digitize the 85 known composite photos. No composite photos have been found for 1874, 1876, 1944, 1945, 1959 and 1965.

Class of 1873  Class of 1801  Class of 1926  Class of 1954
Class of 1875  Class of 1902  Class of 1927  Class of 1955
Class of 1877  Class of 1903  Class of 1928  Class of 1956
Class of 1879  Class of 1904  Class of 1929  Class of 1957
Class of 1880  Class of 1905  Class of 1930  Class of 1958
Class of 1881  Class of 1906  Class of 1931  Class of 1960
Class of 1882  Class of 1907  Class of 1932  Class of 1961
Class of 1883  Class of 1908  Class of 1933  Class of 1962
Class of 1884  Class of 1909  Class of 1934  Class of 1963
Class of 1885  Class of 1910  Class of 1935  Class of 1964
Class of 1886  Class of 1911  Class of 1936  Class of 1966
Class of 1887  Class of 1912  Class of 1937  Class of 1967
Class of 1888  Class of 1913  Class of 1938  Class of 1968
Class of 1889  Class of 1914  Class of 1939  Class of 1969
Class of 1890  Class of 1915  Class of 1940  Class of 1970
Class of 1891  Class of 1916  Class of 1941  Class of 1971
Class of 1892  Class of 1917  Class of 1942  Class of 1972
Class of 1893  Class of 1918  Class of 1943  Class of 1973
Class of 1894  Class of 1919  Class of 1944  Class of 1974
Class of 1895  Class of 1920  Class of 1945  Class of 1975
Class of 1896  Class of 1921  Class of 1946  Class of 1976
Class of 1897  Class of 1922  Class of 1947  Class of 1977
Class of 1898  Class of 1923  Class of 1948  Class of 1978
Class of 1899  Class of 1924  Class of 1949  Class of 1979
Class of 1900  Class of 1925  Class of 1950  Class of 1980

Browse all Class Photographs