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Michigan ... The Life of the Law

Bert R. Sugar

University of Michigan Law School

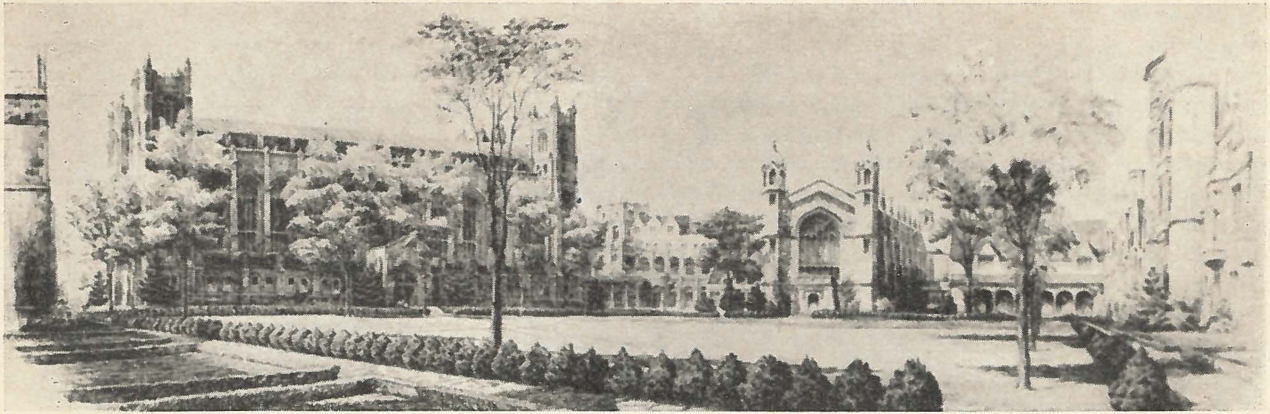
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View of the James Cook Law Quadrangle, University of Michigan Law School. The Legal Research Building is in the center of the picture. To its right is Hutchins Hall, which houses classrooms and faculty offices. At the far right is the Lawyers' Club and its residence entries for Michigan law students.

MICHIGAN...

The Life of the Law

BY BERT R. SUGAR

Class of 1960, University of Michigan Law School

THE PHYSICAL PLANT of the University of Michigan Law School is probably more closely associated with one individual than any other legal institution in the world. This completely organized and equipped unit for the teaching and training of students and lawyers for the practice of law and research in legal science was donated to the University of Michigan by William W. Cook, an 1882 graduate.

Emblazoned upon a metal plaque immediately inside the entrance to Hutchins Hall is Article 10 of the munificent will of Mr. Cook, revealing his idealistic philosophy towards the legal profession and its foundations:

"Believing as I do that American Institutions are of more consequence than the wealth or power of the country; And believing that the preservation and development of these institutions have been, are, and will continue to be under the leadership of the legal profession; And believing also that the future of America depends largely on that profession; And believing that the character of the law schools determines the character of the legal profession, I wish to aid in enlarging the scope and improving the standards of the law schools by aiding the one from which I graduated, namely the Law School of the University of Michigan."

Thus made available by the generosity of Mr. Cook, the Law Quadrangle is situated immediately south of the Uni-

versity Campus and consists of four buildings—the Lawyers Club, the John P. Cook Building, the Legal Research Building and Hutchins Hall.

The initial section, the Lawyers Club, was completed in 1924. This structure includes a lounge, recreation room, guest rooms, dining hall and kitchen, and a residence hall. The lounge and the recreation room became a social center for the members of the club, and as Cook desired, an integral adjunct to the Law School, serving as a common meeting place for the intimate association of students and teachers with members of the bench and the bar.

In 1930 an additional dormitory, named the John P. Cook Building, in memory of the donor's father, was completed. Together with the facilities in the Lawyers Club section, housing accommodations are now provided for 356 men, allowing forty percent of the students in the Law School to reside for the period of their law study within this legal atmosphere.

In the summer of 1931 the most conspicuous building in the Quadrangle, the beautiful William W. Cook Legal Research Building, was occupied. Easily the most striking individual building in its magnificence, the library includes a main reading room, numerous research offices and conference rooms, carrels and book stacks filled with 280,000 volumes—the largest law school collection removed from the Atlantic Coast.

The final completion of the Law Quadrangle was realized in 1933, when the splendid structure which houses the administrative and professorial offices, lecture, class and seminar rooms was opened. This building was named after Harry B. Hutchins, former Professor of Law, Dean of the Law School and President of the University.

Together these four buildings form one of the most beautiful, impressive and useful groups of buildings in the world. Clothed in the quiet beauty and dignity of an exterior indicative of far earlier times and ways, these structures combine Gothic, Renaissance and English Perpendicular architecture into a modified form of "Collegiate Gothic," or "American Composite."

Among his several benefactions to the University, Mr. Cook provided funds to endow the William W. Cook Lectureship on American Institutions, which is devoted to the dissemination of sound principles concerning the basic concepts of American life.

Lectures and Research Provide Broad Horizons

The law faculty with the approval of the trustees of the Cook Endowment Fund also established the Thomas M. Cooley Lectureship devoted to the presentation of scholarly discussions of timely professional topics. Both of these series are of particular interest to students in the Law School, for they furnish valuable contributions to legal science and broaden the horizons of the students.

Cook also made the first definite and formal proposal to provide means for the systematic development of legal research at the Law School. He called for all of the dues and profits from the operation of the Lawyers Club to be used exclusively for legal scholarship. He foresaw the possibility of the study of comparative jurisprudence and legislation on international, national and state levels, and set aside the W. W. Cook Endowment Fund for the professors. The Fund could be used to pay part of their salaries, and thus give them time for original legal research.

Through the allocation of research funds to various members of the Law School faculty, invaluable work in collecting and editing materials for the utilization of students in a number of branches of the law has been made possible.

An essential requirement for the effective teaching of modern law is the constant revision of materials for study, so that work within the classrooms may be closely correlated with the continual changes in the body of the law and its further application to new and challenging problems. The labor involved in this process of continual modernization of teaching material is an enormous task, and the success of the Law School in maintaining its high standard for legal scholarship is due primarily to the availability of funds made possible for this purpose by William W. Cook.

The Liberalization and Expansion of Modern Legal Studies

In maintaining a modernized course of study, various unique projects have been undertaken at the University of Michigan Law School—projects which have been forerunners of developments elsewhere or alone in their field of progressive legal scholarship.

The field of comparative legal studies is being steadily expanded within the United States, and the *American Journal of Comparative Law*, edited and compiled in Ann Arbor, is the prime instrument for the dissemination of information in this area. Under the direction of Professor Hessel E. Yntema, the *Journal* is advancing into a contemporary instrument for the liberalization and expansion of modern legal studies. This is the initial effort to organize a means for the study of comparative legal problems throughout the United States.

C. J. Hamson, Chairman of the Cambridge, England, Law Faculty, who was a visiting professor at Michigan last year, wrote after returning home: "(The University of Michigan Law School) has a remarkable opportunity . . . for an important and possibly momentous development in the field of comparative legal studies. Nowhere is a conjunction of circumstances as favorable as it is at Ann Arbor for a critical discovery. The elements which give this impression are the fact that the Law School has, in addition to an incomparable plant, free funds from which it is able and willing to devote to the prosecution of projects in the field of comparative legal studies. The library at Ann Arbor provides unequalled opportunities for work and research; and whilst there may be one or two collections in the U. S. which are more complete, there is probably none which is as intelligent and which can be as conveniently consulted."

Legislative research is done in the frontier areas of legislative enactments at state levels to fulfill the necessary function for state governments that private and public research groups undertake for the Federal Government. The Legislative Research division services and counsels state governments, the Governor of Michigan and legislative committees of Michigan, and members of the faculties of other divisions of the University.

An internal service is provided to the faculty of the Law School, keeping them apprised of new statutory developments within the various jurisdictions. The maintenance of a direct liaison with the faculty and their classes is of the utmost importance, since approximately ninety-five percent of the cases that come to the courts arise from statutory law.

Research in Atomic Energy Law— a New and Developing Legal Field

Under the guidance of Professor William Pierce, funds from the William W. Cook Endowment are utilized to engage graduate assistants for the investigation of new statutes and the possible effect they will have on existing law. All of the statutes from every state are checked within two weeks after they are signed to keep abreast of important developments made in the legislative enactments.

Funds from the University of Michigan's Memorial-Phoenix Project are augmented with funds from the Cook Endowment to foster research in the legal problems arising under the peacetime utilization of atomic energy. In the winter of 1952, Dean E. Blythe Stason inaugurated the Atomic Research Project to work in collaboration with the University's overall atomic energy program. In 1953 the research group worked with the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Atomic Energy which submitted to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic

Energy many recommendations that eventually found their way into the 1954 Atomic Energy Act. The Project, now directed by Professor Samuel D. Estep, has recently submitted to the Governor's office a proposed model statute for the promotion and control of atomic energy in Michigan.

Major areas which confront the research group include the determination of value of injuries caused by radiation; calculation of value of increased susceptibility to disease; application of present legal rules governing the time in which one must bring action for injuries sustained, resolution of which tort law governs a radiation accident; and adaptation of atomic energy to public utility law.

The University of Michigan Law School will celebrate its Centennial in October, 1959. In conjunction with this celebration will be the publication of a book written by Professor Marcus A. Plant reflecting the history of American legal education. The book will contain more exacting details than any previous historical work of a major legal institution owing to the complete data that has been preserved from the inception of the Law School. For almost forty years each professor was accustomed to entering into the "Record of the Law Department," in his handwriting, the lectures he was to give on each day and their subjects.

The history of the University of Michigan Law School, or the Law Department, as it was known until 1915, can be traced back to its commencement on October 3, 1859. The Board of Regents selected three men to be law professors at the new Law Department, little realizing the contribution this great triumverate was to make to American legal educational history. The three men who for many years guided the destiny of the Department of Law, were the Honorable James Valentine Campbell, Charles Irish Walker and Thomas McIntyre Cooley.

Justice William R. Day, United States Supreme Court Justice, and one-time head librarian at the University of Michigan Law School, said of his former teacher, Judge Cooley: "Here was a man of world-wide fame as a jurist—the author of a book which is at once the greatest authority upon the subject of constitutional limitations upon our government and a classic in legal literature—whose recreations seemed to consist in change of occupation, and whose energies seemed never to tire."

Never was a law school so fortunate as was the University of Michigan in beginning its work and continuing it for many years under three such gifted instructors.

The original requirements for the law students were that "the candidate shall be 18 years of age, and be furnished with certificates giving satisfactory evidence of good moral

character." Additional requirements were added, including the criterion that the candidate be well-grounded in English, and then the requisite of a high school diploma. Gradually the admission requirements included one year of college work, two, three, and finally in 1928 a college degree was made a prerequisite to admission to the Law School.

The effect of these changes upon attendance was only to bring about a desirable drop from the high enrollment of 930 students in 1909 to a steady enrollment of seven to eight hundred students. Diplomas alone are no longer accepted as sufficient evidence of fitness in order to enter the Law School; examinations and proficient undergraduate records, which bespeak of future success in legal studies, are also required. The net results of such alterations have been to raise the academic quality of the students and to reduce the absolute quantity of the students. Thus, the University of Michigan Law School attempts to serve the needs of the public in a better capacity.

The fact that the Law School provides a service to the public is attested to by the national and international reputation which it has attained within legal circles. Presently 43 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Hawaii are represented in the student body. In addition 32 foreign students, the second largest number of foreign students enrolled in an American legal institution, represent 22 different countries.

The declared goal of the Law Department, as stated in the 1859 School Calendar, was: "To make, not theoretical merely, but practical lawyers: not to teach principles merely, but how to apply them."

To this end the Law School has continually strived, providing the public with graduates who are a credit to their community and their profession, and providing its graduates with a solid foundation for participation in the responsibilities of citizenship. Men like the late Frank Murphy, Supreme Court Justice, former Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey, Secretary of the Army Wilber Brucker, Governor G. Mennen Williams and former Senator Homer L. Ferguson have all emerged from the Law School endowed with more than the ordinary *what* and *why* of preliminary learning; they entered into their respective fields imbued with an experience gained from a fertile institution of learning.

The words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., inscribed above the doors to Hutchins Hall, proclaim the underlying philosophy of the University of Michigan Law School: "The life of the law has not been logic: It has been experience."

A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities;
an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.

—Reginald B. Mansell

About the Michigan Student Bar Association . . .

The activities of the University of Michigan Law School Student Bar Association recently received a big "boost" from a \$2,500 gift to be used by the SBA over a five year period. The gift came from Mrs. Roger Sherman of Winnetka, Illinois, and her daughters, Mrs. Louise S. Watrous and Mrs. Eleanor S. Vincent, and was a memorial to the late Roger Sherman of the Law class of 1894.

It is hoped that these funds will permit the Michigan student group, a charter-member of the American Law Student Association, to carry on many useful activities which have been either impossible or limited in previous years because of lack of finances.

The present activities of the Student Bar Association fall into three major categories: those related to the academic interests of law students; those related to professional interests; and those concerned with social interests.

On the academic side, the Student Bar Association undertakes such services as providing a bi-weekly film program, featuring films on legal topics, and also sponsors an occasional lecture by a well-known person in the legal field. The organization also publishes a mimeographed newspaper, *Res Gestae*, for the law students each week and an annual Law School Yearbook. Other activities include freshman orientation programs, class elections, and similar projects.

In the area of professional interests are such student bar activities as a "budding" legal aid clinic program, and



Albert Germaine

the publication of court information and court dockets in the *Res Gestae*.

Among the social events sponsored by the student bar group are an annual freshman-faculty smoker, an all-freshman dance, the Chancellor's Court (a formal dance held annually for the past eight years), and various other recreational activities during the year. A Law Wives Club assists in making arrangements for these events.

Every law student at the University of Michigan is automatically a member of the Student Bar Association, and eligible for the benefits and services of the American Law Student Association.

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"Freebooters in Fashion: The Need for a Copyright in Textile and Garment Designs"

Richard W. Roberts, Virginia
"Publication in the Law of Copyright"

Edward Silber, Wisconsin
"Use of the Expert in Literary Piracy: A Proposal"

These five papers will be published by Columbia University Press in the *Ninth Copyright Law Symposium*.

This Copyright Competition is now in its twentieth year. Prizes of \$150 and \$50 are awarded to the two best papers on any phase of copyright law submitted by second and third year students at each law school. Papers are judged by each law school Dean. In addition, a National Prize of \$500 is awarded the best paper in the Competition as determined by a distinguished Panel of Judges and the best five or six papers are published in the annual *ASCAP Copyright Law Symposium*.

For Materials on this Competition consult your law school Dean or write
American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers, 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.