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### University of Alabama - School of Law's Special Special Collection: Reaching Out for Law School History, The Announcement

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

## The University of Alabama School of Law's "Special" Special Collection: Reaching Out for Law School History

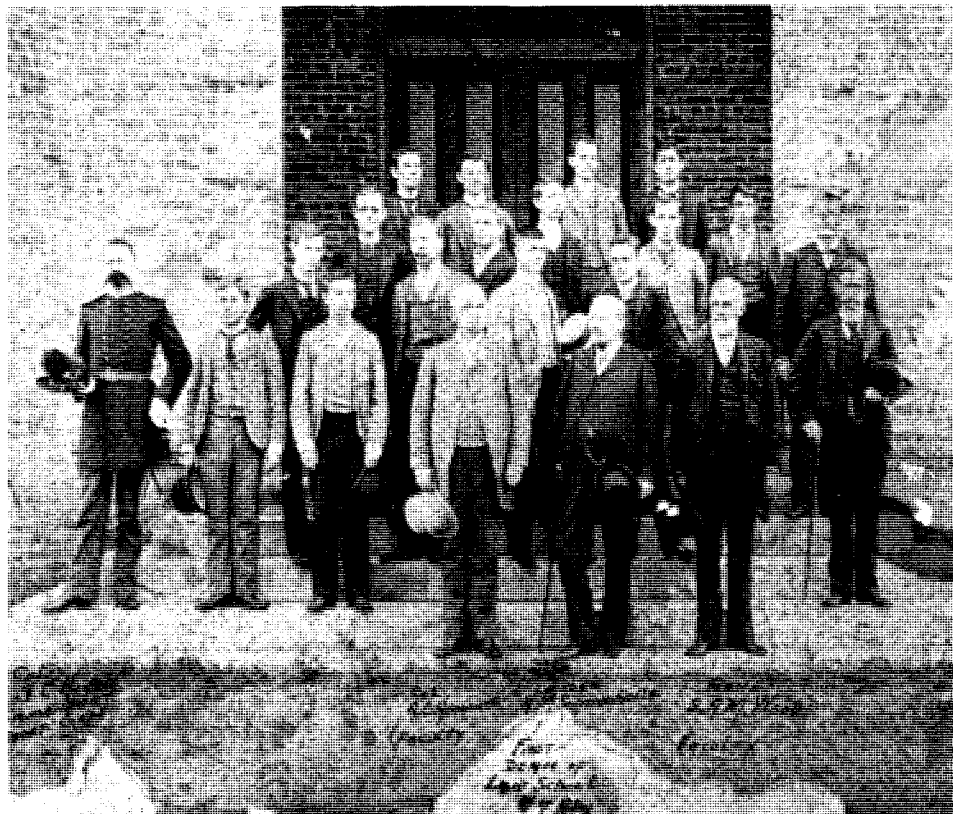
by Paul M. Pruitt, Jr., assistant law librarian

Most law school graduates possess an assortment of relics from their student days—class notes and course outlines, student handbooks and newspapers, Moot Court briefs and so forth, filed away in personal archives, either as valued documents or forgotten baggage. If you are a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, the School of Law Library would like to know what you have. There may be something in your files that could round out one of the library's most important collections.

Following the school's recent Hugo Black centennial observances, Dean Charles Gamble responded to a growing interest in the history of the law school—its students, alumni, faculty and administration. The result was the creation of a "History of the Law School" committee, and as part of the activities of that committee, School of Law librarians are evaluating their special collections holdings. They have found a wealth of materials.

For example—in addition to such scholarly publications as *The Alabama Law Journal* (1882-1885), (1925-1930) and *The Alabama Law Review* (1948-present), the library holds student newspapers, in-house publications of the School of Law, guidebooks, directories and manuscript collections.

Assistant Law Librarian David Lowe has written a computer program so the library eventually will be able to produce a bibliography of its law school-related books and papers. The special collections department will be occupying ex-



*Students and faculty of the University of Alabama School of Law—probably taken around 1890*

panded quarters within a few months, so now is a good time to seek new sources of historical documents.

The librarians involved are interpreting the phrase, "the history of the law school," as broadly as possible. They have collected (and are determined to collect more) films and videos of Law Week activities, and hope to add to the

library's existing collection of photographs. Many publications by or about faculty and alumni are available in the library, but the goal is to collect all such works—including working papers, drafts and memoranda generated during the process of composition.

The library welcomes the donation of class notes, seminar papers, Moot Court

briefs and other documents that speak of the history of legal instruction. In many cases, collections of personal papers also are welcomed.

If you are a potential donor to the library's "history of the law school" collection, please do not limit yourself to the categories or types of documents mentioned above. Your judgment of which materials reflect the history of legal education is likely to be a sound one. Quite a number of agencies not directly connected with the School of Law issue publications and reports having to do with the people and concerns of the school. Moreover, in order to set up biographical files on alumni and faculty, the library needs to have its own collection of the *Corolla* (the University of Alabama yearbook), particularly those issues published before 1940. Copies of older *Martindale-Hubbell* are important for keeping track of graduates and

establishing "geneologies" of law firms with which alumni and faculty have been associated.

The library would be especially pleased to receive the following:

*The Alabama Law Advocate* (student newspaper), any issue dated 1977 or later;

*The Alabama Law Reporter* (in-house newsletter), any issue dated 1972 or later;

*The Column* (student newspaper), volume 8 (published in the 1985-1986 academic year);

Law Week films or videos (including student-produced satires) of any date, certainly 1980-1986;

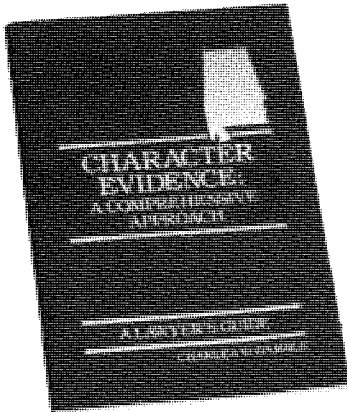
*The Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory* (and its ancestors, *Hubbell's Legal Directory* and *Martindale's American Law Directory*) for the years 1870, 1872, 1875-1877, 1880-1881, 1884, 1892-1899,

1901-1910, 1912, 1915-1918, 1920-1926, 1928-1929, 1931-1939, 1941-1943, 1945, 1947-1948, 1950.

To arrange for donation of materials to the special collections department of the School of Law Library contact library director Cherry L. Thomas, (205) 348-1108, or assistant law librarian Paul Pruitt, (205) 348-1107. You may write to the University of Alabama School of Law Library, P.O. Box 6205, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487. If possible, please provide a list of the materials you would be willing to donate. The library can help find an expert evaluator if you wish to claim tax credits. Recently, the library received several faded copies of *The Column* from a librarian at the University of Washington's M.G. Gallagher Law Library—proof that there are plenty of historical materials waiting to be found. ■

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