

Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)

Volume 26 | Number 2

Article 6

1982

Dedication Remarks

Terrance Sandalow
University of Michigan Law School

Theodore St. Antoine
University of Michigan Law School

John Pickering
University of Michigan Law School

Rober Nederlander
University of Michigan

Gunnar Bickerts
University of Michigan

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/lqnotes>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#), [Legal Profession Commons](#), and the [Legal Writing and Research Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Terrance Sandalow, Theodore St. Antoine, John Pickering, Rober Nederlander, Gunnar Bickerts, Harold Shapiro & Potter Stewart, *Dedication Remarks*, 26 *Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)* - (2022). Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/lqnotes/vol26/iss2/6>

This Special Feature is brought to you for free and open access by University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes) by an authorized editor of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact mlaw.repository@umich.edu.

Dedication Remarks

Authors

Terrance Sandalow, Theodore St. Antoine, John Pickering, Rober Nederlander, Gunnar Bickerts, Harold Shapiro, and Potter Stewart

Dedication Remarks



Terrance Sandalow
Dean, University of
Michigan Law School

The addition to the Law Library is indeed a cause for celebration, fully worthy of a place on the Law Quadrangle among the nation's most distinguished law school buildings.

Mr. Cook's magnificent gift to the University is known and admired by lawyers, judges, and legal scholars throughout the world. Its beauty and majesty have played an important part in instilling the pride that generations of students and faculty have taken in their association with the Law School and in nurturing the affection they have felt for it. In these circumstances, the decision to add a building to the Quadrangle imposed a special responsibility—a responsibility to recognize the significant role that the Quadrangle has come to play in the life of the School. Since I had no part in the design or approval of the addition, I may say without embarrassment that I believe that responsibility has been admirably fulfilled. Not only is the addition itself an architectural triumph, but in the use that has made of the Legal Research Building, the architect has succeeded in enhancing our appreciation of that grand edifice.

Although the addition has been occupied for only two months and the finishing touches put upon it even more recently, it has already produced a memorable moment in the history of the School. The plans for the addition were, as you may know, the source of some controversy, not only among alumni but also within the faculty. With the opening of the addition, controversy among the faculty has ended. One of the original faculty critics has even been heard to say "I was wrong," as far as I know the first time that a member of the law faculty has been known to utter these words.

The opening of the library addition is the immediate occasion for our celebration but not the sole reason for it. The addition is but the largest and most visible product of the School's recently concluded capital campaign. There are many others. As a result of the campaign, endowments were established for the support of four new professorships; the endowment of a fifth was substantially augmented; and two additional endowed professorships will be established in the future. Our endowments for student financial assistance were significantly increased. Funds were provided that permitted us to undertake needed rehabilitation of the Lawyers Club. An endowment was created that enables the School to draw upon the intellectual resources of the bench and bar by bringing distinguished judges and lawyers to the Law Quadrangle for extended visits. Funds were received that enabled the School to establish a pioneering Program for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and to continue its important Program in Law and Economics. In brief, the life of the School has been pervasively and permanently enriched by the campaign.

The School has, to put the point somewhat differently, been immeasurably strengthened by the generosity of its alumni and friends and by their commitment to the ideal of excellence in legal education. Here, I believe, is the most important reason for our celebration. We celebrate not only the opening of the library addition—magnificent as it is—and the other gifts received during the capital campaign—important as they are—but even more significantly, the tradition of which they are a part. Michigan is unique among public law schools—and, so far as I am aware, among public institutions of higher education in any field—in the level of private support that it has enjoyed. We are, of

course, a public law school, and public support is important in enabling us to discharge our responsibilities. However, it is the support that we have received from our alumni and from others who value excellence that accounts for the School's place among the world's leading centers of legal education and scholarship.

In this respect, the Law Quadrangle may be taken as a metaphor for the life of the School. The original Gothic buildings and now the different but equally notable addition were all built with private funds. Only one part of the Quad, the upper five stories of the stacks in the Legal Research Building, was built with public funds. Those floors are serviceable; we could not easily do without them; but I do not risk contradiction by saying that they are undistinguished. The distinction of our physical surroundings is entirely the product of our private support. The distinction of the School's research and educational programs is no less dependent upon the generous private support that it has received.

My point is emphasized by but does not at all depend upon the current economic difficulties of the State. More than a half century ago, Mr. Cook expressed the hope that the trust created by his will to support legal research at Michigan would "cause others to realize that the University cannot" depend on "state taxation alone . . . if its standards of scholarship . . . and its service to the state and nation are to be maintained and advanced. . . ." Mr. Cook's wish has been grandly realized, not only in the major gifts that the School has received since his death but in the indispensable support that is provided through the Law School Fund.

One is led to ask why Michigan, uniquely among public law schools and to an extent equalled by only a few private schools, should have received such generous support. The initial reason, no doubt, is gratitude, together with the belief that the debt each alumnus owes to the School can best be repaid by helping to provide an outstanding legal education for succeeding generations. Equally important, I think, is appreciation of the importance of the task that the School has set for itself: to advance understanding of that part of life touched by law and legal institutions, in the hope that by doing so we will enrich the lives of our students, equip them for the positions of service and leadership they will hold, and contribute to the common welfare.

Those who have so generously supported the School share with the faculty a belief in the importance of disciplined intelligence. They know, as we do, that there is no equivalent in the law to the hope that a cure will be found for some dread disease. Injustice and threats to freedom will persist despite our efforts. Nevertheless, the School exists in the faith that reason and understanding are indispensable in the conduct of human affairs and that in them lies our best hope that the problems we confront can be made to yield, if just a bit. The commitment of our alumni to that belief is at once the School's greatest asset and its proudest achievement.



Theodore St. Antoine
Former Dean of the Law School; newly appointed James and Sarah Degan Professor of Law

It has been a long journey. As I arrive here today, my feelings are not so much ones of accomplishment, because the library project has long been out of my hands, but of gratitude and appreciation to all of you who have made the journey possible and the destination worth the journey. I should have liked to name fifty persons who have helped immeasurably in our success. Instead, I am only going to mention a couple who symbolize for me the contribution of the alumni and I am not even going to name them. I shall simply describe them.

One was a splendid gentleman who had graduated from Michigan the year I was born, and that was some time ago. He was introduced to me by another alumnus from Washington, D.C., although he was in Portland, Oregon. That somehow epitomized for me the continuing

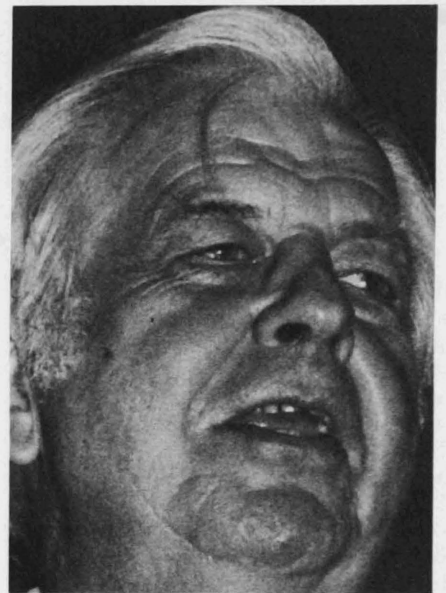
bond that exists among the far-flung Michigan alumni family. The gentleman in Portland was dying of cancer by the time I first met him. He was ebullient. He was full of heart, and he was going to fight this thing and be with us at the dedication of the building. Just to visit him was a lift to the spirits. It made one realize that difficulties could be surmounted. He lived very close to the time of seeing the building completed. He asked nothing from the University but once he did make the modest suggestion that, since he had put together his fortune in the lumbering business, perhaps we might consider constructing the addition out of wood.

The other whom I shall leave nameless was a classmate. During our years together at the Law School I had enormous admiration for this gentleman's impeccable style in speech and dress. Later on, I admired his good taste and style in marrying into one of the first families of Michigan. He, too, came through by suggesting to me the strategic moment at which to approach one of the most generous donors in our campaign. And so it went, all through the drive. Whenever the need arose, an alumnus stepped forth, to unlock a door or dig into his or her own pocketbook. . . .

There was a memorable dinner celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Law Quadrangle some time ago. At this dinner we unveiled the initial model for the new law library addition. It would have been a glass and steel structure. It would have gone along South Monroe Street behind the existing library. Gunnar Birkerts, the architect, and I were rather enthusiastic about this model. To the best of my knowledge, there were precious few others. We did not wind up with that building, and I am prepared to say that I too may have been wrong.

In any event, in the course of that evening I tried to give some sense of my belief that this was truly a continuation of the Gothic spirit, this great arching glass and steel building. I quoted a passage from Henry Adams' *Mont St. Michel and Chartres* in my effort to draw upon the past to prepare the way for the future. I suspect no one remembers my words, and so I'm going to repeat them now. I think as you stand there at the reception you will agree that, despite the fact that it does not go in the direction from ground level usual for Gothic buildings, the addition still embraces many of the same

arching virtues of those great cathedrals. For me the new building does indeed symbolize the aspirations both of our own institution and of the law itself. Henry Adams said of the Gothic that, "the delight of its aspirations is flung up to the sky. The pathos of its self-distrust and anguish of doubt is buried in the earth as its last secret. You can read out of it whatever else pleases your youth and confidence; to me this is all."



John Pickering,
Chairman of the National Committee for the Capital Campaign

The greatness of this university and its law school is reflected in many ways, most notably in the loyal support of its alumni. Over a half century ago we celebrated the generosity of one alumnus, William Wilson Cook, whose magnificent gift built the Law Quadrangle and endowed legal research at Michigan. Today, we celebrate the generosity of over 2,000 alumni and friends of the Law School whose generosity has exceeded that of Mr. Cook. They managed to put more money into a hole in the ground than the entire Quadrangle cost.

Now this is a remarkable achievement and a true tribute to these inflationary times. It is an even more remarkable achievement when you realize that during the three years that the capital campaign was actually collecting money, the rate of annual giving to the Law School Fund increased, for the first time exceeding the half million dollar mark. This is a tremendous record, one of which the school can be proud.

We thank all of those alumni and friends who contributed to make this day possible, but there are groups that also deserve special thanks. First, the members of the National Committee for the capital campaign. This campaign was three years in the planning stage during which we met frequently in Ann Arbor. There were many difficult problems: how much money to seek, what the timing of the campaign should be, what kind of a building we should choose, where it should be, and what were the priorities and the other needs of the Law School in addition to the building. Looming over everything, and vastly complicating matters, was the Quadrangle itself. How could we possibly integrate a facility with it without marring the beauty that has inspired so many?

These were all matters on which reasonable minds could differ. Being lawyers, naturally, we all had reasonable minds. Being lawyers we also could differ, and we differed. Differed quite strongly on occasion, but out of those differences came a remarkable consensus: instead of erecting a building, we would bury one. Having achieved this consensus, we were able to launch the campaign. We exceeded our original goal of 10 million dollars by almost half again as much, and the result was the beautiful building and the wonderful functional facility that we dedicate today.

In addition to the members of the committee itself, there were a number of regional and local chairmen and volunteer solicitors who really did the foot soldier work of soliciting the general alumni body. The campaign could not possibly have succeeded without their dedicated efforts.

In any joint endeavor several people perform significant service above and beyond what can be expected. There were two people in particular on the committee I would like to recognize. One was Margaret Emery. She graduated from this Law School in 1931 when women in the profession were few and far between. She challenged and exhorted us. She challenged us to think boldly, to plan grandly. The other was Roy Callaghan of the class of 1929. He shared with our committee and the Law School leadership his lifetime of experience in dealing with architects and large construction projects. He taught us the valuable lesson that buildings are intended to serve people and not to be their masters.

I would like to end by saying that we alumni have been very proud to have played a part in making this day possible and in helping raise the funds for the programs and facilities that provide the margin of excellence that makes the University of Michigan Law School a leader among the nation's law schools. The building we dedicate today is a marvelous link between the past of the Gothic Quadrangle and the future. It is a bridge in my mind into the twenty-first century which will see this Law School continue as a leader in serving the profession and the society.



Robert Nederlander,
*University of Michigan
Board of Regents*

The Board of Regents, my colleagues, and I are absolutely thrilled with this magnificent structure and thrilled that the funds to build it have come from foundations, from corporations, from individuals, from alumni, and not from federal or state money. If we are going to maintain our academic excellence and continue to be a great university, we have got to cultivate these areas.

When I first was elected to the Board of Regents in 1969, I sat in the library of President Fleming and we discussed the new projects which he thought ought to be built. One of the things mentioned was the Law School. He said, "We've got to get some help over there. We won't get any federal money and it's unlikely we'll get any state money."

From that date, a great many people—Dean St. Antoine, Dean Sandalow, all the Law School faculty, the alumni, corporate sponsors, administrators, and others—have worked long and diligent hours in order to turn out the kind of law library addition which you see today. It was not easy. It took an enormous amount of time and they are all to be congratulated. It was a team effort. There was some concern by all

of us that we would not make it, but I knew with their leadership we could not fail.

The 1977 Gourman Study placed The University of Michigan third in the United States for academic excellence, with the Law School rated at the top. Law schools are made up of fine faculties and students, but they must have research facilities. With this library addition we cannot help but continue to excel. We are all proud of what the Law School has done for this university. It is a jewel. We will do everything we can to help keep it a jewel.



Gunnar Birkerts,
*Architect of the new library
and Professor at the
University of Michigan
School of Art and
Architecture*

I have received many remarks in recognition of the building today and they lie heavily on my shoulders and my head. I would like to spread them out onto others—to the people around me who have been part of this effort, this agony and ecstasy of building, my family around me, my co-workers, associate architects in the firm, the engineers from other firms who contributed, and also the law faculty.

Last week a student interviewer asked me a question, "Since this is the last building built of yours, is this your best one?" I had to answer him with an analogy or a metaphor saying, if this were my last child would it be my best child? For us architects, buildings are like children. They do not carry the mark of better, best. They are all our best at the given time. I can look back upon a building finished a year or two ago and the same question could have been asked. I would have said then

that it was my best building. Today I can say, this is my best building.

We have to go a little bit into the methodology of how buildings are built. It really is a fusion, a genetic kind of question. It's a fusion of the qualities and the chromosomes of the problem and the problem solver which come together in the act of creation. Therefore, every building that is built is the answer, the ultimate answer of the ones who have participated in the act of creation. I will admit that we had some premarital interaction as, for about a year, we explored the above-ground possibilities to accommodate the expansion.

After a while it was unanimously agreed that down we have to go. From there on, I had one of the greatest challenges in my career: how to build underground for law people. One day I was working in Hutchins Hall in the stone-lined hallways and saw an archway. In this archway head there is an inscription incised in limestone that says, "The life of law has not been logic; it has been experience." I remained there petrified, beginning to think, "What is the experience with underground buildings in our civilization?" Catacombs, Maginot Line, silos for missiles, basements, and other things like that. Of course I have to admit that there have been some buildings built in recent years underground which were in the educational area, but I think our problem was unique.

So, experience was no guideline for me, really, and logic didn't seem to be part of the answer. Then how do you go about it? Well, it was the old good architect's way of going about things, the synthesis of all the knowns, the amalgamation of the problem giver and the problem solver with a dash of imagination, that should really bring us to the solution.

Several major points contributed to a design solution. One was humane architecture. How do you build below ground a humane space, a space that will be inspiring, that will contribute to the process of learning and acquiring knowledge for years, hundreds maybe, and not lose its quality? The second was how to overcome the shock, the psychological shock, of going from something above ground to below-ground space with the anticipation that you will learn something there.

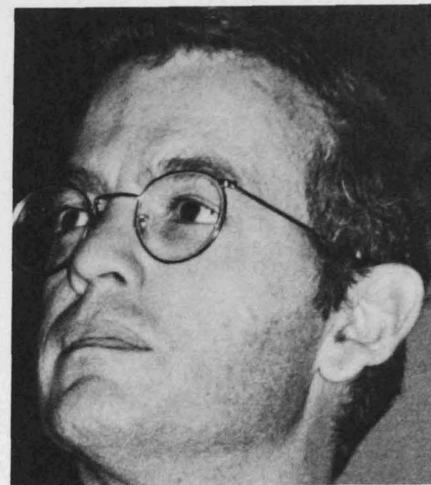
That is a known phobia. As many people are afraid of going below the earth's surface as are afraid of flying airplanes. Three, how to maintain the quality and the spirit of the mother place?

The mother in this case to me is the Legal Research Building. The solution is to keep your eye on mother all the time, to look at her, be in dialogue with her. So the walls that go down three floors below grade are open directly to the legal research library. Also in a telescopic way, over and over and over it comes in abstractly and directly. Keeping always that affinity, keeping always a finger in mother's lap was the intention. The next important consideration was a pragmatic one, energy conservation. We find that the underground building is at least 33 percent more efficient than other structures that we would build above ground.

Many have asked me, or have shouted, about the way the Legal Research Building is connected to the new underground addition. It's a very difficult task to connect a fifteenth to sixteenth century architecture to an architecture that really doesn't show above ground, an architecture that is all interiors. Here we are connecting a functional space, which I have tried to make an inspirational space, to something that is known from history books and through the memories of the alumni as a great Gothic piece of architecture.

Now these two have to be connected. I could only act in my mind as a surgeon who tells you before the surgery "It may hurt a little, but when we are done you'll be better than ever." We had to make this connection. It is my belief that if an edifice is built maybe 50 years after the neighboring one, the two can still be related and beneficial to each other.

I will end my remarks by coming back to the inscription that petrified me about logic and experience. I would like to say it was not experience which gave us a solution; it was logic and imagination.



Harold Shapiro *President, University of Michigan*

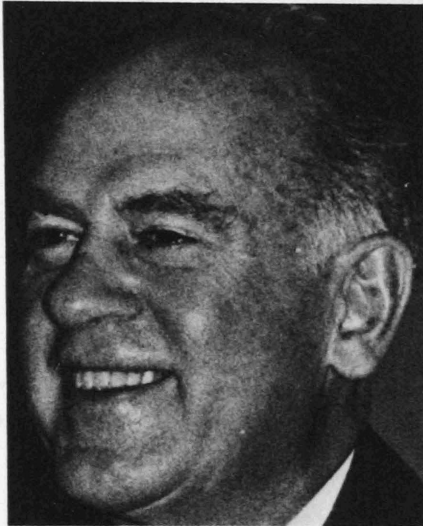
It is my pleasure to welcome you all here to the university. There probably is no more precious or more joyous occasion for a university than the dedication of a new library. Libraries are really the foundation of a university's activities. If someone were to ask me what the key activities of a university are, I think the answer would be straightforward. They are learning and critical inquiry. For learning and critical inquiry, there's nothing that replaces a library. A library is really both the sustenance and spirit of our best efforts.

What is it that expresses the importance of libraries to universities? I think of Carlyle's statement that the true university is a collection of books. You can always go back to Shakespeare to find a poetic expression of the feelings that we all have today. In *The Tempest*, a character at sea, longing to be home, says he would like to exchange a thousand leagues of the sea for one acre of barren land. As he thinks further about what it is he really wants, he says, "My library was dukedom large enough."

A university is a special place. Tyrants have exhorted us to burn all the libraries except one book; we uphold an idea quoted by Fielding: "Beware of the man with only one book." That's what all universities are about.

I have one thought for the students at the Law School, both current and future. I would recall an expression by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who said, "I hate books, for they teach people how to talk about things they do not yet understand." A library is here, the books are there, but there's

more to it. To the faculty, I would say that libraries, great as they are, are not just built; they must grow. We have a continuing responsibility here at the university to make sure the library grows and that we at The University of Michigan are worthy of the faith that so many of the alumni and our supporters have put in our future. I think it will be a great future.

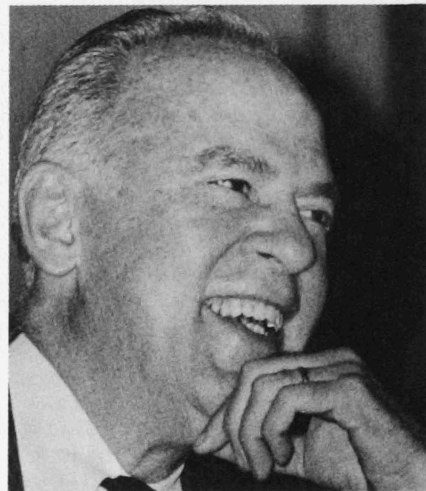
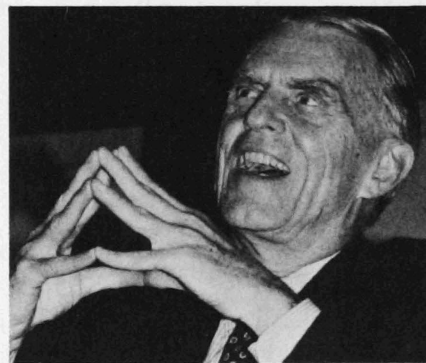


Justice Potter Stewart
*Retired Justice of the
United States Supreme
Court*

It is a particular pleasure for me to be in Ann Arbor today . . . because I have a longstanding affinity with this state and this Law School. Both my wife and I are natives of Michigan. My sister and my mother's three brothers all went to The University of Michigan and my favorite first cousin was one of the early women graduates of the Michigan Law School.

Over the years as a justice of the Supreme Court I chose more law clerks from The University of Michigan than from any other law school except for my own alma mater. Four of those former law clerks, including Dean Sandalow, are now members of the faculty here. When I was a judge of the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, it was here that we always held our annual judicial conferences. I have many happy memories of those conferences in what is now fast becoming the distant past.

For the reasons I have mentioned and for many other reasons, it is an honor for me to be here and participate with all of you today in the dedication of a magnificent new addition to the physical plant of one of our nation's truly great law schools.



These excerpts from the dedication speeches were prepared by the editor from a tape recording of the dedication ceremony.