The western main entry of the new building makes a strong architectural statement.

Tate Hall on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus served as the Law School’s home from the time of its construction in 1927. An expanding student body and growing library prompted the completion of a major addition in 1960, making Tate Hall a handsome and modern building for the times. But at that point the Law School had only 250 students and about 125,000 volumes in the law library.

As the late 1960s and early 1970s brought another major expansion of the student body, it became apparent to Deans Joe E. Covington (1958-69) and Willard Eckhardt (1969-77) and the faculty that a new building was needed. No funds were available at that time, however, and the crowded situation worsened. In 1977 an American Bar
Association team made a regular inspection visit to the law school and warned that the cramped conditions placed the school’s accreditation in jeopardy. Dean Allen E. Smith (1977-81) and the faculty then began the long process of approval and funding for a new facility. Consideration was given to the possibility of a further addition, wrapping around existing Tate Hall, but this idea was rejected as impractical.

The first concrete step toward a new building was the Missouri General Assembly’s appropriation of $219,000 in planning funds in 1982. Interim Dean James Westbrook (1981-82) immediately set in motion a planning process that has been hailed on this campus and others as a model for the design of a major building. A planning committee comprised of members of the law school faculty, students, alumni, the University’s facilities office, and administrators from other areas of the campus was formed. Under the direction of architect Michael Haggans, director of facilities planning, the committee developed a detailed architectural “program” document, 69 pages in length, identifying all of the activities that would take place in the new building, the relationships that existed among those activities, and the amount and type of space each would need.

The program also documented the characteristics of the site that had been chosen, at the corner of Conley and Missouri avenues, directly south of Tate Hall. This location, then serving as a parking lot, was agreeable to all concerned, and was consistent with the statement of the late Missouri Sen. Paul Bradshaw (J.D. 1954), in the 1982 planning appropriation bill as reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee, that the building should be constructed within 1,600 feet of Ellis Library.

After the program document was completed in August 1982, it was sent to all architectural firms in the state of Missouri, along with invitations to express an interest in designing the project. From the responses 12 firms or design teams were selected for on-campus interviews, and following those interviews three were chosen to prepare preliminary designs. After the submission and review of those designs, a team composed of two firms, McCoy Hutchison Stone Architects of Kansas City and The Leonard Parker Associates of Minneapolis, was selected to design the project. The team’s preliminary design, after some modifications at the suggestion of the building committee, was approved by the University Board of Curators on June 24, 1983.

Meanwhile plans were being made for private fund raising. University officials had reached an understanding with legislative leaders that approximately $2 million in private gifts would be contributed to the law building project. The Law School Foundation, under the presidency of Lynn M. Ewing Jr. (J.D. 1954) of Nevada, Mo.,
became the vehicle for this unprecedented effort. On Nov. 19, 1982, the Foundation trustees approved the employment of the John M. Grenzebach firm, professional fund-raising consultants of Chicago, to assist them and the law school staff. Grenzebach personnel then conducted a feasibility study, interviewing about 40 alumni and supporters of the law school during February 1983 and reporting that a goal of up to $2.5 million was realistic.

A long and intensive fund drive began. Robert Hawkins Jr. (J.D. 1948) of Jefferson City was selected as general chairman of the campaign, which became known as "The Building Program." Edward A. Dugan, a senior consultant of the Grenzebach firm, was assigned to the campaign in October 1983. Hawkins, Dugan, Dean Dale Whitman (1982-88), and other supporters made many personal visits to law firms and individuals whom they hoped would become major contributors. Their work bore immediate fruit, and by the time the campaign was announced to the general public on Law Day in April 1984, more than $1 million had already been pledged.

A major boost to the Building Program was the creation of the University of Missouri Law Society. This special group is composed of individuals and firms who contribute at least $25,000 toward the Building Program or the school's other funding needs. Thirty members, representing three-quarters of a million dollars in contributions, had joined by the time of the Society's first black-tie dinner on October 5, 1984; they became the backbone of the Building Program's success. The Society has continued to grow, and now has more than 60 members. Their names are listed later in this brochure.

In January 1985 Dugan completed his contract with the Law School Foundation and A. James Snider was appointed as assistant dean and director of development, taking over Dugan's duties. Under Snider's direction a massive telephone campaign was conducted in February 1985, with students, faculty members and alumni making hundreds of calls to law school graduates who had not yet responded to mailed invitations to join the effort. By Law Day of 1985, the pledge total had reached more than $1.8 million; the goal was in sight! John K. Hulston (J.D. 1941) of Springfield, Mo., served as president of the Law School Foundation when the drive's objective was actually reached in 1987.

A legislative appropriation was necessary to provide the bulk of the funds for the project. The 1985 session of the General Assembly provided an opportune time for gaining this approval. Dozens of alumni and friends of the law school made telephone calls and visits to legislators to remind them of the importance of the new building, and they were rewarded by an appropriation of $16 million.

Speaker Bob F. Griffin (J.D. 1958) of the House of Representatives provided special leadership in the success of the appropriation. Gov. John Ashcroft signed the bill on June 27, 1985, although with a reduction in the amount to $14.528 million. This cut was
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dealt with in two ways: decreasing the size of the building by about 7 percent, and increasing the Law School Foundation's commitment to $2.5 million. In the following session, Speaker Griffin again came to the law school's aid, sponsoring a supplemental appropriation of $750,000 to ensure that the new building's furnishings and equipment were adequate. While this figure was reduced by gubernatorial veto to $500,000, it provided a much-needed margin of quality for the project.

Meanwhile, the architects and the building committee continued to develop detailed plans, working drawings and specifications for the building. In May 1985 these documents were made available to prospective bidders for the general construction contract, and bids were solicited. At the bid opening on July 8, three contractors submitted bids. The lowest was that of McCarthy Brothers of St. Louis, and it was awarded the contract.

Because McCarthy's bid, $14.519 million, was somewhat lower than had been estimated, it was possible for the University to include certain items in the contract that had been considered uncertain because of their cost. These included a slate (rather than copper) roof, skylights over the library stairway and the third floor stacks, and the removal of the fireplace from the student lounge of Tate Hall to the new building.

The total cost of the project was $17.9 million, including the main construction contract, furnishings, equipment, landscaping, and a variety of other costs. A summary of the project budget and the sources of funds appears on the preceding page.

Groundbreaking occurred on Aug. 14, 1986, with President C. Peter Magrath and then Chancellor Barbara S. Uehling presiding. Construction proceeded largely as planned, a result of favorable weather conditions, good work by the general contractor, and careful supervision by the University staff and the architects. The facility was completed and occupied by the law school in July 1988.

The western face of the law building features a grand colonnade, a reminder of the famed columns of Academic Hall on Francis Quadrangle.
With the dedication of its new building on September 24, 1988, the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law acquires a physical facility that is the peer of the finest in the nation.

The building, designed by McCoy Hutcheson Stone Architects of Kansas City and The Leonard Parker Associates of Minneapolis and built by McCarthy Brothers of St. Louis, is constructed of red brick and white stone trim that match in color Jesse Hall, Tate Hall and the other brick buildings of Francis Quadrangle immediately to the north and west. The architectural features of these older structures are mirrored in the new law building with its slate roof, arched windows and columns.

At the same time, the building’s clean lines and the distinctive tiered design of its library wing set it apart from the older buildings on Francis Quadrangle. Hence it forms a handsome transition between them and the buff brick buildings of the 1960s to the south and east, including Brady Commons, the Arts and Science Building, and the General Classroom Building.

The building is a pivotal element in the campus master plan. On the east it completes the Arts and Science Mall. On the west it defines the edge of a new pedestrian mall that will stretch from Jesse Hall on the north to Stankowski Field and the Health Sciences complex on the south. It will face the new Donald W. Reynolds Alumni Center, to be located on the opposite side of the new mall.

The law building contains about 135,000 square feet of space on four levels, with nearly 100,000 square feet assignable as classrooms, offices, and library. By comparison, Tate Hall has less than 30,000 square feet of assignable space. The new building partially encloses a large outdoor patio with attractive landscaping and furniture, which flows into the existing Arts and Science Mall and provides space for studying and eating during good weather.

The law library occupies the southern wing of the building on all four levels and uses about 60 percent of the total floor space. Many years of future expansion for the library are possible; the building has space for about 340,000 volumes, while the present holdings represent only about 240,000 volumes. Tate Hall’s library storage space was extremely crowded, and it was still necessary to store about 45,000 volumes outside the confines of the library itself. The new building, however, houses the entire collection with ample room for the growth of each reporter, journal, and service over the years.

In addition, the library includes seating for 465 students, including 139 at tables, 166 at open carrels, 116 at lounge chairs and computer stations, and 44 in 22 closed study rooms located along the eastern edge of the second and third levels. By contrast, the Tate Hall law library provided seating for only 223 students, with many of them in very cramped conditions. Many generations of law students will appreciate the spacious and attractive study conditions of the new building.

Several special features of the law library should be noted. A faculty research library, located in a magnificent space at the apex of the western main entry portal of the building, provides faculty members a place to spread out research notes, materials, and books without interfering with student researchers. Computer research facilities for the faculty are found there as well. A climate-controlled rare book room houses the law school’s excellent collection of early law books and
manuscripts, as well as the famous Lawson Collection of materials on
18th and 19th century trials.

The library is designed for ease of use. Specially designed
lighting units illuminate the stacks; to save energy, they automatically
switch off after 15 minutes of use. Stand-up research stations placed
throughout the shelving permit patrons to examine books closely
without the need to carry them to a table or carrel.

The new building represents the state of the art in computer
automation. A computer laboratory for student use contains 20 work
stations, and is used for training in LEXIS and WESTLAW as well as for
preparation of briefs, research papers and law review work. This
represents a major expansion of the law school’s innovative computer
lab originally created in Lowry Hall in 1985. In addition, virtually every
classroom, office and study room is connected to a token-passing ring
computer network with 230 outlets. This network allows faculty and
staff members to share files, transmit memos and messages, and print
material at any location in the building.

Modern legal education makes extensive use of videotape as a
device for critiquing student performance in such courses as trial
practice, interviewing and counseling, and negotiation. The new law
building includes a high-quality video system within the main
courtroom, the trial hearing room, both jury rooms, and the Center for
the Study of Dispute Resolution. A large-screen projection system
provides playback facilities in the courtroom.
Classrooms are the heart of a law school. Five classrooms are included in the new building, ranging in seating capacity from 48 to 180, to provide scheduling flexibility. Each is provided with natural illumination through skylights. There are also five seminar rooms for small-group classes of various sizes.

The main courtroom will not be needed for regular classes, and can be devoted exclusively to trial practice classes, moot court, and actual trial and appellate settings of visiting state and federal courts. No longer will it be necessary continually to rearrange the furniture of the courtroom to allow its use as a classroom, as was done in Tate Hall.

A smaller trial hearing room, without a jury box, allows needed flexibility in scheduling trial practice exercises. The building includes two jury rooms; the smaller one, adjacent to the television control room, is used for student trials, while the larger, with self-contained restroom facilities, can be used by actual juries, and will also serve as a seminar room.

The Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution is housed in a suite adjacent to the courtroom area. It contains offices for the staff, several interviewing rooms, and a conference room. This space allows for expansion of the Center's efforts to provide dispute resolution services to the local community.

The building conveys an overall impression of fine craftsmanship in both design and construction. The superb detailing of the cornices, columns and windows makes a strong design statement. The western main entryway, the motif of which is repeated in miniature on the interior signage, is a unique and memorable architectural element. Arched ceilings in the third floor library spaces add a classical feature that emphasizes the traditional nature of law and legal research. The extensive use of glass in windows and skylights brings large quantities of natural light into the building.

The new law building combines functionality and beauty in a structure that will serve students, faculty and staff for many decades. It introduces a new era in the history of the School of Law, an institution with a record of long and distinguished service to Missouri and the nation.

Faculty members may do research undisturbed in the handsome faculty library.
(Opposite) The arched ceiling of the third floor law library reading area creates an impressive space reminiscent of classical libraries.

(Above) The outdoor plaza provides a natural meeting place for students.

(Right) The fireplace from Tate Hall has been installed in the student study lounge of the new building.
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The new law building, seen here from Ellis Library, is a splendid architectural addition at a prominent campus location.
An impressive staircase leads from the plaza entry foyer to the subplaza classroom area.

(Overleaf) The courtroom is equipped for both actual and moot trials and appeals. A high-quality video system allows review of student performances.
The new law building, like Tate Hall before it, was made possible through the combined support of legislative appropriations and generous private gifts. The printed program prepared for the dedication of Tate Hall in 1927 is found in the archives of the Law Library. Its cover is reproduced above for its historical interest.