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### Foreword (Dedication of the new law school building)

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## FOREWORD

It is appropriate that in this issue of the *Catholic University Law Review* the editors acknowledge that it is published from the Review's new quarters in the law school's extraordinary new home. The relocation of all law school operations into the new building in June 1994, and the formal dedication of it in October of that year, mark the beginning of a bright new era for the Columbus School of Law. Everyone in the law school family shares the same sense of pride and satisfaction, and the same sense of responsibility, to see that we continue to fill this place with good people and good programs to advance the educational mission of the school and the university.

Everyone in the law school family, including, perhaps especially, students yet to come, also should remember that this building did not rise by act of God—although there are miraculous aspects to its design, construction, and financing. Its completion is the result of vast infusions of talent, skill, determination, and generosity by an enormous number of people. To try to name them all would fill this volume and still risk omitting some. But they can be described by role.

In the beginning, there were those influential accreditors in the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools who told us with increasing bluntness that our existing facilities were jeopardizing the quality of our educational program. There are the present and former CUA trustees and administrators who recognized the legitimacy of the law school's "facilities problem," and who so valued the law school as a part of the University that they determined to support a fulsome response to that problem—a state-of-the-art facility for the twenty-first century, rather than some half-hearted expedient measure.

There were architects, engineers, CUA facilities-management staff, and law school people who grappled with early feasibility studies, site selection, and preliminary financing options. Nearly every university administrator, and many non-law faculty, were involved at some time and in some manner in the overall planning process. There were consultants and outside professionals who supplied essential wisdom and design parameters.

By 1987, the Law School Building Committee was in place, with a membership that stayed largely constant over succeeding years. This committee became the driving force for the momentum that began with

program development and architect selection and continued through every detail of building design, landscaping, furnishing choices, bidding, and construction. If the building looks handsome and works well, it is because of the care and attention to detail of the Building Committee.

By 1989, the “Building for the Future” fundraising campaign was underway, blessed with solid staff work within the law school and with the invaluable help of consultants and the cooperation of the University development office. A Steering Committee of loyal alumni, encouraged by significant early commitments of substantial financial support and making some of their own, took ownership of the campaign and made it succeed. In 1992, architectural design gave way to groundbreaking and physical construction by contractors, engineers, and artisans who applied their professional skills to translate drawings into reality.

The largest numbers of benefactors were those who gave the essential financial support to cover nearly two-thirds of the project’s costs by the time we moved into the building. These are hundreds of alumni and friends of the school, committing pledges large and small and numerous—responding to the school’s needs as they had never before been asked to do. These financial benefactors include as well those classes of students since 1987 whose tuition was taxed to enlarge the building fund even though they would graduate before the structure was complete.

And finally there is everyone who has worked or studied here over the past year or so—law school faculty, administration, staff, students, and colleagues from around the campus. All were inevitably caught up in the planning and carrying out of the physical move from Leahy and Keane Halls: sorting, packing, loading, installing, unloading, taking down, and setting up, or supervising these functions, or maybe just getting out of the way so the move could proceed.

To all of these contributors to this building, the law school community extends a heartfelt “thank you” and “well done.”

*Ralph J. Rohner*  
Dean