



Since becoming the William J. Maier, Jr. Dean at the [College of Law](#) in 2008, Joyce E. McConnell has envisioned moving the College forward through “[building for the future.](#)” As the College of Law enters the final phase of fundraising to complete its extraordinary 30,000 square foot expansion and renovation project, it is on the cusp of opening exciting new opportunities to its students and clients. Following is an abbreviated “brief” of the project:

Case: WVU College of Law expansion and renovation project.

Facts: In 2010, the American Bar Association (ABA) gave the College of Law an excellent review on curriculum, programs, student achievement, job placement, faculty, and externships.

Issue: However, the ABA gave the College of Law *building* a poor review, expressing that its facilities would hinder future legal education.

Holding: In 2012, the WVU College of Law launched the expansion and renovation project as it broke ground for the new building. The expansion includes two classrooms, a courtroom, a distance education room, conference and interview rooms, and faculty offices. Included are offices for the Center for Energy and Sustainable Development, a multi-purpose event space, and a wing to house the Clinical Law Program.

Related Photos



New Courtroom



New Classroom

The renovation includes sweeping improvements to the George R. Farmer, Jr. Law Library and a new area dedicated to student services.

The project is expected to be completed in summer 2016.

Critical to the funding of the project was private support and, most notably, a transformational gift from the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust. In 2013, the McQuain Trust gave a gift of \$7.5 million, representing the single largest capital gift to the College of Law.

Learn more about this project by watching the [video interview with Dean McConnell](#) as she shares her perspective.

As completion of this essential project draws near, the WVU College of Law is poised to change legal education in West Virginia forever. The WVU College of Law *Building for the Future* project is one of the many critical initiatives of "[A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University](#)."



New Hallway



New Entrance



www.astateofminds.com

Campaign Chronicles is a monthly feature that focuses on an area of importance to the campaign and the impact it makes on the University.

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