

## Villanova - Newest of the Catholic Law Schools

Harold Gill Reuschlein

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/tcl>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#)

---

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Catholic Lawyer by an authorized editor of St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [selbyc@stjohns.edu](mailto:selbyc@stjohns.edu).

# VILLANOVA — NEWEST OF THE CATHOLIC LAW SCHOOLS

HAROLD GILL REUSCHLEIN\*

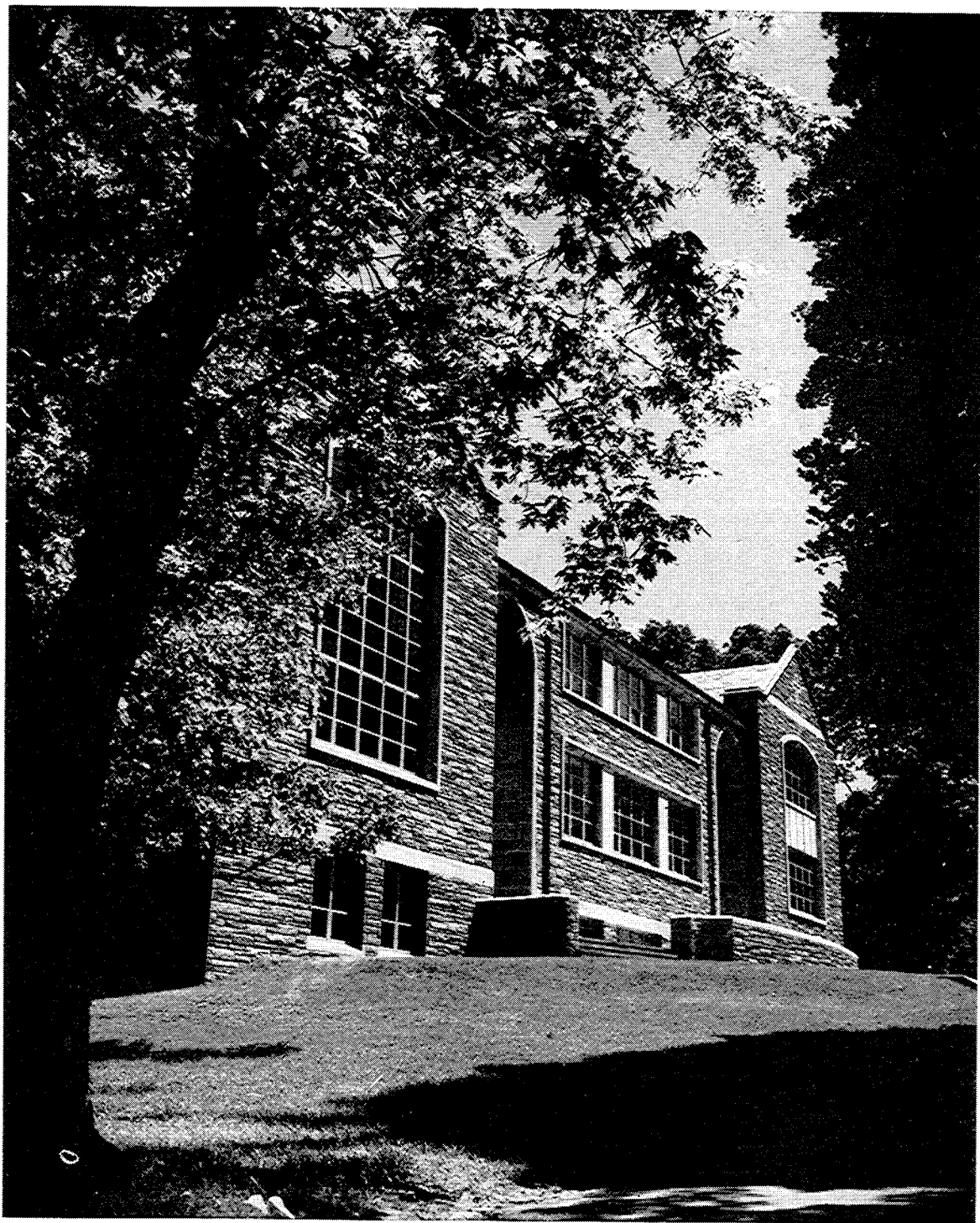
THE AUGUSTINIAN FATHERS have been at their noble work in the New World since 1533. Their first establishment within the present limits of the United States was made at Philadelphia in 1796 with the foundation of Old Saint Augustine's Church. From this venerable old church and from Saint Augustine's Academy, opened there in 1811, Villanova University traces its lineage. In 1841, "Belle Air," the country estate of John Rudolph, Revolutionary officer and merchant, was acquired and in 1843, the college opened and was placed under the patronage of Saint Thomas of Villanova, a distinguished Augustinian writer and educator and the Archbishop of Valencia in sixteenth-century Spain. And here in one of the mellowest countrysides in America is the University today, with its Gothic towers, its greystone and its lovely verdure, spread upon the gentle hills along Lancaster Pike.

In 1953, Villanova College became Villanova University. That action was accompanied by the decision to expand offerings on the graduate level. In September, 1953, the School of Law opened.

Of course, the School has as its objective the usual functions of any first class law school — the training of lawyers who can serve their clients effectively and who are both interested in and capable of furthering the progress and betterment of law and legal institutions and the preparation of lawyers for the willing assumption of community leadership and the defense of their heritage. But it was primarily the need for a Catholic law

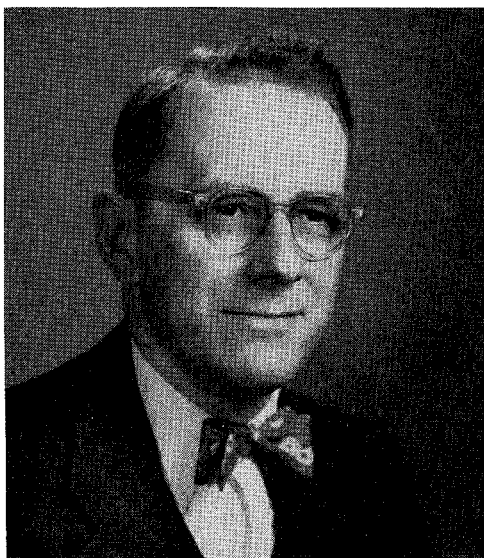
---

\*Dean of the School of Law, Villanova University.



*The University Library — First Home of the School of Law.*

school in the Philadelphia area which prompted the establishment of the School — the need for a place dedicated to the synthesis of Christian wisdom and painstaking legal scholarship.



HAROLD GILL REUSCHLEIN

The establishment of the School of Law represented much careful and painstaking planning by the then Prior-Provincial of the Augustinian Fathers, the Very Reverend Joseph M. Dougherty, O.S.A., and the then president of the University, the Reverend Francis X. N. McGuire, O.S.A., who had the benefit of the advice, counsel and tangible encouragement of an eminent group of judges and lawyers in the Philadelphia area. This group of judges and practitioners, with certain additions, now constitutes the Board of Consultors to the School of Law, an advisory group. They continue to be a source of strength to Villanova's president, the Very Reverend James A. Donnellon, O.S.A., and to the Dean and the faculty. Their chairman currently is Judge Vincent A. Carroll of Philadelphia.

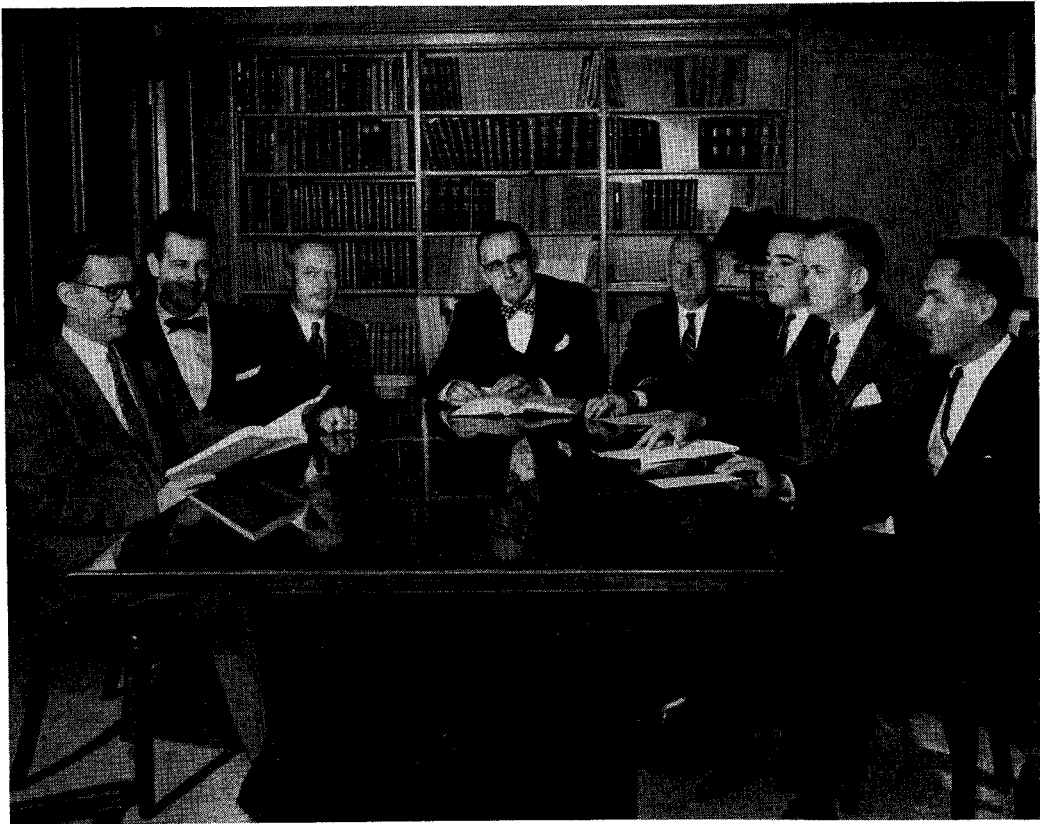
The School opened in attractive quarters in the beautiful University Library Building, but before what I write becomes print, it will be housed in its own spacious and well-appointed home, Garey Hall.

The faculty originally numbered six men, who dedicated their full time to the work of the School. The original members of the faculty included, Arthur C. Pulling, John G. Stephenson III, John T. Macartney, Thomas J. O'Toole, Francis E. Holahan and Harold Gill Reuschlein as Dean. Happily, every one of them continues with us. The faculty from the outset represented a deliberate diversification in types and places of training and in pre-teaching experiences. Since these initial appointments were made, Professors Donald M. Collins and William B. Ball have been appointed as full-time members of the faculty. Lecturers (part-time) in particular specialties include the Reverend Robert E. Regan, O.S.A., Peter P. Liebert III, Michael vonMoschzisker and Charles S. Vogan. The full-time faculty will be further augmented with the beginning of the next academic year.

The student body is carefully chosen. Each student admitted must hold an A.B. or equivalent degree from an approved college or university and must have achieved a creditable score in the Law School Admission Test administered by the Educational Testing Service. During the current academic year nine states and thirty-eight colleges and universities are represented.

The University Administration has been most generous in authorizing a broad program of scholarship aid, including a number of attractive fellowships in memory of the late Augustinian Prior-Provincial, Father Joseph M. Dougherty, O.S.A. These have assisted materially in competition for the superior student.

It is the faculty's belief that the law stu-



*The full-time faculty. Left to right: Thomas J. O'Toole, Assistant Dean; Donald M. Collins; John G. Stephenson III; Dean Reuschlein; Arthur C. Pulling, Librarian; Francis E. Holahan; William B. Ball; John T. Macartney.*

dent should be so disposed that he will, in later life, enter enthusiastically into the work of the organized Bar. With this in mind the faculty has insisted that the student body should govern itself, administering its own honor system in the matter of examinations and in matters of student conduct generally. In the manner that the organized Bar governs itself, so the student body governs itself through the medium of the Villanova Student Bar Association.

The University is proud of the Law Library. The University was most fortunate in the appointment of Arthur C. Pulling as Law

Librarian. He came to Villanova after distinguished service as Director of the Library at Harvard Law School, from which post he retired in 1953. Mr. Pulling was largely responsible for the development of the law library at the University of Minnesota. During his three years at Villanova he has built an enviable library now numbering 50,232 volumes.

Turning to the many activities outside the classroom that make the life of a law student at Villanova a stimulating experience, one should note that the students participate in an ambitious program of moot courts includ-

ing the National Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. In each year that the School has participated, its team has represented its region in New York.

A series of Forum Programs has been initiated. The Forum is designed to bring outstanding members of the profession and representatives of other disciplines to the campus to confer with the students. In addition, the Ethics Round Table, designed to deal with specific ethical problems which will confront the lawyer in the practice of his profession and in his role as a leader in the community, is conducted for the students in the second and third years. Discussion leaders, in addition to the faculty, are experienced members of the Bench and Bar, clergymen, businessmen and representatives of other disciplines.

A law school counselling program has been instituted. Each member of the faculty serves as a counsellor to a small group of students on career planning, curriculum matters and all other problems that may be associated with the study of law. A placement service to assist our seniors upon graduation was activated last year and its work has met with gratifying success.

The faculty has been keenly aware of its duty to give the students as much in the way of practical training as is possible. In addition to the skills taught in moot courts, a research service for practicing members of the bar of Delaware County has been inaugurated under the supervision of Professor John T. Macartney, whereby, under a co-operative program, practitioners submit to the School "live" problems for research by students. While the primary beneficiary of the program is the student, collaboration between the practitioners and the Law School

is also fruitful to the practitioner. Participating attorneys have found the opportunity to make a contribution to legal education a satisfying experience.

From the very inception of the School, Professor Francis E. Holahan was at work preparing for the very early establishment of the Villanova Law Review. During the past academic year, 1955-56, the Law Review made its appearance. Volume I consisted of two issues. Beginning with this current academic year, the Villanova Law Review publishes as a quarterly. The Review has been the subject of much favorable comment.

The School of Law has already embarked upon programs of research and is fostering alliances with other disciplines. It is about to make a cautious beginning into the area of continuing legal education.

In recognition of the obligation of a professional school to aid in the solution of national and community problems, there has been established at the Law School an Institute of Church and State. Its function is to provide a forum in which the legal aspects of church and state relationship may be examined with objectivity. The Institute is sponsoring research into some of the vexing problems in this field, and in February will conduct a conference in which the juridical status of churches will be examined. Professor Thomas J. O'Toole, Assistant Dean of the School of Law, is serving as Director of the Institute. A headquarters for the Institute is provided in Garey Hall and a special collection of books is being assembled to facilitate the research projects. This special collection is made possible by a generous gift of Judge Theodore L. Reimel of Philadelphia. It will be housed in the Church-State Seminar-room.

In the fall of 1957 the School of Law will make its first effort in the field of continuing legal education by presenting a ten-week Patent Law Seminar. The decision to offer the seminar was based upon two main reasons. First, the 1952 Patent Act has given rise to a number of substantial legal problems which we feel now demand an intensive scholarly examination. Secondly, leaders of the local patent bar have insistently expressed to us the need, in the highly industrialized Delaware Valley area, for advanced offerings to attorneys in the patent field. Accordingly, arrangements have been made with twenty prominent members of the patent bar — each of whom is known for his outstanding qualifications upon the topic upon which he will speak — to cooperate in the giving of the seminar. It is expected that the papers presented (and into which will go almost a full year of preparation) will be published. The coordinator for the program is Professor William B. Ball.

As I write, the School of Law is preparing to move into its new home, Garey Hall. This

beautiful building is named for the late Eugene Garey, Esq., eminent member of the New York Bar and generous benefactor of Villanova. Ground for the new structure was broken September 22 (the feast of Saint Thomas of Villanova), 1955, in the presence of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, the Most Reverend John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Archbishop of Philadelphia, and the Honorable Horace Stern, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. The building, designed by Henry D. Dagitt and Sons, is located upon a commanding site overlooking the lovely Villanova campus. It is built of native stone and limestone and conforms to the modified Gothic characteristic of post-war Villanova buildings. For its size (built to accommodate 300 students) it is one of the most adequate law school facilities to be found anywhere. The building consists of three wings. One enters the center wing through a stately door flanked by life-size figures of Saint Ives and Saint Thomas More, the work of the contemporary sculptor Edward Fenno Hoffman. The central wing consists of three floors. On the main floor of this wing are the administrative offices, the Dean's suite,



offices for the Assistant Dean and the Librarian, the Church-State Seminar and another seminar room. On the floor above are offices for members of the faculty and the suite for the Law Review. On the ground level is another seminar, student typing room, offices for the Villanova Bar Association and the library receiving room.

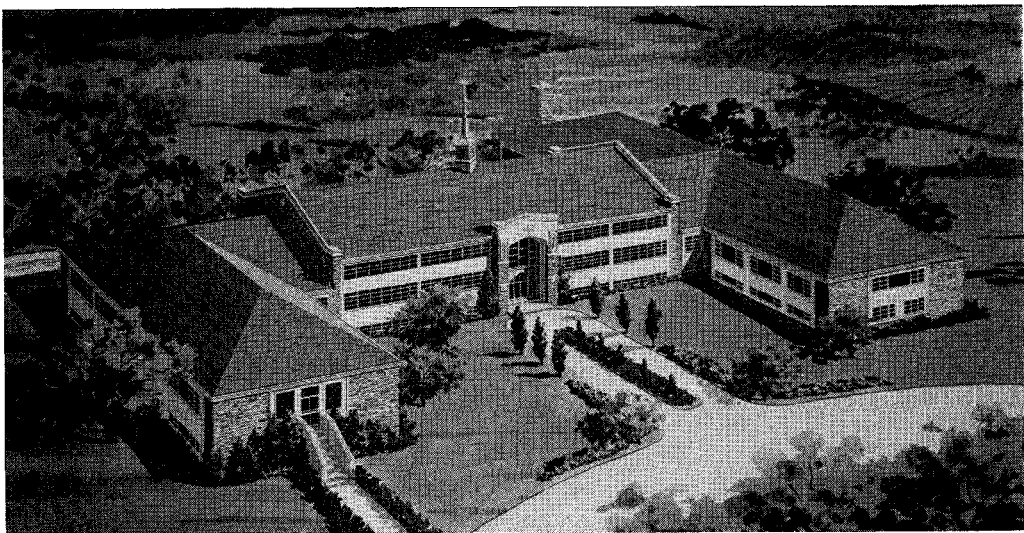
The Library is housed in an entirely separate wing, consisting of an attractively panelled reading room seating 150, with the offices of the librarian and the cataloguing room adjoining. Below the reading room are two levels of stacks equipped with study alcoves. The book capacity in the reading room and stacks is 160,000 volumes.

In the remaining wing are large classrooms, tiered in amphitheatre fashion and a walnut-panelled court room. On the lower floor of this wing are study rooms for the law clubs, a beautiful student lounge boast-

ing a fine stone fireplace, with kitchen adjoining, a faculty lounge and a women's lounge.

In due course, it is expected that a commodious residence hall will be erected immediately adjacent to Garey Hall and sufficient ground for this purpose has been reserved. At present, O'Dwyer Hall, an attractive converted residence on the campus, serves as a home for students in the School of Law.

Three days of dedicatory ceremonies for Garey Hall are planned for April 25, 26, and 27, 1957. The theme for the dedicatory ceremonies is "The Concept of Peace," prompted by Saint Augustine's "Peace is the tranquility of order." There are to be symposia dealing with international peace, interracial peace and industrial peace, a dinner, a pontifical Mass and a convocation at which Chief Justice Warren of the Supreme Court of the United States will receive academic honors.



*Garey Hall — to be occupied February, 1957.*