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# LOYOLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

OWEN G. FIORE\*

**B**UILDING UPON A SOLID TRADITION of over forty years service to the legal community of California, Loyola University School of Law has embarked upon an ambitious program of expansion in all aspects of its operation. The challenge to the legal profession is clear. The profession must train attorneys who recognize their moral and social responsibilities in order that the rule of law may be upheld. A sense of duty to God and country is basic to a lawyer's professional responsibility, because, without it, our traditional rule of law and its consideration for individual dignity are in jeopardy. Loyola University School of Law has continually met this challenge through its high standards of legal and ethical training, and the future holds promise of even greater achievement.

Loyola University of Los Angeles, a Roman Catholic institution conducted by the Jesuit Order, began in 1911 as the successor to St. Vincent's College which was founded in 1865. The School of Law of Loyola University was established as a part-time evening school in 1920 and operated as such until 1930. A full-time day session was then introduced to accommodate the growing number of students in California seeking a legal education. Both day and evening divisions of Loyola Law School have been operated since that time under the policy of providing the same high standards of instruction by the same faculty members to students enrolled in either division. Early in the history of this law school, approval by the American Bar Association was received.

The development of Loyola University School of Law to its present position as a leading California law school has been largely due to the efforts of the Rev. Joseph J. Donovan, S.J., Regent of the School of Law since 1927.

Under his leadership, the administration and faculty of Loyola University School of Law have formulated a plan for the future development of the school. This plan is designed to enable Loyola Law School to respond fully to the increasing demands made upon our country's law schools for more and better qualified lawyers. All aspects of the Law

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School have been considered in the development plan. Definite progress is being made in the areas of faculty expansion, curriculum revision and the construction of new physical facilities.

Most evident among new developments at Loyola University School of Law is the new Law School building scheduled for occupancy in June 1964. The Board of Regents of Loyola University recently announced completion of plans for this building which will be located approximately one mile from the Los Angeles Civic Center. This new facility will provide approximately 56,000 square feet of space in its two stories and partial basement. The library area alone will be more than twice the square footage of the present quarters of Loyola Law School.

As can be seen from the artist's sketch of the building's exterior, this new law school building will present a modern picture to the community.

The interior core of the first floor of the planned building will consist of three large amphitheater-type classrooms, two smaller classrooms for seminar use, and a Moot Court room. The latter room will be furnished with permanent theater-type seats with writing arms and will be convertible into an auditorium. Both the Moot Court room and the largest classroom will be equipped with movie and television facilities.

Encircling this interior core will be the foyer opening to the administration offices, twenty Faculty offices, a Faculty lounge and the Faculty secretary's office. Administrative offices, student organization offices and the student lounges will also be located in this area of the first floor.

The second level of the building will be devoted almost entirely to the law library,

capable of housing over 100,000 volumes as well as normal library auxiliary services. On this floor there will be a large, well-lighted study room on one side with individual study carrels and large tables accommodating over 200 students. Separated from this room by a sound proof wall will be the main stacks of the library amid which there will be cul-de-sacs for small group discussions. Then, on the other side of the second floor, three large research and conference rooms will be provided which will be available for alumni workshops, seminars and research activities. Also included in this area will be the library staff and processing rooms, reserve book room, a large Faculty library, a student typing-study room, and a micro-film room. Finally, set aside from the second floor centers of legal activity will be a small chapel as the spiritual center of Loyola Law School.

Two student lounges will be provided on the first floor of the law school building, one for quiet study and reflection and the other for refreshments and recreation. The classroom facilities, the library, student parking area and other facilities of the new building will amply provide for the needs of the planned enrollment of 500 to 550 students. All of these facilities will be available to Loyola Law School alumni for committee meetings, workshop programs and special lectures. An expanded Moot Court program will be possible as well as a more intensive legal research and advanced writing institute.

Guiding the expansion and improvement of the Faculty of Loyola University School of Law has been its recently appointed Dean, J. Rex Dibble, Professor of Law. Dean Dibble has been a member of the Faculty of Loyola Law School since 1937. Recognizing the prime importance to a law



*Dean J. Rex Dibble*

school of a competent and dedicated faculty, the Faculty of Loyola Law School has been expanded and is continuing to expand in order to meet the challenge of rising enrollment and the modern necessity of a broad curriculum.

Activities closely related to Loyola Law School and its teaching program include student placement upon graduation, a summer internship program, scholarships and student loans. The Loyola Law Alumni Association has become increasingly active over the past several years in the area of scholarships. A special committee has been

appointed by the Board of Governors of the Alumni Association to raise and increase scholarship funds available to deserving students. A new organization was recently formed by the Alumni and is called *The Advocates*. This group includes Alumni and friends of Loyola who plan to make a substantial annual contribution to the scholarship fund of Loyola Law School.

From the standpoint of the law student at Loyola University School of Law, a broad range of activities is provided by school organizations. The student body of the School of Law is organized as the Loyola Bar Association, a member of the American Law Student Association. The *Loyola Digest*, the official student newspaper, provides an outlet for student opinion and publishes research papers which often involve stimulating and controversial subject areas of the law. Guest writers are drawn from all ranks of the legal profession in California. The legal fraternities active at Loyola Law School include Ford Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, Aggeler Inn of Phi Delta Phi, and Alpha Theta Chapter of Phi Delta Delta. Also, the St. Thomas More Law Society is active at Loyola and has recently presented several programs designed to emphasize the importance of professional responsibility in a lawyer's career.

Today Loyola University School of Law looks to the future with a confidence grounded upon long experience and definite plans for further development.

