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A Message from the Dean

Douglass G. Boshkoff
Indiana University School of Law

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A Message from the Dean

The most recent Indiana University budget contained a capital appropriation request for a Law School addition which, unfortunately, was not granted by the Legislature. Some of you may be surprised by the news that we have grown out of our building in less than two decades and I would, therefore, like to comment briefly on our current situation.

Several developments in legal education are responsible for our present plight. There is, first of all, a staggering boom in applications for admission. Responding to the terrible crush of applicants we have admitted everyone that we can and at times have admitted more than we should. For the foreseeable future we will be operating at capacity and there will thus be a strain on the current physical facilities.

The elective portion of our curriculum has become more important during the period that we have been in this building. Many courses are being offered in 1973 that were not in our curriculum two decades ago. I cite Securities Regulation, Military Law, multiple criminal procedure and antitrust offerings, and all of our clinical courses as examples of the expansion in curriculum. While adding these courses we have continued to offer the old favorites such as Property, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Evidence and Conflicts, to name only a few.

The decision to add new courses to the

curriculum without dropping old ones has created an increased demand for classroom space but there has been no increase in the supply of such space. We have four classrooms and three seminar rooms. Last spring we offered 34 courses or sections of courses, each involving one to four hours of instruction per week, three clinics, ten seminars and numerous sections of our legal writing course in these six rooms. We are rapidly approaching the time when we cannot schedule one additional course in our building.

Scheduling courses in another building will not help us. At present we have only a ten minute break between classes; that is classes begin on the half-hour, last for 50 minutes and are scheduled throughout the day. We must have 50 minute sessions and if we scheduled classes outside the law building while maintaining this unit of instruction we would lose scheduling flexibility. Classes would have to be scheduled with at least a fifteen minute break, i.e., 8:30, 9:35, 10:40 and we would actually lose one class period out of the day. If we did this the options of our students to take courses would be reduced, not increased or even maintained at the current level.

The tightness of our current schedule is graphically illustrated by an event that occurred only a few weeks ago. At my invitation Mr. J. D. Williams and Mr. Lloyd Fitzpatrick graciously consented to talk to our graduating seniors

about the bar examination. Both are members of the State Board of Law Examiners and I expected that they would draw a large crowd. After issuing the invitation I checked to see which classroom was available and to my embarrassment found out that everyone was occupied. I could not even use the Moot Court Room because Phil Thorpe was using it for a section of trial practice. We finally met in the faculty lounge, a makeshift arrangement which did not permit us to accommodate all interested students. I am sure that similar experiences occur each day.

We all know that a great deal of legal education takes place outside the regularly scheduled classes. Student review groups meet, faculty members hold informal sessions and members of the practicing bar visit Bloomington to talk to various student groups. All these activities, which everyone agrees should take place in a good law school, are now difficult to arrange and soon will be impossible to schedule because of our space limitations. We are gradually losing our power to respond to the needs of the bar and its prospective members. Every change in legal education has space implications and right now we are not in a very favorable position to respond to suggestions for change.

The situation of the Law Library is equally difficult. The library standards of the Association of American Law Schools require us to provide library seating for 65% of our student body. If we assume a maximum enrollment of 550 students we are now short of this requirement by 78 spaces. Thus your School is below the *minimum* accreditation requirement by a substantial amount and no relief is in sight. Anyone who visits the Law Library during a period of heavy use will see how intolerably crowded it is. This situation cannot be permitted to continue. How can we expect students to study and acquire library skills if there is no place for them to sit?

We do not have enough space in our Library for students and soon we will not have enough space for our books. Shelf capacity is approximately 140,000 volumes and right now we are almost at that point. We don't intend to stop buying books and so we soon must consider putting some in storage or in a

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separate library space in another building where they will be unavailable for general use. I assume that all of you realize how unsatisfactory this will be. No matter what part of the collection is moved it will be a bad choice from the point of view of some student or some lawyer. We ought to be making our library resources more available to members of the practicing bar. We ought to be experimenting with new methods for storing and retrieving legal information, and yet our space limitations and the necessity of dividing up the collection will move us in exactly the opposite direction.

One solution to our problems is to construct an addition which will have much greater Library space. If we can move the Library out of our current building then the space at the northern end can be used for classrooms and offices. This would be a great step forward and would solve our problems for the next several decades. Perhaps I should not advance this last conclusion with any great feeling of certainty because I am sure that everyone thought in 1956 that the move from Maxwell Hall would solve the problems of the School for many decades. It is clear to me, however, that we must do something.

A most frustrating aspect of our current situation is that our facilities do not appear inadequate to anyone unfamiliar with our operations. The building is well lighted, of pleasant design, clean and in good condition. It is a fine building for a School with a modest library, a student body of well under 500 and the type of educational program that was offered a decade or two ago. No one suggests that we should move backward and yet if we do not get help we will find each year that our educational program will have to be curtailed in some respect. We cannot continue to do an outstanding job of educating students for the practice of law unless we are able to expand our facilities.

Douglass G. Boshkoff