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School of Law preparing for justice’s speech

By Brigette Panarisi
Indiana Daily Student

The IU-Bloomington School of Law is gearing up for the arrival of U.S. chief justice nominee William H. Rehnquist, who has confirmed his acceptance of an invitation to dedicate the new Law Library.

Justice Rehnquist will speak on “The Legal Profession Today” at the dedication ceremony, which runs from 3 to 4 p.m. Sept. 12 in the IU Auditorium. The ceremony is part of a law conference sponsored by the law school and the Law School Alumni Association.

Speaking at law schools is not new for Justice Rehnquist, said Craig Bradley, professor of law and former law clerk to Justice Rehnquist. Bradley, who invited the justice to dedicate the new law building, said the justice makes several appearances each year at law schools around the country.

“Rehnquist had been planning to come for a while,” said Bryant Garth, dean of the law school. “The invitation was sent more than a year ago, but the hearing (the senate confirmation hearings over the approval of Rehnquist as chief justice) complicated things.”

Next week’s dedication ceremonies mark the completion of the Law Library and law school building, a $12 million renovation project.

The law building is now equipped with courtrooms for student practice trials and appeal procedures.

Rehnquist’s arrival for the dedication, which may be his first public appearance as chief justice of the United States, has caused much excitement among law faculty and students.

“There’s no question that this is a real shot in the arm for the IU law school... having the chief justice nominee dedicating the law school,” said Joseph Hoffman, a law instructor who served as law clerk to Rehnquist for the October term of 1985-86.