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The Life of a library: a brief history of the Kresge Law Library at the Notre Dame Law School / compiled by Beth Klein. South Bend, IN: The Media Group, 2006.

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1. University of Notre Dame. Law School. Kresge Library.
2. Jacobs, Roger F.
3. Farnann, Kathleen.
4. Lawrence, Marie.
5. Law libraries – Indiana.
6. Leadership. I. Klein, Beth G.

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➤ “All the latest reports of State and Federal courts are in its shelves.”

— Law Department Bulletin, 1904-05

Kresge Law Library

1883



1888



1904

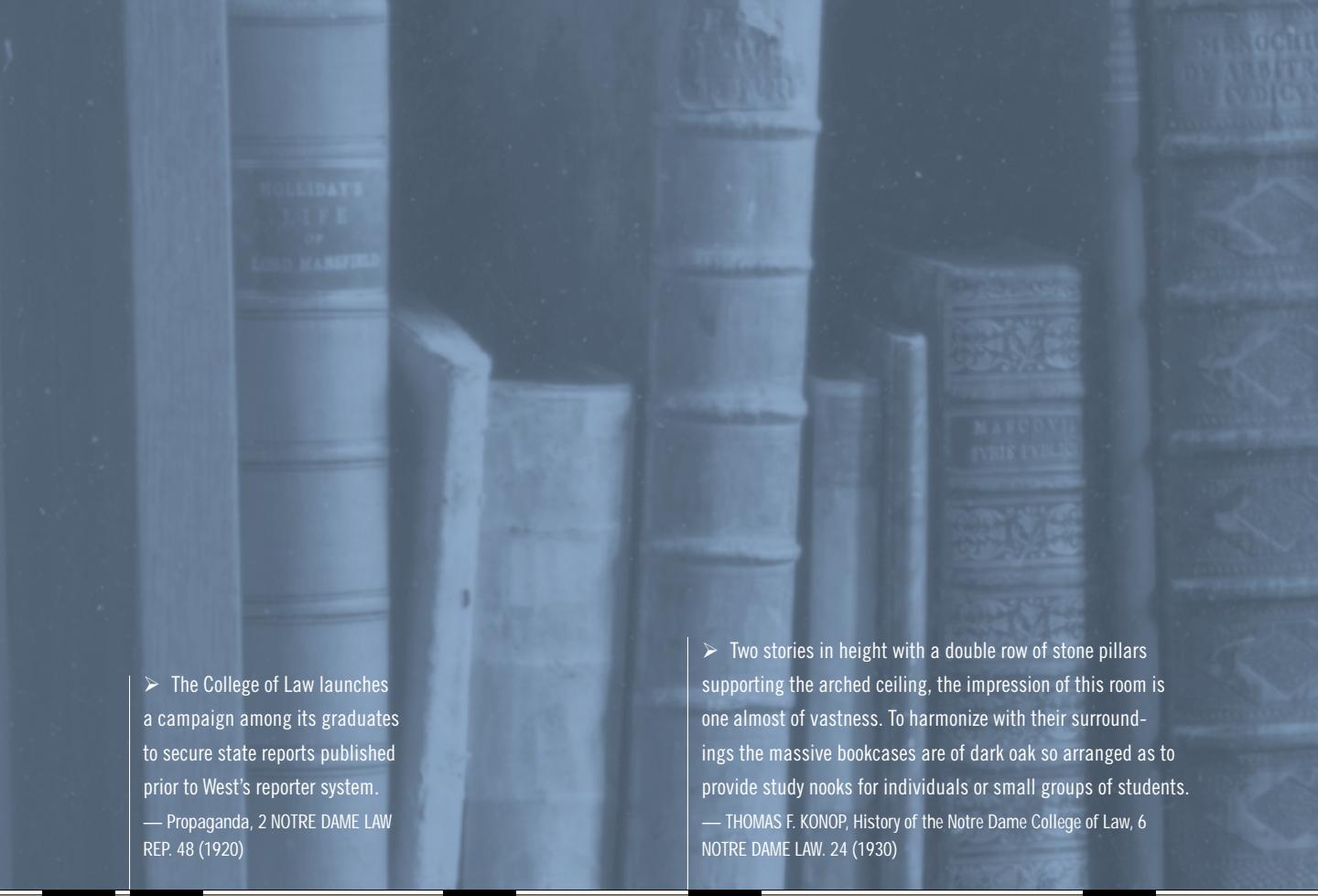


1918

➤ “Colonel” William Hoynes is appointed first dean of the law school, and the few books he brought with him from Chicago constitute the library.

➤ The Law Department, located in the south end of Sorin Hall, has an “excellent library comprising 2,500 volumes.”
—Columbia Law Times, January 1889

➤ The library holds more than 5,000 volumes but is very inadequate in working space.
—University Bulletin, 1918-1919



➤ The College of Law launches a campaign among its graduates to secure state reports published prior to West's reporter system.

— Propaganda, 2 NOTRE DAME LAW REP. 48 (1920)

➤ Two stories in height with a double row of stone pillars supporting the arched ceiling, the impression of this room is one almost of vastness. To harmonize with their surroundings the massive bookcases are of dark oak so arranged as to provide study nooks for individuals or small groups of students.

— THOMAS F. KONOP, History of the Notre Dame College of Law, 6 NOTRE DAME LAWYER 24 (1930)

1919 1920



➤ The college of Law began a new era, when a new and well equipped building [now the Crowley Hall of Music] was provided for the exclusive use of the students of Law."

— 1920-21 Bulletin, 280. The library has a 20,000-volume capacity.

1925



➤ Dean Thomas Konop appoints John H. A. Whitman as the first law librarian of the 7,000-volume library.

1930



➤ The present law building on Notre Dame Avenue is built. "Even more impressive than the courtroom is the large library on the second floor."

— THOMAS F. KONOP, History of the Notre Dame College of Law, 6 NOTRE DAME LAWYER 5, 21 (1930)

1932



➤ The 50 x 100 ft. reading room holds 10,000 volumes. There is additional stack space for 25,000 volumes.



➤ Prof. Arthur Pulling, Harvard Law Library: "[Miss Lawrence] knows her bibliographies and what an excellent law collection should contain.... [She] commands the respect of all law librarians, East and West."

—JOSEPH O'MEARA, NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL, DEAN'S REPORT, 1957-58 16-17 (August 15, 1958)

1942



➤ Dean Manion appoints Lora Lashbrook as the second law librarian. She also serves as teacher of research, registrar, and secretary to both the dean and the faculty.

1945



➤ Marie Lawrence becomes the third law librarian. She worked for the University Libraries before coming to the Law School.

1954–1960

➤ The library contains over 22,000 volumes and Dean O'Meara complains of shelving problems. Books are stored on four of the reading tables. "If we must use the tables as bookshelves, where are we to put the students?"

—JOSEPH O'MEARA, NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEAN 20 (1954-55).

➤ Jurisdiction over the law library is transferred on October 1 from the Director of the University Library to the Dean of the law school.

—JOSEPH O'MEARA, NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL, DEAN'S REPORT 16 (August 15, 1958)

➤ There are 55,000 volumes in the library—two times as many as in 1950.
—PHILIP S. MOORE, CSC, Academic Development: University of Notre Dame, chapter V in THE STORY OF NOTRE DAME at <http://archives.nd.edu/moore/moore05.htm>

May there be a hunger for justice. May our students seek competence in the law, since compassion without competence would be a cruel hoax upon those they serve. May they also realize that competence in the law without compassion leads the lawyer to use the law for other purposes than the works of justice, blinds him to the sad

1966



- Dean Joseph O'Meara appoints Mrs. Kathleen Farmann as the fourth law librarian

1971



➤ The law library holds 83,000 volumes

A black and white photograph of three men in suits standing in front of a large stone archway. The archway features the words "THE KRESGE LAW LIBRARY" above the entrance. Below the main title, there is a plaque with a quote from Cicero: "SIT TANTUM JUSTITIA SEQUITUR, MUNERA PET VIVAS TILLIS, IT CALES HONESTATI, TO PUNGER AND THURST MIGHTY AFTER JUSTICE". To the right of the entrance, there is another plaque that reads "THIS LIBRARY WAS ENLARGED IN 1973 THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE KRESGE FOUNDATION". The man on the left is wearing glasses and has his hands in his pockets. The man in the center is also wearing glasses and has his hands at his sides. The man on the right is also wearing glasses and has his hands at his sides.

➤ The Kresge Foundation provides \$750,000 for a law building expansion.

—THOMAS L. SHAFFER, Report of the Dean, 1971–72, 48 NOTRE DAME LAW. 232, 251 (1973).

plight of persons who suffer injustice for want of a lawyer champion.

May these students in their lawyer lives ever avoid that which bends the law to ignoble ends. May these students learn the majesty of the law in this place, and, though the practice of law, may they earn for themselves

1973



➤ “For the first time in 20 years we have enough room. We can seat every law student in the splendid new Kresge Law Library.”

—Thomas L. Shaffer,
Report of the Dean,
1972–73, 49 NOTRE DAME
LAW. 214 (1974).

1985



➤ Dean David T. Link hires Roger F. Jacobs, former Head Librarian of the Library of the United States Supreme Court, as the fifth law librarian.

—picture from the collection of The Supreme Court of the United States Office of the Curator, #E-98-8A.

1986



➤ The law building expansion adds the East Reading Room, expands stack space, and creates the reference offices.

1990



➤ Roger Jacobs secures funding from alumnus John Sandner for the acquisition of the entire 120,000-volume collection of the Chicago Bar Association Library. 30,000 books are immediately added to the Kresge Library collection.

*and others the blessings of the God of Justice, not the least
of which is personal and civic peace, which is at the
same time both the noblest work and the first fruit of
justice among just men working for the creation of a
just society.*

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC,
President, at the dedication of the Kresge Law
Library, November 2, 1973

2000



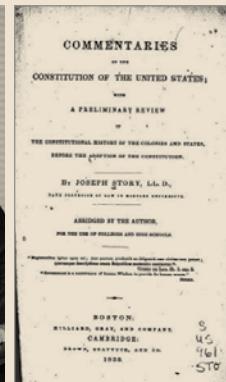
➤ Father Malloy bestows a Presidential Award on Roger Jacobs in recognition of his 15 years of service to the law library.

2001



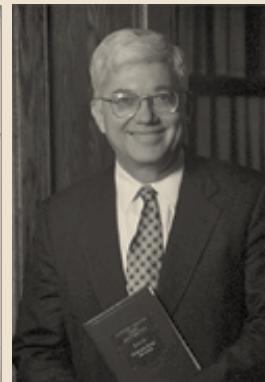
➤ The University presents to Roger Jacobs the Greenville Clark Award honoring members of the University Community whose voluntary activities have advanced the causes of peace and human rights.

2004



➤ The Kresge Law Library joins select group of academic law libraries holding at least 600,000 volumes. Story's Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States (1833) is the 600,000th volume.

2006



➤ Roger Jacobs
retires. Kresge Library
contains more than
634 000 volumes