



Drexel University Breaks Ground for College of Law Building

PHILADELPHIA (Nov. 18, 2005) — Drexel University broke ground Nov. 15 for a four-story, 50,000-square-foot building to house its College of Law on Market Street between 33rd and 34th streets on its University City main campus, Drexel **President Constantine Papadakis** announced.

The building will contain eight classrooms, faculty offices, administrative suites, a 6,000-square-foot library with study areas and student lounge, said **Carl “Tobey” Oxholm III**, senior vice president of the Drexel Law Center. It will feature a reception area that opens onto a lobby atrium and a glass wall that provides views of the main lobby, library and administrative suites. At 2,000 square feet each, two classrooms will be built in the style of auditoriums, with one serving as a moot courtroom.

Scheduled to be completed in fall 2006, the College of Law building will be the 10th building constructed at Drexel since Papadakis became president 10 years ago.

Opening with its inaugural class in fall 2006, the College of Law will give Greater Philadelphia its first new law school in 30 years, joining Penn, Temple, Villanova, Rutgers at Camden and Widener. To distinguish it, Drexel’s College of Law will reflect characteristics that define the University: cooperative education, a focus on technology and students’ utilization of the resources of Philadelphia as a “living laboratory.” It will specialize in intellectual property, health care and entrepreneurial business.

Joseph Jacovini, chairman of the Drexel Board of Trustees and chairman of Dilworth Paxson LLP, delivered remarks at the groundbreaking and was joined by **Sandra**

Schultz Newman, Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice, other Drexel administrators, students, faculty and staff.

“We are breaking ground on more than just a state-of-the-art building,” Jacovini said. “We believe we are breaking ground on a new kind of legal education. By giving our students the opportunity to spend at least six months working in the field, we will expose them not only to how law is actually practiced but to the industries in which their clients compete. Today, it is clear that the best lawyers know their clients’ businesses and the competitive pressures they face.”

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The College, which has just hired six faculty members, will initially offer the doctor of jurisprudence (JD) as its principal degree to full-time students in fall 2006. A one-year program, the master of legal studies, will be offered in fall 2007, when part-time students will begin their law education. Additionally, the College will offer the master of laws program in fall 2008, the earliest the American Bar Association can begin its accreditation review.

“Drexel will be the first top-tier, private doctoral university in the country to open a law school in 25 years,” Papadakis said. “When we open the doors of this building, Drexel will be among the very few private comprehensive doctoral universities in the nation to have a law school, medical school and business school. Our students will be ideally situated to become the leaders of business and commerce in the 21st century.”

College of Law students will have the opportunity to spend six months working with attorneys in leading corporations, law firms and government offices, and some will be able to have two cooperative education experiences before they graduate, all within three years. The objective is for Drexel students to gain hands-on experience in the industries in which they hope to practice. The College is one of only two law schools in the country to follow the co-op approach to legal education. More than 70 placements offering six-month co-op experiences have been established at some of Greater Philadelphia’s most dynamic corporations, nonprofit organizations and judicial and government law offices, Oxholm said.

“We are privileged to be building this law school in a city that has some of the nation’s best lawyers and in a region that has one of the nation’s most vibrant pharmaceutical, biotechnology and healthcare sectors,” Oxholm said. “We are designing our curriculum so that our students will be able to work in those and other industries and learn from those lawyers. No other law school in the country can offer that kind of education.”