

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Law School Addition and Renovation Project

Action Requested: Approval of Project and Appointment of Architect

Background:

The Law Quadrangle (Quad) is one of the most beautiful spaces at the University of Michigan, and among the finest at peer institutions across the country. Most of the buildings in the Quad were constructed between 1924 and 1933. In the late 1950s, an addition was placed atop the existing Legal Research book stack projection. Then, in the early 1980s, the underground library addition was constructed.

Since the Quad was first brought on line, the Law School student body has grown from 500 to 1100, legal education methods have evolved tremendously, and the total number of faculty in the Law School has quadrupled. A broad array of new curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular programs and services has been introduced. The existing buildings can no longer support the variety and size of the comprehensive law school program.

The Law School administration and faculty, with student input, have spent several years analyzing the functional needs of the School and have concluded that approximately 130,000 gross square feet of new space is necessary to address current needs. We propose to replace the 1950s addition with a new addition on the south side of the Quad that will be strategically placed to integrate with existing functions while maintaining the quality and vitality of the existing complex. The estimated cost of the project is \$75 million. Funding for the project will be provided through a combination of existing Law School resources and fundraising. The design is scheduled to begin immediately and we will return with a construction schedule when we seek approval of schematic design.

A facility planning committee, including Law School faculty, was formed and has thoroughly evaluated potential architects with the ability required for this difficult project. In consideration of their strong preference, we recommend Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW) be commissioned to design the proposed project based on its reputation for skill with additions to important buildings, experience, and commitment to the quality of this project. Renzo Piano received the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1998 and is currently working on noteworthy projects in the United States, such as an addition to the Chicago Art Institute and an addition to the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City.

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS ON

APR 18 2002

We recommend the Regents approve the Law School Addition and Renovation project as described and authorize commissioning the Renzo Piano Building Workshop for its design.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Kasdin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

---

Robert Kasdin  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

April 2002