



\$21 million gift from Frank Eck to

On July 1, 2005, Alumnus Frank E. Eck made a \$21 million gift to the University for the construction of a second building for Notre Dame Law School, as well as a multipurpose facility in a neo-Gothic archway that will link the new structure to the existing building.



fund Law School expansion

The gift is the fifth largest in Notre Dame's history, the largest ever to the Law School, and one of the largest in the history of American legal education.

Eck Hall will stand on the site of the former post office. It will be connected to the south side of the current Law School building by Eck Commons, a facility that will feature arches over an east-west walkway.

"The generosity of Frank Eck and his family to Notre Dame is legendary, and we once again are tremendously appreciative," said Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., in accepting the gift on his first day as the University's president. "The addition to the Law School and the renovations to the current facility will enhance the education of our students as superbly qualified professionals attuned to Gospel values and the demands of justice, as well as enable our outstanding faculty to continue and even strengthen their excellent and distinctive scholarly work."

John Affleck-Graves, executive vice president of the University, noted: "When added to the approximately \$26 million in cash and commitments already received toward the Law School renovation and expansion, this gift is a giant step forward in reaching our total goal of \$57.3 million and allows us to retain architects and begin the interior design phase of the project."

"The new Law School building will be a powerful testament to our continuing efforts to be a premier law school, faithful to our roots in the Catholic intellectual tradition," said Patricia O'Hara, Matson Dean of the Law School. "The dramatic arch connecting the new building to our existing facility will bridge our illustrious past with an even more promising future. The new building will resolve our current classroom and faculty office space difficulties, as well as address our needs for the future."

O'Hara added: "As Father Jenkins said, Frank Eck has always risen to the challenge of supporting his alma mater. On behalf of the Law School faculty and students, I, too, want to thank him and his family for this extraordinary gift."

Eck's previous benefactions to Notre Dame have endowed a library collection in chemical engineering and underwritten construction of the Eck Tennis Pavilion in 1987, Frank Eck Baseball Stadium in 1994, and the Eck Center, which includes the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, visitors' center and Alumni Association headquarters, in 1999. His gifts to the University total more than \$35 million.

A 1944 graduate of Notre Dame, Eck is chairman of Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS) of Columbus, Ohio. His undergraduate degree is in chemical engineering, and he has served on the College of Engineering Advisory Council since 1984. His father, Vincent J. Eck, graduated from Notre Dame in 1915 with a degree in architecture, and his son, Frank Jr., earned a degree from Notre Dame Law School in 1989 and currently serves on the Law School Advisory Council.

After serving in the U.S. Navy in the latter stages of World War II, Eck attended Harvard Business School and

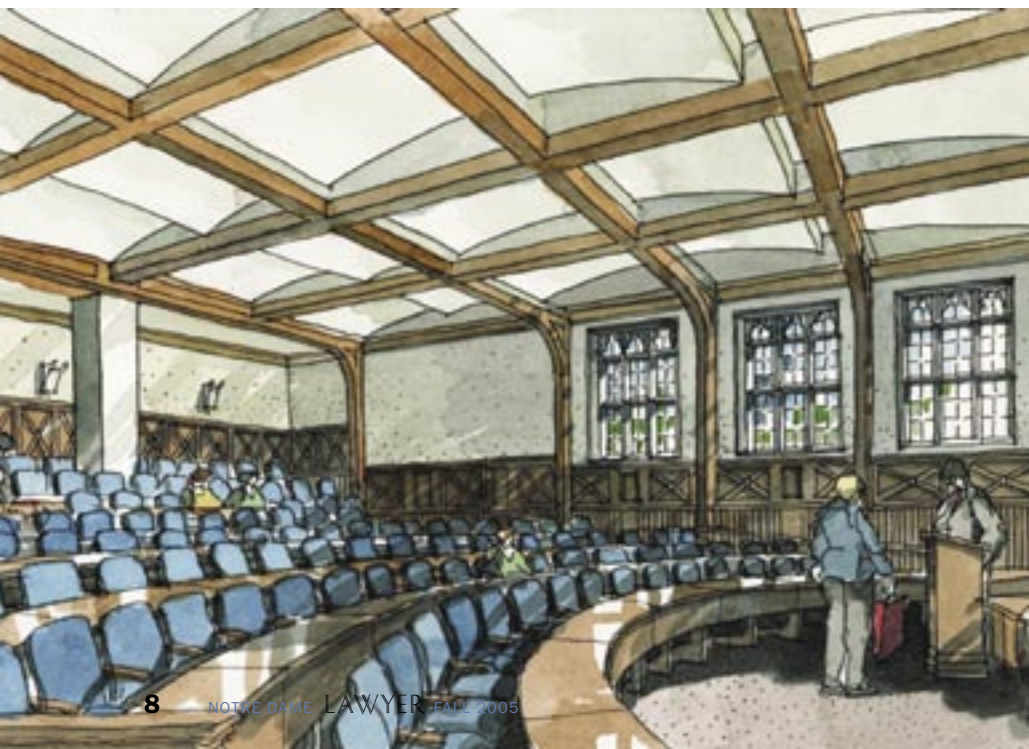
earned a master's of business administration degree in 1949. He worked for more than 20 years in the petrochemical industry, then joined ADS in 1973 as vice president for sales and marketing. He soon was appointed president of the firm and has taken it from a small regional manufacturer serving the agriculture market to the world's largest producer of plastic drainage pipe used primarily in the civil engineering industry.

A longtime supporter of the Irish football, baseball, and tennis programs, Eck was made an honorary member of the Notre Dame Monogram Club in 1988.

"In his book, *The Old Way of Seeing*, the architect Jonathan Hale writes compellingly about the inspiration that we can glean from space and architecture: If a building makes us light up, it is not because we see order; any row of file cabinets is ordered. What we recognize and love is the same kind of pattern we see in every face, the pattern of our own life form. Architecture is the play of patterns derived from nature and ourselves. The generosity of donors like Mr. Eck resounds within all Notre Dame Law students. For me the new project is not about grandiosity or law school rankings or even pure aesthetics. It goes without saying that space and light change the way we approach our work. Even without a new building, Notre Dame Law School is continuously reinventing itself, rebuilding while staying true to its roots. But there is also more. The construction of the new building and archway recognizes that we have been inspired to learn the law, to love the law, to express it as our very life form, and to dedicate all of ourselves to it in our brief time at Notre Dame, but especially beyond.

Very soon, all future Notre Dame law students, alumni, and indeed those only tangentially connected to the school will recognize the choice that we have made to be advocates of a higher order, and we will mirror in our careers that particular design that Notre Dame Law School has reflected in us."

—Jeff Robinson (JD '06)





“In addition to the more immediate benefits of library development, classroom space, technology, and so forth, the new law school building will give us the opportunity to deepen our awareness of belonging to a cohesive community of education. The beauty and unity of the new structure will, I think, only enhance our sense of the building being a space for us to pursue scholarship, learning, teaching and service in the most comprehensive way possible.”

—Professor Paolo Carozza

“Mr. Eck’s fabulous gift will better enable Notre Dame Law School to train holistic lawyers—mind, heart and soul—for years to come, while fostering the strong sense of community that has long stood as a hallmark of a Notre Dame legal education. In connecting the new and modern classroom building and administrative suites with a renovated and expanded library, the Eck Commons will allow faculty, staff, and students to get to know each other, to share their passions, and to experience the community and spirit that make Notre Dame unique.”

—Professor Matt Barrett (JD '85)

