

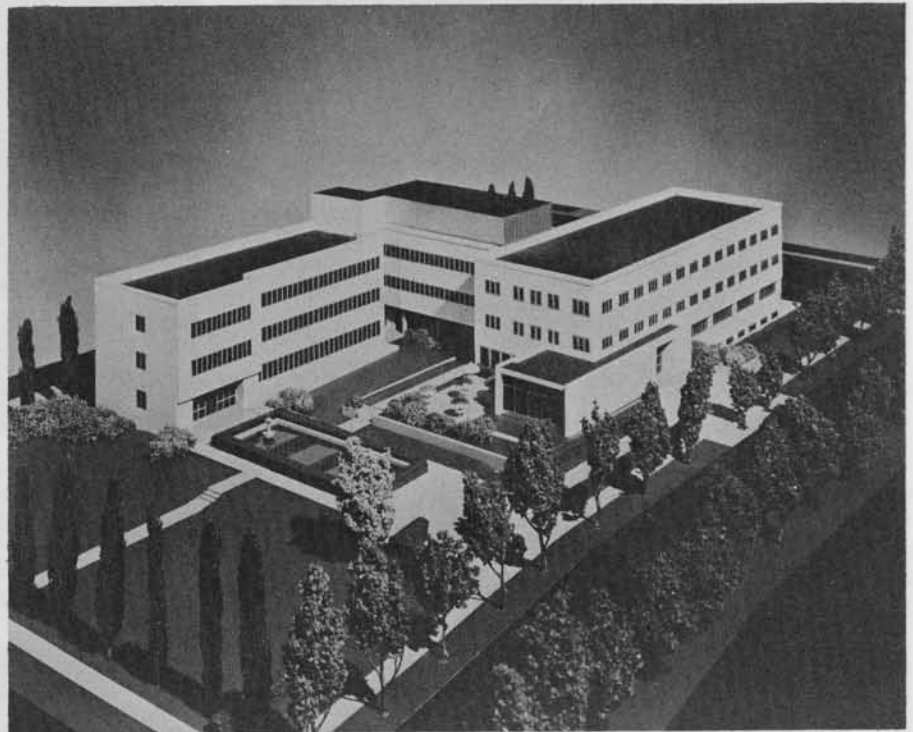
Welcome to the A.B.A. Center

"Cornerstones are commonplace unless they gain distinction from the vision and faith of those who lay them. Our vision today is of an American Bar Center which will focus the influence and pilot the activities of the largest association of lawyers in the world. This influence literally saturates American intellectual life. Generally, in each community its members are among the most respected and articulate leaders in every field of thought and action."

With these words, United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Robert H. Jackson opened his address at the ceremony in International House of the University of Chicago on Monday, November 2, 1953, preceding the cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the new Center of the American Bar Association. Mr. Justice Jackson spoke of the rampant lawlessness that has been witnessed by twentieth-century man and of the high responsibility which the legal profession has in every area of life.

"The question we face today is whether the profession which we envision as centering here will have any saving faith to offer to an anxious and bewildered people. I think it has. A matter-of-fact and practical profession has courage and idealism to assert its belief in law and in the rule of law as the last best hope for an orderly and tranquil nation and for a peaceful world."

He summarized a creed for the legal profession in which law operates as an intellectual discipline, as an authority beyond personal prepossessions, passions, and interests, as a growing science of civilized life, as the only authority for the use of coercive force, and set forth



On November 2, 1953, the cornerstone ceremonies were held for the new home of the American Bar Association at the Midway and Woodlawn Avenue. In addition to housing the national headquarters of the Association, the handsome new structure will provide facilities for legal research and serve as a clearing-house for such studies.

the ideally high standards of the bench and bar. In conclusion he stated:

"A story that I have often told seems especially apt today. A visitor at a cathedral under construction questioned three workmen as to what they thought they were doing. The first muttered, 'I am making a living.' The second gave the uninspired reply, 'I am laying this stone.' The third one looked up toward the sky, and his face was lighted up by his faith as he said, 'I am building a cathedral.'

"What are we doing today? We are building a cathedral to testify to our faith in the rule of law."

Chancellor Lawrence A. Kimpton addressed the convocation and expressed the pleasure of the trustees and faculties of the University of Chicago at the location of the American Bar Association Center adjacent to the Quadrangles. He spoke of the opportunity afforded to our Law School and to law schools throughout the country for co-operative research and closer association between the schools, the bench, and the bar through the establishment of the new center.

At the ground-breaking for the A.B.A. Center last summer are (left to right): Harold H. Bredell, treasurer of the American Bar Foundation; C. I. Knudson, construction engineer; C. B. McIntyre, American Bar Foundation Fund Chairman; Joseph Z. Burgee, architect; Richard Bentley, vice-president, Chicago Bar Association; E. A. Courter, construction engineer; and Dean Edward H. Levi.



Supreme Court Associate Justice Robert H. Jackson addressed the convocation held in International House preceding the cornerstone-laying ceremonies.



The reproduction of the special A.B.A. seventy-fifth anniversary stamp decorated the International House auditorium at the historic proceedings.



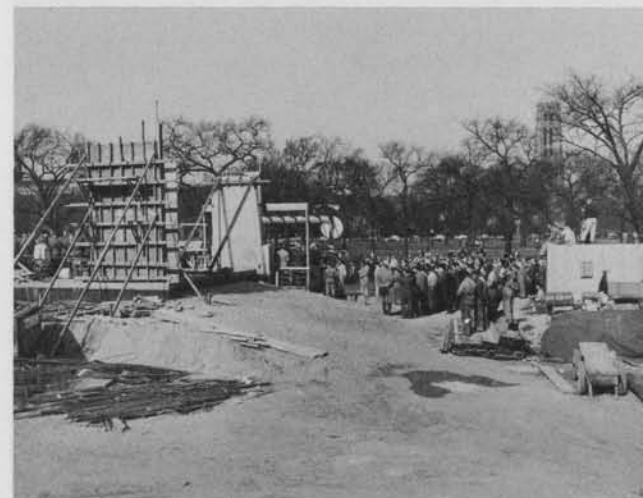
Left to right: Mr. Justice Robert H. Jackson, Justice Joseph E. Daily of the Supreme Court of Illinois, and a Convocation guest with Chancellor Lawrence A. Kimpton.



George Maurice Morris '15, former president of the American Bar Association, ran into an interesting traffic jam while checking his coat.



Mayor Martin H. Kennelly (left) brought the greetings of the city of Chicago and looked on as the cornerstone was set in place.



The tower of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel looms across the Midway from the new site of the A.B.A. national headquarters.