

The University of Chicago is located on the South Side of Chicago, eight miles from the center of the city. Its grounds lie on both sides of the Midway Plaisance between Washington and Jackson parks; its plant includes over a hundred buildings. The new Law School buildings occupy a square block on the Midway between Greenwood and University Avenues. They are connected with the Burton-Judson Residence Halls and are opposite the American Bar Center.

The University of Chicago was incorporated in 1890, the product of the interest of the Baptist denomination in establishing a strong and well-equipped college at Chicago to serve the West. The University of Chicago includes: (1) The College. (2) The four Divisions—Biological Sciences, Humanities, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences (the Biological and Physical Sciences are also in the Ogden School of Science). (3) The seven Professional Schools—Graduate School of Business, Divinity School, Graduate School of Education, Law School, Graduate Library School, School of Medicine, School of Social Service Administration. (4) University College, which includes the center for adult education, located in downtown Chicago, and the Home-Study Department. (5) The Libraries, Laboratories, Museums, Clinics, and Institutes. (6) The University Press.

A school of law and jurisprudence was contemplated in the original plan for the University of Chicago. The school, according to William Rainey Harper, the first president of the University, should be more than a training institution for admission to the bar. An education in law, President Harper said, “implies a scientific knowledge of law and of legal and juristic methods. These are the crystallization of ages of human progress. They cannot be understood in their entirety without a clear comprehension of the historic forces of which they are the product, and of the social environment with which they are in living contact. A scientific study of law involves the related sciences of history, economics, philosophy—the whole field of man as a social being.” Consequently, the Law School was not to be an institution that had a merely nominal connection with the University, and it was not to be separated either by location or by spirit from the University at large. It should be an organic part of the University, in close touch with the other divisions, embodying the spirit and purpose of university life and, in turn, contributing to that life.

In 1902 President Harper’s plan was approved by the Trustees, and the Law School was opened in October of that year. The goal of the School as stated in the first *Announcements* was “to afford adequate preparation for the practice of law as a profession in any jurisdiction in which the common law prevails, and to cultivate and encourage the scientific study of systematic and comparative jurisprudence, legal history, and principles of legislation.” The construction of the first law building was made possible through a gift from John D. Rockefeller; the cornerstone was laid on April 2, 1903, by President Theodore Roosevelt. The cornerstone ceremonies for the present Law School buildings were held on May 28, 1958. The Right Honorable Viscount Kilmuir of Creich, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, and The Honorable Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States, participated in the ceremonies. The Law School began operations in its present buildings on October 5, 1959.

The University of Chicago Law School has been a member of the Association of American Law Schools since the School was founded in 1902. It has been on the approved list of the American Bar Association since the standards of that association were adopted in 1921.

The undergraduate curriculum of the Law School is designed to provide the essential training required in preparation for the practice of law, and for scholarly work in law. Emphasis is placed on a knowledge of the history, principles, and purposes of legal institutions, the operation of these institutions in the modern world, and the development of skills of legal craftsmanship. The basic curriculum incorporates the traditional legal fields and disciplines essential to the work of the law. Where relevant and practicable, the data and theories of the social sciences are used to further the study of law. The usual, although not exclusive, form of instruction is the case method; emphasis is also placed on individual instruction through a legal writing and research program that is required of every student. Opportunity for specialization is provided in the second and third years of each student's program. The graduate program is planned to provide opportunity and guidance for research in law. A special graduate program exists for foreign students whose undergraduate law training has not been primarily in the field of the common law and who desire to do research in comparative law, and for graduates of American law schools who seek training in the civil law. The research work of the School is intended to further the knowledge of legal institutions, to enrich the instructional program of the School, and to contribute to the administration of justice.