Opening of New Building
Less than a Year Away

Now that work on the exterior of the new building is almost completed, major construction efforts have shifted to the nearly 200,000 net square feet of interior space. As the inside walls are finished and each of the five floors begins to assume its unique configuration, it becomes increasingly apparent that the clean lines and careful attention to detail that characterize the building's elegant exterior are echoed stylishly throughout its interior.

With less than one year to go before it becomes the permanent home of the College of Law, the new building continues to give every evidence of fulfilling its promise as one of the most splendid facilities in all of American legal education. Although the building is truly immense, it does not have the feel of a large building. One must actually walk the corridors of the new building to fully appreciate the extent to which the architect has succeeded in converting an enormous mass of space into small units that are efficiently organized in relation to their assigned functions. Unlike the present facility, there is no sense of physical monotony; there are no awkward clusters of rooms and offices connected by long, dimly lighted hallways. Instead, a calculated diversity is evident in the development of interior space from floor to floor, and every area planned for regular use by people is in proper human scale and bathed in natural light. Outside light penetrates the new building from a variety of angles via creatively designed skylights, slits, slots and scoops, as well as through the conventional windows and glass walls.

Over the next ten months installation of tasteful interior decorating, high quality furnishings and state-of-the-art teaching and research equipment will complete the interior phase of the project. In the meantime, extensive landscaping work will be underway around the building. When the clearing and reshaping of the grounds are completed, the building will be surrounded by its own ten-acre campus, running south into a heavily wooded ravine.

Best estimates now place the moving date for the Law College at around May 1, 1986. The moving process is expected to take two-three weeks, even though most of the college's present furniture and equipment will remain in the building being vacated. While the construction work may be substantially finished by January of 1986, college officials are reluctant to make the big move until all components of the academic enterprise can be accommodated comfortably in the new facility. Recent difficulties experienced by the Speech and Communications Department on campus in moving into their new building served to reinforce the concern that it can be very disruptive to start classes in a facility that is "substantially" completed.

Dedication ceremonies for the new building will be held early in the fall of 1986.

Northeast side of new building as seen from Hillcrest Dormitory.
Dean Hines guides tour of new building under construction.

South entrance to new building as it looked in June 1985.