

Habush, Habush & Davis Gift For Appellate Courtroom

A \$200,000 gift from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin firm of Habush, Habush & Davis will enable the Law School to renovate the appellate courtroom. The new facility will be named after the firm.

Currently, there is only one overworked courtroom in the law building. Its current configuration is a compromise that does not serve well for either trial or appellate teaching. The new construction will include a trial court complex, allowing the present facility to be reconfigured into an effective appellate courtroom adapted to instructional purposes. The major change will involve bringing students much closer to the judge and lawyers. As reconfigured, the courtroom will also efficiently double as a medium-sized classroom when not in use as a courtroom.

A major addition to the room will be permanently mounted video cameras and playback equipment. Setup and takedown time necessitated by current mobile equipment significantly limits the time that the room can be used for any purpose. Videotaping is an important element in the modern use of any courtroom for teaching purposes.

"We are delighted to receive this magnificent gift from the firm," Dean Bernstine said. "Of course, it comes as no surprise, considering the outstanding support we have enjoyed from the firm over the years," Bernstine added, noting the firm's senior partner, Robert Habush, is a 1961 graduate of the School and has taught here frequently in addition to being a generous contributor. Habush is a regular lecturer in the Trial Advocacy program, as have been other members of his firm.

"We are committed to the Law School's continued excellence. I hope that our gift will encourage other alumni to do the same," Habush said.

Dean Bernstine describes this gift as "a major step forward" in the fundraising effort underway by the School and the University of Wisconsin Foundation to pay for the School's \$14.5 million renovation project. Of the total project cost, \$5 million must come from private sources with the remainder funded by the State and the University.

The building project calls for extensive renovation of the original building, constructed in 1963, and the addition of about 50,000 square feet of space.

Habush, Habush & Davis, a 23-member personal injury firm with offices in six Wisconsin cities, becomes the fourth Milwaukee-based law firm to make a significant gift to the project and to be recognized with a named structure in the expanded and remodeled building.



Robert L. Habush ('61)