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Montana State University Law School Board of Visitors to launch one-week campaign to help equip new law building

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

The Montana State University Law School Board of Visitors will launch a one-week campaign Nov. 14 to raise \$50,000 to help equip the new law building going up on campus.

Judge W. D. Murray, Butte, chairman of the Board of Visitors and general chairman of the fund drive, said the board is asking all Montana lawyers and MSU law alumni everywhere to make a real contribution. A token donation will not do the job, he stressed.

The original cost estimates included an allowance for equipment, but final plans and rising construction costs absorbed the equipment allowance, Judge Murray explained in a letter this week to members of the bar. The Board of Visitors agreed with MSU President H. K. Newburn that first priority must be given to an adequate building. The University provided an additional \$50,000 and the board volunteered to raise a matching \$50,000, the judge said.

The final plans provide for a building one-fifth larger than that envisioned in the preliminary plans that were the basis of the original cost estimates, Judge Murray noted. The building incorporates the most advanced features of law-building design and will be a modest but distinctive home for the legal profession in Montana, he commented.

"The idea of soliciting funds from friends and alumni of state supported institutions is not new," Judge Murray said. "In the Midwest and the East it has been done for many years. ... And with the increasing demand by education generally for the tax dollar, there are insufficient funds to meet all of the needs."

(more)



"Therefore," the letter continues, "we share the responsibility, as lawyers, to support the training of competent additions to the profession. This we can do through the medium of this campaign."

Judge Murray's letter explains the organization of the campaign, by which the state is divided into 14 areas, roughly corresponding to the judicial districts. Lawyers in each of these areas will personally contact their colleagues between Nov. 14 and 21. Out-of-state alumni in several urban centers throughout the country will be personally solicited by fellow alumni, and other alumni will be reached by mail.

In his plea for support of the drive, Judge Murray points out that the new building will make possible "increased service to the individual practitioner through loan of library materials, greater variety and frequency of continuing legal education conferences, and the expansion of the law library collection."

"In the best interests of the legal profession and of the individual lawyer, this campaign must be a success," he adds.

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