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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 11, 2009

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UM LAW BUILDING DEDICATION SET FOR SEPT. 18

MISSOULA -

The University of Montana School of Law will dedicate its new building addition at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on campus on the east side of the law building. A reception and tours will follow the dedication.

The \$14.8 million addition adds nearly 46,000 square feet to the original law building, which contained 57,500 square feet prior to the new addition. Construction began in early 2008, and the building was ready for students when classes started Aug. 31.

“This addition gives the people of Montana a law school building they can truly be proud of,” said UM law Dean Irma Russell.

The new construction added three floors and a lower level, plus attractive new entrances to the facility with overhanging balconies. The addition includes classrooms with better acoustics, current technology and audio-visual equipment. It also provides better access for students and visitors with disabilities, as well as additional small- and mid-sized classrooms to accommodate the increasing number of elective courses needed to prepare lawyers for legal specialties.

More space also is provided for the school's clinical program, including its land use, Indian law, criminal defense and mediation clinics. This space includes client interview rooms, student workrooms and office space. The revamped building also contains an expanded law library with current technology to serve the needs of students, faculty, the judiciary, lawyers and the public.

The UM School of Law was founded in 1911. The current building was constructed in 1961, and its last major renovation was in 1978.

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