Foreword

I am proud to introduce this brochure featuring the University of Minnesota Law Library. It would be hard to overstate the importance of a superb library in attracting and retaining top faculty and students. Indeed, the quality of a law school is often a reflection of the quality of its library. Walter F. Mondale’s oft-quoted description of the University of Minnesota Law School as “a house of learning, a source of scholarship, and a laboratory of legal thought” is compelling in large part because of the strength and vitality of the Law Library.

For generations the Law Library has been at the vanguard in the development of collections of remarkable depth and breadth, and in the expansion and delivery of library services. Ranked as the eighth largest academic law library in the United States, the Library is nationally recognized for its outstanding Anglo-American and foreign, comparative, and international law collections. Additionally, the Library houses one of the finest legal rare books collections in the country. While maintaining its exceptional print collections, the Library also actively incorporates digital resources into the collection. On any given day, law faculty, students, attorneys, and scholars use the Library’s materials to explore topics ranging from pending U.S. Supreme Court cases to human rights issues in Eastern Europe to nineteenth century Minnesota territorial laws to unratiﬁed foreign treaties.

The Law School community, citizens of the state of Minnesota, and scholars throughout the world beneﬁt from the resources and services of the University of Minnesota Law Library. We acknowledge the exceptional support of the University, the Law School, and our alumni. We look forward to further developing our resources and services as we partner with the Law School in the pursuit of excellence.

Joan S. Howland
Roger F. Noreen Professor of Law and
Associate Dean for Information and Technology

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Commitment to Excellence

The mission of the University of Minnesota Law Library is to support the research and curricular needs of the Law School faculty and students. The Library is committed to providing faculty and students with the finest legal resources and service possible, as well as the highest level of support for scholarship and access to information. We are also committed to serving the legal information needs of the University community, the bench and bar, the citizens of Minnesota, and scholars throughout the world.
A History of Scholarship, A Tradition of Service

The extensive collections of the University of Minnesota Law Library are the result of over one hundred years of support by the Law School and the commitment of generations of librarians. When the Law School opened its doors in 1888, the Law Library consisted of Dean William S. Pattee’s private collection of a few case reports, session laws, and practitioners’ textbooks. As Dean Robert A. Stein wrote in his history of the Law School, “The school’s library initially was nothing more than the Dean’s personal library gone public.” The Law School moved quickly in the first twenty-five years of its history to acquire state reporters, Anglo-American treatises, and other standard works. By 1912, the number of volumes in the Library exceeded 17,000.

The arrival of Arthur C. Pulling from the Harvard Law Library in 1912 marked the beginning of a golden era of growth for the Library. Professor Pulling aggressively collected both contemporary and historical materials. With a fine eye for value and bargains, he purchased entire private collections in both the United States and Europe. When Professor Pulling departed in 1942, the University of Minnesota Law Library was the sixth largest legal collection in the United States, with over 100,000 volumes.

In 1973, George Grossman became the Library Director during a period of sweeping change. His challenge was two-fold: plan a new state-of-the-art facility, and usher the Library into the age of technology. In 1978, the Library moved from Fraser Hall to its new quarters in the current Law School and was immediately heralded as one of the finest legal research facilities in the nation. M. Kathleen Price, who assumed the directorship in 1980, continued to expand the Library’s technological capabilities by introducing an online public access catalog and automating other functions throughout the Library. Joan S. Howland was appointed Director in 1992. Under her leadership, the Library continues to develop its excellent services and strong collections, integrating both print and digital resources.

The mission of the Library today is the same as it was in 1888 when the dean painted a “rough book-case” and later “placed the books upon these shelves and the department was ready for business.” Dean Pattee’s library of a few hundred law books has grown to over a million, and technological advances have changed the nature of the collection and the ways in which the Library provides information. Throughout the decades, however, the Library has remained a steadfast partner in the Law School’s commitment to excellence in legal education.

Dean William S. Pattee’s personal books become the Law Library’s first collection.

1890

The Ariel (University of Minnesota) notes: “The Law Library is now the most convenient place of study in the University, particularly when gas light is taken into consideration.”

1928

The Library moves from Pattee Hall to Fraser Hall.

1938

Arthur C. Pulling adds the 100,000th book to the Library’s collection: Statham’s Abridgement, printed in 1490.

1974

The Library adopts the Library of Congress classification scheme.

1978

The Library, under the direction of George S. Grossman, moves from Fraser Hall to the current Law School (named Walter F. Mondale Hall in 2001).

1988

M. Kathleen Price adds the Library’s 500,000th volume: the first volume of the original series of the Northwestern Reporter (1877).

1988

The Library’s first online catalog is launched.

2001

The Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center, part of the new addition to Walter F. Mondale Hall, is dedicated.

2003

The Law Library’s Inaugural Distinguished Lecture is delivered by Professor Rennard Strickland, University of Oregon School of Law.

2004


2004

The Library celebrates its millionth volume: The Papers of Clarence Darrow.

2006

The Library dedicates the Barbara Steffens Hedin Alcove on Law, Literature, and the Arts.
The foremost priority of the University of Minnesota Law Library is to respond expertly and efficiently to evolving faculty research and teaching needs. Library services are designed to support faculty scholarship and facilitate access to the Library’s outstanding print and electronic collections.

LIBRA, a faculty research service, offers assistance with a wide range of projects including literature and database searches, cite checks, legislative histories, and statistical reports.

Librarians provide personalized instruction for faculty on the use of databases, classroom presentations on research strategies, and customized research guides for substantive law classes.

A suite of current awareness services is available to faculty, providing electronic information to faculty based on subject interests.

Specialized training for research assistants ensures that faculty members receive quality research results.

The Library’s Educational Technology staff provides faculty with technology training, website development, instructional design assistance, and application development and support.

The Library’s Document Delivery Service offers expedited retrieval service, delivering materials from all University libraries to faculty within 24 hours and from research libraries throughout the country within days of the request.

Outstanding service to law students is integral to the Law Library’s mission. Librarians help students navigate the complex array of electronic databases, Internet sites, and traditional resources that comprise a contemporary law library.

Librarians assist law students throughout their Law School careers, from their first legal writing assignments through the completion of major seminar papers.

The Library’s Electronic Reserve Service provides students with 24-hour access to vital class material: journal articles, book chapters, lecture notes, and syllabi.

Librarians support the staffs of the Law School’s journals by offering training sessions and reference assistance during source gathering and cite checking.

Seminars by Library faculty in Advanced Legal Research, International and Foreign Legal Research, and Digital Evidence contribute to the Law School’s mission of providing a rigorous intellectual environment while imparting practical legal skills.

The Library provides welcoming spaces for quiet study, collaborative work, and leisure reading. Law students enjoy 24/7 access to the Law Library.
The Law Library’s outstanding Anglo-American collection supports the scholarship and curricular needs of Law School faculty and students, as well as the wider University community. It also serves the legal research needs of the bench, the practicing bar, the public, and scholars worldwide.

The Anglo-American collection includes sources for research on virtually all legal topics, ranging from legal history to emerging interdisciplinary subjects. Researchers have access to current and historic federal and state case reports, digests, statutes, codes, and regulations. The Library subscribes to a wide selection of legal journals and newspapers, and continues to expand its collection of scholarly Anglo-American legal treatises. Additionally, the Library is a selective depository for U.S. federal documents and a full depository for Minnesota documents; it is among the few libraries in the country that serve as depositories for U.S. Supreme Court records and briefs in paper.

The Anglo-American collection has evolved in response to the changing research and curricular needs of the Law School community. The collection supports research in emerging fields of law and interdisciplinary topics, and is strong in such twenty-first century legal issues as:

- Business environmental law
- Law, bioethics, and biomedicine
- Digital evidence
- Law and popular culture
- Philosophy of law and punishment
- Critical feminist theory
- E-commerce
- Cyberspace and the law

New technologies have radically altered the landscape of the twenty-first century law library. A vast array of Anglo-American resources is now available electronically, and the Library integrates these digital resources whenever appropriate. The Library will continue to combine the strengths of both paper and digital formats as it builds upon the excellence of its Anglo-American collection.
The Law Library recognized the importance of foreign and international law long before interest in these fields grew to its current intensity. This foresight allowed the Library to build a superb collection of unique material. The Library’s collection in such areas as civil law, public international law, international trade, and human rights could not currently be replicated.
FOREIGN AND COMPARATIVE LAW

Materials from Canada, the United Kingdom, British Commonwealth and former Commonwealth nations, and Western European countries form the core of this rich collection. The Library also collects materials from Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the People’s Republic of China, the Middle East, the countries and islands of the Pacific Rim, African nations, the West Indies, and Latin America. The Library is renowned for its nearly unparalleled collection of Scandinavian law, particularly its Swedish materials.

Unlike most academic law libraries, the Library collects materials in the vernacular as well as in English. For example, the Library acquires foreign codes in German, French, Spanish, and Italian, along with English translations. Many conference proceedings in the collection include contributions in Western European languages written by the world’s most prominent legal scholars. From *Annuaire français de droit international* to *Zbornik Pravnog fakulteta u Zagrebu*, the Library’s collection of foreign journals provides extensive resources for scholars.

The Library has gained particular recognition for its extensive international trade and human rights collections, which contain documents held by few other libraries. As a result of the work of the late Professor Robert E. Hudec, the Law Library is among the handful of world libraries that own a complete collection of the documents of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The GATT collection is an extraordinary resource that draws national and international researchers to the University of Minnesota Law Library.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

A strong international law collection rests on a foundation of treaty series. Historical collections of French, Swedish, British, German, and other national treaties complement treaties from the League of Nations, United Nations, European Community, Organization of American States, and other multinational organizations. The Library also holds large collections of decisions of international courts and tribunals, international and comparative law reviews, and yearbooks. Much of the collection’s strength lies in monographs, festschriften (volumes of commemorative essays), and other works that are unavailable electronically.

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he foundation for the Rare Books Collection was laid by Arthur Pulling, Law Library Director from 1912 to 1942. Professor Pulling’s creation of a stellar rare books collection was, as former law librarian Caroline Brede noted, the result of his “vast knowledge of books, prices, dealers, and his well-known ability to ‘horse-trade.’” His purchases of English and American legal classics are the cornerstone of the Rare Books Collection and are the foundation for the Law Library’s reputation as one of the outstanding legal research collections in the country.

The Rare Books Collection is rich and multifaceted. The collection of early English law, from 1490 to 1599, is one of the finest in the country and includes over half of the titles listed in Joseph Beale’s Bibliography of Early English Law. The Collection contains works by such giants of the common law as Bracton, Littleton, Coke, and Blackstone. Among the rarities of the Collection are a 1490 printing of Statham’s Abridgement, a 1528 edition of Sir Thomas Littleton’s Tenures, and a first edition of Sir William Blackstone’s Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-1769).

One of the greatest strengths of the Rare Books Collection is early American law, including an impressive collection of early session laws of the thirteen colonies, early constitutions of the states, and important documents of the American Revolution. Of particular note are a 1776 edition of Thomas Paine’s Common Sense, a rare copy of the proceedings of the first Continental Congress, and a first edition of The Federalist (1788). Early editions of the works of such scholars as James Kent and Joseph Story are well represented.

An additional strength of the Collection is American Indian law. The Library’s collection of rare folio treaties ranges from a treaty concluded in 1827 between the United States and the Chippewa, Menomonee and Winnebago Indians to the 1868 treaty with the Nez Percé, the last treaty signed between the United States and an Indian tribe. The Collection includes primary materials of American Indian governments in the nineteenth century; many in both English and the vernacular. Among the Collection’s treasures is a rare 1840 edition of the laws of the Cherokee Nation.

The Collection also is strong in foreign and international law, including a particularly fine corpus of the cases and codes of Imperial Russia and an impressive number of early editions of the works of such scholars as Grotius, Pufendorf, and Vattel. Of particular interest in the canon and civil law collection are a 1494 printing of the Decretals of Pope Gregory IX and a 1498 edition of the fourth part of Corpus Juris Civilis.

As the Law Library continues to move forward into the electronic age, the place of the Rare Books Collection as an enduring part of its historical and intellectual landscape becomes more and more apparent. Even as the Library builds on its status as one of the most technologically sophisticated law libraries in the country, its distinction will continue to rest on its extensive print collections, especially its stellar Rare Books Collection.
The Papers of Clarence Darrow, acquired by the University of Minnesota Law Library in October 2004 in celebration of its millionth volume, surpasses all other collections of this eminent jurist’s public and personal records. The heart of the archive is formed by more than 300 letters written by Darrow to his family and friends. Personal and informal in tone, they possess an intimacy attesting to and revealing the essence of Clarence Darrow’s character. The letters span a period of 60 years, beginning with the earliest known letter, written when Darrow was a teenager, and ceasing shortly before his death. The richness and diversity of Darrow’s life are reflected in the depth and breadth of this collection, which includes over 100 letters written to Darrow. Among the correspondents are Jane Addams, Eugene Debs, Mother Jones, Woodrow Wilson, Helen Keller, Sinclair Lewis, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.
The Library’s Collection of Law, Literature, and the Arts includes classic and popular legal fiction, legal humor, poetry, plays featuring the bench and bar, and artwork. It also includes secondary works that comment on the relationship of law with literature and art. The Collection is housed in the Barbara Steffens Hedin Alcove on Law, Literature, and the Arts. The Alcove, comfortable and hospitable, provides welcome respite for students after long days of studying. As one student commented, “It lightens the load.”

The Arthur C. Pulling Rare Books Collection includes a stellar collection of early printings of Magna Carta and outstanding examples of key works in legal history that bear a direct relation to Magna Carta. Four manuscript copies of the Great Charter agreed to by King John on June 15, 1215, “in the meadow that is called Runnymede, between Windsor and Staines,” survive: two are in the Cathedrals of Lincoln and Salisbury, where they were placed in the thirteenth century, and two are in the British Library.

Magna Carta existed in manuscript form until 1508, when it was first printed by Richard Pynson in London. According to the bibliographer Joseph Beale, eighteen printings occurred during the sixteenth century. The Law Library owns fourteen of these early printings. One of its treasures is a 1514 copy of Magna Carta, the earliest printing of Magna Carta in the Library. Another is its copy printed in 1534, the first time the Charter appeared in English rather than Latin. Yet another treasure is its copy printed in 1540 by Elizabeth Redman, London’s first woman printer.
The University of Minnesota Law Library has been a leader in exploring, refining, and embracing technology to best serve its patrons’ needs. Minnesota’s virtual library is a gateway to breaking legal information, as well as historical resources. The Library’s collection of over one million print volumes is expanded by electronic documents numbering in the millions. The following is but a sample of the resources available through the Library’s gateway:

Bureau of National Affairs’ suite of databases includes over 100 titles covering a wide range of legal and policy issues.

*Making of Modern Law* brings the texts of 21,000 legal works from America and Britain to researchers instantaneously.

*Current Law Journal Content* contains the tables of contents for some 1,200 law journals. Users receive email notification of articles according to interests.

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library includes over 25,000 core human rights documents in digital format. Each month this comprehensive research tool is accessed by more than 175,000 students, scholars, and human rights advocates from around the globe.

As a twenty-first century research facility, the concept of the Library’s “collection” has broadened to include electronic access to information. The Library is proactive in evaluating and adding electronic sources. At the same time, it continues to collect and preserve print materials that are not currently available electronically and may never be digitized. In addition, the Library is continually expanding its own digitization efforts to convert unique collections into electronic format for use by scholars worldwide.