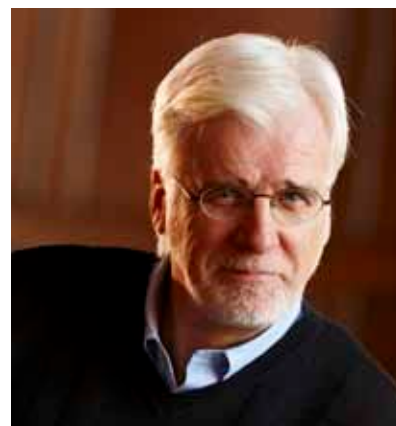




# A Conversation

## with Mike McChrystal on Eckstein Hall

**M**ichael K. McChrystal, L'75, is Professor of Law and chair of strategic planning at the Law School. He has been a leader of the Eckstein Hall building project, from its earliest conception through the still-unfolding design details. This member of the Eckstein Hall Building Committee sat down recently to answer a few questions.



### **Q: Why a new building?**

**A:** The Law School has been highly aggressive in recent years in strengthening its faculty, staff, curriculum, and research capabilities. In addition, we are positioning ourselves to make profound civic contributions, certainly in research and teaching and the quality of our graduates, but also as a dynamic intellectual crossroads for the University, for the region, and beyond. The rubber has long since hit the road in terms of the growth of our programs, and Sensenbrenner Hall is cramped beyond belief. Every year, space has to be carved up once again to house additional faculty, staff, or programs. And it is no longer possible for the 1924 gem that is Sensenbrenner Hall, together with its modest additions from 1968 and 1984, adequately to support our current programs, much less our vision for the future. As Dean Kearney likes to say, we are building a great law school, and we need a building that can house it.

### **Q: What will Eckstein Hall provide that**

### **Sensenbrenner Hall cannot?**

**A:** Got a couple of days? Truly, the answer is our response to the substantial transformation in the past half century of American higher education and, in particular, legal education. Law schools are still an amalgam of classrooms, library, offices, and social activity, but the physical spaces needed to support these functions have changed substantially. The law library is a prime example. Law libraries used to be repositories for printed materials and places for quiet study; they are now also service-intensive on-ramps to vast digital resources. As a result of Professor Patricia Cervenka's vision and leadership, the Eckstein Library will be the first law school "library without borders." Library service points and materials will be easily accessible on all four levels of Eckstein Hall, so that a student can go from a classroom to the library, or a faculty member can go from his or her office to the library, without changing floors or passing through a security barrier. The physical integration in Eckstein Hall of the law library into the whole life of the Law School will be a major innovation nationally. (We have, of course, needed to tackle an array of acoustical, security, and collection-management issues to develop this plan.)

An aerial view of the construction of Eckstein Hall at the Marquette Interchange, taken on January 27, 2009, with the Haggerty Museum of Art in the foreground.

Student space is another good example. The heart of Eckstein Hall will be the Zilber Forum, which is a four-story crossroads providing easy access to all parts of the facility. The forum will feature a very large digital screen displaying information and events, and the layout of the forum is designed to create frequent encounters between students and faculty and comfortable space to allow those encounters to become opportunities for collaboration and learning. Students will also find an upscale café, a fitness center, expansive space for student publications and organizations, individual lockers that are more like spacious closets than the lockers of old, and an abundance of group study rooms. We want to immerse future Marquette lawyers in the study of law, so Eckstein Hall is designed to be a magnet for students, drawing them into the rich intellectual and moral life that defines a great Jesuit education.

Eckstein Hall's conference center will be another huge difference. The Law School is becoming a major player in addressing public-policy issues, and our programming in this area is sure to expand even further in the future. As we have been saying lately, there is reason after reason to come to Marquette Law School, and we plan to make our public programs informative and stimulating, and also comfortable and easily accessible. The fourth-floor conference center in Eckstein Hall will be a superb venue for a wide variety of events, and its dramatic architectural presence in the heart of Milwaukee, at the confluence of the freeways from Chicago, from Madison, and from the North, symbolizes the Law School's central role in the community.



Artist's rendering of Ray and Kay Eckstein Hall, currently under construction at the Marquette Interchange.

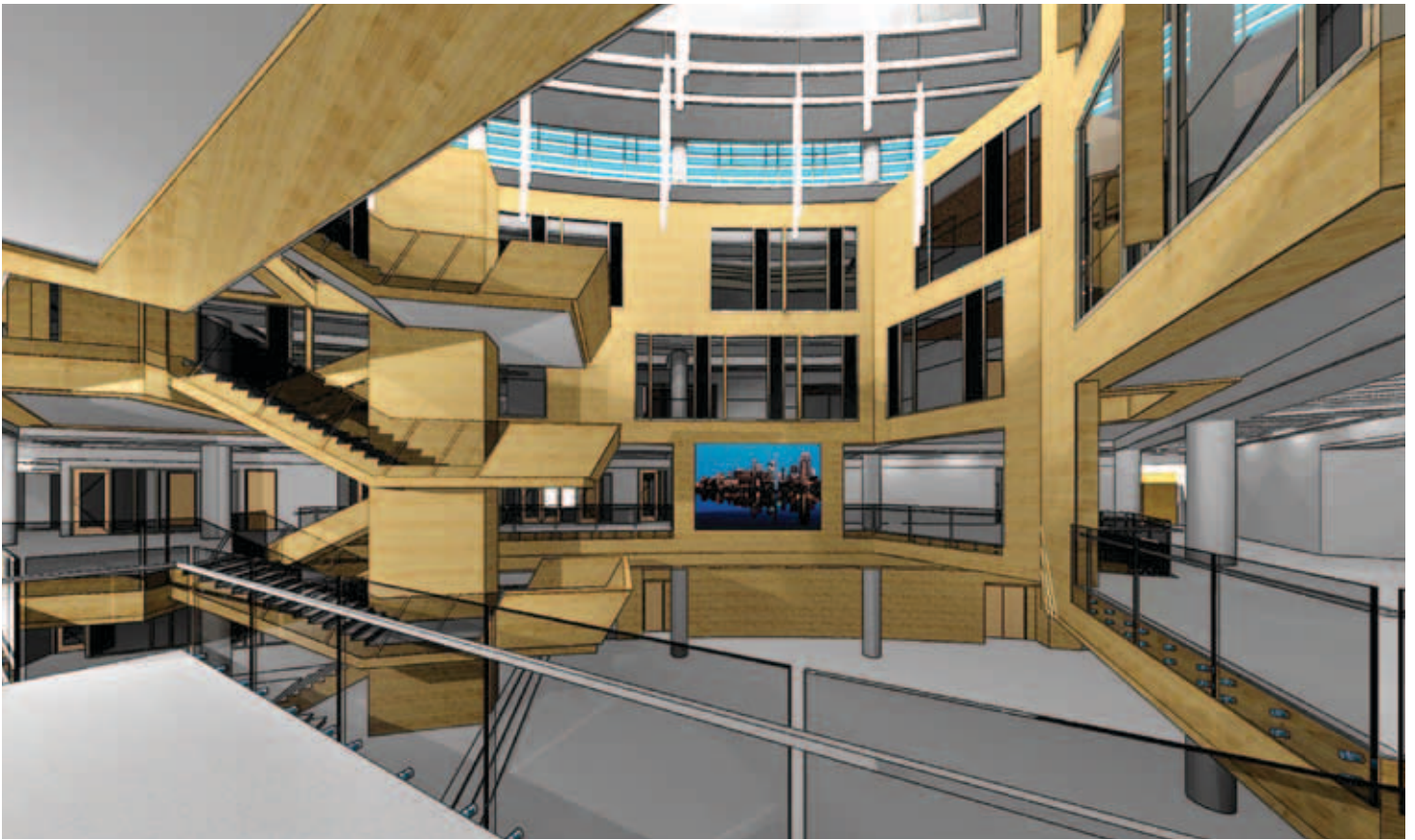
### **Q: What parts of the new building have been hardest to design?**

**A:** The trickiest components seem to be the common areas, including the forum, the café, and the underground parking facility. There is a state of the art for many components of a law school building, including classrooms and offices and even many aspects of the library. We are delivering those parts of Eckstein Hall at a level of true excellence, but also in a disciplined, cost-conscious way. The forum and café are much more art than science. They will be like the town square of the Law School, and we are trying to capture in this space a number of qualities that sometimes seem to compete with one another, such as comfort and dynamism, exploration and refinement. The

underground parking facility—much of which is for visitors—has required a different kind of balance involving size, cost, and access policies. Tom Ganey, the University Architect, and Ralph Jackson, the design architect from Boston, have done wonders in developing our vision but keeping it within our budget.

### **Q: As Marquette lawyers, why would you and other alumni want to donate to the building fund?**

**A:** The decision to provide financial support was easy for my wife, Alison Barnes, and me. We are both Law School faculty members who share an excitement about the direction and energy of the school and who experience firsthand the facilities problem. Our daughter Kate is a 2L at the Law School who, as a part-time student, may well attend classes in Eckstein Hall before she graduates. Plus,



Computer rendering of the Zilber Forum in Eckstein Hall.

The physical integration in Eckstein Hall of the law library into the whole life of the Law School will be a major innovation nationally.

our son Caz, our daughter-in-law Erin, and our son-in-law Jake are all Marquette lawyers, classmates in the Class of 2007. We are invested in and beneficiaries of the Law School in an extraordinarily substantial way.

But you don't have to be as close to the Law School as we are to be moved to support the Eckstein Hall project. Some fellow alums have observed that a Marquette law degree is a tremendous asset, and the new law building will only enhance its value. Others believe that an investment in the Law School is one important way that we can contribute to the community. Producing top-notch lawyers is a tremendous social good. Lawyers are essential to the development of good laws, the fair resolution of disputes, the responsible behavior of clients, and the ability

of economic actors to manage their risks and achieve their goals. Marquette Law School is increasingly understood to be a great civic institution because of what it contributes in all of these spheres; and the health of the state, the region, and the nation depends on the excellence of key civic institutions such as Marquette Law School.

**Q: Have you picked out your new office in Eckstein Hall?**

**A:** Yes, but I'm not saying which one it is. Jack Kircher, Jay Grenig, and Ralph Anzivino all have seniority over me, and I'm afraid one of them will choose it first, if I point out which faculty office is best. •

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To discuss how your specific gift matters, please contact either John Novotny at [john.novotny@marquette.edu](mailto:john.novotny@marquette.edu) or 414.288.5285 or Christine Wilczynski-Vogel at [christine.wv@marquette.edu](mailto:christine.wv@marquette.edu) or 414.288.3167.



**Groundbreaking Day** The groundbreaking for Eckstein Hall, attended by more than 800 friends, staff, and alumni, was held this past May 22 on the site of the new law school, just south of Sensenbrenner Hall. Eckstein Hall will be completed in 2010.



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, Wisconsin Supreme Court, greets a well-wisher before speaking at the groundbreaking.



*Below:* Chief Judge Frank H. Easterbrook, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, addresses the crowd, flanked by Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J., President of the University, and Dean Joseph D. Kearney. *Right:* Ray Eckstein, L'49, and Joseph Zilber, L'41.

