

Eckstein Hall— and Its Architect— Ten Years After

Ten years ago, on May 22, 2008, we broke ground for Ray and Kay Eckstein Hall. We did so in most unusual fashion, as reflected in the photograph below, with some 800 people wielding shovels on Tory Hill. This reflected our vision that Eckstein Hall was a community project and all who were part of Marquette University Law School—faculty, students, alumni, university colleagues, elected officials, members of the legal profession, engaged citizens—had a stake in it.

At the same time, there was and would be one individual principally responsible for the vision and design of the building: Ralph Jackson. This brilliant architect at Shepley Bulfinch in Boston, working with individuals at Opus North Corp. and on the university's building committee, led us forward. The result has been nothing less than the best law school building in the country.

That was our *hope* when we gathered on September 8, 2010, with the late Justice Antonin Scalia, then-Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, and now-Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan as our speakers, to dedicate Ray and Kay Eckstein Hall.

Now we *know* it to be true, based on eight years of experience in the building. We expect that the photo essay in this issue of the *Marquette Lawyer* (pp. 10–31), chronicling parts of a single school day this past fall semester, may give you a glimpse into all this. For a closer look, you are welcome to join us for a day to experience it yourselves.

It has seemed to us that a profile of Ralph Jackson is the right preface to that essay. We as lawyers know how the *law* is made. To recall the famous words of Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., “The felt necessities of the time, the prevalent moral and political theories, intuitions of public policy, avowed or unconscious, even the prejudices which judges share with their fellow-men, have had a good deal more to do than the syllogism in determining the rules by which men should be governed.” Can anyone doubt that such a thing is true of architects, not just of the law, but of the *buildings* in which the great work of the law is carried out? It seems rather self-evident, and so we suggest that you begin with the profile of Ralph Jackson (pp. 4–9) before you turn to page 10 and join us in Eckstein Hall.

In all events, it is our privilege to celebrate this great architect and his work.

Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law

Ray and Kay Eckstein Hall groundbreaking, May 22, 2008

