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HISTORY OF THE HASTINGS COLLEGE OF LAW

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The Founder

The Hastings College of Law was founded by Serranus Clinton Hastings, a man of diverse and magnificent accomplishments. Schoolmaster, lawyer, legislator, member of Congress, Chief Justice of Iowa and California, Attorney General, banker and expert adviser of the Alaska Purchase are the occupational designations found in the Hastings biography. Each of these activities exerted influence when the former Chief Justice thought of the purposes to be served by the State University Law School which he founded. To Hastings, training in law was as much needed for a public career as for service to be rendered in the private practice of law. His statements made at the time of the founding of the College show a combination of a schoolmaster’s faith in intellectual discipline and the trust of an experienced political leader in knowledge of the American system of law.

"...a growing tendency is observed to neglect the study of the history of the law and its traditions, without the knowledge of which the student can never become imbued with the true spirit of jurisprudence. While many eminent and distinguished men adorn the profession in this State, the general standing of the bar is not perhaps as high as it ought to be; and it is believed that the law student of today does not receive the training and mental discipline which is absolutely essential to the highest success and greatest usefulness."

Born in Jefferson County, New York, in 1814, Serranus Clinton Hastings at the age of 20 was principal and teacher of Norwich Academy, Chenango County, New York. Migrating westward before he was old enough to vote, he studied law in Indiana prior to the public career which carried him far away from the life of a schoolteacher. Public affairs, numerous, varied and important though they were, never were able to submerge his early fondness for pedagogy. Thus, in his sixty-fifth year, Chief Justice Hastings became the first Dean of the Law College he founded to carry out his ideals of education for public life and the practice of law.

The years between 20 and 65 are full of accomplishment in public affairs of pioneer America. At 22 he was a member of the bar of Indiana; at 24, a member of the Legislature of the Territory of Iowa created out of the Black Hawk Purchase and shortly thereafter the president of the Upper House of the Legislature; at 32, the first congressman from the new State of Iowa, serving with such men as John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas and Andrew Johnson. A short term of military service was included as Major of the Muscatine Dragoons in the war between Iowa and Missouri over their boundary. At the age of 33, the Governor appointed
Hastings the first Chief Justice of Iowa, which office he left at the end of his first term to make the overland journey to California. At the age of 35, the newly convened Legislature of California elected him the first Chief Justice of the State of California, ten months before statehood was confirmed by Congress on September 9, 1850. Hastings already had distinguished himself in his new surroundings as prosecuting officer under appointment of Governor Riley and as an impelling force behind the rescue party of soldiers from Monterey sent to emigrants lost on the mountain trails. In his 37th year he was permitted to withdraw from the Supreme Court to be elected Attorney General of the State of California. Then came a banking business, the successful operation of which made the former Chief Justice one of the wealthiest men in the state. Part of this fortune made up the gift by Judge Hastings of $100,000 to the state for the establishment of a law college; and the acceptance of this gift in 1878, by the Legislature, provided the legal foundation for the Law Department of the University of California—The Hastings College of Law. Sometimes forgotten is his journey at the age of 55 with Seward to Alaska, where his knowledge of Indians, derived from pioneer days in Iowa, and his ability to obtain from them information about the natural wealth of that territory, did much to facilitate the expansion of America by the Alaska Purchase.

The Foundation of the College

The Regents of the ten-year-old University of California, as progressive then as now, wished to add a law department to their growing institution. Collegiate instruction in law was considered a daring departure from office apprenticeship as the means of admission to the bar. The method by which this could be done was not well known on the West Coast. The former Chief Justice, then known as one of the best informed lawyers in the country, was consulted for suggestions. Judge Hastings volunteered to plan such a law college, and to donate the money needed for its establishment, if the Legislature would meet what he felt were appropriate terms for such a gift.

The formal foundation of the college was laid by an act of the Legislature of California signed by Governor William Irwin on March 26, 1878, in which the gift was accepted without reservation. It is generally believed that the act was drawn by Chief Justice William T. Wallace, a friend with whom Judge Hastings had discussed the founding of the College. The act provided that the Law College founded and established by S. C. Hastings shall forever be known and designated as Hastings College of the Law; the business of the College shall be managed by the Board of Directors; the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State is President of the Board of Directors; the College is affiliated with the University of California and is the Law Department thereof; the Dean of the College is ex officio a member of the faculty
of the University of California; and the sum of 7 per cent per annum upon 
$100,000 (the amount donated by S. C. Hastings and accepted by the Legis-
lature for the establishment of the College) shall be appropriated annually 
by the state and shall be paid to the directors of the College.

Judge Hastings delivered the Commencement Address at the University 
of California in Berkeley on June 5, 1878, and there revealed his purpose 
in founding the College.

"The desire of the founder is to diffuse a knowledge of the great prin-
ciples of jurisprudence, not only among those who propose to devote them-
selves to the noble profession of the law, but also among all classes of society, 
to elevate the general standing of the Bar, and to maintain and perpetuate 
the purity and dignity of the Bench; for without this, civilized government 
cannot exist; the rights of property, life, and liberty will vanish and become 
an exploded theory of the past, and communism, mobs and other disorders 
will prevail against law, order, and good government."1

The College, in spite of the unequivocal acceptance of the gift by the 
Legislature, has been the subject of litigation on at least three occasions, all 
of which has confirmed the legality of the foundation. The right of females 
to enroll on terms of equality with males, according to the practice of the 
University of California, was established at the outset.2 Legislation to trans-
fer the control of the College from the Board of Directors to the Regents of 
the University of California was held to violate the Constitution of 1879, 
which declared that the university should be continued in the form and 
character prescribed by the acts then in force, including the acts of 1878 
establishing the College.3 A collateral attack was made on the validity of 
the University of California degree awarded to a graduate of Hastings. The 
degree, when granted to a graduate, entitled him to a license to practice law. 
It was argued that the College had never become affiliated with the University 
of California and that its graduates had no right to a degree from the uni-
versity. The argument was rejected and the graduates continued to be 
admitted to the bar on the recommendation of the faculty through 1917.4

The Genesis of the College

The directors of the College, other than the Chief Justice who is, 
ex officio, the president of the board, were chosen from the leaders of the 
San Francisco Bar Association. They were Joseph P. Hoge, W. W. Cope, 
Delos Lake, Samuel M. Wilson, O. P. Evans, Thomas B. Bishop, John R. 
Sharpstein and Thomas I. Bergin. They called John Norton Pomeroy, a 
lawyer of Rochester, New York, then preparing what became the authori-
tative text on Equity, to the position of Professor of Municipal Law. Pomeroy

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1Reported in I Pacific Coast Law Journal, 342 (1878). 
2Foltz v. Hoge, 54 Cal. 28 (1879). The successful petitioner thereafter declined to enroll. 
4In re Students of Hastings College of Law, 7 Cal. Unrep. 376, 110 Pac. 341 (1910).
had been a well-known writer and teacher in the East and he is acknowledged by Elihu Root as his great preceptor in the law. S. C. Hastings became the first Dean of the College and his son, J. F. D. Hastings, held the position of registrar.

The arrangement and content of the curriculum became the project of Professor Pomeroy. Pomeroy, going far beyond the requirements of most eastern law schools, insisted upon a three-year college of law. In his first prospectus he outlined a course of instruction similar to that being developed at the Harvard Law School which has since come to be known as "the case system." The first year was called the junior year, the second year was known as the middle year, and the third year received the only name which has survived, the senior year. At first it was thought that students who demonstrated sufficient knowledge should be admitted to the middle year, but after a few interviews Pomeroy concluded that it would be best for everyone to start as a junior. This problem may be better understood by explaining that many of the applicants were office-trained lawyers, already members of the bar.

The First Class

The first class met on Monday, August 12, 1878, at 1:30 in the afternoon, at the Hall of the Pioneers of California. All around the walls were maps and paintings commemorative of great events in the history of the state. Important citizens were present to witness this great event. Judge Hastings introduced Doctor Pomeroy. The students noticed that Doctor Pomeroy looked frail as he stood before the gathering "with a smile that was childlike and bland," but any doubts as to his mastery of the situation were dissipated by the vigor and strength of his voice and the businesslike way he went about his duties. Thus was there inaugurated an educational venture in the field of professional training in law—the first on the Pacific Coast. From such a beginning, the Hastings College of Law of today has emerged.

The second lecturer was the Reverend W. H. Platt of Grace Church, who presented the course in Legal Ethics. Except for these lectures, the full burden of teaching the first class fell upon Doctor Pomeroy. It has been suggested that the students at Hastings received a better training in the case method than was available in other parts of the country because Doctor Pomeroy gave out a printed syllabus of his entire course and most of the students were employed in law offices where the cases could be found in their office libraries. Casebooks had not then been widely published.

In 1879 there began what Emeritus Professor Robert W. Harrison has called the Odyssey of Hastings. The class of 1882 began its course of instruction at the Academy of Sciences Building at Dupont and California streets. In 1880 the College again was located in the Hall of Pioneers. The Honor-
able Oliver R. Evans, Judge of the Superior Court in San Francisco, was appointed Assistant Professor in charge of the Junior class. Judge Evans resigned from the bench and left teaching for the practice of law, which better suited his talents. Calhoun Benham was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Evans. Benham served until his death in 1884. Pomeroy died in 1885. Charles W. Slack received a temporary appointment to the chair made vacant by the death of Doctor Pomeroy. Charles W. Slack has been described in several records as the mainstay of Hastings in a period of transition—and there were several such periods.

**The Administration of Justice McKinstry**

The principal professorship was offered to the Honorable E. W. McKinstry, who resigned from the Supreme Court of the State to accept it. The principal professor of Hastings College was an executive as well as an instructor. The duties of the principal professor of that era were very similar to those performed today by the Dean. Thus, a somewhat general recollection by members of the alumni that Justice McKinstry was Dean is understandable, although the minute book of the directors of the College lists him as Principal Professor. Charles W. Slack continued as Assistant Professor. In 1886 the Reverend J. H. C. Bonte, D.D., a member of the legal profession for several years and a graduate of an eastern law school before he began the study of theology, was given the chair in Legal Ethics.

In 1882, a proposal was made by the directors of the College that the Legislature enact an act to make Robert P. Hastings, son of Judge Hastings, Dean of the College for life with his successor to be chosen by the appellate court judges of the state from the heirs of Hastings and that the Registrar be appointed by and the general direction of the College be placed in the hands of the Regents of the University of California. This act was passed by the California Legislature on March 3, 1883. Later the act was declared unconstitutional in the case of *People ex. rel. S. C. Hastings v. Kewen*, 69 Cal. 215. Robert P. Hastings resigned as Dean shortly after his election by the Legislature and the Board of Directors appointed in his place J. W. Winans. Mr. Winans accepted the appointment, but said he was too busy to serve. He asked that the Registrar serve as Acting Dean, which was agreed to by the directors. On April 1, 1887, Robert P. Hastings was appointed Dean in place of J. W. Winans, deceased. Dean Hastings had been educated at Harvard College and was one of the first graduates of the school which bore his father's name. Thus, the previous statutory appointment of Robert P. Hastings being declared invalid, he did not become Dean, de jure et de facto, until appointed by the directors on April 1, 1887.

In 1888 the administration of Hastings was once again operating on a sound and tranquil basis. Justice McKinstry was retained in his former posi-
tion of Principal Professor as well as Professor of Municipal Law. Judge Slack continued as Assistant Professor. In 1891, C. F. Dio Hastings, another son of Judge Hastings, was appointed Dean in place of Robert P. Hastings, who had died.

Justice McKinstry was born in Michigan in 1824 and had emigrated to California in 1848. McKinstry had served as a member of the first Legislature, had been a District Judge, a county judge, and from 1854 to 1888 was a Justice of the Supreme Court. Justice McKinstry continued until 1895 to be head of the Faculty of the College.

In the year 1889, 77 students were enrolled in the College. Up to 1889, the number of graduates was 259. Eight had died, 51 were not in practice, and the 200 others represented one-third of the total number of persons admitted to practice during the same nine-year period.

The Administration of Dean Slack

Eighteen ninety-five is an important date in the history of the College. Judge Charles W. Slack succeeded E. W. McKinstry as Principal Professor and also was made the Dean. The faculty was enlarged by the addition of William B. Bosley, a Yale graduate (now vice-president of the Board of Directors) and Warren Olney, Jr., a graduate of Harvard, assistant professors. In 1896 Louis T. Hengstler, Ph.D., was added to the faculty as assistant professor. In 1897 and in 1898 successively, Louis de F. Bartlett and Sheffield S. Sanborn became instructors. Hengstler was also assistant professor of Mathematics at Berkeley, and later was partner in the admiralty firm of Andros and Hengstler.

Casebooks were coming into use. Professor Bosley used Tiedeman's Cases on Real Property, and in Evidence and Constitutional Law he used Thayer's Casebooks supplemented by Kent's Commentaries and Cooley's Principles of Constitutional Law. Judge Slack taught Code Pleading and Practice as well as Equity Jurisprudence. In addition to his ability as a lecturer, Judge Slack is remembered for his skill in checking up on the extent to which a student was prepared for class. Warren Olney became an outstanding Justice of the Supreme Court of the state.

That the thinking of Judge Slack as a professor in the College has had a persuasive effect on later generations of teachers in the same institution may be gleaned from extracts of an article which he published in 1889. The article was entitled "Hastings College of Law," printed in "The Green Bag" (Harvard), December, 1889.

"At the end of each year an examination on the year's work, lasting several days, is held. A standing of 75 per cent in each subject is required to pass. Some idea of the severity of these examinations may be had from the fact that in 1886, 25 seniors passed and five were rejected; in 1887, 21 passed, and three were rejected; in 1888, 25 again passed with three rejec-
ions, and in 1889, 11 passed, and two were recommended not to appear. A proportionately larger number of rejections occurs in the junior and middle classes. It might be further stated that if a student fails at the end of the first year, he is almost always admitted to the Supreme Court, on examination, shortly afterward.

"... The graduates are rapidly pushing forward to the front ranks of the profession. One is a Superior Judge, and several of them are District Attorneys. They have done much to overcome the stupid prejudices which once existed against the institution because, principally, of the number it turned into the profession. The foregoing figures ought to be a sufficient answer to any assertion that the school is overcrowding the profession. Adverse criticism upon the methods and results of law schools usually comes from persons who were never educated in them, know nothing about them, and who will not learn anything. Suffice it to say that, among those who are competent to judge, there is but one opinion as to their superiority over any other means of legal education. The authorities of the school have labored industriously and unselfishly to establish public confidence in it, and perhaps the best proof of their success is that judges and lawyers send their sons to it to be educated."

The New Century

Judge Slack had offered his resignation as Dean in January, 1897, and it was accepted. Apparently, the decision was not meant to be final because Judge Slack was induced to continue in office for another year and again another year. When Slack’s resignation as Dean and Professor became effective on May 26, 1899, the directors immediately appointed him assistant professor so that the College could continue to enjoy the benefit of his teaching skill. W. B. Bosley resigned as assistant professor on the same day but he, too, was kept on the staff as a special lecturer.

The Administration of Dean Taylor

The close of the century brought the dawn of a new era. Edward Robeson Taylor, M.D., was appointed Professor and Dean on July 1, 1899. The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco on December 26, 1899, by Resolution No. 3854, made available to the Hastings College of Law the rooms then occupied by the District Attorney in the City Hall. On January 12, 1901, the directors accepted the offer of the supervisors and voted to furnish the necessary supplies to equip the rooms in the City Hall. The directors authorized the Dean, on May 31, 1901, to apply for admission to the Association of American Law Schools. The College thus became a charter member of the organization which has done the most to maintain high standards for legal education throughout the country.

Even in those early days some thought was given to the physical aspects of education. The Board of Directors heard and acted on a petition of students for heaters in the lecture room. The Dean petitioned that the classrooms be equipped with an elevated platform. The petitions were granted.
Some changes took place in the faculty. The resignation of Judge Slack as professor became effective and S. S. Sanborn retired. On August 28, 1903, William Denman, a former student of the College, who had completed his training at Harvard, now Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, and O. K. McMurray, who later made a distinguished record as Dean of Boalt Hall, were appointed to fill out the teaching staff. Shortly thereafter, James A. Ballentine, Robert W. Harrison and Henry W. Ballentine joined the faculty. The teaching duties were distributed among Dean Taylor, who lectured on Real Property and Equity; Mr. Denman, who lectured on Contracts; James A. Ballentine, who instructed in Criminal Law and Torts; Dr. Hengstler, who worked in the fields of Constitutional Law and Trusts, and Robert Harrison, who carried a heavy burden in the subjects of Corporations, Evidence, Wills and Administration, with Henry W. Ballentine lecturing in the fields of Pleading and Practice.

The fire and earthquake of 1906 worked its havoc on Hastings. The City Hall was completely destroyed. Although former students allege that they started out for the College on April 18, no trace of Hastings could be found. The College year ended abruptly. So great was the catastrophe that it was deemed permissible to waive final examinations, which, through coincidence, has been scheduled for that day. The class of 1906 had an unique distinction. Whereas earlier classes had been admitted to the bar on the motion of the faculty (college examinations being passed to the satisfaction of the faculty) the class of 1906 was admitted "because of the motion of the earth!"

The multiple talents of Dr. Taylor were needed to solve the new problems of a burned out downtown area. Great was the demand for space in the buildings located in the undamaged area west of Van Ness Avenue. The Superior Court was given space in the Temple Emanu-El, and the Sheriff’s and District Attorney’s office were located nearby at California and Webster streets. Dr. Taylor was vice-president of the Cooper Medical College (now the Stanford Medical School) and through his good graces space was made available for lectures in the medical building at Sacramento and Webster. Anatomical exhibits and parts of cadavers shocked some of the more sensitive. The work of the College continued and the minor interruption due to earthquake and fire did not impair its vigor. The class of 1907 was graduated from the Cooper Medical College.

Dr. Taylor became a civic hero and was elected Mayor of the City and County by the reform element. So versatile did he appear that a history of the College should include a sketch of him. His portrait shows him to be a somewhat rotund, red-bearded, long-maned bon vivant that earned him the irreverent sobriquet of "Fuzzy." Irreverence stopped there and every other reaction is notable for its respect. At the same time he was Dean of the
Law College, Dean of the Medical College, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library, Poet Laureate of California and Mayor of San Francisco! Around the same period he published poetry in national magazines, wrote an authoritative paper on the settlement of the claims involving pueblo lands in San Francisco, and prepared a large number of papers in various medical subjects.

The next move took place in 1908 when classes were conducted in the courtroom of Superior Judge T. F. Graham in the Grant Building at Seventh and Market streets. After one year the College next was moved to the Whittell Building, 116 Geary Street, and after four years, beginning in 1913, its headquarters were in the Underwood Building, 525 Market Street.

The next move was to the newly completed City Hall, where the College was located from 1916 to 1923, prior to its somewhat longer tenancy at the State Building from 1923 to 1932. While an addition was being made to the State Building, there was a one-year tenancy at the Call Building on New Montgomery Street in 1932 and from 1932 to 1938 classes again were conducted in the State Building. Now a 15-year tenancy of the California Building at 515 Van Ness Avenue has been concluded. The important move to the new Hastings Law College Building at Hyde and McAllister Streets is the principal event of 1953. Whatever other journeys there have been, the records do not show—except that the Office of the Registrar at times was separate from the College.

Hastings College was given its first listing in the telephone directory in 1913, and there was a separate listing for the Office of the Registrar. The practice of printing the annual examinations was discontinued in 1914. The College continued on the even tenor of its ways through the war years of 1917 and 1918. Dr. Taylor resigned as Dean, for reasons of health, in 1919.

**The Administration of Dean Harrison**

Maurice E. Harrison served as Dean for a period of six years from 1919 to 1925. It was his duty to cope with the problem of post-war enrollment. Although this is a familiar problem at the present time, Dean Harrison did pioneer work. That the burden was heavy becomes obvious when the record of directors’ activity discloses the persuasiveness required to keep Dean Harrison at work on this heroic task. Dean Harrison had been an important man in the practice of law before his venture into the field of legal education. The reputation of the firm of Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison, of which he was a partner for 25 years preceding his death, gives full proof of his standing as a lawyer after he left Hastings. The sacrifice required to hold the position of Dean, only on a part-time basis, was great. His long service as a Regent of the University of California as well as a director of
the Hastings College of Law is clear and convincing evidence of his loyalty to the educational institutions of his native state.

Dean Harrison laid much stress on academic achievement in law school. He recast the form of many of the courses then being taught and the pattern he developed has continued to the present time. Unlike many professors, he felt the importance of integrating local law in the framework of general legal theory. Harrison took pride in the fact that the second generation of San Francisco lawyers followed the example of their fathers in taking their training at Hastings. In a passing comment made in 1928 he referred specifically to the Bahrs, Bergerots, Eickhoffs, Leicesters, Treadwells and others. The Odyssey continued during his administration and the College was moved from the City Hall to its first tenancy in the State Building, in 1923.

The Administration of Dean Simmons

When it was clear that an able successor would take his place, Dean Harrison returned to full-time law practice. Post-war legal education, in California and throughout the country, was approaching new heights. In California alone 17 law schools were giving instruction to 2,671 students and in 1926, 755 applicants were admitted to the bar of California.

William M. Simmons, already known within the College as an able professor, was appointed Dean and Professor of Law. Director Sidney M. Ehrman, on May 1, 1925, had contributed $30,000 to establish the Isaias W. Hellman Professorship in honor of Mrs. Ehrman's father. Simmons was the first man to hold that professorship.

Dean Simmons held office from 1925 to the time of his death on July 25, 1940. The office of Dean became a full-time position in 1933. The construction of an addition to the State Building had created a hiatus in the tenancy of Hastings Law College. For one year, in 1931, the College had been located in the Call Building on New Montgomery Street. Thereafter, and until 1938, the College was conducted within the limited facilities of the State Building. The second move during the administration of Dean Simmons, and it is hoped the next to the last move in the history of the College was to the California Building at 515 Van Ness Avenue.

Like all the Deans of Hastings, Simmons was a personality that created a strong impression on his students. Exact in his politeness, exactness in discipline and exactness in his academic standards were his notable characteristics. Neat in appearance, moderate in voice, regular in feature, small in stature but dominant in group relations are secondary characteristics that are well remembered.

After graduation from Cornell College of Iowa in 1908, William Simmons attended the Harvard Law School and was graduated with the class of 1911. During World War I he served overseas as a Captain of Infantry
and remained abroad to study at Oxford. In 1919, he began his teaching career at Hastings and continued as a part-time member of the faculty until the academic reorganization of the College in 1933. Then, he terminated his connections with private practice, and became full-time instead of the part-time Dean that he had been from 1925. In 1936 he obtained the appointment of David E. Snodgrass, now Dean of the College, as a full-time professor and in 1939 Duncan Low, now a part-time member of the faculty, became the third full-time member of the faculty. His teaching subjects were among the more difficult, including Real Property and Conflict of Laws.

The Administration of Dean Snodgrass

David E. Snodgrass had been a member of the faculty of the Hastings College of Law, on a part-time basis, from 1928. In 1936, he became a member of the full-time faculty and was appointed Professor of Law. On the death of Dean Simmons, he was appointed Acting Dean and on May 1, 1941, the directors appointed him Dean and Isaias W. Hellman Professor of Law. A native of Selma, California, and a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, subsequently he had been secretary of the United States District Court, Northern District of California, instructor at the San Francisco Law School, and an attorney with Associated Oil Company.

Among his first acts as Dean was to appoint O. K. McMurray and Arthur M. Cathcart to the teaching staff. This was the beginning of the now famous Sixty-five Club. McMurray was a graduate of the College who had taught at Hastings before he began his career as Dean of Boalt Hall. Cathcart had taught at the Stanford Law School from 1904 until 1938. Several other distinguished professors, retired at the age of 65 from service in leading law schools, continued their useful careers by joining the faculty of Hastings at the invitation of Dean Snodgrass. Their names on the office doors of the faculty corridors remind the students of the names on the title pages of the foremost textbooks on legal subjects in the United States. The reminders have been provided by McMurray (Community Property and Conflict of Laws) from Boalt Hall; Cathcart (On Pleading) from Stanford; Thurston (Torts and Restitution) from Harvard; Vernier (Family Law) from Stanford; McCaskill (Pleading and Practice) from Illinois; Lorenzen (Conflict of Laws) from Yale; Hale (Evidence) from the University of Southern California; Vold (Sales) from Nebraska and Boston University; Radin (Jurisprudence) from Boalt Hall; Bogert (Trusts) from the University of Chicago; Fraser (Property) from the University of Minnesota; Derby (Criminal Law) from New York University; McGovney (Constitutional Law) from Boalt Hall; McBaine (Trial Practice and Evidence) from Boalt Hall; Waite (Criminal Law) from Michigan and in a Summer Session, Pound of Harvard and U. C. L. A., whose subjects include everything in the law curriculum.
In the period following World War II the administration of the College made heroic efforts to admit all the qualified veterans that intricate and skillful planning of class schedules could make possible. Dean Snodgrass, with the able assistance of Registrar Sammis, arranged classes for more than 900 students in a single year. The faculty was expanded through the use of a score of practitioners as part-time instructors. Enlargement of the physical plant and rehabilitation of existing facilities at 515 Van Ness Avenue was required to provide tolerable living conditions for such a large number. Classes were in continuous session from early morning to the close of the day. It was obvious that better facilities must be provided if Hastings College of Law was to continue its important work.

It was the recognition of this need and a great public interest in the continuance of the work of the Hastings College of Law that produced the legislative action of an appropriation of $1,450,000 (subsequently augmented by $300,000 from emergency funds) to the Regents of the University of California for the construction of the first permanent home. Thus, the magnificent new building dedicated on March 26, 1953, at Hyde and McAllister Streets opens a new chapter for the College, and closes the book on this chronicle of events in the history of Hastings for the first 75 years.