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Lewis Give W&L \$9 Million, Largest Gift In School's History

Sum To Endow Legal Center

Yesterday Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Lewis, of Richmond, gave \$9 million to Washington and Lee University. The gift is the largest in the 200 year history of the institution.

The gift will help make possible construction of a \$7 million law building, which will bear the name Lewis Hall. It will also establish the initial endowment for a law center, to be named the Frances Lewis Law Center in honor of Mrs. Lewis.

Robert E. R. Huntley, president of the university, announced the gift and disclosed detailed plans for the new building and law center in Richmond.

Mr. Lewis is an alumnus of both Washington and Lee's undergraduate and law schools and is a trustee of the university. He is founder and president of Best Products Inc., the Richmond-based catalogue merchandising firm.

Joining in the announcement were Dr. John Newton Thomas of Richmond, rector of the board of trustees; John M. Stemmons of Dallas, Tex., president of Industrial Properties Corp., and Roy L. Steinheimer Jr., dean of the School of Law.

Mr. Stemmons is chairman of the "Achievement Council," the organization created by university trustees to direct a comprehensive development program, announced last month, which seeks to raise \$36 million by 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis' gift brings to \$18,528,469 the amount committed to date toward the \$36 million goal. Of the current total, \$11.5 million represents contributions from all 19 members of Washington and Lee's board of trustees.

The Frances Lewis Law Center, Dean Steinheimer said, will permit Washington and Lee law students and faculty to undertake "pioneering investigation and analysis" of matters regarding current and future development of law and legal processes.

Both theoretical and practical, or "clinical," approaches will be encouraged in the Law Center, he added.

Construction of the new law building is expected to begin before the end of the year, President Huntley revealed. Architectural plans and specifications have been in preparation for more than two years, he said, and the university anticipates that they will be ready to be submitted for bids by the end of the summer.

Mr. Huntley said the new facility is expected to be ready for occupancy by September, 1975.

The building will contain 117,219 square feet of space—more than six times the 18,813 square feet in the existing law building, Tucker Hall. Tucker was constructed in 1935 to accommodate a law student body of 76.

At present, law enrollment is 252. The new building is designed to accommodate 350 students, the enrollment figure the university has determined to be most desirable for a quality law program of the character of Washington and Lee's.

Lewis Hall will provide full facilities for the Law Center and improved accommodations for such educational activities as Law Review, Student Bar Association, moot court argumentation, and legal aid—none of which were anticipated in the original design of Tucker Hall.

The central feature in the new building will be a uniquely designed law library accommodating 150,000 volumes, with adjoining small office spaces for each student. The library area in Tucker Hall has long been inadequate to house the

law school's collections and to provide essential study area.

The School of Law was founded independently in 1849 and incorporated by Robert E. Lee, then president of Washington College, as a division of the institution in 1866.

The School of Law numbers five former presidents of the American Bar Association among its alumni—including Mr. Malone (1958-59) and Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. (1964-65), both Washington and Lee trustees. Only two other law schools, those at Columbia and Harvard Universities, have seen more alumni elected to head the A.B.A.

More than 100 graduates of the School of Law are currently judges at every level throughout the nation. Three of the 25 largest corporations in the nation have Washington and Lee law alumni as general counsel or executive administrators of the legal staff: General Motors, U.S. Steel, and Union Carbide.

The new Frances Lewis Law Center at Washington and Lee will make possible a "comprehensive, in-depth program of studies—in class and out—relating to the awesome problems which face the law in American society," according to Roy Steinheimer, the university law dean.

"It will permit the development of effective research methods on the problems themselves, and possible solutions to them," he said.

An important function of the Law Center, he said, will be designing proposals for changes in existing laws and in the administration of justice.

The Law Center will provide leaves for law teachers to conduct extensive investigation into problems on the frontiers of the law, he said. In addition, the center will sponsor seminars, symposia and institutes in which experts from across the nation, both lawyers and laymen alike, will participate with Washington and Lee law faculty and students.

Another important function of the Frances Lewis Law Center will be publication of the results of projects, Steinheimer said, both in the traditional manner, in books and periodicals, and in innovative new ways—by electronic videotape, for example.

The principal intellectual asset of the Law Center will be the university's own law faculty, the dean said, together with its student body, library, and other resources.

A particularly distinctive feature of the Frances Lewis Law Center will be its association with a law program that awards only the first professional degree in law. Washington and Lee has no other graduate programs and plans to add none.

The undergraduate faculty at Washington and Lee will add still another crucially valuable dimension to the center, he noted.



Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Lewis donated \$9 million to Washington and Lee University to support the development of the law school and an innovative center for research in law.

A number of programs in operation at Washington and Lee for several years will be incorporated in the Law Center's scope of operation, Steinheimer said, including legal aid and legal research activities.

When the new law facility is completed, President Huntley said, a major concern will be an approximate doubling of the size of the law faculty from its current 10. A director for Law Center activities will also be added, he said.

Mr. Lewis is a trustee of Washington and Lee and of Virginia Union University, and a member of the boards of the Mediterranean Society and Jewish Family Services. Mr. Lewis has served as president and campaign chairman of the Richmond Jewish Community Council, president of the Southern Region Council of Jewish Federations, and board member of Temple Beth Ababa and the Richmond Area Community Council.

In all, \$16,500,000 for the School of Law—\$14.5 million for building and endowment and an additional \$2 million, contributed through the annual Alumni Fund, to support day-to-day operating expenses—must be raised as part of the decade-long \$56 million Washington and Lee development plan.

In a resolution of acceptance, the

university board of trustees said Washington and Lee is "eternally and profoundly grateful" to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, and the resolution declared the entire university family to be re-committed in return as strongly as possible to meeting the initial goal in the development effort, \$36,000,000 by 1976, as well as to the \$56 million objective by the end of the decade.

Architects for the new law building are Marcellus Wright, Cox & Cilimberg of Richmond. Landscape consultants are Griswold, Winters & Swain of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Hankins and Anderson of Richmond are mechanical and electrical engineers for the project, and Harris, Norman and Giles, also of Richmond, have been appointed structural engineers.

CONTACT

Applications are being accepted for the position of Chairman of next year's Contact program. Applications should include possible themes for the program, possible speakers and a tentative list of committee members. Applications are due at the EC box in the Student Center by 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 23.

Applicants should report to the EC Room in the Student Center by 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 23, for interviews.



Above is a scale model of Lewis Hall, the new building to house the School of Law and the Frances Lewis Law Center. The structure will provide space for a 150,000 volume law library. The new law center will permit the study of law "at the frontiers of society."