

# School of Law

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR USD

## Technology and Infrastructure: \$2.5 million

### Background

The School of Law is seeking \$2.5 million to enhance **technology and infrastructure**. The School of Law has an urgent need to update its technology and facilities to be competitive in how it trains students for the practice of law. The goal is to utilize technology more effectively as a teaching and learning tool in order to expand and enrich its curriculum, adapt its instructional and assessment methods to the varied needs and skills of a more diverse student body, and achieve efficiencies that will control costs.

In addition, the adoption and use of new technologies in classes and clinics is essential in giving students the tools they will need to practice successfully in both the public and private sectors. New technologies and interactive classrooms will also enable the law school to: recruit and retain more part-time students; expand its reach to alumni and others in the community needing continuing legal education; and increase accessibility to its certificate and graduate programs.

Achieving these goals will assist in preparing students for the changing needs of our legal and business communities.

### Objectives

To reach these goals, the School of Law must update its infrastructure in three key areas:

1. Upgrading existing classrooms to incorporate new technologies to enhance both teaching and learning by:
  - Installing presentation and communications technologies, as well as furniture and fixtures, designed to integrate technology into the learning process and promote flexibility in teaching methods (e.g. flipped teaching methods).
  - Building flexible spaces that adapt to a wide variety of class sizes, teaching methods, presentation requirements and other needs.
2. Adapting existing student-focused common areas to suit the learning skills, technological demands, and study and work habits of students by:
  - Creating dedicated collaboration spaces where groups of students can effectively work together.
  - Configuring student lounge areas to better accommodate the technology needs of students, and enhance their connection to each other and to the School of Law.
  - Improving the acoustical properties of existing classrooms to allow for more effective interaction and participation.
  - Updating classrooms with more contemporary finishes and fixtures to make them brighter and more conducive to a positive student experience.
3. Building at least one new large auditorium-style classroom in Warren Hall and incorporating the latest interactive technologies, that will allow the law school to broaden course offerings and better connect with the community by:
  - Accommodating our most popular courses and teachers.
  - Creating efficiencies by consolidating courses with multiple sections.
  - Providing sufficient space for moot court and other competitions, public lectures, conferences, symposia, and other externally focused events.
  - Enhancing distance learning capabilities by integrating the technologies necessary to: conduct two-way communications with remote sites; allow for remote teaching and off-site guest lectures; and record and/or broadcast lectures and events.
  - Increasing the visibility of the School of Law by hosting public events that currently must be held elsewhere on campus.

While the School of Law has made significant advances in strengthening its faculty, curriculum and other academic programs in recent years, the core infrastructure of the school has lagged behind in these advances, and in meeting the technology demands of students. Enhancing the law school's physical and technological infrastructure will ensure a learning environment suitable to students' needs and methods of learning.

## Impact

Having the tools to engage students effectively in the learning process is important to any academic institution. Facilities that integrate technologies, improve learning and teaching, and promote teamwork and collaboration are essential. Ensuring our spaces for learning and interaction rise to the challenge of attracting and supporting the best students and faculty members possible, is vital to the future to the School of Law and USD's ability to remain competitive with its peer institutions.

Achieving our campaign goals will:

- Positively impact both the student and teaching experience;
- Allow for efficiency gains by consolidating multiple section classes, while at the same time enabling us to broaden curriculum; and
- Expand course offerings through enhanced distance-learning capabilities.

## For More Information

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