A NEW ERA IN LEGAL EDUCATION
THE FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION IS HERE

When you enter the campus of the new Thomas Jefferson School of Law, you are stepping into the future of legal education. There is no other law school like ours. It represents the best experiences in law school architecture.

Our innovative new building is designed to integrate cutting-edge learning technology and sustainability with a welcoming and collaborative environment to facilitate optimal academic achievement and student success.

THE PROJECT

• The eight-story, 305,000 square-foot law school facility in downtown San Diego includes a three-level, 90,000 square-foot subterranean parking garage with 176 spaces.

• The facility serves the needs of 1,000+ students and nearly 200 faculty and staff with 15 teaching spaces, 2 learning centers, 2 recording studios, 5 conference rooms, a moot courtroom, an executive board room that seats 30, a 40,000 square-foot library, an on-site café (opening in 2012), a public law clinic, and much more.

• The most striking exterior feature of the new Thomas Jefferson School of Law is its chevron roof. The iconic design has made the law school an instant landmark in San Diego’s East Village neighborhood.

• Other notable exterior features of the facility include expansive view terraces on the 5th and 8th floors with seating and reception space surrounded by extensive landscaping.

• The luxurious building finishes are highlighted by top of the line mill and stone work, high ceilings and floor length windows.

• The building operates with a state-of-the-art cloud computing technology, with wireless access and audio video capabilities throughout.

CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN FACTS

Groundbreaking: October 29, 2008
Opened: January 18, 2011
Gross Square Footage: 305,000
Estimated Cost: $90,000,000
Financing: CSCDA Tax Exempt Bonds
Executive Architect: Carrier Johnson
Contractor: Bovis Lend Lease, Inc.
Design Architect: S2 Architecture
Interior Design: ID Studios
Owner’s Representative: Midwest General
The classrooms in our law school are “smart classrooms.” That means our 21st Century technology is more innovative and advanced than anything you may have seen – smarter, faster and with amazing intuitive abilities that make the classroom experience come alive.

Integrated video conferencing equipment is used to bring off-site instructors and guests into our new classrooms as well as to join multiple classrooms together. Students feel like they’re in the same classroom with other students anywhere in the world because they can see them and talk to them virtually!

We also employ “green” technology throughout the building to use significantly less energy and limit the amount of hardware to be purchased and recycled.

INTERIOR DESIGN

The study of law is a serious pursuit, but the interior of our new law school is designed as an inviting, comfortable environment for law students. There are touches of whimsy in the design, and the colors of the walls, flooring and fabrics are representative of San Diego’s natural color palette. Each floor has its own creative personality to make the TJSL experience memorable, rather than institutional.

AMENITIES

The new campus is designed with many amenities to help students cope positively with the demands of law school and enjoy their time at TJSL.

Student Lounge: The fun, colorful area is reminiscent of a retro-50’s diner in the round. The inviting seating is designed to encourage interaction. Refrigerators, microwaves and vending machines are conveniently placed for student use.

Outdoor Terraces: The building features several landscaped outdoor terraces. One is located adjacent to the student lounge, offering views of the East Village and ample seating for students to enjoy San Diego’s great weather.

Meditation Room: This room provides students with a quiet, contemplative space in the library, in addition to a number of private study rooms for group or individual study sessions.

Fitness Club Membership: All TJSL students, faculty and staff have free memberships at the ultra-modern FIT Athletic, just a block from the new campus.

Student Housing: TJSL has 172 modern, luxurious apartments at Entrada to lease to students - just one block from campus.

Lockers: Spacious lockers are conveniently located near the classrooms.
A “MAMMOTH” Discovery

During excavation for the school in February 2009, construction workers uncovered the remains of an ancient mammoth, an event which made worldwide news – especially because of the fascination Thomas Jefferson himself had for the large mammals. Workers also found the skeleton of a 500-thousand-year-old California Gray Whale on the site and hundreds of other fossils, such as ancient scallop shells. Pieces of the broken shells are used in the terrazzo flooring at the school. Selected pieces of the mammoth fossils are on display near the 4th floor Library Circulation Desk.

GOING FOR THE GOLD

The law school anticipates a Gold Level certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ of the U.S. Green Building Council, which will make Thomas Jefferson School of Law one of the few law schools to achieve this prestigious status.

LEED Green Features and Sustainable Energy Factors

The law school is constructed to be as energy efficient as possible, to reduce the school’s environmental footprint and to generate clean solar electricity for the San Diego Gas and Electric grid.

- The 49 kilowatt photovoltaic system on the main roof, owned and operated by San Diego Gas & Electric, generates clean electricity fed directly back to the grid – enough energy to power about 32 homes!
- The high efficiency building envelope creates lower heating and cooling demands that, in turn, require smaller, more efficient mechanical equipment.
- A “Cool Roof” membrane on the main roof reflects the heat from the sun and reduces the cooling loads on the building.
- Hyccrete, a concrete admixture that turns regular concrete into a waterproof barrier, was used for the building’s foundation and flooring, resulting in a highly desirable green environmental impact and great cost savings.
- Interior finish materials contain recycled content.
- A construction waste management plan diverted and minimized waste from being hauled to local landfills.
- Water efficient landscaping on the terraces and exterior of the building reduces water usage by nearly 58%.
- Water use reduction for the entire building is estimated at 20% less than average.