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Kresge Law Library, Research & Teaching Team

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In these early years development of the law library’s collection and staff was slow. The Law School did not appoint the first law librarian, John Whitman, until 1925. His selection coincided with the Law School’s accreditation by the Association of American Law Schools. By 1930, after more than 60 years of existence, the library had only grown to 10,000 volumes. This modest collection did not require a large staff. In fact, in 1942, a single librarian, Lora Lashbrook, oversaw the entire operation while serving concurrently as teacher of research methodology, law school registrar, and secretary to both the dean and the faculty. Marie Lawrence succeeded to the post of librarian in 1945. She guided the collection for almost 25 years. At her retirement the library stood at 69,000 volumes—still quite small by American Bar Association standards.

The enlargement of the library’s physical space in 1973 came under the leadership of the next librarian, Kathleen C. Farmann. Expansion and increased funding of the library, made possible in part by a gift from the Krege Foundation, were welcomed but were nevertheless insufficient for the library’s continued growth. In 1985 the University committed itself to building a library that would support scholarship of the highest order, and it needed a librarian to spearhead that campaign. Roger F. Jacobs, then the librarian of the U.S. Supreme Court, became the fifth Notre Dame law librarian. During his 21 years of leadership, library staff, seating, and shelf space more than doubled. The total physical area of the library increased by a third, and the collection grew to more than 640,000 volumes.

The primary mission of the Krege Law Library is to provide the necessary scholarly foundation for legal research and to provide space for independent and collaborative study for Notre Dame Law School faculty and students. The law library supports the curricular and scholarly interests of the Law School by acquiring and providing access to electronic and print resources, and by offering formal and informal guidance in their use. Secondly, the law library supports the legal research requirements of the larger University community.

The library occupies four floors. Enter through the main entrance adjacent to the north end of Eck Commons. (Eck Commons is the bridge connecting Boodschop Hall of Law and Eck Hall of Law.)

The library seats 550 people, 152 at individual study carrels. Five professional librarians, eight support staff, and numerous student assistants comprise the library staff.

The law library is for serious research and study. Please refrain from loud conversation and other inappropriate behavior. Non-law students may not use the library as a study hall. Anyone violating library policies may be ejected.

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