



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 10, 2013

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Pima County/College of Law Partnership at the New Justice Courts Facility**

Attached is the September 4, 2013 letter I received from Dean Marc Miller of the James E. Rogers College of Law at The University of Arizona.

In the development of the new Justice Courts facility, the County will have two spare courtrooms and offices, and we have discussed partnering with The University of Arizona College of Law for instructional and collaborative purposes. The College will utilize one or both of the spare courtrooms for trial advocacy classes, Moot Court practice, and various other clinics that bring students into courtroom settings.

This collaborative venture will also provide a number of educational opportunities as discussed in Dean Miller's letter. The County employs a large number of attorneys in the course of providing legal services through the County Attorney, Public Defender and Legal Defender. It is appropriate to facilitate the education of new attorneys, as well as provide Continuing Legal Education opportunities for our existing attorneys, through collaboration with The University of Arizona.

The new Justice Courts facility is scheduled to become operational in January 2015. We look forward to this unique partnership with The University of Arizona College of Law.

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: Dr. Ann Weaver Hart, President, The University of Arizona

September 4, 2013

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator
Pima County Governmental Center
130 W. Congress Street, 10th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Chuck,

We are thrilled about the potential of the College of Law partnering with the County and its Justice Courts. We are delighted that you reached out to us about the opportunity to share space in the new courthouse building. It strikes us as a win-win.

We can make immediate and exciting use of the two courtrooms you described in your letter of August 21, 2013, as well as four offices.

The courtrooms would be used for our trial advocacy classes, moot court practice, and for the Veterans' Advocacy Clinic and other clinics that bring students into courtroom settings. The courtrooms would also be used regularly for conducting moot appellate arguments with downtown lawyers in public and private practice who will appear before state or federal appellate courts. If it was consistent with building rules, we would also then be able to host regional and national trial and appellate advocacy competitions.

Our students and recent graduates already play a significant role in the court system; with downtown space that role could grow even more. The offices would give the clinics a regular presence downtown. This includes our Veteran's Advocacy Clinic, Child Advocacy Clinic, three clinics within the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program, and clinics in Immigration and the around the Justice Project. We also have major clinical partnerships with the Attorney General's Office and Southern Arizona Legal Aid, and students working in those settings could also study, meet, research and write in the new space.

The offices and courtrooms would also provide a space for faculty and senior staff to meet with students and lawyers, provide a space for regular engagement with smaller groups of citizens by faculty and graduate law students—especially if there is building access to the courtrooms and offices after typical workday hours—and provide a mini-library, research and writing space for students working downtown, or who would enjoy a setting that is both part of the law school, but away from campus. We would of course make those resources available to judges and their staff, consistent with our contracts with on-line information providers.

Your offer—and a way to make use of this space in ways perfectly consonant with its public nature and the needs of the county and the community—comes at an ideal time for us. Legal education is currently undergoing profound changes, many of which are pushing us in the



direction of offering our students greater opportunities to engage with judges and the practicing bar during law school, and increasingly as the students move through their time at the College of Law. As a result, we are greatly expanding our menu of experiential learning offerings, from more traditional clinical and clerkship opportunities to new types of externships.

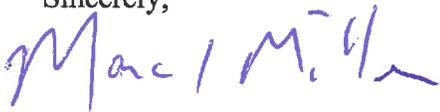
We are also expanding the types of programs we are offering beyond the traditional three-year JD degree to reach professionals, judges and others who have specialized legal education needs. As of this summer, we offer a Masters of Legal Studies (MLS) for non-lawyers, and we see many ways in which the courthouse space—given its location in downtown Tucson—might be critical to these new initiatives.

Beyond degree programs, we often get requests to lead discussions about law and policy both with our alumni and other lawyers, and with non-lawyers. The space could be used for mini-courses, lunch-time roundtable programs, and generally a meeting and seminar space for law school programs for which the location would be convenient for judges, professionals and students enrolled in the growing number of university programs located downtown. We have a number of graduate law students in our LLM and SJD programs, and visiting scholars, who are interested in sharing their knowledge and experience with lawyers and the public, and space in the new Justice Court building would enable us to do far more of that kind of public and professional engagement than we do now.

We are ready to move on all of these initiatives when the building opens in 2015. There will inevitably be issues to work out in the next fifteen months. I have asked Mike Chiorazzi, Associate Dean for Information Services at the College, and also our facility supervisor, to coordinate with Reid Spaulding, or whomever else you deem appropriate to attend to the details. Mike and I have already discussed some of the basic questions we will need to resolve in order to move over, such as the timeframe over which we could rely on the use of the space and issues of after-hours access and security. I will ask Mike to follow up with Reid at Reid's earliest convenience.

We appreciate your reaching out to us and are extremely excited about this collaboration. Let's stay in close touch as we work out the parameters of this space-sharing opportunity. We look forward to hearing more about your vision for the building and how the College of Law can best fit within that vision.

Sincerely,



Marc L. Miller
Dean and Ralph W. Bilby Professor of Law

MLM/mws

cc: Michael Chiorazzi