In June, the School of Law's new building will be one year away from completion.

Despite the rain and snow of winter, construction on the new law school building is running two weeks ahead of schedule, according to Kate McManus, the School's construction and facilities manager. The building's superstructure is complete and the mechanical trades are installing ductwork and HVAC systems.

Over the next few months, masons will be laying brick and the electricians will begin running conduit. The drywall contractor will follow with the framing of the building's interior walls. Soon, the roof will be completed and the major mechanical equipment will be installed.

The interior designers, The Smith Group, have completed the library furniture layout and some finishes have been proposed for the interior spaces. They continue to work with the School on the furniture layout for the rest of the building.

At press time, the subcontractor for the precast placement and installation has been on site for a month, placing the panels beginning with the courtyard elevation and proceeding around the building.

As construction on the new building continues to pick up speed, many members of the law school community have come forward to support the Building Campaign for a wide variety of personal and professional reasons.
Profiles in Giving

The University of Maryland School of Law will have a new home in summer 2002. The following profiles highlight some of the generous donors who made the new building possible. A list of donors to the Building Campaign can be found on pages 54 to 56.

Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe, LLP

Just as important as the interior spaces of the new law school building, the grounds will complement the building’s architecture and will ease the transition from a busy urban setting to the calm of academic pursuit. Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe, a national law firm with offices in nine U.S. cities, donated $600,000 for the new building’s interior courtyard, which will be named to recognize this leadership gift.

Co-chairman Frank Burch ’74 orchestrated the gift, noting that “The School of Law is an important source of talent for the firm. Because of the law school’s success, we have high-caliber Maryland graduates in the firm’s Baltimore and Washington, D.C. offices.”

Burch, who currently chairs the School’s Building Campaign and who previously chaired its Board of Visitors, believes that it is important for Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe to be involved in the School’s new building because “one success begets another. The School is doing a terrific job educating students who develop into terrific young lawyers,” he notes, “but its former facility was its Achilles heel.” The new building will enable the law school to continue to recruit top-notch students and to retain the best faculty and administrators, Burch explains. On a personal level, Burch acknowledges that he received an enormous benefit from attending the School of Law.

As vice chairman of the Greater Baltimore Committee, Burch thinks that the School of Law’s new building will create more confidence in the city’s westside development project. “The state’s and the School’s support of the new building project, as well as the support from individual members of the law school community, will help nurture and realize the ambition of the development of Baltimore’s west side,” predicts Burch.

(Above) The Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe Courtyard will feature a waterfall fountain dedicated to late Professors Everett Goldberg and Marc Feldman. (See related story on page 34.)

(At left) The Ceremonial Courtroom, paneled in cherry, will have state-of-the-art computer and audiovisual capabilities. From time to time, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and other courts will convene in this "courtroom of the future."
Profiles in Giving

Rhona Ginsberg

Rhona Ginsberg, a devoted daughter who served as her father's paralegal, saw the Building Campaign as an opportunity to honor the life's work of her father Hyman '27 and his brother Isidore '29.

The two brothers, who worked together in the full-time law practice of Ginsberg & Ginsberg, were responsible for teaching Maryland's first bar review course, which began in 1929. For more than three decades, they prepared law graduates from Baltimore-area law schools as well as Ivy League schools. They coached more than 90 percent of the men and women who had passed the state bar over a 30-year period.

"My father was one of eight children of a poor East Baltimore family," describes Ginsberg. But their neighbors, recognizing the brothers' potentials, let them study in their homes, fed them and taught them how to read.

A professor at the University for Baltimore for 50 years, Hyman was the author of 19 law books, completing his first before he graduated from law school.

According to his daughter, Hyman believed that it was not enough to practice the law, "you have to live it because the law is always changing and it is a living thing," Ginsberg sums up her father's thoughts. "He helped a lot of people realize their dreams," Ginsberg affirms, "And he left a lot of his dreams unfulfilled when he passed away in 1983. This contribution is my way of ensuring that my father's and uncle's legacies continue."

"Everything sort of came together [at Maryland]—academically, professionally and personally. It set the stage for a good legal career."
— Stuart Salsbury

Stuart ('71) and Suzanne Salsbury '73

The School of Law will always hold a special place in the hearts of Stuart and Suzanne Salsbury since, in addition to their professional lives, their life together began there.

"It was one of the best times in my life," exclaims Stuart, who is a partner at Israelson, Salsbury, Clements & Bekman.

"Everything sort of came together there—academically, professionally and personally. It set the stage for a good legal career," continues Stuart.

"We had an exceptional class," attests Stuart. "Everyone knew each other fairly well since there were only 114 students in the class. We had wonderful classmates and professors who made attending law school fun."

"I met a lot of lifelong friends there," agrees Suzanne, "and my professional career began while I was still a student," she explains. She worked as an intern in the state's attorney's office and after graduating was offered a job she works there to this day.

"We were both excited that the School is at the forefront of law schools nationwide and we knew that the new building would be a great asset," Stuart confirms when asked about their contribution to the Building Campaign. "The School wasn't rated as highly as it should have been because of its physical plant," Suzanne explains. "There was never any question that we were going to contribute to the new building," Suzanne continues, "we just had to discuss how and how much. We were honored to do it and we view it as some token of our appreciation."
"This contribution is my way of ensuring that my father's and uncle's legacies continue."
— Rhona Ginsberg

Craig Thompson '95

For Craig Thompson, the memories of law school are still fresh. And so is the debt he incurred from attending law school. Thompson represents a number of young alumni, who have made a point to support the School of Law's Building Campaign, despite paying off their educational loans and while they haven't yet reached their full earning potential.

For Thompson, "It was a matter of looking at my budget and balancing that with the importance the law school has played in my professional career. I looked at my contribution as an investment in the School and a way of saying 'thank you.'"

Thompson, who has also been involved in the School's annual fund, explains that his gift is a reflection of his involvement in the School. Thompson has served as a member of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and the School Admissions and Recruitment Task Force.

An associate in the Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos, Thompson earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland College Park. In April, he received the 2001 Young Alumnus of the Year Award, presented by the University System of Maryland.

Thompson hopes his contribution to the School's new building will serve as an example to other alumni of his generation. "Look at where you are and analyze the extent to which the law school has played a part in it," he urges. "Your contribution doesn't have to be great, nor does it necessarily have to be only money."