

# Chicago Daily Law Bulletin

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## John Marshall offers new look

### South Loop law school unveils State Street frontage and 'fish bowl' lounge

BY JERRY CRIMMINS  
Law Bulletin staff writer

The South Loop at State Street and Jackson Boulevard displays a beauty makeover this spring with the opening of The John Marshall Law School's new frontage.

Fifteen large glass windows, as tall as department store windows, wrap around the new State Street front of the school from Pritzker Park at the south end of the law school to Jackson Boulevard at the north end. The windows continue west around the corner for yards.

They enclose John Marshall's new and so far unmarked entrance and lobby, at 304 S. State St., and the new student lounge.

The students positively describe the new lounge as "a fish bowl." They watch pedestrians who go by and pedestrians can gaze in at the students.

It's a far cry from the former Walgreens that filled that southwest corner of State and Jackson. The Walgreens' windows showed an unchanging display of historic Walgreens' photos.

The entrance to the new John Marshall front on State has a frosted glass canopy, like a modern hotel. The gleaming lobby has four, electronic, glass gates to the interior that can be opened by student and faculty badges, called "proximity cards."

Where large artwork might be on the lobby wall is a digital sign — a 4-foot by 6-foot digital photo frame that shows a changing display of John Marshall photos.

Also on the first floor is the new bookstore that manager Kyle Gurlley said was twice as big as the former one.

"I think it is fabulous, beyond belief," said Professor Ann M.

Lousin, in the lounge. "I love the wood. The wood is unbelievable."

Very light-colored wood panels or panels meant to look like wood line the walls of the new space.

"I like the ability to people watch. It feels like we're in a fish bowl," said Daniel Kessler, a second-year student from Chicago.

Sitting on State Street "is a little weird," said Amy Harriman, a first-year student from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. "Some guy had his camera pressed against the window."

But she said, "I like the new space."

"I like the light," said Victoria Langley, a 2L from Rockford.

"I think it's a very, very open, real adaptable space," said Kate Stacey, a 2L from Toledo, Ohio. "You can move chairs together for a bigger group."

"I love the couches. You can lie down, take a break," said Matt Senko, 2L, from Moline, Ill.

The lounge displays three, extra large TV screens for news or sports, said Ralph Ruebner, associate dean and a member of the team that oversaw the project. Jim Velco, chief technology officer, remotely controls the TV content in the new lounge. The new lounge also has a new cafeteria, named in a student contest as The Boiler Plate.

All this is just part of John Marshall's new first floor.

John Marshall recently took over the old Dollar Daze store building, at 19 W. Jackson Blvd. This lies just to the west of and contiguous to the new frontage building, at 304 S. State St.

The tall structure, at 19 W. Jackson Blvd., includes an exterior of white, terra cotta panels that have been repaired and cleaned so that they look almost new, or like an



(From left to right) Dan May, a John Marshall Law School adjunct professor, and 3L student Tarek Khalil conferred on a paper in the school's new lounge, at 304 S. State St. The lobby overlooks the intersection of State Street and Jackson Boulevard. *Paul McGrath*

antique that has been refinished to shine.

The ground floor, at 19 W. Jackson Blvd., will soon hold John Marshall's Legal Support Center for military veterans.

The result of all this is that John Marshall, with 1,600 students, now occupies all or parts of four buildings.

The former main entrance stands, at 315 S. Plymouth Court, a half block west of State Street and just south of the building at 19 W. Jackson Blvd. The school also occupies the upper half of The Chicago Bar Association building, at 321 S. Plymouth Court. And it has its new frontage, from 300 to 308 S. State St., with the address at 304.

All these buildings now connect, Ruebner said.

"We still have the second floor to finish," said Dean John E. Corkery. The new second floor will have another student lounge, the old one, plus new offices for student groups, almost all of which had no offices before.

The "judges hall of fame" will

also be moved to the second floor. This extensive photo display of John Marshall alumni who became judges used to occupy a long corridor on the first floor.

New space in the basement will become classrooms and student lockers, Corkery said.

"The vision for this came from Leonard Amari and Jordan Peters," Corkery said.

Leonard F. Amari, a partner at Amari & Locallo, is president of the school's board of trustees. Jordan H. Peters, a partner at Freeborn & Peters LLP, is chairman of the building committee.

The project "reflects the confidence of the board to make this kind of investment in our students and our school," Corkery said.

Corkery praised the architect, Chad Harrell, president of Griskelis Young Harrell Architects, and Tom Samuels, the expansion project manager.

Corkery said the project is so far under its \$7 million to \$8 million budget.

*jcrimmins@lbpc.com*