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## Introduction to Dedicatory Address

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## Introduction to Dedicatory Address

On Saturday, November 17, 1979, Pepperdine University officially dedicated the Odell McConnell Law Center, the new home of the Pepperdine University School of Law. The featured address at the dedication ceremonies was delivered by Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist of the United States Supreme Court.

This special event marked the beginning of a new era in the development of the School of Law symbolized by its magnificent new facility on the University's Malibu campus. Nestled on a promontory seven hundred feet above sea-level, the new Law School building commands a sweeping panorama of the University's Seaver College and the Pacific Ocean from its exclusive thirty three acre site.

The new facility is a three story, Spanish-Mediterranean structure created by the architectural firm of Neptune and Thomas, following the motif of Seaver College as designed by William Pereira. With over 77,000 square feet, it is a self-contained academic complex including administrative offices, classrooms, faculty offices, courtroom, student offices and cafeteria. More than one third of the building's square footage is devoted to the centrally positioned Jerene Appleby Harnish Law Library. In keeping with the University's master plan, the building features an exterior and interior designed to reflect a dignified, functional setting befitting a leading professional school.

While the Odell McConnell Law Center symbolizes the stature and strength which the School of Law has gained in its brief history, the substance of the Law School and the element which will dictate its future is the people who make up this educational enterprise.

In 1969, the Orange University College of Law, a privately operated school founded in 1964 became a part of what was then Pepperdine College. The school remained in Orange County through the Summer of 1978 when it began occupation of its permanent home on the University's 623 acre Malibu campus. With a present enrollment of approximately 550 full-time students, the student

body represents graduates from approximately 250 colleges and universities and thirty seven states.

Since Pepperdine University acquired the Law School in 1969, twenty-seven full-time faculty members have been added to the staff. It is a faculty characterized by men and women who have distinguished themselves with a high level of competence in their specialties, who possess scholarly aptitudes and abilities, and who are able to communicate effectively in the classroom. Additionally, it is a faculty made up of men and women committed to imbuing students with the highest principles of professional and ethical responsibility.

The relatively short history of Pepperdine University School of Law has been one of significant growth and success. Steady progress has been made in the development of a faculty and student body committed to achieving professional distinction in the legal community. With a new campus rising above the Pacific, the stage is set for a period of rapid advancement in the school's recognized stature among the nation's legal education institutions.

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