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## **Charlotte's First Law School Announces Opening Location**

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**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** -- The Charlotte School of Law (CharlotteLaw) has chosen a building rich with legal history for its first location - a Georgian style building at 1211 E. Morehead Street in Midtown Charlotte. School officials said the building is the perfect location for CharlotteLaw in its first two years, while a permanent facility is designed and constructed for anticipated future growth.

"The Morehead building is the ideal facility for CharlotteLaw to provide students with a comfortable learning environment and foster student-faculty mentoring in the school's early stage," said Judge Shirley Fulton, chair of Charlotte School of Law's Board of Trustees. "Law school is a rigorous endeavor, and we want our students to benefit from a supportive atmosphere that provides every opportunity for success."

The three-story brick building near the intersection of Kenilworth and Morehead was most recently home to law firm Alston & Bird. Purchased in 2002 by Charlotte attorney Michael DeMayo, the building has been vacant since Alston & Bird's move to Uptown Charlotte in 2001. CharlotteLaw will occupy the original structure built in 1965 and the 16,000-square-foot skylit atrium added in 1985.

"With its grand columns, stately architecture and rich legal history, we could not have picked a better building for the school," said E. Eugene Clark, Dean of Charlotte School of Law. "The Midtown location offers our students so many conveniences: it's minutes away from Center City, it provides easy access to courts, law firms, government departments, and - importantly - there is free and ample parking."

Associate Dean of Academics, Renee Hill, has been closely involved in the search for the school's location. While the East Morehead Street building has been vacant for a number of years, she said very little work is needed to have the facility ready for students at the end of August.

"We'll immediately begin to paint, re-carpet and make a few minor renovations," said Dean Hill. "But overall, the space is ready to accommodate faculty and staff offices, law library, seminar rooms, student areas and teaching space."

Plans for Constructing Long-term Facility Already Underway; Morehead Building will Serve as Prototype for "Student-Centered Law School"

Judge Fulton and Dean Clark are establishing a committee to lead the search for a permanent site. They said it's not too early to start planning for future growth, which is anticipated due to the continued growth of the city and interest in CharlotteLaw.

"We plan to build a facility that will incorporate innovative educational technology and design features that promote collaboration among students and faculty as well as state-of-the-art mock courtrooms that will support the school's practice-ready curriculum," Judge Fulton said.

Dean Clark said the Morehead building will provide a first-rate learning environment that supports the school's mission while plans for the long-term site move forward.

"Our current building will include some of the specialized design and technology planned for the permanent location." Dean Clark said. "We want to create space that encourages creativity and teamwork, focuses on the student experience and our mission to educate graduates who are immediately ready to practice law."

#### Faculty, Curriculum, and Schedule Set for August Opening

In addition to preparing the building for the inaugural class, CharlotteLaw has all of the key initiatives and people in place for its August opening. The school recently announced eight full-time faculty members, including the dean of academics and dean of library and information services.

The curriculum and class schedule are in place and have been distributed to incoming students, along with a reading list to help them prepare for the rigors of law school. CharlotteLaw also has announced partnerships with Sallie Mae and NelNet to offer student loan programs. The school is still accepting applications for the fall.

#### About Charlotte School of Law

Charlotte School of Law (CharlotteLaw) has a student-centered orientation designed to advance student success in law school, on the bar exam and in their career. The school aims to establish itself as a regional center of excellence with a rigorous, practice-readying curriculum. CharlotteLaw is based upon the same educational model and mission as the other schools within the InfiLaw System. Florida Coastal School of Law (FCSL) in Jacksonville is the flagship school. FCSL is fully accredited by the ABA and has achieved the number one ranking in both bar passage among first time test takers (June 2005) and career placement of all of Florida's 10 law schools. In addition to FCSL, The InfiLaw System also includes Phoenix International School of Law in Scottsdale, Ariz.

#### About InfiLaw

The InfiLaw System is a consortium of independent, community-based law schools that is establishing itself as a leader in making legal education more responsive to a changing legal profession. Its mission is to establish student-centered, ABA accredited law schools in underserved markets that graduate students with the skills of a second-year law

professional and achieve true diversity programs aimed at student academic and career success. For more information, visit [www.infilaw.com](http://www.infilaw.com) or call 239-659-5288.

#### History of 1211 East Morehead Street

The new home of Charlotte School of Law has a rich history in the Charlotte legal community. It's fitting that this grand Georgian-style building on the edge of the Dilworth will now house Charlotte's first law school.

In 1965 it was built by financier Armand Swisher and designed by Thomas Rickenbacker. The building served as headquarters for Consolidated Credit Corp., which merged into Liberty Loan Corp. in 1967.

The building was acquired by an investment company made up of several partners in 1971 and Bell, Seltzer, Park & Gibson law firm begins to occupy the building.

In 1985 the adjacent lot was acquired in order to elongate existing building. Clark, Tribble, Harris & Li architects designed a 16,000 sq. ft. addition and a three-story skylit atrium entranceway. Work was completed summer of 1987.

Bell, Seltzer, Park & Gibson purchased a neighboring building at 1221 E. Morehead, an 11,000-square-foot, two-story space in 1992. Architect Graham Adams designed plans to connect buildings together and give the newer building a facelift to reflect Georgian style. Work was completed in 1994.

Bell, Seltzer, Park & Gibson merged with Atlanta law firm Alston & Bird in 1997, creating a 385-lawyer group. The merged firm takes the Alston & Bird name.

In 2000 Alston & Bird moved from 1211 E. Morehead to the top four floors of the Bank of America Plaza in Uptown Charlotte. The building is now vacant.

Charlotte attorney Michael DeMayo purchased the building in 2002.

DeMayo leased 1211 E. Morehead to the Charlotte School of Law in 2006. The Law school will open to its inaugural class on August 28.

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