John Reed born
Reed appointed judge
Judge Reed opens law school
Judge Reed dies
Articles of Incorporation issued for Law School
William Trickett becomes first dean
The Forum is published (now Penn State Law Review)

Celebrating 175 years
Judge John Reed

John Reed, founder of what is now the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University, was born in Marsh Creek, York (now Adams) County, Pennsylvania, in 1786, the son of General William Reed. He began his studies in Gettysburg under the tutelage of Rev. James Dobbins. Reed then attended Dickinson College, but left in 1806 without graduating. He studied law under attorney William Maxwell and was admitted to the bar in 1809.
In 1820, Reed was appointed judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Carlisle. The courthouse, which was destroyed by arson in 1845, stood on the square facing High Street. The tracks of the Cumberland Valley Railroad were laid through the center of town in 1837; they remained there until removed in 1936.
In 1831, Judge Reed published his three-volume work, *Pennsylvania Blackstone*. At that time he already might have had the idea of starting a law school.
In 1833, Judge Reed constructed a one-story house along High Street. Since 1890 the Reed House has served as the home of the President of Dickinson College. A second floor was added to the structure in the 1890s.
Judge Reed proposes law school

On June 8, 1833, Judge Reed sent this letter to the trustees of Dickinson College.

“I have contemplated for some time past the opening of a law school in Carlisle: there is nothing of the kind, I believe in Pennsylvania.”

Reed proposed that the law school have “some nominal connection with the College.” His proposal was accepted and he was appointed professor of law at Dickinson College. The appointment specified that he was not to be considered a member of the college faculty.
Judge Reed’s Law School opened on April 1, 1834. The first student to register was Alfred Nevin. After graduating, Nevin attended the Western Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. He never practiced law, but he authored numerous books on religion and theology and served as editor of the Encyclopedia of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.
Andrew Curtin was the Civil War governor of Pennsylvania, serving from 1860 to 1867. He was called “the Soldier’s Friend” for his efforts to aid wounded troops and the orphans of those killed in action. During the Grant administration, he served as United States Ambassador to Russia. He later served three consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.
In 1849, Alexander Ramsey was appointed governor of the Territory of Minnesota. He was elected state governor in 1860, serving through the first half of the Civil War as the state's second elected governor. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1863 where he served until 1875. Four years later Rutherford Hayes made Ramsey his Secretary of War, in which capacity he served until 1881.
James Kerr Kelly

Kelly went West during the 1849 California Gold Rush. He moved to Oregon and became one of three commissioners who codified the Oregon Territorial laws in 1852. From 1872 to 1877, Kelly served as one of Oregon’s U.S. senators, and from 1878 until 1882, he served as Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court.
Judge Reed dies

Judge Reed died in January 1850. He is buried in Carlisle’s Old Graveyard. During its sixteen years of operation, 117 students were registered at his law school, although it appears that some students might have attended without registering.

After a 12-year gap, Judge James Hutchison Graham was appointed a professor of law in 1862, a post he held until his death in 1882. However, Judge Graham appears to have regarded the title as being honorary; the records do not list any law graduates from Dickinson College during that period.
The Rev. Dr. George Reed became president of Dickinson College in 1889, and in 1890 he proposed that the Law School be reestablished “in conjunction with the College if it can be done without expense to the institution.”

Reed later said that he dreamed of establishing Dickinson University, which would have included the college and law school, along with a graduate school, seminary and medical school.
A board of incorporators was appointed by the college, and on February 18, 1890, the Cumberland County Court of Common Pleas issued Articles of Incorporation for the Dickinson School of Law. Dr. George Reed served as president of both Dickinson College and the Dickinson School of Law until his retirement in 1911.
In 1840, William Trickett was born in England and came to the United States as a young boy. Originally pursuing a career in the ministry, he was licensed as an Exhorter in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1858. From 1865 to 1868, he attended Dickinson College and served on the college faculty until 1874. At the suggestion of his friend Wilber Sadler, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1875. Trickett practiced law in Carlisle and authored several books on Pennsylvania law before being asked to assume the deanship of the Law School.
Emory Hall
1890-1918

Reed gave the Law School the use of Emory Hall, an old church building that the college had acquired. It served as the Law School’s home from 1890 until 1918.

A classroom in Emory Hall
Issa Tanimura
Class of 1892

While a student, Issa Tanimura of Tokyo, Japan conceived the idea of holding a Japanese fair with the proceeds going to fund the Law School’s library.

Tanimura served as Japan’s agricultural ambassador to the world and introduced sheep farming to the country.
What is now the Penn State Law Review was published as *The Forum* from 1897 until 1908 at which time the name was changed to the *Dickinson Law Review* and remained as such until 2003.

*The Forum* originally published school and alumni news and moot court reports; the first article was not published until 1904.

In addition to the *Penn State Law Review*, Penn State Law students publish the *Penn State International Law Review*, *the Penn State Environmental Law Review*, and the *Yearbook on Arbitration and Mediation*. 

1899: First woman law student graduates
1903: First African-American law student graduates
1918: Trickett Hall is dedicated
1928: General Alumni Association is founded
1930: Trickett dies
1937: Walter Harrison Hitchler becomes dean

Celebrating 175 years
The Class of 1899 included the first female student, Julia Radle.
Julia Radle
Class of 1899

Julia Radle served as an editor of *The Forum*—probably making her the first female law review editor in the nation. Additionally, she was secretary of her class and vice president of the Dickinson Law Society. Following her admission to the Bar, Radle practiced law with her brother until his death in 1904. She then returned to teaching. Radle died in 1970 at the age of 94.
Arthur James
Class of 1904

A 1904 graduate of the Law School, Arthur James served as governor of Pennsylvania from 1939 to 1943. A breaker boy in his youth, James was several years younger than most of his classmates. His yearbook entry lists him as “the Peck’s Bad Boy of his class.” He was admitted to the Luzerne County Bar before his 21st birthday.
The Class of 1899 included Clarence Muse. For many years, it was assumed that Muse was the first African-America student. However, more recent evidence indicates that the Law School’s first African-American student might have actually been James Phillips, Class of 1903. Phillips was of mixed Irish, African and Native-American heritage.
Muse, who left the Law School after one year, appeared in 220 motion pictures in an acting career that spanned more than sixty years. Among the movies in which he appeared was *Hearts in Dixie*, the second talking picture ever made. Muse was a founding and charter member of the Screen Actors Guild. He also co-authored Louis Armstrong’s theme song, “When It’s Sleepy Time Down South.” The Law School awarded Muse an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1978; he died the following year.
John Sydney Fine
Class of 1914

Known as “Dutch” to his classmates, Fine was elected governor of Pennsylvania in 1950 and served until 1955.
An early architect’s sketch of Trickett Hall

Designed by R.R. Markley of Harrisburg, the building plans called for a colonial-style building with a frontage of 132 feet and a depth of 62 feet.
The Dickinson Law School Players held the Dickinson Law Revue at the Carlisle Opera House in 1917 to help raise money for the construction of the new law building.
On October 24, 1916, a site at the corner of College and South Streets was purchased for the new law school building. Construction began shortly thereafter, however completion of the building was delayed because of wartime shortages.
Classes were first held in Trickett Hall in January 1918, although the building was not dedicated until August 16, 1918 at which time the General Alumni Association was founded. The building cost $57,026.88. All but $3,660 of this amount was provided for at the time the building was dedicated.
The balcony on the south end of Trickett Hall was removed when the stair towers were added in the 1950s.

The weathervane at the top of the 112 foot high tower on Trickett Hall.

The first floor of Trickett Hall at the time of the 1918 dedication.
The Law Library on the second floor of Trickett Hall.

The Assembly Room on the second floor of Trickett Hall which could seat up to 450 people.
1943
School adopts an accelerated law program

1951
Ground broken for law school dormitory

1956
Morris Shafer becomes dean

1962
Dale Shughart becomes President

1966
Burton Laub becomes dean

1969
Program for foreign lawyers begins

Celebrating 175 years
Pat Mundy, Class of 1925, disguised himself as Italian Ambassador Prince Don Gelsio Caetani and paid a well-publicized visit to Carlisle. According to newspaper accounts “all of Carlisle turned out to welcome him” when he arrived in town by train. Local citizens were less than happy when they discovered the truth.
Robert Woodside was a member of Trickett’s last graduating class in 1928. He later served in all three branches of state government, first as a state representative, then as attorney general and finally as a judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court.
Dean Trickett died on August 1, 1928. He was succeeded as dean by Walter Harrison Hitchler. Hitchler had joined the faculty as professor of criminal law in 1906. He served as dean until his retirement in 1954 and lead the law school through its most difficult time—the Great Depression and the Second World War.
Coach Hitchler

Dean Hitchler coached the Dickinson College tennis team from 1911 to 1928 and served as chairman of the college board of athletic control for many years. In 1985 he was posthumously inducted into the Dickinson College Sports Hall of Fame.
In 1937 the Law School joined with the Cumberland County Bar Association to offer a free legal clinic for the general public. The program did not last long, but it did establish a precedent for the Law School’s clinic programs that would later follow. Among the Carlisle attorneys who participated in the program was Merrill Hummel, Class of 1908, for whom Hummel House is named.
1938 Classmates

William Dodd (left) and Dale F. Shughart (right), were both members of the Class of 1938. Professor Dodd served on the faculty from 1939 until 1984. Judge Shughart was president of the Law School from 1962 until 1993.
Law School announces two-year accelerated program

World War II put a great strain on the Law School as enrollment slipped well below fifty students. In 1943, the School adopted an accelerated program that allowed students to complete their degree in two years.
Following World War II Law School enrollment soared. The possibility of building a dormitory had been discussed for many years; a post-war housing shortage made the dormitory a necessity. Ground was broken for the dormitory in February 1951 and it was dedicated in June 1952.
The Law School dormitory, originally named the Sadler Curtilage was made up of five interconnected buildings: Hutton Hall, McKeehan Hall, Reese Hall, Althouse Hall and Hitchler Hall. In 1988, the structure was renamed the Levinson Curtilage.
Morris Shafer became dean of the law school in 1956. It was during his tenure that a new library was constructed. He remained as dean until 1965.
The Honorable Dale Shughart, Class of 1938, became president of the Law school in 1962. He led the school for thirty-one years.
The Honorable Sylvia Rambo was the only female graduate in the Class of 1962. In August 1979, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. From September 1992 until September 1999, she served as chief judge, the first woman to ever hold that position in the Middle District.
By the time Dean Shafer took office, the law library had outgrown its quarters on the second floor of Trickett Hall. Ground was broken for a new facility in 1962, and the Sheely-Lee Law Library was dedicated on May 2, 1964. It was named for the Honorable W. Clarence Sheely, who served as Law School president from 1940 to 1959, and Harry Lee, the president from 1959 to 1962.
1974
- Edgar King becomes dean

1977
- William Wilks becomes dean

1984
- Law School celebrates 150th Anniversary

1987
- Michael Navin becomes dean

1989
- John Maher becomes dean

1990
- Public Interest Law Fund established

Celebrating 175 years
The Honorable Burton R. Laub became dean of the Dickinson School of Law in 1966, a post that he held until 1974. He was a former Court of Common Pleas judge in Erie County. The Law School experienced significant growth during his tenure as dean, with the student body increasing from 269 to 425.
In 1966, the Law School faculty approved a Legal Aid Program for Middler and Senior law students. From this has emerged numerous in-house clinical programs offered by the School today.
Introduction of the Master of Comparative Law Degree

The Law School began a program for foreign lawyers in 1969. The first two students were Prabodhchandra Joshi from India and Timotheus Pohl from Germany. Graduates originally received a Master of Comparative Law (MCL) degree. The degree was later changed to a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree.

First LLM students with Professor Del Duca
Edgar I. King

Edgar I. King served as the Law School’s dean from 1974 to 1977. Beloved by the students, his deanship was cut short by a sudden heart attack.
William L. Wilks succeeded Dean King and served from 1977 to 1987. The Law School undertook two major building programs during his administration – the Library-Advocacy Center and the Center for Advanced Legal Education.
The Library-Advocacy Center, seen here under construction in 1977, was built to supply increased classroom and library space. The original Hummel House—later razed to make room for the Center for Advanced Legal Education—can be seen to the left in this photograph.
The Law School celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1984. Among the festivities marking the occasion were a student/faculty production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Trial by Jury* and a Sesquicentennial Ball.
Michael J. Navin

Michael Navin served as dean of the law school from 1987 to 1989.
1993
Peter Glenn becomes dean

2000
Law School merges with Penn State

2002
Philip McConnaughay becomes dean

2006
First class of law students admitted at University Park

2008
Lewis Katz Building opens in University Park

2010
Lewis Katz Hall opens in Carlisle

Celebrating 175 years
John A. Maher

Dickinson’s Public Interest Law Fund (PILF) was established in 1990. The organization’s purpose is to increase student interest and participation in public interest law. Each year PILF sponsors an auction that raises money to underwrite the Cherie M. Millage Summer Fellowship Program. Awards from the program support students who take unpaid or low-paid summer public interest positions.
National Jurist recognizes Law School

In 1992, the Law School was recognized by National Jurist magazine for having a majority of its student organizations headed by women. The institution had come a long way since its first female student, Julia Radle, entered the school in 1897.
In 1993, Peter Glenn became dean of the Law School, serving until 2002.
Dale F. Shughart Community Law Center

Dedicated on September 25, 1992, the Dale F. Shughart Community Law Center became the home for three of the Law School’s Clinics—the Family, Disability and Mediation Clinics. The Shughart Center now houses the Family, Disability, Children’s Advocacy, and Elder Law Clinics.

Built in 1886, the building was originally Carlisle’s Lincoln School where “colored” children were educated and served as a school until 1927. It later served as the home of Carlisle’s Order of Knights of Pythias, and then was used as a Masonic Lodge before being purchased by the Law School.
In 1997, a merger of the Dickinson School of Law and the Pennsylvania State University was announced. The occasion was marked with an exchange of school jerseys. Left to Right: Penn State President Graham Spanier, Dean Peter Glenn and alumnus H. Jesse Arnelle ‘62, then chairman of the Penn State Board of Trustees. The merger became effective in 2000.
In 2002, Philip J. McConnaughay succeeded Dean Glenn and became the tenth dean of the Law School.
ABA approves Law School as nation’s only unified two-location law school

Our new classrooms are specially designed and equipped to permit advanced high-definition audiovisual transmission between our locations. We are the only law school in the United States to enjoy a variance from ABA rules that otherwise severely restrict the earning of credits in this fashion. In December 2008, the ABA granted the Law School immediate full approval as the nation’s only unified two-location law school.
The $130 million investment in two new signature Law School buildings were made possible through the generosity of many alumni, in particular H. Laddie Montague Jr. ’63 and Lewis Katz ’66, and support from Governor Edward G. Rendell and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
The new Lewis Katz Building located on the Penn State’s main campus in University Park campus opened its door in December 2008. The building was dedicated on April 24, 2009.
The new Lewis Katz Hall located in Carlisle, PA opened its doors on January 11, 2010. The building was dedicated on April 16, 2010.
Special thanks to Law School Archivist Mark Podvia ’86 for providing this detailed accounting of how The Dickinson School of Law has helped shape our region, our country, and our world – beginning with its start 175 years ago to the dedication of our new $130 million facilities at University Park and Carlisle.