

The Omaha Bar Association Public Service Committee is proud to select the Creighton Law Library as the 2018 Public Service Award recipient. The Award, given each year, is in recognition for significant acts of public service done by non-attorneys to educate the local public about the law. The OBA considers the law library extremely qualified to receive this honor. Presentation of the Award will take place on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, at the Law Day Lunch.

Creighton Law Library, whose official name is the Klutznick Law Library / McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Legal Research Center, has also been home to the Omaha Lawyer Referral Service and the Omaha Bar Association for well over 30 years. We are grateful to the hospitality they've shown us for so long!

In 1904, Creighton established a law school, housed in the medical school on 14th and Davenport. From 1905-1920, the law school, along with dental school, were located at 210 18th Street, across from the Douglas County Courthouse. During those early years, from 1905 until 1911, Creighton law operated a shared library arrangement with the Omaha Bar Association and Douglas County Law Library, the latter of which continues to operate inside the courthouse. From 1911 on, Creighton Law had its own dedicated library, although it was not staffed by a full time and professionally trained law librarian until 1974. The library boasted 10,000 volumes in 1916, and had a budget of \$5,000/year in 1919.

In 1917, Creighton Law hired Professor Hugh Gillespie as director of the law library, a position he would hold for many decades. In 1921, a new law school/dental school building was built at 28th and California streets, boasting a two story reading room and library collection to match almost any law school in the nation. The early years of the library relied heavily on donation of law books from active and retiring attorneys to build the collection.

In 1973, Creighton Law hired Robert Kelly as library director, the first professional law librarian for the library. Kelly's wife Elizabeth, also a professionally trained law library, served as associate director for the law library also. The hiring of both lead to a long, professional stewardship of the law library. Dean Shkolnick, at Kelly's retirement is quoted as saying, "The library has always been somewhat of a mystery to deans, as ours was to me when I became Dean...Bob performed admirably with what was available."

In 1975, with the law school/dental school in need of separate, defined spaces, the current law school building at 21st and Cass streets was built. Included in the \$4,700,000 funds for the build was \$250,000 from 1929 Creighton Law graduate Philip Klutznick, good friend of longtime Dean Louis J. TePoel, founder of the Omaha Housing Authority, and successful developer in Chicago. Klutznick is probably best known for building the 76-story Water Tower on the Magnificent Mile of Michigan Avenue in Chicago. The Law Library in the new building became the Klutznick Law Library.

In 1981, the first commercially available IBM desktop computer was produced, and Dean Shkolnick predicted that within a few years 90% of all legal research material would be retrievable by computer through the law library computers. Dean Lawrence Raful (1988-1999) lead the effort to bringing the law school into the "information age" through new technology. In 1990, Dean Raful hired Kay Andrus to the Law Library. At that time the library contained 127,000 volumes and 29,000 microfilm volume equivalents, with an annual budget of \$284,000 per year. That budget swelled to \$1,200,000 for the law library in 1995.

A 1991 report by Andrus on the state of the law library lead to an expansion of the law library in 1997-98, at a cost of \$3,500,000, nearly doubling the space of the library. 3 lead donations assisted in the

large overhaul, coming from McGrath North Mullin & Kratz, Robert Ahmanson, and Dan Monen. The library was renamed the Klutznick Law Library / McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Legal Research Center. In 2017, Kay Andrus retired from his directorship of the library, and Troy Johnson was named interim director.

Over its many years of operation, Creighton's law library has performed the task of educating law students, practicing lawyers, the judiciary, academics, as well as the public. Reference librarians direct people where to find the resources they are searching for, and the library has a space set aside for members of the public to seek out answers to their legal problems. The entrance area to the library contains a plethora of helpful information on where to find appropriate legal assistance, and the library staff are generous in their time to make sure those looking for resources find what they are looking for.

The OBA is proud to recognize Creighton Law Library for its significant public service it provides every day on educating on the law.

**The OBA would like to thank former OBA member Oliver Pollak for his book "To Educate and Serve: The Centennial History of Creighton University School of Law, 1904-2004", which was very helpful in the writing of this article.*