FRONT VIEW OF NEW JERSEY LAW SCHOOL.
The Story of New Jersey Law School

By Adrien B. Hommel, '27.

In Newark, New Jersey, now stands one of the country’s largest institutions of legal learning. Let us glance back hastily into the past history of this, our Alma Mater.

New Jersey Law School was organized through the untiring and persistent efforts of Richard D. Currier, President of the Law School, Percival G. Bernard and the late Charles M. Mason. These men saw the necessity for a law school in the northern part of New Jersey, where men who desire to enter the legal profession might study in a school which emphasized the state law.

The opening class of the school was held in 1908, in the school’s first home—the Prudential Building. One room was fitted out and into this filed thirty students, many of them leading members of the bar today. The school had no law library of its own, but the Prudential Insurance Company’s accumulation of over nine thousand volumes was placed at the disposal of the students. At this phase of the school’s life only two years were required to qualify for the L.L.B. degree.

Under the laws of 1909 the period of time was raised to three years, of which twenty-four months were allowed by the State Board of Bar Examiners towards the necessary three year clerkship.

In December, 1908, the opening year of the college, the Founders purchased an old homestead at 33 East Park Street, the present site of the school, and this purchase paved the way to a succession of new buildings and additions to meet the ever increasing demand for admission.

The first building purchased was built by Thomas Poddie, a former Mayor of the City of Newark, for residential purposes, when homes in that part of the city were in order. In 1921 this building was razed and in its place was erected a structure of Gothic architecture. Shortly thereafter another house adjoining the new building was purchased and torn down and upon this land was erected the School’s library which at the present time contains some 6,500 volumes.

New Jersey Law School men did their share in the World War. Five gold stars grace the school’s Service flag. Lieutenant John Mestith, Jr., of the Class of 1916, was the first American lawyer to die in defense of his country’s honor.

With the establishment of a Pre-law school in 1927, New Jersey Law School has again raised its standard. Time and space will not permit me to give the history of this new institution.

So our Alma Mater continues to grow and prosper; never sacrificing efficient instruction to a desire for mere size; never placing material considerations before the welfare of her students, who wish to assure the institution that they have always fully appreciated her attitude toward them, and shall ever entertain feelings of the warmest nature for New Jersey Law School.

FINIS.
The United States Supreme Court

The history of this court, which is recognized as the most august judicial tribunal in the world, is an interesting one. Its predecessor, before the United States Constitution was adopted, was peculiarly incompetent and unsatisfactory. Such court consisted of a general panel of jurists from which the litigants were authorized to select the particular judges who were to sit on the case. The court thus had no continuity of personnel; little continuity in the rules of law resulting from its judicial decisions, and accordingly, small prestige. It resembled to a great extent, the panel of jurists and the method of selection, now existent in the International Court of Arbitration, whose headquarters are at The Hague.

On the other hand, the United States Supreme Court is composed of nine judges, each of whom sits on every case which is heard. The Court itself by constitutional provision is kept free from either Presidential or Congressional control, and it is within its power, and becomes its duty, to declare void the acts of either the President or the Congress, when they transgress constitutional limits.

Perhaps more important than this is the fact that the Supreme Court is the first court in the world which exercised jurisdiction over sovereignties. Nor were these sovereignties unimportant when compared to the nation creating the Court, for, at that time, a man was known as a Jersey-man, a Virginian, or a Yankee, rather than as an American. This jurisdiction of the Court has been continuously exerted in more than 200 cases, and thirty-seven different states of the Union have submitted to its decisions. In four of these cases, the Court decision has actually avoided armed conflict. In the case of New Jersey against New York, in 1820, and in Missouri against Iowa, in 1840, the militia had been called out before the Court took jurisdiction. In the cases of Louisiana against Mississippi in 1905, and Oklahoma against Texas, in 1920, there were threats of resort to force between the States, but when the arm of the Court intervened, force was overruled, and the rule of law and peace was restored.

Both in its jurisdiction over Sovereign States, and in its effective prevention of conflict between them, the United States Supreme Court is the direct predecessor of the Permanent Court of International Justice, commonly known as the World Court. That this is the case, note the letter from former United States Secretary of State Livingston to Lafayette, in 1782, referring to the jurisdiction of the United States Supreme Court over State issues: "The Day will come when all disputes in the great republic of Europe will be tried in the same way, and America will be quoted to exemplify the measure."

To obtain the adherence of America to the World Court, former Secretary of State Elihu Root, the Naste of the American Bar, has just gone to Geneva.

RICHARD HAYESBONE