



Friday, April 4, 2003

Cooley extends successful OU partnership

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

After establishing a highly successful partnership with Oakland University, the **Thomas M. Cooley Law School** will expand with the addition of a satellite campus at OU beginning with the Trinity Term in May.

In its April 2 formal meeting, the **OU Board of Trustees** approved the satellite agreement, which allows the first two years of Cooley's standard part-time, 36-month curriculum at OU. A night section of these courses will begin in May, a morning section will begin in September, and an afternoon section will begin in January 2004.

"We view this as a win-win situation," said Pat Beaver, assistant vice provost for research and graduate study. "Cooley has brought a program to a viable market area, and OU has gained visibility in the community from this partnership. Cooley has an excellent reputation and offers cutting-edge internships and programs. The long-term plan is to eventually offer the entire J.D. program on Oakland's campus."

Cooley began its partnership with OU in September 2002 when it started offering first-term courses to newly admitted Cooley students. Under the terms of the agreement, Cooley students at OU were able to take the same first-term classes at OU as those of their peers at Cooley's main campus in Lansing. Full-time tenured or tenure-track Cooley faculty taught classes in Criminal Law, Torts I, Property I, Contracts I, Constitutional Law I and Introduction to Law. Thirty-three students made up the inaugural class of students at OU.

Since this initial success, Oakland and Cooley have explored other ways to make law school accessible to students in the Oakland-Macomb county area, where students can participate in university life and in related professional activities in proximity to OU's campus. Cooley submitted a proposal to the American Bar Association to offer more courses at OU and worked with Oakland to develop the satellite proposal.

In addition to the expanded course offerings, other benefits of the satellite campus include:

- the formation of a complete core collection law library in O'Dowd Hall for OU students and faculty along with full-time professional law librarians and staff;
- funding toward the reconfiguration and construction of Room 202 in O'Dowd Hall, creating three new classrooms with 80-90 tiered seats.

"Cooley has never before experienced the benefits of a wide university campus setting," said John Nussbaumer, associate dean of faculty and professor of law at Cooley. "The satellite program is going to enrich both sides. For students, the advantages include future joint degree programs, a close-knit community with a particularly low student-teacher ratio (13-1), and a chance to go to a top-notch law school where they live and where they work.

"We're most pleased about the reception we've gotten at Oakland. From President Russi on down, people have been very welcoming and friendly. This is an exciting time for Cooley, and we look forward to building upon our relationship with Oakland."

Cooley also will immediately offer a 50-percent discount off tuition to OU employees and their dependents interested in pursuing a law degree. The discount allows the first two years of classes to be reduced to one-half the standard tuition for eligible OU employees and their dependents. All fees and costs will be charged at standard rates.

Cooley Law School has a student body of more than 2,000, with students from every state in the union and dozens of countries throughout the world. It is second in size only to the law school at Washington's Georgetown University. Nearly 70 percent of its students come from outside Michigan. Cooley also boasts the second-largest minority student population of any law school in the United States.

For more information on **Cooley Law School** classes at OU, contact Brandi Houghton at (248) 370-3148 or houghtob@cooley.edu.

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