

## More light, better space at UA law school

Renovation upgrades Rogers College of Law

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Starting this semester, UA law students, faculty and staff will enjoy a completely renovated building that is spacious, well lit, and completely javelina free.

The University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law moves this week into its upgraded building at 1201 E. Speedway Blvd., ending a 15-month construction project that displaced the entire college.

"There's a light at the end of the tunnel." said Michael Chiorazzi, associate dean for information services and project manager for the college.

The \$21 million Law Commons Project renovated 117,000 square feet of space and is being completed on budget and on time. The College of Law receives occupancy of the building Monday and will begin moving people back in Aug. 4, said Nancy Stanley, assistant dean of external relations. Classes begin Aug. 25.

Renovating the old building meant moving everything in the college someplace else. The student center and bookstore were moved into what used to be an Italian restaurant nearby. The library was housed in an Episcopal church near campus. Covered walkways were built to get students into the few lecture halls not under construction.

When a family of javelinas wandered into one of those walkways, classes were canceled while the animals were ushered away, said Toni Massaro, dean of the college.

"That's something that can only happen in Arizona," she said.

Javelinas aside, Massaro said that the renovation has been worth the temporary inconvenience and is a significant upgrade on the old layout.

Before the renovation, parts of the law building were "dungeon-like" said Stephen Tobin, vice-president of the Student Bar Association.

Now natural light streams into every part of the building through skylights and windows. Walls have been knocked out and ceilings raised to create a more spacious feeling. Group study rooms and offices for student organizations have been added.

"It's going to be great to have our old building back and yet have it be beautiful. The old building was very 1970s." said Rigel Massaro, president of the Student Bar Association. Rigel Massaro is not related to the dean.

"We wanted it to be a sticky space for students as well as the community," Dean Massaro said.

When Dean Massaro says sticky, she means a place that people will want to stick around, especially law students who sometimes arrive at school early in the morning and leave late at night.

"It's a home," she said. "I think we just did a really neat home improvement project."