

**NEW CORNERSTONE BUILDING OF  
UC HASTINGS LAW ACADEMIC VILLAGE  
NAMED FOR ALUMNUS JOSEPH W. COTCHETT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**, August 25, 2020 — The first building in the developing Academic Village of the University of California Hastings, College of the Law is being named for alumnus Joseph W. Cotchett '64, one of America's most distinguished attorneys. Naming of the new academic building on San Francisco's Golden Gate Avenue will be announced Aug. 27 at a virtual Alumni Town Hall meeting by UC Hastings Law Chancellor & Dean David L. Faigman.

The honor speaks to Cotchett's legendary achievements in the law and his decades of philanthropy and other

contributions to the college, which include teaching, student mentoring, and service on the Board of Directors.

“We are proud to name the cornerstone building of our Academic Village the Cotchett Law Center,” Faigman said in anticipation of his formal announcement. “Joe Cotchett is a true lion of the law, a fierce and effective advocate for those he represents, including many without means to afford the strongest voice, whom he has represented *pro bono*. We will work to ensure that our students understand and emulate the commitment to fairness and justice that Joe has brought to the practice of law over a long and storied career.”

“I am honored to be an alumnus of UC Hastings Law, one of so many lawyers who, over the decades, have sought and achieved justice for people in need of a voice, along with the many alumni who have served in our judiciary,” Cotchett said. “UC Hastings Law is creating an exciting new learning environment in the form of its Academic Village project. It comes at a time when maintaining and

strengthening the rule of law in our nation is more important than ever.”

The six-story Cotchett Law Center at 333 Golden Gate Avenue is the first of four new or renovated buildings that will transform the UC Hastings Law campus over the next decade. It was designed by architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) to the highest environmental standards—Platinum LEED—to further the college’s goal of becoming the greenest possible urban campus by 2025. Funded primarily through an appropriation from the California Legislature with the support of former Governor Jerry Brown supplemented by donations raised by the UC Hastings Foundation, the Center includes smart classrooms, a conference center, and shared indoor and outdoor community spaces for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. It also provides increased space for the school’s widely esteemed legal clinics and centers of research and program excellence.

The new building is linked to Mary Kay Kane Hall, at 200 McAllister Street, by a skybridge above a landscaped outdoor quad that provides a welcoming gathering place

and a new campus heart for members of the UC Hastings community. Its rooftop Sky Deck offers expansive views of City Hall; city, state, and federal courthouses; and the San Francisco skyline. The building's design, reflecting SOM's emphasis on sustainability and design excellence, is the first major step in the important process of creating a dynamic campus for the school. "The new building physically strengthens the links between students and faculty and reimagines the connection between Hastings and the San Francisco community," says SOM Design Partner Michael Duncan. "It demonstrates what a law school can be at its best and most engaging."

The Cotchett Law Center was to have been dedicated on March 26, 2020, at an event involving hundreds of UC Hastings Law students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as political dignitaries and other distinguished guests from the government, business, and legal communities. But the campus closed earlier that month in compliance with San Francisco's pandemic-related mandates. The building is ready to open for classes and other activity as soon as city and state regulations permit. And the school

is poised to revive its celebratory plans for dedicating the building at the earliest safe opportunity.

“We must have excellent facilities to train and equip the next generation of lawyers for the decades to come,” Cotchett said. “I was compelled by Chancellor David Faigman’s vision for UC Hastings Law’s future and am proud to support and be part of it. I hope others will follow suit as the Academic Village enters its next phase.”

## **REMAINING ACADEMIC VILLAGE PROJECTS**

Groundbreaking is expected soon for the school’s second new building: a 14-story mixed-use complex replacing the existing Snodgrass Hall at 198 McAllister Street. With 356,000 square feet, it will include academic and retail space as well as housing for some 670 students from UC Hastings Law; the University of California, San Francisco; and other institutions of higher education. Construction is scheduled to occur between October 2020 and June 2023. The developer is Greystar, the architect is Perkins & Will, and the general contractor is San Francisco-based Build Group.

That project will be followed by the renovation and structural upgrade of the college's iconic 28-story Tower at 100 McAllister Street. When work is complete, the Tower and the new 198 McAllister Street building will house almost 1,000 students without displacing any residents of the adjoining neighborhoods.

The anticipated fourth and final component of the Academic Village project is the redevelopment of the properties at 201-247 Golden Gate Avenue, owned by UNITE HERE Local 2. UC Hastings Law and the union have entered into an agreement to replace the existing one- and two-story buildings with a new union hall and Local 2 offices, along with academic and residential facilities for UC Hastings Law and, potentially, other universities. Development partners are being recruited.

*Academic Village flythrough:*

<https://www.uchastings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/UC-Hastings-Academic-Village-Overview.mp4>

## **ABOUT JOSEPH W. COTCHETT**

Joseph W. Cotchett is the Senior Partner of Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy LLP, headquartered in Burlingame, Calif., with offices in Los Angeles and New York. He is widely considered by plaintiffs and defense attorneys alike to be one of the foremost trial lawyers in the country, recognized as such repeatedly in journal rankings by his peers.

He received his B.S. in engineering from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, in 1960 and his J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law in 1964. After earning his bachelor's degree, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps, followed by years as a Special Forces paratrooper and JAG Corps officer while in the active reserves. He retired from military service in 1991 with the rank of Colonel with various citations for special operations, including the Legion of Merit.

Cotchett has served on numerous professional boards, including the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California, the California Judicial Council, the Board of

Directors of UC Hastings Law, and the California Commission on Judicial Performance. In 2011, he was inducted into the American Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame for his work nationwide in civil rights and litigation on behalf of underprivileged people. He has been inducted by the State Bar of California into the Litigation Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Fellow of the International Society of Barristers, and an Advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

In 1996, Cotchett was awarded the Anti-Defamation League's Distinguished Jurisprudence Award. In 2003, he was honored by Disability Rights Advocates for decades of civil rights work. Over the decades he has received numerous other awards and honorary degrees.

His civic work includes past memberships on the board of directors of the San Mateo County Heart Association, San Mateo Boys & Girls Club (past president), Peninsula Association of Retarded Children and Adults, Bay Meadows Foundation, Disability Rights Advocates, and



numerous other Bay Area organizations. He has also served on the boards of Public Citizen, Earthjustice, and Trial Lawyers for Public Justice in Washington, D.C.

In his 55-year career, he has tried over 100 jury trials across the nation, resulting in some of the largest verdicts in U.S. courts.

Cotchett and his family members are active in many Bay Area charitable enterprises. They established the Cotchett Family Foundation that aids individuals and organizations in need of assistance, especially animal rights groups.

*For more information:*

<https://www.cpmlegal.com/attorneys-Joseph-Cotchett-attorney.html>

## **ABOUT UC HASTINGS LAW**

UC Hastings Law was established in 1878 as the original law department of the University of California. It is the first public law school in California and one of the first in

the western United States. Based continuously in San Francisco, UC Hastings Law is one of the nation's few prominent standalone law schools. It is governed by the UC Hastings Board of Directors, which operates independently of the Regents of the University of California. Board members, who serve 12-year terms, are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate.

UC Hastings Law's strengths include an exceptional teaching faculty and academic skills and support infrastructure; nationally recognized scholars and research centers; highly regarded negotiation and other experiential learning programs; and longstanding promotion of access to legal education as exemplified in the Legal Education Opportunity Program, which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, and the California Scholars Program, initiated that same year.

UC Hastings Law is well known for producing leaders across a wide spectrum of law and law-related fields. Since 1878, it has graduated countless high achievers, innovators, and thought leaders. Among them: high-

profile elected officials such as U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier, and former San Francisco Mayor and longtime California Assembly Speaker Mayor Willie Brown; luminaries of the bench including California Supreme Court Justice Carol Corrigan and Chief Judge Lawrence O’Neill of the Eastern District of California; and nationally recognized lawyers such as Claude Stern, co-chair of Quinn Emanuel’s National IP Litigation Practice, Orrick’s Lynn Hermle, one of the country’s most accomplished employment defense lawyers, and McGregor Scott, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California.

*For more information: [www.uchastings.edu](http://www.uchastings.edu)*