

Audio Transcript, Stop 4: 1901-1925

Welcome. My name is Nirwan. I am an LLM student at Prtizker School of Law. To me, NLaw means a diverse group of friends.

Works of art serve many purposes to an institution of higher learning, including an educational tool.

As you look forward, you will notice several framed yellow pieces of parchment with elaborate handwriting.

These documents are copies of the United States Constitution. They were commissioned to be as close to the original as possible in size and coloration, if suitably toned parchment could not be found. School officials instructed the artist LC Handy to give the document a wash of light coffee stain.

Unfortunately, Handy misunderstood his instructions. His first attempt resulted in documents that were too small, so the school asked him to try again. However, it was late in the summer and some of the materials that he was using, such as gelatin, softened rapidly in hot water, making it impossible to complete the work.

Months passed before the new copies were finished.

Instead of coffee, Hendy used a proprietary formula for natural parchment tint. These documents have hung across from Lincoln Hall since 1926.

Many other artworks in living memory hung in the previous home of the law school called Tremont House. Tremont House was a former hotel. The law school community used the Tremont House from 1901 to 1925, but quickly outgrew the space due to increased enrollment.

Wigmore received the bulk of the credit for the law school's growth, but he could not have managed without the help of the men and women working alongside him.

Together with librarian Frederick B Crosley, Cataloger Anne Miller and assistant Cataloger Mr. J.E Cagle, Ms. Mary E Goodhue, and Mr. Charles Caldwell, Dean Wigmore ensured the NLaw art collection was cared for and safe throughout the 1926 relocation.

As you move throughout the school, ask yourself how can the focus on prominent individuals overshadow the contribution of lesser known individuals in institutional narratives? How might the emphasis on one individual, like John Henry Wigmore, overshadow the collective efforts of many in shaping an institution?

Before navigating to core tour stop number five, consider stopping to visit the sponsored stops of Christian Legal Society, the St Thomas More Society, and FIRSTGEN.

The core tour will continue on the second floor of Levy Mayer. Please make your way to the elevator marked on the map, located on the first floor of McCormick Hall, to the east of the atrium.

As you exit the elevator, you will notice a glass case containing NLaw alum and Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens' chair, along with a portrait.

Proceed across the Tieglar Bridge to return to the tour route. You will pause in the Joyce Hughes corridor.