

**THE PROJECT**

Stetson University College of Law was founded in 1900 as Florida's first law school. The College's main campus is located in Gulfport with a satellite campus in downtown Tampa. The Tampa Law Center opened as a major hub for legal activity and houses evening law classes and legal conferences. Stetson Law is ranked first for trial advocacy and fifth for legal writing by U.S. News and World Report with student enrollment exceeding 1,000. DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) was retained to develop a comprehensive campus plan for both campuses that addresses programmatic, facility, and campus needs for the next fifteen years.

**CHALLENGE**

Stetson Law's Gulfport campus is the site of a former hotel. It is primarily comprised of interconnected buildings serving academic, administrative, residential, and student life purposes. In addition, the College also owns several single family houses surrounding the campus. In response to national changes in ABA guidelines and expectations, the College plans to create a number of clinics on both campuses to provide real-world experiences for students. The College is seeking to increase academic programs as well as enhance student life resources. At the Tampa Law Center, the College is seeking two development alternatives for academic expansion based on whether their tenant, the Florida Second District Court of Appeal, decides to expand in the Center.

**SOLUTION**

With a participatory campus planning process based on the College's strategic plan, needs and priorities were articulated in order to reach consensus on a preferred plan. At Gulfport, academic program expansion included the conversion of five of the College-owned houses to law clinics with construction of an adjoining shared resource facility. Renovations of existing buildings include the consolidation of their four Centers for Excellence with the provision of a new building entrance, relocation of several administrative offices which serve as "front door" functions, and several classrooms/courtrooms and faculty offices. Additional parking will expand on College-owned peripheral property. At Tampa, the College has the ability to either expand within their facility or construct a facility adjacent to it with additional parking, contingent on whether the current vacant space within their building is leased.



GULFPORT CAMPUS



TAMPA CAMPUS



**REFERENCE**

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**DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY**  
 CREATING CAMPUS SOLUTIONS