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## Dickinson Law Joins the Association of American Law Schools (AALS)

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## Dickinson Law Joins The Association of American Law Schools (AALS)

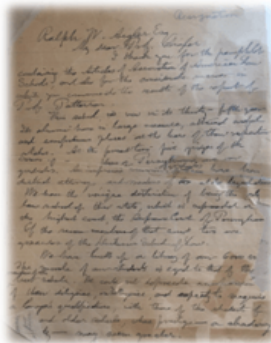
AUGUST 9, 2018 BY PAMELA G SMITH

**185**  
YEARS  
1834 | 2019

The Dickinson School of Law applied, and was approved, for admission to The Association of American Law Schools (AALS) on August 12, 1912. The AALS was founded in 1900, "to elevate the standards of legal education in an era when it was still possible to become a lawyer through apprenticeship or self-study."

Upset over an inspection report from the AALS, Dean Trickett withdrew the law school's membership in 1924. The contents of this report are unknown, and it is unclear from historical records what upset Dean Trickett about the report. Nonetheless, Dean Trickett's letter, which remains in the Law School's Archives collection,<sup>1</sup> is another example of Dean Trickett's love and high regard for the law school. Below is an excerpt from Dean Trickett's letter:

"This school is now in its thirty-fifth year. Its alumni have in large measure, attained useful and conspicuous places at the bars of their respective states. At the present time five judges of the Courts of Common Pleas of Pennsylvania are our graduates. An impressive number of graduates have been district attorneys, and members of the legislatures. We have the unique distinction of being the only law school of this state, which is represented on the highest court, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Of the seven members of that court, two are graduates of the Dickinson School of Law."



The first page of Dean Trickett's letter to the AALS

"We have built up a library of over 6000 volumes. The morale of our students is equal to that of the members of the best schools. We could not deprecate a comparison of their diligence, intelligence, and capacity to acquire a lawyer's qualifications, with those of the students of richer and older schools, whose prestige – of a shadowy property – may seem greater."

Dean Trickett's successor as dean, Walter Harrison Hitchler, reapplied for membership to the AALS. This application was granted on December 27, 1934. The Law School's membership in AALS continues today.

<sup>1</sup> The full text of Dean Trickett's letter entire letter can also be found in former Dean Burton R. Laub's book, *The Dickinson School of Law: Proud and Independent*.

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