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# Dickinson Law: Articles of Incorporation

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## Dickinson Law: Articles of Incorporation

FEBRUARY 21, 2019 BY [PAMELA G SMITH](#)

**185**  
YEARS  
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The exact fate of the Law School after Judge Reed's passing in 1850 is unknown. However, it appears that operation of the Law School was suspended for a period of time. In 1862, Dickinson College conferred upon Judge James Hutchison Graham the Doctor of Laws degree and appointed him as Professor of Law. However, it is not known whether law classes were held during Judge Graham's tenure as Professor of Law. Judge Graham passed away in the fall of 1882, and it does appear that at that time, there was no law school, and no law classes were being taught in relationship with Dickinson College.

In 1889, George Edward Reed was appointed President of Dickinson College. On January 9, 1890, the Trustees of Dickinson College met. At this meeting, Reed proposed:

That the President and Executive Committee be authorized to establish a law school in connection with the College if it can be done without expense to the institution, and that permission be granted to allow use of Emory Hall, or such portion of it as may be necessary for the purpose specified.

Burton R. Laub, *The Dickinson School of Law: Proud and Independent* (1983)

The Trustees accepted the proposal, and on February 19, 1890, Articles of Incorporation were filed in the Court of Common Pleas in Cumberland County. By Order of the Court issued on the same day, the Articles were approved, establishing The Dickinson School of Law as a corporation under the Corporation Act of April 29, 1874. The Articles were then recorded as a Charter with the Recorder of Deeds.

The Articles of Incorporation/Charter sets forth the agreement between George Edward Reed and several individuals, who have become known as the Incorporators of the Law School. Four of the Incorporators – Governor Andrew G. Curtin, William Penn Orbison, Nathaniel Barrat Smithers and James Patterson Sterrett – were students of Judge Reed. More information about the Incorporators, including brief biographies, can be found in Burton Laub's book, *The Dickinson School of Law – Proud and Independent*.

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The original Articles of Incorporation/Charter sets forth, in pertinent part:

1<sup>st</sup>. The name of the Corporation shall be – The Dickinson School of Law.

2d. The purpose of the Corporation is to dispense instruction in the law of the United States and of the Several States of the Union – in international law – in political and Social Science and in allied sciences.

3d. This instruction shall be dispensed, and the other business of the Corporation, transacted, in the Borough of Carlisle, State of Pennsylvania.

4<sup>th</sup>. The Corporation shall be perpetual.

....

8<sup>th</sup>. The Corporation shall have power to appoint a dean and faculty of instruction and discipline and upon their recommendation, to confer appropriate degrees and Certificates of Scholarship on students of the School and others.

Certain provisions of the Charter were amended in 1941, but the above provisions, from the original Charter, remained the same.

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