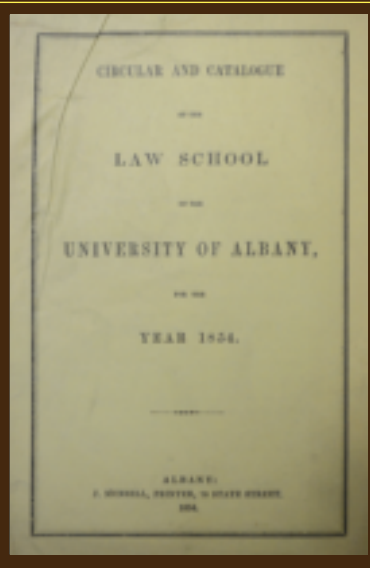


The Law School's Original Name:

THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY



Albany Law School on State Street starting in 1879

It was an Act of the Legislature in 1851 that incorporated the University of Albany, authorizing the University to create several departments. Trustees immediately created a Department of Law, and eight months later, on Dec. 17, 1851, 23 students listened to Amasa Parker deliver the law school's first lecture.

There was talk of making the school a national university. Effort was made to include the Albany Medical College as the University's Department of Medicine, but that and a literary department was never finalized.

In 1873, more than 20 years later, Union College's new president, Eliphalet Nott Potter, succeeding his grandfather Eliphalet Nott, sought to create a consortium of colleges on the model of Harvard, Yale and Columbia. The boards of the Dudley Observatory and the Law School voted to create the umbrella organization with Union College, creating Union University.

On April 10, 1873, the legislature approved the new Union University charter.

Thus the national university effort was abandoned, and the legislation officially changed the name of "University of Albany" to "Albany Law School of Union University."

The charter continues today, though for decades it has existed only in name. Each member institution has its own governing board and operates its own institutions independently.

At the time of Union University's inception, the current State University of New York at Albany—University at Albany, distinct from the University of Albany — was a two year school for teachers, called the New York State Normal School, created in 1844. The School continued as a school for educators for decades, becoming the New York State College for Teachers in 1914, and eventually developing into a modern university starting in 1962.