

PROJECT PROFILE: LECTURE HALLS



PROJECT: UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
SCHOOL OF LAW
Missoula, Montana

Clear communication is critical for preparing students who are learning the practice of law through debates and exchanging opinions. For over a century, the University of Montana School of Law has been nationally recognized for its hands-on approach to legal education, and was listed in the 2009 Top 10 Best Value Law Schools.

To continue its tradition of excellence, the School undertook a substantial renovation and expansion of its building in 2006. Modernized classrooms with improved acoustics were a central element of the renovation to allow for engaged classroom learning and clear communication between students and professors. To address the Dean's concern that students must be able to hear clearly and understand lectures and each other in the classrooms, the architect selected Big Sky Acoustics to be part of the design team.



BSA's SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS:

Provided acoustical design to:

- Enhance speech intelligibility—for clear communication.
- Control reverberation—that would garble voices.
- Reduce HVAC system noise—that would mask lectures.

BSA's design recommendations:

- Defined the specific location and area of sound-absorbing and sound-reflecting materials, including seats, wall panels, ceiling materials and flooring.
- Specified the performance of sound attenuators in HVAC supply and return ducts, and the lengths of duct lining needed.



BSA's acoustical design services ensured that the lecture halls and classrooms were functional as soon as the building opened, and were a crucial part of providing a state of the art learning environment for the students and staff.