

BOARD RESOLUTION FOR PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM
NEW YORK STATE CONTRACT

RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York authorizes the CUNY School of Law (the “Law School”) to purchase goods and services for the upgrade of the audiovisual system in the Law School’s Dave Fields Auditorium (the “auditorium”) and the addition of video teleconferencing and lecture capture systems from a vendor authorized under existing New York State Office of General Services contracts, pursuant to law and University regulations. Such project shall not exceed \$800,000.00, chargeable to the appropriate CUNY first code for the Law School.

EXPLANATION: The purchases consist of a major replacement, update and upgrade of the audiovisual system in the auditorium, as well as the addition of video teleconferencing and lecture capture systems. The proposed project includes the design, purchase, installation, and maintenance of the system.

The auditorium, which seats about 200, is heavily used. All the Law School’s large classes meet there, and the auditorium is also the site of school-wide meetings and major school-sponsored events, such as Public Square evenings dedicated to important and trending legal and social issues, and similar programs that are open to the public, so that they simultaneously educate the Law School’s students and enlighten the many members of the legal and allied professions, as well as interested members of the public, who attend. It is also available for use by community groups. For example, a public hearing by the New York Court of Appeals, to hear comments on the future of the bar exam, took place there on January 20, 2015.

Although the Law School moved into its current facility in 2012, all of the audiovisual equipment in its auditorium was inherited from the building's previous owner, and most of it had been in place since the facility was originally built in 2006. Thus, the existing audiovisual infrastructure has reached (and in some cases, gone beyond) the end of its useful life. The current system is obsolete, no longer functions properly, and requires frequent repairs.

The upgrade will provide many needed benefits. It will enable the Law School to implement distance learning capabilities for the auditorium. The renovation will also provide upgrades to audio transcription systems, necessary for the Law School to further enhance compliance with ADA requirements for the hearing impaired.

The Law School is expanding its academic program, launching an ABA-accredited part-time (primarily evening) program in the Fall of 2015. This additional usage will place further strain on the obsolete audiovisual equipment, limiting its usefulness and further increasing the probability of a failure at a critical time.