



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Boston University Law School to receive a 2016 Massachusetts Historical Commission Historic Preservation Award.

Secretary Galvin presented the award at a recent ceremony in the Massachusetts Archives Building, Dorchester. The Boston University School of Law is one of 12 projects, individuals, and organizations to be honored.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year’s awardees,” said Secretary Galvin. “The projects the Commission is recognizing this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. The thoughtful rehabilitation of the Law School is a case example for preserving modern architecture, which will serve as a guide to the restoration of similar buildings.”

The world-famous Spanish modernist architect Josep Lluís Sert designed the Boston University School of Law in the 1960s. The five concrete structures represent the world’s largest collection of Sert-designed buildings, the centerpiece of which is the 1962 Law Tower. Many mid-20th-century architects saw concrete as a liberating new building material, but they did not anticipate future problems such as expansive pressure causing cracking and spalling, the vulnerability of concrete to water penetration at hairline cracks, and the resulting corrosion of underlying steel support systems.

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Prior to the recent rehabilitation project, years of deferred maintenance had resulted in falling concrete, as well as poorly fitting windows and ventilation panels. The tower's window systems were also highly susceptible to water penetration, and functioned poorly at all floors. Due to the school's growth over the past half-century, the tower's interior circulation no longer functioned efficiently—small, slow elevators served the upper-floor classrooms, resulting in long waits and overcrowded stairways.

The rehabilitation of the School of Law included complex concrete restoration, introduced cathodic protection to steel elements to prevent further corrosion, and replaced spalled concrete, along with damaged steel and architectural elements. The new windows are historically appropriate replacements, matching the profiles of Sert's original design. Sert's trademark colored ventilator panels, which had faded extensively, were also replaced, and the original color scheme restored.

To improve the tower's obsolete functionality, it was rehabilitated for use as a faculty and administration building, with a new addition at the tower's base providing classroom space. The team designed and placed the addition in such a way that it does not obscure nor detract from Sert's original vision for the campus.

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Left to right: Paul Rinaldi, Gary W. Nicksa, Sec. Galvin, Henry Moss, Leland Cott

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