

Acentech Completes Acoustics, Audiovisual and IT Consulting for Villanova University School of Law

Firm provides multi-disciplinary consulting for new law school building seeking LEED® Silver certification

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – December 9, 2009 – Acentech Inc., a nationally recognized multi-disciplinary acoustics, audiovisual systems design, and vibration consulting firm, announced today that it provided architectural acoustics and audiovisual and information technology systems design services for the new Villanova University School of Law building in Villanova, Pennsylvania that was dedicated on October 5th.

"The acoustics and audiovisual systems of the new Law School are excellent, a sentiment shared by faculty and students," said April Barton, Assistant Dean for Academic Computing. "Acentech's ability to bring thoughtful expertise and creative strategy to the audiovisual system was critical to us, and we are delighted with the advanced technology capabilities of the new Law School building."

Acentech's senior design consultants worked closely for four years with the Law School, the project architect SmithGroup of Washington, D.C., and an estimator to develop audiovisual and information technology systems that met both the school's functional needs and the project budget allowance. State-of-the-art audiovisual systems were designed for eight lecture hall/classrooms, five moot courtrooms, multiple staff and administrative conference rooms, a media head-end facility with centralized digital rich media recording and audiovisual system control, a networked digital file-based interview clinic suite, as well as facility-wide digital signage and touch panel way-finding systems.

For the school's extensive information technology infrastructure, multiple high-performance networks were designed to support wired and wireless Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), audiovisual systems, Internet access, and student services applications. Seeking LEED® Silver certification, Villanova's new School of Law building features 175,000 square feet of space for classrooms, faculty offices, the library, and The Clinic's model law office, designed on four floors to serve the school's 720 students.

In addition to providing design documents and specifications, Acentech's consultants provided bid reviews, construction administration, and final system commissioning to ensure that the completed installations met or exceeded the school's expectations. Careful equipment, vendor and professional audiovisual integrator selection provided a streamlined and extremely cost-effective outcome. All of the new system equipment is permanently installed and centrally controlled and monitored, representing a significant departure from the school's former cart-based media delivery methodology. As a result, the current media services staff can manage the vastly expanded facility with improved efficiency and responsiveness.

“Our integrated suite of consulting specialties allows us to help architects create teaching and learning spaces that students and faculty love to use,” said Ernie Schirmer, RCDD/NTS CTS, director of technology consulting and managing director of Acentech's mid-Atlantic office. “Tight coordination between audiovisual systems, information technology infrastructure, and acoustical design resulted in virtually seamless technology integration, intuitive control interfaces, and an exceptional experience for staff, student and faculty at Villanova School of Law.”

About Acentech

Acentech Inc. is a multi-disciplinary acoustics, audiovisual systems design, and vibration consulting firm providing a wide range of services to a diverse group of clients. With offices in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Trevose, Pennsylvania; and Westlake Village, California, the company's professional staff of more than 50 consultants has broad and deep expertise in all areas of acoustics and audiovisual systems design consulting. Having celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2008, Acentech is the oldest and largest organization of its type: an unequaled resource to engineers, architects, and designers worldwide. For more information, please visit www.acentech.com.

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