Less than ten years later, in 1979, the small law school became one with George Mason University. The result? The George Mason University School of Law. Keep reading as we showcase this powerful law school that holds its own in one of the toughest legal cities in the world.

Before the name change in 1979, one of the school’s founders, John Brabner Smith, had spent part of his life as a missionary. This deeply faithful foundation is what led him to ensure that faith transcended his career choice and would become a cornerstone in the law school that was soon to be defined. After living in Evanston, Illinois, Brabner-Smith took his legal ambitions further east, where he graduated within two years with his JD from Yale University. The northeast soon saw him heading south, to the DC area. It’s important to keep in mind the timeframe - the Great Depression was just beginning to take hold and as we, in a contemporary society now know, it’s in the deepest pits that the most brilliant ideas are born. Soon, he was called back to Illinois, this time to help prosecute the Al Capone gang. Even as others shied away from the case out of fear of retaliation, Brabner-Smith moved forward, despite the threats.

After that success, he finally returned to the east coast and set up a practice in Washington DC. It’s here the dream came full circle and the law school was founded.

Today, the law school is within a few blocks of the nation’s capital. The school offers several programs, including the Intellectual Property LLM, the Patent Law Track, the Intellectual Property Law Concentration, Practical Preparation of GMU Patent Applications, a series of Intellectual Property courses and of course, many legal economic specialties. A few of those include the LLM Degree in Law and Economics and the Legal and Economic Theory Concentration. One offering that’s indicative of a changing legal environment is the Homeland and National Security Law Concentration. This serves as an excellent addition to a law student’s resume as he begins his career in a new legal environment after September 11, 2001.

Currently, tuition for in state students is $22,222 with an out of state tuition of $36,378. For those wishing to attend part time, in state tuition is $18,089 and out of state tuition is $29,635. Other costs include a $35 application fee and a 10% late filing fee of up to $125. Financial aid is available at the Fairfax Campus and the school participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program. Further, George Mason Law is a leader in developing new sources of financing for one’s law school education. Information can be found on the website.

For more information on George Mason Law School, please visit the site at Law.GMU.edu.