



**Case Study: University of Denver Sturm College of Law - Denver, Colorado**

**Client:** University of Denver



**Project**

The new \$65m Frank H. Ricketson Jr. Law Building is home to the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. The 237,863 sq ft, 6-story building will accommodate office space for 136 faculty and staff, classrooms and breakout rooms, and underground parking for 850 vehicles. The building also features the 38,325 sq ft Law Library and Technology Center for Legal Research. Eighty percent of the materials used are from recycled sources and nearly 100 percent is recyclable, earning the structure the U.S. Green Building Council's Gold LEED certification, the first law school to be certified in the United States.

**Our role**

Rider Levett Bucknall provided independent construction Cost Estimating at the conceptual and schematic design stage and assisted the Owner in establishing the overall project budget. At the design development stage we prepared parallel cost estimates and compared them with those prepared by the Contractor. Additionally, Rider Levett Bucknall assisted the University in reconciling costs prior to the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) agreement.

**Client benefits**

Rider Levett Bucknall's expertise in Cost Estimating allowed the University to be certain of the construction cost for the project during the preconstruction design phase. Our knowledge of the CM/GC procurement process was utilized by the University to ensure their GMP agreement was fair and reasonable.



**Testimonial**

"Estimating often is presented as an informed guess. Rider Levett Bucknall has provided us time and time again with the best science to support the art of such divination. Their ability to present such quantities in a variety of formats has allowed us to make well informed decisions of where to enhance a project and where to pare a project scope to minimize machete-like last-second hacking of our projects. In most instances, on bid day, we have had a more thorough understanding of the scale of our project than the contractors themselves. The result of having such knowledge often is a more equal understanding during the contract negotiations. In addition, Rider Levett Bucknall's worldwide database allows for the University's Board of Trustees to not only understand the finest grain of detail, but how our investments in educational facilities compares to our peers."

Mark Rodgers, University Architect, University of Denver

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