Penn Law renamed Carey Law

Penn President Amy Gutmann sent an email to the Penn community announcing the renaming of the "Stuart Weitzman School of Design" after the fashion icon and 1969 Wharton alumnus. Gutmann wrote that the sum of Weitzman's donation would not be used to cover financial aid, academic planning, and the new Weitzman Plaza located between severnum Hall and Fisher Fine Arts Library.

Students voiced frustration over the renaming, arguing that Weitzman's career as a designer has no relation to any academic field. Students also expressed frustration over the lack of transparency and student input throughout the process. When people think of Weitzman, they think fashion and they might assume what we do is fashion. We don't even have that in our program. Architecture student Katarina MacKenzie told The Daily Pennsylvanian.

Students created a petition two days after the announcement changed the shortened name back to "Penn Law." The petition garnered more than 600 signatures from students and alumni, as well as the New York Times. The announcement figures argued changing the shortened name from "Penn Law" to "Carey Law" diluted the tradition and prestige associated with the Penn Law name. They said the lack of transparency and the failure to consider the opinions of students, faculty, and alumni frustrated them the most.

On Nov. 8, Board of Trustees Chair David Cohen and Penn President Amy Gutmann announced in an email sent to all students that Penn Law School will be renamed University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School after a $30 million donation from the W.P. Carey Foundation.

On Dec. 11, 2019, the University of Maryland of law school was renamed a $10 million donation from the Kirkland & Ellis Foundation and changed its name to Francis King Carey School of Law.

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Penn Law Dean of Students Alice Conlin led a town hall session for law students concerned about the school renaming three days after the announcement. By this time, the petition had gathered more than 600 signatures.

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