

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TRUSTEES NAME BOARD ROOM AFTER JUSTICE PAUL RUDMAN

BANGOR – The University of Maine System Board of Trustees on Wednesday formally named its meeting room as the Justice Paul L. Rudman Conference Room in honor of one of the region's most prominent citizens.

The dedication of the room occurred at the System's downtown Bangor operations center, located at 16 Central Street in the historic former W.T. Grant Building.

"Chancellor [Joseph] Westphal and the Trustees chose to name the room after Justice Rudman in light of the decades of civic leadership that he and his family have given to the Bangor region, especially the downtown community," said Board Chair Charles L. Johnson III of Hallowell. "His family symbolizes what we see as our own role in the region and in the state: to promote the educational, cultural, social, and economic well-being of Maine and its people.

"For the first time, the University System has both a permanent and fully functional place for the Board and its many constituents to meet and conduct business," Johnson said.

The event was attended by donors to a fundraising campaign that helped underwrite the furnishings and technology for the 1,600 square foot multi-purpose conference room. Also attending were Justice Rudman and his wife, Inez, along with other family members and friends.

Rudman expressed gratitude to Westphal and the Trustees for their action, noting the symbolism that the Trustees sought when choosing a person to recognize.

"I am very much committed to Bangor," Rudman told the gathering. "I was born here and care deeply about the well being of downtown Bangor and this region. I am sincerely grateful for this honor."

Rudman has had a long and successful professional career as an attorney and jurist. A partner in the law firm of Rudman and Winchell, he was appointed in 1992 to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, a position held by his father decades earlier. Paul Rudman served 13 years on the Supreme Court, retiring from that position in 2005.

The University System moved its statewide operations center to downtown Bangor in October 2005 through a swap of land and properties with the City of Bangor. The City had been looking for a permanent tenant for the upper levels of the W.T. Grant Building, which it had owned for several years. The University System, meanwhile, was looking for a way to relocate its central operating services and governance operation to one location, as opposed to having those services and personnel scattered among three buildings in Bangor and one in Orono.

"The move to the new facility has improved the efficiency, effectiveness, and functionality of System-wide services," Westphal explained. "The facilities and technology available to us in the Rudman Room and other parts of our downtown location saves us time and money. We now use

videoconferencing and other features to conduct business with our universities and outreach centers across the state. Given the complexity of our operation and the daily interaction between and among campus-based personnel, we have greatly improved the way we perform our work.”

“We wanted to give this room a name that would convey our own sense of commitment to downtown Bangor,” Johnson added. “Our move from our old location near the airport to this new facility should make that commitment vividly clear.”

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System consists of seven universities and eleven academic outreach centers located across the state. It features a student population of more than 34,000 and employs nearly 8,000 full-time and part-time faculty and staff. The System’s statewide operations center in Bangor employs more than 100 individuals and is engaged in two primary functions: System-wide policy-making and leadership, as performed by the Chancellor and BOT; and System-wide central services, which includes management and services related to human resources, finance and budget, physical plant, technology and telecommunications, and other key statewide functions. For more information, log onto www.maine.edu.

- 30 -

EDITOR’S NOTE:

Photos from the June 28 event are available by contacting Peggy Markson at peggy.markson@maine.edu or calling 973-3245.