

**SUPREME COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JUSTICES CHAMBERS**

Washington, DC, December 14, 1908

Mr. Andrew Carnegie,  
New York, NY

Dear Sir:

Your generous offer to furnish the money to the extent of fifty thousand dollars, to build a library building for Howard University, on condition that the University shall raise another fifty thousand dollars for maintenance, is not yet available, although the library is very badly needed. All the space we have available for a reading room measures only 20 x 25 feet.

The Alumni of this University as a rule are men and women of very moderate means, and cannot raise money for such purposes as readily as the alumni of older white intuitions.

The Board of Trustees by special appeal and through the services of a special committee, and the earnest labors of the President, has undertaken to secure the fund, but so far with little success. Liberally disposed persons having knowledge of the fact that Congress makes substantial appropriations for the maintenance of Howard University, are inclined to give their substance in other directions. Howard, judging the future by the past, I am fully assured that Congress can be relied upon to make the necessary appropriations from year to year for the care of the library building, in case one can be secured.

If, however, the appropriation should be insufficient at any time, the Board of Trustees has set aside a sum not given as a part of the endowment, but accruing from the sale of lands, the increase of which it has ordered to be used for this purpose. If necessary, this sum would be increased by them, as they are assured the continued support of Congress.

With these two resources in sight, if you can make an exception in the usual condition required in such cases, I am sure our benefaction would be all the more appreciated, and the spirit of your reasonable requirement of liberal support will be fully carried out.

It will be a change of the form of the library support, other than a change in the substantial requirement.

Will you kindly consider this matter in the light of our present needs, and this ability to care for the library building, and, if practicable, grant us this request of the Board of Trustees?

Very respectfully yours,

[Signature of] Job Barnard  
President, Board of Trustees  
Howard University