I. HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

This will mark the forty-ninth year of operation of the University of Chicago Law School.

A school of law and jurisprudence was contemplated in the original plan for the University of Chicago. The school should, according to William Rainey Harper, the first president of the University, be more than a training institution for admission to the bar. An education in law, President Harper said, "implies a scientific knowledge of law and of legal and juristic methods. These are the crystallization of ages of human progress. They cannot be understood in their entirety without a clear comprehension of the historic forces of which they are the product, and of the social environment with which they are in living contact. A scientific study of law involves the related sciences of history, economics, philosophy—the whole field of man as a social being." Consequently, the law school was not to be an institution which had a merely nominal connection with the University, and it was not to be separated either by location or spirit from the University at large. It should be an organic part of the University, in close touch with the other divisions, embodying the spirit and purpose of University life and, in turn, contributing to that life.

In 1902 President Harper's plan was approved by the Trustees, and the Law School was opened in October of that year. The goal of the School as stated in the first Announcements was "to afford adequate preparation for the practice of law as a profession in any jurisdiction in which the common law prevails, and to cultivate and encourage the scientific study of systematic and comparative jurisprudence, legal history, and principles of legislation."

The first Dean was Joseph Henry Beale. In 1904 Mr. Beale was succeeded by James Parker Hall, who continued as Dean until his death in 1928. In 1929 Harry A. Bigelow, a member of the Faculty since 1904, was appointed Dean and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1939. Wilber G. Katz was the Dean of the School from 1939 until his resignation, June, 1950. He is succeeded as Dean by Edward H. Levi.

The University of Chicago Law School has been a member of the Association of American Law Schools since the School was founded in 1902. It has been on the approved list of the American Bar Association since the standards of that association were adopted in 1921.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT

The Law School adopted in 1949 a new program, consisting of three years of basic study leading to the Bachelor of Laws degree (L.L.B.), and a fourth year of advanced and specialized work leading to the degree of Doctor of Law (J.D.). The new program is the result of experience under the four-year curriculum adopted in 1937 and incorporates the distinguishing features of that curriculum. The research program leading to the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.) continues unchanged.
The objectives of the School are to give training to law students not only as future advocates and counselors, but also as future administrators, legislators, or judges, or as men who, though their careers may lie primarily in the field of business, will have important responsibilities for the operation of the legal order. The program also reflects the School's recognition of its responsibility to contribute to the solution of legal and social problems through research and effective criticism.

The 1937 program reflected the conviction of the faculty that instruction in traditional legal fields and techniques is no longer sufficient for legal education. Law should be studied in relation to the data and theory of social sciences; the students' understanding of law should be deepened through the study of philosophy, legal history, and comparative law; individual training should be given in research and writing; and the students' capacities for independent work should be further developed in advanced seminars.

Experience has shown how the basic objectives of the four-year program may be achieved in three years. The relative importance of the various legal fields and topics has been reappraised in the light of changing responsibilities of the profession. Overlapping of courses has been reduced. Integrated presentation of legal and social science materials and use of a variety of teaching techniques have resulted in further economy of time. The tutorial program of supervised individual training in research has been used for covering problems of substantive law.

Accordingly, the revised basic curriculum incorporates the traditional legal fields and disciplines essential to the work of the lawyer. It includes also instruction in accounting, legal and constitutional history, jurisprudence, economic analysis, international organization, comparative law, and psychology. And it offers a three-year sequence of supervised individual work covering research, exposition, drafting, moot court, analyses of financial statements, industry studies, and planning of estates and business transactions. In this work the student will be freed from the arbitrary divisions of course instruction and will deal with the varied legal aspects of a series of problems placed in a realistic setting.