I. HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The first University of Chicago originated in a gift of land by Senator Stephen A. Douglas in 1856. Instruction was begun in 1858 and nearly five thousand students attended the preparatory, college, and law courses of the institution before it was forced to close in 1886 following financial difficulties during a period marked by the Chicago fire and financial panics. A new university, first conceived of as a Baptist college, was incorporated on September 10, 1890, as the result of efforts of a group headed by Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed and Frederick Taylor Gates which was successful in persuading John D. Rockefeller to found an educational institution in Chicago. Professor William Rainey Harper of Yale University became the first president of the University of Chicago, July 1, 1891, and instruction was begun October 1, 1892.

A school of law and jurisprudence was contemplated in President Harper's original plan for the University of Chicago. The school should, he stated, 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 was not to be separated either by location or spirit from the University at large. It should be, the President felt, 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 first Dean was Professor Joseph Henry Beale of Harvard University, who had been granted a leave of absence for two years to inaugurate the School. 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 original program was one of three years preceded by at least three years of collegiate training.

*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. They provide that all persons admitted to the bar shall have graduated from a law school that requires of its students (1) at least two years of college preparation as a prerequisite for admission to the School, and (2) at least three academic years of study before obtaining its degree. Such a law school must also have an adequate library and a sufficient number of full-time teachers to give adequate personal contact with the student body, and it shall not be operated as a commercial enterprise.
In 1904, Professor Beale was succeeded by James Parker Hall, who continued as Dean until his death in 1928. In 1929, Harry Augustus Bigelow, a member of the Faculty since 1904, became Dean of the School and served in that capacity until 1939.

II. OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

The curriculum of the Law School is designed not only to prepare students for professional activities as advocates and counselors on legal matters, but also to prepare them for judicial, legislative, and administrative positions. The program is based upon a belief that the more important problems confronting lawyers, judges, and legislators are basically economic and social, and that broad training is essential to equip law-school graduates to cope with them. To this end the program of the School is planned to give the student a comprehension of and proficiency in the technical and traditional legal subjects and to integrate these studies with subjects such as accounting, economics, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, and sociology. The study of legal history, jurisprudence, and comparative law is introduced as contributing to this integration.

The School offers the three following programs:

1. A Four-Year Program leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) and Doctor of Law (J.D.).
2. A Three-Year Program leading to the degree of Doctor of Law (J.D.).
3. A program for research in law leading to the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.).

III. ADMISSION

The enrolment of the School is limited. Students are accepted only at the beginning of the Autumn Quarter. Applications for admission must be made well in advance of October 1 upon a form obtained from the office of the Dean of the Law School. Each application must be accompanied by an official transcript of the applicant’s college record. Applicants may be asked to have an interview with a member of the Faculty or an alumnus of the School. Students register in the office of the Dean at the beginning of the Autumn Quarter. A student whose work is unsatisfactory will not be permitted to continue in the School.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREES

THE FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM

The Four-Year Program is designed for students who have:

1. Satisfied the requirements of the College of the University of Chicago; or
2. Graduated from approved junior colleges; or