

International Legal Studies

In the course of its work in international legal studies, The Law School has for many years conducted courses and seminars in comparative law. The Max Pam Professorship of Comparative Law was established in 1935. As a base for research in comparative law, the Comparative Law Research Center was established in 1948. Under its auspices the annotated translation of Max Weber's *Law in Society and Economy* was published in 1954 and a study on *Conflict Law in American Treaties* in 1956. A major investigation into the relations between divorce laws and marriage stability is nearing completion. Since 1949, the School has been carrying on a special course of introduction to American law for foreign students. It is designed to take care of the needs of that steadily growing number of graduates of law schools of civil law countries who do not come to this country to prepare themselves for the practice of law in the United States. What these students want is, in a one year's stay, to acquaint themselves with the methods of common-law thought and to obtain some knowledge of American law and institutions. When back home, they will then utilize their American experience in their work in their own laws and, perhaps, also in the conduct of legal business between their home countries and the United States. Students of this kind are strangers to those institutions of American social, economic, political, and cultural life which an American student has absorbed simply by living here. They are also unfamiliar with American university organization and American teaching methods. Many of them are specially interested in some particular field of American law such as trade regulations, corporation law, or the treatment of juvenile delinquency, which they cannot understand without some basic knowledge and training of a more general kind.

Such students are likely to waste all, or a considerable part, of the short time they have in this country, unless they receive understanding guidance as well as special introductory instruction. At The University of Chicago Law School the facilities offered to take care of these needs have so far been used by some seventy students coming from seventeen different countries.

In recent years a need has been recognized for American lawyers to acquaint themselves with the legal systems of civil law countries, both for practical purposes and as a method of enriching the understanding of American law, its possibilities of development, and its teaching. If an American law graduate goes abroad to study law in, let us say, Paris, he is likely to be as much at sea as the foreign law graduate here unless he is specially prepared and guided. To provide such preparation and guidance, the School now offers a Foreign Law Program, which extends over twenty-one months, the first nine months to be spent in residence at the University and the following twelve months in a foreign country.

During the first nine months the major portion of the student's working time will be spent in intensive and systematic study of the private law of France or Germany. These two systems have been chosen because a mastery of either one will enable a student to work effectively in any one of the many laws which are based upon the French or German models, such as those of Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, and Latin America, of Austria, Switzerland, Japan, and Turkey. He will also be prepared to approach the private law systems of the Nordic countries and of many of the Arabic countries, of Eastern Europe and of Southeast Asia.

The remainder of the first-year curriculum will be flexible, but students who do not have a decided preference for any particular field of private law will be advised to devote their attention to the law of international trade and international business transactions. Insofar as necessary, the student will also have to advance his proficiency in the language of the country of his choice.

The work of the second year will be carried on in that foreign country for which the student has been prepared. Before the student goes abroad, arrangements will have been made for his continued guidance by a law teacher in the country chosen, who, in consultation with The University of Chicago Law School, will prepare for each student an appropriate plan of studies and research and who will be available through the year as counselor and consultant. In suitable cases provision may be made for practical training in a law office, a government agency, or a business firm.

Thus prepared and guided, the student should be in a position to gain the most from his work abroad and, quite particularly, to avoid that waste of time and effort which otherwise appear to be inevitable.

A student who has successfully completed the full program will be awarded the degree of Master of Comparative Law (M.Comp.L.). Upon the acceptance by the faculty of a major study as a thesis, the candidate will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Comparative Law (D. Comp.L.). In order to be accepted as a thesis, the study must constitute an original contribution to legal learning.

Financial assistance through the award of a fellowship or tuition scholarship may be given to students of eminently high qualification. Fellowships will cover tuition and other fees, the cost of travel, and a monthly living stipend of \$180 or the equivalent of its purchasing power in the country in which the second year of the program is spent.

In a further effort to enrich its work in international legal studies, the School has decided also to offer a limited number of fellowships to graduates of law schools in countries within the British Commonwealth. The training which such students receive in the American variant of the common law should help them in their work at home and strengthen the ties within the common-law part of the world. Through their representing a diversity

of background and interest, they also should exercise a stimulating influence among the student body of the School.

The year at Chicago may be taken either upon the completion of university studies or after a period in practice, government service, or teaching. The Fellows from the Commonwealth will be admitted to the regular undergraduate curriculum of the School and pursue the program of studies which is taken by students who are preparing themselves for admission to the bar and practice in the United States. The Fellows will normally be admitted to the Senior Class when they enter and may, therefore, complete the program and qualify for the J.D. degree during one year of residence at the School.

The stipends for the Fellows will be \$3,000 for residents of the United Kingdom; \$3,500 for residents of Africa, Australia, New Zealand; and \$2,500 for residents of the Dominion of Canada. It is expected that these amounts, which reflect differences in travel expenses, will be adequate to cover the expenses, including tuition fees and living expenses, of a nine-month academic year at the Law School.

The Fellowships will be awarded by the Faculty of the School from a group of candidates from the Commonwealth, each of whom will have been selected by his university and designated to compete for the Fellowship as a representative of that university.



Some of the numerous publications by The Law School faculty are contained on these shelves in the Law Library.