

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LAW CENTER



50
YEARS



MANDATE

THE UP LAW COMPLEX,
an integrated system of national legal
institutions within the University
of the Philippines shall be dedicated
to the *teaching, research, training,
information and legal extension services*
to ensure a just society which shall
always be responsive to the challenges
of social change; and shall be relevant
to the growing legal and other law
related needs of the Filipino people.

THE UP LAW CENTER, established by Republic Act 3870, dated 16 June 1969, is the more visible unit of the Law Complex. Through its various programs it carries the law to the wider Filipino society in fulfilment of its mandate to raise the legal literacy level of the citizen. Its Charter directs the Law Center:

- To undertake law institutes or study programs for continuing legal education
- To undertake legal studies and researches on request from the various agencies of the government concerned with law reform, including the committees on Revision of Laws of the House of Representatives and the Senate
- To undertake the publication of studies, monographs, research papers, articles, and other works or writings on law, with special emphasis on those related to its general objectives, and to distribute them at cost to government agencies, judges, lawyers, government administrators and other interested parties

The UP Law Center is supported by a special fund known as the *Legal Research Fund* collected from court fees.

The foundation of the UP Law Center (UPLC) rests on the Continuing Legal Education and Research Program of 1960 conducted by the College of Law in response to the pressing need of the time for law reform and to keep law practitioners updated in the law. The Congress of the Philippines recognized the rich potential of this intellectual enterprise and enacted on June 15, 1964, Republic Act No. 3870, An Act Defining the Functions of the U.P. Law Center, Providing for Its Financing and for Other Purposes. (Charter of UPLC). The three main functions of the UPLC have remained constant since its inception even as it has evolved its programs to be responsive to any given period of national life. These are: continuing legal education; law reform; and legal publications. In its early years, these functions were carried out by three Divisions.



DIVISION OF CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION offered (1) law institutes, a series of week-long lectures on new developments in the law and topics of current interest; (2) short courses, which were lectures of broader scope lasting 2-4 weeks; (3) vacation studies program, held during summer and outside the Greater Manila area; and (4) judicial Conferences and seminars, courses specifically designed for members of the Bench. The General Law Practice Institute became a regular activity where the UPLC — in partnership with local bar associations — went out to the regions from Northern Luzon to Davao and Zamboanga City.

Later activities such as its POPLAW (Popularizing the Law) and BLES (Barangay Legal Education Seminar) began to reach a wider audience at local and grassroots level, in the effort to raise legal awareness. These consisted of lectures and seminars designed to address specific sectors such as barangay leaders, local level law enforcers, and even high school teachers.



DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND LAW REFORM — the 60s-70s decade was a period of national restoration. The division took part in this effort through (1) law reform recommendations; (2) consultative services and rendering legal opinions to various government agencies; and (3) conduct of technical studies and research in Philippine Law. A major undertaking, which took a year and half to prepare, was a draft constitution for the consideration of the 1971 Constitutional Revision Convention. Another product was the Permanent and General Statutes, a multi-volume compilation of Philippine laws, containing up-to-date amendments and annotations giving the statutory history of a given law.

DIVISION OF PUBLICATIONS documented the annual seminars for judges and the various Institutes for legal practitioners through publication of the Judicial Conference series and the Law Institute series. The Treatises and Casebook series and the Law Monograph series comprised the more scholarly monographs and papers; annotated compilations, casebooks, and textbooks, Philippine Legal Studies series and Law Reform Series, all contributed towards building a truly Philippine jurisprudence and legal literature.

Within the framework of these functions, the UPLC experimented with evolving programs in response to the call of any given time. Thus, for a while it set up the Barangay at Katarungan program in 1981 and established an Institute of ASEAN Studies, in 1984.

Under the Reorganization Plan of 1989, creating the Law Complex, UPLC is headed by the Dean of the College of Law, assisted by the Associate Dean who supervises the conduct of business of the Center.

The UP Law Center is composed of the following Institutes that carry out the research and extension function of the College:

- Institute of Government and Law Reform (IGLR)
- Institute of Human Rights (IHR)
- Institute for the Administration of Justice (IAJ)
- Institute of International Legal Studies (IILS)
- Institute of Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea (IMLOS)

Each Institute is administered by a Director appointed from the regular faculty members of the College.

While each institute carries a flagship program, all carry out the Law Center functions of research, law reform, render opinions when consulted by different agencies of government, conduct fora on current national concerns, and offer seminars and workshops to various sectors of society.

THE INSTITUTES



INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (IHR)

The IHR is concerned with the protection and promotion of the civil, economic, social and cultural rights, especially those of indigenous cultural communities, urban poor, labor, and agricultural sectors of society. The IHR conducts research on select human rights issues.

It organizes symposia, seminars, conferences, and roundtable discussions on urgent issues for its constituency groups, proceedings of which, are published by the UPLC. It sponsors specialized training courses on human rights in cooperation with other human rights organizations and renders opinions to government agencies regarding policy and legal questions on human rights.



INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AND LAW REFORM (IGLR)

The IGLR undertakes research in various aspects of the law as basis for law reform, contributing to legal scholarship, and renders opinions as consultant to various government agencies.

Among its various activities are the: (1) POPLAW project that conducts seminar workshops for different constituencies, both in and out of government, in areas not covered by the other Institutes; and (2) preparation of handbooks and manuals under the Practical Law (PracLaw) project.

It has designed short courses for law enforcement agencies such as the PNP (1998-present) and sheriffs and local government leaders as well as conducted lectures for the teaching of the Constitution among high school teachers.



INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (IAJ)

The IAJ offers courses for members of the Bar under the Continuing Legal Education program in coordination with local and national chapters of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. IAJ also develops training programs in special areas of the law under special arrangements with government agencies and occasionally for international organizations of the bench and bar.



INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES (IILS)

The IILS is concerned with foreign relations studies that directly affect the interests of the Philippine State, including regional economic and cultural aggregations, bilateral and multilateral agreements. It concentrates on two main areas of study: (1) Philippines in the World Economy; (2) Independent Foreign Policy.

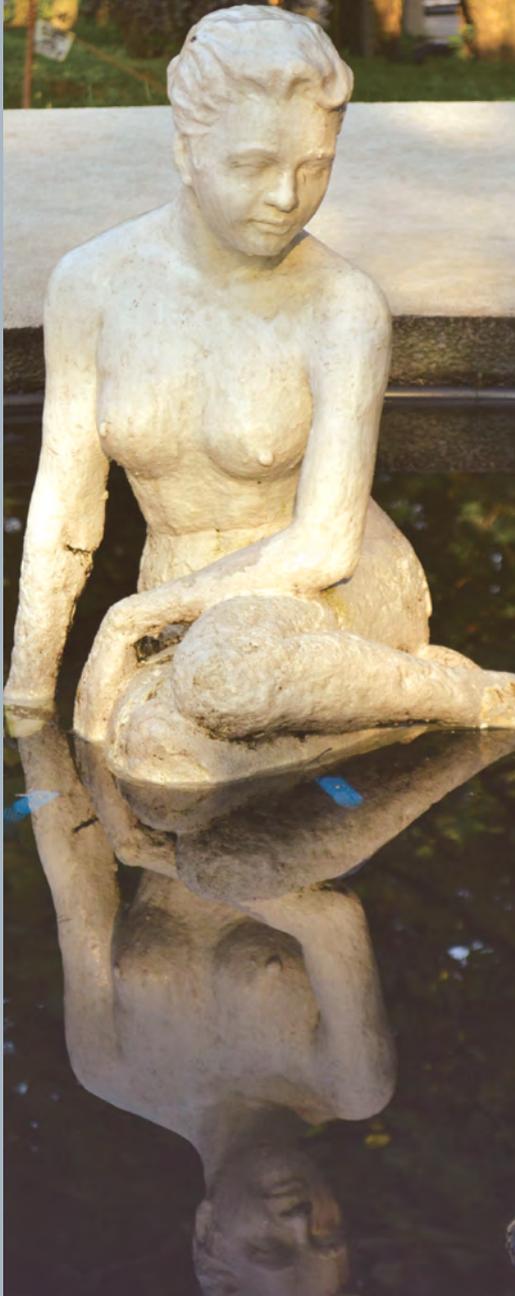
IILS conducts roundtable discussions, seminars, conferences and workshops and publishes the proceedings. It also receives requests for opinions and other legal assistance from Congress, the Supreme Court, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Trade and Industry and the WTO/AFTA Commission.



INSTITUTE OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND LAW OF THE SEA (IMLOS)

IMLOS is engaged in research and formulating foreign policy recommendations on ocean law and other maritime matters of concern to the nation, through its Maritime Industry Law Reform Program. The programs of the Institute include:

- interdisciplinary and comparative research and studies on the Law of the Sea (LOS), territorial issues in maritime affairs, in collaboration with relevant local institutions and offices
- increasing awareness of the LOS, territorial issues, and maritime affairs
- developing and maintaining expertise on LOS, territorial issues, and maritime affairs
- providing legal and policy advice to the Philippines government as well as NGOs and private entities



SUPPORT SERVICES

UPLC also provides support services for the conduct of business in the Law Complex. These are carried out by the (1) Information and Publications Division (IPD); (2) Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR); and (3) Training and Convention Division (TCD). Each of these offices is administered by a Head.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION (IPD)

The IPD provides technical assistance in the preparation of the various publications of the College and UPLC. It serves as the publishing house of the UP Law Complex and as such runs the Law Bookroom. Its most current undertaking is the Centennial Textbook Writing Project and the Faculty Scholarship Series. The former consists of textbooks and treatises authored by members of the Law Faculty. The FSS is a collection of theoretical discussions on significant legal, political, and social issues written by members of the Law Faculty, that appear online or are published in various venues.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER (ONAR)

The ONAR was created by the Board of Regents in March 1991, pursuant to the Administrative Code of 1987, which requires the UP Law Center to be the repository of all rules and regulations adopted/issued by the different government agencies. As also required by this mandate, the ONAR publishes, every quarter, selected rules and regulations filed at the Office.



TRAINING AND CONVENTION DIVISION (TCD)

The TCD conducts the annual Bar Review program of the college. It prepares review materials and lectures and publishes the popular Answers to Bar Questions series, a handbook containing questions and suggested answers on past bar exams. In order to reach a wide sector of law graduates, the Division also conducts Bar Reviews in the regions.



POPULARIZING THE LAW (POPLAW) PROGRAM

The Popularizing the Law (POPLAW) Program is designed to bring about functional legal literacy among the general public. It informs the citizenry about its government and their collective rights and responsibilities as Filipinos. This is done through the Barangay Level Education Seminars and Practical Law for Elementary and High School students. The POPLAW Program assures each one of us that the “Law is for the protection of ALL and not for a FAVORED FEW.”

As part of this effort, the Center publishes handbooks as tools to aid in this campaign of the popularizing the law. It is designed to be easily understood and provides a simplistic yet effective approach to the study of law. The Center hopes through these efforts the Filipino may be well-informed of how its government works and most especially in its collective rights towards the path of a truly effective democracy.



PARALEGAL TRAINING PROGRAM (PTP)

The Paralegal Training Program (PTP) is a non-degree legal literacy, and technical skills training program for those engaged in paralegal work and services. It is a certificate course that familiarizes the trainee with the fundamentals of substantive law and develops skills in practical procedures of the courts and administrative agencies. The course consists of twenty three (23) modules spread over twenty-six (26) training sessions of three (3) hours per session.

It provides the learner with basic and practical knowledge of the judicial system; civil, criminal, and quasi-judicial procedures; jurisdiction of local government units; ethical standards in government; obligations and commercial contracts; tax and labor law compliance; and rules, regulations and procedures of various administrative agencies.

PTP learners who complete the training program receive a Certificate of Completion from the University of the Philippines Law Center.



MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The MCLE is a mandate of the Philippine Supreme Court that requires members of the Bar to complete every three (3) years at least thirty-six (36) hours of continuing legal education activities. The UPLC, as an accredited provider of the service, conducts the course for government agencies, upon invitation, as well as its regular program carried out at Bocobo Hall. As required by the mandate, the MCLE program consists of: legal ethics, trial and pretrial skills, alternative dispute resolution, updates on substantive and procedural laws, and jurisprudence, legal writing and oral advocacy, international law and international conventions. Each module lasts for four full days with UP Law faculty serving as lecturers. Participants are issued certificates of attendance at the end of each module.



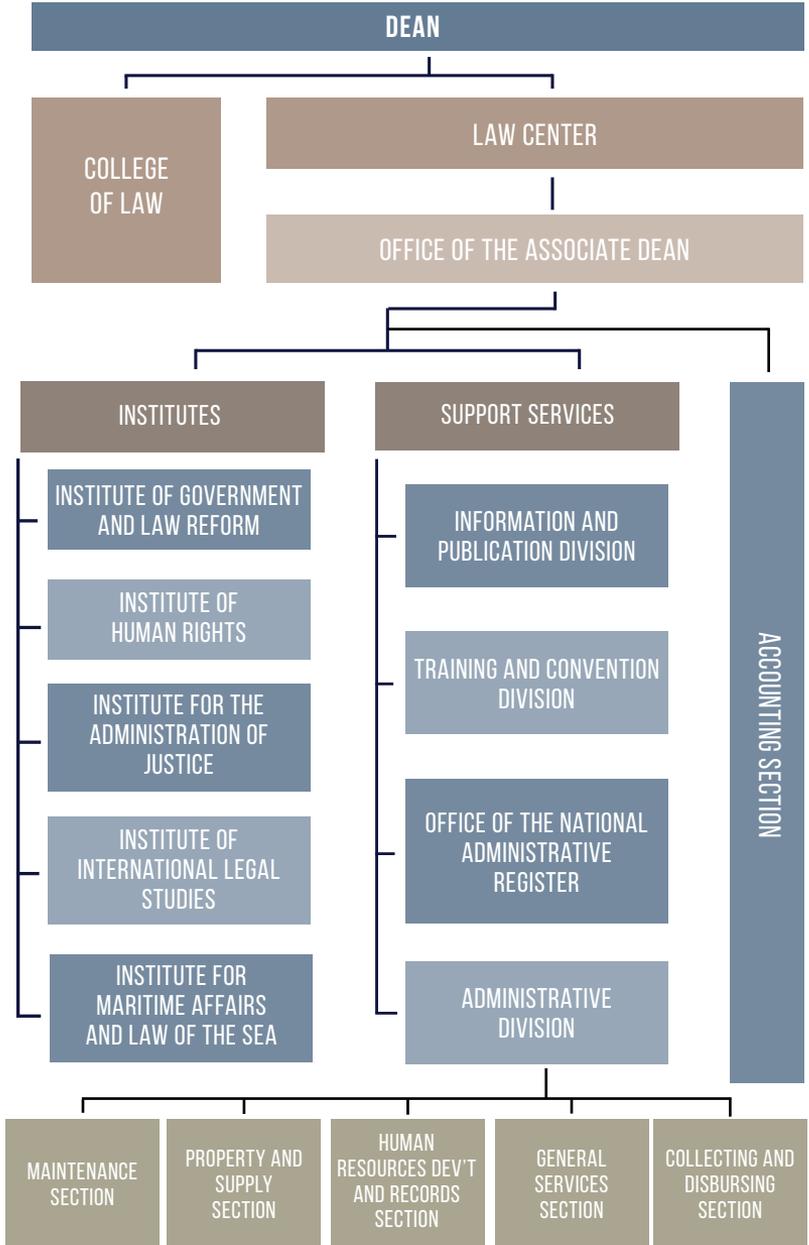
SEMINAR ON LAWS AND JURISPRUDENCE FOR THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

The PNP Seminar is designed to educate the Philippine National Police in the rudimentary principles of the Philippine legal system. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement between the PNP and the UP Law Center, the Seminar has two objectives: (1) Provide the Philippine National Police with basic knowledge of the law as an instrument for its enforcement and implementation and, (2) acquaint the police with the fundamental procedure of the judicial and administrative system.

The course content of the seminar covers the Constitution and aspects of: criminal law, human rights, Local Government Code, rules of evidence, and other laws related to PNP duties. The roster of Lecturers includes specialists from the UP Law Faculty and other the legal profession.

PNP attendees who complete the course (thirty-two hours) receive a Certificate of Attendance from the University of the Philippines Law Center.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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