

COLLEGE OF LAW

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

“The business of a law school is not sufficiently described when you merely say that it is to teach law, or to make lawyers. It is to teach law in the grand manner, and to make great lawyers.”

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES
United States Supreme Court Justice



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES COLLEGE OF LAW

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PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LAW SCHOOL

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES COLLEGE OF LAW is an institution acknowledged for its continuing commitment to academic excellence and service to the public. It marked its centennial year in 2011 as the lead unit of what is now the UP Law Complex. The UP College of Law was among the first seven Colleges established after the foundation of the University of the Philippines on June 18, 1908 through Act No. 1870 of the Philippine Assembly. During its first hundred years, the transformation of the College has been from a professional school offering a degree program, to a Law Complex with a triad of functions: 1) instruction, 2) research, and 3) extension service operating under the following mandate:

The UP Law Complex as an integrated system of national legal institutions within the University of the Philippines shall be dedicated to teaching, research, training, information, and legal extension service to ensure a just society. It 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.

MALCOLM HALL

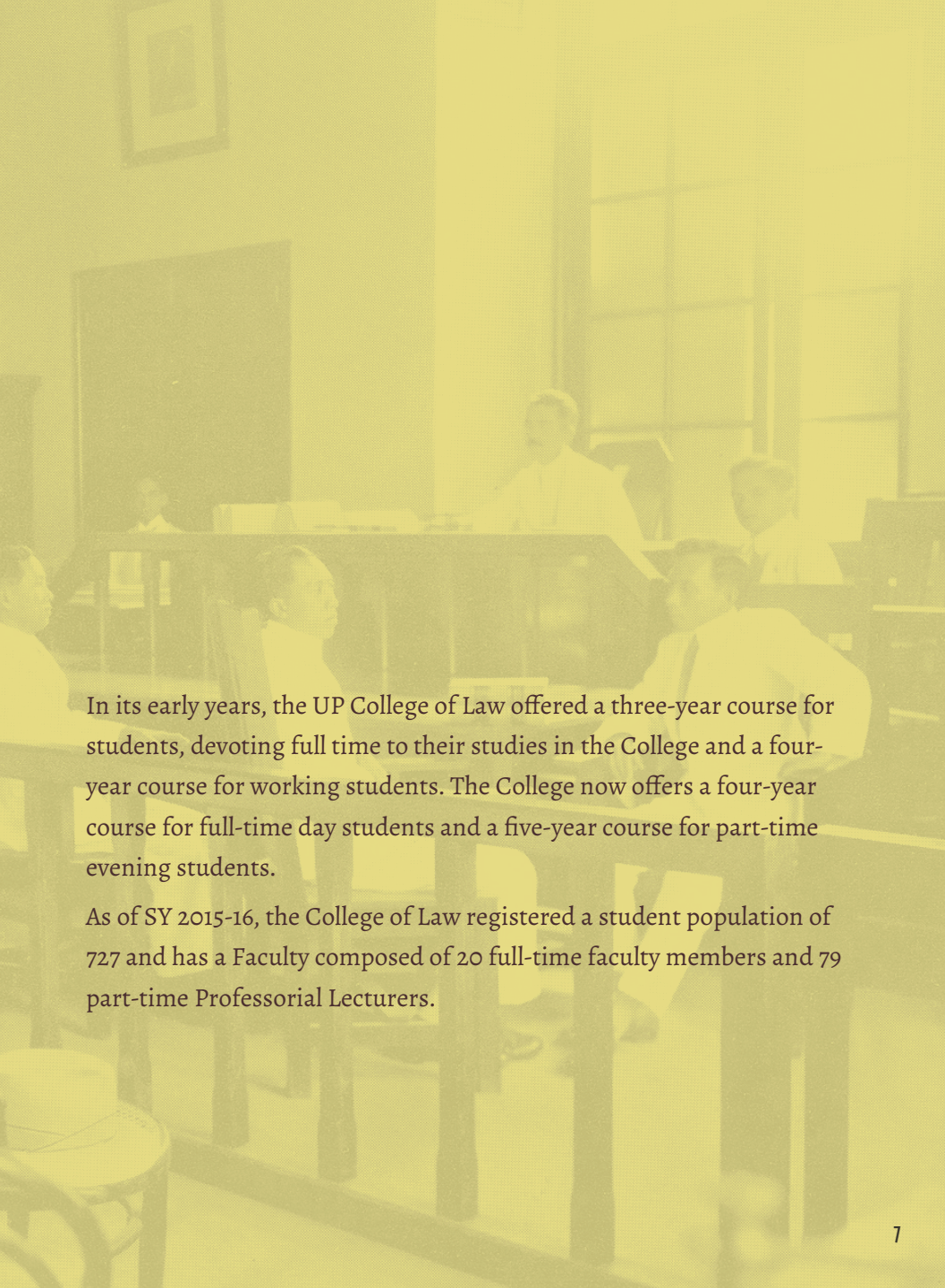


1911

BRIEF HISTORY

THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES FORMALLY approved the establishment of the College of Law on January 12, 1911 offering first and second year courses. The College, however, traces its beginnings to the law courses opened in 1910 by the Educational Department Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), through the efforts of George A. Malcolm who was later to become the first Dean of the College.

When the College formally opened its classes a total of 125 students comprising freshmen and sophomores were enrolled. Of this first class, one became a President of the Philippines, and another became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, while several others became legislators and legal luminaries. One hundred years since its founding, the College of Law continues to point to its alumni in the highest positions of the government with many more graduates as prominent law practitioners, high officials in government service, political leaders, as well as pioneers in private enterprise.



In its early years, the UP College of Law offered a three-year course for students, devoting full time to their studies in the College and a four-year course for working students. The College now offers a four-year course for full-time day students and a five-year course for part-time evening students.

As of SY 2015-16, the College of Law registered a student population of 727 and has a Faculty composed of 20 full-time faculty members and 79 part-time Professorial Lecturers.



The UP Law Faculty is known for its expertise in the various fields of law and is recruited by invitation to teach in the College. Policy makers call on the Faculty regularly for their insights on pending legislation or to draft laws for congressional action. Members of the faculty litigate cases of national significance. They appear before the Supreme Court either as counsels for various parties or as *amicus curiae*. Two former members of the College are now sitting Justices of the present Supreme Court with Maria Lourdes Sereno serving as Chief Justice and Marvic M.V.F. Leonen as an Associate Justice.

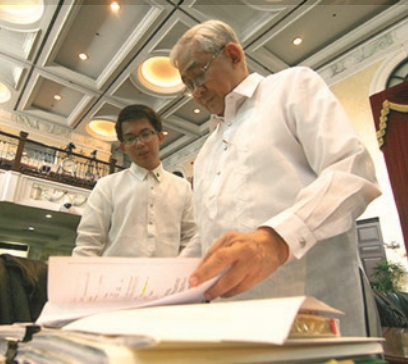
The Law Faculty is also widely published in prestigious Philippine and international journals.

The UP College of Law celebrates diversity in its students. The students come from varying academic backgrounds that include graduates of the social sciences, philosophy, economics, engineering and medicine.

For their extra-curricular activities, they participate in inter-university debates and various international Moot Court competitions during the year. UP Law students have excelled in Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, Stetson International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, Monroe E. Price Media Law Moot Court Competition, and Red Cross (Asia-Pacific) International Humanitarian Law Moot Court.

STUDENTS





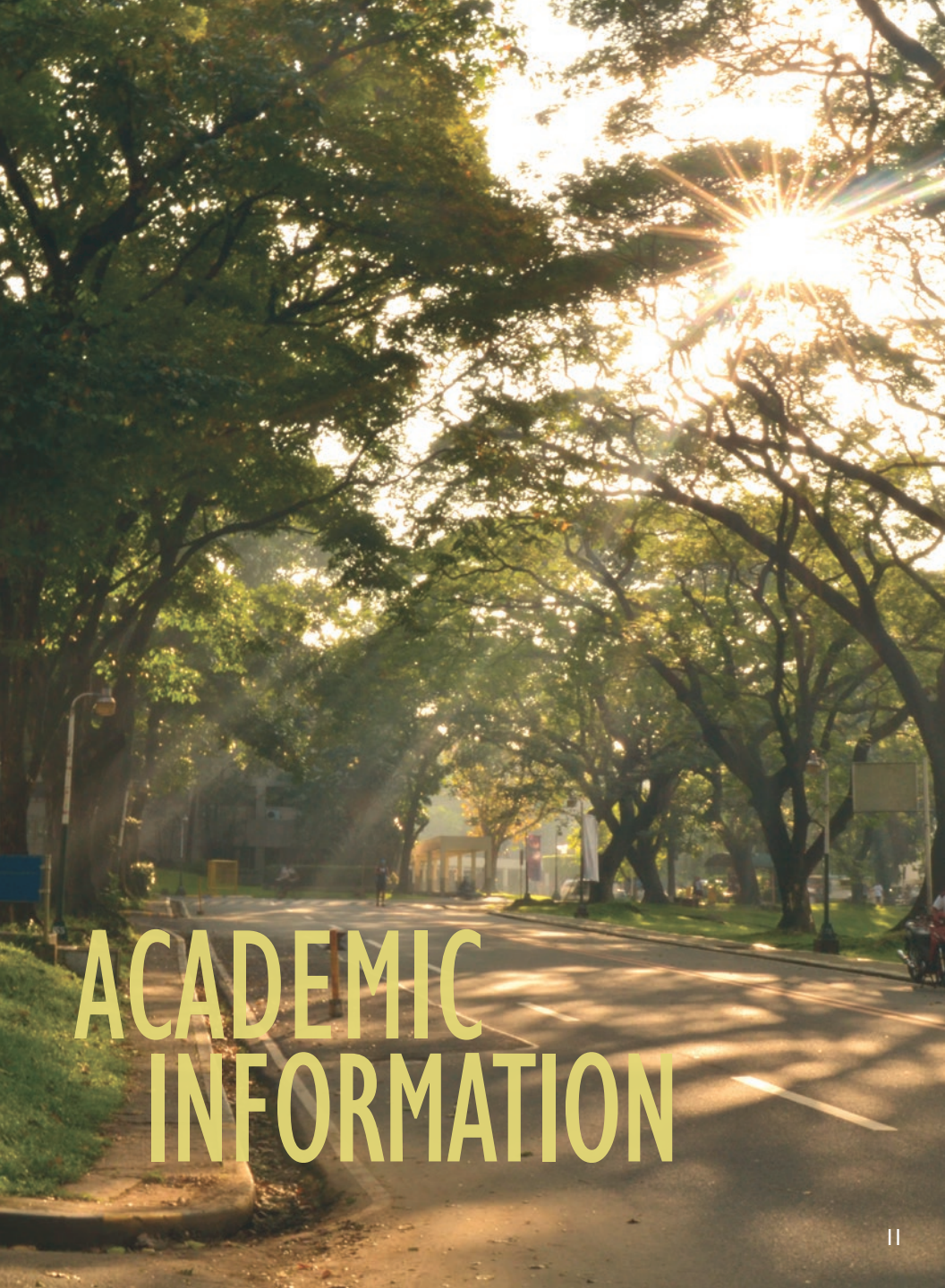
ALUMNI



The UP College of Law has produced around 6,000 graduates over the years. Among these have been Presidents, Vice Presidents, Senators, Speakers of the House and members of Congress, Justices of the Supreme Court, Cabinet Secretaries, academicians and many leaders in the different areas of the legal profession.

The UP College of Law enjoys close relations with its alumni. The Law Alumni Association (UPLA) has strengthened through the years and holds annual reunions that are well attended. UPLA has generously supported the College, not only through scholarship grants but also in the upkeep of Malcolm Hall by modernizing its classrooms.

The Office of Alumni Relations is an active unit of the College bridging the *alma mater* with its many graduates. It provides updates on current events in Malcolm Hall, to alumni in the Philippines and in different parts of the world and coordinates the activities of the different class batches and the College.



ACADEMIC INFORMATION



C U R R I C U L A R O F F E R I N G S

Degree Programs

The College of Law of the University of the Philippines offers the following degree programs:

- Four-year undergraduate program leading to Juris Doctor (JD) degree.
- Five-year undergraduate program for working students leading to a Juris Doctor (JD) degree .

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants to the program leading to Juris Doctor (J.D.) are required to have satisfactorily completed in an authorized university or college a bachelor's degree in arts or science with any of the following subjects as a major or field of concentration: Political Science; Philosophy; English; Economics; History.

A bachelor's degree holder in a field other than those mentioned above must have earned the following minimum number of units:

English

12 units

History or
Economics

9 units

Philosophy, Political
Science, Psychology, or
Sociology

9 units

A Course on Rizal

3 units

A qualified applicant, who passes the Law Aptitude Examination (LAE), may be asked to undergo an interview. The UP LAE is usually administered in the first week of February in three (3) testing centers (UP Diliman, UP Cebu, and UP Mindanao). Application forms are usually available by October.

Holders of graduate degrees are not exempt from taking the LAE.

No student will be admitted to the College unless the Committee on Student Admissions recommends the admission. The College has a “no deferment” policy. Those admitted to the College but who do not enroll, or enroll in the first semester but drop all courses, will have to re-take the LAE should they choose to re-apply for admission.

Only those who are employed full-time are permitted to enroll in the evening program.

CLASSES

The College holds classes from Mondays to Saturdays. Classes under the five-year program for working students generally start at 6:00 P.M. and end at 9:00 P.M.

METHOD AND MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

The modified Socratic Method is generally used in the class where instruction is by the question-and-answer method accompanied by discussion. The method seeks to enable the student to understand the vital points in assigned readings, to develop an analytical faculty, and to engender a critical attitude with respect to rules, conclusions, or theories.

In the clinical method, students are exposed to the practical problems of law practice and are given opportunity to learn by doing. In their final year, students handle actual court cases under a Supervising Lawyer in the Office of Legal Aid. This makes up the practicum component of the course.

English is used as the medium of instruction.





SUBJECT MATTER OF COURSES

The courses comprehend a study of general principles and basic theories of law as an intellectual discipline, as well as a systematic and analytical examination of the specific codes and statutory enactments in force in the Philippines together with interpretative court decisions and other pertinent materials. Closely studied are the civil law basis of most of private laws of the country and the common law concept embodied in the public laws and derived particularly from Angle-American jurisprudence. Consequently, the materials of study are textbooks, statutes, cases, and other authoritative works on law and jurisprudence.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All the courses offered in the College are required to be taken in residence. The satisfactory completion of each of them is required for graduation. All senior students must satisfactorily complete 8 units (two semesters) of the practicum component of their course, in the Office of Legal Aid before graduation.

Additionally all senior students are required to submit a publishable paper under the guidance of a Faculty Adviser.

All candidates for graduation must complete their deficiencies and their records cleared not later than five weeks before the end of their last semester.

Juris Doctor (JD)

For the grant of the Juris Doctor degree, besides the completion of all courses, the candidate must attain a general weighted average of not less than 2.75 computed on the basis of units at the end of the law course.



Graduation with Honors

Students who complete their courses with the following absolute minimum weighted average grade shall graduate with honors: *summa cum laude* (1.20); *magna cum laude* (1.45); *cum laude* (1.75) Provided, That all the grades in all subjects prescribed in the curriculum, as well as subjects that qualify as electives, are included in the computation of the weighted average grade.

Students who are candidates for graduation with honors must have taken during each semester not less than fifteen units of credit or the normal load prescribed in the curriculum, in cases where such normal load is less than fifteen units, unless the lighter load was due to justifiable causes such as health reasons, the unavailability of courses needed in the curriculum to complete the full load, or the fact that the candidate is a working student.



PUBLIC INTEREST OPPORTUNITIES

The public interest law internship program is offered as an elective subject open to sophomore and junior law students. It consists of classroom and internship components. The course seeks to introduce the students to the various theories, methodologies, issues, and skills of public interest legal practice. Upon completion of the classroom component, the students are given actual work experience in public interest law groups such as the Office of the Solicitor General and Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

OFFICE OF LEGAL AID

The Office of Legal Aid (OLA) administers the clinical education program of the College. It provides free legal assistance to indigent litigants, and takes on public interest cases. Senior year law students are required to put in 126 hours of practicum handling cases in which they interview clients, draft pleadings and briefs, and appear in court under a Supervising Lawyer. The Office is headed by a Director who is a regular (full-time) member of the Law Faculty.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The College of Law offers several scholarships supported by donations from alumni and friends of the College. These are administered, in cooperation with their respective donors, by the Dean and the Scholarship Committee of the College.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Co-curricular activities designed to develop broader cultural and social interests on the part of the students and stimulate the spirit of leadership and cooperation form part of the student life in the College. They include periodical discussions, lectures, symposia, outreach activities, debates, and moot court competitions participated in by the students. They help in providing a more holistic education for law students.

SPECIAL FACILITIES



UP LAW LIBRARY

The UP College of Law Library serves as the hub of the ‘electronic law school’ project of the College. It provides access to an array of electronic data bases to a varied clientele. Housed in a four-storey air-conditioned building, known as Espiritu Hall, the Library is located between Malcolm Hall, and the UP Law Center in Bocobo Hall. The UP Law Library is the largest in the country having an extensive collection of books, journals, and Philippine legal materials. It serves not only the students and staff of the College and University but, given the public character of the UP College of Law, also the Congress and other government agencies. Additionally, over the years it has developed a clientele within the legal practice industry.

The collection of the Library includes the Philippine Reports, Supreme Court Reports Annotated, Philippine Digest, complete sets of the U.S. National Reporter System, U.S. Supreme Court Reporter, American Law Reports, and several sets of different state reports, statutes, legal encyclopedia, loose leaf services, casebooks, texts, and treatises. There is an extensive collection of materials on international law and a complete set of the United Nations Treaty Series and League of Nations Treaty Series, and sets of Anglo-American legal periodical representative of a first-class law school library. Its electronic databases include LexisNexis, Westlaw International, and HeinOnline; and indexes such as WebOPAC and Philippine eLib. The Library also has a notable collection of Spanish law books, a United Nations Document Section, Constitutional Convention Archive, Human Rights Documentation Section, records of the Philippine Martial Law period, and ASEAN Law and Indigenous Law collections.

The Library also has an extensive collection of electronic databases containing laws, local and foreign jurisprudence, administrative issuances, international documents, and indexes to foreign periodicals. For search purposes, the Library has its local online public access catalogue system.

ELECTRONIC LAW SCHOOL

The UP College of Law has been developing its 'electronic law school' infrastructure for both classroom needs and administrative services. It facilitates the exchange of data, information, and analysis between professors and students; and between other Colleges and the University administration.



DIRECTORY

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