

# A Short History of the Faculty of Law\*

## 1. Aims

Emperor Haile Selassie officially inaugurated the Faculty of Law of Addis Ababa University on September 23, 1963. The basis for the establishment of the Faculty was laid down by the momentous decision of the early 1950s to codify the basic laws of the country and to entrust the task of codification primarily to Franco-phone experts. The decision to codify the laws of Ethiopia gave rise to the need for trained lawyers who could understand, interpret and apply them. As to the need for such trained human resource the Emperor, in 1961, upon the convocation of Haile Selassie I University, declared:

“We would ask for the immediate founding of a Faculty of Law, where our own students may be trained to enter the legal profession... Our Empire has need, in its government and its commerce, for well educated lawyers and particularly for those who have been trained in their own University, in their own codes and customs.”

These policy guidelines shaped the formation of the Faculty of Law. The Faculty would be an institution in which lawyers trained in the common law system teach Ethiopians codified laws drafted primarily by experts trained in the civil law system. This eclectic approach was hoped to achieve the independent development of Ethiopian law and Ethiopian institutions of legal education.

## 2. Historical Background

### 2.1. The Faculty of Law of the University College of Addis Ababa

When the introduction into Ethiopia of codified laws was contemplated in the 1951-52 period, there were practically no Ethiopians trained in the legal profession. Accordingly, it was deemed necessary, before the promulgation of the various codes-- the Penal Code in 1957, the Civil and Commercial Codes in 1960--to form in advance a nucleus of persons capable of understanding and applying the impending legislation. Fortunately, the University College of Addis Ababa had just been inaugurated (February 1951) and there was thus at hand an academic basis for the creation of a Law School. And, indeed, by 1953, the University College comprised three constituent units, namely, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Science, and the Faculty of Law.

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At this stage, however, while the two faculties had their own full-time instructors, the Faculty of Law had to content itself with conducting evening programs. This was so partly because candidates for the LL.B degree could not satisfy the more or less rigorous entrance requirements and partly because the idea then was "to reach persons in the profession." The target groups of legal education early on were judges, advocates, police officers, members of parliament and other government officials.

During the time of ten years (1952-62) when the Faculty of Law was formed as an integral part of the University College of Addis Ababa, valuable experience was gained and important decisions made which later made the Faculty what it is today. In the first place, it was decided that the bulk of Ethiopian lawyers, rather than being trained abroad in a foreign legal system, would be taught Ethiopian law "at home". It was at the same time decided that the law would be taught primarily to persons already occupying positions which require some knowledge of law such as judges, advocates, police officials, public servants and persons employed in banking and business. On the second plane, it was decided that legal education then could only be offered at the sub-degree level in view of the absence of qualified candidates for the degree level. It is interesting to note that in those days, "...even candidates holding a secondary school leaving certificate were a rarity so that the standards of admission had to be set at about eleventh grade of secondary education or an equivalent in educational and professional experience." In the third place, at least for the time being, law had to be taught by "academic lawyers" who, of necessity, were attached to the University College and taught law on part-time basis. This was an approach which differed from the experience of developed countries where sub-degree law courses are taught and administered by expert practitioners from the Ministry of Justice or lawyers' professional associations. In the fourth place, and most significantly for the period in question, the law to be taught had to be assembled on an ad hoc basis. This was so because the new codes were not yet ready and little was known about Ethiopian customary law. As hints were given that the new codes would generally be based on continental legal systems, it was decided to familiarize students with concepts, categories, classifications and methods of reasoning which prevail in the "Romanistic" legal system.

During the initial period and in pursuance of these basic decisions, law courses were given to a single batch or intake who attended six periods per week, the medium of instruction being English. The courses were concluded in July 1955 by a comprehensive examination counting for one half of the overall grades bearing on selected areas of Roman, Civil, Penal and Commercial law as well as on procedure and economics. Of the 121 original applicants of February 1952, only 39 students successfully completed the programme and became holders of the Faculty's first diploma. The attrition rate was very high. It was clear that the suggestion of Professor Rene David, the drafter of the Civil Code, that there would be required a minimum annual output of 40 students for the proper application of the codes would not be attained by training just one batch at the sub-degree level. Intense discussions within the University College were held during the period 1955-59. The discussions, centered around two basic problems, namely: the subject matter to be taught, as the new codes were still not yet promulgated; and the

candidates to be taught the law courses since, as it was perceived then, a degree programme in law would require a minimum of junior college education and there were no more than four candidates who would satisfy the requirements.

In the meantime, though, between 1956 and 1958, a new sub-degree Advanced Law School programme was introduced. Graduates of the first programme and new entrants participated in the course. The course mainly covered civil law, penal law and public finance. "The advanced civil law course followed, step by step the gradual appearance of draft code fragments in the different branches of civil law, and the advanced penal law course analyzed the Ethiopian Penal Code". At the same time, a second Basic Law School course was conducted, in addition to and simultaneously with the Advanced course, during the 1956 and 1959 period. The entry requirement was set at twelfth grade of secondary education or an equivalent in educational or professional experience. In addition, candidates had to pass a tough proficiency test in the English language. Only 12 candidates registered of whom 8 students graduated in 1959.

Following the graduation of candidates of the Advanced Law School program and the Second Basic Law School programme in June 1959, the Faculty of Law of the University College of Addis Ababa was formally liquidated in January 1960 pending inauguration of Haile Selassie I University in 1961.

## **2.2 The Faculty of Law of Haile Selassie University**

### **2.2.1. The Beginning**

When Haile Selassie I University came into formal existence in 1961, it had professional legal education as its first priority. The Law Committee established by the University decided, without taking much time, to offer sub-degree courses in law in Amharic and English. Admission requirements were set low so that anyone who could write and read and pass an interview would be admitted. The low entrance requirement coupled with the tremendous accumulated need for legal education produced a landslide of applicants of whom 490 were accepted. The course was divided into sections, the Amharic section and the English Section. The latter section was naturally of higher standard as it implied a higher level of education and used a language which is richer in modern legal terminology. Although teaching by then was greatly facilitated since practically all the codes were made available in their final form, the attrition rate remained very high as evidenced by the fact that only 300 students survived the first semester out of 490 students who registered for the course.

### **2.2.2. The Launching of the Faculty of Law and Professional Legal Education**

The Faculty of Law was formally dedicated to and opened by Emperor Haile Selassie I on 23 September 1963. The first dean was a distinguished American constitutional lawyer, Professor James C.N. Paul (Professor Paul later became the Academic Vice-President of the University). Professor Paul is reputed to have played a pivotal role in steering the Faculty of Law to a successful start.

When Professor Paul assumed the deanship in 1963, the problems that needed solutions were passed over to him. He, therefore, had to resolve in a short time, the issues of “planning the educational programme, recruiting staff in a relatively short period of time, marshaling the minimum library necessary for effective work, and securing some outside resources to help defray the heavy costs of launching the institution.”

One year after the formal launching of the Faculty, several important decisions were made. First, it was decided to develop and expand part-time programs on a non-degree level to provide basic legal education to persons then involved in legal administration. Second, it was decided to expand staff so that one man would be expected to teach and develop one subject only to allow thorough preparation of class lectures and teaching materials. Third, it was decided to expand the foreign contacts of the Faculty and the sources of further staff requirement. Fourth, it was decided to seek as vigorously as possible additional sources of outside finance.

The Ford Foundation which partly financed the initial launching costs of the Faculty continued providing its grants and additional funds were secured from the governments of the United Kingdom, France and Belgium. Gifts of books were also received from these governments. New instructors were recruited from Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe, although the United States was by far the largest supplier of instructors.

### **3. Earlier Programs**

Teaching in the Faculty of Law started with a highly dedicated team of American lawyers led by Professor Paul himself. The Faculty had a modest start with a teaching expatriate staff of five and a student body of 23 full-time and 40 part-time students. The minimum entry requirement was set at completion of two years of University education “plus a high overall academic record which demonstrated that the applicant had an adequate breadth of study and had demonstrated superior academic ability.”

The purpose of the part-time programme was to permit persons qualified for admission as LL.B candidates “but who held responsible positions, which they could not

forsake for full-time study to try for the degree.” Three years of instruction were required for the full-time programme while the evening programme took four years to complete.

The Faculty also opened several other extension programmes in the ensuing periods on a non-degree level to provide basic education to persons involved in para-legal professions. In 1964, some 90 persons were enrolled in the Law Diploma Programme, a three-year evening course conducted in English. This programme was designed for government officials, advocates, prosecutors, judges and members of parliament. In the same year, some 200 students were also enrolled in the Certificate Program, a one-year course conducted in Amharic and aimed at providing introduction to the basic principles of the Ethiopian codes and the constitution. The same programme was also offered in Asmara and later in Harar and Jimma. A year later, the Faculty also launched a three-year Law Diploma Programme conducted in Amharic as well as a special Certificate Program for Parliamentarians, also conducted in Amharic, which basically dealt with the basic principles of constitutional law, civil law, penal law, procedure and commercial law.

#### 4. Research and Publications

The formative years of the Faculty were also the most fruitful years in terms of the preparation and publication of teaching materials. The highly dedicated staff members carefully assembled high quality teaching materials, which are still in use in the Faculty. The expatriate staff of the Faculty prepared dozens of textbooks and published several articles in the Journal of Ethiopian Law.

From the very start, Professor Paul had a strong belief that high standard legal education was a function of a well-organized and well-stocked law library. Indeed, his motto was: “To make the Law School excellent, we must make the library excellent.” In pursuance of this motto, the library’s holdings grew from almost nothing to some 6000 books during the initial years and by 1968 the number had risen to 15,000 volumes and some 3000 periodicals. The current collection of the library is 20,000 volumes. Major supplements to the library’s acquisitions were the great collection of microfiche comparative African legal materials which were assembled by the Faculty’s **Center for African Legal Development**. The Center also published, until recently, the African Law Digest, a quarterly issue of African legislation enacted during each quarter-year. The Faculty took over this task from Columbia University of the United States.

The Faculty of Law had, from the very beginning, attached great importance to legal research and development. **The Journal of Ethiopian Law** was launched soon after the inauguration of the Faculty with a view to achieving this purpose. The Journal was published by the Faculty jointly with the Ministry of Justice. The editorial responsibility of the Journal was entrusted to senior staff members though the Editorial Board, chaired by the Minister or sometimes by the Vice-Minister of Justice, determined basic publication policy. At present, the Journal is published at least once a year by and

under the sole responsibility of the Faculty of Law although the Ministry of Justice may be represented in the Editorial Board.

In the course of the academic year 1964-1965, the Faculty established the Ethiopian Law Archives "to start collecting in a safe place all Ethiopian legal documents..." The initial success of the project was quite remarkable. In its first six months alone, approximately a hundred and fifty items were deposited in the Archives. At around the same time also, a start was made in crating a lexicon of legal phrases which were found in Amharic, English, and French law materials. The need for such an Amharic - English - French Law Lexicon was obvious "in order to speed and rationalize the creation of a national legal language" and expedite the publication of an Amharic legal dictionary. By 1966-67, a preliminary edition of a model Lexicon was being distributed to departments or persons who have had a continuing interest in the project.

The take-over by the Faculty in 1966, of the consolidation of Ethiopian laws from the Institute of Public Administration and the Office of the Prime Minister is also very much linked with the early history of the Faculty of Law. The **Consolidated Laws of Ethiopia** had as its principal purpose facilitating reference to particular laws by incorporating, though unofficially, repeals and direct and implied amendments to the texts of laws. The first project consolidated laws in effect as at 10 September 1969. The supplement consolidated laws brought into effect between 10 September 1970 and 10 September 1973. This project was intended to be a continuing one though it is at present suspended.

## 5. Student Participation

From the very beginning, student's active participation in all its endeavors characterized Law School life. This was done, not because the times demanded it, but primarily because those who enter the law school seek to enter a profession and the spirit of dedication to public service which such profession aspires to inculcate among its members properly begins at the law school stage.

In recognition of this, a year after the establishment of the Law Faculty, the students voluntarily put themselves under an Honor System; "a system where they trust themselves and are trusted by others to be truthful, just and scrupulously honest in all their dealings with the Faculty." Examinations are conducted under the Honor System. Students are "left on their honor not to give or receive aid, nor to use any assistance not authorized by the instructor." Similarly, students are on their own honor with respect to all other standards of conduct expected of all members of the Faculty.

The rules of the Honor System were drafted by the students in consultation with the Faculty and are administered by an Honor Board chosen by the students. The Board deals with charges of violations of the Honor system and recommends appropriate disciplinary action to the Dean. To this day, the Honor System then established is followed by our students.

Also, as befits future members of the legal profession, students of the Faculty had, from the early start, their own governing body by establishing the Law Students' Association. Students, through their elected representatives, met with the members of the Faculty to discuss various Law School matters. The Association adopted regulations relating to the Honor System, proper library conduct, the taking of examinations and other rules.

The Association also used to sponsor an annual Law Day at which Moot Court finalists argue a case before a court consisting of members of the legal profession, and two trophies awarded to the winners still grace our library as a remembrance. In 1965-66 academic year, the Association also presented "a series of well-received TV Programs" entitled "The Verdict is Yours". This weekly programme was so popular that it run for several months.

In 1972, our students also participated in the well-known "Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition" in the U.S. and received the "**Foreign Semi Final Round Best Memorial Award**", and "**Best Oralist Award.**" The memorial plaques awarded to them still adorn the walls of our Dean's Office. In the early 1900s, they also participated in an international Moot Court competition held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Our students have recently revived this tradition and organized their own Moot Court Competition in 1999 and 2000, the latter at the Cultural Center (the former Creative Arts Center).

In 1969-70, an important even took place, and this was the opening of the Law House. The Law House was a self-help project of students which was built at a known cost of over Ethiopian Birr 120,000 (then a large sum) and "incalculable labor by many students and staff who raised the donations in cash and kind." In addition to being a self-help endeavour for law students and staff, Law House was intended "to provide a commodious place for students, alumni, and staff to meet, and to give to some of the law students an environment conducive to serious study."

General accommodation for university students was then shabby and students were living "in dreadful tin-can hostels." Law House was, therefore, also "one influence on the University Administration when it decided to give high priority to student dormitories in its new capital investment program." The Law House was a cooperative self-help project organized by the Law Students' Association in 1965-66. The land was provided by the University (in the main campus, near the stables of the former Emperor by *Afincho Ber*) and the Association assumed the rest of the responsibility.

Finally, it needs also be mentioned that students played an important role in the research and publication works of the Faculty. Several of the valuable teaching materials then prepared by the Faculty were prepared through the assistance of students who helped in translation works and in collecting and translating court judgments. Students have also from the very start worked in the Journal of Ethiopian Law as Associate Editors as well

as in the Consolidated Laws Project. They later also assisted as student Digesters of the African Law Digest until 1975.

## 6. Later Developments

Today, after 37 years of existence, the Faculty of Law is not in any appreciable degree different from what it was in the mid-1960s. The curricula and entry requirements as well as the duration of study are now more or less the same. Students join the Faculty for four years of legal studies after completing a one-year freshman programme offered by the University. The annual intake has dramatically increased. The evening degree programme and the Certificate Programme were discontinued after 1974; only the Amharic four-year law diploma programme is still being offered. Entry requirement for the degree programme is a successful pass mark in the Ethiopian Schools Leaving Certificate Examination, whose threshold could vary from year to year depending on the availability of staff and facilities.

As early as 1968, i.e., after its fifth year of existence, the Faculty had decided upon the process of Ethiopianization of the teaching staff. This process was intended to be implemented during a period of transition. For this purpose, it was decided that three Ethiopians would be trained annually as law teachers. This process of replacement of expatriate staff with local staff was begun in 1971-71, and soon after, Ethiopian staff members became the majority. In the process of this Ethiopianization, **Ato Worku Tefera**, one of the early graduates of the Faculty, became the first Ethiopian dean of the Faculty. It is hard to say that the Ethiopianization programme was implemented as originally intended. The process appears to have proceeded faster than expected. At present, there are no expatriate staff members in the Faculty though the Faculty can arrange for some expatriate staff to come over and teach some courses for a limited period on an exchange basis. The graduates of the Faculty of Law are at present serving in government posts as ministers, legal advisors, judges, professors, as well as private practitioners, and advisors of private enterprises. They are in different capacities interpreting and applying the laws of the country. Professor Rene David had suggested that an annual output of at least 40 graduates with LL.B degree would be necessary to administer the various codes. This suggestion was thought by some people as rather conservative. But in practice, the Faculty of Law has not been able to satisfy even this conservative estimate.

A number of constraints explain the shortage of supply of trained legal professionals in relation to demand. The physical facilities available to the Faculty to date are the facilities which were deemed already by 1966 as 'shoddy, poorly maintained and ill-suited to a well-functioning law school.' Teaching space and facilities are not only out-dated; they are simply not adequate to accommodate any more intakes. The Law Library is far too limited in space; it is far too outdated in terms of its holding. The foreign financial support of the Ford Foundation and other sources is no longer available. The University, partly due to its own budgetary constraints and partly perhaps due to lack of proper appreciation of the role of proper legal education for proper social, economic



and political development, does not seem to give deserving attention to the requirements of the Faculty of Law in terms of physical facilities and staff development.

The Faculty of Law, despite these handicaps, is doing its best to maintain its high academic standard in the best tradition of a good law school and to sustain and expand the level of supply of graduates. Indeed, the Faculty is engaged at present in an intensive study with a view to launching within the next immediate academic years of a postgraduate law programme. High academic excellence and satisfaction of the increasing demand for trained lawyers will, as in the past, guide the future endeavors of the Faculty of Law of Addis Ababa University.

## **7. Current Structure and Programs**

### **7.1. Structure**

The Faculty of law is a non-departmental faculty. However, the Faculty has organizational structures, both administrative and academic. Administratively, the Faculty is headed by a dean, an assistant dean and an administrative assistant, all assisted by support staff members. The academic structure includes the Full-Faculty meeting, the Academic Commission, the Curriculum Revision Committee, and the Editorial Board of the Journal of Ethiopian Law.

The Full-Faculty meeting is a general staff meeting, which takes place at least once a year. The meeting is convened by the dean at the beginning of the new academic year and as frequently as necessary, depending on the relevance of issues to warrant the convening of the general staff when the dean feels so. The Full-Faculty meeting deliberates on important issues related to the organizational structures and programmes of the Faculty, including election of members of Commissions, Boards, and Committees.

The Academic Commission (AC) of the Faculty is composed of the academic staff members among whom the following are the ex-officio members:

- The Dean (Chairman)
- The Assistant Dean
- The Coordinator of Continuing Education

The Full-Faculty meeting elects other members of the Commission. The AC is mandated to deliberate and decide upon all-important academic affairs of the Faculty. To mention just a few:

- to maintain academic standards
- to determine academic status of students
- to consider academic problems of students, when they petition

- nominate candidates for scholarships and fellowships sent to the faculty
- nominate academic staff members for employment with the Faculty, etc.

The Curriculum Revision Committee is responsible for the periodic revision of the regular and extension programmes. Curriculum revision is a continuous process though the actual revision of the courses is a slow undertaking. In any event, revisions are being introduced gradually.

An Editorial Board administers the academic journal of the Faculty, the Journal of Ethiopian Law. The Board is composed of a chairman and not less than five members.

The day to day activities of the Journal is run by the Editor-in-Chief, who is responsible for the call for papers and their submission to the assessors and subsequently to the Board. The Board is responsible for the quality and reputation of the Journal. It has the mandate to accept or reject any article submitted for publication. The Editorial board is assisted by an Advisory Board on the quality of the Journal and other aspects of improvement to it.

In addition to the Journal of Ethiopian Law, a Society of Law students for Quality Education has started a biannual publication of **The Law Student Bulletin** in 1999. This Bulletin is initiated by the Faculty's students and highly assisted by the Research and Publications Office of the University. It is run by an Editorial Committee whose membership includes both regular and extension law students of the Faculty.

A "Case- Collection and Indexing Project" was started (or rather re-started) in November, 1996, with the help of a generous grant from the United States government. Under this project, 853 court judgments of the supreme courts in our country, including the newly established state supreme courts, were collected. Out of these, 243 cases are now being published (not in print form) in four bound volumes and, although limited in circulation because of financial constraints, will soon be made available to all institutions involved in the teaching of law as well as legal research.

The project was as much a faculty project as it was a student's one. Almost 70% of our third and final year students since 1997 participated in the work; to wit, 126 in number.

The collection and publication of Law Reports (or court judgments) is in any country regarded as a priority item in the effort to develop jurisprudence. Without the aid of Law Reports, it is difficult, if not impossible, to prepare teaching materials as well as books and articles on specific areas of the law. It is also of high educational value to students since, through their participation in the work, it helps them to relate theory to practice. The Faculty hopes that it would be in a position to continue, and even expand, this important task.

In the 1967-68 academic year, what was then regarded by the Dean as a "most important development" took place. In the late spring of the year, following an alumni luncheon, a group of two hundred alumni founded an Alumni Association by adopting a constitution. The Association did not however live up to expectations and soon faded out of existence altogether. Now, after nearly three decades of reflection, the Alumni Association of the Faculty was formally re-established on November 20, 1999.

The membership of the alumni includes degree, diploma and certificate graduates of the Faculty, both in regular and extension programmes. The Alumni Association has plans to assist the Faculty in its endeavours to improve the curriculum and in its other intramural and extramural activities.

## **7.2. Current Programs**

The Faculty has two programs at the moment. The regular LL.B programme and the evening diploma programme. The degree programme is only currently offered to regular students while the diploma programme (in Amharic) is offered to evening students. The degree programme takes 4 years, in addition to a one-year common course programme. Total credit hours requirement to obtain the degree is 165 out of which a minimum of 123 credit hours is of law courses. The students in this programme would be introduced to all major and relevant legal topics under any legal system.

The focus area is a thorough study of Ethiopian laws. This is equally true for the evening diploma programme. The diploma students are required to take a total of 89 credit hours out of which 71 credit hours are of law courses. The duration of this programme may range from 4 to 5 years, depending on the competence and convenience of students.

## **7.3. Academic Staff Profile**

The current academic staff profile of the Faculty is as follows:

### **7.3.1. Full-time**

Professor:	1
Associate Professors:	1
Assistant Professors	3
Lecturers:	7
Assistant Lecturers:	2

### **7.3.2. Part-time**

Assistant Professors:	3
Lecturer:	1

### **7.3.3. On study Leave**

Assistant Professor:	1
Assistant Lecturers:	2
Graduate Assistant:	1

**Total number of full-time and part-time academic staff: 22**

### **7.4. List of the Faculty's Deans (from past to present)**

(01)\*George Krzeczunowicz

1. J.N.C.Paul
2. Quintin Johnstone
3. Cliff Thompson
4. Worku Tefera
5. Fasil Nahum
6. Daniel Haile
7. Yoseph G/Egziabhier
8. Negatu Tesfaye
9. Ibrahim Idris
10. Tilahun Teshome

\*Professor George Krzeczunowicz was the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University College. The contributions of the late Professor Krzeczunowicz are so great that his books, articles and monographs are still used in the Faculty.

## **8. Enrollment, Attrition and Graduation of Students**

### **8.1. Enrollment**

The current admission policy for the regular degree programme is to accept students who completed a one-year common study in the college of social science. Usually, the best students by academic merits get placement in the Faculty. Admissions are possible by special placement for students who can produce a special request from some government institutions, particularly the Ministry of Defence. Admission on advanced standing basis is also possible for graduates of law enforcement institutions-- for example, the Ethiopian Police College. Also currently, for female students, there is placement by affirmative action which is lower than the cut-off point set by the placement committee for entrance into the Faculty. 20% of the enrollment is a female quota. The Faculty is also known for hosting a good number of the blind students of the University (10% of the newly enrolled students during the first semester of the 2000/20001 academic year are blind).

The admission to the evening diploma programme is on the basis of the E.S.L.C.E. results of the applicants. The current entrance requirement for the programme is a minimum of a 2.8 GPA of the E.S.L.C.E. results taken recently. The following table shows the latest enrollment figure of the Faculty. The enrollment to the evening programme is twice as much the regular enrollment (see Table 1.1 below).

**Table 1.1. Enrollment 1999/2000 A.Y.**

Regular				Evening					
Year	Male	Female	Blind	Year	Total	Male	Female	Blind	Total
I	56	22	6	I	78	96	10	*-	106
II	50	21	2*	II	71	130	18	-	148
III	48	17	4	III	65	105	9	1	114
IV	51	10	-	IV	61	159	15	-	174
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>542</b>

**Table 1.2 2000/2001 Enrollment Regular Students (First Semester)**

Academic Year	Total Enrollment			
	M	F	B	T
Year II	46	15	6	61
Year III	63	18	4	81
Year IV	48	20	1	68
Year V	46	18	3	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>274</b>

## 8.2. Attrition

It has been noted that the attrition rate of evening students was very high in the Faculty in the past. The current trend, which is a result of an improved admission requirement for both the regular and extension programs, shows that the attrition rate is on the decrease over the past couple of years. The current annual rate of attrition of regular students is 3.6 per cent (see Table 2 below). The rate of attrition of extension students is 3.5 per cent (see Table 3 below).

**Table 2. 1999/2000 Academic Year (Regular Program)**

Academic Class	First and Second Semester										
	Total Enrollment Attrition			Attrition						Total	
				Dismissal		Dropout		Withdrawal			
M	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	
Year I	61	22	83	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Year II	50	22	72	-	1	2	2	-	1	2	6
Year III	46	19	65	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Year IV	50	10	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>

**Table 3. 1999/2000 Academic Year (Evening Diploma Programme)**

Academic Class	First and Second Semester										
	Total Enrollment Attrition			Attrition						Total	
				Dismissal		Dropout		Withdrawal			
M	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	
Year I	96	14	110	-	1	-	-	5	8	-	9
Year II	139	20	159	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	5
Year III	114	6	120	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Year IV	146	14	160	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19</b>

### 8.3. Graduates

Since its establishment in 1963, the Faculty of Law has turned out about 4000 graduates with degrees, diplomas and certificates (See Table 4 below). Until recently, the Faculty of Law of Addis Ababa University was the sole local/national source of manpower for the legal profession of our country. The graduates of this Faculty could fit into many positions, legal or otherwise. The positions of prominence of the graduates in the past and present include ministers, vice-ministers, chief justices, attorneys-general, ambassadors, advocates, administrators, legal advisors, etc.

**Table 4. Graduates of the Faculty (past and present)**

Year of Graduation	(Total) Graduates	LL.B Degree Graduates	Diploma Graduates	Certificate Graduates
1955-1960*	74	14	60	-
1965	78	-	-	78
1966	196	8	-	188
1967	128	30	76	22
1968	116	17	99	-
1969	275	19	145	111
1970	251	22	-	229
1971	202	55	25	122
1972	64	41	22	1
1973	216	34	182	-
1974**	2	1	1	-
1975**	-	-	-	-
1976	154	24	130	-
1977	15	15	-	-
1978	36	36	-	-
1979	40	40	-	-
1980	64	64	-	-
1981	68	7	61	-
1982	43	34	9	-
1983	97	48	49	-
1984	154	66	86	-
1985	150	50	100	-
1986	166	60	106	-
1987	137	51	86	-
1988	106	45	61	-
1989	138	78	60	-
1990	110	49	61	-
1991	73	37	36	-
1992	90	38	52	-
1993	78	55	23	-
1994	60	60	-	-
1995	78	62	16	-
1996	77	53	24	-
1997	100	54	46	-
1998	124	61	63	-
1999	119	63	56	-
2000	125	67	58	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3928(4002)*</b>	<b>1444(1458)*</b>	<b>1733(1793)*</b>	<b>751</b>

\*These sums do not include the certificate graduates in Asmara, Jimma and Harar.

\*A total of 74 lawyers graduated from the University College Faculty of Law with B.A. degrees and law diplomas.

\*\* Law School was closed.

## 8. The Impact of the Faculty upon the Nation's Life

History has been in many ways kind to the Law School. Even the building housing it is itself historical. Few would now remember but it used to be called "Duke House". It was so named, some say, because it was built to accommodate the Duke of Gloucester who represented the British Throne at the coronation ceremony of King Teferi as Emperor Haile Selassie I in 1923 E.C., or the Duke of York, others say, who acted as host to the Emperor when he visited Great Britain as Regent. At any rate, it was not the Ducca d'Aosta who once occupied the university premises as Viceroy of *IL Duche* and King Victor Emmanuel.

It later housed The Fetha Negest Commission (Codification Commission) established by the Emperor on March 26, 1954 to prepare, in the Napoleonic style, the five *grands codes*. In the chateau at Fontainebleau, near Paris, there now stands on display, in commemoration of their great contribution to world legal history, an elegant table where Napoleon's first commission laboured hard to produce the Codes. There is no such relic in our country and only those who lived during the times and were privy to the fact know about it as there are no published records left. The only relic, it can be said, is the choice of the site as the first modern law school in the country's history; and a very befitting one.

The Law School also emerged at the most opportune moment in the country's history and has been the only institution of its kind in the country for 33 years since its establishment. The last of the four *grands codes* was promulgated in May 1961 and the Law School appeared on the scene almost a year later.

At this time, there were hardly any Ethiopian lawyers with a university legal education. Senior judicial posts were filled by expatriate judges, mostly British citizens, but also a few from the Continent; an *a priori* indication of the course our legal system was to follow. Since most of these contributed in some measure to the early development of our laws, and a few of them to the growth of our law school directly, it would be appropriate, during this anniversary of ours, to mention the names of those of which we have some record. We find such names as judges: H.C. Willan, Charles Mathew, R.E.G. Russell, Nathan Marein, Robert Leonard Muller, Myles John Abbott, Harry Speed Roberts, Ivan O. Wallenburg, W.G. Grabowski, Nils Mangard, Hans H. Nordstrom, Thomas Addis Waterlund, Gunnar Lenand, C.J. Aspland, Debass, Kokonoblos, Singar Lind, Helqvist, Stevenson, Mangario, Faragallah, William Buhagiar.

The situation was the same in other government ministries and legal departments. The need for trained lawyers, at this juncture, was indeed immense and the first Dean of the Law School expressed it in the following memorable words:

"...All societies have, in a sense, under - developed systems of justice, but I believe, it must be a matter of deep concern when the gap between a sizable and impressive body of law on the books and the supply of professionally trained lawyers to help implement it is wide.



Lawyers are needed in Ethiopia, not only to staff the courts and provide legal services in the traditional sense. I believe lawyers are needed for the vital roles in the process of national development. In terms of Ethiopia's Five Year Plan, 'development' means among other things: the conception and implementation of land laws and other legislation desired to spur agriculture and utilize land resources; investment and banking arrangements; the assembling and condemning units of land for highways or airports or mines or agricultural plantations; various kinds of new welfare legislation; an expanded, efficient revenue system ...Modernization inevitably entails specialized legislation and administration; careful drafting of laws and regulations. And the doing of all these things calls for the use of special skills which only come through intensive, disciplined legal training..."

Faced with such a huge task and under the able leadership of Dean Paul, a highly dedicated staff, mostly Americans, laboured hard and soon turned the law School into a vibrant institution. In addition to the regular degree programme, extension programmes offering degree, diploma and various certificate courses were immediately started and strengthened as the years went by. Those who knew the Law School then, gladly remember that, in the afternoons, the compound resembled a courthouse, a parliament, and a police officers training center combined because of the large number of judges, lawyers, prosecutors, parliamentarians and police officers attending one or the other of these courses. The *esprit de corps*--sense of belonging to a profession-- this fostered was great. It was the germination period of the sense of professionalism.

Soon thereafter, branch centers offering certificate courses were also established in Asmara, Jimma and Harar and the first degree graduates helped staff the centers in Asmara and Jimma. The opening of these branches had a profound impact upon the leadership and the community in these localities. Dean Cliff Thompson, our last expatriate Dean, captured the prevailing mood in the following words:

"... The sub-degree students in Asmara and Jimma wanted to travel to Addis Ababa to receive their certificates, but it appeared that the University's policy of seeking regional graduations was a success. The impressive ceremonies presided over in Asmara by H.E. Ras Asrate Kassa and Jimma By H.E. Ato Lemma Firehewot, brought special events to the cities which were causes of civic pride, and our graduates admitted to being pleased by their local recognition..."

Dean Thompson wrote this Report seven years after the establishment of the law school. By this time, the Faculty has already "began the change from being a new law school with an expatriate staff, to becoming an established law school with a predominantly Ethiopian staff," most of them graduates of the school itself. By this time also, the early graduates were beginning to be elevated to high judicial posts as well as positions of responsibility in the various government departments. It was also a pleasant memory for us then at the Faculty to witness that our certificate and diploma graduates

were already beginning to fill Awraja and Wereda judgeships as well as prosecutorial offices, even in the remotest corners of the country.

Dean Quintin Johnstone, in his Annual Report of 1961 E.C. (1968-1969 G.C.), strongly urged that, within the next five years, the enrollment of day degree students be increased to 300 and that this could be handled at little added cost. We have not yet reached this water - mark but by the end of the 1970s, as resources dwindled further and further, enrollment has almost doubly increased and today stands at an average of 275, compared to 135 of the early days.

This year marks the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Law School. It is still a young institution as law schools go by. But within these young years of its, it has changed the legal scene in the country significantly. The gap between a sizable and impressive body of law on the books and the supply of professionally trained lawyers to help implement it is not so wide now as when the Law school was opened. Now, almost all high judicial posts at both federal and state levels are filled by our graduates. The faculty has long been entirely Ethiopianized and, not only this, but our graduates have also played a pivotal role in both the planning stage of the establishment of the Faculty of Law of the Civil Service college and later in filling the academic positions of the Faculty.

Professionally trained lawyers to help draft legislation needed to spur development are also not as rare as in the early times. Today, not to find one of our graduates occupying the position of legal advisor in one or other government departments as well as private institutions, would rather be called a rarity, to say the least. Our library and our Archives too have been serving, and still serve, as the main center for conducting research in preparing draft legislation, legal memorandums and briefs, preparation of teaching materials, and other research papers.

As a conclusion, it is probably fair to say the following. All educational establishments have in some measure their impact on a nation's life. But it would not be an exaggeration to state that the Law School has left its indelible imprint, and in so short a time.

## 10. **Problems and Constraints**

Although the Faculty has contributed a lot to the development of the country's legal profession, it has been confronted with a number of problems and constraints over the last two decades in particular. There was no staff development scheme worth mentioning and those faculty members who were able to secure opportunities for further studies had to do it on their own. Most of them failed to return to the country after completion of their studies. The low staff remuneration makes it quite difficult, if not impossible, to attract qualified and experienced lawyers to the Faculty. On account of this, the Faculty is dependent on part-time instructors to offer a good number of its courses. While the number of students being admitted to both the regular and evening programs is steadily increasing, no improvement in our physical facilities has ever been

made. We are still conducting our business in a building that was made available to us some thirty six years ago.

None of the classrooms in the Faculty could accommodate more than 50 students at a time. But some of the classes are stuffed with more than 80 students. The Law Library can only accommodate about 90 students at a time. It is very difficult to host about 280 regular and 500 extension students, together with about 400 external readers. Moreover, the Library has no ventilation, except for the only entrance door. The collections are old and limited in variety. It is very unlikely to increase the collection of the library due to lack of space and funding. Nor is our library likely to benefit, in the near future, from what modern computer technology has to offer.

The other problem that is crippling the Faculty is budgetary constraint. The annual budget is insignificant and even hardly sufficient to buy the necessary stationery and other basic needs. As a result, it is becoming impossible to get typing and other services necessary to carry out the learning and teaching process in the Faculty.

## **11. Future Plans and Prospects**

The Faculty of Law has developed plans to enhance its current programs. The regular LL.B programme is being revised to meet the demands of our stakeholders and that of the nation. It is planned to introduce a range of optional and elective courses for students to choose from. This will help to develop areas of specialty upon graduation from the Faculty. The Faculty also plans to revive the evening LL.B programme.

The curriculum revision is near completion and the medium of instruction for the evening diploma programme is planned to be changed from Amharic into English. There is a need for our diploma graduates to pursue their studies at an LL.B level through advanced standing admission. This could be done only if the medium of instruction of both programs is the same.

Furthermore, the Faculty plans to launch a postgraduate programme soon and work on the preparation of the curriculum is already underway. The course description and the draft budget of the programme has been worked out. The offering of general LL.M courses in some core areas of the law can begin as soon as the programme is launched. However, the offering of specialized LL.M courses may only be implemented within the coming 10 years. The general LL.M programme is expected to take a minimum of two years.

There are also plans and prospects to improve the library services and the physical facilities of the Faculty. We are also looking for ways and means of strengthening research works in the Faculty.

