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Memorandum re: Special Objectives of Legal Training

Georgia State University College of Law

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Recommended Citation
Georgia State University College of Law, "Memorandum re: Special Objectives of Legal Training" (1974). *College of Law Inception Documents.* Paper 10.
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GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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MEMORANDUM

I. Special Objectives of Legal Training at Georgia State University

In view of the prime location of this university in the heart of a metropolitan legal and commercial center, the type of legal education to be offered in evening and day courses should satisfy certain uncommon aims both on the elementary and the advanced levels.

A. Basic first year legal training for prospective lawyers, businesspersons, paralegal personnel, law librarians, teachers of law in the school system and civil servants.

1. Use of a core curriculum offering a survey of the legal system in America as the most economical method for teaching law.

2. Stress on learning basic principles of law rather than case analysis.

3. Coverage of all major aspects of each subject instead of emphasis on the special area of interest of a particular instructor.

B. Advanced second and third year courses.

1. Development of analytical skills, case method and litigation techniques.

2. Interrelationship of law with allied fields (business, social science, etc.)

3. Utilization of facilities in the geographic area, such as the courts, major law firms and businesses, or legal

aid offices, to supplement academic studies with practical experience.

4. Public service objectives to meet future requirements for the certification of specialists in selected fields of law.

II. The criteria for the selection of instructors in law

A. In addition to the customary procedure for hiring professors to teach at this university, preference should be given to candidates who combine the J.D. degree with a master's degree in an appropriate allied field or with extensive experience in government, business and the professional world. Reputation in the field is important.

B. In general, the criteria for instructors should include: character, a cooperative spirit, concern for students, dedication to teaching, scholarly inclinations, craftsmanship, and interest in public service for reasons other than monetary remuneration.

C. Part-time instructors for evening courses should be experienced lawyers or judges evidencing professional maturity, practical skill, integrity, and an unquestioned reputation among peers.

D. Full-time instructors should, in addition to the criteria set forth in II B, demonstrate scholarship and pedagogical motivation. It would be ideal to attract lawyers with about six years of practical experience in the legal and business world since this would provide a background on

which to draw in teaching and could eliminate competition with the individual's hopes of an approaching partnership in a law firm.

E. No stereotype should be set up since a good college offers a diversity of experiences, approaches and types of professors.

III. Present Staff Capability

Dr. Hudson

contracts

torts

business organizations

(also: negotiable instruments, real property, military law, insurance, agency, etc.)

Dr. Beckman

family transactions (estate planning and family law)

international private law (comparative law, conflicts of law)

legal tradition (history, ethics, jurisprudence)

(also: contracts, international public law, criminal law)

Dr. Berdal

insurance

torts

evidence and procedure

(also: corporations, agency, criminal procedure)

Dr. Rood

international business law

administrative law

business organizations

(also: legal concepts, criminal law)

Dr. Tillman

contracts

torts

business organizations and corporate taxation

(also: agency, procedure)

Dr. Truslow

constitutional law

real property

legal tradition (history, policy, etc.)

(also: criminal law, agency, contracts, torts, etc.)

Auxiliary Instructors

Drs. Garner and Miles

Taxation

Accounting for lawyers

Dr. Rutherford

Labor law

Administrative law

Dr. Wren

Health Law

Part-time staff in business law

(e.g. Dr. Daniel is a founder of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers).

Selected members of the Political Science Department

Constitutional law

State and municipal government

Selected members of the Criminal Justice Department

Criminal law

Criminal procedure

Police law and penology

Note: AALS standards require four full-time faculty members teaching 8 to 10 scheduled class hours per week, a law librarian and a dean. The median number of students per professor in 1956-1957 was 22. It provides for "...the faculty's exercising a substantial degree of control over decanal and faculty appointments or changes in faculty status (such as promotions, tenure designations, and renewal or termination of term appointments)."

IV. Core. First Year Survey Program in Law Stressing Principles

A. The legal tradition

1. legal concepts
2. legal ethics
3. legal history
4. legal research

B. Public Law

1. Administrative law
2. Constitutional law
3. International private law (conflict of laws)
4. International public law

C. Procedural Law

1. Appellate practice
2. Evidence
3. Moot Court
4. Trial and Pre-trial techniques

D. Principles of Substantive law (counting as two courses)

Unit I relating to persons

1. Criminal law
2. Estates
3. Family law

4. Torts

Unit II relating to property

1. Business organizations
2. Contracts and commercial law
3. Property law
4. Taxation

V. Present Law Library Status

Counting books listed under call numbers K, JK-JV, and JX (law, constitutional history and government, international law), legal periodicals, federal document periodicals, and the government documents collection (administrative law, federal courts, legislative law, military law and related materials) the library at Georgia State University had

a) 24,481 books in 1970

b) 30,468 books in 1972

c) books in 1975

All further acquisitions should be made in accordance with the requirements of the Association of American Law Schools.