

<https://doi.org/10.22364/jull.12.01>

## Contribution of Faculty of Law, University of Latvia, to Science, State, and Nation

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On the hundredth anniversary of the Faculty of Law, the University of Latvia, a professor, whose life has been linked to this Faculty, provides an overview of its development, contribution to training of specialists in legal professions, to the legal science and consolidation of the rule of law within the state. The article outlines the beginnings of the faculty, dynamics in the number of students, the main lines of research and the most significant publications, the contribution by the faculty members to the drafting of laws, involvement in the work of institutions of state power, administration and law enforcement.

**Keywords:** legal science, legal education, study programmes, doctors of law, lines of legal research.

### Contents

<i>Introduction</i> . . . . .	7
1. <i>Beginnings of the Faculty and Dynamics in Number of Students</i> . . . . .	9
2. <i>Faculty as the Centre of Legal Education and Science</i> . . . . .	10
3. <i>The Main Lines of Research</i> . . . . .	11
4. <i>Development of Professional Qualification</i> . . . . .	14
5. <i>Links to Alma Mater Do Not Disappear with Achievements in Practical Work</i> . . . . .	14
6. <i>Books and Other ‘Scientific Production’</i> . . . . .	15
7. <i>Moving with the Times</i> . . . . .	17
<i>Summary</i> . . . . .	18
<i>Sources</i> . . . . .	19
<i>Bibliography</i> . . . . .	19
<i>Normative Acts</i> . . . . .	20

### Introduction

In 2018, in an elated and optimistic mood, Latvia celebrated the centenary of the existence of its state. The University of Latvia Faculty of Law also celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. This is a good reason to look back on the contribution by this centre of legal education and science to the state and society.

The usefulness of an institution can be evaluated by applying a number of criteria. The contribution by the Faculty of Law can be assessed by looking at its

contribution to educating the nation, as well as at providing the state and society with highly demanded specialists of the legal profession, and also at involvement in drafting and improving the national laws, scientific production, which has promoted the rule of law, public order, and stability in all areas subject to legal regulation.

The author of these lines has been linked to the Faculty since September 1957, when, after successfully passing the entrance exams in a competition with four candidates per one study place, he became a student of the Department of Legal Science of the Faculty of Economics and Law. Later, this Department became an independent faculty. After graduating *cum laude* from the five-year-long study programme, established at the time, the author spent his entire working life at the university, in differently entitled academic positions, moving from the position of an assistant to those of a senior lecturer, docent, later – professor, has served as the head of a department and a dean. Thus, the author has personally participated in the work of the Faculty of Law for more than sixty years out of the hundred years of the faculty's existence. The writing below should be perceived as eyewitness's observations and assessment, which can be considered a material for scientific research; however, it does not claim to be a comprehensive fragment of the faculty's history, free of subjective impressions.

This treatise could be useful to other researchers, who, in the future, will wish to write a comprehensive book, meeting robust canons of scientific research, about the development of jurisprudence in Latvia, let's say, over 120 or 150 years. At that time, it could be possible to provide a more extensive assessment of the publications by the faculty members of the Faculty of Law, highlighting the most important ones that had changed the tenets of the theory of law and the case law, collect documents regarding their participation in the drafting of laws and turning these into law, recollections about the most brilliant personalities. Undoubtedly, a study of the good deeds and achievements by the Faculty's graduates both at home and in the US, Germany, Australia, Brazil, and elsewhere in the wide world could raise interest. A study of the reasons why part of the graduates has distanced themselves from work in the legal profession and turned to other activities and why the repeatedly predicted overproduction of lawyers has not set in could be less tempting but useful research. A mysterious matter is why many of those who have been on exchange programmes to foreign universities insist that the studies over there are much more intensive and thorough. Such studies would be desirable even without waiting for milestone anniversaries.

Lina Birziņa (1910–2007) has contributed significantly to researching the work and publications by the faculty members of the Faculty of Law by collecting and processing information about 29 scholars of the Faculty of Law, supplementing it with recollections of contemporaries for added vividness.<sup>1</sup> The richly illustrated book<sup>2</sup>, published in 2014, provides an extensive insight into the diverse current activities of the Faculty of Law. However, this is the first description of the Faculty in English, apart from a brochure intended for applicants, published in 1997<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Birziņa, L. Latvijas Universitātes tiesībzinātnieki. Tiesiskā doma Latvijā XX gadsimtā [Scholars of Law of the University of Latvia. Legal Thinking in Latvia in XX century]. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Latvijas Universitātes Juridiskā fakultāte 1919–2014. Fakti un cilvēki, vēstījumi un fotomirkļi [The Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia 1919–2014. Facts and People, Messages and Memories in Photos]. Rīga: University of Latvia Press, [s. a.].

<sup>3</sup> University of Latvia. Faculty of Law. Riga, 1997.

## 1. Beginnings of the Faculty and Dynamics in Number of Students

The Faculty of Law commenced its activities in 1919, when a quite small group of law enthusiasts, supported by the state, dared to create an opportunity for inquisitive young people to study jurisprudence at home, decreasing the need to look for study opportunities in the universities of the Russian Empire or Western Europe. At the beginning, the work of the Faculty was ensured by faculty members, who had acquired their legal education in the Universities of Tarbatu (Tartu), Petersburg (Pauls Mincs, Kārlis Dišlers, August Loeber, Vasilijš Sinaiskis, Benedikts Frēze, Pēteris Lejiņš, and other lawyers, the majority of them born in Latvia)<sup>4</sup>. They shared the aspiration to create academic-level education in Latvia. In the coming years, diligent and energetic graduates of the Faculty – Konstantīns Čakste, Lotārs Šulcs, Jānis Vālbergs, Voldemārs Kalniņš, and others – rather swiftly joined the community of faculty members.

Later, during the period of Soviet occupation following World War II, the most important contribution to the development of legal science was given by professors Arturs Liede, Marija Blūma, Gustavs Kļava, Voldemārs Kalniņš, Oto Grīnbergs, Visvaris Millers, docents Aleksandrs Pavars, Ernests Jostsons, et al.

The book by Romāns Apsītis, Līna Birziņa and Oto Grīnbergs “History of the State and the Law of the Latvian SSR” (1970), written in the conditions of Soviet occupation and under the influence of the Soviet understanding of law, as well as the book by the same group of authors, published in 2000, “The History of Latvian Law” (1914–2000) provide an insight into the development of legal thinking in the territory of Latvia. During the period of Latvia’s independence, prior to the Soviet occupation, the legal culture developed on the basis of the traditions of continental Europe; however, the occupation severed this link and significantly restricted the possibilities of the scholars of law to express genuinely scientific findings.

The number of students, naturally, constantly grew. The number of students enrolled in the study year of 1919/1920 was 39, which, compared to the almost five hundred persons enrolled in 2018 (bachelor’s programme – 350, master’s programme – 150), seems paltry. However, the foundations were laid in 1919, and development continued.

According to the data, which, perhaps, should be verified, in the period from 1919 to 1944, 1721 lawyers graduated from the Faculty<sup>5</sup>. Their further careers have been diverse. In the book about the fate of those lawyers, who graduated before the Faculty was closed during World War II (in 1944), Dietrich André Loeber writes: Dry facts of life conceal most diverse individual fates. A number of them are filled with achievements but often they reveal dramatic and even tragic turns in human lives. Approximately 49% of the graduates went into exile, 16% were subjected to repressions during the Soviet regime, 4.5% became victims of persecutions during the German occupation, and 4.5% perished on a battlefield.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Danovskis, E. Latvijas Universitātes Juridiskās fakultātes vēsture [History of the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia]. In: Latvijas Universitātes Juridiskā fakultāte 1919–2014. Rīga: University of Latvia Press, 2014, pp. 18–20.

<sup>5</sup> Latvijas Universitātes absolventi-juristi 1919–1944. Dzīves un darba gaitas [Graduates-Lawyers of the University of Latvia 1919–1944. The Course of Life and Career]. Rīga, 1999.

<sup>6</sup> Lēbers, D. A. Vēstījums par 1721 dzīvesstāstu [Missive of 1721 Life Stories]. In: Latvijas Universitātes absolventi-juristi 1919–1944. Dzīves un darba gaitas. Rīga, 1999, p. 7.

In the period between the end of World War II and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University (1945–1978), 2633 graduates received the diploma of a lawyer.<sup>7</sup> Data on the number of graduates during the years of Soviet occupation and in the years following the restoration of independence are incomplete<sup>8</sup>, the graduates' biographies have not been collected. It would be a difficult task to perform, in view of the fact that the number of graduate lawyers was, for example, in the 1970s, approximately 120 annually, whereas in the second half of the 1990s, when day, evening and extra-mural study programmes existed, even more than 500 graduates celebrated their graduation annually, and, with the Faculty's centenary approaching, the number has stabilised at 300 of bachelors and masters graduating annually. It is a significant contribution to increasing the general level of education of the Latvian nation.

## 2. Faculty as the Centre of Legal Education and Science

The scholars of law have significantly contributed to restoring Latvia's statehood after more than 50 years of occupation, firstly, by providing theoretical substantiation and giving concrete proposals to state institutions regarding reinstatement of the state order defined in the *Satversme* [the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia]; secondly, by actively engaging in drafting and implementing the laws required for the restoration of statehood. Thanks to this, Latvia was admitted to the European Union as a state, the legal system of which, substantially, complied with the circle of Western law. Thirdly, the scholars of law have been constantly seeing to strict observance of law by providing recommendations on how to organise concerted operation of the legislative, executive and the judicial power, how to combat crime, adjudicate fairly administrative and civil law disputes, protect the life, health and property of natural persons, as well as the rights of legal persons. The Legal Aid and Assistance Centre, without seeking acclaim, has been operating since 1999.

When looking from the perspective of a century, it is difficult to characterise the contribution of each particular scholar to legal science, development and consolidation of Latvia's statehood. This task remains for historians to complete. In the period from the establishment of the Faculty until World War II, one of the most important tasks was to create textbooks. At the University, lectures were given both in Russian and Latvian, often using Latin, German and Russian terms. The faculty members gradually turned to developing legal terminology in Latvian. It is noteworthy that the books that were written and published during this period that after the restoration of Latvia's independence were of inestimable significance in reforming the studies of law. To mention a few, the book by Kārlis Dišlers, published in 1938, "Introduction to the Science of Administrative Law", which was published

<sup>7</sup> Pēteris Stučka Latvijas Valsts universitātei 60 gadi [60 Years of Peteris Stucka Latvia State University]. Rīga: Avots, 1984, p. 13.

<sup>8</sup> Latvijas Universitātei 75 [The University of Latvia Turns 75]. Rīga: Latvijas Universitāte, 1994, pp. 467–480; Latvijas Universitātei – 80 [The University of Latvia Turns 80]. Rīga: Latvijas Universitāte, 1999, pp. 238–242; Latvijas Universitāte 1999–2003 [The University of Latvia 1999–2003]. Rīga: University of Latvia Press, 2004.

repeatedly in 2002<sup>9</sup>, Vasilijš Sinaiskis' book on civil law, repeated edition in 1996<sup>10</sup>. Until now, one of the most often quoted books, not only in students' papers but also in court judgements, is the textbook on civil procedure by Vladimirs Bukovskis<sup>11</sup>. P. Mincs' book on criminal law also saw a repeated edition<sup>12</sup>. August Loeber's book of 1926 on trade law<sup>13</sup> was read as a valuable rarity at the time when independent Latvia went through reforms to implement the model of the market economy.

The extensive use of the aforementioned books in Latvia that had regained its independence shows that the fundamental findings of the civilised world have been duly transposed into the study of law. They were further developed by drafting new text books, on the basis of the *Satversme* of the Republic of Latvia and the new Latvian laws, the compliance of which with the requirements of the age was aligned with the regulatory enactments of the European Union and, at times, contradictory findings taken over from continental Europe and conceptions of the Anglo-American schools of law.

The Faculty's scholars have done important work in drafting laws and amendments to laws. This work was particularly productive in the initial years following the restoration of Latvia's independence as well as in the years when Latvia was preparing for accession to the European Union. It must be added that over the years the participation of the faculty members in preparing laws has changed. During the initial years following the restoration of Latvia's independence, when principal changes to the legal thinking were required, members of the *Saeima* and the responsible committees consistently followed the recommendations and proposals given by scholars of law<sup>14</sup>. Slightly later, the members of the parliament started feeling smart enough to draft laws without prolonged consultations. Some draft laws were 'pushed through' without proper analysis. And this led to problems, the solving of which has been taking years, for example, regarding denationalisation and the so-called enforced lease. Since the turn of the century the legislator's cooperation with scholars of law has visibly diminished. This, however, does not mean that science has lost its relevance, in particular, in promoting the understanding of the basic rules of the *Satversme*.

### 3. The Main Lines of Research

Within the area of legal theory, the integration of the Latvian law in the family of European law, the importance of the constitutional foundations of the Latvian State, the use of legal methods and the course of law development have been studied

<sup>9</sup> Dišlers, K. Ievads administratīvo tiesību zinātnē. Administratīvo tiesību kursa vispārīgā daļa [Introduction to the Science of Administrative Law. The General Part of the Course of Administrative Law]. Rīga: Tiesu namu aģentūra, 2002.

<sup>10</sup> Sinaiskis, V. Latvijas civiltiesību apskats. Lietu tiesības. Saistību tiesības [Overview of the Latvian Civil Law. Rights *in Rem*. Contract Law]. Rīga: Latvijas Juristu biedrība, 1996.

<sup>11</sup> Bukovskis, V. Kriminālprocesa mācības grāmata [Textbook of the Civil Procedure]. Rīga: Author's self-publication, 1933.

<sup>12</sup> Mincs, P. Krimināltiesību kurss. Vispārējā daļa [Course of Criminal Law. The General Part]. Rīga: Tiesu namu aģentūra, 2005.

<sup>13</sup> Loebers, A. Tirdzniecības tiesību pārskats [An Overview of the Trade Law]. Rīga: Valters un Rapa, 1926.

<sup>14</sup> See Lazdiņš, J. Tendencies in the Development of Laws in the Republic of Latvia after the Renewal of Independence in 1990–1991. *Journal of The University of Latvia. Law*, No. 8, 2015. Available: [https://www.lu.lv/fileadmin/user\\_upload/lu\\_portal/apgads/PDF/Jurid-zin-8.pdf](https://www.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/lu_portal/apgads/PDF/Jurid-zin-8.pdf) [last viewed 13.06.2019].

extensively (Edgars Meļķis, Daiga Rezevska, Jānis Pleps, Jānis Neimanis). Sanita Osipova's work in studying the history of European and Latvian law ("Mirror of the Law of Middle Ages", 2004, "Prehistory of the European Law", 2017) and Jānis Lazdiņš' numerous publications in Latvian and German on the legal reforms within the territory of Latvia in the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are important in the area of legal history studies.

The scholars' contribution to civil law, criminal law and state (administrative) law is embodied in detailed explanations of the main laws in these areas, directing towards correct application of these laws in practice and future improvements. The commentaries on laws reflect the 're-qualification' of the legal science from the Soviet legal doctrine to the achievements of the legal doctrine of democratic Western states, retaining historical peculiarities and traditions. Thus, commentaries on the Civil Law provide not only explanations of the content of the sections of the law in the context of the principles of the market economy regulation but also information on the case law before and after Latvia's occupation, as well as comparison with the laws of Germany, France, and other countries. The commentaries extensively use the contribution by those scholars, who had been involved in drafting the Civil Law and shaped the school of civil law prior to Latvia's occupation, i.e., work of Konstantīns Čakste, Vladimirs Bukovskis, Vasilijš Sinajskis, Frīdrihs Konradi, and Ādolfs Valters. Hence, critical continuity of civil law theory and conceptions that already existed in Latvia and were suitable for the development of the market economy in conditions of a state that was restoring its independence was ensured. In 2005, the authors of the commentaries were granted the Cabinet's award and honorary diploma for significant contribution to the development of Latvia governed by the rule of law. Commentaries on the Civil Procedure Law (1999–2001) is a fundamental study, which, upon reaching the size of three volumes, has been published repeatedly and in extended editions (2006, 2012, 2014, 2016). The most important publications on the problems of civil law following the restoration of independence have been prepared by Jānis Vēbers, Jānis Rozenfelds, Kalvis Torgāns, Ilma Čepāne, Kaspars Balodis, Jānis Kārklīšs, et al.

The scholars of criminal law faced a totally different task. The politicised repressive norms of the Soviet period were deleted from the Criminal Law, the new understanding of the protection of human rights, qualification of criminal offences and penal policy was developed. Uldis Krastiņš' and Valentija Liholaja's research ("Comparative Criminal Law. Latvia, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands", 2008) and U. Krastiņš' research ("Theory and Practice of Criminal Law: Opinions, Problems and Solutions. 1998–2008" (2009)) significantly influenced the new perspective on the criminal law. Precise application of the criminal procedural norms is important in practice. This has been facilitated by the numerous publications by Ārija Meikališa and Kristīne Strada-Rozenberga; the most important of these are collected in the book "Criminal Procedure. Writings. 2005–2010" (2010) and in a similarly entitled book that was prepared on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Criminal Procedure Law in 2015<sup>15</sup>.

The work of researchers working in the area of state law (Ringolds Balodis, Anita Rodiņa, Jautriete Briede, Annija Kārklīņa, Edvīns Danovskis, et al.) is aimed at enhancing the foundations of the constitutional order, organisation of public administration, administrative procedure and the rule of law in the functioning

<sup>15</sup> Meikališa, Ā., Strada-Rozenberga, K. (eds.). *Kriminālprocess. Raksti 2010–2015* [Criminal Procedure. Writings 2010–2015]. Rīga: Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2015.

of the state apparatus. Undeniably, the specialists of state law have contributed to supplementing the *Satversme*, after the restoration of independence, with Chapter VIII “Fundamental Human Rights”<sup>16</sup>, preparing sizeable scientific commentaries on this new Chapter<sup>17</sup>, as well as adding Introduction (Preamble) to the *Satversme* in 2014.

Commentaries on the *Satversme* (on Chapter VIII in 2011, Chapter VI and VII – in 2013, Preamble and Chapter I – in 2014, Chapter III and IV – in 2017, Chapter V – in 2019) have been published. A group of authors under the guidance of scientific editor J. Briede, taking over the tradition of commenting on laws also to the administrative law, has prepared the work “Commentaries on the Administrative Procedure Law. Part A and B” (2013).

International legal relations have become an important part in Latvia’s activities in the field of human rights, cross-border family disputes, and, in particular, economic co-operation. Juris Bojārs has examined these matters in several monographs. The issues in exercising and protecting human rights have been researched by Artūrs Kučs, Kristīne Dupate, adding to the contribution by the professor of the Riga Graduate School of Law Ineta Ziemele.

An achievement of international scale was the book in English, published in 2017 by the publishing house “Springer”, by the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian scholars of law “The Law of Baltic States”, which provided the possibility to compare the legal systems of these countries in the EU context. Research projects “Law in the Baltic States. Structure, Problems and Outlook. Latvia. (project manager associate professor A. Rodiņa), “Trends in applying the general principles of law in the areas of state law, civil law, and criminal law” (manager – professor D. Rezevska), and other projects have been implemented.

Co-operation between scholars of various fields of law has resulted in a sizeable book, created in the framework of the State Research Programme EKOSOC-LV, “Public Law Liability of Legal Persons” (Riga, 2018).

The contribution given by the science of law to society has been noticed and recognised also within the competition between other branches of science. In 2017, the Latvian Academy of Sciences has recognised the importance of a set of Vadims Mantrovs’ publications, including a monograph on the EU law on indications of geographical origin: theory and practice (Springer). In 2018, the award named after Professor Dietrich André Loeber (1923–2004) of the Latvian Academy of Sciences was awarded to professor Jānis Lazdiņš – for research of the experience in restoring a rule-of-law and democratic state and outstanding contribution to the development of the Latvian legal science<sup>18</sup>. The highest award of the LAS – the Grand Medal, in turn, was awarded to professor Kalvis Torgāns in 2018 for establishing the contemporary school of civil law and important contribution to the implementation of theoretical findings in practice.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Grozījumi Latvijas Republikas Satversmē [Amendments to the *Satversme* of the Republic of Latvia]. *Latvijas Vēstnesis*, No. 308/312, 1998.

<sup>17</sup> Latvijas Republikas Satversmes komentāri. VIII nodaļa. Cilvēka pamattiesības [Commentaries on the *Satversme* of the Republic of Latvia. Chapter VIII. Fundamental Human Rights]. Prepared by a Group of Authors under Scientific Guidance of R. Balodis. Rīga: Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2011.

<sup>18</sup> Dītriha Andreja Lēbera balva – profesoram Jānim Lazdiņam [Dietrich André Loeber Prize – to Professor Jānis Lazdiņš]. *Jurista Vārds*, No. 3(1009), 2018.

<sup>19</sup> Latvijas Zinātņu akadēmijas Lielās medaļas saņem Vija Zaiga Kluša un Kalvis Torgāns [Vija Zaiga Kluša and Kalvis Torgāns receive the Grand Medals of the Latvian Academy of Sciences]. *Zinātnes Vēstnesis*, No. 20(562), 2018.

#### 4. Development of Professional Qualification

With the increase in the number of students, the professionalism and the number of faculty members have also grown. At the end of 2018, there were 38 doctors of law, 13 of which were professors, 8 associate professors and 14 docents worked at the Faculty. New addition can be expected from the 36 doctoral students – emerging scientists. This potential allows viewing the Faculty as the leading centre of research and teaching activities in Latvia. The research potential of other institutions of higher education offering study programmes in law, i.e., Turība University, Riga Stradins University, Riga Graduate School of Law, Riga Technical University, Rezekne Academy of Technologies, and the University of Daugavpils is low for now. Consequently, the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia contributes the most to ensuring courts, prosecutor's offices, institutions of public administration, the notarial system, the bar and sworn bailiffs with specialists.

A decade ago, defence of the promotional work and acquisition of *Dr. iur.* title was seen as the outstanding achievements of some individuals and it seemed inconceivable that a third study level, following those of bachelor and master, could appear in the study programme. Currently, the study programme “Legal Science” has become such. For four years the number of doctoral students in the Faculty has been within the range of 35–40. Undeniably, expansion of the doctoral studies, to a certain extent, is contrary to the view that only exceptionally gifted persons are able to acquire the doctoral degree. However, the practice of Europe and of the whole civilised world proves that each branch of science needs this layer of excellent know-how, in the framework of which the further competition for innovative and effective solutions to the problems of the particular field evolves. The potential of the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia allows taking on the challenge of ensuring on the national and, perhaps, even international level, high-quality doctoral studies in legal science. Notably, during the last six years, 36 young researchers have obtained a doctoral degree from the University of Latvia, and this constitutes 65% of those who commenced studies. Thus, requirements are sufficiently stringent. Not all doctors of law become lecturers at universities. Thanks to this possibility for improving qualification, the work becomes more effective in institutions of public administration, where the young doctors work, as well as in the bar, the notarial system and other areas of legal work.

#### 5. Links to *Alma Mater* Do Not Disappear with Achievements in Practical Work

Since ancient times, students have been calling their university for the rest of their lives ‘the nourishing mother’, *Alma mater* in Latin, and maintained ties with it in various ways.

The graduates recall, with respect and gratitude for introducing to the lawyer's profession, the faculty members. Many graduates remember not only the compendious lectures but also the most vivid statements from seminars and other classes. Time and again, graduate also provide financial support for awarding prizes to the winners of students' contests or for another purpose, even leave inheritance to perpetuate the values of education.

Since the liberalisation of the labour market, which allows taking a number of jobs, it has become hard to establish, which is the main workplace of outstanding graduates of the Faculty and whether the job at the University ranks as the first



or the second one. Looking at it from the Faculty's perspective, one can say that the faculty members of the Faculty of Law, parallel to their pedagogical and research work, have given and continue to give significant contribution to such state institutions like the Constitutional Court (I. Čepāne, J. Jelagins, S. Osipova, D. Rezevska, K. Balodis, G. Kusiņš), the *Saeima* (deputies I. Čepāne, I. Libiņa-Egnere, R. Balodis, G. Bērziņš, advisors D. Ose, E. Danovskis), the Supreme Court (U. Krastiņš, I. Fridrihsons, R. Krauze, K. Torgāns, J. Neimanis, J. Briede), the Ministry of Justice (I. Kucina), etc. For four years (2010–2014), the *Saeima* Legal Affairs Committee, which has a decisive role in preparing all draft laws to be reviewed by the *Saeima*, was headed by the Faculty's professor Ilma Čepāne (combining jobs) but since the autumn of 2014 until the end of 2018 this work was continued by Gaidis Bērziņš, who is a lecturer at the Department of Civil Law. It is impossible to name all those, who by their work and personal assiduity have contributed to and reached outstanding success in the life of this state.

One might say that the management of all institutions of the justice system is ensured by the Faculty's graduates. A challenge for the future could be more frequent standing for the positions of and becoming the highest officials of the State, e.g., the Prime Minister and the President of the State, by lawyers. In the hundred years of the State's history, only the first President of the State Jānis Čakste had legal education. In 1993–1994, the Cabinet was headed by the Faculty's graduate Valdis Birkavs. On a more critical note, the number of lawyers in the *Saeima* (the legislator) is rather low. In 1990, in the Supreme Council of the time, the lawyers took the lead in drafting the Declaration and transferring it for vote, and these lawyers simultaneously were the faculty members of the Faculty of Law, University of Latvia (A. Endziņš, R. Apsītis, J. Bojārs, A. Plotnieks). The contribution by other lawyers (Tālav Jundzis, Egils Levits, Valdis Birkavs, et al.) cannot be disregarded. Among the deputies of the Supreme Council who voted for the restoration of Latvia's independence, 15 deputies had graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Latvia. A number of them gained acknowledged success in enhancing the rule of law in later years, for example, Ilma Čepāne (Briņķe), Tālav Jundzis, Andris Grūtups, Linards Muciņš, Andris Teikmanis, et al. In the further convocations of the *Saeima*, the number of deputies with legal education has fluctuated between 12 to 20 from among 100 deputies. For example, in the 10<sup>th</sup> convocation of the *Saeima*, there were 18 deputies with legal education and many also – experience in justice. In the 13<sup>th</sup> convocation of the *Saeima*, elected in 2018, from among seventeen deputies with legal education ten are the graduates of the Faculty of Law, the University of Latvia.

## 6. Books and Other 'Scientific Production'

The contribution of the Faculty of Law, University of Latvia, is not limited to training of specialists in legal professions. The faculty members with their books, articles in collections of scientific papers, newspapers, as well as participation in public discussions and TV and radio programmes have fostered the understanding of law, amendments to laws, measures taken by the state to enhance the rule of law, among socially active residents of Latvia.

Within the period from the establishment of the Faculty until World War II, one of the most essential tasks was creating textbooks. At the University, lectures were given both in Russian and Latvian, with frequent use of Latin, German and

Russian terms. The faculty members gradually turned to the development of legal terminology in Latvian. It is noteworthy that, already during this period, books were written and published that were of invaluable importance in reforming legal studies after the restoration of Latvia's independence. Here, the book by Kārlis Dišlers, published in 1938, "Introduction to the Science of Administrative Law", and published repeatedly in 2002<sup>20</sup>, must be mentioned, as well as Vasiļiņš Sinaiskis' book on civil law, repeated edition in 1996<sup>21</sup>. Until now, one of the most frequently quoted books, not only in students' papers but also in court judgements, is the text book on civil procedure by Vladimirs Bukovskis<sup>22</sup>. P. Mincs' book on criminal law also saw a repeated edition<sup>23</sup>. August Loeber's book of 1926 on trade law<sup>24</sup> was read as a valuable rarity at the time when independent Latvia went through reforms to implement the model of the market economy.

The extensive use of the aforementioned books in Latvia that had regained its independence shows that the fundamental findings of the civilised world have been duly transposed into the study of law. They were further developed by drafting new textbooks, on the basis of the *Satversme* of the Republic of Latvia and the new Latvian laws, the compliance of which with the requirements of the age was aligned with the regulatory enactments of the European Union and, at times, contradictory findings taken over from continental Europe and conceptions of the Anglo-American schools of law.

The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century was characterised by a very active influx of scientific publications, to which the researchers from the Faculty of Law also contributed. With the development of cloud computing of scientific information, bibliographic technologies, use of repositories, citation indexes have become more accessible. Thus, the lists of bibliographical sources, which are found at the end of the three thematic parts on Latvia in the book of 2017 "The Law of the Baltic States" are imperfect, albeit impressive<sup>25</sup>. The majority of works included on the list, covering eleven pages in small print, have been authored by the Faculty's researchers since the beginning of the century.

The accessibility of scientific findings always has been linked with the aim to educate the nation. The first newspaper with legal content was the weekly "Tiesu Vēstnesis" [Courts' Herald] published by Māteru Juris (1880–8, published by J. Māters)<sup>26</sup>. In later publications, the students of the Faculty of Law, the University of Latvia, have been invariably present. During the inter-war period, "Tieslietu Ministrijas Vēstnesis" [Herald of the Ministry of Justice] (1920–40, published by

<sup>20</sup> Dišlers, K. Ievads administratīvo tiesību zinātnē. Administratīvo tiesību kursa vispārīgā daļa [Introduction to the Science of Administrative Law. The General Part of the Course of Administrative Law]. Rīga: Tiesu namu aģentūra, 2002.

<sup>21</sup> Sinaiskis, V. Latvijas civiltiesību apskats. Lietu tiesības. Saistību tiesības [Overview of the Latvian Civil Law. Rights in Rem. Contract Law]. Rīga: Latvijas Juristu biedrība, 1996.

<sup>22</sup> Bukovskis, V. Civilprocesa mācības grāmata [Textbook of the Civil Procedure]. Rīga: Author's self-publication, 1933.

<sup>23</sup> Mincs, P. Krimināltiesību kurss. Vispārējā daļa [Course of Criminal Law. The General Part]. Rīga: Tiesu namu aģentūra, 2005.

<sup>24</sup> Loebers, A. Tirdzniecības tiesību pārskats [An Overview of the Trade Law]. Rīga: Valters un Rapa, 1926.

<sup>25</sup> The Law of the Baltic States. T. Kerikmäe, K. Joamets, J. Pleps, A. Rodiņa, T. Berkmanas, E. Gruodyte (eds.). Springer, [s. a.], pp. 187–190, 271–275, 352–355.

<sup>26</sup> See Birziņa, L. Latvijas Universitātes tiesibzinātnieki. Tiesiskā doma Latvijā XX gadsimtā [Scholars of Law of the University of Latvia. Legal Thinking in Latvia in XX century]. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1999, p. 14.

the Ministry of Justice) and “Jurists” [Lawyer] (1928–40, published by association “Aequita”), journal “Rigasche Zeitschrift für Rechtswissenschaft” (1926–39, published by the Riga Association of German Lawyers), journal “Закон и суд” [Law and Court] (1929–38, published by Russian Legal Association). In exile, the lawyer of Latvian origin published journals “Tiesībnieks” [Lawyer] (1947–50, published by Kārlis Vanags, in Germany, refugee camps), “Latviešu Juristu Raksti” [Writings of Latvian Lawyers] (1959–73, published by US Kent Group of Latvian lawyers, in Sweden).

At present, the most significant rostrum for both experienced scholars of law and students is “Jurista Vārds” [Lawyer’s Word] (since 1995, published by “Latvijas Vēstnesis”). The University of Latvia Press (since 2010) publishes the journal “Juridiskā zinātne” [Legal Science] and its version in English “Journal of the University of Latvia. Law”. The journal is indexed in the international EBSCO Publishing database. Books by the faculty members are regularly published by the Courthouse Agency, “Latvijas Vēstnesis”, sometimes also by the publishing house “Zvaigzne ABC”, which was established and is headed by the former honours’ student of the Faculty of Law, currently – a successful entrepreneur in publishing Vija Kilbloka.

The volume of the National Encyclopaedia, which is available to all in digital format<sup>27</sup>, is the gift to the nation on the State’s centenary. Articles on law by D. Apse, D. Rezevska, J. Pleps, E. Danovskis, V. Liholaja and other faculty members of the Faculty of Law are included in it<sup>28</sup>.

## 7. Moving with the Times

The Faculty keeps growing and changing in accordance with the requirements of the age. The Bologna System (3+2 years) has been introduced in study plans, lectures by visiting lectures and student exchange in the framework of ERASMUS+ and Erasmus Mundus programmes have become common. The traditional student surveys have been supplemented with questions regarding the accessibility of computers and the international databases of legal publications. Access to various databases of legal literature has become a routine in the University of Latvia<sup>29</sup>. One might add that the technical progress manifests also as electronic accessibility

<sup>27</sup> Nacionālā enciklopēdija [The National Encyclopaedia]. Available: <https://enciklopedija.lv/> [last viewed 13.06.2019].

<sup>28</sup> Apse, D. Tiesību zinātne [Legal Science]. In: Nacionālā enciklopēdija. Available: <https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/7400> [last viewed 13.06.2019]; Danovskis, E. Administratīvās tiesības [Administrative Law]. In: Nacionālā enciklopēdija. Available: <https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/3141> [last viewed 13.06.2019]; Rezevska, D. Latvijas tiesiskā sistēma [The Latvian Legal System]. In: Nacionālā enciklopēdija. Available: <https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/25869> [last viewed 13.06.2019]; Pleps, J. Latvijas Valsts prezidenta institūcija [The Institution of the President of the Latvian State]. In: Nacionālā enciklopēdija. Available: <https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/23220> [last viewed 13.06.2019]; Torgāns, K. Tiesību zinātne Latvijā [Legal Science in Latvia]. In: Nacionālā enciklopēdija. Available: <https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/9933> [last viewed 19.01.2019].

<sup>29</sup> For example, Westlaw UK, Heinonline, OECD iLibrary, Web of Science. Available: <https://www.lu.lv/lv/nc/portals/datubazes/> [last viewed 13.06.2019].

of many publications, including the articles of scientific conferences held by the Faculty of Law and the journal of the University of Latvia “Juridiskā zinātne”<sup>30</sup>.

A novelty in the pedagogical work of the Faculty is the Centre of Legal Continuing Education and Professional Improvement, the establishment of which allows expanding the lifelong education of judges, advocates, notaries and representatives of other legal professions.

The University of Latvia keeps rising in various university ratings. In QS *Emerging Europe and Central Asia*, EECA rating, the University of Latvia for many years has been among the top 50. In 2018, in one of the most prestigious global ratings of universities – Times Higher Education – it was ranked 801 to 1000; moreover, received the highest ranking among the Latvian institutions of higher education<sup>31</sup>. Entry among the first 5 per cent in tough competition allows to set new aims. The Faculty of Law can contribute to reaching them.

## Summary

The establishment of the University of Latvia and formation of the Faculty of Law a hundred years ago held immense social and political significance. It created the possibility for the Latvian youth to obtain higher education at home and, gradually, also in Latvian, which now has been recognised in the *Satversme* as the only official language. This facilitated the national self-confidence and increase in the legal capacity, the skill to be the master in one’s own state and to cooperate with other friendly states developed.

During its hundred years of existence, the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia has functioned in different frameworks of statehood and political order, both in conditions of an emerging democracy, totalitarianism and a state that has regained its independence and consolidates democracy. All powers need highly educated persons, which can be provided by universities. The Faculty’s professors have had to succumb to political campaigns, to some restrictions on academic freedom; however, these could not overwhelm the power of scientific logic, a scholar’s conviction. In the conditions of changing powers, the Faculty has maintained faith in the power of science, loyalty to the basic idea of scientific research – to strive for the truth and to pass it on to others. In the vortexes of history, more or less concealed rebelliousness (mutinous spirit?), typical of universities, has always survived, which the hot-blooded youth zealously perceived. Let us not forget history; however, let us perceive it as a sequence of lighter and darker periods in the Faculty’s life. The current school of legal science of the Faculty of Law is based on the diverse past experience, which has been critically reviewed and is constantly enriched by the ideas and experience of developed countries, which we gain by integrating into the European legal space. The development of legal thinking, which is manifested in the numerous publications as increasingly

<sup>30</sup> For example, Centrālās un Austrumeiropas juridiskās tradīcijas un juridiskās identitātes jautājumi [Legal Traditions and Legal Identities in Central and Eastern Europe]. Collection of research papers of the 76<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference of the University of Latvia. Riga: University of Latvia Press, 2018. Available: <https://www.lu.lv/apgads/rakstu-krajumi/juridiskazinatne/> [last viewed 13.06.2019]; *Juridiskā zinātne / Law*, No. 10, 2017. Available: <https://www.journaloftheuniversityoflatvia.lv> [last viewed 13.06.2019].

<sup>31</sup> Latvijas Universitāte “Times Higher Education” reitingā starp Latvijas augstskolām novērtēta visaugstāk [University of Latvia Ranked 801–1000]. Available: <https://www.lu.lv/par-mums/lu-mediji/zinas/arhivs/arhiva-zina/t/44554/> [last viewed 13.06.2019].

more extensive and deeper analysis of legal problems, gives faith that the Faculty of Law will be able to contribute significantly to the solution of those problems, which presently occur in the fast-moving contemporary society facing multitude of challenges.

The faculty members, by their books, articles in collections of scientific papers, newspapers, as well as participation in public discussions and TV and radio programmes, have fostered the understanding of law, amendments to laws, measures taken by the state to enhance the rule of law, among socially active residents of Latvia. The Faculty marks its hundredth anniversary in full flourish and with an optimistic view of the future.

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