

Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law

Sidney B. Hill

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/tcl>

 Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Sidney B. Hill (2016) "Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law," *The Catholic Lawyer*: Vol. 8 : No. 4 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/tcl/vol8/iss4/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Catholic Lawyer by an authorized editor of St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact lasalar@stjohns.edu.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF LAW

SIDNEY B. HILL*

THE NEW SCHOOL OF LAW at The Catholic University of Puerto Rico opened with a first-year class of one hundred twenty-nine students on August 23, 1961. The University is situated on a beautiful one-hundred acre campus in the city of Ponce, on the south shore of Puerto Rico.

Catholic University of Puerto Rico is a nonprofit co-educational institution of higher learning under the direction and government of the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Puerto Rico and came into existence in 1948. The University and the Law School are both the inspiration and result of the labor of the Chancellor, The Most Reverend James E. McManus, C.S.S.R., J.C.D., Bishop of Ponce.

The responsibility for the organization and planning of the Law School was placed under the able direction of the present Associate Dean, Reverend Fremiot Torres-Oliver, who is also in charge of administrative affairs. Father Torres-Oliver obtained his LL.B. from the University of Puerto Rico, a Master of Arts degree from The Catholic University of America and is a candidate for the LL.M. from St. John's University.

Dr. Carlos E. Mascareñas was appointed Dean of Catholic University Law School in August 1961. He holds his law degree from the University of Barcelona and was admitted to the practice of law in Spain in 1942; was formerly engaged in teaching Political Science, International Public Law and Penal Procedure at the University of Barcelona and at the Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Barcelona. In 1958 he joined the faculty of the International School of Comparative Law at Luxemburg and taught Comparative Law of Industrial Property. Dr. Mascareñas came to Puerto Rico in 1959 to become Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Puerto Rico and remained there until he was appointed Dean at Catholic University.

* LL.B., LL.M. Librarian, Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law.

Dean Mascareñas, a versatile writer in fields of law, is the author and editor of many publications: "Nueva Enciclopedia Jurídica," "Apéndices a la Enciclopedia Jurídica Española," "La Propiedad Industrial," "Bibliografía Jurídica Española" and is presently writing a work on the family law of Puerto Rico. His special field is patents and trademarks.

There are presently seven full-time members on the faculty with two new ones engaged for the Fall term of 1962-63. In addition to the latter there will be four lecturers in special subjects. The full time members of the faculty have been assembled from Puerto Rico, the United States, Cuba, Italy, the Argentine Republic and Spain. This naturally indicates that there will be considerable emphasis placed upon instruction in the field of comparative law.

In 1854 it was said by Henry David Thoreau, "What is wanted is men not of policy, but of probity,—who recognize a higher law, than the Constitution, or the decision of a majority." To probe the relationship of the civil and common law with that of the ethical and natural law constitutes a challenge which has been accepted by this new Law School. It is well that legal training in the Commonwealth as elsewhere be free from the suspicion of conformity and that the Rule of Law be expounded and expanded by challenging approaches. Such is to be welcomed. Here the emphasis will be placed on the students' ability to reason as the reason to learn.

In a jurisdiction such as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico a law school becomes primarily engaged in a teaching balance between the civil and common law as it affects the immediate *jus* and rapidly changing social, political and economic concepts wherein a political entity is en-

gaged in seeking a solution of its political status.

The objectives of this school, however, go beyond the above dual purposes. To further its Catholic concepts the curriculum includes studies in Canon Law, Theology, Natural Law and Roman Law. Accomplishment of the foregoing would be a furtherance of the essence of remarks made in a talk by Dr. John G. Hervey, at St. Mary's University School of Law, on Law Day, 1961. "Some years ago I expressed the thought that the Church-related Law Schools of America should be different from secular institutions—that such schools unlike those which are supported out of legislative appropriations, should consciously synthesize the Christian precepts with knowledge of the Law with professional responsibility."

The one hundred twenty-nine entering students are divided rather evenly between the day and evening sessions. It is interesting to note that fourteen women attend the day session and one the evening. Such a proportion of women desiring a legal education appears rather unique among Anglo-American Law schools and may be even so among Latin-American Law Schools. The student body is mainly comprised of students who obtained their undergraduate degrees from the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras, Catholic University in Ponce, Inter-American University in San Germán and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mayaguez. But also matriculating are students representing the University of Vermont, Toronto, The Citadel, Hunter College, the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina and St. Fidelis College in Pennsylvania.

The Law Library and the Law School is

housed in Spellman Building, named after His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman. The library is contiguous to the other departments of the Law School and contains over 21,000 volumes of Anglo-American, Civil Law, Roman Law, Canon Law and other legal publications.

Among the component parts of the materials in the library are a comprehensive collection of legal treatises, texts, monographs and legal periodicals. Included in the collection are decisions and reports of all the federal courts, the state courts of higher jurisdiction, the West Publishing Company National Reporter System, Shepherd's Citations, federal statutes and the latest statutes and annotated codes of selected states, state and federal digests and the principal English and Canadian statutory materials and reports, including the English Full Reprint Reports.

Also to be found in the Library, the Annotated Reports of the Lawyers' Cooperative Publishing Company, the early Trinity Series Reports, the American Bankruptcy

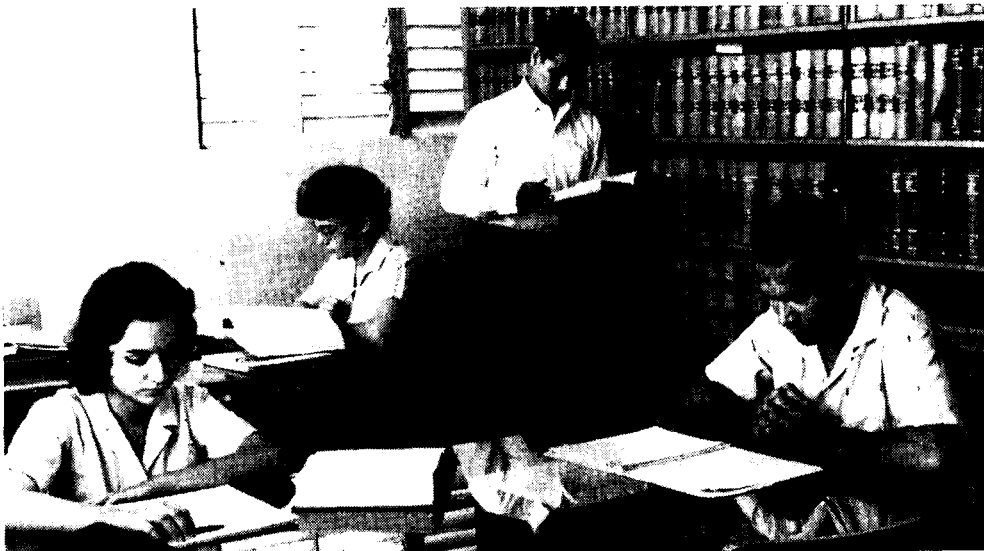
Reports, and Tax and Labor Cases. Sets of the Puerto Rican Reports and Decisions and the laws and annotated codes have been acquired both in Spanish and English. Corpus Juris Secundum, American Jurisprudence, Nueva Enciclopedia Jurídica, law dictionaries and legal periodical indexes will be found in the collection.

To meet urgent faculty and student requirements for Spanish, Civil and Comparative law six hundred texts have been obtained since the opening of the Law School. With a substantial appropriation granted for the 1962-63 term, the Law Library will rapidly expand the collection.

The Law School takes pride that it has announced and published the first issue of its review, *Revista de Derecho Puertorriqueño*, and has established to date an exchange with over seventy other law reviews.

The School of Law of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico has made gratifying

(Continued on page 342)



Research in progress in the Law Library

SCHOOL OF LAW

(Continued)

progress in its first academic year of teaching and study. The Law School looks forward to its opportunity to assume leadership in Inter-American legal education in order that the Rule of Law rather than the Rule of Tyranny shall prevail throughout the world. In this Commonwealth which has both civil and common law traditions, the Law School has the avowed intent to

forge closer relationships between the Americas. This new school recognizes the urgent demand for the training of competent, independent and aggressive leaders of the bar to maintain and protect the public weal in its own free society.

The Law School was organized and established to develop leaders who will dedicate themselves to the aforesaid tasks and to perpetuate the Christian Doctrine and Philosophy of the law.
