

# Faculty of Law fonds

Compiled by Craig Neelands (1990)

Revised by Erwin Wodarczak (2012)

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**\*\*\* Institutional records -- researcher access subject to review \*\*\***

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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# Fonds Description

**Faculty of Law fonds.** - 1945-2002.

4.2 m of textual records.

24 photographs.

## **Administrative History**

The University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law opened in September 1945. Prior to this, individuals wishing to become lawyers in British Columbia articulated for three years and attended lectures given by the legal profession at the Vancouver Law School (V.L.S.) operated by the Law Society of B.C. The VLS opened in 1914 then closed in 1915 due to World War I. The School reopened in 1919 and operated until 1943 when World War II forced its closure. Discussions among the legal profession regarding a Faculty of Law at U.B.C. continued throughout this entire period. These discussions intensified as the war concluded. The University Act already allowed for a Faculty of Law at U.B.C. In 1944 the Legal Professions Act was amended to allow the Law Society to merge the V.L.S. with a new faculty at U.B.C. As a result a joint Law Society/U.B.C. committee was struck in July 1945 to submit recommendations and plans for the establishment of a Faculty of Law. The University's Board of Governors and Senate approved the committee's recommendations late in August. In September the Law Society's benchers approved the recommendations and the Society's rules were amended in October.

Lectures began on 24 September 1945 to an enrollment of 86 students. The faculty's staff consisted of George F. Curtis, Professor and Dean, formerly a Professor of Law at Dalhousie University; Frederick Read, Professor, formerly of the Manitoba Law School and Alfred Watts, a Vancouver lawyer and, in 1947, the Secretary of the Law Society of B.C., appointed on a part time basis as Honourary Liaison Secretary to the Faculty. The Faculty was housed in converted army huts on campus and would remain in these huts for the next seven years. Instruction was based on the Canadian Bar Association's standard curriculum. In addition to Dean Curtis and Professor Read members of the judiciary and bar served as lecturers in the new faculty. Classes were conducted both on campus and at the Courthouse in downtown Vancouver. Students also had to use the library at the Courthouse until a Law Library was established on campus. In that first year some 5,000 books were donated by the public and the legal profession for the new library. D.M. Priestley was the first Law Librarian and also lectured in the fifties. The Faculty was officially opened on 17 January 1946 by the Honourable Gordon Sloan, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal. The first class graduated in 1948.

Student enrollment and staff hiring increased as society demobilized after the war and converted to a peace time economy. The demand for lawyers and legal education was great. Enrollment in the 1948-49 year was 473, a figure that was unsurpassed until the late sixties. By the early 1950's the Faculty had outgrown its accommodations. In 1951 Dean Curtis began plans for a permanent Faculty of Law Building. Construction started that same year and proceeded quickly. Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent opened the new building on 4 September 1952. Student enrollment leveled off and declined during the fifties. In the 1954-55 year it hit a low of 197. In 1955-56 Malcolm M. MacIntyre, a Professor at the Faculty since 1948, served as Acting Dean while Curtis was a visiting professor at the Harvard Law School. The decade ended with the establishment of *The UBC Law Review* in 1959. The *Law Review's* predecessor, *UBC Legal Notes*, was begun by a committee of students in 1949.

By 1960-61 enrollment had increased to 240. The Faculty now included the Dean, two Professors, one Associate Professor, three Assistant Professors and sixteen Lecturers. These numbers stayed fairly constant until the mid-sixties when the baby-boom generation increased enrollment and staffing to unprecedented levels. Overcrowding in the Faculty building forced the use of army huts once again for classes and study space. Watts left the Faculty's service in 1968 to accept a judicial appointment. In the 1968-69 year the new position of Administrator was created and filled by P.W. Ayriss. The late sixties in addition to increasing enrollment also saw student and faculty requests for various academic and administrative reforms. Curriculum, evaluations, bureaucratic procedures and faculty facilities all came in for scrutiny. As a result there was an increase in the activity of student organizations including publications, petitions and meetings. Liaison committees were struck to bring administrators, faculty and students together for discussions.

Curtis retired as Dean in 1971. During his twenty-six year administration the Faculty had grown significantly in enrollment, staffing, facilities and both national and international stature. In 1970-71 there were 614 students in attendance. In addition to the Dean there were ten Professors, five Associate Professors, sixteen Assistant Professors and seven Lecturers. The library was administered by Law Librarian Thomas J. Shorthouse and two Assistant Law Librarians. The new Dean was Albert J. McClean. He first joined the Faculty as a Lecturer in 1960 and had been a full Professor since 1968. The Faculty continued to grow throughout the seventies again raising the need for a larger building. In 1975 the existing building was remodeled and a new addition constructed. This new structure was completed in 1976 and named the George F. Curtis Building. 1975 also saw the establishment of the Clinic Term Programme. By the following year when McClean resigned enrollment was up to 704.

Kenneth M. Lysyk became Dean in 1976 after having served as Saskatchewan's Deputy Attorney General. Lysyk started teaching at U.B.C.'s Faculty of Law in 1960 as a Lecturer and left as a full Professor for a position at the University of Toronto in 1970. Under his administration there was a thorough overhaul of the Faculty's curriculum. In 1980 the East Asian Legal Studies Programme was introduced which included Japanese Legal Studies.

Peter T. Burns, a full Professor at the Faculty since 1971, followed Lysyk as Dean in 1982. In 1985 Chinese Legal Studies was added to the East Asian programme through a joint U.B.C./Peking University exchange of legal scholars and graduate students. That same year also saw the establishment of a Cooperative Project in Law and Computers with IBM Canada. The position of Administrator was now filled by Patrick Gibson.

For the Deans of the Faculty of Law, consult the [List of Deans](#).

### **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of correspondence, reports, memoranda, agenda and minutes, studies, photographs and working papers relating to the administration of the Faculty of Law.

### **Notes**

Fonds consists of institutional records – access requests must be reviewed by the University's FOIPOP Coordinator.

File list available.

The inventory contains two appendices: an alphabetical list of committee files from the first three series ([Appendix I](#)) and a chronological listing of faculty meeting files ([Appendix II](#)).

## Series Descriptions

**Dean's General Administrative Subject series.** - 1945-1985.

3.6 m of textual records.

Series consists of correspondence, reports, policy and working papers, agenda and minutes, memoranda, statistics and speeches relating to the administration of the Dean of Law's Office specifically and the Faculty of Law in general. Series also includes materials relating to the construction of the first Faculty building in 1952 and the establishment of the Native Law Program.

Most of the material in files 16 through 22 in box 7 was set aside as inactive by the Office of the Dean of Law. At the time of the class of 1948's twentieth reunion in 1968, this historical material was gathered together and retained with the active records.

**Associate Dean's General Administrative Subject series.** - 1976-1983.

20 cm of textual records.

Series consists of correspondence, reports, memoranda, policy and working papers and agenda and minutes relating to the administration of the Associate Dean's Office. Series includes materials relating to the Faculty's curriculum review under Dean Lysyk, as well as the proposed Health Law Institute.

**Finance and Administration series.** - 1969-1981.

20 cm of textual records.

Series consists of correspondence, reports, memoranda, policy and working papers, teaching assignments, agenda and minutes and registration materials pertaining to the Faculty Administrator's Office.

Materials were maintained by the Faculty Administrator's Office, which provides the Dean with administrative assistance and acts as the faculty's financial officer.

Responsibilities include student registration, timetabling, exam scheduling, budget preparation, financial management, distribution of committee agenda and minutes and classroom allocation.

**Publications series.** – 1977-2002.

20 cm of textual records.

Series consists of issues of the Faculty of Law Handbook, the "Legal Who" student directory, and the Faculty of Law Yearbook.

**Photographs series.** - 1949-1968.

24 photographs.

Series consists of black and white prints and negatives of a variety of individuals, groups and events associated with the Faculty of Law. Series includes images of a Symposium on Legal Education held at U.B.C. in October 1949 at which many distinguished legal scholars spoke.

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#### ASSOCIATE DEAN'S GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUBJECT SERIES

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Faculty of Law Handbook

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- 2 Dean F.C. Cronkite (University of Saskatchewan) - Symposium on Legal Education, U.B.C., 27 October 1949
- 3 Unidentified - Symposium on Legal Education, U.B.C., 27 October 1949
- 4 Sir Douglas Huges-Parry - Symposium on Legal Education, 27 October 1949
- 5 Dean C.A. Wright (Faculty of Law, University of Toronto) - Symposium on Legal Education, U.B.C., 27 October 1949
- 6 Dean Cronkite, Sir David Hughes-Parry, R.H. Tupper, Dean Griswold (Harvard Law School), Dean McDonald (Dalhousie University) and Dean Wright - Symposium on Legal Education, U.B.C., 27 October 1949
- 7 Symposium on Legal Education, U.B.C., 27 October 1949
- 8 Walter Owen, General J.A. Clark, Andre Tashereau (President, Canadian Bar Association) and Dean G.F. Curtis, no date
- 9 Andre Tashereau, no date
- 10 Sir Anthony Eden at U.B.C., 24 January 1949  
(Note on back of original picture frame read: "This was the largest gathering ever at U.B.C. - in the Armouries. Anthony Eden came to U.B.C. at 12 noon, on short notice. Students were notified by loud-hailer around the campus from 9 on. By 11 the Armouries were filled. The Pipe-band of the C.O.T.C. was hastily called on and the pipes kept the crowd entertained. It was "standing room only" - there had been no time to set out chairs. Platform party includes: David Brousson, President of A.M.S.; introducing Eden, Hon. Eric W. Hamber, Chancellor; G.F.C., acting President. The veteran students cheered and cheered when Mr. Eden entered. He had, after all, the guts to resign from Cabinet when concessions were made to Hitler.")
- 11 Dean G.F. Curtis, fall 1945
- 12 C.C. McCuiag (President, Canadian Bar Association), Dr. Norman MacKenzie, G.D. Kennedy, Dean A.W.R. Carrothers (Yale Law School), Prof. F. Read, and Dean G.F. Curtis - meeting of the Law Society of B.C. and the B.C. section of the Canadian Bar Association, June 1949
- 13 The Old Sweats (first U.B.C. law class) - taken in front of the ex-army huts brought onto campus for "Law Building" south of Main Library on East Mall, November 1945 (includes negative)
- 14 The Old Sweats ten years later - tenth reunion, class of '48, 1958

- 15 Dean G.F. Curtis - portraits (4), no dates
- 16 Acting Dean of Law, M.M. McIntyre (print from a publication), no date
- 17 In the library - new law school at U.B.C., 20 November 1951
- 18 The Supreme Kangaroo Court of the University of B.C., no date
- 19 Law seminar (print with negative from a publication), no date
- 20 Unidentified print with negative (from a publication), no date
- 21 Unidentified print with negative, no date
- 22 Unidentified prints (36), no dates
- 23 Unidentified negatives (4), no dates
- 24 Class of 1948 with Lord Denning and 1948 Instructors, June 1968

## APPENDIX I

### ALPHABETICAL LIST OF COMMITTEE FILES FROM SERIES 1-3

#### FILE TITLE / BOX / FILE

- Ad Hoc Committee on Criteria for Promotion and Tenure, 1973-74 / 10 / 9
- Ad Hoc Committee on Criteria for Promotion and Tenure, 1974-76 / 11 / 30
- Ad Hoc Committee on Promotion, Tenure and Renewal Policy, 1971 / 7 / 12
- Ad Hoc Committee on Student Legal Services, 1976-78 / 11 / 31
- Ad Hoc Committee on Terms of Office of New Dean, 1970 / 7 / 10
- Administrative Committee - teaching effectiveness, 1974-80 / 12 / 17
- Administrative Committees - administrative structure of the faculty, 1977-78 / 12 / 1
- Administrative Committees - Law Foundation, 1976-77 / 12 / 3
- Administrative Committees - outside professional activities, 1977-80 / 12 / 4
- Administrative Committees - procedures manual, 1977-78 / 12 / 2
- Admissions Committee, 1968-71 / 6 / 27
- Admissions Committee, 1972-73 / 9 / 8
- Admissions Committee, 1973-74 / 9 / 7
- Admissions Committee, 1974-76 / 9 / 6
- Advocacy Committee (Committee on Moot Court Room and Video Communication with the Courthouse), 1981-82 / 12 / 6
- Appointments Committee, 1968-71 / 6 / 29
- Appointments Committee, 1972-75 / 9 / 13
- Appointments Committee, 1975-76 / 9 / 10
- Appointments Committee, 1976-77 / 9 / 11
- Budget Committee, 1968-71 / 10 / 18
- Calendar Committee, 1962-66 / 6 / 5

Continuing Legal Education Committee, 1972-73 / 9 / 23  
Continuing Legal Education Committee, 1974-76 / 9 / 22  
Curriculum Committee, 1965-69 / 7 / 2(1)  
Curriculum Committee, 1969 / 14 / 15(1)  
Curriculum Committee, 1969-71 / 7 / 2(2)  
Curriculum Committee, 1970-73 / 14 / 15(2)  
Curriculum Committee, 1971-74 / 9 / 24  
Curriculum Committee, 1973-74 / 9 / 25  
Curriculum Committee, 1974-77 / 9 / 26  
Curriculum Committee, 1975-78 / 13 / 3(1)  
Curriculum Committee, 1977-79 / 11 / 16  
Curriculum Committee, 1979-82 / 13 / 3(2)  
Curriculum Committee, Report of, 1969 / 7 / 13  
Development Plan Committee, 1951-59 / 2 / 19  
Examinations Committee, 1972-73 / 10 / 1  
Examinations Committee, 1973-74 / 10 / 2  
Examinations Committee, 1974-76 / 11 / 32  
Examinations Committee, 1977-78 / 13 / 7(1)  
Examinations Committee, 1977-81 / 13 / 7(2)  
Examinations Committee - ad hoc, markers, re-reads, etc., 1968-71 / 7 / 1  
Examinations Committee - chairman's file - policy decisions by faculty, historical, 1970-76 / 14 / 1  
Examinations Committee - chairman's file - minutes, cumulative record, 1972-75 / 14 / 2  
Examinations Committee - chairman's file - minutes, cumulative record, 1975-76 / 14 / 3  
Examinations Committee - chairman's file - minutes, 1976-77 / 14 / 4  
Examinations Committee - meetings, 1979-80 / 14 / 8  
Examinations Committee - minutes and agendae, 1977-78 / 14 / 7  
Examinations Committee - reports to faculty, 1976-77 / 14 / 5  
Examinations Committee - reports to faculty, 1977-78 / 14 / 6  
Faculty Advisory Committee, 1974-75 / 11 / 34  
Faculty Advisory Committee, 1976-77 / 11 / 33  
Faculty Advisory Committee, 1977-78 / 11 / 19  
Faculty Advisory Committee, 1978-81 / 13 / 8  
Faculty Advisory Committee, 1981-84 / 12 / 12  
Faculty Affairs Committee - 1968 report / 11 / 35  
Faculty Affairs Committee, Report to the Faculty of Law, 1968 / 6 / 3  
Faculty/Bar Committee, 1971-73 / 10 / 3  
Faculty/Bar Relations, Committee on, 1969 / 7 / 3  
Faculty/Student Liaison Committee, 1966-71 / 7 / 4  
Faculty/Student Committee, 1971-74 / 10 / 4

Faculty/Student Liaison Committee, 1975-84 / 12 / 13  
Faculty/Student Liaison Committee, 1977 / 11 / 21  
Graduate Committee, 1971-74 / 10 / 5  
Graduate and Research Committee, 1974-77 / 11 / 36  
Implementation Committee, 1972-73 / 10 / 6  
Library Committee, 1968-69 / 7 / 5  
Library Committee, 1973-74 / 10 / 7  
Native Students Committee, 1977-79 / 12 / 14(1)  
Native Students Committee, 1980-84 / 12 / 14(2)  
Office of the Dean, Committee of the, 1970-72 / 14 / 13  
Planning Committee, 1971-72 / 10 / 8  
Promotions Committee, 1968-70 / 7 / 11  
Research Committee, 1967-71 / 7 / 7  
Research Committee, 1972-73 / 10 / 10  
Research and Patents, Committee on, 1947-51 / 3 / 12  
Scholarship Committee, 1945-50 / 3 / 15  
Scholarship Committee, 1967-74 / 10 / 11  
Scholarship Committee, 1968-71 / 7 / 8  
Scholarship Committee - report, 1982 / 12 / 8  
Special Planning Committee, 1967-69 / 7 / 6(1)  
Special Planning Committee, 1970-71 / 7 / 6(2)  
Special Committee of the UBC Faculty of Law on Law / 9 / 20  
School Operation - report, 1967  
Steering Committee, 1967-70 / 7 / 9  
Steering Committee on Clinical Legal Semester, 1973-75 / 9 / 18  
Taxation Committee, 1954-55 / 2 / 21  
Various committee reports, 1972-74 / 14 / 16

## APPENDIX II

### CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF FACULTY MEETING FILES

#### FILE TITLE / BOX / FILE

Minutes of Faculty meetings, 1950-64 / 5 / 16  
Faculty meetings, 1953-59 / / 4 / 11  
Minutes of staff meetings, 1960-66 / 5 / 17  
Faculty of Law meetings, 1968-69 / 6 / 26  
Faculty of Law meetings, 1968-71 / 6 / 28

Faculty meetings, 1970-72 / 10 / 28(1)  
Faculty meetings, 1973-77 / 10 / 28(2)  
Faculty meeting, September 30, 1976 / 11 / 1  
Faculty meeting, December 1, 1976 / 11 / 2  
Faculty meeting, January 24, 1977 / 11 / 3  
Faculty meeting, March 21, 1977 / 11 / 4  
Faculty meeting, May 19, 1977 / 11 / 5  
Faculty meeting, September 7, 1977 / 11 / 6  
Faculty meeting, September 29, 1977 / 11 / 7  
Faculty meeting, November 24, 1977 / 11 / 8  
Faculty meeting, January 26, 1978 / 11 / 10  
Faculty meeting, March 30, 1978 / 11 / 11  
Faculty meeting, May 18, 1978 / 11 / 12  
Faculty meeting, 28 September, 1978 / 1137  
Faculty meeting, 1 February 1979 / 11 / 38  
Faculty Council meeting, 4 October, 1979 / 11 / 39  
Faculty Council meeting, 22 November, 1979 / 11 / 41