IALL 2006 ANNUAL COURSE IN RUSSIA

hosted by the oldest and leading Law School of Russia
…traditions of classical legal education, which is nearly 300 years old…
St. Petersburg was founded in 1703 by the Russian emperor Peter the Great.
St. Petersburg is called the cultural capital of Russia.
The whole development of St. Petersburg is materialized in its palaces and temples, park ensembles and street labyrinths.
It is a city of “White Nights”
The Law Faculty of the St. Petersburg State University

St. Petersburg State University was founded in 1724 by a decree of Peter the Great. Law has been taught at the University since the first day of its foundation. Thus the Law Faculty of the St. Petersburg State University is the oldest law school in Russia.
Among our graduates there are a lot of famous people - politicians like V. Lenin and A. Kerensky, who were at the helm of the country at different times. There are also outstanding theorists and practicing lawyers: M. Balugjansky, A. Venedictov, M. Shargorodsky, I. Kaufman, F. Martens, P. Lodij, A. Block, L. Gumilev, L. Andreev, M. Zoshenko, M. Vrubel, S. Dyagilev, N. Rerikh, I. Stravinsky and others made an invaluable contribution to the Russian cultural heritage. And nowadays the best lawyers of the whole country are our graduates, too. They fill key positions in public and local authority. Among them are: the President of Russia V. Putin, the Chairman of the Council of Federation S. Mironov, the Head of the Presidential Administration D. Medvedev, the Head of the Presidential Administration D. Kozak, the Minister of Economic Development and Trade G. Gref, judges of the Constitutional Court S. Kazantsev, V. Yaroslavtsev, L. Zharkova, Members of the State Duma I. Artyemyev, A. Alexandrov, S. Popov, A. Shishlov.
THE LAW FACULTY OF THE ST. PETERSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Our Faculty in figures:

Among 118 faculty members:
35 professors,
73 have a scientific degree.

Nowadays there are about 4000 students of the Faculty and more than 600 Ph. D. students, candidates for a doctor’s degree and scientific researchers.
Spacious rooms of the faculty basement contain numerous volumes on law that are more than two and a half centuries old. We will begin our acquaintance with the Law Faculty here.
The Library has been built up for a long time. Old rare editions on legal thought including foreign ones are stored here. There are more than 18000 books and journals in the Russian library stock of old books, whereas the Foreign stock contains about 25000 editions. Naturally, the library does not store only old books. New publications from all over the country are acquired.
The Library

On the second floor one can find three huge reading rooms with more than 150 computers. Students can be online through the Internet, print necessary texts and documents and have their own computer files. Private catalogues and mailboxes are also available. Besides, there is free access to the legislative data-bases “Codex”, “Garant”, “Consultant +” and the legislative data bank of the Federal Government Communication and Information Agency. Last year the Library joined the International Association of Legal Libraries.

The most important fact concerning the Library is that it is the first computerized legal library, which operates by means of modern computer technologies. Textbooks and scientific literature are at the students’ disposal and can be loaned. Internet access to library catalogues makes it possible to work with them from home.
The Law Faculty of the St. Petersburg State University is the successor of traditions of classical legal education, which is nearly 300 years old. The unique feature of the Faculty is that it has integrated modern methods and technologies into the existing system of teaching.

The Faculty offers various educational programs within the three-stage tuition system.

- Bachelor of Law degree program
- Master of Law degree program
- Ph.D. program

There is a special course for those willing to get a second higher education in law.
Teaching is conducted in Russian, except optional courses which can be provided in foreign languages.
Education depending on the program can be full-time, evening or by correspondence.
There are 10 chairs at the Law Faculty:
- Constitutional and Administrative Law,
- Civil Law,
- Civil Procedure Law,
- Commercial Law,
- International Law,
- Environmental Law,
- Theory and History of State and Law,
- Labour Law,
- Criminal Law,
- Criminal Procedure Law.

In the Refresher Course Center various forms of extra professional training are available. The main tasks of the center are: retraining lawyers and non-lawyers, retraining teachers and lecturers, mastering legal knowledge for top-managers, providing trainee course for practicing lawyers at the faculty chairs, special course for non-law students in specific legal problems. Among its programs the Center offers “Trial Advocate School” and “Tax Attorney School”.
Students have the opportunity to practice in the Legal Clinic. This is a complex educational program assisting students in developing professional skills. They study negotiating, interviewing, record keeping while giving legal advice to indigent people.
There is a preparatory course for University enrollees and about 80% of our students graduated this course.
THE LAW FACULTY OF THE ST. PETERSBURG
STATE UNIVERSITY

Science

The Law Faculty of the St. Petersburg State University is not only an educational center but also a federal scientific research institute: during the past 5 years about 700 scientific works have been published here.

In the years of 1997 and 2000 the faculty won presidential grant according to the Governmental Support program for Russian leading scientific schools.

A great amount of various conferences, symposia and seminars take place at the Faculty.
The scientific subdivisions of the Faculty are the following:

**Scientific and Research Law Center**

was founded in 1994. It provides legal expertise, drafts bills of federal and regional levels, consults organizations and individuals on legal issues and implements large-scale projects within the Russian legal reform framework. “Elaboration and introduction of computerized system of collecting and analyzing St. Petersburg courts' decisions” is the project summarizing legal practice in St. Petersburg.

**Center of Legal Expertise**

is meant to provide legal assistance to companies and individuals with the help of the Faculty teaching staff. Among its corporative clients are the State Hermitage Museum, “Baltic” brewing company and the football club “Zenit”. Not only the teaching staff and Ph.D. students but also graduate students take part in the centers’ activities.

**Branch of the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Science**

provides fundamental scientific research, large-scale conferences and symposia, as well as legal expertising of drafts of the most important federal acts.

**Head Council on Legal Science of the Russian Ministry of Education**

provides supervision in the field of legal science in Russian law schools.
The scientific subdivisions of the Faculty are the following:

**Organized Crime and Corruption Research Center**
was founded in 2000 and is financed by the US Department of Justice. Its appearance is a result of a bilateral agreement between the Law Faculty and the American University (Washington, D.C.). The purposes of the Center are: the organized crime and corruption studies as well as information exchange with other scientific centers and schools. Arranging seminars, conferences, round table discussions with the assistance of the leading Russian and foreign experts is also one of the Center's aims.

The Faculty has its own **Publishing service** which issues various scientific books, text-books and manuals. Editorial boards of two respectable periodicals: “Jurisprudence” and “Legal Practice” are faculty based.

“Jurisprudence” journal was founded in 1957 and is one of the most popular and authoritative Russian journals devoted to the fundamental problems of law.

“Legal Practice” bulletin contains analytical court practice reviews and case materials in the North-West region of the Russian Federation. The periodical is popular not only among scientists but also among practicing lawyers because it draws attention to regional peculiarities of legal practice.
Annual “Justice” award

The overwhelming majority of both St. Petersburg scientists and practicing lawyers are the graduates of our Faculty and therefore eager to participate in popularization of legal education. Non-governmental Foundation for the Law Faculty Promotion is meant to combine their efforts. This Foundation was established in 1995 under the initiative of famous lawyers and chiefs of city governmental bodies. Among the main spheres of the funds’ activities is presenting the annual “Justice” award for achievements in legal science and practice. There are four annual nominees – the most honorable theoretical and practicing lawyers, public figures and journalists who contributed into the information support of Russian legal reform.
International programs

The international programs of the Faculty have old longstanding traditions. During the last years our contacts have been developing and widening steadily. We have close partnership with best universities of the USA, Great Britain, Germany, France, Sweden, Finland, Austria, the Netherlands, South Korea, China, Japan and of many other countries.

We participate in the lecturer and student exchange.

We hold about 50 seminars and conferences annually; our teachers and students take part in various summer schools, joint educational projects. The best foreign professors are frequently invited to lecture at our Faculty.

Besides, our educational programs are popular with foreign students from Europe, Asia and America, who come to study at our Faculty.

Among the standing international programs the most successful are the ones we have with the following universities:

- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany)
- Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (Germany)
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
- Universität Passau (Germany)
- Université Nancy 2 (France)
The Law Faculty is situated in 5 buildings which have rooms for studies, scientific work, holding conferences and gala meetings. All the buildings are equipped with latest technical novelties.

The Faculty has facilities to hold video-conferences and students can have on-line communication with famous foreign scientists.

Conference halls and seminar rooms are equipped with multimedia projectors, DVD-players, slide projectors, equipment for simultaneous translation, video players, visualizers and the Dolby Pro Logic System.

All Faculty services and subdivisions are integrated in one computer network which has more than 400 computers. There is a special Information Analysis Department serving this network. This department also deals with other activities concerning computer technologies. The official site of the Faculty www.jurfak.spb.ru is created by this center. The daily attendance of the web-page is more than 400 people.
In the afternoon the most active students attend scientific societies where they can listen to reports on various problems and have discussions. There are 17 scientific societies which form a Scientific Student Society (SSS). SSS holds competitions, contests, institutes prizes. It also participates in the work of the St. Petersburg department of the European Law Students Association (ELSA). Annually the SSS holds the All-Russia student conference which gathers representatives from domestic and foreign law institutes.

Many of our students begin to think about their future career from the first years of their studies. The Faculty helps them to make the right choice by means of various internships in law firms and governmental bodies. We also help our students to find permanent jobs with the help of the “Career” personnel agency. It is the sort of a “employment exchange” for students and graduates. It collects information about everyone who wants to find or change a job. This agency also selects specialists according to the requests of the employers.
Novgorod - one of the most ancient cities of Russia located in its North-West, near the site where the Volkhov river takes its waters from Lake Ilmen, emerged as a political center of Slavic and Fino-Ugric tribes in the mid-9th century, while as a town it was formed in the middle of the 10th century.

The history of Novgorod is closely linked with all major stages in the life of Russian state. In the times, when the statehood of Rus was just in the making, the Novgorodians invited Scandinavian prince Rurik to keep law and order, thus giving birth to the prince Rurik dynasty that ruled over all Russian lands throughout more than 750 years.
In the early 10th century, war campaigns of the Novgorodians against Constantinopol to secure equal trade with Bizantine Empire resulted in the integration of East Slavic tribes into the ancient Kievan Russian state.

The adoption of Christianity at the close of the tenth century turned Novgorod into a powerful ecclesiastical center.
The Library of Institute of Humanities of the Novgorod State University after Yaroslav the Wise
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