
FOREWORD TO VOLUME ONE**Daito Bunka University Law School
Establishment and Special Focus**

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On November 27, 2003, Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology effected a major reform in the area of Japanese jurisprudence as it authorized the establishment of a system of graduate law schools with doctoral programs. The graduate law school, referred to as "law school" in Japan, has been envisioned as a means of developing the specialized legal professionals necessary to our 21st century society. Providing a high level of specialized education, the law school is a major reform the likes of which has not been seen in about a hundred years. Following a strict application and review process, the Ministry accorded accredited status on a total of 66 law schools one of which was Daito Bunka University Law School.

Daito Bunka University was originally established by resolution of the National Diet in 1923 as Daito Bunka Gakuin and, throughout its history, has consistently made significant contributions in research and education especially in the fields of literature, economics and legal studies, with an emphasis on Asia. During the reforms in the aftermath of the Second World War, Daito Bunka University emerged as a "new system university" and expanded with faculties in economics, foreign languages, law, and international relations in addition to literature, and developed as a 4-year literary arts university which, today, boasts an enrollment of more than 13,000 students.

In April 2000, our university established the School of Business Administration autonomous from the Economics Faculty, and established the first Calligraphy Department in Japan, in the Literature Faculty. In April 2001, the School of Social Environmental Studies was established, the Economics Faculty was reorganized into the Department of Contemporary Economics and the Department of Socioeconomics, and the School of Sports and Health Sciences was established. We currently embrace 8 faculties and 19 departments.

The graduate divisions comprise 15 majors in the 6 graduate programs in literature, economics, law, foreign languages, Asian area studies and business administration.

Year 2004 was indeed celebratory for Daito Bunka University as it achieved the Ministry's list of accredited law schools in its landmark 80th anniversary year. No event could have been a more timely stimulus for our great university than to celebrate its 80th year as an educational institution of the future by assuming the mantle in our nation's efforts to overhaul the system of legal education in Japan to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The 21st century has been called the age of "knowledge." Societies are experiencing diversification while international competition intensifies from the globalization of societies and economies spurred by heightened advances in science and technology. To meet the needs of this rapidly changing world, our law school provides the broad and specialized educational foundation requisite to the new force of legal professionals, to nurture students with a deep sense of humanity and internationalism, to think critically

and with creativity. Our law school is also structured to actively encourage and accommodate the working professional by providing classes from 18:00 hours and extended-study terms as well as per unit fees.

Indeed, matriculation for years 2004 and 2005 reflected a significant number of working professionals including physicians, pharmacists, certified public accountants, licensed tax accountants, civil servants, bank employees and employees of private firms. This diversity in backgrounds was most encouraging as it was consistent with one of our university's principles of "diversity" and our goal to develop legal professionals with the skills to serve all classes of peoples from all walks of life including the weak and the poor and the minorities.

The Daito Bunka University Law School is based on a history of 31 years in the education and scholarship of law. In 1973, our university established the Law Department, Faculty of Law, and also the Surugadai Seminar for legal studies in the Kanda district of Tokyo, known as Japan's national legal exam "mecca." Under the guidance of instructors including judges and attorneys, the Seminar has been open to students of other universities as well, and a high percentage of enrollees have successfully passed the national legal exam. Our graduate law school was thus established by drawing from this 31 years of experience in the education and scholarship of law.

Daito Bunka University Law School presently has a total of 55 instructors of which fulltime faculty include 7 research faculty and 10 practical faculty in addition to part-time professionals. The curriculum is organized to achieve the educational goal of fusing theory and practice. The 4 areas of specialty are Corporate Law, International Law, Civic Life Law, and Public Policy Law, which reflect the special focus of our law school to develop lawyers expert in business, lawyers active in the international arena, specialists in medical malpractice suits, and civil servants strong in policymaking, all having the specialized skills to meet the unique challenges of the contemporary age. In the spirit of serving as a meeting of the East and West, our goal is to serve as the law school of Asian law specialists, or the law school for professionals in Asian law.

Our graduate law school provides practical education with a focus on the development of legal specialists (a legal professionals' school) as an individual's skills and qualities become critical in the increasingly competitive society. In the achievement of this aim, the faculty has been organized to continually advance the standard of scholarship and research to ensure quality and relevance in education in pace with the times. Consistent with this endeavor, we also began a series of symposia beginning with "Corroborative Review of Compliance Issues in Large Corporations" in November 2004, and continuing with "Provision of Public Relations Law in China" in January 2005, and "Present State of Environmental Law Compliance Enforcement in the US" in March 2005.

In January 2005, our faculty established the Daito Bunka Society of Legal studies dedicated to the research of the theory of law and its application and, in this context, decided on the launch of our law school journal, "Daito Law Review."

I give my sincerest congratulations on the publication of this first issue of "Daito Law Review" and I look forward to Daito Bunka University Law School's future success as a major player in the shaping of Japan's legal professionals in the 21st century.
