



NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
UNIVERSITY
IN TORUŃ

Faculty of Law and Administration



FACULTY OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

INFORMATION FOR
VISITORS AND PARTNERS
FROM ABROAD

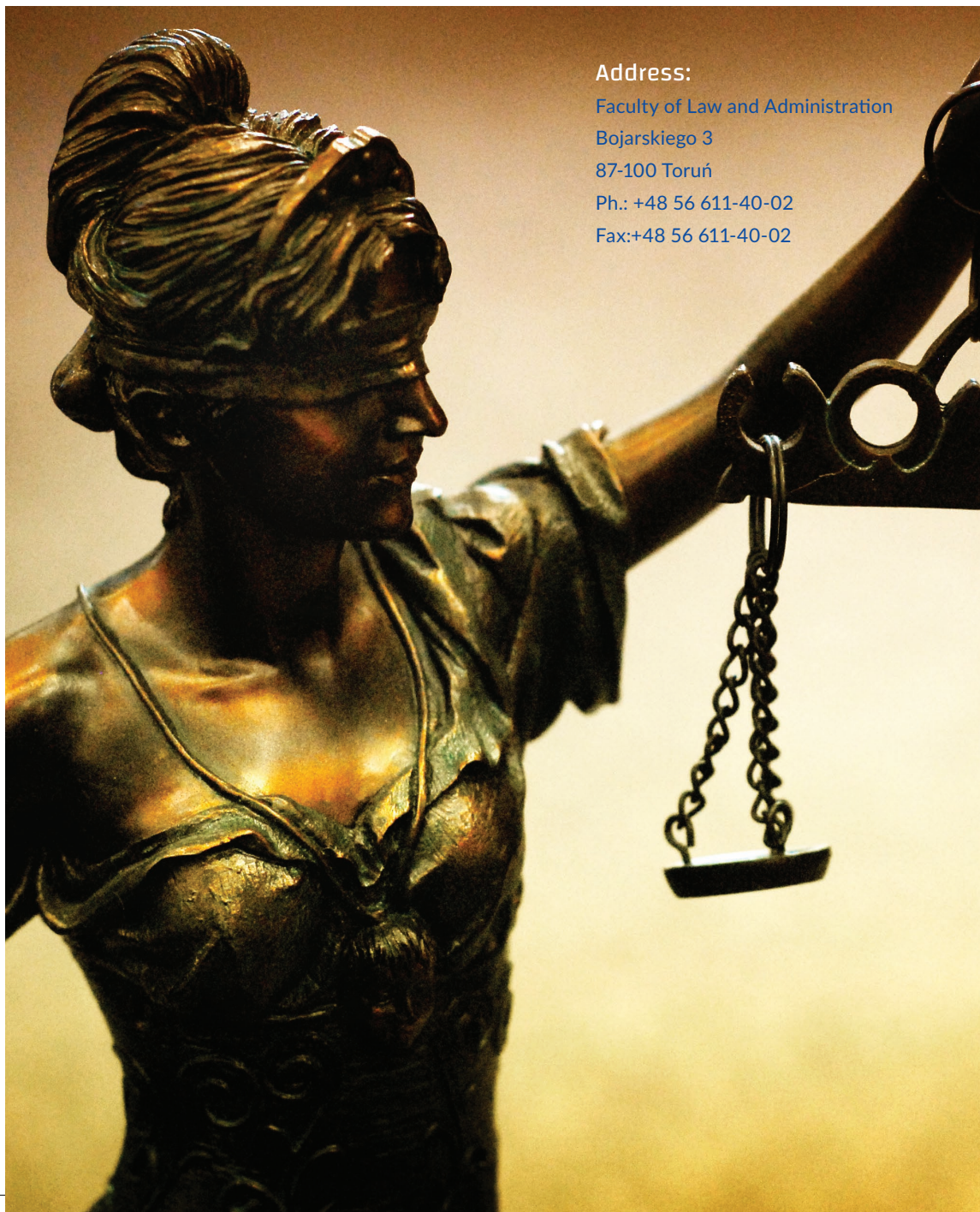
Toruń 2018



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UNIVERSITY
IN TORUŃ
Faculty of Law and Administration

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DEAN'S WELCOME

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you and invite to join our academic community as temporary academic staff, participants of scientific events, or students participating in international mobility programmes.

We are truly proud that you chose our Faculty which has a very solid position among other faculties of law at Polish public universities. The Faculty was awarded category A with distinction (very good with distinction) by the Evaluation Committee of Scientific Units at the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education the quality of scientific activity.

Personally, I can assure that all visitors may expect our assistance and support in carrying out of their academic plans. You will encounter a supportive and friendly attitude of all of us, including authorities, research staff, members of the administration, and our students. You can count on the traditional hospitality of Polish people as for us it is a moral duty which lies deep in our hearts and which we treat with full responsibility.

I would like you to spare a moment and learn more about the Faculty through the brochure prepared to introduce you to the many ways



you can work and study at our Faculty. Its aim is to familiarize you with the intellectual environment at our Faculty. I hope you will find something of interest and value for your professional careers.

This is true that the more we know the wiser we are. It would be our great success if you decided to share your knowledge with us. In this way, we could create together more solid and fair legal systems for the common benefit of future generations.

With kindest regards and warmest welcome,
Prof. dr hab. Zbigniew Witkowski
Dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration
Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

HISTORY OF THE FACULTY IN BRIEF

The Faculty of Law and Administration was officially founded upon the Regulation of the Ministry of Education of November 1945.

Next to the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities, it was the third faculty at Nicolaus Copernicus University. Originally, we functioned as the Faculty of Law and Economics. This strange construction resulted from the post-war reality, especially the lack of professional staff. Although in those years we could not compare with such Polish universities as the

Jagiellonian University in Cracow (dating back to 1364) or Warsaw University (established in 1816), it would not be an exaggeration to say that “university” atmosphere was present in Toruń much before the institution of the University. According to historical materials, the idea of establishing the University in our town was conceived already in the 14th century. In 1568 the Gymnasium was opened and received the academic recognition in 1594. The school, currently ranked highest among Polish secondary schools, was re-established in 1998 and functions under the auspices of the University.



Among our first scientific staff, there were eminent professors from famous universities like Vilnius University (established by Polish King Stefan Batory in 1579) and the University of Lviv (established in 1661 by Polish King Jan Kazimierz).



These scholars had an exceptional influence on younger colleagues and worked with great personal devotion to prepare the academic background for a newly created academic center in Toruń, which from its establishment has been the biggest university in northern Poland.



The first period of the functioning of the Faculty was full of difficulties.

Its regular work was even quite unexpectedly suspended in the academic year 1951/1952 due to political reasons. The Faculty reopened only in 1958 and from then it has been visibly changing due to political, social, or demographic factors.

FACULTY AUTHORITIES

term of office 2017–2020



Dean

Prof. dr hab. Zbigniew Witkowski,
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Vice-Dean for Student Affairs


Dr. hab. Piotr Rączka,
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Vice-Dean for Science and International Co-operation

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Dr. hab. Prof. of NCU
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The Faculty is governed by 2 institutional bodies.

The first is the **Faculty Council** which is the highest collective organ including 80 members. All staff at the rank of professors sit on the permanent basis and elected representatives of other academic communities, i.e. postdoctoral staff member, junior academic staff, administrative staff, and students are temporary members. The Faculty Council meets once a month with the Dean acting as the chairman. It issues resolutions and gives proposal approval which then becomes binding for the Faculty members.

The second is the **Dean of the Faculty** who is the head of the Faculty. The Dean is responsible for the everyday functioning of the Faculty and shaping its policy. The duties involve planning, deciding on, or putting forward proposals relating to research, education, and staff. The Dean and Vice-Deans compose the Dean's Collegium, which is a consultative body in affairs concerning the Faculty.

STAFF AND STUDENT POPULATION



Currently, the Faculty employs 102 academics out of whom 40 enjoy the autonomous status, i.e. they are full professors who can conduct seminars and supervise academic research undertaken by masters or doctors.

The rest of the colleagues are assistant professors, lectures or assistants who are just on their way to a full university career. Our staff the status of research and teaching staff, which entails combining research with teaching.

Many of our staff members share their professional time between academic work and legal practice (judges, advocates, legal advisors). This is a good tendency, especially in the field of law, as it secures a fair balance between theory and practice. Additionally, some academics work or play the leading role in the highest judicial organs such as the Tribunal of State, the Constitutional Tribunal, the Supreme Court, the Supreme Administrative Court or appellate courts. There are quite a lot of colleagues who, at different times in their careers, were eminent members of the Committee on Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Central Commission for Academic Titles and Degrees, the Commission

on the History of the First and Second World Wars, the Committee on Historical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the advisory boards of the European Centre for Advanced Legal Studies in Health Care at the Erasmus University Rotterdam; the Maritime Law Commission (president), the Commission on Ancient Law, the Cybercrime Convention Committee of the Council of Europe, the Penal Law Reform Commission, the Maritime Law Codification Commission, the Labour Law Reform Commission, the Human Rights Advisory Board of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bioethics Appellate Commission of the Ministry of Health (vice-president), the Expert Credit Insurance Corporation, the Penal Law Codification Commission, the Committee for European Integration of the Polish Sejm (coordinator), Legislative Board to the Prime Minister (1998–2002). Finally, many of our colleagues have been involved in the process of legal reforms as regular or ad hoc experts in the Codification Commissions. Membership in different institutions is the best mark of excellence of the Faculty staff.

to over 8000. Although today we have app. 4000 undergraduates, we are still the biggest Faculty at our University.

The student population is one of the most changeable elements at Polish universities, especially nowadays. Nonetheless, it is one of the key objectives of the Faculty current mission. Due to changes in higher education national policy, we can hope for a better „fair balance” between research and education. It was previously a challenge for faculties with the big student population.



The Faculty started with 813 students which number grew visibly with time and in the academic year 1948/1949 there were already 1507 undergraduates. Our “boom years” were in 1990–2007 when the numbers were enormous amounting

The reasons for this trend are multiple, but two are of the greatest importance, i.e. a demographic factor and a growing number of non-public higher education institutions which have appeared more attractive for less ambitious youth. This tendency has had an undisputed impact on our Faculty’s scientific strategy and its mission.

FACULTY POSITION AND ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



Our Faculty has a good tradition of attracting both academics and students. It stands out from other law faculties, of which there are currently 18 at public universities in Poland thanks to its high-ranking position.

The Faculty is authorized to award the degree qualifications of doctor and doctor habilitated and was awarded the first category in the classification of the Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) for the period 1999–2002.

Likewise, we are the largest out of 17 faculties at Nicolaus Copernicus University. This means that we still have the highest number of students who undertake studies across diverse areas such as law, administration, protection of environment, and tax advisory. The student population is divided into full-time and part-time students and comes from all over Poland.

The Faculty now offers bachelor's and master's degree programmes. The division into the first and second cycle studies applies to degree programmes in administration and tax advisory whereas law studies are longer and offered as a 5-year degree programme.

Additionally, our Faculty provides the third cycle doctoral studies in a full- and part-time mode and specialized post-graduate courses for those who want to complete their education in various legal disciplines. We now have 9 different one- year courses on offer.

The Faculty is organized into departments, units, and centers.

Departments:

- History of Law and Political Systems
- History of Political and Legal Doctrines and German Law
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedure
- Civil Law and Procedure
- Human Rights Law
- European Law
- Public Finances Law
- Roman and Canon Law
- International Public Law
- Insurance Law
- Environmental Protection Law
- Labour Law
- Theory of Law and State

Specialized Scientific Divisions (affiliated with the Departments):

- Maritime Law (*Civil Law*)
- Medical Law (*Insurance Law*)
- Commercial Law (*Civil Law*)
- Criminalistics (*Criminal Procedure*)
- Administrative Law (*independent status*)
- Budget Law and Local Government Finance (*Public Finances Law*)
- Public Economic Law (*Environmental Protection Law*)

Independent Scientific Centers:

- Centre for Electoral Studies



- Cybercrime Research Centre
- Cuiavian-Pomeranian Academic Center for Environmental Protection Law / Law on Environmental Protection
- Center for Fiscal Studies

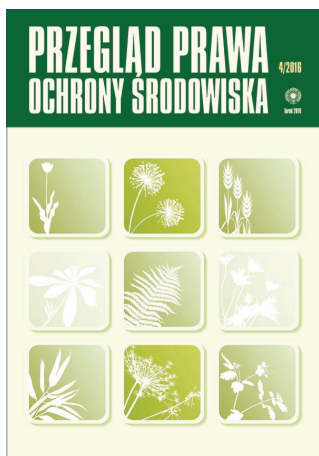
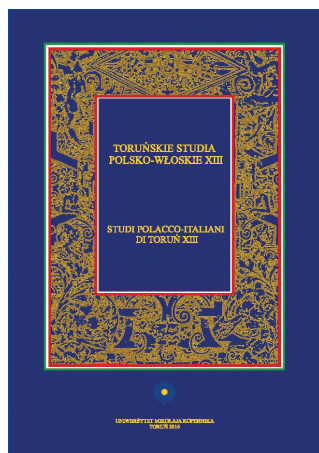
SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH AREAS

The Faculty's research activities are well illuminated in the names of departments, units, and centers. It shows that research interests cover almost all branches of legal sciences.

Apart from long-standing research fields, there have appeared studies in contemporary issues that arise from social and political realities. These cover, among others, medical law and bioethics, comparative studies, human rights and challenges facing international human rights organizations, new technologies and their impact on criminal procedure and criminalistics, business and organized crime and cybercrime, Polish and comparative constitutional law, modern concepts of law and rule of law, intersection of criminal and civil procedure in the context of state liability for errors or abuse of power by court or investigative organs, aspects of court psychology, contemporary legal transactions, interdisciplinary research conducted within international public law, comparative constitutional law, the EU law and Polish public and private law, supervision over pro-

fessional corporations, architectural law, current developments in European tax law, and case law of the European Courts. Research activity is carried out both during regular work at the Faculty, under special national or University grants, or while working as official experts at for different Polish and foreign institutions. Our scholars are also involved the publication of 8 journals in different languages, including:

- *Comparative Law Review* (English)
- *Polish Yearbook of Environmental Law* (English)
- *Employee and Employer* (Polish)
- *Budget Law of the State and Self-Government* (Polish)
- *Review of Environmental Protection Law* (Polish)
- *Studies Iuridica Toruniensia* (Polish, English, German, Russian, French, Italian, Spanish)
- *Toruń Tax Yearbook* (Polish)
- *Toruń Polish – Italian Studies* (Italian, English)



FACULTY MISSION

The Faculty mission is compatible with the general policy of the University and pursues expectations of both our students and their future employers. The Faculty is committed to:

- the universal principles of freedom and independence of scientific thought and research, academic autonomy, principles of ethics and good practice in research and teaching;
- keeping the highest possible level of our scientific and teaching offer through openness to any new social expectations and readiness to develop new fields of specialized legal education that will equip our students with up-to-date theoretical and practical skills;
- the extensive international exchange that gives comparative research a solid basis. The Faculty has been developing and supporting various forms of collaboration, including part-time studies and internships abroad, hosting visiting professors, the organization of and participation in conferences, seminars, joint projects etc.).

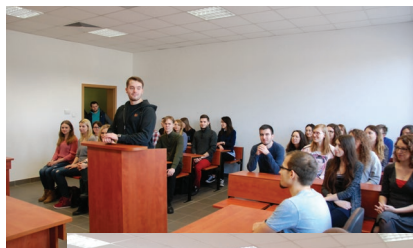
EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ENVIRONMENT

The new building of the Faculty of Law, Collegium Iuridicum Novum or as it is sometimes called New Harmonica due to the past tradition, is located on the main University campus near a forested area, excellent for jogging or other outdoor sports activities.

The building, to which we moved in the academic year 1999/2000, belongs to one of the most modern facilities and offers a different “university world” in the full sense of that word. The Faculty building is app. 14,000 m² and contains 5 big lecture halls (for nearly 300 students),



numerous seminar rooms, classrooms, and a courtroom room where students can take part in simulations of court proceedings or



prepare for moot court competitions. The building is well equipped with all necessary technical facilities, including installation

for visual presentations, projectors, microphones in lecture halls, smart boards, or air conditioning. The Faculty employs techni-



cal staff to support academics and students in their work. Additionally, the building is adapted to the needs of students with disabilities.



also specialized libraries like Small Library of German Law, Library of Italian Law, Library



The Faculty library which now holds 63,710 items including both Polish and foreign publications and subscribes 52 Polish and 12 foreign journals from diverse legal disciplines. Apart from the main Faculty library, there are

of the Environmental Protection Law, and Library of Maritime Law and Law of the Sea. Due to a longstanding tradition of research in the history of law and state, the Faculty holds a unique collection of old books, materials, and other scientific sources. The items are stored in the Department of Gen-

eral History of State and Law (for access to the collection, please contact **Prof. Gaca** at



agaca@umk.pl). Finally, Departments have their own literature collections, usually connected with the research carried out by the scholars of these Department.

All the books are available for study since the Faculty set the policy of open access. Additionally, the Library offers access to internet



database services, including Legalis, Heinonline, Scopus, Springer, Wiley, and Web of Science. Some legal publications can be purchased in a book-shop located in the Faculty building.



The Faculty building is also the place to have a rest or converse in a friendly atmosphere.

The Faculty bar not only provides a variety of dining options but is also the most favorite place for students to get together. For those in a hurry, there are self-service machines



with coffee, sweets, and snacks. Finally, there are a few social areas where students can socialize in a vibrant environment.



STUDENT ACTIVITY

Students are an integral part of our academic community and, therefore, the Faculty authorities are fully supportive of student active in the life of the Faculty and academic research. Students have their own self-government the representatives of which are present at Faculty Council meetings. They are also invited to voice their opinion in discussions on issues that concern the Faculty.

When it comes to scientific activities initiated by our students, there are 25 student research groups most of which are affiliated with Departments. Some of them are really uncommon, e.g. Student Debate Club, Judicial Rhetoric Student Group, Lex Sportiva, Student Group for Mediation and Rhetoric, or Homo Homini.



More ambitious students can develop their lawyering skills through volunteering in the works of the University Law Clinic. Under the supervision of academic staff, students provide free legal aid to people who cannot afford a lawyer. Similarly, in 2006 the Faculty launched Clinic 42 which provides free of charge legal assistance to prisoners seeking e.g. conditional release from prison, leaves, or who face other difficulties resulting from prison isolation.



Our students are also involved in moot courts and have outstanding achievements in international moot court competitions, e.g. Strasbourg, Geneva, New York.

Lastly, many of our students are active members of the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) which is well-known for different scientific events that enhance students' development.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The Faculty is deeply committed to international collaboration in the fields of research and education both at University and Faculty levels.

The Faculty is successful in establishing partnerships with scientific institutions abroad and is involved in international programmes, including joint research or student and staff mobility under Socrates, Erasmus, or Erasmus+.

The mobility of students within the Erasmus+ programme is remarkable when compared with past decades. We now have 47 Erasmus+ partners (for the list of partners, please go to: www.umk.pl/wspolpraca/erasmus_plus/partnerzy) who offer over 100 places for students and staff. Scholarships awarded to our scholars (e.g. Humboldt and Fulbright) foster scientific research and help network with foreign partners.



placed in visiting professorship. The collaboration is highly appraised by students and undergraduates from other faculties eagerly join the tutorials. The collaboration with CILS resulted in a unique possibility of entering into a separate agreement with the Loyola University in Chicago. We have developed a special project entitled Human Rights and a Just Society and every year in October we hold a two-day seminar on a specific topic related to current problems that human rights face nowadays. Until now we have had 12

The Faculty authorities try to seize any opportunity to establish collaboration. The best example is the co-operation with the Centre of International Legal Studies (CILS) from Salzburg in 2002. We now traditionally have 2 senior lawyers from the USA and Canada with over 20 years of professional practice

such meetings. This is a perfect platform for exchanging viewpoints between theoreticians, practitioners, and students.

The Faculty welcomes partners who are willing to visit us and share their knowledge and professional experience.

STUDY OFFER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Starting from 2002/2003, we have been running the Comparative Law School (CLS) which offers a one-year course in English. It is an interesting educational proposal for Erasmus students since each semester different subjects are on offer.

Students are awarded ECTS credit points (6 ECTS for a lecture and 4 ECTS for a class). However, the number of ECTS credit points allocated to the course is not always the same and depends on subjects taught in each academic year. In the past, the course was conducted chiefly by Faculty academic staff but today we have visibly more native speakers and scholars from other Polish Universities. Additionally, there are visiting scholars who are invited each year to give guest lectures and share with our academic community modern approaches to current legal challenges. Although the offer is dedicated mainly to international students, Polish students who would like to become familiar with professional legal English terminology are welcome to take part. By July each year, a curriculum for the next academic year is al-

ways ready. For more details, go to: www.law.umk.pl/student/comparative-law-school or contact the course administrative coordinator at krasowska@umk.pl.

The Faculty has additionally a special project for students of the last years of their studies, i.e. finalizing their bachelor or master thesis. The arrangement involves working with an academic on relevant issues not included in the framework of ECTS credits. The cooperation is offered on an individual basis and the working language is English. This solution, however, requires arrangements and approval of both home Erasmus+ coordinator and the Faculty professors. Likewise, it is possible to join some interesting lectures delivered by staff from other Departments upon further agreement. For more information, please contact Dr. Chrzczonowicz, at pch@umk.pl.

All international students undertaking studies at our Faculty are invited to join any kind of international event which takes place at NCU as participants or speakers. We would really like to include students from abroad into our academic community and it would be more than satisfactory for us if such experience could turn out to be of value in future careers.

Internationalization of our Faculty life is also our future and we still have a lot to do in this area. We are now preparing for the launch of Summer Schools for International Students and are working to introduce joint diplomas in collaboration with partner institutions. Only in this way can we make doors wide open for our guests from abroad.



We are very satisfied and proud of our Alumni's successes achieved in their professional life.

Text: Prof. dr. hab. Bożena Gronowska

Consultation: Dr. Maciej Serowaniec



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