

## Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/50-years-of-legal-education-in-ethiopia/>

This video recounts the journey of a law educator who, after studying law in the United States, became interested in Africa, particularly Ethiopia. Initially starting his journey in East African law, he pivoted away from law school and ultimately sought opportunities in Africa. In 1962, he received a fellowship to work with the Ministry of Cooperative Development in Tanzania, but a deep desire to remain in Africa led him to Ethiopia, where he was invited to join the law faculty at a newly established law school.

The law school was part of Ethiopia's efforts in the 1950s and 60s to adopt a modern legal system with new codes in civil, penal, commercial, and criminal procedure law, distinct from the colonial past. Ethiopia had the unique circumstance of having never been fully colonized, which influenced its legal development.

The educator describes the challenges faced in establishing the law school, including a lack of local faculty qualified to teach, insufficient teaching materials, and the need to build a law library. He and the faculty comprised primarily of expatriates aimed to create a legal education system that combined both common law and civilian law traditions. Despite challenges, they produced teaching materials and resources that continued to benefit Ethiopian law students decades later.

He reflects on the long-lasting impact of this educational endeavor, noting a substantial increase in the number of law schools in Ethiopia since then and the significant role that former students have taken on in the legal field. The experiences and contributions of the expatriate faculty and Ethiopian graduates, he believes, laid a foundation for contemporary legal scholarship and practice in Ethiopia, highlighting a sense of pride and acknowledgment of their educational contributions in a complex historical context.

The narrative concludes by contrasting past challenges with current achievements in Ethiopian legal education and the importance of ongoing support for legal scholarship in the country.