

Opening Remarks by the Editor-in-Chief

Law Faculty of NWIM is the Leader in Law Education and Science

2021 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of Law Faculty of North-West Institute of Management of RANEPA. The faculty was founded on May 15, 1996 by the order of the Rector of the North-West Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation. At the origins of Law Faculty were scientists, professors and practitioners who previously worked at St. Petersburg State University, Leningrad Higher Party School, Higher School of Trade Unions and a number of other higher educational institutions of the city that carried out activities in the field of law education. Among them were Doctors of Science Lyudmila Ivanovna Antonova, Yuri Yakovlevich Baskin, Tatyana Vasilyevna Ivankina, senior researcher Kira Anatolyevna Moraleva, Alexander Alexandrovich Starovoitov, who later became the Dean of the Faculty and head of the Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law, and many others whose names are included in the golden fund of lawyers of the country¹.

Thanks to the efforts of professors and administration, Law Faculty quickly gained a well-deserved reputation as an effective and dynamically developing structure that provides professional training of highly qualified lawyers for state and municipal authority bodies, as well as for private commercial and non-profit organizations. Many well-known professors and scientists, civil servants and businessmen have graduated from the university and now they successfully implement the knowledge and skills acquired during their years of study at the faculty. More than twenty years of my own life are connected with the faculty, and therefore it a few personal memories seem quite appropriate.

My teaching at Law Faculty began in 1998, when I was a post-graduate student at the Department of Civil and Labor Law, which at that time was headed by Professor L.I. Antonova. It is hard to forget deep and vivid lectures on labor law and Roman private law that she gave to undergraduate and graduate students. Invaluable experience, as well as conceptual and methodological developments gained during these lectures, later formed the basis of my teaching activities. Also, senior comrades and mentors, such as Y.Y. Baskin, V.S. Fridman, and T.V. Ivankina², had a great influence on the formation of scientific and pedagogical skills of the representatives of the younger generation. Under the guidance of Tatyana Vasilyevna, I made a research for the degree of Candidate of Sciences (Law), it was presented in 2000 in the Dissertation council at the faculty.

T.V. Ivankina is well known to the members of the lawyers' community, first of all, as a specialist in the field of labor law, as the author of relevant research on fundamental and applied problems of legal regulation of labor and service relations³. The undisputed achievement of Tatyana Vasilyevna was scientific guidance of the candidate's dissertation in the scientific field of Theory of Law and State (12.00.01) as the history of the teachings of law and the state. It contained no less than a declaration of the creation of a new legal understanding⁴. It seems that the provisions formulated in the research with the active participation (and sometimes at the insistence) of T.V. Ivankina quickly became a fact of scientific life, influencing further research in this field.

I am deeply convinced that it was thanks to the efforts of Tatyana Vasilyevna, who considered belonging to a scientific school the main advantage of a lawyer, that the paper attracted favorable attention of such outstanding researchers as D.I. Lukovskaya, A.V. Polyakov, L.I. Spiridonov and I.L. Chestnov, who provided invaluable assistance in further work with recommendations and friendly support. It is worth noting that the works of these scientists (under the leadership of A.V. Polyakov in 2017 I presented my Doctoral dissertation at St. Petersburg State University), who gave considerable effort to cooperation with Law Faculty, formed the basis of the modern paradigm of legal knowledge in our country. I am proud to consider each of them my teacher, and I would like to name them all.

Currently Law Faculty of North-West Institute of Management of RANEPA occupies a leading position in the educational and scientific fields. The Faculty is the leader in St. Petersburg in the number of students, actively developing educational programs in the field of law. In particular, the faculty has five master's programs, which is an achievement for any academic higher education institution. Innovative educational technologies are being developed, including the field of distance

¹ About the history of the faculty and the circumstances of its creation, see more: Antonova L.I. Serving the law is the holy duty of a lawyer // Managerial consulting. 2011. No. 4. pp. 65-73.

² I think it would be unfair not to mention T.N. Kirillova, M.I. Sychev, and M.G. Shah, who worked at the faculty in those years, who, by the way, belonged to the students of the great civilist A.V. Venediktov. Thus, in the work of the Faculty of Law of the SSAGS – SZIU, the link between generations is maintained and the precious traditions of Russian jurisprudence are preserved and multiplied.

³ See, in particular: Ivankina T. V. Problems of regulation of working time // News of higher educational institutions. 1997. No. 2 (217). pp. 49-57; The emergence of labor relations: some legal problems // Russian Yearbook of Labor Law. 2008. No. 3. pp. 167-174; Private law and public law principles in the regulation of labor of civil servants // Russian Yearbook of Labor Law. 2014. No. 9. pp. 188-207; Particular features of sources regulating official relations of civil servants // Russian Law Journal. 2016. No 2 (107). pp. 151-164.

⁴ See: Razuvaev N. V. Norm of law as a phenomenon of legal culture: Diss. ... Ph. D. in Law St. Petersburg: SSAGS, 2000.

learning, the effectiveness of which was successfully confirmed during the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic. Of course, the key to the success of educational activities is the research activity of the faculty, namely the existence of a number of unique scientific schools developed by its professors.

Among the most relevant research areas developed by Law Faculty are the problems of legal instrumentalism (application of legal means), anthropology of law, philosophy and sociology of law, legislative regionalism, integration law, ethnopoltical conflictology, legal regulation of the digital space, provision of state and municipal services, constitutional responsibility, electoral law, legal personality of executive authorities, state responsibility to individuals, the evolution and digital transformation of subjective civil rights, their judicial protection, combating corruption and extremism, as well as a number of other issues.

A truly invaluable contribution to the in-depth consideration of these problems is made by the Dean of the faculty S.L. Sergevnin, heads of departments M.V. Tregubov, Kirilenko, V.P. Solovyova, A.K. Spitsnadel, Professors L.A. Antonova, L.B. Eskina, P.A. Ol, V.A. Sapun, A.A. Starovoitov, I.L. Chestnov, Associate professors G.V. Alekseev, V.R. Atnashev, I.S. Alyokhina, V.P. Esenova, E.V. Kastorskaya, O.I. Lepeshkina, V.N. Safonov and many others. I would like to emphasize that representatives of the leading scientific schools of Law Faculty provide comprehensive assistance to the journal 'Theoretical and Applied Law', acting as members of its editorial board, regular contributors of the journal and reviewers, which has had a beneficial effect on the work of the journal, the quality of the publications and a high level of its content.

Like any anniversary, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the faculty means not just a summing up, but also planning further work. So, in the near future, it is planned to hold the Third Baskin Scientific Conference, dedicated to the centenary of the birth of Yuri Yakovlevich Baskin. The topic of the next conference, namely, challenges and prospects for the development of law and the state in the epoch of information, on the one hand, develops the topics discussed at previous conferences, and, on the other hand, reveals new aspects of legal reality that have acquired special significance in modern conditions. I am happy to say that since the First Baskin Conference, which were covered in detail in the journal⁵, this event has reached an international level, and Russian and foreign scientists, whose works are widely known, have taken part in it. We hope that the high level of previous conferences will sustain in the future, which will allow the Baskin Conference to remain an important event of intellectual life.

This issue of the journal 'Theoretical and Applied Law' is also dedicated to the anniversary of Law Faculty. It contains the works of the professors devoted to the study of relevant scientific problems. The central topic of the issue is digital transformation of the modern law and order, which, for obvious reasons, has become more active in the context of the pandemic. At the same time, the variety of topics of the articles published on the pages of the journal also attracts attention. The authors focus on the factors of the efficiency of positive law (S.L. Sergevnin), digital transformation of subjective rights, as well as mechanisms of their legal protection (N.V. Razuvaev, V.P. Kirilenko, G.V. Alekseev), the impact of the pandemic on legal regulation (V.V. Firsov, D.A. Afanasyev), the functioning of state authorities and local self-government (I. Hoffman, M.A. Volochkovskaya), other topical issues of material and procedural law (A.A. Elaev, A.Y. Piddubrivnaya).

A vivid example of Law Faculty of North-West Institute of Management of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration clearly shows that today the experience of 'university' science, closely related to the needs of higher education and practical law-making and law enforcement activities, is the main driving force that opens up broad prospects for scientific development.

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⁵ See: Shmarko I. K. Subjective rights in the conditions of the modern legal paradigm (review of the Interuniversity Baskin Scientific and Practical Conference) // Theoretical and Applied Law 2019.No 1. p. 92 et seq.