

LL.B. required for Kenya's future lawyers



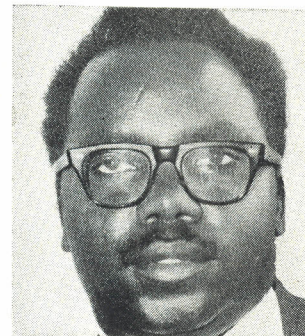
Acting Dean of the Law Faculty, Mrs. Rogers.

Although deriving its law from England, Kenya is not afraid to break away from inherited legal traditions. One such break was the Government's decision to centralise legal education at the university and to insist on the academic qualification of Bachelor of Laws for all future practising lawyers.

As a result a Faculty of Law was established at Nairobi University last year. The faculty has at the moment 39 students in the First Year and 17 (those who had previously been studying at the Kenya School of Law) taking the Second Year course.

Previously the training of Kenya lawyers had to be done either overseas, at University College, Dar es Salaam (where a number of the present Faculty staff took their first degree) or at the School of Law which, as a section of the Attorney-General's Chambers, was established in 1963 to offer a professional legal education.

Although one of the newest faculties at the university, Law is one of the oldest departments, tracing its beginnings back to the Royal Technical College.



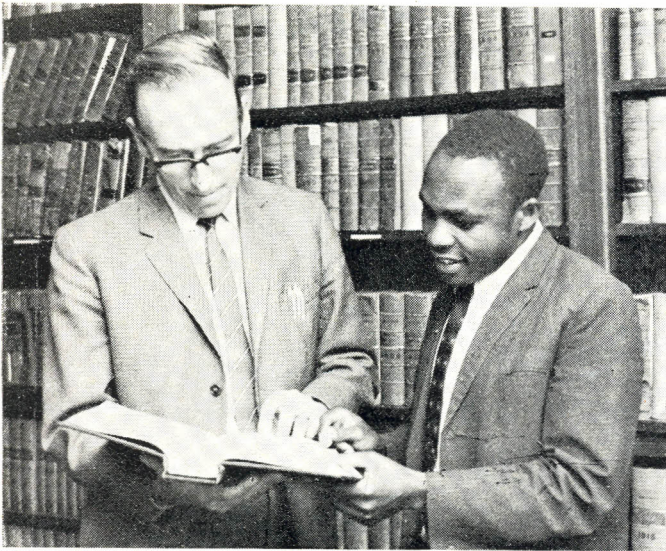
Acting Head of the Department of Law and Jurisprudence, Mr. Munoru.

There, in 1956, as a department of the Faculty of Commerce, it provided courses to students taking the examinations of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

The Law Faculty comprises two departments: Law and Jurisprudence (Acting Head: Mr. C.G.S. Munoru) and Commercial Law (Head of Department: Prof. D.J. Hill). The acting Dean is Mrs. Margaret Rogers. (see Staff News, page 24).

The faculty provides a three-year LL.B. course not only for those seeking to enter the legal profession as advocates, but also for students intending to take up posts in government, commerce or industry. By agreement with the Council of Legal Education, this degree, if taken in certain subjects, entitles a graduate to admission to the Kenya Bar on completion of a year's pupillage with an advocate and a further ten-month course of professional studies at the Kenya School of Law.

In addition to the degree course, the faculty provides service teaching to various other faculties of the university.



The acting Principal of the Kenya School of Law, Mr. Tudor Jackson, with Mr. Alfred Wetini, the School Librarian.

In an interview with the University Bulletin, the acting head of the Department of Law and Jurisprudence, Mr. Munoru, said the faculty had got off to a good start. A major problem was to build up quickly a comprehensive library, because "the success of a law school is first in its library, and then in its staff."

Mr. Munoru referred to the difficulties all law

faculties experience in finding suitable staff, because of the scarcity of available people with both academic qualifications and experience. He said that the faculty had been fortunate in being able to recruit a good selection of young East African lawyers. He agreed that the fact that most were recruited straight from university was a disadvantage, but it was a factor that time would correct.

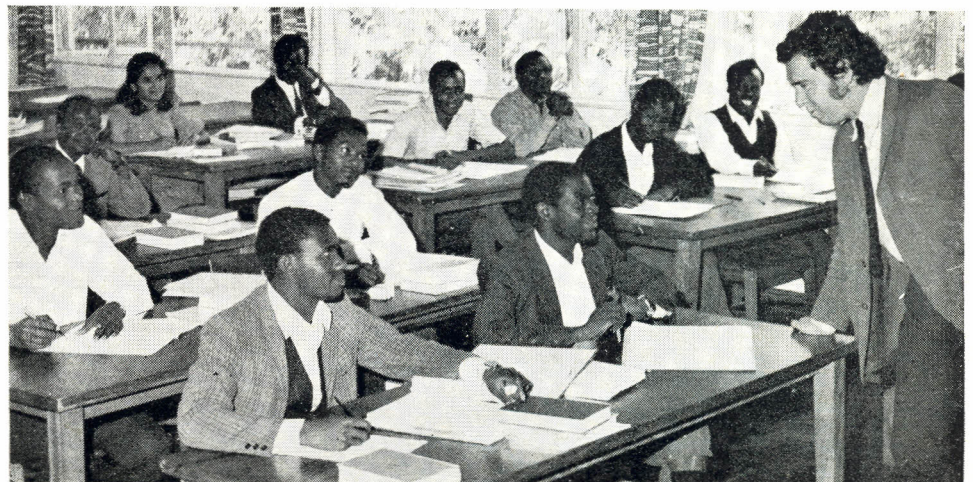
He said the system of teaching was based mainly on lectures — as in England — but that, because some of the staff had been exposed to American legal teaching, the case study system was also used. (In the case study system students learn their law through the study and discussion of cases).

Mr. Munoru said that he was happy that, with the reorganisation of legal education in Kenya, "we will now have only one class of lawyers".

Mr. Munoru, who is a graduate of Dar es Salaam and the Columbia Law School, is an advocate of the Kenya High Court. He has served as a State Counsel and conducted a private practice for several years, although he finds now he has little time for this.

At the faculty he teaches, among other subjects, Industrial Law, and last year he was a member of the board of inquiry into the Kenya Meat Commission.

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Final-year students of the School of Law listening to a lecture by Mr. Harvey Treloar. The students share accommodation at the school with students of the Law Faculty.