Comments on the Practice Courses of Law Major in China’s Colleges and Universities

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Abstract. In view of the present situation of the practice course of law major in colleges and universities in China, 8 typical colleges and universities are selected to make statistical analysis on the number of the practice courses of law major and the proportion of credits. It is found that there is a serious shortage of the number of the international law practical courses. As a result, few graduates are engaged in legal work concerning foreign affairs. It is concluded that the lack of the international law practice courses lead to the loss of foreign legal talents indirectly. To solve those problems, three suggestions are put forward for the development of the practice courses of law major in China’s colleges and universities in this paper. Firstly, to increase the number of the international law practice courses and its compulsory class; Secondly, gradually to expedite infrastructure construction of the practice courses of law major; Thirdly, to strengthen the communication of human resources both inside and outside universities in international law.

Introduction

The importance of the practice courses in legal education is gradually aroused widespread attention in China’s colleges and universities. The practice courses of law major have been offered by many colleges and universities. However, the system of the practice courses of the legal major is not perfect. There are few courses and few class hours. Law students cannot fully accumulate experience in those practice courses, which is not able to meet the needs of the market and the society for legal talents.

In view of the present situation of typical colleges and universities, the training program of the practice courses of law major is collected and sorted out, and many aspects are counted and compared with, such as the number of courses, credits, graduation whereabouts of college students and other contents. The problems existing in the current practice courses in China are further analyzed in this paper and relevant suggestions are put forward.

Present Situation of Legal Practice Curriculum in Colleges and Universities of China

According to the different characteristics of colleges and universities in our country, the course setting of law major and the teaching staff are both very different. Therefore, in order to fully understand the current situation of the practice courses of law major in our country, before the statistical analysis of the practical courses offered by law major in different
colleges and universities, according to the characteristics of China's higher education institutions, such as the related background, it is divided into two categories, namely, political and legal institutions and non-political and legal institutions. In this paper, China University of Political Science and Law, Southwest University of Political Science and Law, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law 3 universities are selected as political and law colleges, and Tongji University, Shenzhen University, Xiamen University Tan Kah Kee College, North China Electric Power University, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics are selected as representatives of non-political and law colleges. Among these non-political and law colleges, Tongji University, Shenzhen University, Xiamen University Tan Kah Kee are comprehensive universities, and North China Electric Power University, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics is a science and engineering university. All five universities open law courses and to recruit students for the country to recruit students. 8 colleges and universities’ legal major ranking in 2015 has been shown in Table 1.

Table 1. 8 Colleges and Universities’ Legal Major Ranking in 2015.[1]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colleges and Universities</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China University of Political Science and Law</td>
<td>Political science and law college</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest University of Political Science and Law</td>
<td>Political science and law college</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhongnan University of Economics and Law</td>
<td>Political science and law college</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tongji University</td>
<td>Non-political science and law college</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shenzhen University</td>
<td>Non-political science and law college</td>
<td>Not found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiamen University Tan Kah Kee College</td>
<td>Non-political science and law college</td>
<td>Not found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North China Electric Power University</td>
<td>Non-political science and law college</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics</td>
<td>Non-political science and law college</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the analysis, the above 8 institutions covered a range of politics and law colleges, comprehensive colleges, and science and engineering colleges with professional characteristics. Therefore, analyzing and comparing those 8 typical colleges and universities, the present situation of the practice courses of law major in higher education institutions can be obtained comprehensively.
The Setting of the Practice Courses of the Legal Major. The practice course of the legal major is the practical course which is offered by the legal major, related to law and teaching through either centralized or decentralized. In this paper, it is not included in during calculating the number of practical courses in law major.

From Fig. 1, we can see that the number of the practice courses of law major has a more direct link with the professional ranking. Usually the higher the ranking of the legal major is, the more the number of the practice courses of law major is. The training program of law major in China University of Political Science and Law is taken as an example. The number of the practice courses of law major in training program is 39 in 2014, including 13 international law practice courses. In the professional required courses, practice contents are required in administrative and administrative litigation law and criminal Procedure Law. In the professional elective course, there are 32 practice courses, including American forensic skills and debate, space law simulated court.
The Proportion of the Total Credit in the Practice Courses of law Major. The total credit in the practice courses includes all the credits in integrated practice courses in the training plan. As shown in Fig.2, credits in both compulsory courses and elective courses of those 8 universities has been collected. It can be seen that credits in the practice courses in non-political science colleges and law are slightly higher than that in political science and law colleges. This is because most of the practice courses in political science and law colleges are elective courses, and the system are more flexible. By contrast, most of the practice courses in non-political science colleges and law are compulsory courses, and because of the lack of pupils and teacher resources, the practice courses of law major are in short. Furthermore, the proportion of the total credit in the practice courses of law major is in a low-yield.

Problems Existing in the Practice Courses of Law Major in China’s Colleges and Universities

A Few of Practice Courses of International Law. Since 1980, the institute of international law established in WuHan University, the international Law is developing rapidly. The system of courses are more and more comprehensive. However, with the changing of the world structure. The existing teaching system of international law has been unable to meet the needs of foreign legal talents. In training program the international law practice courses is obviously insufficient, and ignore the cultivation of students’ ability to solve practical legal business [2].
In this paper the international law practice courses in those 8 universities has been collected. Compared with the practice courses of law major, it can get the contrast shown in Fig. 3. Except the China University of Political Science and Law, the international law practice courses in China’s colleges and universities are insufficient. Most of them are elective courses, the content of them is not comprehensive, and because of the lack of pupils and teacher resources, the practice courses of law major are in short. This situation causes that many law students lack the ability to solve practical legal business.

**Ignore the Cultivation of Students' Ability to Solve Practical Legal Business.** The purpose of legal education is to cultivate the legal talents. This paper take the employment rate of graduate students in China University of Political Science and Law, which published by the Sina Education in an interview in 2014[3], as an example. The first full employment rate of graduate students in China University of Political Science and Law reaches more than 90%. In law graduates, their main employment are concentrated in the public security, procurator rate, court, and to be lawyers, legal counsels or corporate counsels. In the nature of employment, 40% of the law graduates go to the party and government organs, and 30% go to the enterprise. In the distribution of employment, 25% are employed in the central sector, and 40% are employed in the Beijing unit. Compared with the hot of Party and government bodies, enterprise, only a few of law graduates engage in foreign-related legal work.

Because of the lack of the international law practice courses, law graduates are not enough understanding of the international law practice. It leads to that the law graduates are not familiar with the international law, and will be afraid to invest in related work. What’s more, because they are not familiar with the legal practices, they cannot meet the requirements of foreign work, and cannot be qualified for this type of work. With the rapid development of foreign economic and trade, the demand for foreign legal talents is more and more intense. Therefore, the lack of international law practice in the graduate stage indirectly led to the loss of foreign legal talents.
Suggestions on the Development of the Practice Courses of Law Major in China’s Higher Education Institutions

Increase the Number of the International Law Practice Courses and Its Compulsory Class. The reasons for the law of the credit ratio of practical courses in colleges and universities have been analyzed. Therefore, to strengthen the students' practice and understanding of international law, firstly in the system of compulsory courses in non-political science and law colleges, the International Court of simulation should be increased. It makes students have sufficient time to understand and prepare for the case, and more comprehensive understand of the international law practice. The content of the international law should be added to the case analysis course, the legal clinic courses and the other practice courses. In the system of elective courses in the political science and law colleges, taking the University of political science and law as an example, the school should make mandatory credits of the elective practice courses of the international law. Secondly, under the conditions of the teacher, colleges should take various means to enrich the international law practice courses. Furthermore, the school should offer the relevant courses of English legal document writing, and combine the legal English courses to train the students' English writing ability.

Gradually Expedite Infrastructure Construction of the Practice Courses of Law Major. To cultivate students' interest in foreign-related legal work and increase the students' understanding of the international law affairs, it is necessary to gradually perfect the practice infrastructures of the practice courses of law major in China. Taking the North China Electric Power University as an example, there is no other teaching facilities of the practice courses in law major, except those obsolete facilities of simulated courts. This directly led that a simulation of the international arbitration tribunal and other courses cannot be open. This situation has to a certain extent that many students do not have the condition and opportunity to participate in the international law contests. Therefore, it is necessary to gradually expedite infrastructure construction of the practice courses of law major.

Strengthen the Communication of Human Resources Both Inside and Outside Universities in the International Law. Confidentiality is one of the characteristics of International Commercial Arbitration. Students cannot be a visitor at trial directly. As the international law practice courses are different from the practice courses of other legal subjects, colleges and universities should strengthen internal and external resources. On the one hand, students can be visitors at trade, Jessup and other international simulation court game, to cultivate their interest, broaden their thinking, and to accumulate the experience of solving foreign affairs. On the other hand, colleges can invite or engage experts and scholars, to open a forum or fixed courses in the university. This suggestion can facilitate students to accumulate experience, clear objectives of the development, and further fill the lack of foreign teaching in colleges and universities.

Summary
By analyzing the system of the practice courses of law major in the training plan of the colleges and universities, it can be found that there are some problems existing in the practice courses of law major in China’s colleges and universities. To solve these problems, this paper put forward three suggestions: Firstly, to increase the number of the international law practice
courses and its compulsory class; Secondly, gradually to expedite infrastructure construction of the practice courses of law major; Thirdly, to strengthen the communication of human resources both inside and outside universities in international law.

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