STUDIA IURIDICA LXII

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HISTORY OF THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN LAW STUDIES

The Center for American Law Studies at University of Warsaw emerged from the vision of faculty members of the University of Warsaw Faculty of Law and Administration and the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida.

Following twenty-five years of collaboration between the University of Florida and various educational and legal institutions in Poland, the Center for American Law Studies held its opening ceremonies on October 5, 1998, marking the first class of ninety-two students who were admitted to the program.

During the next eighteen years more than 1,600 students and lawyers graduated from our Program. The quality of our program is demonstrated in the fact that we now have several lawyers practicing in each of the largest law firms in Poland. Additionally, the Warsaw offices of major U.S. firms are strongly encouraging potential job applicants to complete our Center for American Law Studies before joining their firms. The Program is designed for Polish law students of the third, fourth and fifth year, Erasmus students, as well as law school graduates with particular interest in the American legal system.

The program offered by the Center is a one-year program. During each academic year the Center offers ten courses. The courses are specially designed and selected to give students the best understanding of the common law system and unique issues of the American legal system, and to introduce the legal issues and problems which may be the most common in the students' future profession. Usually courses include topics such as: Intro to American Law, Constitutional Law, Torts, Legal Writing, Contacts, Business Law, ADR, and Professional Responsibility. Also other courses are taught in the program such as: Tax Law, Securities, Criminal law and Procedure, Property, Family Law, Environmental law, Securities, Intellectual Property.

During a one academic year nine courses are taught for two weeks and one course is taught for one week, five times a week for 1.5 hours – together it is 180

teaching hours (142 full hours). The courses are taught entirely by US professors. During the course of study, students are introduced to traditional and innovative teaching methods applied at American universities to insure a dynamic professional program. All the study materials necessary for class preparation are provided by the Center. After successful completion of the one-year course of study, students are awarded a certificate of completion.

Our graduates also have pursued the public service route, with many becoming judges or prosecutors. Poland participants represent the largest number of participants in the University of Florida Levin College of Law's LL.M. in comparative law degree program for foreign lawyers. Program graduates also have attended LL.M. programs at other U.S. universities, and about one-half of the LL.M. graduates from Poland have taken and passed the New York bar examination. Many of the Center graduates also received J.D. degree at US universities. In short, the impact of the Center is felt throughout the world, and the success of the program is easily measurable.

A major contribution to the success of our program has been the sponsorship of Warsaw-based law firms who are interested in hiring lawyers trained in American law.

As we celebrate eighteen year of the program in 2015–16 here's a look back at over thirty-five year history of our activities in Poland:

Timeline of the Center for American Law Studies

Highlights include:

1968

Professors Julian Juergensmeyer and Andrzej Burzyński met during a summer program on comparative law held in England and discussed for the first time the possibility of a joint U.S.-Poland program.

1973

Andrzej Burzyński taught comparative law as a visiting professor at the University of Florida (UF) College of Law.

1973-1974

The UF College of Law, Trinity College of Cambridge University, England, and the Institute of Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw jointly sponsored the Cambridge-Warsaw International Trade Law Program, the first opportunity for American law students to take law courses for credit in a European Socialist country.

1975–1976, 1978, 1982–1984

The Cambridge-Warsaw Summer Program continued. UF faculty who participated were Fletcher Baldwin, Winston Nagan, Walter Weyrauch, Roy Hunt and Scott VanAlstyne. Polish lecturers included Andrzej Burzyński, Adam Łopatka, Marek Zieliński, Ewa Łętowska, Janusz Łętowski, Stanisław Gebethner, Stanisław Sołtysiński, Michał Kulesza and Wojciech Sokolewicz.

1976

Dr. Adam Łopatka, Director of the Institute of State and Law of the Polish Academy of Sciences, visited the University of Florida and discussed the Cambridge-Warsaw International Trade Law program with Dean Richard Julin.

First conference co-sponsored by the UF College of Law's Center for Governmental Responsibility and the Institute of State and Law of the Polish Academy of Sciences was organized in Warsaw with the topic of "Parliamentary and Extra-Administrative Forms of Protection of Citizens' Rights". The conference was co-sponsored by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Representing the UF College of Law at the Warsaw symposium were Professors Julian Juergensmeyer, Jon Mills and Fletcher Baldwin.

1980

The University of Florida granted the degree of doctor honoris causa to Adam Łopatka, formerly of the Polish Academy of Sciences, who initially supported early faculty exchanges between Warsaw and the UF College of Law.

1981

UF College of Law Professor Robert Moberly (now Dean Emeritus of the law school at the University of Arkansas) spent a sabbatical semester as a Visiting Lecturer at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

1986

A conference on "Current Legal Issues Impacting East-West Trade" was cosponsored by the UF College of Law and the Polish Chamber of Foreign Trade. Participants from UF were Dean Frank T. Read, Julian Juergensmeyer, Michael Gordon, Winston Nagan, Fletcher Baldwin and James Nicholas.

The first annual "Introduction to American Law" program, sponsored by the UF College of Law, was held. The program introduced lawyers from throughout the world (including many Polish lawyers) to the legal systems of the United States. The program was coordinated by Fletcher and Nancy Baldwin. Polish participants included Janusz Adamkowski, Piotr Szczerba, Wojciech Bialik, Maria Zawalonka, Ewa Gmurzyńska, Andrzej Wiśniewski, Joanna Tomaszek, Piotr Badura and Joanna Gomuła.

The Second International Symposium on Current Legal Issues Impacting East-West Trade was held in Warsaw. UF participants included Julian Juergensmeyer, James Nicholas and Dean Jeff Lewis.

Pre-1990s

Faculty of the UF College of Law and University of Warsaw maintained an exchange program. Foreign enrichment professors who visited UF from Poland included Andrzej Burzyński, Józef Okolski, Jerzy Modrzejewski, Michał Kulesza, Stanisław Gebethner and Stanisław Sołtysiński.

1990

Polish attorney Ewa Gmurzyńska joined the staff of the Center for Governmental Responsibility (CGR) at the UF College of Law as a Staff Attorney.

The UF College of Law and Center for Governmental Responsibility sponsored the conference, "Law and International Business in Post-Socialist Poland", under partial sponsorship of the German Marshall Fund. Polish speakers included Stanisław Sołtysiński, Senator Jerzy Stępień, Michał Kulesza, Wojciech Sokolewicz and Andrzej Burzyński.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility conducted a study tour of Florida for a Polish delegation of elected officials, governmental officials and professionals, as part of the conference follow up. The delegation – which included a Polish national senator and three law professors – met with local government officials, U.S. Senator Bob Graham, authorities at two Florida ports, and Chamber of Commerce officials in two Florida cities.

Center for Governmental Responsibility Director Jon Mills served on a panel addressing "Legal Issues Related to Setting up a Joint Venture in Poland" as part of The Second Investors' Forum, held in Warsaw.

1991

The UF College of Law is designated "Sister Law School" to University of Warsaw's Faculty of Law and Administration under the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) Program. Professors James Nicholas and Fletcher Baldwin visited Poland in the 1990s as part of the program.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility hosted three Polish officials and educators in an internship, sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, in cooperation with Rutgers University's Foundation in Support of Local Democracy in Poland Program. The program was coordinated by JoAnn Klein and Ewa Gmurzyńska. The interns were placed in the Florida Departments of Environ-

mental Regulation, Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Tourism, and experienced other professional opportunities to visit Florida's state parks, tourist attractions, universities and city and county governments. They were joined by three additional interns who had been assigned to placements in New Jersey through Rutgers. All six were hosted at CGR for a week to review and conclude their internships and prepare for application of their experiences to their various Polish cities and towns. Participants included elected local government officials, university professors and public employees. Among them was Marek Agopsowicz of Olsztyn Agricultural and Technical University, who subsequently would become a Polish coordinator of the local government training program. He first brought the attention of CGR to the needs of Northeastern Poland.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility, through the University of Florida Research Foundation, executed a contract with West Publishing Company, through its WESTLAW program, to translate Polish laws and treaties into an on-line, English language database. The database went on-line March 5, 1992.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility hosted two Polish local government officials for meetings with city and county officials. Their itinerary included meetings with city and county officials, and educational and cultural events.

May 1992

Ewa Gmurzyńska of the Center for Governmental Responsibility and UF College of Law Professor Julian Juergensmeyer visited Olsztyn, Poland, to continue meetings regarding establishing a cooperative agreement in the region.

1992

Center for Governmental Responsibility Director Jon Mills and UF College of Law Professor James Nicholas visited Olsztyn, Poland, to continue meetings regarding establishing a cooperative agreement in the region.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility signed an agreement of cooperation with Olsztyn Agricultural and Technical University, Olsztyn Sejmik, and the University of Central Florida (UCF) to develop a local government training program for the voivodships of Olsztyn, Elbląg and Suwałki.

1992-1993

The Center for Governmental Responsibility received a grant from the United States Information Agency, Office of Citizen Exchanges, for a "Northeastern Poland Local Government Training Program". Sixteen local government officials and staff were trained in internships and seminars in Florida. The program was coordinated by JoAnn Klein and Ewa Gmurzyńska of CGR.

A University of Florida/University of Central Florida team visited Northeastern Poland and met with local government officials in eight cities and the voivod-ships of Olsztyn and Suwałki. Dr. Robert Denhardt of the Department of Public Administration led the UCF project team.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility signed a second agreement of cooperation with Olsztyn Agricultural and Technical University, Olsztyn Sejmik and the University of Central Florida to continue developing a local government training program, with a goal toward establishing a permanent training center for local governments in Northeastern Poland.

The "Florida/Poland Club" was organized, comprised of the first group of USIA-sponsored interns. The club began monthly meetings to offer support and plans for implementing training from the United States.

1994

The Center for Governmental Responsibility partnered with the Center for Training, Research and Education for Environmental Occupations (TREEO) at the University of Florida and the Technical University of Mining and Metallurgy (AGH) to offer the "Integrated Solid Waste Management Course for the Silesia Region of Poland", funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. John Tucker of the Center for Governmental Responsibility participated as a lecturer. After CGR/TREEO faculty offered training in the Silesian region, funded by USAID, they traveled at their own expense to Olsztyn in Northeastern Poland to conduct training there.

A University of Florida/University of Central Florida team visited Northeastern Poland for meetings with local government officials in four cities, representing the voivodships of Olsztyn and Elbląg.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility signed a third agreement of cooperation with Olsztyn Agricultural and Technical University, Olsztyn Sejmik and UCF to continue developing the local government training center. This agreement included the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy from Olsztyn and consolidated local government training programs in the region.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility hosted Olsztyn Sejmik President Marek Żyliński for a visit to Florida to study local government operation and management and to meet with economic development officials in the region. The trip was funded by CGR and UCF.

1994-1995

The Center for Governmental Responsibility received a grant from USIA for the Northeastern Poland Local Government Center Program. Twelve local govern-

ment interns from three voivodships were trained in Florida. The program was coordinated by JoAnn Klein and Ewa Gmurzyńska of CGR.

1995

A Center for Governmental Responsibility/University of Central Florida team traveled to Northeastern Poland to offer training courses there for local government officials and staff.

The UF College of Law hosted a visiting faculty member from University of Warsaw through the Sister Law School Program.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility received approval from USIA for a no-cost extension to use remaining funds to bring three additional local government interns to Florida. The interns visited in November.

1996

A Florida team member visited Olsztyn to initiate a strategic planning program for the city.

Dr. Jerzy Modrzejewski, Vice Dean, University of Warsaw Faculty of Law and Administration, was a visiting professor at the UF College of Law and began discussions regarding establishment of an Center for American Law Studies at Warsaw.

1997

Ewa Gmurzyńska became the first Polish lawyer to graduate from the UF Levin College of Law's LL.M. Program in Comparative Law. As of 2008, twenty-seven more Polish attorneys have attended the LL.M. program in Florida.

The Center for Governmental Responsibility and UF College of Law faculty (Julian Juergensmeyer, JoAnn Klein, Ewa Gmurzyńska) conducted follow-up meetings in Warsaw regarding establishment of an Center for American Law Studies.

Professor Marek Wasowicz, Vice President of University of Warsaw visits Gainesville to discuss possibility of further cooperation of UW and UF

1997

UF College of Law Dean Richard A. Matasar visited University of Warsaw. The invitation of Law Dean Józef Okolski, to conduct further meetings regarding establishment of an Center for American Law Studies.

1998

Ninety-two students were selected for admission to the first class at the new Center for American Law Studies.

Michał Kulesza, Secretary of State in the Polish Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Administrative Reform and Professor at the University of Warsaw Faculty of Law and Administration, was a visiting professor of comparative law at the UF College of Law.

October 5, 1998

Opening ceremonies were held for the Center for American Law Studies, a collaborative venture between the UF Levin College of Law and the University of Warsaw Faculty of Law and Administration. Keynote speakers for the opening ceremonies were Steve Uhlfelder of Holland & Knight and U.S. Ambassador to Poland Daniel Fried. Leading University of Warsaw were Rector Włodzimierz Siwiński and Vice Rector Marek Wąsowicz, former Vice Dean of the law school.

October 12, 1998

Classes began for the Center for American Law Studies at University of Warsaw. Professor Liz Lear was the first professor, teaching Introduction of American Law. Seven additional courses were taught during the 1998–99 academic year.

Dean Józef Okolski of the University of Warsaw Faculty of Law and Administration was a visiting professor of comparative law at the UF College of Law.

The first graduation ceremony for the Center for American Law Studies in Warsaw was held. The speaker was Martha Barnett, then President of the American Bar Association.

1999 to Date

The Center for American Law Studies began collecting in 1999 an American Law Library now consisting of more than 300 volumes, named in memory of Andrzej Burzyński, a member of White & Case and long-time UF collaborator and visiting professor.

1999-2000

Five Polish students were enrolled in the University of Florida Levin College of Law's LL.M. program, a direct result of Centers program.

2000

The Center for American Law Studies organized the first Polish Moot Court team with University of Warsaw, which competed in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. Three additional teams have competed since 2000, and have placed as high as 12th in the international competition.

Former Florida Supreme Court Justice Ben Overton was the speaker at the second graduation of the Center for American Law Studies.

Four UF law students – Michael Fackler, Stanley Galewski, Miguel Suau and David Migut – served as externs in Polish governmental agencies, including the Arbitration Court at the Polish Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Justice, Regional Development Department at the Ministry of the Economy, and Department of Harmonization of Law.

2000-2001

Two Polish students were enrolled in the University of Florida's LL.M. program.

2001

Former Florida gubernatorial counsel Dexter Douglass was the speaker at the third graduation of the Center for American Law Studies.

2001-2002

One Polish student was enrolled in the University of Florida LL.M. program.

2002

Attorney Michael Papantonio of Levin, Papantonio & Thomas in Pensacola, Florida, was speaker at the fourth graduation of the Center for American Law Studies.

2002-2003

One Polish student was enrolled in the University of Florida LL.M. program.

2003-2004

Three UF Levin College of Law students – Ryan Cobbs, Joshua Clark and Bridie Buetell – attended exchange program at University of Warsaw

2003-2004

Three Polish students were enrolled in the University of Florida LL.M. program.

June 16, 2003

The fifth graduation ceremony of the Center for American Law Studies and a commemorative 30th anniversary of cooperation between UF and Polish institutions celebration scheduled. Florida attorney Steven Zack was keynote speaker. Presiding over the ceremonies were Dean and Professor Tadeusz Tomaszewski of University of Warsaw's Faculty of Law and Administration and Dean and Professor Jon Mills of the UF Levin College of Law.

2004

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Cameron Munter of the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw participate in sixth graduation.

2004-2005

Two Polish students were enrolled in the University of Florida LL.M. program.

The seventh graduation ceremony of the Center for American Law Studies was held, and attorney John Upchurch of Daytona Beach, Florida, was the speaker.

2005-2006

Four Polish students were enrolled in the University of Florida LL.M. program.

October 7, 2005

Center for American Law Studies sponsors the Conference on "Mediation – New Method of Dispute Resolution in Civil Cases" at University of Warsaw with participation of Dean Jon Mills, Professor Don Peters, Justice Ben Overton, and mediator John Upchurch.

2005

Center for Dispute and Conflict Resolution established at University of Warsaw in cooperation with Center for American Law Studies and University of Warsaw Faculty of Law and Administration.

2006

The eighth graduation ceremony of the Center for American Law Studies was held, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Jenkins of Tampa was the speaker.

2006-2007

One Polish student in LL M

November, 2006

University of Warsaw Law School Dean Tadeusz Tomaszewski is a visitor at the University of Florida.

2007

The ninth graduation ceremony of the Center for American Law Studies was held, and attorney Andy Hall of Miami, a native of Poland, was the speaker and Dean Robert Jerry.

2007-2008

Three Polish students participate in LL.M.

2008

The tenth graduation ceremony of the Center for American Law Studies was held and commemorated with Polish-American Symposium on Current Legal Issues and Legal Education in a Global Society commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Center. Speakers from UF included: Dean Robert Jerry, Professor Henry Wihnyk, Professor Jon Mills, Professor Tom Hurst, Professor Don Peters, Professor Julian Juergensmeyer, attorney John Upchurch and attorney Andy Hall.

The student exchange agreement is signed between two law schools.

2009-2010

Four Polish students are coming for the exchange program at UF.

2011

LL.M. scholarship for graduate of the Center for American law Studies is funded by the law firm of Slawomir Platta of New York, the former graduate of the Center.

September, 2011

Visit of Professor Katarzyna Chałasińska-Macukow, President of University of Warsaw and Professor Tadeusz Tomaszewski, Provost of UW at the University of Florida.

The reciprocal agreement on students exchange is signed between University of Warsaw and UF College of Liberal Arts Agreement.

2011-2012

Four Polish students are coming for the exchange program at UF.

One Polish student in LL.M.

Professor Tomasz Giaro, Vice Dean, is a visiting professor at UF.

2012

Frederic Levin visited Warsaw with several members of his family and met with the: Professor Małgorzata Gersdorf – Vice President of the University of Warsaw and Professor Tomasz Giaro – Vice Dean of Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw.

2013

Andy Hall is a graduation speaker.

Maria Kenig-Witkowska is a visiting professor at UF.

2014-2015

One Polish student in LL.M.

Center received a one year grant from the U.S. Department of State to provide information about American law to Polish judges PAJRAP – Polish American Judicial Research Assistance Program. The program provides funds for UW and UF law students to be employed as legal research assistants, working under the supervision of UW and UF law faculty. The pilot program is based on cooperation between the Polish Ministry of Justice and both law schools to provide information about American law for Polish judges.

June 16, Graduation ceremonies and Conference on Legal Education and Legal Profession in the Global World – Polish-American Perspectives. Conference commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Center for American Law Studies. Speakers from UF included: Dean Robert Jerry, Dean Emeritus Jon Mills, Professor Stuart Cohn, Professor Julian Juergenesmeyer.

Dean Jerry is awarded by the Provost of the University of Warsaw Professor Tadeusz Tomaszewski with the University of Warsaw medal which is the highest UW award.

UF Faculty and adjuncts who have taught at Center for American Law Studies

Mary Adkins Martin McMahon

Mary Jane Angelo Jon Mills
Tom Ankersen Winston Nagan
Yariv Brauner Kenneth Nunn
Fletcher Baldwin Don Peters

Stuart CohnChristopher PetersonThomas CotterLeanne PflaumPhyllis Craig-TaylorSteven PowellJeffrey DavisCathy Price

George Dawson

Larry DiMatteo

Alyson Flournoy

Mike Friel

Alicar Grand Riskin

Tom Read

Betsy Ruff

Alison Gerencser
Claire Germain
Andrew Hall
Wayne Hanewicz

Sharon Rush
Anne Rutledge
David Salivanchik
Michael Seigel

Jeffrey Harrison Christopher Slobogin
Thomas Hurst Gaylin Soponis
David Hudson John Stinneford
Jerry Israel Patricia Thompson

Joe Jackson Mark Thurmon
Julian Juergensmeyer Diane Thomlinson
Tom Jaworski John Upchurch
Christine Klein Henry Wihnyk

Shani King Steve Willis
Elizabeth Lear Winton Williams
Lyrissa Lidsky Jill Womble
Joseph Little Danaya Wright
Larry Lokken Greg Yadley

Tim McLendon Jennifer Zedalis

Faculty From other U.S. Universities

Marjorie Girth Ray Lanier Barry Sullivan James Wadley Michael Landau

Major information about the Center for American Law Studies, joint program of the Levin College of Law and the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw and related programs during 1998–2015

Participation of UF faculty in the Program

Since the 1998/99 through 2014/15 academic year 66 faculty members have taught at the Center for American Law Studies, including:

- 56 faculty from Levin College of Law;
- 5 adjuncts from Levin College of law;
- -5 law faculty members from other universities.

Speakers

The Center for American Law Studies has provided a venue for including UF law graduates and outstanding Florida attorneys as speakers in the annual graduation ceremonies of the Center for American Law Studies in Warsaw:

Steven J. Uhlfelder, former Chairman, Florida Board of Regions

Dexter Douglass, former Florida Gubernatorial Counsel

Michael Papantonio, Levin, Papantonio & Thomas

Ben Overton, former Florida Supreme Court Justice

Elizabeth A. Jenkins, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Martha Barnett, former President, American Bar Association, Holland & Knight John Upchurch, Upchurch Watson White & Max

Steve Zack, former President, American Bar Association

Andy Hall, Hall, Lamb & Hall

UF and UW Students

The academic year 2015/16 is the 18th year of the Center. As of the end of the 2014/15 academic year, approximately 1,600 Polish law students have graduated from the Center.

During that time four exchange students from UF Levin College of Law participated in a one semester exchange program taught in English for foreign law students at the University of Warsaw. Two UF exchange students received internships in prestigious law firms in Warsaw. Four interns from the Levin College of Law participated in summer internships in Polish Institutions. Twelve students from the University of Warsaw have taken part in a one semester exchange program at the Levin College of Law.

LL.M program

As a result of the Center for American Law Studies, Poland law students comprise one of the largest groups of UF law LL.M students from one country. To date, 27 Polish students have graduated from LL.M in Comparative Law Program and 2 Polish students have graduated from LL.M in Tax Law at the Levin College of Law since the Center was opened in 1998.

Faculty Exchange

The following faculty from the University of Warsaw law school have taught at UF law students through a faculty exchange since 1996: Józef Okolski, Jerzy Modrzejewski, Michał Kulesza, Wojciech Kocot, Maria Kenig-Witkowska, and Tomasz Giaro.

Conferences

The Center for American Law Studies organized and co-sponsored the following conferences:

2005 – "Mediation – New Method of Dispute Resolution in Civil Cases". It was attended by more than 200 Polish judges and attorneys, with the participation of Dean Jon Mills, Professor Don Peters, Justice Ben Overton, and attorney John Upchurch

2008 – "Polish-American Symposium on Current Legal Issues and Legal Education in a Global Society commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Center". Speakers from UF included: Dean Robert Jerry, Professor Henry Wihnyk, Dean Emeritus Jon Mills, attorney John Upchurch, Professor Tom Hurst, Professor Don Peters, and attorney Andy Hall.

2014 – "Legal Education and Legal Profession in the Global World – Polish-American Perspective". Conference commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Center for American Law Studies. Speakers from UF included: Dean Robert Jerry, Dean Emeritus Jon Mills, and Professor Stuart Cohn.

Sponsors

The following law firms and institutions have been sponsors of the Center for American Law Studies:

White and Case; Baker and McKenzie; Hogan and Hartson; Dentons (formerly Salans); Chadbourne and Parke (formerly Altheimer and Grey); Wardyński and Partners; Weil, Gotshal and Manges; Levin, Pappantonio, Thomas; Linklaters; Upchurch, Watson, White and Max; Hall, Lamb and Hall; US Department of State.