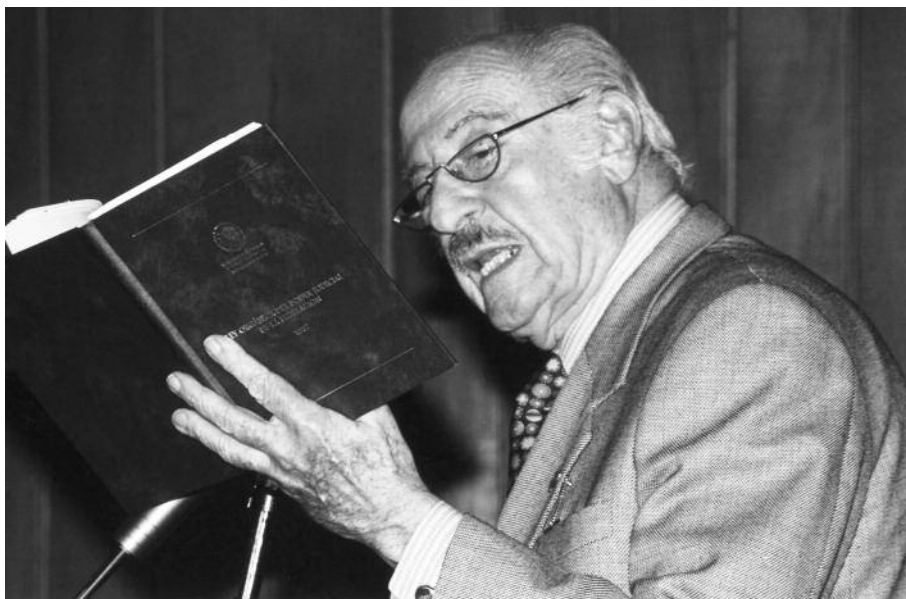


Remembering *Ignacio Burgoa Orihuela*

(1918-2004)

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In the long life of the School of Law, which has witnessed the passage of men and women who have contributed with their efforts to the construction of the face of our country, there have been unforgettable presences, beloved for the warmth of their memory, for the magnitude of their legacy and for their degree of identification with the university's causes and development. The memory of Don Ignacio Burgoa Orihuela is one of those profound marks left on the law school and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

The members of the university and the school as an essential part of it identify with each other in

a way that is seldom visible. This is something that goes beyond the simple spirit of belonging, the pride and the shared memory. It is an almost biological dependency, a vital dependency, between our spaces—both physical and temporal—and the development of those of us who have lived here together as students and professors.

Whoever has experienced being part of the School of Law not only never forgets it, but also incorporates it as one of the most powerful parts of his/her personality. Explaining a phenomenon like this is not easy, but one of the most convincing ways of understanding it is by comprehending the number of lives invested in its construction, the passion awakened in so many of the best talents of our country. The school is

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identity because it is built with human lives dedicated to the highest of all values.

A short time ago Dr. Ignacio Burgoa Orihuela, professor emeritus of the School of Law, died. The school community said goodbye to him in an event the size of which will be difficult to equal in a very long time. Something happened at those moments that cannot be explained only by Burgoa's quality as a constitutionalist, something that went beyond the fame he had earnestly won over many decades of training lawyers; it was a goodbye to a man without whom the school will not be the same and for whom the university, if not everything, was the axis of his presence in the world.

Burgoa was born in 1918, almost at the same time as our federal Constitution. His father, a renowned lawyer of the old humanist school who had the most refined sense of justice, in the 14 years he watched his son grow, became enough of an example so that little Ignacio never wanted or imagined any other profession different from the law.

Always proud of his origins and links to the university, Burgoa was the authentic product of a university education. Trained as a lawyer (in the purest sense of the term, that of a postulant), in the National School of Jurisprudence, he obtained his doctorate in law after the School of Law was founded, and he dedicated more than 50 years of his life to it as a teacher.

Ignacio Burgoa was a very special case in Mexico's higher education: we can say that not a single lawyer in our country was not educated one way or another by Burgoa's teachings, whether through his classes, by reading his books or by reading his articles or listening to the lectures through which he encouraged and guided the country's legal debate for many years.

The first edition of two of Burgoa's fundamental works, *Garantías individuales* (Individual Rights) and *El Juicio de Amparo* (The Trial about the Writ of Constitutional Relief), came out between 1943 and 1945, when the author was still very young, and after that they were constantly revised. With the years, he wrote about the most

diverse themes and although he never stopped studying our Constitution, he wrote books like *El jurista* (The Jurist), *El simulador del Derecho* (The Simulator of the Law) or *El juicio de Cristo* (The Trial of Christ), in which you could see the lawyer he proposed to be and was: the cultured man, committed to society and always sensitive to the needs of others.

To comply with his mission as an attorney, Don Ignacio did not limit himself to the university; he took the university beyond its own cloistered walls into the courts, the media and society as a whole.

Without disregarding the sadness in the School of Law community because of the loss of our teacher, after his death there is much to be serenely remembered. He died with full use of his faculties (only three days before, he had taught class); he lived as he thought best according to his vocation and his conscience; and his community took its leave of him in the place that best rendered the fruits of his vocation and his intelligence: our school. And, as Pablo de Tarso says, your treasure is where your heart is.

Thank you, Don Ignacio.



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