

Chapter 1

Julius Stone and the Legal Profession

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Julius Stone arrived at the Sydney University Law School (from the United Kingdom and the United States, via New Zealand) in 1942, when he was appointed Challis Professor of Jurisprudence and International Law. He remained for 30 years. In 1946, his work on *The Province and Function of Law* was published. I arrived at Sydney Law School in 1958 when I was in the third year of a six year Arts/Law course. That is the temporal context in which I first met Professor Stone. It might be of assistance if I said something here about the professional and academic context.

In 1958 there was only one Law School in New South Wales, and there were relatively few full-time teachers. Most of our lectures were given by judges, barristers or solicitors. Most of the undergraduates were either articulated law clerks or judges' associates. We attended lectures between 8 am and 10 am and 4 pm and 6 pm, spending most of the working day in law offices or courts. Legal education had a strong practical emphasis. By the time undergraduates reached their final year, many of them had their own clients and were conducting their own matters. They attached importance to the relationship between what they were taught and the practical operation of the law. The system had both strengths and weaknesses. Because most of the lecturers were not full-time teachers, the overall standard of legal education was not as high as I believe it to be today, but undergraduates of that time were probably better acquainted than modern undergraduates with the law in action.

Not all legal practitioners went through the Law School. Many took courses offered by the Barristers Admission Board or the Solicitors Admission Board. It is worth remembering that, although all of the first three members of the High Court of Australia (Chief Justice Griffith and Justices Barton and O'Connor) were graduates of Sydney University, none of them had degrees in Law. When they were at Sydney University, it had no functioning Law School.

This is a preview. Not all pages are shown.