Front. Law China 2024, 19(2): 139–149
DOI 10.3868/s050-013-024-0009-0

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Improving the Management and Guidance System, and Enhancing the Development Quality of Law Schools and Colleges*

FU Zitang[a]

Abstract

Legal education and legal theory research are on the honorable mission of cultivating high-quality rule-of-law personnel and providing theoretical support for the rule of law in China, and play an important role in advancing the law-based governance in all fields. The *Opinions on Strengthening Legal Education and Legal Theory Research in the New Era* (hereinafter referred to as the "*Opinions*") issued by the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the General Office of the State Council in 2023 to meet the needs of legal education and legal theory research at present and in the future further clarifies the directions of legal education and legal theory research, and carries great importance for strengthening legal education, deepening legal research, improving the cultivation quality of rule-of-law personnel, and advancing law-based governance in all fields. The *Opinions* also puts forward new requirements for thoroughly implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the CPC and XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law, and continuously cultivating high-quality rule-of-law personnel.

Keywords law schools and colleges; management and guidance system; legal education

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee with Comrade XI Jinping as the core, has launched positioning for the rule of law, made arrangements on the rule of law and practiced the rule of law from the strategic perspective of adherence to and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics as a big picture, and has incorporated law-based governance in all fields into the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy.[1] To plan and advance the rule of law in the overall development interest of the undertakings of the CPC and the Chinese government, it has put forward a series of important initiatives. In the great practice of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, it has innovated and developed the Chinese socialist rule of law theory and created XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law. The Central Conference on the Work of Law-Based Governance in All Fields, held from November 16 to 17, 2020, clarified the guiding position of XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law in the work of law-based governance in

[1] The Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy is to make comprehensive moves to build a modern socialist country, deepen reform, advance law-based governance, and strengthen Party self-governance.

* This paper is translated from 中国大学教学 (*China University Teaching*), 2023, (9), 34–38, 78.
[a] Southwest University of Political Science and Law, Chongqing 401120, China

all fields.

The law-based governance in all fields is a systematic project, and the cultivation of rule-of-law talent is its important part. Legal education and legal theory research are on the honorable mission of cultivating high-quality rule-of-law personnel and providing scientific theoretical support for the rule of law in China, and play an important role in advancing the law-based governance in all fields. In February 2023, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the *Opinions on Strengthening Legal Education and Legal Theory Research in the New Era* (hereinafter referred to as the "*Opinions*"), which is the first important document on thematic guidance and deployment of legal education and legal theory research that puts forward a comprehensive arrangement on strengthening legal education and legal theory research in the new era. Moreover, it is a programmatic document of great significance in the history of legal education since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The *Opinions* thus launched has provided clear guidance and important guidelines for higher education institutions to strengthen legal education and legal theory research in the new era. The *Opinions* proposes to improve the management system of legal education, strengthen the macro guidance of the Office of the Commission for Law-Based Governance under the CPC Central Committee over legal education, and strengthen the guidance of the education authorities and judicial administrative authorities under the State Council over legal education in higher education institutions. The requirements of improving the management and guidance system of law schools and colleges and promoting the reform and development of law schools and colleges put forward in the *Opinions* are informative and instructive, providing a clear issue-orientation and having great practical significance. This article attempts to explore the specific path to promoting the reform of the management and guidance system of law schools and colleges, and enhancing the development quality of law schools and colleges in terms of four aspects, i.e., improving the management system of legal education, promoting the reform and development of law schools and colleges, increasing support for law schools and colleges, and strengthening guidance for the work of law schools and colleges.

I Improving the Management System of Legal Education

Institutional issues are fundamental and overall concerns. To improve the management system of legal education, it is necessary to coordinate planning and overall layout, adhere to what should be adhered to, improve what desires improvement, adjust what deserves adjustment, innovate what calls for innovation, and make great efforts to resolutely eliminate the systemic handicaps that restrict the management of legal education and legal theory research, so as to bring a progress on law discipline up to date with the development of the new era, and to identify the objective requirements of adherence to and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Specifically, it unfolds from three points of view.

Firstly, the CPC's leadership of legal education should be strengthened. Since the reform and opening up, legal education in China has been developing rapidly. At the same time, the expansion in the scale of legal education has been unprecedented. Law schools have been established in all types of higher education institutions. To date, there are a total of 658

colleges and universities nationwide, offering 10 majors in law and 785 major development points with 390,000 students enrolled. Law schools and colleges are specialized institutions established by the CPC and Chinese government for the training of rule-of-law personnel for specialized departments such as public security departments, judicial departments, procuratorial departments, judicial and administrative departments, and national security departments. In order to ensure that legal education and legal theoretical research move on under the right flag and along the right path, colleges and universities should strengthen the CPC's overall leadership over law schools, reform the management system of legal education, and enhance the macro guidance of the Commission for Law-Based Governance under the CPC Central Committee over the work of legal education. In March 2018, the CPC Central Committee issued the *Plan for Deepening the Institutional Reform of the Party and State*, which states that law-based governance in all fields is the essential requirement and important guarantee of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In order to strengthen the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee over the rule of law in China, to improve the system and working mechanism for the CPC to lead law-based governance in all fields, and to better implement the basic strategy of law-based governance in all fields, the Commission for Law-Based Governance under the CPC Central Committee has been established, as a decision-making, deliberative, and coordinating body under the CPC Central Committee, to take charge of the overall design, overall arrangement, coordination, holistic advancement, and supervision and implementation of the law-based governance in all fields. The main duties of the Commission for Law-Based Governance under the CPC Central Committee are: to coordinate the work related to the law-based governance in all fields; to make coordinated efforts to exercise law-based governance, political power and administration; to adopt a holistic approach to establishing a law-based country, government, and society; to work on major affairs and major issues concerning the law-based governance in all fields; comprehensive efforts must be made to ensure that a well-conceived approach is taken to legislation, that law is strictly enforced, that justice is impartially administered, and that the law is observed by everyone; and to coordinate the progress on the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and a law-based socialist country. Promoting legal education and legal theory research and strengthening the cultivation of rule-of-law personnel are the major matters and issues in the systematic engineering of the law-based governance in all fields. They play a fundamental safeguarding role in promoting law-based governance in all fields. The Commission for Law-Based Governance under the CPC Central Committee should further strengthen its macro guidance over the work of legal education from the perspectives of top-level design, overall arrangement, and coordination.

Secondly, the guidances of the education authorities under the State Council and judicial administrative authorities on legal education in higher education institutions should be strengthened. As the competent authority over higher education, the Ministry of Education, particularly the Teaching Steering Committee for Law Majors in Higher Education, in light of the actual situation of higher education, should provide comprehensive guidance to the work of legal education in higher education institutions, from the perspective of the implementation of the *Opinions* issued by the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council. General Secretary XI Jinping emphasized the

need to break down the institutional barriers between universities and society, to bring high-quality practical teaching resources from practice sectors into universities, and to strengthen exchanges between legal teachers, legal researchers, and practical workers on the rule of law.[2] The judicial administration, which has hold of administrative resources, should better enable, from the perspective of its capacity as one of the practice departments, higher education institutions in legal education. Meanwhile, it should give move support, in conjunction with the teaching and research work of institutions of higher education, to institutions of higher education in terms of internships and practical training opportunities for law students and research cooperation with institutions of higher education in order to realize collaborative education. It is necessary to integrate the faculties and resources of schools and colleges of political science and law and establish an inter-school joint conference mechanism to provide timely and efficient organizational leverage and theoretical support for the CPC Central Committee to investigate, deploy, implement, and evaluate major matters and issues in law-based governance in all fields. It is necessary to break down the institutional barriers between the legal profession and legal education, bring the high-quality practical teaching resources of the practice departments of political and legal affairs into schools and colleges of political science and law, better align the talent cultivation model of schools and colleges of political science and law with the actual needs of the rule of law, and improve the cultivation quality of rule-of-law personnel in all respects.

Thirdly, law schools and colleges in accelerating the progress on "Double First-Class" (world-class universities and world-class disciplines) should be supported, and the concept of a differentiated development pattern should be formed by combining the characteristics of colleges and universities with the characteristics of their majors should be encouraged. Education administrative departments should improve the access system for all types of legal education, raise the threshold of legal education, improve the early warning mechanism and exit mechanism for law majors, reasonably control the scale of undergraduate legal education, and realize better quality and efficiency of legal education. Furthermore, they should update in due course and strictly enforce the *National Standards for the Quality of Law Teaching*, create a system of such indicators for evaluating first-class law disciplines that are suitable for the national conditions of China, scientifically evaluate the education quality delivered by training providers, and through evaluation, eliminate in a timely manner those undergraduate law majors responsible for ineffective school education and unguaranteed quality, so as to promote the intensive development of legal education. In addition, law schools and colleges should deepen the reform of the development of law disciplines, the reform of talent cultivation model, the reform of the evaluation system of scientific research, the reform of faculty system, the reform of the social service system, and the reform of international cooperation and exchange, so as to enhance their abilities to serve the law-based governance in all fields.

[2] 习近平在中国政法大学考察时强调：立德树人德法兼修抓好法治人才培养 励志勤学刻苦磨炼促进青年成长进步 (Xi Jinping Emphasized during His Visit to China University of Political Science and Law: Fostering Virtue through Education, Cultivating Talent with Both Moral Quality and Legal Literacy, Focusing on the Cultivation of Rule-of-Law Personnel, Inspiring Diligent Study and Hard Work to Promote the Growth and Progress of Young People), 人民日报 (*People's Daily*), p. 1, May 4, 2017.

II Promoting the Reform and Development of Law Schools and Colleges

It is necessary to further promote the reform of the development of law schools and colleges, in particular, to give full play to the demonstration role of key schools and colleges of political science and law as the backbone of legal education and legal theory research. On May 3, 2017, during his visit to the China University of Political Science and Law, General Secretary XI Jinping put forward clear requirements for the cultivation of rule-of-law personnel, the creation of the system of legal disciplines, and the theoretical research on the rule of law. In 2020, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the *General Plan for Deepening the Reform of Educational Evaluation in the New Era* (hereinafter referred to as the "*General Plan*"), which is an important initiative to thoroughly implement General Secretary XI Jinping's important exposition on education and the spirit of the National Education Conference, improve the mechanism of fostering virtue through education, to reverse the unscientific orientation of educational evaluation, resolutely overcome the persistent problems of scores-only, entrance examination-only, diplomas-only, theses-only, and titles-only (five only) pursuit of study, improve the skills of education governance, accelerate the modernization of education, build a leading country in education, and provide education to the satisfaction of the people, as well as a fundamental guideline for law schools and colleges to improve the quality of their development. In this regard, there are five points as follows.

Firstly, XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law should be comprehensively implemented in legal education. Under the guidance of XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law, the reform of legal education should be promoted, base ourselves on the reality of China, draw inspiration from other civilizations, hold onto future-orientation, and follow a distinctive path. Law schools and colleges should fully implement the core essence and working requirements of XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law in all aspects of the entire process of cultivating rule-of-law personnel, so as to form a more complete system of law disciplines, teaching systems, curriculum systems, and textbooks systems to effectively improve the cultivation quality of rule-of-law personnel. XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law should be fully integrated into all aspects of the teaching of legal thought, the teaching of specialized knowledge in law, and the teaching of social practice in law, so as to make it the worldview and methodology for law students to perceive, think about, and deal with the rule of law. The "Introduction to XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law" should be incorporated into the core compulsory courses for law majors, and make good use of the national unified textbook *Introduction to XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law*. Some colleges and universities will be encouraged and supported to offer relevant compulsory and elective courses and create specialized course modules on XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law. The core essence, spiritual essence, abundant connotation, and practical requirements of XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law are to be integrated into the courses of all law majors. The successful experience of progress on the socialist rule of law should be turned into high-quality teaching resources to update the teaching contents, perfect the knowledge system, refine the teaching methods, and improve the teaching level.

Secondly, a sound system of legal disciplines should be established. General Secretary XI Jinping pointed out at the Symposium on the Work of Philosophy and Social Sciences

in May 2016 that despite a disciplinary system of philosophy and social sciences basically in place in China, there are still some problems that urgently need to be solved, mainly the insufficient interconnection of some disciplines with social development, an incomplete disciplinary system, and poor progress on emerging disciplines and cross-disciplines.[3] In addition, he proposed during his visit to Tsinghua University in April 2021 that we should make good use of discipline crossover as a "catalyst," strengthen the cultivation capacity of basic disciplines, break down the barriers of disciplines and majors, adjust and upgrade the existing system of disciplines and majors, aim at the frontiers of science and technology and key fields, make progress on new engineering disciplines, new medical disciplines, new agricultural disciplines, and new liberal arts disciplines, and accelerate the cultivation of talents in short supply. We should adapt to the new tasks and requirements of law-based governance in all fields, promote the transformation and upgrading of basic and traditional disciplines, from the perspective of reality and problem, encourage the innovative development of emerging disciplines, strengthen the synergistic efforts in the fields of liberal arts, science, technology, medicine, and other disciplines, and accelerate the development of inter-disciplines of law. Subject to the requirements for the development of the "new liberal arts," we should update the structure of student sources, the training objective, the training system, the educator, and the training mode, and vigorously promote the development of the "new law disciplines" that meet the needs of the times. In order to achieve in-depth integration of disciplines, it is necessary to correctly handle the relationship between emerging inter-disciplines and traditional law disciplines, and optimize and consolidate, in reliance on cutting-edge knowledge and theories, the core advantages of law disciplines. At the same time, it is necessary to avoid losing the unique characteristics of the law discipline due to cross disciplinary integration, and to avoid simply combining law with other subject courses, in order to achieve deep integration of disciplines.

Thirdly, the quality and effect of legal education and guidance should be improved. The reform of institutions and mechanisms such as the Teaching Steering Committee for Law Majors in Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, the National JM (Juris Master) Education Steering Committee, and the China Association for Legal Education should be deepened to improve the quality and effect of steering over legal education and teaching. The Teaching Steering Committee for Law Majors in Higher Education of the Ministry of Education shall give full play to its functions of investigation, consultation, guidance, assessment, and service, strictly following the *National Standards for the Quality of Law Teaching* to guide colleges and universities across the country in the development of law programs and ensure the quality of legal education. The National JM Education Steering Committee shall give full play to its functions, guide and coordinate the activities of JM education nationwide, strengthen the connection between training providers and the legal practice sectors, bolster the international exchange and cooperation of JM education, and promote the continuous improvement of JM education. The China Association for Legal Education shall better unite legal educators and legal workers across the country, carry out

[3]《习近平著作选读》第一卷 (*Selected Readings from the Works of XI Jinping*) (Vol. I), 人民出版社 (People's Publishing House), at 485 (2023).

research and exchange activities in legal education, work on new issues arising in the practice of legal education, actively explore new paths for the reform of legal education in China, play an active part in the development of the core curriculum system for law majors, the classified guidance and classified evaluation of legal education, the formulation of normative documents for legal education, and other important work, so as to better serve the development of legal education.

Fourthly, it is necessary to effectively promote the reform of the evaluation on legal education. Law schools and colleges should conscientiously implement the spirit of the important speech of General Secretary XI Jinping and the *General Plan*, and carry out the reform and development work in a solid manner. Specifically, it is necessary, subject to the *General Plan* in every aspect, to focus on eliminating the stubborn problems of "five only," implement the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education, and strive to achieve systematic integration of policies, a combination of abolishment and establishment, and synergistic promotion of reforms. Law schools and colleges should seize the "breakthrough" and "key point" of education evaluation reform, profoundly understand "why change," "what to change," and "how to change," clarify the key areas, critical links, and main directions of endeavor, identify the path of advancement, methods of work, and powerful leverage, so as to ensure that effective results are achieved in key areas of the reform of law education evaluation. The "effectiveness of fostering virtue through education" should serve as the fundamental criterion for the reform. For the purpose of educating talents for the CPC and for the country, it is our mission to nurture a new generation of capable young people with sound moral grounding, intellectual ability, physical vigor, aesthetic sensibility, and work skills who will fully develop socialism and carry forward the socialist cause and foster a new generation of young people to shoulder the mission of realizing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which should be established as the basic principle and fundamental criterion for deepening the reform of education evaluation. Law schools and colleges should adhere to the goal-oriented and problem-oriented approach, combine abolishment and establishment, promote key breakthroughs in the reform of education evaluation, comprehensively enhance the skills and standards of education governance, and set it as the overarching goal to improve the overall school management capability.

Fifthly, the mechanism for the CPC's overall leadership on education should be improved. It is imperative to reform school evaluation and promote the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education. It is necessary to identify the effectiveness of fostering virtue through education as the fundamental criterion, improve the evaluation of institutions of higher education, and improve the cost-effectiveness of funds applied to undergraduate education and teaching, academic disciplines, colleges and universities, and international exchanges and cooperation. The evaluation of teachers is to be reformed by practicing the mission of imparting knowledge and cultivating people, namely taking teachers' ethics and conduct as the first criterion, highlighting the actual performance of education and teaching, strengthening the front-line work on students, improving the evaluation of scientific research by teachers in universities and colleges, and restoring the academic and honorary nature of academic titles. The evaluation of students is to be reformed by promoting the all-round development of sound moral grounding, intellectual ability, physical vigor, aesthetic

sensibility, and work skills, namely establishing a scientific outlook on personal career, perfecting the evaluation of moral education, strengthening the evaluation of physical education, improving the evaluation of aesthetics education, enhancing the evaluation of labor education, rigorously applying academic standards, and deepening the reform of the examination and enrollment system. The evaluation of employment is to be reformed by jointly creating a favorable environment for educational development, namely establishing a correct orientation for employment and promoting the suitability of people for their posts.

III Increasing Support for Law Schools and Colleges

Law schools and colleges are important bases for the cultivation of rule-of-law personnel, as well as an important front for the dissemination of the concept of the rule of law, the advocation for the spirit of the rule of law, and the promotion of a culture of the rule of law. Increasing the support for law schools and colleges is an important measure for implementing the CPC's education policy, improving the quality of education, promoting equity in education, and modernizing education, as well as for promoting reform and innovation in legal education, adapting to the needs of the socialist rule of law, and nurturing a new generation of capable young people with sound moral grounding, intellectual ability, physical vigor, aesthetic sensibility, and work skills who will fully develop socialism and carry forward the socialist cause. In order to increase support for law schools and colleges, the authorities in charge of the rule of law should take a multifaceted approach, actively provide high-quality practical teaching resources, and effectively forge the connection between the legal profession and legal education. In this regard, four points are made as follows.

The first is to improve the conditions for the operation of law schools and colleges and the development of their faculties, and encourage and support law schools and colleges to carry out educational and teaching activities at multiple levels, in multiple forms, and in multiple fields, so as to improve the level and effectiveness of education and teaching. To that end, the authorities in charge of the rule of law should adapt to the development needs of the legal education system and legal theory research, build law colleges that are complete in variety, reasonable in structure, and full in the range of echelons. Moreover, the authorities in charge of the rule of law should strengthen the ideological, political, and moral education of law teachers, actively innovate the mechanism of teacher development, provide teachers of law majors with effective training, strengthen the development of high-level talents, enhance the international competitiveness of teachers, and support the two-way recruitment between schools and colleges of political science and law and practice departments of legal affairs, so as to build teams of high-level law faculty. It is necessary to deepen the reform of the mechanism of talent development, and standardize and improve the system of title evaluation and the system of post-oriented employment. Efforts should be made to accelerate the establishment of a system for evaluating scientific research talents that is oriented to innovation value, ability, and contribution, improve the incentive mechanism for income distribution, and support scientific research institutions in exploring the trial implementation of a more flexible remuneration system. The authorities in charge of the rule of law should promote an excellent academic style that advocates excellence, rigorous

governance, integrity, and responsibility, creates a clean and positive academic ecology of mutual learning and appreciation, and guides legal researchers in establishing good academic ethics and abiding by academic norms. It is imperative to actively support the development of law schools and colleges in the central and western regions, and promote the allocation of resources for legal education in favor of the central and western regions. In addition, it should be done to effectively provide paired assistance between the eastern and western regions in legal education throughout the country, encourage outstanding law teachers to pursue their career or work as volunteer teachers in the central and western regions, and make available adequate material supplies, so as to drive the quality improvement of law teachers and legal education in the central and western regions and to meet the needs of the development of the rule-of-law there.

The second is to strengthen the construction of practice bases and platforms, broaden the cooperation channels between law schools and colleges and judicial departments, law firms, notary public institutions, and other social practice agencies, provide teachers and students with more and better opportunities and conditions for practice and exercise, and enhance their practical and innovative abilities. The three major links of the teaching of legal thoughts and theories, the teaching of specialized knowledge in law, and the teaching of social practice in law should be connected to set up a mechanism of collaborative cultivating personnels among practice departments, universities, and research institutes for the integration of legal education within and outside the campus. Platforms for the information exchange and services of employment that provide graduates from law schools and colleges with more career choices and ampler development space should be actively built up to effectively connect the legal profession and legal education by strengthening employment guidance and service guarantees, gaining an in-depth understanding of the needs and expectations of society for legal talents.

The third is to strengthen the development of the curriculum and textbook system by maintaining the curriculum and textbook system in pace with the latest development and the needs of society, reflecting the latest theoretical achievements and practical experience of the CPC and Chinese government in law-based governance in all fields in a timely manner, and highlighting the features and advantages of the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics so as to facilitate the theoretical accomplishment and ideological awareness of teachers and students. It is necessary to improve the system of law textbooks, encourage the preparation of a series of textbooks for the law profession that summarize Chinese experience in the rule of law and embody the wisdom of Chinese rule of law, and incorporate a system of historical, legacy-based, and contemporary knowledge on law into the system of law textbooks at the appropriate time. The system of law textbooks should be enriched by including those textbooks required for the main courses of law, seminars on law topics, case studies in law, moot courts, legal clinics, and specialized practical training courses to ensure that the textbooks can fully cover the curriculum and to form a system of textbooks of a new type with XI Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law as the overarching principle.

The fourth is to increase efforts towards foreign-related legal education. On February 25, 2019, General Secretary XI Jinping pointed out at the second meeting of the Commission for Law-Based Governance under the CPC Central Committee that it is necessary to accelerate the development of a system of laws applicable outside China's jurisdiction, strengthen the

cultivation of foreign-related rule-of-law professionals, actively develop foreign-related legal services, enhance enterprises' awareness of compliance, and safeguard and serve high-standard opening up. Efforts should be made to cultivate high-level foreign-related rule-of-law personnel with an international outlook, proficiency in international rules, ability to participate in international legal affairs, adeptness at safeguarding national interests, and courage to promote changes in the rules of global governance, so as to serve the creation of a human community with a shared future, the Belt and Road Initiative (the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road), and the practice of international rule of law. Efforts should also be made to update the cultivation model of foreign-related rule-of-law personnel, cultivate interdisciplinary, applied, innovative, and international rule-of-law personnel, and strengthen the teaching of foreign languages, international politics, international relations, international economics and trade, world history, intercultural communication, and other courses. Efforts should further be made to broaden the channels of cooperation and exchanges with high-level international universities and international organizations, and deepen substantive cooperation with high-level overseas universities in such areas as mutual recognition of credits, exchange of teachers, exchange of students, and interoperability of curricula. Law schools and colleges should enrich and strengthen the practical teaching, strengthen the practical guidance and international training, closely cooperate with international organizations, foreign-related practical authorities, foreign-related law firms, foreign-related enterprises and other entities, provide the students with guidance solicited from invited professionals with front-line experience in foreign-related legal services, bring high-quality practical teaching resources of the foreign-related practice departments into the law schools and colleges, and organize, in a planned manner, internships and practical training for the students in the governmental departments connecting with foreign governments or firms, large-scale law firms serving foreign bussinesses, and international organizations.

IV Strengthening Guidance for the Work of Law Schools and Colleges

The role of the Teaching Steering Committee for Law Majors in Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, the Law Discipline Review Group of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, the National JM Education Steering Committee, and the National Steering Committee for Judicial Vocational Education Teaching should be well played. It is necessary to increase the proportion of members with practical experience in the rule of law, optimize the composition of membership, and improve the steering and management of legal education. In this regard, three suggestions are as follows.

The first is to strengthen policy guidance and institutional guarantes. CPC committees at all levels should place legal education and legal theoretical research high on their agenda, strengthen political leadership and work guidance, and solve the major problems in the cultivation of legal talents and the development of theoretical research in a timely manner, so as to create a better environment and conditions for further strengthening legal education and legal theoretical research. Practical departments of the rule of law should play an active part in legal education and legal theory research, supply more practical resources, practical

platforms, and practical opportunities, and promote the mutual integration between legal education and rule-of-law practice. It is a requirement to strengthen two-way exchanges of personnel between rule-of-law practice departments and law schools and colleges, and make two-way exchanges an important way of nurturing and improving the ability of officials to apply rule-of-law thinking and methods. It is further required to improve the setting-up and operating mechanisms of various types of expert committees at all levels, clarify their terms of reference and working procedures, standardize their decision-making and supervisory methods, and ensure that they perform their functions in accordance with the *Constitution* and the laws.

The second is to strengthen team building and capacity building. To do so, it is necessary to follow the guidance of XI Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the combination of moral integrity and professional competence as the principle, and the CPC committees at all levels should improve leading bodies of law schools and colleges and scientific research institutes, and put strong and competent leadership teams and officials in place in law schools and scientific research institutes. The CPC committees of law schools and colleges and scientific research institutions should effectively fulfill their main responsibilities for school operation, adhere to the system of executive head responsibility under the leadership of the CPC committees, innovate the CPC's leadership and management system, and carry out the CPC's leadership through the whole process of school operation and governance, knowledge impartation, and student cultivation. Experts and scholars with theoretical expertise and practical experience should be widely recruited to participate in the work of various expert committees at all levels, and regular training and exchange activities should be carried out to enhance their political competence and professional level. Coordination and information sharing should be strengthened. To that end, it is necessary to strengthen communication and collaboration among various expert committees at all levels with a view to forming a working synergy, providing timely feedback and solving problems and difficulties encountered in legal education, establishing a sound information platform for legal education, and promptly releasing and updating information on policies and regulations, standards and requirements and work news related to legal education.

The third is to strengthen evaluation, supervision, and incentive mechanisms. This requires efforts to be made to establish and perfect a system for evaluating the quality of legal education, regularly evaluate and supervise the work of expert committees of all kinds and at all levels, promptly identify and correct existing problems and deficiencies, commend and reward expert committees and individuals with outstanding work achievements, and criticize and deal with those expert committees and individuals who have failed to perform their work effectively or who have been negligent in their duties.