

the country that conferred degrees. There were seven in the South and five in the Mississippi Valley. Those nearest Louisville were the law school of Transylvania University in Lexington, founded in 1799; the Cincinnati Law School, founded in 1833, and the law school of Indiana University, founded in 1842. Tulane and Cumberland were opened in 1847, and many others followed. The only law schools in the South that did not suspend operations during the War between the States and the reconstruction period were those of the University of Louisville and the University of Virginia.²

Law schools in general were loosely organized in those early days. They seldom had more than a nominal connection with a college or a university, and that was merely to acquire the right to confer degrees in the name of some recognized educational institution. The only law schools in the country in which the faculties received any financial support from the university were those at Harvard, Virginia, and William and Mary. In practically all the other schools, law professors were practitioners who got what they could from tuition, which they themselves collected, and concerning which they made no reports. A prominent lawyer would gather about him a class of students whom he proposed to instruct in law, and by some friendly gentleman's agreement, in order to give his classes some academic standing, he would arrange with a college or a university to confer degrees upon certain students whom he saw fit to recommend for such an honor. Naturally, such an arrangement was a good advertisement for the teacher, and in many instances very profitable. Many law schools were thus started from proprietary law classes.