

Introduction to the first volume

The idea of proposing a law journal for the Chamber of Deputies arises from an eminently practical need. It stems from the perception that Brazil still lacks spaces dedicated to the debate of legislative issues from a legal perspective, especially with regard to matters of interest – public interest, in fact – to the Chamber of Deputies.

This is a *legal view* of legislative issues, not necessarily a *judicial one*. In forensic practice and in Brazilian legal literature, one perspective often appears reduced to the other and both are confused, as if there were no law outside the production of the courts. Thus, legislative institutes and instruments, when they are not relegated to study only by other knowledge – notably political science –, are often analyzed dogmatically only in terms of elements subject to judicial review, but little studied and understood in their internal dynamics, from the point of view of the Legislative Branch itself.

The statement by Minister Victor Nunes Leal, in which he compared the drafting of legislation to the safekeeping of explosives, is well known, given the seriousness of the consequences of the unforeseen and incompetent nature of those who draft normative acts. The warning is contained in an article published in 1945, entitled “Problems of legislative technique”, which, as its name suggests, deals with how to make good laws, good legislative technique, which today, with some effort at simplification, we can call “legistics”.¹

At that time, eighty years ago, Nunes Leal called on the “most qualified Brazilian jurists” to seek to “systematize the recommended precepts for drafting laws using their own experience and the experience of others.” And he presented several reflections and recommendations on legislative work, especially with regard to the participation of the jurist, as a technician, in this process that is essentially political, in the best sense of the term, subject to the circumstances and expectations of society.

It is inevitable that we remember this classic study when launching the first issue of this journal. The journal that is being published today also has the purpose of fostering national discussions on the Legislative Branch, the legislative process, legistics, parliamentary law and the relationship between the three branches of government in legislative action, with the aim of contributing to the analysis of the major issues under discussion in the National Congress by encouraging scientific research and legal debate on these matters.

This is a mission that certainly does not end with the study of procedural rites or the level of legislative technique. It represents much more. Proposing a new academic journal is to create a space for reflection and an invitation to dialogue, a particularly great challenge in such fluid and complex times as the ones we are experiencing.

The Chamber of Deputies’ tribunes, cameras and microphones currently compete with so many other devices spread across multiple virtual instances and social networks, capable of transforming each fragment of the legislative debate into a viral digital spectacle. Voters, in turn, expect the Legislature to respond in real time and provide explanations that fit into a few dozen characters and a few

¹ LEAL, Vitor Nunes. Problema de técnica legislativa. Revista de Direito Administrativo, [S. l.], v. 2, n. 1, p. 429-447, 1945. DOI: 10.12660/rda.v2.1945.8211. Available at: <https://periodicos.fgv.br/rda/article/view/8211>. Accessed on: April 3, 2025.

seconds of video, quick solutions to deep, historical and multifaceted issues. As a result, we have lost the ability to listen to others with the attention and empathy of those who care about understanding differences.

In this institutional framework, it seems even more important to foster spaces for academic discussion to understand and reflect on the current role of the Legislative Branch, inserted in this horizon of complexity, in the information society, hurried, anxious, technical and hyperconnected like the one in which we live.

This publication essentially represents a broad invitation to this plural, serious and frank debate – with the freedom that an academic space provides – on form and merit, always seeking to create consensus and legal reflection on the Brazil built in Parliament. This is also the reason for the name chosen: *Plenário* (plenary), the main locus of legislative deliberation of the Chamber of Deputies, its most noble space, where the present and future of the country are decided.

Judging by the quality of the texts in the first issue, the purpose of this journal has already been fulfilled. It is now hoped that this periodical will have many more issues and volumes, with academic texts that join forces to build a robust legal thought aimed at the Brazilian Legislative Branch.

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