Dr. Alexander Smith was born in Scotland but to Alberta in 1926. He received his LL.B. from the university in 1941 and practised with Mr. George Steer for six years. Dr. Smith joined the Faculty as a sessional instructor in 1943, and in 1947 he became a full time professor with the Faculty. Dr. Smith attended Stanford University, where he received his Master of Laws degree and Doctor of the Science of Jurisprudence degree in 1957. Dr. Smith was a well-respected and beloved professor at the Faculty for over 30 years until his retirement in 1973. Dr. Smith received honorary LL.D. degrees from Queen’s University and the University of Alberta. He died in Victoria in July 1991, at the age of 80.

Many awards have been established in his name, including: The Smith Prize, awarded annually to the winner of the Laskin Moot; The Alexander Smith, Q.C. Endowment Fund, which assists needy second and third year Law students; and The Smith Prize in Contracts.

Dr. Alexander Smith, scholar and writer, was a much respected and beloved professor at the Faculty for over 30 years.