**Matthias Calonius**

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**Matthias Calonius** (December 27, 1738 – 1817) was [Finland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finland)'s most renowned [jurist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jurist).

Born in [Saarijärvi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saarij%C3%A4rvi) as a pastor's son, he studied at [the Royal Academy of Turku](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Royal_Academy_of_Turku). He went on to become a lecturer and then (in 1773) full [professor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professor) at the Faculty of Law there, despite being too poor and lacking in family connections to ever obtain an academic title. He was also a member of the [Supreme Court of Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Sweden) in [Stockholm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stockholm) and, after the [Finnish War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnish_War) and [Diet of Porvoo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diet_of_Porvoo), *procurator* ([chancellor of justice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chancellor_of_justice)) with the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Finland) of the [Grand Duchy of Finland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Finland).

Calonius's influence is mainly due to his lectures on [civil law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_law_%28area%29), handed down among students in the 19th century and first published in 1908 as *Praelectiones in Jurisprudentiam Civilem*. Characteristically for his period, he was an advocate of [natural law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_law) as a transportive justification of contemporary law.

**External links**

* [Matthias Calonius Society](http://www.helsinki.fi/jarj/matthiascalonius-seura/index_english.htm)

**References**

* *Letto-Vanamo, Pia (2001). "Matthias Calonius". In Michael Stolleis (ed.). Juristen: ein biographisches Lexikon; von der Antike bis zum 20. Jahrhundert (in German) (2nd ed.). München: Beck. p. 116.* [*ISBN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number)[*3-406-45957-9*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/3-406-45957-9)*.*

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