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## Certification of Legal Instruments Urged

Dicta Editorial Board

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## Certification of Legal Instruments Urged

## CERTIFICATION OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS URGED

Certification of legal instruments by attorneys has received the sanction of the Board of Trustees of the Denver Bar Association, acting upon the recommendation of its Unauthorized Practice committee headed by Wm. Rann Newcomb. This action was taken in order to discourage the preparation of such documents by laymen, encourage careful draftsmanship and make authorship apparent on the face of the instrument for future consultation or correction.

The board recommended that this certification be done by means of a stamp reading:

"I certify that I drafted  
this instrument.

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Attorney at Law."

In order to encourage the use, and pass on savings in the purchase of certification stamps, a quantity lot has been procured. These are now available at the Bar Association office, 702 Midland Savings Building, for \$1.00 each.

The association took this step only after consultation with other bar groups which have adopted the practice, and after securing a favorable opinion from the American Bar Association's Committee on Professional Ethics and Grievances. It is contemplated primarily that such certification be placed on deeds, trust deeds, releases, mortgages, notes, contracts of sale and other instruments dealing with the transfer of real estate. However, it is also recommended for wills, contracts and all other legal documents which an attorney may prepare for his client. In cases of complicated contracts, which may be the product of two or more attorneys, there would be no necessity for its use, nor should an attorney feel required to use it in any situation where he believes that its use may be a disservice to his client.

If used extensively by the attorneys of the state in connection with conveyancing, however, it could be a very important first step in helping to prevent the preparation of such documents by real estate brokers and others. The Unauthorized Practice committee is continuing to study ways and means of implementing this entirely wholesome practice.

Notwithstanding other measures which may be taken, however, the use of the certification is important in itself, and in a letter to all members of the Denver Bar Association, Mr. Newcomb stated, "There should be no delay in its enthusiastic and wholehearted acceptance by the members of the bar. The use of the stamp, of course, is purely voluntary. The success of the practice, however, depends entirely upon you and the generality with which it is used."