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The Denver Legal Aid Society's 25th Anniversary

John E. Gorsuch

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Every lawyer will remember that portion of the oath taken by him at the time he was admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Colorado which is as follows:

"I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed. . . ."

Attorneys recognize that if any meaning is to be given to this solemn declaration then it is incumbent upon them to see to it that every person who has a just cause of action, or who is a defendant in any suit, criminal or civil, has a lawyer capable and willing to appear on his behalf. I am sure, too, that every attorney at law realizes that one of the chief distinctions between our American system of government and that of totalitarian states is that we provide and insist upon the right of every man to have his "day in court" and to be represented by competent counsel.

It is for the reasons above stated that more than 25 years ago members of the Denver Bar Association founded the Denver Legal Aid Society and ever since that date have endeavored to support its aims and purposes. I sincerely trust that in the future each lawyer will feel it his personal privilege to assist and cooperate with the Legal Aid Society when called upon to do so.

JOHN E. GORSUCH, Chairman of the Board,
Denver Legal Aid Society.

LEGAL AID IN DENVER

HON. JOSEPH J. WALSH

President, Legal Aid Society of Denver

Freedom and equality of justice are twin fundamental conceptions of American jurisprudence. That statement by Reginald Heber Smith, in a report on the first comprehensive survey of legal aid more than 30 years ago, rings just as true today as then. Legal counsel and court representation for those unable to pay for such services are requisites in any democracy that is to survive. Legal aid, as that term is presently used, consists of an organized effort on the part of the bar and the community to provide these services of lawyers free, or for a token charge, to persons who cannot afford to pay an attorney's fee and whose cases are unremunerative on a contingent fee basis. It is, therefore, a credit to both the bar and the entire community of Denver that no worthy person who has sought legal aid in this community during recent years has been denied advice, consultation, and ade-

The first record of organized legal aid as such in this country dates from the year 1876 when Edward Saloman, a practicing lawyer in the City of New York and a former governor of the State of Wisconsin, organized a society to assist German immigrants who were without funds to secure counsel. Thereafter, the "Bureau of Justice" was organized in Chicago to serve all indigent applicants. By the turn of the century Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Newark had organized societies for like pur-