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Revision of Forms

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DICTA

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Calendar

April 16—Institute on "Fair Trade Practices," District Courtroom, City & County Bldg. at 9:30 a.m.

May 2—Annual election meeting of the Denver Bar Association, Chamber of Commerce Dining Room at 12:15 p.m.

Revision of Forms

BY WM. HEDGES ROBINSON, JR.

President, Colorado Bar Association

As a part of the program of the state bar association for the current year, you were promised that definite steps would be taken to revise and standardize forms in current use. I am happy to report that much progress is being made in this direction. The Committee on Probate Court Forms, capably headed by John L. Griffith of Denver, has had a meeting with the County Judges Association. This association has enthusiastically endorsed the plan to standardize probate forms in the county courts, and has appointed judges to work with the committee.

The committee has had several meetings and has agreed on a great number of forms which can be made uniform throughout the state. Such standardization will obviate the necessity for using different forms for each of the sixty-three county courts. When they are adopted, each county will have the same forms for the major share of the probate work. These proposals shortly will be submitted to the lawyers and judges for discussion and approval.

Studies are also being made to secure standard instructions to juries in both civil and criminal cases. The District Judges Association is cooperating with the Civil Instructions Committee under the chairmanship of Kenneth Wormwood. The committee hopes that a uniform set of instructions for civil cases can be drafted, mimeographed and circularized among members of the association prior to the annual meeting.

The Criminal Court Forms Committee has been delayed in its work by the resignation of Judge Joseph E. Cook, but Max D. Melville has agreed to head the committee and constructive reports of progress along the lines of those of the Civil Instructions Committee are promised for the fall.

Standardization of court administrative forms is being studied by a committee headed by Winston Howard. This committee also intends to mimeograph its material for the purpose of submitting it to the bar for discussion prior to the annual meeting.

All of these sub-committee activities are being correlated by the general chairman, William E. Doyle. The work of this committee is important both because it means a saving to lawyers and laymen in the administration of justice, and because it is an attempt to restore sanity to forms which are hoary with age and devoid of reason. Duplication, inefficiency and abstruseness have dogged judicial administration and legal procedures for years. The effective work of this committee is doing much to restore a direct and simple approach to one of our fundamental problems.

Governors Set Convention Dates, Approve Expanded Program and Fix Dues

A bigger and better convention is promised for the Colorado Bar Association in 1949 as a result of the Board of Governors' decision to get the affair under way on Thursday afternoon, instead of on Friday morning as heretofore. The Board at its meeting in Denver on March 19 voted on this change in schedule in order to permit more time for the special sections and avoid overlapping to as great an extent as possible.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 13, 14 and 15 were officially set as the dates for the convention, which as usual will be held at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Information on securing reservations will be given wide publicity among the membership as soon as available.

At the March 19 meeting, the Governors also voted to continue publication of the Supreme Court opinions and authorized the President to make arrangements for a continuation of the radio series "You and The Law" next year. The Board of Regents of the University of Colorado was memorialized to approve the plan for joint publication of the Rocky Mountain Law Review by the Colorado and Denver law schools and the bar associations.

To cover these expanded activities of the bar association, and pursuant to the authority given to it by the 1948 convention, the Board of Governors fixed the dues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1949 at \$12.50 for members in practice for three years or more, and at \$6.00 for members in practice less than three years. Dues are waived entirely for the first fiscal year for new association members admitted to practice on examination during the year.

Legislative Service Made Available in Law Libraries

In order that Denver attorneys may have available a legislative service for their general use, the Denver Bar Association has undertaken to have a copy of Holland's Legislative Service placed in the law libraries of the following buildings: Equitable, Ernest & Cranmer, Symes and University.

The First National Bank Bldg. Library supplies the service on its own, and it is also available for public use, of course, in the Supreme Court Library and in the District Court Library in the City & County Building.