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A New Partner in an Old Enterprise

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DICTA

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No. 10

A New Partner in An Old Enterprise

A Joint Statement by

President STANLEY H. JOHNSON of the Denver Bar Association

President WILLIAM H. ROBINSON, JR., of the Colorado Bar Association

With this issue of DICTA, the College of Law of the University of Denver joins with the Denver and Colorado bar associations in an experiment in cooperation—an experiment in cooperatively publishing this journal. Similar joint publication arrangements exist between bar association and law schools in the states of Maryland, Nebraska, North Carolina, Washington and Wyoming.

The invitation to Denver University to participate in DICTA formally was extended by the Board of Trustees of the Denver Bar Association at its meeting on August 17. At the same time, the president of the Colorado Bar Association gave his tentative approval of the project, subject to confirmation by the Board of Governors and the annual meeting at Colorado Springs.

The decision to proceed in this three-way partnership in the publication of DICTA is the fruition of long months of planning and negotiation. In the spring of 1948, a Denver bar program committee recommended that a bigger and better publication be provided for the membership. The Denver officers invited the Colorado Bar Association and the Denver and Colorado law schools accredited by the American Bar Association to join in a consideration of this proposal.

At that time it was deemed possible that the four parties might be able to unite in the publication of an enlarged *Rocky Mountain Law Review*, present quarterly of the University of Colorado law school. Under such a plan, DICTA would have disappeared as a separate publication, except possibly to serve as an administrative bulletin.

Meetings were held during the summer of 1948, and, upon general acceptance of the joint RMLR publication plan by bar association officers and law school faculties, it appeared that a partnership might be formed and DICTA merged into a larger and more comprehensive law magazine available to all the lawyers of the state.

This objective, however, was not realized. Ultimate approval of the project on the part of Colorado University resided in the Board of Regents. No action was forthcoming from the board until April 20, 1949, when it decided to reject the joint publication plan for RMLR.

When that decision was released, negotiations looking toward a three-way cooperative publication proceeded rapidly.

Dean Gordon Johnston and Allen Mitchem, professor in charge of legal writing at the University of Denver College of Law, met with officers of the Denver association and a special committee designated by the president, composed of Peter H. Holme, Jr., and Frederick M. Farrar.

These negotiations culminated in the formal invitation to Denver University by the Board of Trustees to participate in the publication of a 48 page monthly journal on an experimental basis until January 1951, to which agreement, the Colorado Bar Association president gave the tentative approval of his organization.

The present publication is the result, although there has been no opportunity for the long-term planning of articles, features and make-up that is contemplated for the future. It is a 16 page increase over previous numbers and is published by a joint editorial board made up of DU students and bar association representatives.

Denver University officials would have preferred a 96 page bi-monthly journal, which would be more akin to other law school reviews and give more time for preparation of each number. Opposition to a change from the monthly basis was expressed by the board, however, on the grounds that much of DICTA's usefulness to the practicing lawyer would be lost. The Denver University representatives then agreed to the present 48 page magazine for the experimental period.

The basic premise in all these negotiations of your bar association officers was that DICTA would become a more useful reference magazine for Colorado lawyers without increase in cost to them. For the University of Denver College of Law, it will provide an outlet for students and faculty that has long been needed.

As a successor to the old *Denver Record*, DICTA was founded in 1928 under the guiding hand of Henry W. Toll, then president of the Denver Bar Association, and S. Arthur Henry, the first editor. Until 1939 it was published exclusively by the Denver association, but beginning with the January issue of that year, the Colorado Bar Association joined as an equal partner in its publication. Now, if the present experiment is approved by the Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association and meets with success in operation, DICTA may continue to expand its usefulness to the legal profession.

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