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Report on the Colorado Supreme Court

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Report on the Colorado Supreme Court

By HON. HAZLETT P. BURKE. *Chief Justice*

Having reached the point where the work of the court usually slows up for July and August (as you know we have not gone into recess during that period for many years) it seems appropriate that I report to you briefly the condition of the work and the progress you have made since January, 1947.

There were then at issue and undisposed of 135 cases. Of these 9 were criminal cases, 8 supersedeas applications and 2 workmen's compensation cases; these 19 having precedence under our rules. Of this total 11 had come to issue in 1944, 45 in 1945, and 79 in 1946.

Our last regular announcement will be on Tuesday, July 6, and the following figures assume as done a few things which we all know will then be accomplished. There may be several slight but immaterial discrepancies unavoidable since the picture is changing from day to day.

On July 6, all cases which were at issue prior to 1947 have been disposed of and all cases at issue in 1947 will have been decided with one exception, an important and complicated piece of legislation as to which there was no great hurry and good reasons for its delay. All cases in which oral argument was requested prior to June 23 of the present year have been argued, submitted and assigned for opinion. All supersedeas applications have been disposed of save two, recently submitted and delayed only because final decision will be made on the application. These have been assigned and opinions are in course of preparation. 33 cases which came at issue in the present year have been decided, including all which came at issue in January, 5 at issue in February, and 5 at issue in March. However, we have also decided five which came at issue in April, 1948, one in May and 3 in June. Balancing these against the February and March cases undisposed of makes it clear that the court is now up to April 1, 1948 with its work. At present there are but 29 cases at issue and unassigned. None of these are supersedeas applications, or workmen's compensation cases and 3 only are criminal cases all of which came at issue since June 14th.

In August, 1947, one judge went on vacation taking court work with him. The others remained throughout the summer months and our regular conferences were held Mondays and Thursdays. So far as I have been advised to date the same will be true through this month and next. I plan to be here continuously and regular conferences will be held each Monday. I congratulate the justices on this most creditable record.