

June 2021

## March Meeting of Denver Bar Association

Dicta Editorial Board

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/dlr>

---

### Recommended Citation

March Meeting of Denver Bar Association, 24 Dicta 92 (1947).

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Denver Law Review at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Denver Law Review by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact [jennifer.cox@du.edu](mailto:jennifer.cox@du.edu), [dig-commons@du.edu](mailto:dig-commons@du.edu).

## February Meeting of Denver Bar Association

Members of the Denver Bar Association, at the February 3, 1947 meeting, were treated to a very excellent presentation of the life of "Judah B. Benjamin, Lawyer and Statesman," by United States District Judge John W. Delehant of Nebraska. Judge Delehant held his lawyer audience motionless for several minutes beyond the usual time of adjournment in presenting the life of this remarkable lawyer of Jewish faith, who was born outside the United States, built up a tremendously lucrative practice, served the Confederacy in important positions after resigning from the United States Senate, and, after being exiled from the United States after the Civil War, built up another lucrative practice in England, and who died in France a wealthy man. Judge Delehant completed his address with the hope that some future historian would see fit to record, at length, the remarkable career of this remarkable lawyer and statesman.

The legislative committee reported on two community property bills before the General Assembly and recommended that they be opposed. The motion was laid on the table on the request of Lyman P. Weld, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who stated that another community property bill, which has not yet been considered by the committee, should be examined before definite action is taken.

## March Meeting of Denver Bar Association

William W. Crowdus, of St. Louis, vice-president and executive director of the Missouri Institute for the Administration of Justice, addressed the March meeting of the Denver Bar Association on the subject, "The People of Missouri Approve the Non-Partisan Judiciary." Mr. Crowdus said, in part:

Before the adoption of the present plan, Missouri was not getting the best men on the judiciary and the judiciary was not independent. There was a plague of incompetent judges in the early 1930's. Judges were elected by the bosses and machines—not by the people. The people do not know the qualifications of the candidates where there are long lists of candidates for the positions. Often judges were elected who were not well known even among the lawyers. In one instance a very unqualified judge was elected in spite of the bar primaries.

In one case where a judge had refused to vote in accordance with the instructions of the political boss, the judge faced a tremendous primary fight at the next election at the hands of the machine.

In 1936 the St. Louis Bar Association had a committee on judicial selection. In 1937 the American Bar Association called for the non-political selection of judges. The issue was taken up by the Kansas City bar and then the Missouri bar, but the lawyers couldn't do the job alone. In 1937 the Missouri Institute for the Administration of Justice was formed.

The first efforts were rejected by the legislature, so it was necessary to resort to the initiative. 75,000 signatures were obtained, and \$60,000 in funds. A large part of this sum was spent in getting the measure on the ballot. There was a vast educational campaign. Every medium was used. Almost every paper in the state was for the plan.

Under the plan a committee nominates three from which the governor appoints the judge. The committee consists of one-half lawyers and one-half non-lawyers. After a trial period of at least one year the judge must go before the voters on the question as to whether or not he is to be retained in office. He may do this by filing sixty days before election a declaration of candidacy. No judge is permitted to take part in any political activity.

How has the plan worked? In one case arising over the governorship the court gave a decision which would not have been possible under the political selection of judges. Every selection to date has been of the highest quality. Every nominee to date has been amply qualified. No governor to date could have made a bad appointment. Nine appointments have been made to date. The plan has been tested three times in elections. In 1942 one good judge was retained in office and one poor judge was defeated. In 1944 all ten judges were retained—all had the endorsement of the bar association. In 1946 two judges were retained in spite of a bar association recommendation to the contrary. In this case the bar association waged no real fight for the rejection of the men.

The plan has a tendency to freeze incumbents in office. The prohibition against a judge's making any political contribution or taking part in politics has had a marvelous effect in making judges independent. Litigants are getting better justice. Better judges are on the bench. The administration of justice has been speeded up. Confidence in the courts has been restored.

The job of the bar does not end with the enactment of the plan—the bar must be ever on the alert to see that the system functions.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Denver Bar association adopted an amendment to its by-laws permitting the trustees to admit to honorary life membership, any lawyer who, from eminence, honorable record, or practice in the profession for at least fifty years, shall be deemed entitled to such consideration.

### **Lawyers in the Public Service**

WILLIAM F. McGLONE, Denver, only attorney on the newly appointed State Board of Health, which will have the job of reorganizing the state public health program under the Health Department Reorganization Act of 1947, has been elected president of the board. He is the militant president of the Denver Public Health Council, and was a very active and useful member of the governor's post-war advisory sub-committee on public health.

**Furniture Cleaning  
and Rug Shampooing**

*Drapes Cleaned*

**PICK-UP AND DELIVERY**

**Moth-Proofed and Insured**

**MacCRACKEN**

737 Lincoln Street Denver, Colo.

Phone: Cherry 8377

*Greetings from*

**Bill's Cab**

Where Denver Rides with Confidence

ZONE RATES

**Phone KEystone 1258**

*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth  
of Alexander Graham Bell*



**Born on March 3, 1847, Alexander Graham Bell was destined to invent one of the most useful tools of the modern world — the telephone.**

**This Centennial year will also be remembered as one of the greatest years of expansion in the history of the telephone business, for no effort is being spared to insure that telephone development will keep pace with the rapid growth of the West.**

**The Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Co.**

***Dicta Advertisers Merit Your Patronage***