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## The Layman in the Improvement of the Administration of Justice

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great responsibility. I hope the new salary will bring to the bench lawyers who have had experience in trial of cases. This great experience should be brought to the bench.

There is now no law that permits the lawyer income tax depletion or depreciation reserve. The time has arrived for us to think of these things. Now lots of lawyers are trying to get into salaried positions. Lawyers should try to evolve a plan to take care of the lean years. The bar has a lack of realization of the responsibility of people for their community. Now there is a breaking down of the sense of responsibility. There is a breaking down of law enforcement. I believe in local law enforcement. I believe in states' rights. The lawyers of Colorado are responsible for the enforcement of the laws in the communities of Colorado. I call attention to this breakdown of law enforcement. I hope the law will be enforced to the last letter.

Make suggestions to us. The government is responsible to the people and to the lawyers. Make suggestions to your government—it will be glad to have them.

## **The Layman in the Improvement of the Administration of Justice<sup>†</sup>**

BY BOLITHA J. LAWS\*

There have been times of disrespect for the courts. There have been delays in court procedure, causing the people to look to other tribunals. Recently the president of the United States brought about the swearing in of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on the White House porch. Incidents show that the public thinks the law and the courts are not measuring up to the requirements of business.

Administrative agencies are springing up because courts are frustrating and unbusinesslike. I am glad to see judges take part in the deliberations of the bar association and not remain cloistered. In a past time judges refused to cooperate to bring about changes in judicial procedure.

The Section of Judicial Administration of the American Bar Association was set up in 1937 under Arthur T. Vanderbilt, then president of the association. The study of judicial administration was approved in 1938 and then carried to the states. The outgrowth of this was stupendous.

Then followed reforms in federal courts. Judicial conferences were established. An administrative officer of federal courts was appointed. The judge had stepped down from his high estate to work with lawyers. Judges had to make reports as to the number of cases under advisement. Judges

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<sup>†</sup>Summary of remarks before the Colorado Bar Association, Oct. 19, 1946.

\*Chief Justice, United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

had to study ways of increasing court output. Pre-trial procedure grew up with its attendant benefits, particularly in trying cases on the real issues. Calendars were cut down and delays reduced. Laymen and litigants who knew about this approved it and had more confidence in the courts. Federal judges strove to get court reporters for federal courts. Now there can be a record in every federal court. This has had a wholesome effect on litigants knowing of it. There has been a drive to improve traffic courts during the last five years.

In the federal courts we have made studies in the matter of youth offenders. We are driving with all might and main to bring about judicial improvement. Judges are working with lawyers. We are one step short. The layman is the central figure of the drama. It is of utmost importance that laymen be brought into our conferences. Laymen don't know about these improvements. They can't see them like they can see physical improvements. Laymen must be brought into the picture so they will know. During the last ten years we have made the greatest improvements since the country began. We should use the skills of the laymen. Why shouldn't the laymen have comfortable quarters to expedite business while waiting long hours during trials? Can't we bring in successful business men who have adopted successful business methods. When we get the layman's viewpoint we will gain respect for the courts as never before.

### **New Members of Denver Bar Association**

The following persons were admitted to membership in the Denver Bar Association at the November 15, 1946, meeting:

Jacob H. Chisen	Willson Hurt
Burton Crager	Robert H. McWilliams, Jr.
John M. Dickson	Wendell P. Sayers
Robert D. Ellis	Annette R. Shermack
Otis J. Gibson	Frederick G. Shermack
William M. Fleetwood	Richard W. Wright

### **Correction**

DICTA recently stated that Joseph W. Hawley, Jr., was an assistant Attorney General of Colorado, working with the P.U.C. This is not correct. Mr. Hawley, Jr., is on the faculty of the school of law of the University of Colorado. His father, Joseph W. Hawley, who has practised law in Trinidad for a number of years, is the new Assistant Attorney General.