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Upon Information and Belief

Dicta Editorial Board

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Upon Information and Belief

Keeping Up with Change

Lawyers have, from early times, been the leaders of community thought and action. Lawyers played a great part in the development of the great English charters, the writing of the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. Lawyers have been more than well recognized by representation in Congress and in the state legislatures, and in the executive offices. Lawyers have almost exclusively occupied the benches. In these positions of prominence, and as public speakers and debaters, and the motivating force of many civic organizations, the lawyers have molded public thought and opinion.

It is, therefore, distressing to note the lack of attention which some lawyers give to changes in the law. If lawyers are going to mold public opinion, they must take cognizance of changes. If the public discovers that there are lawyers still operating under repealed laws, the shaking of public confidence in the bar, which is already noticeable, will probably reach earthquake proportions.

A rather cursory survey of published legal notices indicates that there is a great disregard of legislation passed by the state legislature in 1945. One act which has been disregarded has been referred to in three separate issues of DICTA, and in the loose-leaf supplement accompanying DICTA containing a digest of all the laws passed in 1945.

We know of no better way to bring the changes in the law to the attention of the lawyers than through the pages of DICTA. If we did know of a better way, we would use it.

Of course, those lawyers who have not kept abreast with the changes in the law, will not read this. But if any of our readers do have ideas as to how the lawyers can be made more responsive to the changes in the law, we would like to have those suggestions.

Integration of the Bar

The other day I was in another state, and in discussing with some of the leaders of the bar other matters, the question of integration of the bar was brought up. This state has one of the oldest integrated bars. Two different members of the bar said that they would never go back to the voluntary bar, after having lived under an integrated bar. I asked why this was so, and will try to record accurately their answers.

Under an integrated bar, all practicing attorneys must belong to the state bar and pay the annual fee. It is very easy to distinguish the active, practicing attorneys from those who were admitted to practice but are not actively practicing. Practicing attorneys are readily identified in a county where they might not be well known, or in another state, by

the exhibition of their cards showing payment of current year's dues. The right to practice may be easily proven by this method.

All members of the state bar participate in the election of the state bar commissioners, and in the participation in this election all members know that the state bar commission truly represents the bar of the state, and all members of it.

The state bar may speak on matters of interest to the bar and everyone knows that it speaks as the voice of all lawyers.

Lawyers who have not taken an interest in the voluntary bar and its affairs now find themselves as members of the state bar, and being so do take an interest. There follows an enlargement of the state bar and active participation in its programs, particularly those of public enlightenment.

The ethical standards of the members are more readily controlled. The state bar does not bring a great number of disciplinary actions and very seldom is a lawyer suspended or disbarred. The state bar does adopt ethical standards and the lawyer, knowing that disciplinary action can be taken effectively, is more anxious to comply with the ethical standards. The state bar does not go out and investigate all lawyers to see if they are complying with the ethical standards; it initiates an investigation only where a complaint is filed with it; in other words, there is not a great deal more disciplinary action taken under a state bar than voluntary bar, but the set-up of the state bar, and the possibility of effective action, encourages the lawyers to adhere more closely to the ethical standards.

Admitted to a Higher Court

Alexander Lee Doud, Dean of the Denver Bar, died July 24th, after two weeks in the hospital, at the age of ninety-four. In 1936 he was given a life membership in the Denver Bar Association, at an annual banquet of the association. He came to Denver sixty-one years ago from Illinois, where he had been ill, and upon engaging in practice in Denver his health steadily improved, so that he was able to achieve the remarkable feat of carrying on an active law practice at the age of ninety-four. He was active in obtaining a charter for the Denver University and in recognition of his services was elected to the Board of Trustees. He observed his fiftieth anniversary on the board last January. He was for many years President of the Board of Trustees of Trinity Methodist Church. He was chosen to deliver the dedicatory address upon the dedication of the City and County Building. He was a Mason for sixty-eight years, and was at one time President of the Crown Hill Cemetery Association. He was an enthusiastic golfer, and enjoyed a good game of golf, even during his later years. He contributed a loving cup for older golfers tournament held annually at City Park.