

January 1941

Current Events of Bench and Bar

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Recommended Citation

Fred Neef, Current Events of Bench and Bar, 18 Dicta 135 (1941).

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Arthur Train Says Lawyers Can't Write

Arthur C. Train, the creator of the fictional lawyer, "Mr. Tutt," recently told the Rhode Island Bar Association that lawyers can't write. When a lawyer writes, Train said, he uses ten words where he could use one, and allows the language of the profession to deprive him of practically everything but nouns and adjectives.

Finance Companies May Not Repossess Cars of Draftees

U. S. Attorney George T. Grabe, in a letter to New York draft boards, advised that finance companies have no right to repossess the automobiles of military-service selectees on which money is still owing, except by court order. He warned that any seller or dealer who repossesses, without bringing an action, any personal property sold under a conditional sales contract, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for one year, fined \$1,000, or both.

Committee on Movie Portrayal of Attorneys Reappointed

Reappointment of Max Gilford, Hollywood, as chairman of the motion picture committee on portrayal of lawyers was announced by the California Junior Bar Conference. The work of the committee will be to co-operate with the Motion Picture Producers' Association of America to obtain a fairer portrayal of lawyers in motion pictures.

No Longer Necessary to Amend Constitution

Professor Edward Corwin of Princeton, prominent constitutional law writer, recently told students at Claremont College that it is no longer necessary to amend the Constitution, because you can achieve the same result by exerting pressure on the Supreme Court at national elections.

California Legislators' Task Like Labor of Hercules

The California Legislature receives bills during the first month of its session. It then takes a constitutional thirty-day recess, during which time members can look over the measures that have been proposed.

If a member had spent 22 hours of each of his 30 days reading bills, and had allotted an average of 10 minutes to each bill, he would have been able to cover the ground—he would have studied 4,000 bills.

Court Confers Degree on Aged Lawyer

The Court of Common Pleas of South Carolina conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Lambert W. Jones, oldest lawyer in South Carolina in point of service. The action of the court was without precedent in the history of the legal profession of the state. The court conferred the degree in response to a resolution of the Bar Association.

Judge Urges Lawyers to Make Oral Arguments

Importance of oral argument was stressed by Associate Justice Justin Miller of the Court of Appeals in addressing a recent meeting of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

In giving his personal observations on "Increasing the Effectiveness of Oral Argument on Appeal," Justice Miller said the lawyer who fails to argue his case orally is "almost guilty of criminal neglect." He told the lawyers it is more effective to "speak your piece than read it, because an eye-to-eye speech is the most effective way of holding the bench's attention."

Shuddering at the thought of "great orations—those five or ten minute ear-ringers," Justice Miller declared "it is hard to be attentive when we're in discomfort."

Thin-skinned and timid lawyers, he continued, are not apt to make a good impression. By the thin-skinned, or easily punctured type, he said he meant those who are irritated to the red-hot point by opposing counsel, and those who come into court, grieving over an earlier reversal. By the timid ones, he explained, he referred to those who invariably preface their remarks with, "If the court please."

Justice Miller also warned against imposing on the friendliness of the judge. "If you think the judge is being won over," he cautioned, "it is better to keep that thought in your bosom."