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## State Bar Receives National Award of Merit

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# State Bar Receives National Award of Merit

## American Bar Association Award of Merit

This is to Certify that

The Colorado Bar Association

*has been duly selected, under rules approved by the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, to receive this Award of Merit for the most outstanding and constructive work in its field during the current year.*

Awarded October 2, 1941

At Indianapolis, Indiana

*Jacob M. Sasser*  
President, American Bar Association  
*Rust Thompson*  
Chairman, Section of Bar Organization Activities  
*Moyle B. Mitchell*  
Chairman, Committee on Award of Merit

The Colorado Bar Association was awarded the annual Award of Merit by the American Bar Association at its recent meeting at Indianapolis for the outstanding work done by state bar associations during the past year. The St. Louis Bar Association was given a similar award for the outstanding work done by a local bar association for the same period. The awards were made by the Committee on Award of Merit of the section of bar organization activities of the American Bar Association, and was confirmed by the national association at its meeting on October 2, 1941.

The award was based upon a seven-point program of the state association. The program was briefly this:

First: The drafting and securing the adoption of the new rules of civil procedure. This work was carried on chiefly by the revision committee of the committee on the rules of civil procedure of which Philip S. Van Cise of Denver was chairman. More than seventy-five lawyers participated in the drafting of the rules, which were finally adopted, with minor changes, by the Supreme Court on January 6, 1941, and became effective on April 6 of this year.

Second: The drafting of a new code of probate procedure. This work was undertaken as a result of the resolution passed at the annual

meeting in September, 1940, when a committee, under the chairmanship of Hubert D. Henry of Denver worked out a rough draft of the new code of probate procedure. The portion of this new code was passed by the last legislature and the committee is still working on changes and additions necessary to give Colorado complete and up-to-date legislation for the administration of trusts and estates.

Third: The drafting of water rights codes. The section on water rights, under the chairmanship of Malcolm Lindsey of Denver, during the past year has prepared a water rights procedure code which has now been revised and will be submitted to the legislature in 1942. The section has also mapped out a code dealing with the administration of water rights and the formation of irrigation districts and plans to present these in the near future to the legislature for adoption.

Fourth: The work done concerning improved methods of judicial selection. Since the annual meeting in 1939, the association has been working on a plan to improve methods of judicial selection in this state. At the last annual meeting, the committee, under the chairmanship of Charles Baer of Denver, presented the current plan to remove the selection of judges from politics. This committee intends to carry on the work proposed under the report which was made at the recent annual convention.

Fifth: The efforts devoted to the national defense program. The Colorado Bar Association, immediately upon request from the committee of the American Bar Association dealing with national defense, created a state-wide committee having representatives in each county and each judicial district in the state, with John L. Zanoni of Denver as chairman. This committee working in conjunction with Frazer Arnold, district representative of the national committee, and Robert E. More, chairman of the Denver Bar Association committee, has done effective work aiding in the registration of men under the Selective Service Act and in the administration of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. This work is still being carried on.

Sixth: The organizing of every section of the state into local bar associations with the recent creation of the Continental Divide Association. Every section within the state now has an active local bar association, all of whose members are members of the state association. As a result, Colorado has, for the first time, an active and organized bar which represents the entire legal profession of the state, and which through its united efforts was able to create a new and widespread interest in activities of the local state bar associations.

Seventh: The publication of the new loose leaf service. This new service, which is now permanently established as a bar association activity, has received widespread acclaim among bar executives throughout the

nation and has attracted considerable comment. Special attention was given to this service at the meeting of the section on bar organization activities at the recent Indianapolis convention of the American Bar Association.

In addition to these numerous activities, which the state association has undertaken and sponsored, there has been prepared and will soon be published an economic survey of the legal profession of Colorado. This survey was made under the supervision of Mark Harrington of Denver and Harlan Howlett of Boulder. The state association has joined the Denver Bar Association in the publication of DICTA and has carried on its annual meetings and the usual functions of state associations. Among the other activities which deserve particular mention are the activities of the grievance committee under the chairmanship of George Epperson of Fort Morgan, the committee on legal publication and law libraries with Lyman P. Weld of Longmont as chairman, and the committee on legal institutions with Edward L. Wood of Denver as chairman. Much of the credit for the award goes to Wilbur Denious, former president, for his able work in reorganizing the state bar association and to the untiring efforts of G. Dexter Blount, William R. Kelly and William E. Hutton, who expanded the activities of the association and carried through the programs inaugurated by them to a successful conclusion, and also to the untiring efforts of all members of the association who contributed to the many activities of the association.

The Award of Merit was first made in 1939, when it was awarded by the American Bar Association to the South Dakota Bar Association "for its exceptional and outstanding work in securing the adoption of legislation authorizing a complete revision of the South Dakota code and thereafter, through its committees, doing much of the work and bearing a substantial part of the cost of such revision, and for its further outstanding work in securing the preparation of a law conferring rule-making power on the South Dakota Supreme Court and assisting in the preparation of such rules."

In 1940 the award was made to the bar association of Texas for organizing local bar associations in many counties where no such associations formerly existed, for drafting new rules of civil procedure, preparing an excellent manual on unauthorized practice, and for publishing a monthly magazine. Awards to local associations in the past two years have been made to the Dallas Bar Association and the Cleveland Bar Association.

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Mr. Charles Corlett of Monte Vista has advised us that he has a complete set of Corpus Juris Secundum, Volumes 1 to 26 inclusive, which he would like to sell.