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Public Relations of the Bar

By **ERSKINE R. MYER***

The public relations of the Bar are important, so important, in fact, that the matter has been given special consideration by the American Bar Association and many of the State Bar Associations. Proper publicity regarding bar activities in the past has been almost wholly neglected, so much so, in fact, that few realize the vast amount of work which has been done and the great effort which is being made by lawyers' organizations to improve the law, and thus to benefit the public. Individual members of the bar are most usually mentioned in the public press, either in connection with some political matter or a spectacular trial. Very little, if any, publicity is given from time to time to the splendid constructive effort of committees of both state and national bar associations and to the vast range and scope of these efforts. This lack of public information has been the subject of investigation and consideration by joint committees of editors and lawyers, with the result that the situation in a national sense has been considerably improved, but so far as local bar associations are concerned, in most states, the condition is far from desirable.

Many suggestions have been made as to the proper sphere of a publicity committee on State Bar activities. Among other suggestions which have been made are that the local bar associations encourage meetings of local bar associations with local associations of medical, dental, accounting and other recognized groups, in order more fully to acquaint such groups with the services which the bar association might extend in matters of public and professional interest, encourage local bar associations to provide suitable public programs on Constitution Day and other appropriate holidays, having for their object a better understanding of the meaning of free government and equal justice under the law, to promote, in a proper and dignified way, public educational programs covering the history of the profession, the services to the public by the profession in modern times, the efforts of the bar to improve the administration of justice and to protect and preserve American institutions, and for these purposes, to establish and maintain a speakers' bureau to furnish speakers as occasions may require. All such activities improve the relationship between the public and the Bar.

In Colorado, sufficient legitimate publicity has probably never been given to the meetings of the State Bar Association and to an accurate report of the excellent addresses which are so often delivered at the annual meeting. Moreover, sufficient publicity is rarely given to the constructive work of committees, not merely for the internal admin-

*Of Denver, Chairman of the State Bar Committee on Public Relations.

istration of Bar Association activities, but upon those matters which have a definite public interest. Wherever possible, advance copies of such addresses might be obtained and the pertinent parts which are of general interest to the public might be placed in the hands of editors in sufficient time so that the addresses themselves might be accurately reported. This, of course, requires not only painstaking organization in the publicity committee, but also cooperation from all speakers and the press.

To these problems, generally speaking, the committee on publicity of the Colorado State Bar Association is giving its consideration and hopes to be able to make, at the next annual meeting, definite recommendations. In the meantime, the committee will attempt to provide for the distribution, through the press, of accurate reports of the state meeting. It has been suggested that local bar associations might well establish committees of a character similar to that of the State Association, in order that in the local press, matters affecting the standing of and the interest in the local bar might be stimulated and maintained. From such a relationship with the public and particularly the local newspapers, the standing of the profession in the local communities will doubtless be improved.

Newly Admitted Lawyers Honored at Denver by Junior Bar

Seventeen of the newly admitted members to the Bar were the guests at a dinner held Monday, March 11th, at the Albany Hotel in Denver by the Colorado Junior Bar Conference, following their admission before the Supreme Court of Colorado at 4:30 in the afternoon. This dinner marks the beginning of what the Conference hopes will be a new procedure, and it is the earnest desire of the Conference to continue honoring the new members of the profession following their admission. Its success was due to the cooperation of the Supreme Court in postponing the ceremony of admission until a late afternoon hour, and to the support of the members and officers of the Colorado Bar Association. With their continued cooperation and support, this affair will continue to be a semi-annual one:

Present at this dinner, in addition to the newly admitted members to the Bar, were the Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of Colorado, William R. Kelly, President of the Colorado Bar Association, Stanley T. Wallbank, of the National Conference of Bar Examiners, and Peter Hagner Holme, of the Denver Bar Association. Other distinguished members of the Colorado Bar Association and thirty-five members of the Conference were also present. Following the dinner, Hugh Henry, Chairman of the Colorado Junior Bar Conference, and acting toastmaster, welcomed the newly admitted members of the Bar

to the profession and spoke briefly about the work of the Colorado Junior Bar Conference. Peter Holme talked upon those things which he considered the attributes of a successful lawyer, one of the most important being a "saving sense of humor". Stanley T. Wallbank discussed the work of the National Conference of Bar Examiners and the difficulties involved in properly examining applicants for admission to the Bar.

William R. Kelly, President of the Colorado Bar Association, discussed the responsibility of the practicing attorney to the public, by whose grant he holds a monopoly on the legal profession, and to the profession itself. He said that he felt this responsibility could be best upheld by the young attorney, especially to the profession, by joining those bar associations of which he can become a member and by participating actively in their work.

Chief Justice Benjamin C. Hilliard closed the meeting with an address in which he pointed out that the job of the practicing attorney is not a small one to be undertaken lightly, but that, commensurate with the work involved, the opportunities in the practice of the profession of the law are continually increasing, and are as great as they have ever been. He said that he felt that the great lawyers in the profession were those who practiced before the Bar and upon whose shoulders the responsibility of actively upholding the dignity and honor of the profession rested.

—EDWARD J. RUFF.

Pueblo and Alamosa Plan Institutes for April, and Law Day Is Scheduled for That Month

Pueblo will be the site of a Legal Institute to be held by the Pueblo Bar Association on April 13th, according to an announcement made by J. Arthur Phelps, Member of the Legal Institutes Committee of the Colorado Bar Association.

Personal invitations have been sent to all lawyers in the Third, Fourth, Tenth and Eleventh Judicial Districts, and a general invitation is extended to all members of the Bar Association.

The Institute and dinner will be held at the Congress Hotel and will start at 3:00 o'clock, P. M. on Saturday, April 13th. The first speaker of the afternoon will be J. Glenn Donaldson, State Inheritance Tax Commissioner, who will discuss "State Inheritance and Gift Tax Law Administration." He will be followed by Omar E. Garwood, of Denver, who will speak on "Pre-trial Procedure." The dinner will be at 6:15 P. M., to be followed by short talks by William R. Kelly, President of the State Association, and William E. Hutton, of Denver, Chairman of the Legal Institutes Committee. The evening session will

be devoted to an address on "Chattel Mortgages" by Louis A. Hellerstein of Denver.

Another institute will be held in Alamosa on April 20th. At the time Dicta went to press, the local committee was unable to announce the names and addresses of the speakers.

It is also planned to hold institutes in Denver, Glenwood Springs and Boulder on dates to be later announced.

The University of Colorado will hold its annual Law Day on April 27th. According to present plans, as announced by Laurence DeMuth, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Law School, the morning session will be devoted to a discussion of practice and procedure before the National Labor Relations Board, and the afternoon session to practice and procedure before the Workmen's Compensation Act. A luncheon will be held in the Memorial Building under the auspices of the student bar association and a dinner that evening under the sponsorship of the Boulder County Bar Association, at which time a national figure will address the assemblage. Lawyers attending will be guests of the University at the Colorado Relays held that afternoon.

It is planned to hold the quarterly meeting of the Board of Governors at Boulder in conjunction with Law day on April 27th. The board meeting will commence at 3:00 o'clock in the Memorial Building and adjourn in time for the Law Day dinner.

The First Judicial District Bar Association in conjunction with the state bar held an institute at Brighton on March 30th. J. Glenn Donaldson, of Denver, spoke on inheritance and gift taxes at the afternoon session, and Morrison Shafroth, of Denver, talked about recent constitutional trends at the evening session. The meeting, which was well attended, was presided over by Judge Homer Preston, president of the local association.

Junior Bar Holds Regional Meetings

The Colorado conference of the Junior Bar has scheduled a luncheon meeting at Pueblo on April 13th in conjunction with the legal institute to be held that day. The luncheon meeting will start at 12:30 o'clock and will finish in time for the institute session at three that afternoon.

The second of the regional meetings to be held in conjunction with the legal institutes by the Junior Bar Conference took place at Brighton. Members of the conference met at Ingram's Cafe at noon and discussed various problems which affected the younger members of the bar.