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Current Events of Bench and Bar

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Current Events of Bench and Bar

FRED E. NEEF Reports the

Current Events of Bench and Bar



Supreme Court Decisions More Readable

A noticeable characteristic of recent opinions of the United States Supreme Court is their clarity and readability. This trend is ascribed to the new lay audience which the court has acquired through recent decisions on new deal social and economic legislative measures. Many of these decisions have been printed and circulated by Congress among laymen as well as lawyers.

Elimination of Part Time Practitioner Advocated

In a recent communication to the *New York Law Journal* a proposal that a substantial annual license fee be exacted of lawyers as a means of eliminating the "part-time" attorney was advanced. The "part-time" attorney was defined as one who handles legal business now and then while pursuing some other occupation. To eliminate the alleged wrong the proponent would impose an annual license fee on lawyers of as much as \$400. The fee would come back to the attorney in the form of legal books, services, and similar items, and in part could be used to inform the public of the benefits and advantages of employing regular counsel.

Character Examinations for Bar Applicants Criticised

Karl A. McCormick, Proctor of the Bar for the eighth judicial district, in his third annual report stated that the character examinations for applicants to the bar are inadequate. This inadequacy, he said, rests in the failure to examine the applicants until after they have graduated from law school. If examinations were conducted prior to law school enrollment, an unfit individual might be diverted to another career; but, under the present system the committee would not feel justified in denying admission after this individual had expended time, effort, and money

in the completion of a law course. A similar system has operated effectively in Pennsylvania for several years.

Civil Service for Government Attorneys

The President's Committee on Civil Service, headed by Supreme Court Justice Stanley F. Reed, will urge the selection of government attorneys through civil service competitive methods. While civil service methods will be employed, it is expected that the departmental legal executives will be given authority to conduct most of the examinations. Under the plan all jobs except those filled by presidential appointment would carry civil service status with its usual privileges.

Schools Should Teach Law of Today

Charles A. Beardsley, President of the A. B. A., told a group of law school deans and professors recently: "You are training the lawyers of tomorrow, and they should receive more training in the law that has been made since the steering-wheel became the family circle." He alleged that the law schools are teaching the same law that was taught a generation ago; namely, the common law, which has been largely supplanted by statute law. Beardsley pointed out that legal problems of tomorrow cannot be answered from the law of yesterday.

Cadavers for Lawyers

The University of Southern California is offering a new medical course for lawyers which calls for the use of cadavers rather than simply charts and text books. The theory of the course is to give lawyers a more realistic understanding of the medical issues involved in personal injury cases.

Statistics on Neighborhood Law Offices

Of the clients which visited the new neighborhood law offices in Philadelphia during their first month of operation, over 77 per cent had

never before consulted a lawyer for any purpose, it was recently announced. The announcement was regarded as significant in view of the criticism that the neighborhood offices were drawing business away from other lawyers. Other statistics disclosed were that 21% of the applicants were unemployed and that the remainder included skilled and ordinary laborers, farmers, clerical workers, salesmen, and domestics.

FRANK McDONOUGH, SR., FORMER DISTRICT JUDGE, IS DEAD

Frank McDonough, Sr., former district judge, died at his home in Denver on January 10, 1940, after an illness of two months.

Judge McDonough and his wife came to Denver in 1891 from his birthplace in Brooklyn, N. Y. He attended the University of Denver Law School, from which he graduated in 1896. He opened an office for the practice of law in Denver soon after his admittance to the bar.

In 1927 he was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Denver District Court bench. He was elected to that position in 1928 and remained on the bench until 1936.

Governor Teller Ammons appointed him a member of the Civil Service Commission in August, 1937, and he served there until his resignation on December 31, 1938.

During his 76 years of life, Judge McDonough served as president of the Colorado Sons of the Revolution, as trustee of Denver University, and a member of the athletic council, and as vice-president and a director of the University of Denver Stadium, Inc. He was active in church affairs, having been a trustee of the Trinity Methodist Church, vice-president and director of the Y. M. C. A., and an officer in the Church Extension Society.

At one time he served as board chairman and director of the North Side Community Center. He was a member of the Masonic order, a Shriner, and past commander of the Knights Templar.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four sons, Frank, Jr., Gilbert, Roger, and John, all of Denver, and two daughters, Grace E. McDonough of Grand Junction, and Mrs. Knight C. Porter of Gleneve, Ill.

SHAFROTH NEW HEAD IN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF FEDERAL COURTS

Will Shafroth, ambassador of good will for the legal profession, was appointed Chief of the Procedural Studies and Statistics in the administrative office of the United States courts, according to advice received by DICTA. The exact nature of Mr. Shafroth's work is unknown at the present time, but it is expected that he will be doing considerable field work in connection with superintending dockets of the federal courts.

Mr. Shafroth has been engaged almost entirely in legal organization work since 1934, when he left his practice in Denver to become director of the National Bar Program of the American Bar Association. Since that time he has served as adviser to the council of legal education of the American Bar Association and secretary of the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

LONG ILLNESS OF HUGO SELIG, PIONEER LAWYER, RESULTS IN DEATH

Hugo Selig, prominent pioneer lawyer of Montrose, died at his home in Montrose January 19, 1940. Death came after a protracted illness which forced him to abandon active practice.

Coming to Montrose in 1884 from Ohio where for a short time he was a school teacher and deputy clerk of court, Mr. Selig was admitted to the Colorado bar in that year; and quickly entered into the community life of the town. He served as deputy district attorney under John Gray for an eight-year term beginning in 1890. In 1905, Mr. Selig was elected district attorney.

He formed partnerships with some of the outstanding lawyers of the district during his years of practice. He was a charter member of the Elks, and was a member of the Knights of Pythias.

In 1905 he married Miss Le Vonne N. Morris. Besides his widow he is survived by two daughters, two granddaughters, a son, and three brothers.

Last fall Mr. Selig completed his autobiography, "Early Recollections," which was published in the *Montrose Daily Press*. In addition to personal matters, the biography tells many interesting stories of the

practice of law in a small western community during the last sixty years. A memorial to Mr. Selig was presented to the District Court at Montrose by John L. Stivers in behalf of the Montrose County Bar Association, and ordered spread upon the records of the court on January 22nd.

LAW LISTS APPROVED

The Special Committee on Law Lists of the American Bar Association has announced the law lists which have been approved as to 1940 editions. Under Canon 43, it is unethical for a lawyer to permit his name to be published in a list which has not been approved. The committee states that it will do all in its power to see that the canon is enforced. The approved list follows.

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| AMERICAN BANK ATTORNEYS. | MARTINDALE-HUBBELL LAW DIRECTORY. |
| THE AMERICAN BAR | THE MERCANTILE ADJUSTER. |
| AMERICAN INSURANCE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION. | THE NATIONAL LIST. |
| AMERICAN LAWYERS ANNUAL. | RAND McNALLY LIST OF BANK RECOMMENDED ATTORNEYS. |
| AMERICAN LAWYERS QUARTERLY. | RUSSELL LAW LIST. |
| A. C. A. LIST. | SULLIVAN'S LAW DIRECTORY. |
| ATTORNEYS LIST (U. S. F. & G.). | THE UNITED LAW LIST. |
| THE B. A. LAW LIST. | WILBER DIRECTORY OF ATTORNEYS AND BANKS. |
| BANKERS LAW REGISTER. | WRIGHT-HOLMES LAW LIST. |
| THE BAR REGISTER. | ZONE LAW LIST. |
| BEST'S RECOMMENDED INSURANCE ATTORNEYS. | |
| CAMPBELL'S LIST. | FOREIGN LISTS |
| CLEARING HOUSE QUARTERLY. | (U. S. A. Sections) |
| THE COLUMBIA LIST. | CANADA BONDED ATTORNEY. |
| THE COMMERCIAL BAR. | CANADA LEGAL DIRECTORY. |
| CORPORATION LAWYERS DIRECTORY. | CANADIAN LAW LIST. |
| THE C-R-C ATTORNEY DIRECTORY. | EMPIRE LAW LIST. |
| FORWARDERS LIST OF ATTORNEYS. | INTERNATIONAL LAW LIST. |
| THE HAYTHE GUIDE. | KIME'S INTERNATIONAL LAW DIRECTORY. |
| HINE'S INSURANCE COUNSEL. | THE LAW LIST. |
| THE INSURANCE BAR. | THE SCOTTISH LAW DIRECTORY. |
| INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS LAW LIST. | THE SCOTTISH LAW LIST. |
| THE LAWYERS DIRECTORY. | |
| THE LAWYERS LIST. | |

The members of the Committee are Stanley B. Houck, Chairman, Henry S. Ballard, George E. Brand, Earle W. Evans and Cassius E. Gates. Anyone desiring to communicate with the Committee with regard to matters affecting law lists, will kindly address the Secretary, Mr. Martin J. Teigan, 209 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

FIRST JUDICIAL BAR ASSOCIATION HEARS CONFESSIONS OF HORACE N. HAWKINS

Horace N. Hawkins, erstwhile resident of Denver and now a citizen of Jefferson County, was the principal speaker at the meeting of the First Judicial Bar Association held at the Edelweiss Cafe on January 19, 1940. Mr. Hawkins reminisced on his experiences, "After Fifty Years at the Bar." His delightful talk on his adventures in the law was preceded by the remarks of Judge Samuel A. Johnson of Arvada, who presented Mr. Hawkins to the group. Judge Johnson exhibited a program of the 4th Annual Banquet of the Denver Bar Association and a Red Book Guide to Denver, the possession of which he was unable to explain.

Judge Osmer E. Smith of Golden presided at the meeting and surrendered his gavel at the close to the newly elected president, Judge Homer G. Preston of Aurora. Judge Henry B. Teller of Littleton was selected vice-president and David W. Sarvas of Brighton as secretary-treasurer.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Hawkins was made an honorary member of the association. More than forty members of the association were present and in addition several county judges from other districts who were in town attending the County Judges meeting.

MESA BAR ADOPTS MINIMUM FEE SCHEDULE AND ESTABLISHES LIBRARY FUND

The Mesa County Bar Association held a dinner meeting on December 22, 1939, at the LaCourt Hotel in Grand Junction. James K. Groves of Grand Junction was elected president of the association for the coming year, and Eugene H. Mast of Grand Junction was re-elected secretary.

John P. Helman of Grand Junction made a report for the minimum fee committee. The schedule of fees adopted is to be distributed among the members of the association in printed form.

Upon motion, it was voted that a library fund be established for the Mesa County Bar Association and that all members of the association be placed upon a list and that they be appointed in rotation as guardians ad litem and attorneys for indigent defendants in criminal

cases, as nearly as possible and within the discretion of the court. The fees received from such appointments are to be paid into the library fund.

—JOHN C. BANKS, *Correspondent*.

PERSONALS FROM GRAND JUNCTION

Hon. Straud M. Logan, judge of the District Court of the 7th Judicial District, was married to Miss Fannie Morris on December 18, 1939.

Thomas K. Younge, who has been associated with the firm of Tupper, Smith and Holmes for the past year, is now associated with the firm of McMullin, Sternberg & Helman.

Loring W. Jordan, who practiced law in Grand Junction from 1917 to 1926, but has recently been located in Oregon, has now returned to Grand Junction, and opened an office for the practice of law in the Electric Building.

—JOHN C. BANKS, *Correspondent*.

LEGAL CHATTER

Legal Chatter Publications, Candler Building, Baltimore, Md., will without obligation mail copies of *Legal Chatter* to all DICTA readers who might be interested in receiving them.

DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES!

The Secretary's office hereby announces that dues are due and past due. Please take notice and bring your account up to date immediately.

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