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## Current Events of Bench and Bar

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## Current Events of Bench and Bar

# **Current Events of Bench and Bar**

By FRED E. NEEF

## *Proposal That Attorneys Have Authority of Notary—*

The Ohio State Bar Association will probably sponsor legislation under which an attorney will be given the power of a notary by virtue of his office, and be permitted to exercise the authority anywhere in the state. It is also proposed that no bond be required, it being enough that the lawyer is an officer of the court, and is subject to removal or suspension for misconduct involving moral turpitude.

## *Denver Statistics on Family Legal Work—*

Statistics of the Department of Labor show that on so-called family legal work, as distinguished from business legal work, in Denver, one family in twenty-nine consult a lawyer during the year, and each one hundred families spend \$131 per year for legal service.

## *Attention Western Lawyers—*

Congressman O'Toole of New York is sponsoring legislation before Congress which provides that an attorney admitted to practice before courts in one federal circuit or district is automatically admitted to all other similar tribunals throughout the United States. The only formality to be observed is the filing of a certificate of admission and the payment of the fees. Western lawyers should be concerned over the measure for large New York law firms might start operating on a national scale and obtain the cream of the local business before the federal courts.

## *Secret Reports to Federal Trade Commission—*

A surprise to many lawyers was the revelation by the Attorney General's Administrative procedure Committee that the Federal Trade Commission on occasions obtains confidential reports from its trial examiners. These reports are in addition to the usual intermediate reports served upon all parties. They are made at the time the Commission is preparing to decide a case and may be either in the form of a written memorandum or answers to questions propounded orally by F.T.C. members.

## *Blood Test Used to Determine Intoxication—*

In a recent case in Iowa the results of a blood test were used as defense evidence in a prosecution for driving while intoxicated, and formed the basis of a jury verdict of acquittal. The test although made six hours after defendant's arrest, was claimed by medical experts to show that the defendant could not have been intoxicated at the time the accident occurred. The pathologist who made the examination testified that by the standard of the American Medical Association a person is intoxicated when his blood shows 150 miligram of alcohol for each

100 cubic centimeters. According to this standard it would take more than twelve hours, the witness said, for all traces of alcohol to disappear from the blood of one who had been intoxicated.

*Survey Shows Serious Decline in Legal Work—*

A survey of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin of civil litigation in Chicago shows a substantial decrease. In the period from 1930-1939 there was a decrease of more than 31% in the number of civil filings in Circuit, Superior, and Municipal Courts in that City; the drop being from 196,507 in 1930 to 135,005 in 1939. In the same period there was an increase of more than 34% in the number of lawyers, from 8,460 to 11,369.

*Plan to Limit Size of Supreme Court Held Undesirable—*

A proposed amendment to the Constitution to fix the number of Supreme Court Justices at nine was disapproved by the Chicago Bar Association's committee on federal legislation. The committee concurred in the view of the Chief Justice, expressed in 1937, that at the present time the Court has a sufficient number of justices, but circumstances in the future might necessitate a change in the number.

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**Gay Plans Completed for Glenwood Springs Institute**

The Ninth Judicial District Bar Association, in conjunction with the Colorado Bar Association, will hold a Legal Institute at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, on Saturday, June 22nd, 1940 at Hotel Colorado, according to the announcement made by C. H. Darrow, president of the local association.

Morrison Shafroth of Denver will discuss New Constitutional Law, and Albert J. Gould of Denver will speak on Tax Highlights for Busy Lawyers.

A banquet on that evening is planned, after which there will be a special entertainment and a ball. On Sunday, June 23rd, there will be a golf tournament in the forenoon and a bathing beauty contest and water sports carnival in the afternoon, to be enjoyed by lawyers who desire to remain over Sunday.

Attorneys planning to attend the Institute should make reservations at the earliest possible date.

The Mid-Western Colorado Bar Association held its annual Institute at Delta on May 18, 1940 in conjunction with its annual meeting. The afternoon session was devoted to speeches by Silmon Smith of Grand Junction, on Taxation; and Golding Fairfield of Denver on the delivery of deeds and new developments in real estate law.

After the banquet, Morrison Shafroth of Denver spoke on the New Constitutional Law. The Institute was well attended and was highly successful.

## **Board of Governors' Meeting Discusses Code Revision and Changes in By-Laws**

The Board of Governors of the State Bar held its second meeting of the year at Boulder on April 27th.

One of the main items of discussion was the Code Revision work. Philip Van Cise, Chairman of the Committee working on the new rules, revealed that the preliminary draft had been completed for study by the Committee members and the Board of Governors. He estimated that the work would cost the Association approximately \$1,500 in addition to the \$500 that has already been spent on the work. A special committee consisting of Wilbur F. Denious, Worth Allen, Ira C. Rothgerber, Albert J. Gould, Dudley W. Strickland, William R. Kelly, William C. Hutton, and Wm. Hedges Robinson, Jr., *ex officio*, was appointed by President Kelly to consider ways and means of financing the revision and publishing the completed revision.

Changes in the by-laws of the Association were ordered by the Board of Governors to correct minor kinks found in the present by-laws. The Committee was ordered to present a draft of the necessary changes for presentation at the Annual Meeting. A motion to amend the by-laws in order to raise dues a dollar a year was referred to a committee to investigate the feasibility of the change. A further proposed amendment approved by the Board would enlarge the membership of the Association by permitting law school students to join the association at reduced fees, and provide for contributing and associate memberships.

The Board received reports from the various committees among which Joseph Hodges, Chairman of Docket Fee Tax Committee, reported that the docket fee had accumulated \$46,372.75, and that the tax would probably be removed by September 1, 1940.

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## **PROMINENT IDAHO SPRINGS ATTORNEY DIES**

Fred L. Collom of 1101 Colorado Boulevard, Idaho Springs, died at the Mercy Hospital in Denver Tuesday evening, February 27, 1940. He had been in failing health for some time and was ill for several weeks preceding his death.

Mr. Collom was born in Black Hawk, Colorado, August 31, 1874. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Collom, were pioneer settlers of Colorado, his father being a well-known millwright. Mr. Fred Collom attended the local schools at Idaho Springs, where the family moved in 1878, graduating in 1896. He graduated from the Colorado University school of law and started the practice of law in 1901 in the Mining Camp of Ward, Colorado. He located later in Rico, then in Idaho Springs and

finally opened his own law office in the Hanchett Building continuing up to the time of his illness.

Mr. Collom was counsellor and attorney for a number of large mining interests in the state of Colorado, also a member of Idaho Springs lodge No. 26, A.F. and A.M.

Mr. Collom was married in 1905 to Miss Augusta Hayes, in Denver, daughter of a prominent Idaho Springs family. After her death in 1933 he was again married in 1936 to Mary Reed of Denver. He is survived by his wife and by two sisters, Mrs. George L. Hanson, of Idaho Springs, and Mrs. Ida M. Elliot, of Los Angeles, California, also by a brother, Mr. Charles D. Collom, of San Diego, California.

Funeral services were held in Denver Friday, March 1, 1940, at the Horan Mortuary.

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## SOUTHERN COLORADO BAR SELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Southern Colorado Bar Association met at Walsenburg on the evening of June 4th, with an attendance of twenty-two. Mr. William R. Kelly, President of the Colorado Bar Association, gave the address of the evening, after which a musical program, sponsored by the Walsenburg members, was enjoyed.

A resolution was adopted addressed to the Colorado Bar Association asking that action be taken relative to the practice of law by unauthorized persons in Colorado.

The following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year: Ralph T. Hunter, Trinidad, President; Angelo Mosco, Walsenburg, Vice-President; Gilbert Sanders, Trinidad, Secretary-Treasurer.

—J. EDGAR CHENOWETH, *Correspondent*.

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Morrison Shafroth spoke before the El Paso County Bar Association at its monthly meeting during May. His talk dealt with new constitutional problems. Mr. S. Arthur Henry, president of the Denver Bar Association, and William E. Hutton, president-elect of the state bar, were also present as guests of the local group.

The Midwestern Bar Association held its annual meeting at Delta on May 25th, in conjunction with a legal institute. William E. Hutton of Denver presided at the institute as chairman of the state committee on legal institutes. Silmon Smith of Grand Junction, Morrison Shafroth of Denver, and Golding Fairfield of Denver were the speakers at the institute.

The Midwestern Association heard committee reports in the morning and thereafter proceeded to the election of officers. Donald S. Stubbs of Montrose was selected as president for the coming year.