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Reports of Committees

Dicta Editorial Board

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Space will not permit reproduction in full of the reports of the various committees of the Denver Bar Association for the past year.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Publicity Committee, Tom L. Pollock, Chairman, expresses appreciation for very cordial and effective cooperation by the committee members and states that the activities of the Bar Association received splendid publicity and consideration at the hands of the press.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Committee on Membership, Gail L. Ireland, Chairman, reports 75 new members during the past year.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The Committee on Ethics, Simon J. Heller, Chairman, reports that no question arose during the past year which required the services of his committee. Several inquiries were addressed to the chairman but were never followed up by the interested party.

LEGAL AID COMMITTEE

The Legal Aid Committee, John F. Rotruck, Chairman, reports that during the year 1932 the most important case under consideration involved the Legal Aid Society, in that it appeared that the members of the society had been laboring under the misapprehension that the official work of the society included much unnecessary detail work; also that members of the society in actual employment on monthly salaries were accepting fees and gratuities for services rendered in line with the regular employment—in other words they were receiving double pay for the work done. The report states: "After a thorough investigation of all the different ramifications of the work assigned to and assumed to be done by the Legal Aid Society, it became necessary, in the judgment of the committee, to promulgate and insist on the enforcement of certain rules of procedure in aid of the work to be done by the Legal Aid Society and in accordance therewith the following code was adopted by your committee, to-wit:

That the said *Legal Aid Society* will not

- 1 File petitions in bankruptcy;
- 2 File forcible entry and unlawful detainer cases, nor defend the same, unless it is absolutely necessary to do so in justice to the defense of vested rights;
- 3 File or appear in the estate or probate matters;
- 4 File divorce suits;

5 Defend litigants in divorce suits, unless requested so to do by the Courts;

6 File nor present Industrial Relations claims, where the award may exceed \$100.00;

7 File suits of any nature, where the amount involved exceeds \$100.00;

8 Examine abstracts of title for real estate;

9 Draw wills or trust agreements;

10 Do scrivener work in connection with the transfer or mortgaging of real estate or personal property;

11 Accept for collection accounts for amounts in excess of \$100.00;

12 Represent defendants in criminal matters;

13 Permit its employees to engage in any of the above prohibited activities, personally, directly or indirectly, or to receive compensation therefor."

The chairman further states that as a result of the activity of the District Attorney's office beginning in February of this year in connection with the prosecution of violations of the money lending laws of this state, and as the result of the publication of his photograph in connection with a statement of the existence of the Legal Aid Committee, the chairman within the next few months interviewed and was consulted by approximately 1,040 persons, and during the past two years nearly 1,300 persons had consulted him.

The chairman further states: "Many local attorneys have been called upon for assistance in this work with the indigent class, and let it be said with pride and credit to the profession of the law, whose members are at times vilified and slandered unnecessarily by those who should know better, that the attorneys who were called upon for services in this unrecompensing work responded one hundred per cent, although most of them knew when they entered upon their allotments that there was nothing for them in the way of remuneration to be expected from a practically destitute class of applicants."

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Joseph P. Constantine, Chairman, reports that their outstanding accomplishment was in securing passage of a bill for an Act to provide for the consolidation of the offices of the Clerks of the Justice Courts in cities having a population of more than 100,000. This measure now appears as Chapter 11, Session Laws of the Second Extraordinary Session, 1933-1934. The committee also had before it consideration of the advisability of a new compilation of the Colorado statutes and a measure was favorably reported, but failed of consideration by the Legislature.