

# Denver Law Review

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Volume 1 | Issue 2

Article 1

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1924

## Vol. 1, no. 2: Full Issue

Denver Bar Association Record

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### Recommended Citation

1 Denv. B. Ass'n Rec. (1924).

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## THE DENVER BAR ASSOCIATION

# R E C O R D

P U B L I S H E D M O N T H L Y

VOL. I

DENVER, JANUARY, 1924

No. 2

### NOTICE

The Meetings Committee had a splendid program arranged for the regular January meeting which should have been held the first Monday in this month. Plans miscarried. But they have several splendid programs arranged for the near future.

#### J. HAM LEWIS MEETING HELD DECEMBER 24, 1923

(Contributed)

The announcement that former U. S. Senator James Hamilton Lewis would address the Denver Bar Association brought a record attendance on Monday, December 24th. Ordinarily the day-before-Christmas crowd would be small, even though lawyers are not supposed to have any loose cash to spend just at that season of the year, but "Jim Ham" Lewis is an attraction not to be denied.

So the crowd came. And they had a surprise for many came expecting to be delighted with fancy clothes and pink whiskers which the cartoonists of the country have made famous and to be regaled with witty pleasantries and maybe, something more. Instead, they heard a scholarly, polished address, thoroughly conservative and on a level with the very best addresses that have been made before the Denver Bar Association in the past ten years.

Senator Lewis commands exquisite English, he speaks with a suave polished manner and he has a wit that is keen as a rapier. He uses it semi-occasionally and makes what is seemingly a gentle thrust but he generally lands hard—if we may use pugilistic terms when describing a rapier.

He talked on dangers to America chiefly from lack of education in the fundamentals of American government. He reveres the constitution and feels that American lawyers are its

chief defenders. He told them that education to the uses and benefits of American citizenship was the sole hope of the country and that in that task the lawyers stood foremost. He compared Rome with America and many recalled that Senator Lewis is himself the author of a very readable and really profound work on Rome and America, much of the type of former Governor Hadley's book which has attracted so much attention from the bar of the country.

Senator Lewis felt that the present demands of the western farmers for help from the public treasury were wrong, uneconomic and unscientific and were symptomatic of decay in the fiber of our citizenship. He compared them to the demands of the common people of Rome for bread and corn and to the demands of Italian farmers that they be helped from the public treasury in times of distress. This comparison seemed rather far-fetched to some of his listeners for no one could believe that America is in as bad shape as Rome was in her declining days and indeed the speaker did not indulge a generalization so broad as that.

Not the least interesting part of his speech was when he told of coming to Denver in the early eighties and trying to get a position in the law offices of Shafroth, Luthe and Stallcup. This was the late Senator John F. Shafroth and had he been taken in then, James H. Lewis would have been a member of the Denver bar and who knows what fate would have held in store for him.

The closing paragraphs of the speech were eloquent and impressive. They touched again on the need of dignifying and upholding the highest traditions of American citizenship and they were received with great applause.

The lawyers of Denver feel pleased that the Meetings Committee and officers of our association are able to secure celebrities of the J. Hamilton Lewis type when they come to Denver.



ment and co-ordination of office work. Inasmuch as our stenographer problem is much the same as the maid problem is to the housewife, some thought should be devoted to this phase of our office work. High pay, with much gadding and kicking, is what the lawyer in ordinary practice must contend with. This combined with poor work, and work which must be done over many times, exhausts the patience and pocket book of many attorneys. To overcome all our problems at one time is impossible, but if we will start on some of the fundamentals, progress will be made that will prove gratifying.

A dictaphone is a splendid instrument to use, as it permits dictation when the stenographer is otherwise engaged, also night work, and if your stenographer is of the ordinary kind, as most of them now are, you can dictate your technical briefs with long legal phrases to this machine and send the records to any one of a half-dozen public stenographers who perform or have performed court work, and have them returned in a few hours perfectly finished.

A typewriter in good repair and with type properly aligned is of such importance that the other kind should never be tolerated. And to send out work where dirty type is used is inexcusable. When one considers that our letters and legal documents go forth from us to be seen and shown to many we must realize that the reader of these papers must form a concept of the writer or firm in accordance with the work before him, and a poorly prepared, carelessly typed letter or paper to him means but one thing, and that is, a careless and shoddy lawyer and one to whom he would entrust no business.

A flat-top desk, kept clean, adds to the appearance of any office and if you will take the time to look around the modern business office you will note but very few of the other kind. One of our lawyers in Denver has found that he can use to great advantage an open index card system which reveals instantly a hundred cards, with names, and case numbers all before him. This helps with his court records and current matters that have not reached the litigating stage. A filing system that permits of flat filing, without folding, certainly should

be installed without argument. A careful system of books should be kept and when the size of business done permits, should be regularly audited. The books can consist of a check distributor, which shows to which account the check should be charged, a voucher check, a ledger and a receipt book which permits of duplicate receipts. This together with a ledger any lawyer or his stenographer could readily keep.

A few moments devoted to careful planning—a few dollars well spent could work wonders. It should give the lawyer additional time for important work and an office well planned, and kept up to standard should give him a great deal of additional time. At least he would, in many instances, save himself and our profession, from the rebuke of the court for failing to have his case prepared, or in not being able to present an important document at the right time, and it would greatly assist him in speedily finding all papers together at the time when he wants them most. In addition to all this he would be able to convince his clients more readily that here indeed was a lawyer who was competent and efficient and one who devoted the care and attention to the client's business that it deserved.

## REVISION OF SUPREME COURT RULES

(Contributed)

The Supreme Court has issued and distributed a revision of its rules, effective January 1, 1924. So much of Rule No. 3, relating to change of venue, as is superseded by the Act of 1923, has been omitted. A bill of exceptions may now be tendered to the clerk. In case a bond filed in the Supreme Court is executed under a power of attorney the clerk of that court may require the filing therewith of a copy of the power. "Oral arguments" may not hereafter be read, and are waived en banc in cases orally argued in department, unless specially requested. The practice of granting prohibition on the sole ground of a wrongful denial of a change of venue is abolished. Books withdrawn from the library must first be registered with the librarian and be returned within five days.

In addition to the foregoing changes the rules governing admission and dis-

cipline have been entirely rewritten. The old Committee of Examiners will be succeeded by two committees. The first of these, the "Law Committee," reports upon the general and legal educational qualifications, and the second, the "Bar Committee," upon the moral and ethical qualifications, of all applicants. Every applicant, irrespective of admission, must pay a \$10.00 examination fee. These fees are deposited in a separate fund devoted to the payment of expenses of examinations, admission and discipline. The vacation period allowed to office students is cut to two months per annum and no extra credit is given therefor if the vacation be not taken. If an application for admission be filed after January 1, 1927, the general educational qualifications required must include one year of collegiate study, or its equivalent. Further examinations will be held the first week in December and July, at which time the Bar Committee will personally interview all candidates. An applicant once failing may take the next examination. After a second failure he is barred for one year, and after a third he may be re-examined only by special permission of the court and upon good cause shown. Wider publicity is given the names of all applicants for admission and ample opportunity provided for the filing, consideration and disposition of all objections. The oath required is that recommended by the American Bar Association. It must be taken in open session of the court en banc unless for good cause the acting Chief Justice orders it be taken in open session of the district court; and the rules further provide that any conduct inconsistent with its principles shall be cause for discipline. Any member of the Colorado bar who shall be disbarred from practice in any other state will thereupon be cited to show cause why he should not be disbarred here. On that hearing the record of his foreign disbarment is made prima facie proof against him. The canons of ethics as adopted by the American Bar Association are recommended by the court as a standard of professional conduct and published as an appendix to the rules.

The new rules not only provide additional educational qualifications for the study of law, but tighten the requirements for admission in numerous

minor particulars and clarify many indefinite portions of former regulations. The standard thus set gives Colorado third place among the states of the Union. It is now outranked only by Illinois and Kansas.

The December number of The American Bar Association Journal has several interesting and instructive articles that should interest the members of our profession. The Massachusetts, or Common Law Trust, is explained by William W. Cook. The Earl of Birkenhead contributes an article on "The Lawyers Who Really Count." "The Function of Law in Industrial Disputes" is discussed by Murray T. Quigg. "The Law of Aviation" is ably treated by Herman Oliphant and many citations set forth. Announcements with regard to the arrangements being made for the London meeting of the American Bar Association are also set forth in this issue. Single copies of the Journal may be purchased for twenty-five cents at Herrick's Book and Stationery Company, 934 15th street, Denver.

Russell W. Fleming, Attorney General of the State of Colorado, died December 25, 1923. In his death the people of the State of Colorado are deprived of the services of a fearless and capable servant, and the bar of the state has lost a brilliant member. A foe to evildoers, the cause of righteousness never lacked a champion in Russell W. Fleming.

It is our intention to make "The Record" as interesting as possible and contributions from members of The Denver Bar Association are solicited. Forward articles and humorous stories, jokes, etc., to Jacob V. Schaezel, Secretary, 718 Symes Bldg.

Wayne C. Williams was appointed Attorney General of the State of Colorado to fill the unexpired term of Russell W. Fleming, deceased. Mr. Williams has been a member of the Denver Bar Association since 1911, and in assuming this position of honor and great responsibility, he has the best wishes of his brother members of the Denver Bar.