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## Report of the College of Law - University of Wyoming

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appreciate the fine cooperation of all officials and members of the Bar at all times. I did not call a meeting of the Commissioners during the year, since so much time was taken up with the meetings of the Rules Advisory Committee. Some matters were submitted to the Commissioners by ballot, and upon these or any other request I uniformly received a prompt and considered reply.

I am particularly grateful to the members of the Rules Advisory Committee. The total sessions of this committee consumed twelve days, and at every meeting not less than seven of the eight members were present. Between meetings, a vast amount of time was expended by each member of the committee in preparation of the preliminary drafts of the rules, and each member had to supply a considerable amount of stenographic work. After the preliminary drafts were considered by the committee and changes made, each member prepared the final copy which was used for publication of the rules as to the particular division or divisions assigned to him. Whatever the wishes of the Bar may be with respect to the proposed rules, I am happy in the belief that they represent a careful and comprehensive consideration of the subject.

Largely because of my election as president a year ago, I attended the American Bar Association meeting in Cleveland, September 22 to 26, 1947. I received many fine suggestions from attendance at the different sections, as well as from the fine addresses of leaders of the Bar. Wyoming has the lowest membership in the American Bar of any state. I believe we are lacking in appreciation of the many fine accomplishments of the American Bar and that our membership should be increased.

Much can be accomplished by the Wyoming Bar, and I shall be happy to relinquish my office to my successor, in the firm belief that the members of this organization will continuously strive to achieve improvement in the administration of justice and a better service of the bar and the bench to the public.

W. J. Wehrli.

#### REPORT OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Since the College of Law of our State University is the principal source of new members of the Bar, the Bar of the state is vitally interested in the activities of the College and the quality of the training prospective members of the Bar receive. I am very glad, therefore, to submit to the Bar of the State this report of the activities of the College during the academic year 1947-48.

Professor Edward P. Morton, who had been a member of the law staff for the past two years, resigned at the end of the spring term. Professor Morton taught the courses in Property, Constitutional and Administrative Law. He was a very valuable member of the staff and his loss will be felt keenly. However, we were extremely fortunate in procuring Professor John O. Rames, of Denver, to replace Professor Morton. Mr. Rames is an honor graduate of the University of Colorado Law School and practiced 12 years in the office of Henry McAllister in Denver. He assumed his duties at the beginning of the summer session, 1948, and shows great promise as a teacher and legal scholar.

Professor Frank J. Trelease was visiting Professor of Law at the University of Texas Law School during the 1948 summer session. Professors Rudolph and Kuntz, who came to us at the beginning of the fall term, 1947, are proving to be extremely capable members of the staff. The over-all quality of our staff has been the subject of much favorable comment by Deans and Professors in other Association schools, and the standing of the College nationally has been materially raised. All members of the staff have had two or more years of experience in legal practice in fine offices.

Enrollment in the College at the opening of the fall term, 1947, was 78 students. At the close of the school year, June 1948, 71 students were enrolled. During the year a substantial number dropped out for a variety of reasons and others enrolled at the beginning of the winter and spring terms. Of the 71 students in the College at the end of the spring term, it is estimated that about 15 will not return at the opening of the fall term, 1948. The enrollment for the fall term will show some increase over the 1947 fall term enrollment, and unless all indications fail, the peak enrollment in the College will be reached during the school year 1948-49. Registration of all out-of-state students was closed as of August 25th. It is estimated that 90 to 95 students will be in attendance at the opening of the 1948 fall term. The overwhelming majority of our students are residents of Wyoming, although the number of applications for admission from outside the state is increasing. With very few exceptions, all of our law students are ex-service men and women and are taking advantage of the G. I. Bill of Rights to obtain their legal education.

The number of ex-service men beginning pre-legal study has dropped off sharply and it is reasonable to assume that the number will continue to decrease. Also, the total number of pre-legal students is declining. These facts are the basis for our conclusion that the peak of enrollment in the College of Law will be reached at the beginning of the 1948 fall quarter and that enrollment in the College will drop sharply within the next two years and probably level off at an enrollment of from 55 to 65 students. It is obvious, however, that the operation of the draft law, a recurrence of war, or an economic depression may render any of the above estimates worthless.

During the academic year 1947-48 fifteen students were graduated from the College of Law. All have taken and successfully passed the Wyoming State Bar examination. Of the 15 graduates, 8 definitely plan to enter the practice in Wyoming, 7 definitely will not practice. Of the 8 who plan to practice in Wyoming 5 are now located, one is seeking office space, and 2 are uncertain as to where they will locate. Of the 7 who do not plan to practice, 2 are University Instructors, 2 are engaged in business, one will continue in the Athletic Department of the University, one has accepted a position with the Wyoming Public Service Commission, and one is undecided as to her future plans. It is interesting to note the number of students who take legal training for purposes other than preparation for law practice.

A number of changes in admission policies as it affects the College are contemplated. For a number of years considerable thought has been given to in-

creasing the amount of pre-legal work required for admission to the College from 2 to 3 years. In fact, students have been urged to take a minimum of 3 years of pre-legal work if at all possible, and an increasing number have done so. Many are taking advantage of what we term the 3-3 combination, which enables a student to earn a degree in Liberal Arts, Commerce, and certain other fields at the end of his first year of legal study, and the LL.B. degree at the end of an additional 2 years of work in the College of Law. The number of ex-service men who were eager to complete their law work as quickly as possible has delayed consideration of putting into effect the 3 year pre-legal requirement. Since the enrollment peak of veterans seems now to have been reached, it is probable that such requirement will be adopted within the next year or so.

Serious consideration is also being given to raising the minimum grade requirement for admission into the College. At present it is the minimum average required for graduation from the University, namely, "C" or III. This consideration is the result of our experience that students who enter the College of Law with the minimum grade average have extreme difficulty in doing acceptable work in law, although there are, of course, exceptions. Details on this point have not been worked out, but will be a subject of investigation by the law staff during the first part of the 1948-49 school year. It is hoped that the adoption of either or both of the requirements indicated will result in the improvement of the over-all quality of students entering the practice in the State.

Work by students on the Wyoming Law Journal has contributed to improvement in the work of such students far beyond our expectations. Since each of you receive a copy of the Journal you have read the Comments and Casenotes written by students, under faculty direction, and have doubtless appraised their quality. Work on the Journal has proven to be an extremely valuable and effective teaching device. The principal share of the credit for the success of this work is due Professors Trelease and Rudolph, Faculty Advisers of the Board of Editors of the Journal.

The staff of the College appreciate the interest of the members of the Bar of the State and earnestly solicit its continuance. We deeply appreciate your co-operation, particularly with respect to the publishing of the Journal, and we shall strive to merit your continued co-operation and support to the end that the Bar of the State may be constantly improved. The College is eager, not only to improve the quality of its instruction, but also to be of service to the Bar. It welcomes suggestions from members of the Bar as to services it may render, and you are invited to visit the College at any time, inspect its work and visit the students and staff.

R. R. Hamilton,  
*Dean.*

#### REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

During the past year, the Wyoming State Bar has lost three of its most outstanding members. Each was a leader in his community. Each was a leader in his profession. Each of the three had long and outstanding careers in the legal