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Report of the College of Law University of Wyoming

Wyoming State Bar

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3. That the Committee work closely with the Bar Commissioners on the matter of the definition of the practice of law and on the problem of unauthorized practice.

Dated at Rawlins, Wyoming, this First day of September, 1949.

George F. Guy
Charles Crowell
Frank B. O'Mahoney
William Garlow
Eph U. Johnson.

REPORT OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

I am pleased to make this report to the members of the Bar of the activities of the University of Wyoming College of Law for the academic year 1948-49. An annual report by the Dean of the College has been made to the Bar Association for a great many years, and those of you who have followed them carefully can hardly fail to be impressed with the progress it has made since its very humble beginnings 29 years ago. From an obscure department under the supervision of the Department of Political Science of the University, it has developed into a College which has the highest accredited standing it is possible for a law school to attain, and has gained national recognition.

In the report of last year, it was indicated that a change in the pre-legal requirements for admission to the College was under consideration. This change is now an accomplished fact. Effective as of the beginning of the fall quarter, 1949, three years of pre-legal work instead of two, will be required for admission. The requirement is, of course, not retroactive, and those students who began their pre-legal work before the beginning of the 1949 spring term will be admitted under the old requirement of two years of pre-legal training. The great majority of our present students have had three or more years of college work, and many of them had degrees prior to enrollment in the College of Law, hence no difficulty in making the transition is contemplated.

For many years, pre-legal students have been encouraged to take advantage of what we term a 3-3 plan whereby they may fulfill the requirements for a degree in the College of Liberal Arts, Commerce or Engineering in three years, take their electives in law, qualify for a degree in one of those Colleges at the end of the first year of legal study, and, upon the completion of the final two years of legal study, qualify for the LL.B. degree. A student is thus able to earn two degrees in 6 years rather than one in five. Many students followed this program, and, with the adoption of the 3 year pre-legal requirement, it is reasonable to suppose that the number following it will increase.

However, the 3-3 plan referred to did not meet the needs of those students who were unable to fulfill the specific group requirements of the respective colleges, but who, nevertheless, had completed, or were desirous of completing,

a three year program of pre-legal courses especially designed for prospective law students. It was thought that such students should not be placed in a less advantageous position than those enrolled in the other colleges and that the special 3 year pre-legal program should lead to a degree upon the completion of the first year of legal study. In order to meet this need, the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the law faculty, approved the awarding of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Law. The program is proving to be a popular one, and a number of students have received this degree.

Enrollment for the fall quarter, 1948, was 94. Of this number 49 were first year students, 18 second year, and 27 third year. Spring term enrollment was 76, of which number 38 were first year students, 14 second year and 24 third year. The enrollment in the academic year 1948-49 is expected to be the post war peak and the leveling off process is beginning. It is estimated that the fall 1949 enrollment will be about 75 or 80. Twenty-five students were graduated during the year, 10 of which took the Wyoming Bar examination in March. All were successful in the examination. Of the 10 successful candidates, 5 entered the practice in Wyoming and the remainder, with one exception, have accepted positions in fields related to the practice. Of the 25 who were graduated during the year, 15 received their degrees at the June, 1949 commencement. These took the Bar examination June 27-28, and are now awaiting the results. Some have practice connections contingent upon their success in the examination, while others are waiting until the results of the examination are announced before seeking a connection in the practice or a position.

The College is fortunate in being able to retain its complete full-time faculty for next year. Two changes will be made in the part-time staff. Last spring term Judge Tidball asked to be relieved of his duties for that term and Mr. M. E. Corthell assumed them. Mr. Corthell will again relieve Judge Tidball in the 1950 spring term. Mr. A. M. Pence will teach the course in Municipal Corporations the fall term.

Professor John O. Rames, who joined our staff at the beginning of the 1948 summer session, is taking special work this summer at the University of Minnesota Law School. The remaining members of the staff are engaged in summer school teaching on the campus.

For a number of years it has been the policy of the College to invite leading members of the State Bar to lecture to our students. Some of you here have favored us with an appearance. This policy will be continued. It is our belief that the program of the College can be further enriched by inviting lecturers from without the state to appear before our students. A step in this direction was made this summer by bringing to the campus Judge Charles S. Desmond, Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. He delivered a series of 10 lectures on "Civil Rights". The lectures were well received and students and faculty were of the opinion that they were indeed very worth while. We are able to procure lecturers of the high standing of Judge Desmond for little more than nominal financial consideration due to the attractiveness of our summer climate, and it is our plan to exploit such attractiveness for this purpose in the future.

The Association of American Law Schools and The American Bar Association are continuing their aggressive campaign to improve legal standing. In previous reports I discussed in some detail curricular developments and changes which have transpired during the last few years and no useful purpose would be served by further discussion of them in this report. However, it will interest the Bar to know that both Associations, particularly the Association of American Law Schools, has, within the last few years, interested itself greatly in teaching methods. They have abandoned the idea that if a teacher knows the law it follows that he can teach it. Much experimentation in teaching methods is now being conducted and law teachers exchange their experiences freely. This emphasis on the pedagogical aspects of teaching is long over due, and that it will result in better teaching is hardly open to question. The staff of the College is assuming its responsibility in this regard and seeks constantly to adapt its methods and offerings to modern practice and developments.

The College is eager to render any possible service to the Bar and to inaugurate any program within its resources which will tend to promote its welfare. In my last report I discussed the proposal of the American Law Institute to conduct a program for Continuing Legal Education in Wyoming. At that time the program did not appear feasible. However, it has occurred to us that a different type of program might be arranged, possibly under the joint sponsorship of the Bar and the College, if the Bar desires it and considers it feasible. We have thought of establishing what I shall call, for lack of a better name, the Wyoming Law Institute. It is our thought that possibly during the third or fourth week in August, the University Summer Science Camp might be made available for use by the Institute. We think it may be possible to induce three or four nationally known judges and lawyers to participate in the Institute and at reasonable cost, due to the prospect of spending a week in the attractive Camp surroundings. They, as well as the members of the Bar, would be invited to bring their wives, and combine their Institute activities with a pleasant vacation. I have discussed the idea with the President of the University and he is favorable to it if details can be worked out to the satisfaction of the Bar and the University. We shall appreciate having the opinion and advice of the Bar as to the feasibility and practicability of the idea.

During the last year, members of the staff served as consultants to a number of state agencies, among them the Legislative Interim Committee. Out of these activities arose the suggestion from some legislators that possibly a Legislative Reference Bureau should be established to carry on continuous research on legislative problems. It was thought that such a Bureau would collect information on present or proposed legislation and make such information available to members of the Legislature prior to the convening of the biennial legislative sessions. If it is determined to establish such Bureau, the College will, in accordance with its policy of service to the State, render such assistance as may be requested of it. It will be happy to have the Bureau centered in the College if that appears desirable to the Legislature.

The College appreciates the support and encouragement accorded it by the

Bar during the year, and it will continue to strive to merit it. We shall be happy to render any service to the Bar to the end that we may contribute to its improvement and advancement.

R. R. Hamilton,
Dean.

REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

During the past year the Wyoming State Bar has lost six of its most outstanding members; each was a leader in his community, five of whom were leaders in their profession and each of the five had long and outstanding careers in the legal profession in Wyoming and contributed much to the development and progress of that profession; the sixth, while a member of the Bar, gained recognition not as an attorney but as a newspaper publisher and public servant. The Wyoming State Bar mourns the loss of Judge Bryant S. Cromer, Alvin T. Clark, Mark Ewing, Charles F. Mallin, C. R. Ingle and William C. Deming.

Judge Bryant S. Cromer was born February 8, 1881 at Carthage, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1902 and entered the practice of law in Kansas City, Missouri, where he served with distinction as counsel for the Police Department, Associate Counsel for the Municipality of Kansas City as well as the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company. He located at Hudson, Wyoming in 1912. In that same year he entered the practice of law in Casper where he remained until 1916 when he moved to Riverton and practiced until 1924, in which year he was elected Judge of the District Court of the then Eighth Judicial District, now Seventh, comprising Converse, Fremont and Natrona Counties which he served with distinction until 1931. Following his retirement from the bench, Judge Cromer established his practice of law at Casper where he remained in the active practice of law until his death on October 6, 1948 in that city. Active in politics, an ardent Republican, he was well known for his outstanding ability as a public speaker. He was a member of the Kansas City, Natrona County, State and American Bar Associations as well as the Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity, Moose and Lions International, Past Exalted Ruler of Elks Lodge No. 1353 of Casper in 1934 and in the same year President of the State Elks Association. He is survived by his wife, Josephine Smith Cromer, to whom he was united in marriage on February 8, 1912.

Alvin Turis Clark was born on January 31, 1870 at Bedford, Indiana; a graduate of Kent Law School in Chicago where he practiced for a year following his graduation, moving to Harrison, Nebraska, where he served two terms as County Attorney; he came to Wyoming in October, 1899 where he established an active law practice which he continued until shortly before his death. He served several terms as Prosecuting Attorney of Johnson County. He was known as a lover of the great outdoors, spent much time in hunting and prospecting and was one of the few persons known to have scaled Clouds Peak. He parted