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Report to the President - Wyoming State Bar

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REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT
WYOMING STATE BAR

BY WILLIAM T. SCHWARTZ

*Representative of the Wyoming State Bar to the
Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation*

The sixth annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute was held at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado, on July 28th, 29th, and 30th, 1960. The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation was held the day preceding the Institute and various meetings of the Trustees were held during the Institute. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation is made up of representatives of the member Bar Associations, Law Schools and Industry Association members.

The Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation has shown a remarkable growth since it came into being some six years ago. The Foundation has grown to the point it now has a full time Executive Director, Mr. Kenneth Barnhill, and the Foundation maintains a year-round office at the University of Colorado.

The purpose of the Foundation is to seek a common meeting ground for the oil and gas, mineral and mining lawyer whereby through continuing education, research and training, the ends of all will be served. This program is of particular interest to the Bar of the State of Wyoming where all of us are in almost daily contact with at least some portion of the oil and gas or mineral field.

Some of the programs being sponsored by the Foundation are as follows:

- (a) The publication of the Gower Federal Service, which is a service devoted to publication of laws and regulations and administrative decisions pertaining for the most part to oil and gas leasing of the public domain.
- (b) Sponsoring of mineral law scholarships in the nine member Law Schools, which involves the selection by the students of a mineral topic of their choice and researching the same and stating their conclusions. The articles are judged by a committee composed of judges and law professors with instructions to take into consideration not only the research connected with the subject, but also the originality and thought behind the selection of the topic and the final conclusions. The winner is granted a cash award.
- (c) Sponsoring of an essay contest among students in the nine member Law Schools. The topics are selected by a committee of the Foundation from matters of current interest in the oil and gas or mineral field and the essays are judged by judges and law professors and outstanding leaders in the field of mineral law. The

winner is granted a cash award and an opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the Foundation.

- (d) Publication of the American Law of Mining, a five-volume up-to-date treatise on the law of mining. The treatise was written by 36 men chosen by the Foundation, and edited by the Foundation. The original thought for the treatise was conceived while W. J. Wehrli, of the Wyoming Bar, was President of the Foundation, and was concluded this year while R. L. Moran, of the Wyoming Bar, was President of the Foundation. Clyde Martz, Professor of Law at the University of Colorado, was the guiding light throughout the time the treatise was being assembled, and if it had not been for his vision and effort, the treatise would not have been completed. The treatise is being published by Matthew Bender & Co. in loose leaf form as it is intended to keep this service current. Each year Matthew Bender publishes the proceedings of the Mineral Law Institute.
- (e) Plans are now being made for the establishment within the offices of the Foundation of a Mineral Law Research Center. It is intended that the Center will gather, index, and make available to interested persons large bodies of material concerning mineral law, including essays, research studies and briefs of counsel in important cases.

During the year Mr. Wehrli and I served on the committee to revise the by-laws of the Foundation. It was necessary to revise the by-laws due to the expansion of the activities of the Foundation, the increase in the number of trustees and the widening of its field of activities. The work of the committee was substantial and involved the writing of a completely new set of by-laws, and the by-laws were adopted by the Trustees at the annual meeting.

The Foundation is actively supported by Industry and Industry Associations, and the representatives from the Wyoming Bar have played a significant part in its growth. W. J. Wehrli and R. L. Moran have been Presidents of the Foundation. Thomas Files has actively served for many years as a representative of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, and Joseph Geraud has been an active representative from the University of Wyoming.

The Arizona Bar Association was admitted to membership at the annual meeting. Next year's meeting will be held on the campus of the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque.