

December 2019

Delegate to American Bar Association

Edward E. Murane

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.uwyo.edu/wlj>

Recommended Citation

Edward E. Murane, *Delegate to American Bar Association*, 16 Wyo. L.J. 128 (1962)

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.uwyo.edu/wlj/vol16/iss2/8>

This Special Section is brought to you for free and open access by Law Archive of Wyoming Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wyoming Law Journal by an authorized editor of Law Archive of Wyoming Scholarship.

DELEGATE TO AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

EDWARD E. MURANE

Gentlemen:

The notice in the paper on weather said for the lawyer's meeting, "Shifty and turbulent masses of hot air." I'll try and not live up to the weather report.

You've heard a lot already at this meeting about our Regional Meeting in Salt Lake City, and you have also heard about the Annual Meeting. I do want to call your attention to one or two points that I think are bread-and-butter points which you would be interested in.

First is the one on communistic tactics that has been so much in the news recently. We have had a Committee of the A.B.A. that has been meeting with the advisory groups of colleges and junior colleges and even high schools attempting to get before the schools a study of communism. It used to be, as you well know, that if an instructor or teacher even mentioned communism, why there would be an indignation meeting and they would ask for his resignation. And it has now been determined that our biggest fault lies in the fact that our youth do not know what communism is. This is one of the activities that A.B.A. has been sponsoring and it is fantastic to realize that we have been told, even in Wyoming, and I have met with about twenty different groups of Boards for education in the high schools, who have replied, "Its a good idea but we are sorry, our curriculum is all filled up. We haven't any time to teach this subject." And that is a deplorable situation because you, as lawyers, we as lawyers know that the first thing that happens in any communistic country is to do away with the lawyers. There is no such thing as advocacy under the hammer and cycle.

You have also heard the report from President Satterfield on the Judiciary Committee and their activities. For instance, you might be interested in this. There were three applications submitted by politicians for a Federal Judgship in Dallas. No one of the three received the approval of the Screening Committee of the A.B.A. and all three were rejected. The fourth one, which was submitted by the Bar Association of Dallas, was approved. So they are attempting to screen and eliminate as much as possible those who are not qualified for our Federal bench.

One other thing that you might be interested in is the Committee On Administrative Handling Of Court Cases. There has been a very wide publicity on attempting to put all Court cases before administrative bodies such as Workmen's Compensation, do way with jury trials, and do away with all advocacy. Now, this may sound rather extreme but in the State of California, in Wisconsin, in Connecticut and also New York, these matters have been before the Legislature with the idea of eliminating and they do it on the basis of saying the Court calendars are jammed. And, therefore, they are attempting to do away entirely with advocacy, jury

trials, and such presentations in Court fields. You can readily imagine what they would do to a Bar such as our or any similar Bar. It would be nothing but the administrative control of Court action.

Also one other matter that is being studied and there is a recent pamphlet put out by the foundation on *Limitation of Attorney's Fees Under Federal Law*. Believe it or not, there are some 115 restrictions on attorneys and their practice and what they should charge before Federal Bureaus, railroad organizations, the Coast Guard, Public Utilities, Indian tribes, contracts involving the government, and too many to mention. But they are all controlled by administrative boards to determine whether an attorney should get a per diem, whether he should get a contingency fee, or how he should be recompensed. The Bar, as a whole, feels that there is not a proper procedure, it is not a proper manner of attempting to control the Bar, and we feel that it is very vital, it isn't too much in Wyoming although we do have many instances under Social Security, Workmen's Compensation, and similar matters, where the administrative control determines the amount of fee an attorney should charge for his services and in some instances the fees have been so low that they have not been able to get adequate or competent counsel and they have used the Federal Counsel in some instances appointed for that purpose. So we feel that that ought to be considered as a matter that affects all of the lawyers in the United States.

We also have just starting in Chicago a full time executive on lawyer placement. It was surprising to determine that there was some 30,000 lawyers that were asking for employment in various places or they wanted to move from one community to another or one state to another and we are having a clearing house now and we feel that it will be self sustaining. They have allocated \$50,000.00 for that purpose and so far in the matter of just a few months there have been some 12,000 replaced lawyers who have obtained employment or have obtained an assignment with some firm. If a tax man wanted to move to California or one specialized in abstracts wanted to move to another area, through this lawyer placement service we have been able to place these men in the spot where they want to go and with a firm who needs their services. We feel that that will be self sustaining in a matter of another year or so.

There are so many things to report on I could not possibly do it in the time allotted. I want to assure you that the American Bar is attempting to do things for the lawyers of the United States and I only hope that we can increase the membership in the A.B.A. in Wyoming. We are now about seventh or eighth in the Nation in representation and I would like to see us first if possible. It is a bread-and-butter proposition, we are working for ourselves, we are trying to do things for the lawyers and we hope that we are showing some success. We want the cooperation and assistance of every lawyer in Wyoming.

Thank you for your attention.