

December 2019

## Report of A.B.A. Board of Governors

Edward E. Murane

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Edward E. Murane, *Report of A.B.A. Board of Governors*, 17 Wyo. L.J. 162 (1963)

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.uwyo.edu/wlj/vol17/iss2/14>

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.

## REPORT OF A.B.A. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

EDWARD E. MURANE

I am happy to be able to bring you a report as your representative on the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association. In effect, I am reporting to my stockholders.

When I was elected to the Board of Governors I represented the Tenth Federal Judicial District on the Board. This year the membership of the Board has been increased to fourteen geographical districts, and Wyoming is now part of the 12th District, comprising the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

The Board is the executive committee of the House of Delegates and is elected by the House of Delegates. This is the legislative group of some two hundred and sixty members. Al Pence represents the Wyoming State Bar and I represent the American Bar Association members in Wyoming.

Many have asked me what the Board does and when it meets. We meet in October in Chicago for a four-day session. We meet before the mid-year meeting in February for a four-day session. In May we go to Washington, D.C., for a two-day conference and then meet for two or three days prior to the annual meeting.

Your Board of Governors attempts to keep its fingers on all of the many activities of the numerous Sections and Committees, to keep them within the confines of the general principles of the Association, as set forth by the House of Delegates—the Bar's legislative body.

The American Bar Association is big business in that we have an annual budget of around three million dollars and in addition are responsible for several hundred thousand dollars in special grants. There are over two hundred full-time employees of the American Bar Association and affiliate organizations housed at the ABA Center in Chicago, which was built in 1954. A new addition to the Center was completed last year at a cost of over eight hundred thousand dollars, and a second and final addition will be completed in 1963, at a cost of \$1,300,000. The important financial point to all of this is that this construction was done without Federal aid or solicitation from the membership.

## SCOPE OF BOARD ACTIVITIES

Each Board member is assigned to several committees and Sections and is a liaison member to the Board for the Sections, and it is his responsibility to report on their activities. This requires considerable correspondence as well as meetings with the Council of the Sections and Chairman of the Committees speaking at conventions. As a Board member this past year I spent in excess of twenty-one days out of the office on American Bar Association work, in addition to time spent in the office.

In the various Sections sponsored by the American Bar Association there is a place for every lawyer—whether he be a general practitioner or a specialist, whether he is interested in anti-trust, corporation and banking, family law, insurance and negligence, labor relations, general practice, real property, or taxation. There are eighteen Sections, with over 60,000 dues-paying members. In fact five of the Sections are so large that they have separate administrative staffs to help run them.

I am happy and proud to see the recognition given to Bill Schwartz of Casper from the Mineral Law Section. Bill has written a paper on Minerals that has received national acclaim and has been distributed throughout the fifty states. Congratulations to Bill Schwarz and to Wyoming.

A number of Wyoming ABA members have participated in different Sections and annual meetings. A couple of years ago Judge Vernon Bentley had an important place on the program of the annual meeting at Miami. Stan Lowe and Dick Bostwick have served on important ABA committees. Our presidents have participated in the National Conference of Bar Presidents, and many other Wyoming lawyers have been on panels and seminars in recent years.

This report can touch only a few of the highlights of the work done voluntarily by many hundreds of busy lawyers and judges throughout the Sections and Committees of the American Bar.

There are many activities of the Association that are directly applicable to the individual lawyer, such as the Department of Economics. Louis Powell, our guest from Virginia, will talk on that later in the program. The new members get the Law Office Handbook, and the survey of the economic statute of lawyers. It will be recalled that last year at Sheridan, President John Satterfield discussed the economics of law practice and gave us a number of pointers on how to improve our own financial situation. In addition, there is a Lawyer Placement Information Service in Chicago, which will assist lawyers seeking relocation or law firms seeking lawyers and government and corporation requests for employment of lawyers. This is found to have been a long-needed department, and we feel that within the next year or so it will be able to pay for itself. In addition, we have a new Insurance Program. The ABA has the largest professional group insurance program in the country, with new low-cost disability insurance protection of interest to every lawyer. Then there are activities in the interest of the profession at large, such as the study of current and future needs of legal education, attracting more qualified young people to the law as a career and attempting to strengthen the financial support given to the various law schools. We have a continual liaison with TV and radio, supplying them with technical guidance for writers and production personnel in the interests of ethical procedural authenticity in the portrayal of lawyers, judges and courts.

Many jurors have seen Perry Mason on TV, and it is quite hard for the average lawyer to compete with him. We have tried to get Perry to lose a case, but no luck. There is a new program out now, however, where the hero actually loses a lawsuit, so there is some hope for we trial lawyers.

In addition, the American Bar carries on for the profession a national institute of Bar-Public Relations, a conference of State and Local Bar committees on unauthorized practice, and a report given as a result of several years' study in the specialization in law practice. This will be of particular interest to the Wyoming lawyers. As yet the fine points have not all been worked out, nor has it been determined how it will be policed or controlled, but it is something that we will be able to consider in the very near future. In addition, we cooperate with the Law Students Associations covering one hundred thirty-one law schools and over forty thousand students, also in the interests of the profession we sponsor the regional meeting, such as the one held in Salt Lake City last June, which everyone says was one of the best that has ever been presented.

In the interest of improving the public image of lawyers, your American Bar sponsors Law Day USA with over a hundred thousand separate programs each May, and it has now been recognized by Congressional Act. In addition, we have a special committee screening Federal Judicial selections, and a committee that assists the State courts through their joint efforts for effective administration of justice, conducting seminars and conferences of trial judges in three-day sessions headed by Justice Tom Clark of the United States Supreme Court.

And in addition to that, we have conducted Peace Through Law conferences. There have been four continental conferences sponsored by a special grant of \$550,000. No American Bar Association money is spent on this project.

In addition to this, we have conducted a campaign of teaching about Communism under the leadership of the legal profession. Several states have now made it mandatory by statute, and many states have adopted special courses as the result of the efforts of the American Bar. Our guest, Louis Powell, has been chairman of that committee for several years. In addition, we have prepared a modern Judicial Code and have made a study of election laws. We are carrying out traffic court programs throughout the nation, with regional conferences, and in addition, sponsor Legal Aid and Defender work throughout the nation.

This to mention just a few of the activities carried on by your Bar Association.

Business institutions measure success and growth by production, sales and profits. A voluntary organization can measure its growth only in terms of membership support and quality and extent of services

rendered by it. How far the ABA and the volutary State and local associations are able to go in serving the individual lawyers and the profession in the years ahead will depend upon the lawyers themselves. It will depend upon how widely each lawyer recognizes the value of his membership in helping to further the work of the Bar and to achieve the results that can only come through organizational strength. We now have over 112,000 ABA members. Wyoming is ninth in the percentage of its lawyers who are members—it used to be second. I hope we can soon raise our percentage.

Without doubt the demands upon the legal profession have never been so great as they are today—in terms of meeting a changing society's needs for new types of legal services—in terms of preserving the integrity of the profession—of improving professional competence, and of discharging the responsibility of the organized Bar.

Membership in the American Bar Association is a continuing insurance protection for you and your profession. Each one of you spent several thousands of dollars in getting your law degree. The small amount of annual dues is good insurance to protect that investment.

As the ABA grows, so grows the profession, not only in its status before the public, but in an economic and social status also.

I am proud to represent the lawyers of Wyoming on the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association.

Thank you.

---

#### REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS, 1961-62

The Committee, consisting of James A. Tilker, Chairman, Robert A. Burgess, Frederick G. Loomis, Don Sherard, Alan Simpson, Harry Thompson, Bob Sigler and Robert W. Costen, was assigned the special task of conducting a series of TV panel discussion programs aimed at promoting the public relations of the legal profession. It may be remembered that a series of such programs was quite successfully initiated in Casper, Wyoming, during the year 1959-60. It was the thought of the President that this year the program should originate from the Cheyenne TV station, and that, if the idea continues with favor, the series might alternate each year between the Casper and Cheyenne TV stations.

After obtaining the views of each committee member and discussing the matter with Bob Burgess, the Chairman of the 1959-60 Committee, your Chairman arranged with KFBC-TV, Channel 5, Cheyenne, for a schedule of free, public service time. The State Bar Association was allotted twelve 15-minute Sunday afternoon live TV programs. The series