

Editorial

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The Law School opened on September 24, 1924, with a total registration of 238. Although the entrance requirements have increased, ninety-six were registered as freshmen. The faculty for the first semester are Hon. A. C. Backus, Hon. Franz C. Eschweiler, John McDill Fox, Willis E. Lang, Rev. Hugh B. MacMahon, S.J., Carl B. Rix, Max Schoetz, Albert K. Stebbins, A. C. Umbreit, Clifton Williams, and Carl Zollman. The librarian is Miss Agnes C. McCabe. All classes convene in the Law School. This year the juniors are being instructed in office practice and the seniors in moot court work. An appellate court has been installed which will increase the practicability of the practice court.

At the annual meeting of the Wisconsin State Bar Association, last June, the committee on Legal Education reported favorably upon the recommendations of the Special Conference of American Bar Association delegates, as to qualifications for admission to the bar, and such recommendations were approved. The complete text of the adopted resolution is printed below. If these recommendations are adopted by our state it will result in an important change in respect to the qualifications of candidates for the bar and the method of their admission—whether by certificate from an accredited law school or by an examination before the Board of Bar Examiners.

Resolved, That the National Conference of Bar Associations adopts the following statement in regard to legal education:

1. The great complexity of modern legal regulations requires for the proper performance of legal services lawyers of broad general education and thorough legal training. The legal education which was fairly adequate under simpler economic conditions is inadequate to-day.

It is the duty of the legal profession to strive to create and maintain standards of legal education and rules of admission to the bar which will protect the public both from incompetent legal advisers and from those who would disregard the obligations of professional service. This duty can best be performed by the organized efforts of bar associations.

2. We endorse with the following explanations the standards with respect to admission to the bar adopted by the American Bar Association on September 1, 1921:

Every candidate for admission to the bar should give evidence of graduation from a law school complying with the following standards:

(a) It shall require as a condition of admission at least two years of study in a college.

(b) It shall require its students to pursue a course of three years duration if they devote substantially all of their working time to their studies, and a longer course, equivalent in the number of working hours, if they devote only part of their working time to their studies.

(c) It shall provide an adequate library, available for the use of the students.

(d) It shall have among its teachers a sufficient number giving their entire time to the school to insure actual personal acquaintance and influence with the whole student body.

3. Further, we believe that law schools should not be operated as commercial enterprises, and that the compensation of any officer or members of its teaching staff should not depend on the number of students or on the fees received.

4. *We agree with the American Bar Association that graduation from a law school should not confer the right of admission to the bar, and that every candidate should be subjected to examination by public authority other than the authority of the law school of which he is a graduate.*¹

5. Since the legal profession has to do with the administration of the law, and since public officials are chosen from its ranks more frequently than from the ranks of any other profession or business, it is essential that the legal profession should not become the monopoly of any economic class.

6. We endorse the American Bar Association's standards for admission to the bar because we are convinced that no such monopoly will result from adopting them. In almost every part of the country a young man of small means can, by energy and perseverance, obtain the college and law school education which the standards require, and we understand that in applying the rule requiring two years of study in a college,

¹ Italics are Ed.

educational experience other than that acquired in an American college may, in proper cases, be accepted as satisfying the requirement of the rule, if equivalent to two years of college work.

7. We believe that the adoption of these standards will increase the efficiency and strengthen the character of those coming to the practice of law, and will therefore tend to improve greatly the administration of justice. We therefore urge the bar associations of the several states to draft rules of admission to the bar carrying the standards into effect and to take such action as they may deem advisable to procure their adoption.

8. Whenever any state does not at present afford such educational opportunities to young men of small means as to warrant the immediate adoption of the standards, we urge the bar associations of the state to encourage and help the establishment and maintenance of good law schools and colleges, so that the standards may become practicable as soon as possible.

9. We believe that adequate intellectual requirements for admission to the bar will not only increase the efficiency of those admitted to practice but will also strengthen their moral character. But we are convinced that high ideals of professional duty must come chiefly from an understanding of the traditions and standards of the bar through study of such traditions and standards and by the personal contact of law students with members of the bar who are marked by a real interest in younger men, a love of their profession and a keen appreciation of the importance of its best traditions. We realize the difficulty of creating this kind of personal contact, especially in large cities; nevertheless, we believe that much can be accomplished by the intelligent co-operation between committees of the bar and the law school faculties.

10. We therefore urge courts and bar associations to charge themselves with the duty of devising means for bringing law students in contact with members of the bar from whom they will learn, by example and precept, that admission to the bar is not a mere license to carry on a trade, but that it is an entrance into a profession with honorable traditions of service which they are bound to maintain.