

The Diploma Privilege

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THE DIPLOMA PRIVILEGE

For three successive sessions of the legislature Marquette University College of Law has suggested to have the statutes of Wisconsin so amended as to require all persons who seek admittance to the bar to pass an examination conducted by the bar examiners of the state. The American Bar Association has gone on record to this effect. The state of Michigan four years ago took away the diploma privilege from the University of Michigan, and the state of Minnesota took away the diploma privilege from the University of Minnesota and seven other universities two years ago.

Section 2586 of the Wisconsin statutes provides that any resident graduate of the law department of the University of Wisconsin shall be admitted to practice upon the production of his diploma. All other persons, whether graduates of the law department of Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Marquette or any other school, are required to present a certificate of the bar examiners.

Why should students of the law department of the University of Wisconsin be thus privileged? In all civil service examinations conducted by the state, all persons are treated alike whether they are graduates of the best schools or universities or received their education by experience only. No person is given a preference. They are all equal before the law. Again, in the examinations conducted for doctors, dentists, druggists, accountants, plumbers and all other examinations no exceptions are made.

Besides the taking of the examinations, all persons other than graduates of the law department of the University of Wisconsin must pay a fee for taking the examination and besides must pay fees for admission to the bar as clerk's fees.

This inequality certainly should be remedied and all persons should be equal before the law.

ALFRED W. ECKS.

