Masthead and Editorial (Volume 9, Number 1, 1948)

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The publication of the first issue of the Ohio State Law Journal calls for a brief statement about the circumstances of the birth of the Journal and some observations concerning its mission in life.

The Journal is the successor to The Ohio State University Law Journal which was launched in 1935 by the Student Bar Association of the College of Law. The original venture followed conventional law review lines. It had run through eight volumes and gained considerably in strength and stature, when, in 1942, the demands of the War emergency upon both students and faculty necessitated suspension of publication.

The keen interest of the post-war student body and the law faculty in the revival of the Journal has been shared by a host of alumni and other friends of the College of Law. The long illness and the tragic death in February, 1946 of Dean Arthur T. Martin, whose splendid leadership had meant so much to the College, were a great blow to the institution and its program. That immense loss postponed reactivation of the Journal and other important developments. The College is now fully restored to a peace-time basis and
is attacking its teaching, research and service responsibilities with the strength of greatly increased human and other resources. Very high on the agenda has been the rebirth of the Journal. The appearance of Number One of Volume Nine is, therefore, a very happy occasion for the students and faculty.

The new Journal, officially sponsored by the College, will be edited by a student board, chosen upon the basis of superior scholarship and effective participation. The present board has accepted this enlarged opportunity with exceptional vigor and devotion. We have made a gratifying start toward a goal of maximum student responsibility under general faculty supervision.

Instead of the conventional scheme of diversity in leading article material, the plan of the Journal will be to concentrate fire by dealing thoroughly, either in a single issue or in several issues, with successive subjects of unusual current interest and importance. The choice of subjects will not be narrowly confined within the compass of Ohio law, but it will be influenced by considerations of what may be currently important in Ohio. The student subject-matter compositions, which we have chosen to call "Comments," may or may not be fitted into the treatment of a major theme in an issue, as may be appropriate to the particular subject. The notes on recent decisions will range the field.

We are clear that the Journal is pre-eminently an instrument of legal education. There is, at the same time, strong reason to hope that in the successful prosecution of its primary business it will serve as an effective medium for the articulation of legal scholarship and will make substantial contributions to the improvement of the law.

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