1935

Bar Association


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The Student Bar Association made its first public appearance at a smoker held in Pomerene Hall Refectory, Thursday evening, January 10. The association, still in its first year, entertained Judges of the Supreme Court and Common Pleas Court of Franklin County, prominent Columbus attorneys, officers of the state and county governments, and members of the law college faculty. The purpose of the affair was to promote informal contacts between our students and these outstanding representatives of the bench and bar and at the same time to build closer relationships in the student body. Informal talks were given by Chief Justice Carl V. Weygandt of the Supreme Court, Dean H. W. Arant of the law college, and Charles E. Blanchard, president of the Franklin County Bar Association, commending the student group on its activity and assuring their full cooperation. Later the first issue of the newly established Law Journal was distributed. The smoker was arranged under the program of the Bench and Bar Section of the Bar Association.

At the regular meeting of the Student Bar Association in the winter quarter, several amendments to the constitution were passed: to move up the time for annual elections to the end of the winter quarter, to reduce the number of “sections” to four, and to include the section chairmen on the nominating committee. The students also voted to place the $1 assessment on the spring fee card. The meeting was held Thursday morning, February 14.

The last meeting was held Thursday morning, February 28, and Darold Greek, '32, special counsel for the tax commission, sales tax division, was the guest speaker. He pointed out some of the legal problems arising under the administration of the new sales tax law in Ohio. The association voted to
amend the constitution to provide for the election of freshman class president two weeks before the end of the fall quarter. The annual election was held at the end of the meeting and the successful candidates were:

President—Robert Gosline.
Secretary—Warren Richmond.
Treasurer—Edwin Mitchell.

Friday, February 29, Judson Kistler was elected president of the junior class and Merle Brothers was elected to head the freshmen. These five students compose the new Executive Committee of the Student Bar Association.

LEGAL AID

The Student Bar Association, in starting its second year has just reason to be proud of its achievements in the field of legal aid. This section, off to an early start last year, has been constantly increasing its scope to handle the greatly mounting influx of clients and at the same time has been perfecting its organization until today the legal aid clinic is an efficient, smoothly running, and necessary agency in the city of Columbus.

The aims of the Legal Aid section and the machinery by which these aims are carried into effect were discussed in the first issue of the Law Journal. In this issue, I had hoped to give the complete first annual report of the section. This report, however, is not yet ready, and in its place will be given a short unofficial resume of the five-month period from October 1, 1934, to March 1, 1935.

In the first five months of the school year 141 applications for free legal service were received at the clinic. Of this number 75 per cent involved some problem concerning domestic relations while the remainder dealt with almost every other phase of the law. The number of interviews was approximately twice the number of applications and since 21 meetings of the clinic were held during this period, the average number of interviews per meeting was about 13.

The number of clients to whom some legal assistance was given was of course much less than 141, but probably more than one-half of the applications were rejected, either by ourselves on legal or financial grounds or by the Family Bureau, after investigation, for social reasons. Of the applications accepted the majority required only the giving of advice or were settled out of court while the remainder required the assistance of a practicing attorney in obtaining legal action.

Among the clients whose applications were rejected were a number who could pay small fees. Many of these requested our aid in securing attorneys. In recent months, the number of clients referred by us to the legal and committee of the Barrister's Club was almost as large as the number of charity cases.

To a large extent, the development of legal aid has been because of the great interest shown by the student body. Forty-one different students took part in legal aid work this year and of this number at least one-half assisted in the actual handling of a case in some manner. It seems clear that continued