1935

Legal Aid

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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
student interest will be an important factor in the future history of legal aid in Columbus.

When the complete report becomes available and its material is tabulated and studied it will be possible to place a true value upon the efforts of the section during the past year. But even from this brief resume, we can see that some important social and legal results have been achieved. To a good many Columbus families necessary legal help has been given while a large number of Ohio State law students have received not only a definite practical educational advantage but also have become acquainted with important social problems which otherwise they would not have experienced.

It is now apparent that the legal aid clinic will become a permanent agency of the law school, and for their aid and cooperation in its creation and growth, the legal aid section wishes to thank the Family Bureau of Franklin County, The Columbus Barrister's Club, Franklin County Bar Association, and the faculty of the Ohio State law college.

Julius Schlezinger

UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECTION REPORT

The University Affairs section of the Student Bar Association was effectively organized and ready to inaugurate its program the latter part of January. Its primary object is to render a much needed service to the Law college by contacting all other groups and agencies on the campus in behalf of the Student Bar Association. With this in view a program was adopted which included the extension of legal aid facilities to university students, and a revision of the Student Court. Legislation was initiated in the Student Senate of Ohio State University proposing a reorganization of the present Student Court by increasing its membership and dividing it into two sections, one of which would be entirely composed of law students acting in an appellate capacity. The section also made the necessary arrangements to authoritatively handle the arbitration of disputes between student tenants and their landlords. Among other matters the section is sponsoring a campaign for better lighting and ventilating facilities in Page Hall.

The section has made splendid progress and looks forward to continued success. One significant fact that should be mentioned is that the committee membership comprises one senior, one junior, and the remainder, freshmen. The last mentioned group has offered a splendid interest and deserves credit for their efforts.

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