

The Ohio State University LAW JOURNAL

VOLUME 7

MARCH, 1941

NUMBER 2

Herschel W. Arant

Judge Herschel W. Arant was dean of The Ohio State University College of Law from 1928 until 1939. Those eleven years were a period of significant progress for the school, and much of the credit for this advancement is attributable to the vigorous leadership of Judge Arant. Because of his devotion to the work of this school and to legal education in general he continued to be thought of as a part of this institution even after he resigned the deanship in order to accept an appointment by President Roosevelt to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judge Arant's death on January 14 of this year was a personal loss to everyone interested in the College of Law.

Judge Arant was born in Church Hill, Alabama, in 1887. He attended Alabama University and after his graduation he entered Yale University where he received the Master of Arts degree. He then enrolled in the Yale Law School and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1915. After his graduation from law school he practiced in Atlanta, Georgia, and taught law at Emory University until 1920. During that year he returned to Yale as an assistant professor of law. In 1922 he became dean of the law school at the University of Kansas, and he retained that position until 1928 when he accepted the deanship of the Ohio State University College of Law.

Judge Arant's major interests were legal education and legal ethics. The different positions which he held in organizations which are primarily concerned with these subjects is

indicative of the effort which he made for the improvement of educational and professional standards. He was a member of the executive committee of the Association of American Law Schools in 1934, secretary-treasurer from 1935 to 1938, and president in 1938. He was primarily responsible for the organization of the League of Ohio Law Schools in 1935. This League includes all of the law schools in the state and was the first organization of its kind ever created in any state. Judge Arant served as secretary-treasurer of this League from 1936 to 1940, playing a major part in building it into an effective agency for the improvement of legal education in Ohio. In the field of legal ethics he participated actively in the work of the organized bar. He was chairman of the Ohio State Bar Association Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Conduct from 1935 to 1939. He served as secretary of the American Bar Association Committee on Professional Ethics and Grievances from 1933 to 1938, and as its chairman from 1938 to 1940.

Judge Arant's administrative duties and many other responsibilities did not prevent him from engaging in research and writing. He was the author of a number of law review articles; he compiled a casebook on Suretyship, a textbook on the same subject, a casebook on Legal Ethics, and in recent months he was working on a revision of a treatise on Negotiable Instruments. In spite of the many demands on his time he was willing to accept calls to public service. Governor White appointed him chairman of a commission to study Ohio's laws on marriage and divorce and to recommend such changes as seemed desirable. This committee made a very careful study of the problems assigned to it and its recommendations will probably serve as the basis for any future legislation in this area. Judge Arant's many activities did not diminish his intense interest in teaching. He greatly enjoyed his students and his classroom work. When he gave up law school work for a judicial career his principal regret was for the loss of

student association. His many former students will not forget his vigorous classroom technique, his insistence on thorough scholarship, his eagerness for the cultivation of a more intelligent legal system and his kindly solicitude for persons who needed assistance. His achievements and his personality are a permanent part of this law college.