

Report of the Legal Aid Clinic

The report of the clinic for the fourth year shows a slight increase in the number of new cases over the number for the preceding year. As usual the domestic relations cases greatly predominate. This is due to the fact that most of the cases come to the clinic from the Domestic Relations Court or from the social agencies of the city.

However, all domestic relations cases are referred to the Family and Children's Bureau before any action is taken, and many domestic relations cases are rejected on the first interview. There were about one hundred of these latter cases. These cases were rejected because there was no apparent urgency for the divorce. This is often the case when there are no minor children of the marriage. Usually the clinic does not give any aid in such cases because the client can probably wait until the divorce can be paid for through a private attorney.

Of the cases referred to the Family and Children's Bureau the majority are disposed of by the bureau without legal proceedings. In some of the cases very satisfactory adjustments have been made.

During the past year the clinic has had an illustration of the international scope of organized legal aid. The clinic is a member of the National Association of Legal Aid Organizations and as such was called upon to render some service for the Poor Persons' Committee of The Law Society of England. This committee handles legal aid cases in the English courts. In this case a plaintiff was suing for divorce in England and the court ordered publication of notice in a Columbus daily paper. The clinic assisted in getting the notice published.

The Legal Aid Committee of the American Bar Association has given, during the past year, considerable impetus to legal aid work in law schools. In the Interim Report of the Committee to the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association in January, 1940, there was included a recommendation "to encourage the adoption by law schools of the policy of instructing students in the nature of legal work and its importance to the public and to the Bar and of permitting them, wherever practicable, to take part in such work in order that they may appreciate the professional obligation to assist, directly or indirectly, in securing justice for the poor." This resolution was approved by the House of Delegates. There are seventeen law schools which now have their students participate in some sort of legal aid work, either through an agency set up by the law school or through a legal aid society in the community. There are several other schools which are contemplating establishing in the very near future legal aid training as a regular part of the law school work. It is very gratifying that the attention given to this sort of training at Ohio State is receiving approval elsewhere.

New Cases 1938-1939

Month	Totals	Torts	Contract	Prop.	Dom.Rel	Misc.	Student Cases
October . . .	61	2	3	4	47	5	8
November . .	41	3	1	3	27	7	3
December . .	23	1	2	2	12	6	4
January . . .	59	7	5	3	33	11	9
February . . .	51	1	3	11	22	14	7
March	46	1	2	6	32	5	10
April	38	3	3	5	21	6	13
May	45	4	2	6	27	6	5
June	52	2	9	11	24	6	2
July	33	4	2	5	18	4	2
August	53	3	4	3	35	8	7
Totals	502	31	36	59	298	78	70
Totals 1937-38 . .	494	36	57	43	290	68	100
Totals 1936-37 . .	342	38	36	21	195	52	89

Cases Closed 1938-1939

Month	Totals	Refused First Interview	Advice or Referred	Litigation	Terminated By Client	Other	Assigned to Attorney	Referred to Private Atty.	Referred to Fam. & Child. Bureau
October	66	20	9	8	13	16			23
November . . .	41	11	14	1	8	7	1	3	13
December . . .	38	6	7	7	7	11	3	2	9
January	53	13	17	7	5	11			7
February	48	7	16	8	2	15		2	13
March	63	13	17	5	14	14	2	1	10
April	41	6	13	10	6	6	6	2	14
May	45	3	18	6	7	11	2	5	20
June	54	9	20	8	8	9	4	4	15
July	30	6	10	6	4	4	1	5	11
August	48	7	9	9	8	15	1	5	26
Totals	527	101	150	75	82	119	20	29	161
Totals 1937-38 . .	512	68	160	59	104	121	35	16	181
Totals 1936-37 . .	338	28	105	42	86	77	25	12	155