

# Report of the Legal Aid Clinic

Legal aid work is receiving increased attention in the program of National Defense. The Ohio State Bar Association in conjunction with many other state bar associations is setting up machinery so that every person in military service as well as their dependents will have the benefit of free legal advice and service.

This experience will go a long way to further the cause of general legal aid after the present emergency has passed.

One of the purposes served by the clinic is the student's introduction to legal aid service and to the entire aid program in the country. During this past year special emphasis has been put on the legal aid service which is rendered in Ohio to indigent persons accused of felonies. In Ohio the system of Public Defenders which has been recommended by the American Bar Association does not exist, but the practice obtains of appointing counsel for the particular case and securing some compensation for the legal service from the county. The younger lawyers are appointed for many of these defendants. It is highly important that such young lawyer be made aware of the importance and seriousness of that service and the responsibilities it entails.

An opportunity is furnished the students to see the effect of this service by contacting certain inmates of the penitentiary who have been referred to the clinic for advice and consultation. During the past year there have been 22 such cases. Many of these prisoners complain that they were not adequately represented by appointed counsel. Usually the complaint is without justification. But a study of these cases furnishes a fine opportunity for the student to see the serious results from an inadequate appreciation of the responsibilities of that appointment. This type of case is another of those areas where the clinic can do its part in making better lawyers.

The accompanying report shows the continued high percen-

tage of domestic relations cases, which consisted of 61.7% of the total number of cases as compared with 59.3% for the previous year.

The clinic, however, continued to be hesitant about taking these cases into court until there was a clear showing of an immediate social need for this service. Of the 303 cases applying to the clinic only 19.4% were taken to court. This was less than the 25.1% and 20.3% of the two preceding years.

One of the advantages of the clinical training is the contact the student has with these domestic relations cases which are studied from their social aspects. The student is made to realize that these cases are not merely law suits which can be

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### NEW CASES — 1939-1940

	Totals	Torts	Contracts	Property	Domestic Relations	Misc.	Student Cases
October .....	60	3	2	2	43	10	2
November .....	44	5	4	6	27	2	6
December .....	30	2	5	2	18	3	6
January .....	40	4	6	2	20	8	9
February .....	50	4	3	3	29	11	13
March ..	35	1	9	1	17	7	7
April ..	52	3	5	3	27	14	14
May .....	51	2	4	6	31	8	10
June .....	29	1	3	—	21	4	1
July .....	51	1	6	3	34	7	8
August .....	49	3	2	1	36	7	3
Totals .....	491	29	49	29	303	81	79
Totals, 1938-39 .....	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

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CASES CLOSED — 1939-1940

	Total	Refused First Interview	Advice or Referred	Litigation	Terminated by Client	Other	Assigned to Attorney	Referred to Private Attorney	Referred to Family and Children's Bureau
October . . . .	63	14	13	10	14	12	4	4	22
November . .	42	9	14	3	8	8	1	3	11
December . .	47	3	9	7	17	11	2	—	9
January . . . .	39	7	12	6	11	3	1	—	14
February . . .	35	4	22	2	4	3	—	1	17
March . . . . .	36	6	10	2	11	7	—	—	5
April . . . . .	61	9	21	7	19	5	—	—	13
May . . . . .	52	12	14	3	14	9	1	—	18
June . . . . .	29	4	8	7	4	6	3	—	8
July . . . . .	46	7	16	8	9	6	—	3	24
August . . . .	42	1	15	4	10	12	—	7	27
Totals . . . . .	492	76	154	59	121	82	12	18	168
Totals, 38-39	527	101	150	75	82	119	20	29	161
Totals, 37-38	512	68	160	59	104	121	35	16	181
Totals, 36-37	338	28	105	42	86	77	25	12	155

solved by a knowledge of the law. But they are rather social problems which must be studied from all aspects of the case. In this study the student participates with the case worker from the Family and Children's Bureau. Conferences are arranged with the case worker so that the student is made to realize that the case may look quite different after it is studied from all angles. Here again a contribution is made to the development of a well-rounded lawyer.