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President's Page

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BENCH AND BAR

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

AS the writer looks back to the time when he commenced practice of the law he sees many young men serving in a judicial capacity and sees many of them continuing that service over a long term of years and many still serving.

Now the picture is different as there are only a very few young men serving on the bench. We have now reached the point where a young man without outside means cannot accept a judgeship.

We must change this, as we should have younger men with 10 to 15 years experience at the bar, who will serve and continue to serve as judges for a reasonable period of years.

How can we attract the younger men to judicial service? The answer is obvious. They must have reasonable financial security. We have accomplished something toward that end in our retirement statutes but we must provide more compensation for the years of active service. I ask each and every member of the bar to actively join with me in an effort to bring about that result.

Unwarranted delay is about the only criticism we hear of our courts. Such criticism has heretofore been advanced to the legislature. Every lawyer, and particularly every judge (he has the real control) should take all possible steps to expedite the disposal of cases to the end that such criticism will lose its force.

E. T. CONMY

NORTH DAKOTA CHIEF JUSTICE ELECTED BY CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES

The Honorable James Morris, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Dakota, was elected to the Executive Council of the Conference of Chief Justices at the annual meeting of the Conference in San Francisco this September.

The Executive Council of the Conference consists of five members who serve, in conjunction with the president and vice president, as the governing body of the Conference between meetings. Chief Justice Morris was named to a two year term.

The Conference of Chief Justices, as its name implies, is an association of Chief Justice from the courts of the various states, and serves to enable them to exchange views and take action on current professional problems.

IN MEMORIAM

Sigurd B. Severson, Dean of the St. Paul College of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, who died on September 22, 1952, was born in Praha, North Dakota, in 1894. Mr. Severson while attending St. Olaf College, joined the United States Navy during World War I and after receiving his honorable discharge re-enrolled and graduated from said college in June 1919. He served as Principal of the Fordville Schools in 1919-20. In 1920, he enrolled as a graduate student in the School of Education, University of Minnesota. For two years he was a graduate student in Education, during which time he made a study of the techniques of instruction, including the teaching of law. His professional interests changed, and he enrolled in the University of Minnesota School of Law in 1922, graduating in 1925. He was admitted to the Bar in 1925 and practiced law in Minneapolis from 1925-1933. In 1933, he was appointed Professor of Law in the University of North Dakota and taught the courses in Pleading, Practice, and Evidence for four years, making a distinguished record. In 1934, he was admitted to practice in North Dakota. In 1937, he accepted a position as Professor of Law in the St. Paul College of Law. In 1942 he was appointed Dean.

Dean Severson was an excellent teacher and a competent school administrator. He re-organized the law curriculum, enlarged the law library and the teaching staff. Having complied with the standards of legal education for several years, the Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar of the American Bar Association provisionally approved the St. Paul College of Law in 1938 and gave its final approval in 1943. During the fifteen years, Dean Severson resided in St. Paul, he became acquainted with the Bench and Bar of the Twin Cities. He won their respect and admiration as well as that of his teaching staff and law students.

Dean Severson is survived by his wife and two daughters, Ingrid and Karen. Several of the lawyers in this state were his stu-

dents when he taught in this Law School from 1933-1937. His varied experiences, as a superintendent of schools in a North Dakota town; graduate work in Education for two years; a lawyer for eight years; and teaching law for twenty years made Dean Severson have a sympathetic understanding towards the problems of students. This made it possible for him to have a strong hold on the students and faculty and win the respect of the Bench and Bar of the Twin Cities, for his evening law school. St. Paul College of Law had the good fortune to share the benefits of his loyalty and constructive services as a teacher and an administrator. Dying at the prime of life at the age of fifty-seven, the legal profession has lost a worthy teacher of the law.

THE FACULTY OF LAW
University of North Dakota

MURPHY APPOINTED TO A. B. A. COMMITTEE

Mr. Francis Murphy of Fargo has been appointed to serve a five year term on the Committee on Admissions of the American Bar Association. North Dakota is represented by five members on this committee whose terms are staggered by appointing one member each year to a five year term. Present North Dakota members in the order in which their terms will expire are George A. McGee of Williston, Chairman, Charles L. Foster of Bismarck, Harold D. Shaft of Grand Forks, and Mack V. Traynor of Devils Lake.

Annual Convention
of the
State Bar Association
of
North Dakota
Jamestown, North Dakota
August 14 - 15 - 16, 1952

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