



1949

President's Page

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Recommended Citation

Graham, F. J. (1949) "President's Page," *North Dakota Law Review*. Vol. 25 : No. 4 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr/vol25/iss4/7>

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BENCH AND BAR

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

IT WAS deemed advisable that no meeting of the executive committee be held until after our return from the meeting of the American Bar Association held at St. Louis from September 5 to 9, so this letter is a short resumé of the highlights of the convention.

The following were present from North Dakota. Supreme Court Judge W. L. Nuessle, District Court Judge John C. Pollock, Dean O. H. Thormodsgard, past president and member of the State Bar Board Herbert G. Nilles, President of the State Bar Board Charles L. Foster, Executive Director Ronald N. Davies, Vice President Philip R. Bangs, and President F. J. Graham.

There were present about four thousand delegates from all of the states and territories. One of the interesting features was the splendid talk of Dwight D. Eisenhower. He gave his opinion that there was a possibility at least that there would be no third world war. This opinion was concurred in by Former Secretary of War Robert Patterson, who was a speaker. Among the other speakers were Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson of the United States Supreme Court, Stanley H. McCuaig, K. C., immediate past president of the Canadian Bar Association, and the Right Honorable Lord Morton of Henryton, P. C., M. C., of England. It was my privilege to be a member of the House of Delegates together with Herbert G. Nilles. There were three hours of heated discussion as to whether or not we should endorse the Genocide Bill now pending before Congress. This bill provides that any nation permitting mass murder of national, ethical, racial or religious groups may be prosecuted under the agreement made by the United Nations. It would also provide for the prosecution of the guilty persons as well. We recommended to the United States Senate that the Genocide Convention as submitted should not be ratified by the United States.

The convention was carried on along the same lines as we do here except there were many more departments. During the last year the North Dakota State Bar took part in some eleven new activities with sixteen other states. In the Award of Merit contest sponsored by the American Bar Association,



PHILIP R. BANGS
VICE-PRESIDENT, STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
1949-1950

Colorado won first place with North Dakota receiving honorable mention.

We will hold our first executive meeting September 24 at Fargo and the committee appointments will be announced. Plans will be made to carry on for the ensuing year. We will be pleased to receive any suggestions which you may have for our betterment and improvement.

Sincerely,
F. J. GRAHAM
President

Ellendale, North Dakota
September 12, 1949.

BAR ASSOCIATION WINS SIGNAL HONOR

THE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION of North Dakota received a signal honor recently when it was awarded honorable mention in the American Bar Association's Award of Merit contest at the annual convention in St. Louis. First place was won by the Colorado Bar Association. The honorable mention award is tantamount to second place, since no other awards were made.

The outstanding activities which won this honor for the North Dakota State Bar Association included:

1. Conducting a statewide contest throughout the high schools of North Dakota through its American Citizenship Committee to determine which student in each school had the best understanding of the Constitution of the United States in our form of government.
2. Distribution of more than 31,000 pamphlets on "Title Examinations" through the media of banks, trust companies, service clubs, homemakers clubs and other outlets.
3. Distribution of more than 50,000 pamphlets entitled "Do You Need a Will?" through similar outlets.
4. Arranging a one-day tax course for practicing attorneys in Fargo, North Dakota, during November, 1949, as part of the American Bar Association's national program of continuing legal education.
5. Making available to the state judicial council for purposes of legal research and improvement of the judicial system the sum of \$2,500.

6. Providing, at the State Bar Association's own expense, skilled counsel to the Legislative Research Committee to aid in drafting bills for the Legislative Assembly, a program which to date has cost the State Bar Association \$3,043.87.

7. Employment of Professor Keith W. Blinn of the University of North Dakota Law School to make an exhaustive study of the judicial system of this state with particular reference to Justice of the Peace courts, based upon which Professor Blinn will make recommendations for legislative action looking toward improvement of the judicial system.

8. Payment of the expenses of the three North Dakota commissioners to the National Council of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

9. Awarding of cash scholarships totaling \$300 to four students selected by the Dean and faculty of the law school of the University of North Dakota to encourage legal research, particularly in North Dakota law. A total of \$600 has been allotted to the same activity for the 1949-50 school year.

10. Providing the Legislative Research Committee with slightly more than \$1,000 for the purpose of aiding in the compilation and publication of our 1949 Session Laws and the 1949 Cumulative Supplement.

11. Completion of sectional meetings on "Estate Planning," "Changes in Statutory Law by 1949 Legislature," "Partnership v. Corporation under 1949 Revenue Act," "Problems of Probate Administration," "Will Draftsmanship," "Adoptions," "Title Standards," and "Tax Titles."

JUDGE SIDNEY D. ADAMS

SIDNEY D. ADAMS, attorney and judge and resident of Lisbon, North Dakota, died in that city on February 5, 1949. Judge Adams was born in Wisconsin in October, 1877, and came to North Dakota with his parents in 1883. He attended grade and high school in Lisbon and was a member of the second graduating class of that high school. He took a B. S. degree from the University of Minnesota and an L.L.B. degree from Columbian University, Washington, D. C.

For some time he was secretary to Congressman Thomas F. Marshall. He began the practice of law at Lisbon in 1904 as

a member of the firm of Rourke, Kvello and Adams. In 1908 he temporarily severed his connection with the firm and for three or four years was associated with Edward Pierce at Fargo and in Florida. He then resumed practice at Lisbon and continued in the firm and in individual practice until his appointment as judge of the county court in 1948. He was re-elected to that office without opposition and served until his death.

In 1905, he married Miss Elizabeth D. Barstow and they had one son, John B. Adams, who is presently engaged in the practice of law at Aberdeen, Washington.

Judge Adams was always active in anything relating to the benefit of his community. He was especially active in the affairs of Kiwanis. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and wholeheartedly supported its activities.

An able and conscientious lawyer and judge, he was scrupulously fair and honorable in all his dealings with his brother lawyers and the courts. He was a lawyers' lawyer and had the respect and affection of every member of the Bar and every one who did business with him.

THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED that the State Bar Association of the State of North Dakota attest to the work, character and general goodness of Judge Sidney D. Adams and direct that this Resolution be placed on the permanent records of the Association as a tribute of respect to his memory

E. T. CONMY, Chairman
 JOHN KNAUF
 L. R. NOSTDAL
 Committee on Memorials

LEWIS JOSEPH MANN

LEWIS JOSEPH MANN, attorney of Washburn, North Dakota, died July 4, 1949, at a Bismarck hospital from a heart attack. Born July 4, 1898, at Washburn, Mr. Mann was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mann, pioneer settlers of McLean County, North Dakota.

A graduate of Washburn high school, he worked for the Washburn State Bank for a number of years after which he

entered the School of Law at the University of North Dakota. He received his degree of L. L. B. in 1926.

After graduating from the Law School he opened an office at Van Hook, N. D., and practiced law there for about four years, after which he returned to his home town of Washburn, where he was engaged in the practice of law and various other activities until his death.

Mr. Mann served as States Attorney of McLean County for one term during the years of 1947 and 1948. He took an active part in community affairs and was especially active in Boy Scout work. At the time of his death he was District Commissioner for the Lewis and Clark Boy Scout district. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Washburn and took active part in the work of the lodge as well as in other community affairs.

In politics, Mr. Mann was a life-long Democrat. He served as assistant post master of Washburn for twelve years. He was a talented musician and played various musical instruments and taught his children to play such instruments. He took an active part in various theatrical performances for raising funds for many community projects.

He was married to Miss Marjory Best of Bismarck. His wife and three children survive.

In the passing of Lewis Joseph Mann, his home community and state have lost a useful citizen and the State Bar Association a valued member. We extend our sympathy to the surviving wife and children.

E. T. CONMY, Chairman
JOHN KNAUF
L. R. NOSTDAL
Committee on Memorials

NOTICE OF BOOKS FOR SALE

The following law books, which may be seen at the office of Floyd W. Henderson, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Fargo, N. D., have been offered for sale from the library of the late Romanus J. Downey by Mrs. Downey:

American Jurisprudence, complete set; Ruling Case Law, complete set; A. L. R., volumes 1 to 100; N. W. Reporter, volumes 1 to 262 inclusive; L. R. A., N. S., complete set;

U. S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers Ed., volumes 1 to 58, inclusive; American Decisions; American State Reports; American Negligence Cases; and thirteen sectional bookcases with glass doors, valued at \$100.00.

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