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A Word to the Wise

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A WORD TO THE WISE

It may well be that the bar and the public can absorb the vast numbers of lawyers who will enter the ranks of practitioners within the next few years without becoming overcrowded. It will not do the public, the bar, or aspiring lawyers any good if it develops otherwise. To make this discovery too late would have serious consequences. Now is the time to consider the problem and to seek the solution. Unfortunately, there is no ready-made panacea at hand.

This much can be said, however. There never has been enough lawyers in this country to serve the potential demands of the people. The people need the services of every present member of the bar and the services of every lawyer who will be admitted to practice for years to come if the legal needs of the public are to be adequately cared for. If the people are going to get the benefit of more lawyers, however, and if the profession is going to get the benefit of more clients, it will require a campaign on the part of the bar to educate the public, for its own protection, to the necessity of dealing only with lawyers when legal problems arise.

It will require that the bar redouble its efforts to eliminate the unauthorized practice of law with its attendant damages to the public and the bar alike. The unauthorized practice of law has prevented many people who seriously needed legal guidance from obtaining the benefits of competent legal advice that should be available. It must be fought by the bar wherever it is found, whether it occurs within a governmental agency or in an obscure real estate office where a handyman doubles in legal specialties.

There are other things that can be done, all aimed at providing more adequate legal services for the public. The bar should presently give serious study to ways and means of effectuating these possibilities. It isn't that the outlook is dark as much as it is a challenge but if the bar shies away from the challenge, everyone, the public, the bar, and prospective lawyers, may be the ultimate losers.