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Law School News

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LAW SCHOOL NEWS

At the annual election to The Order of the Coif the following third year students were selected: James A. Nordine of Karlstad, Minnesota, John Charles Smith of Churchs Ferry, North Dakota and George W. Ulseth of Grand Forks, North Dakota. These students are the three highest in the law class of 1948. Mr. Carl A. Hiaasen of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, of the Class of 1922, was elected to membership as an alumnus who would have been eligible for membership at the date of his graduation, if there had been a chapter of The Order in the school at that time. Mr. Hiaasen is a member of the firm McCune, Hiaasen, Fleming & Kelly. Judge P. G. Swenson of Grand Forks was elected to Honorary membership in recognition of his meritorious services to the bar and bench of North Dakota. At the dinner meeting, held on April 29, Honorable P. G. Swenson gave a brief talk on "Early Experiences as a Lawyer." Unable to be present, Mr. Hiaasen's paper on "Cross-Examination" was read by Attorney H. D. Shaft. Mr. Nordine talked on "Effectiveness of Disclaimer of Warranty as to Variety on Sales of Seeds by Description." Mr. John C. Smith reported on the "Full Faith and Credit Clause as Applied to Workmen's Compensation Awards." The subject matter of George W. Ulseth's remarks was the "Federal Common Law after Erie Railway v. Tompkins." Twenty-five members attended the annual meeting of The Order of the Coif. The Order of the Coif is the national law school honor society, whose purpose is to encourage legal scholarship. The local chapter was established in 1925.

The University Commencement was held on June 11, 1948. The following law students were awarded the Juris Doctor degree:

Robert Emmet Dahl, Grafton, N. D.
 Kenneth Marcellus Jakes, Morrystown, South Dakota.
 Thomas Pollock McElroy Jr., Grand Forks, N. D.
 James Arleigh Nordine, Karlstad, Minnesota.
 John Charles Smith, Churchs Ferry, N. D.
 George Walter Ulseth, Grand Forks, N. D.

The law students listed below were awarded the Bachelor of Laws degree:

Albert C. Bakken, Sharon, N. D.
 Theodore Joseph Boutrous, Bismarck, N. D.
 Peter R. Burich, Chisholm, Minnesota

John Douglas Butterwick, Minnewaukan, N. D.
James Gordon Caldis, Grand Forks, N. D.
Robert A. Feidler, Grand Forks, N. D.
George Alan Foss, Christine, N. D.
Glenn Gawayne Geiger, Grand Forks, N. D.
Herbert Gordon Homme, Grafton, N. D.
Donald Hans Jorgenson, Grand Forks, N. D.
Milton Parnell Mandt, Grand Forks, N. D.
Gilbert Roy Neset, Sheyenne, N. D.
Jerome Francis Riley, Lidgerwood, N. D.
Lowell Oliver Tjon, Bottineau, N. D.
Mabel Pauline Vaaler, Grand Forks, N. D.
Robert George Wallin, Valley City, N. D.

The degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa were conferred on Chief Justice A. M. Christianson and Judge William L. Nuessle at the recent University Commencement. Dean O. H. Thormodsgard presented the Citations which are printed in this issue.

The problem method has been used to teach the basic principles of administration of estates. A Wills problem is presented to the class in Wills and Administration. Each student prepares a will and probates the estate. The students take into consideration problems of insurance, trusts provisions, appointments of guardians, gift taxes, state and federal estate taxes. They become acquainted with all legal documents used in the probating of an estate. They prepare a memorandum which gives analyses of each step taken and the reasons. Each year The Merchants National Bank and Trust Company of Fargo gives three prizes to the three best sets of papers. The following students secured the prizes: John D. Nevin, Grand Forks, N. D., Robert B. Baird, Dickinson, N. D. and James E. Leahy, Fargo, North Dakota.

The Corliss Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity will annually give an Award to the law student, whose legal writing is published in the North Dakota Bar Briefs and which is considered by the law faculty as the most acceptable piece of legal writing for that year. John D. Butterwick's comment on "Indians—Original Indian Title—Ascertainment of Heirs of Deceased Allottees," was given the highest merits. The award presented to the winner was the book, "Patton on Titles."

Mr. Murrey C. Chase, formerly of Westhope, North Dakota and a graduate of the School of Law in 1916, recently passed

away at his home in Dinuba, California. The Tulare County Bar Association passed a resolution which is in part as follows: "Whereas, death has taken recently from our midst, Murrey C. Chase, a worthy member of our Bar, and one who as a counsellor and attorney practiced law with diligence and with great courtesy and consideration to the courts and to his fellow attorneys and who practiced the high ideals that have been laid down by his predecessors of the Tulare County Bar, bringing credit not only to himself but to this community." The School of Law takes pride in its graduates who win public esteem and the respect of the bench and bar.

CITATION

Adolph Marcus Christianson was born in Norway in 1877. In 1882, with his parents, he emigrated to the United States. In 1900 he was admitted to practice law in the state of North Dakota. For fifteen years, his law office was in Towner, North Dakota. For two terms, 1901-1905, he served as State's Attorney of McHenry County. For thirty-three years he has been a Judge of the Supreme Court of the state of North Dakota. He has in turn served several times in the capacity as Chief Justice.

His legal opinions to date are printed in Volumes 30 to 74 of the North Dakota reports. These records of his services on the Supreme Bench gave proof that he has helped to mold the law in this state by bridging the gaps that exist between the common law and the statutory law. Due to changes in political concepts leading constitutional and legislative policies have been presented to the Supreme Court for interpretation and construction. His opinions reveal that he has a practical understanding of the administration of justice during this period of great economic and social changes.

Besides his judicial duties he has served as Administrator of the Federal Works Administration, Chairman of the State Emergency Relief Commission and State Administrator of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. In his position is Chief Justice, Member of the Pardon Board, and Member of the Judicial Council he recommended and worked for prison reform, the Prison Farm, and the revision of the procedural laws of this state. His unflinching courtesy and good humor has won him the good esteem of the citizens of the state.

In recognition of his services as a Judge, Administrator and

as a worthy public servant, the law faculty on behalf of the University Council, recommends that the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, be conferred upon Chief Justice Christianson.

DEAN O. H. THORMODSGARD.

CITATION

In the spring of 1899, William L. Nuessle graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Dakota. Due to the efforts of President Merrifield and Chief Justice Guy C. H. Corliss, the School of Law was organized in the fall of 1899. William L. Nuessle was a member of the first law classes of the School of Law and graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1901. He began his law practice in Grand Forks. He was State's Attorney of McLean County for two terms, 1905-1909. He served with distinction and recognition as a District Judge in the Fourth and Sixth Judicial Districts from 1913-1922. He presided over the District Court with dignity, meted out justice fearlessly and impartially and won the honor and respect of the public in general and the lawyers in particular. His experience on the District Bench for ten years won for him the condence of the people of the state of North Dakota which resulted in his elevation on January 1, 1923 to the Supreme Court of the state of North Dakota. For twenty-five years he has served the state as a member of the Supreme Court. His years of judicial experiences coupled with his understanding of the common law and equity enriched the administration of justice in North Dakota. His opinions are known for their clarity of expression and precision of arrangement. As his professional qualities have earned the respect of the lawyers, so his personal qualities have earned him the affection of his fellow-citizens.

Judge Nuessle is a loyal alumnus of the University of North Dakota Law School. The School of Law will begin its fiftieth academic year this year. In recognition of the excellent judicial record of one of its first law graduates, the law faculty on behalf of the University Council, recommends that the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, be conferred upon Judge Wm. L. Nuessle.

DEAN O. H. THORMODSGARD.