



1945

Robert D. Hoskins, First Clerk of the Supreme Court of North Dakota, Dies

North Dakota State Bar Association

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dian ad litem for the infant children of the parties. It should be made the duty of this attorney to represent the infants, attend the taking of all depositions, or trial and make his recommendation to the court. It may be argued that this will increase the cost of divorces. What if it does? In the sale of real property it seems sometimes that the expense of having a guardian ad litem and the necessary court process is large considering the amount involved. Can anyone object to a small additional expense when the future welfare and happiness of the child is at stake? Let those who enter the divorce court pay the cost of adequate representation for their infants. Besides, attorneys will be reasonable in the fees they seek for representing infants and the court will fix their allowance at a figure commensurate with the value of their services and the ability of the parties to pay.

The State of Michigan has a law which provides for the appointment by the Commonwealth's Attorney of a "Friend of the Court." It is the duty of this officer to make an investigation of all divorce cases which are referred to him. He does not make a recommendation upon the merits of the case as to whether or not a divorce should be granted. His report contains recommendations as to the amount of temporary and permanent alimony and maintenance and support of the children. His report is that of a trained social investigator and is valuable to the court. He is also the follow-up officer to see that the alimony and maintenance is paid after a divorce is granted. The system we have in Kentucky of collecting back alimony and maintenance by rule is expensive and unsatisfactory. The increasing number of divorce cases the courts are called upon to decide makes it imperative that our law makers give some constructive attention to our divorce laws. If our law provided for a "Friend of the Court," perhaps a guardian ad litem would not be necessary.

ROBERT D. HOSKINS, FIRST CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH DAKOTA, DIES

Funeral services were held on January 4th, 1946, at the Convert funeral home in Bismarck for Robert D. Hoskins, 85, first Clerk of the State Supreme Court.

Coming to North Dakota in 1884, Mr. Hoskins edited the Bathgate weekly newspaper prior to going to Bismarck in 1889 to become North Dakota's first Supreme Court Clerk. He retired from that post in 1917.

The Bar gave recognition to his long service at the time of his retirement, epitomized by A. M. Christianson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who in describing Mr. Hoskin's service to the state said;

"He had only one standard of service—the best."