



1944

Items of Interest

North Dakota State Bar Association

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At that time the Association passed a resolution instructing me, as President of the Association, to have these certificates properly framed, and arrange to have them hung in the offices of the Clerk of the Supreme Court of North Dakota. At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association held at Bismarck last fall, I was instructed to appear before the Supreme Court and ask permission of the Court to hang these certificates in some appropriate place which the Supreme Court might designate.

The members of the Bar Association of North Dakota are very proud of this recognition by the Army and the Navy of their war work; and knowing something of the work of the lawyers in North Dakota, I believe that it was a well deserved recognition. As President of the North Dakota Bar Association for the past two years, I had an opportunity of knowing what our lawyers were doing in the war work. We had a special committee on war work, headed by Hon. O. B. Burtness, of Grand Forks, with active members in every county, to whom the legal work of soldiers and sailors was referred; and our Association can be justly proud of the manner in which the members of this committee performed this work.

Not only the members of this committee, but all the lawyers of North Dakota, rendered outstanding services in the war work. In assisting registrants in filling out questionnaires, practically all our lawyers donated many weeks and months of their busy time. They also gave generously of their time and talent in giving free legal assistance to soldiers and sailors and their families. So I think we can say without fear of contradiction that the lawyers of North Dakota have made an outstanding record in war work, and we can be justly proud of this record. A very large percentage of them are in the armed forces, and the others have carried on magnificently on the home front.

So I respectfully ask the Court for permission to hang these certificates of appreciation in some appropriate place, to be designated by the Court.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Donald M. Murtha, of the firm of Murtha & Murtha, Dickinson Attorneys, and formerly regional attorney for wage and hour and public contracts division of the Department of Labor with headquarters at Minneapolis, has been appointed assistant solicitor for the Labor Department with offices in Washington, D. C. He will be in charge of the interpretations and administrative service branches.

P. W. Lanier, jr., Fargo attorney, Mrs. Lanier and son have arrived in Fargo after the former's release from the marine corps at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where as a lieutenant, he served as judge advocate after returning from the Pacific area. Lanier, who was wounded on Guam, once pitched for the Fargo-Moorhead Twins baseball team. He and his family will stay with his parents

at 1423 Sixth av. S., while house-hunting. He plans to resume his law practice here.

C. J. Serkland, Fargo attorney, has been released from the navy at Great Lakes, Ill., naval separation center and is at home with his wife and three children at 1433 Ninth av. S. He served as a lieutenant with carrier air group 88 aboard the Yorktown, featured in the combat film, *Fighting Lady*. Serkland saw action in operations off the coast of Japan in the final months of the war and later served with occupation forces in Japan. He plans to re-open his law office in Fargo soon.

A recent AP item from Minot relates to the death of Peter A. Winter, 61, States Attorney of Sheridan County, in a Minot Hospital on November 19th. Mr. Winter who was admitted to practice in this state on June 5th, 1909, was a graduate of the Law College of the University of North Dakota, and had practiced in McCluskey since that time. He was Past Master of the McCluskey Masonic Lodge, Past President of the Lions Club, and president of the school board for many years.

Sidney E. Ellsworth of Jamestown, 83, died Wednesday, November 8th, 1945, at Trinity Hospital in that city. Judge Ellsworth was admitted to practice in this state on January 10th, 1893, and since 1894 had been engaged in the practice of law at Jamestown, with the exception of two years in 1909 and 1910 when he served as a member of the Supreme Court of North Dakota under an appointment of Governor Burke.

THE LAWYER'S INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY*

Perhaps, without wandering too far from the matter assigned I may, with propriety, for a moment emphasize somewhat our individual responsibility not only to our profession but more—our part in building public opinion.

If we are men, we will take account of ourselves, strengthening ourselves against our weaknesses, reduce our prejudices and standing on our own feet, strive to show forth as fair examples of manhood devoted to decency and right living. We will not permit winds to blow us toward the rocks. Nor will we permit a mastery to gusty temptations which play havoc with personal morals.

After all, the external condition of society depends on the internal nature of man. Each one of us casts a shadow. Each one by self restraint, patience and proper conduct may exert a helpful influence by unselfish devotion to the high ideals of our profession, by standing firmly against temptation in a determination to place before the youth coming into our ranks the best examples of good citizenship and individual manhood. Strong, reliable and stable, we may influence for the better service of mankind the broader

*From an address by Justice Edward T. Fairchild before a meeting of the Dane County Bar Association.