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Bar Associations

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BAR BRIEFS

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—BY—

STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

M. L. McBride, Editor

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BAR ASSOCIATIONS

The accomplishment of Bar Associations, both state and national, is little realized by the public generally, nor is it appreciated by some of the members of these associations. It is true that lawyers generally, whether working in conjunction with their association or on legal matters of their own, hesitate to rush into experiments in making changes in the law, its administration, or its courts. Such action on their part is much to their credit, rather than a matter of criticism.

The law is an out-growth of civilization, and changes should only be made as conditions change, and then only with the greatest of care. The law is based on past experiences, prior interpretations by the courts, and the necessities and requirements of society and civilization, so that hasty changes would create a state of chaos and do great injury to all men.

The Bar Associations, however, have persistently and consistently worked to the end that not only the laws, but their administration, might be improved, and that the personnel of those engaged in the practice or administration of the law might be kept at as high a standard as can possibly be expected. Great and busy lawyers have been and are devoting their time and thought to such improvement. The membership of the Law Institute, the membership on the Committee on Uniform Laws have devoted their energies to improvement and simplification of the laws of this country and the various states.

None of these changes or improvements are made with haste, or without due and careful consideration. Through the activity of the Bar Associations, both state and national, the personnel of the legal profession has been materially improved, and through their energies and the cooperation of the various law schools, much improvement can be anticipated. All this has been done without any rush or attempt to deprive the present practitioners of their livelihood or their right to practice. True, there has been criticism by reason of this slow progress, but radical changes, like the changing of the form of government, are most undesirable, and would be the cause of much suffer-

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ing both among the laity and those engaged in the legal profession. Let us not be misled and seek to plunge either the lawyer or the law into any hasty changes, but let these work it out in a systematic and gradual method. Let experience justify a change before the same is made, and let us give the various Bar Associations and their committees every possible assistance.

In other words, let us build up and not tear down these institutions that are doing a worthy work, even though they are not rushing it by unjustified experiments.

L. J. PALDA, JR., President.

ANNUAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
WILL BE HELD AT DEVILS LAKE, N. D.,
ON JULY 15-16, 1938

This is your Bar Association — your annual meeting. It offers you an opportunity to meet your brother lawyer, discuss your problems and tell your Executive Committee what policies you wish them to follow. If you want to know what good the organization is and what good it has done and is doing for the lawyers in this state, etc., let the questioning brother come to Devils Lake on July 15 and 16 and repeat his query.

You, Mr. Lawyer, may feel that your Executive Committee is "asleep at the switch" on the matter of curbing the unauthorized practice of law. Very well. Come to the Committee on Unauthorized Practice and "make your squawk".

You, Mr. Attorney, may feel that definite legislative action should be taken to make the world safer for lawyers. You complain that you are losing your business to government agencies—you are unable to collect your fees or costs and that different agencies are stealing your business. Very well, make your complaint to the Committee on Legislation. Tell them what changes you feel would better your condition.

Perhaps you think the Bar Association should conduct a campaign on education or publicity to better its relations with the public — to secure a better understanding by the public of the lawyer's place in the community. OK brother, attend the convention, listen to the report on public relations and shout your suggestions and criticisms.

What good is this organization if its members do not attend, discuss and solve the many interesting, if vexatious problems confronting it? Discipline, fees, unauthorized practice, legislation, public relations, ethics, economic condition of the members, "business solicitors", "ambulance chasers", "fee cutting", all are living issues. Remember, that this Association can do nothing unless you assist it. It is alive or dead, depending upon your in-