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Salaries of Judges and Retirement Pay

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M. L. McBride, Editor

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SALARIES OF JUDGES AND RETIREMENT PAY

The American Bar Association has a committee on judicial salaries, and it is soliciting the active support of the State Bar Association for increases of pay for judges and restoration of salaries cut during the depression. I have asked for the views of our Judges with respect to this subject and the unanimous opinion is that nothing should be attempted under present conditions. One Judge suggested that the subject of retirement on part pay after a certain period of service might be presented to the coming Legislature, and I am asking the views of the other Judges and of the members of the Executive Committee before doing anything further on this phase of the subject.

Our Judges are shamefully underpaid. This has always been true in North Dakota, and five hundred dollars of the already scant salary was cut off by the Legislature in 1932. If and when North Dakota is fortunate enough to get another crop, a campaign should be made openly and vigorously in the interests of our judges on both increases of salary and a retirement system. The judges of North Dakota are about the lowest paid in any comparable state. The lawyers must do this job, and I think they can accomplish the desired results if each will constitute himself a committee of one to bring the merits of these questions to the attention of clients, friends and acquaintances. This is work that can be done from day to day by the average lawyer, and will require no loss of time or expenditure of money. Let us all get busy and keep busy.

C. J. MURPHY, President.