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## Pre-Bar Acquaintance with Bar Association Work

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will be large. Therefore, this June Message by the President is a resume and warning to the bar of the state that they arrange their affairs in such a manner as to be in attendance upon the meeting.

M. A. HILDRETH,  
President.

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### PRE-BAR ACQUAINTANCE WITH BAR ASSOCIATION WORK

"Within a few years, the work, the leadership, and the policies of the legal profession will be largely in the hands of lawyers who now are in the Junior Bar, under 35 years of age," says President Ransom of the American Bar Association. "Within the same period of time, the leadership and the activities of the dynamic Junior Bar will come into the hands of men now in the Law Schools and men who have not yet entered the Law Schools.

"In the presence of this continuing transition through flight of time, the men now active in the Bar Associations, local, State and National, are naturally interested that law school students shall have pre-Bar acquaintance with the purposes and spirit of the organized Bar. We could not afford to let young men wander into the profession without realization of the duties and responsibilities of their high calling, and could not afford to let them remain aloof during the hard, formative years when they need most the friendly help and cooperation of Bar Association activities.

"Now many years ago the legal profession in America had little sense of public obligation as a profession, and was just a lot of lawyers practicing law—intensely individualistic, sharply critical of each other, but little disposed to do anything to raise the standards of the profession and make it a better instrument of public service. Well, that picture has begun to change, and has already changed considerably in not a few States. By and large, the lawyers of the whole country are becoming aroused to a keener sense of their public duties and responsibilities, and are beginning to go into action along lines that have been too long delayed. I am happy to be able to report to you that American lawyers are coming to do, for and about their profession, a great deal of the same kind of straight thinking and hard work which they do for their clients.

"Gone are the days when Bar Associations—local, State or National—do or can represent the views or the participation of only a minority, no matter how wise or patriotic that minority may be. The rank and file of the practicing lawyers are moving in and are taking charge—the men who do the real work of the profession—and the younger lawyers are coming in to work along with them. Grave as are the problems which beset our profession and our country—and I would be the last to underestimate their gravity—I believe that a militant and truly representative organization of American lawyers will bring new resources of wisdom and leadership, for their democratic solution. There are many tasks and duties which call for the best which the lawyer can give, in the interests of the public as well as the legal profession.

"So my plea here, to the younger lawyer and to the law student not yet enrolled in the profession, is for his use to the utmost of such time as he can spare, in the tasks of good citizenship, and of the legal profession. Our country needs the able and disinterested counsel and leadership of the whole of its legal profession, and not merely the counsel and leadership of an elderly minority. This profession and its prob-

lems will soon belong to you, and I welcome heartily every organization and activity which helps to fit the young recruit to take from the first an honorable place in the profession."

### SOME FUNCTIONS OF UNIFORM STATE LAWS

By HONORABLE HARRISON A. BRONSON

Unmistakably all about us the test is being sought or applied whether our democratic form of government shall survive.

Throughout the world we see the trend towards the rule of the dictator or the rule of the mob in governmental matters.

#### *Representative Governments Are Few*

Great Britain, France and our United States stand now practically alone as the really representative governments of and by the people. Here at home strong agitation and major efforts are being made to fundamentally change our Federal Constitution and our dual system of government.

Here and there the question is becoming somewhat paramount whether the thrift, the energy and the initiative of a people, functioning through a government of their own choice and with individual enterprise, shall continue to furnish the mainspring of our civilization's existence and progress.

Shall our institutions, with their bills of rights preserved for the people in the founding of our Federal Government, survive? Shall our judicial functions continue to be performed by the courts; or, shall they pass largely to the executive or legislative branch who may act even without a trial by jury? Are states' rights preserved in our Federal Constitution worthy of retention?

#### *Governmental Problems Are Presented*

Such and similar questions need no elaboration for us to know that they are here and must be answered, as governmental problems. In this new complexity which challenges our fundamental concepts of law and of government, where is the place of the lawyer? How shall his learning and his experience in the law be recognized through public opinion. Shall this learning and experience in public respect go for naught and be disregarded when the rule-making power considers law prescription?

A vast aggregation of laws, rules, regulations, decrees, declarations, departmental rulings, official opinions, regardless of our court decisions, beset us on every side.

Legislative prescriptions and the exercise of executive authority curb the courts or hinder them in considering the law and in enforcing it through their mandates.

Like fiat money, the greater their abundance, the less the percentage of obedience and respect accorded.

So, we find today so many, seeking a way out and wanting political action or political preferment, who challenge now the fundamental legal concepts of our Constitution, disregarding the voices of experience or the lessons of history.

#### *Law Institute Has Arduous Task*

In the field of American jurisprudence, the American Law Institute is performing the arduous task of restating the law of our country.

I speak now of the work of the National Conference of Commis-