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The Main Street Lawyer

A M. Kvello

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The Budget appropriations were made as follows:

Outstanding 1930	\$160.00
Reporting 1930 Meeting	100.00
Postage and Printing	150.00
Bar Briefs	425.00
1930 Proceedings	425.00
Executive Committee	250.00
President	200.00
Legislative Committee	150.00
Organizations	100.00
Bar Board Referendum	60.00
Secretary-Treasurer-Editor	720.00
1931 Meeting	600.00
Citizenship Committee	50.00
Balance due Law Review	100.00

THE MAIN STREET LAWYER

The following is taken from the address of President Kvello at the meeting of the South Dakota Bar Association in September, and we regret that we are unable to give space to the whole address:

"The Main Street lawyer is a distinct species in our land. As an individual member of the profession he glories in his independence and his individuality. He, of all men, has truly been a free agent. There never has been and there is not today any calling or profession that is more independent. But today the existence of that independent professional life is being threatened. I am but voicing a truism when I state that the economic world is practically being made over under our very eyes. The small town lawyer, even in greater degree than the small town doctor, and our friend the farmer, has been the last to feel the pressure of the modern tendency to merge and combine. He has so far largely maintained that independence while all around him he finds forces at work changing and destroying other forms of business and professional activity and which are becoming a part of what Dean Pound has so interestingly described as the New Feudalism. But today he is beginning to feel the influence of this new condition of affairs and is getting a glimpse of what may be the partial fate of his profession in the future. Because of his self-sufficiency he has been slow heretofore to cooperate with his fellows in laying the foundation for a continuation of a fair degree of individual freedom in his profession. But it is rapidly becoming evident to him that the time for aloofness is a thing of the past if there ever has been a time for it. He is beginning to realize that it is of the utmost importance to himself as well as to his profession generally that he get together with them for the common good. His responsibility in that regard is greater today than it has ever been. That responsibility can only be met by a close knit union with all lawyers. The voice of the Main Street lawyer, who is in the majority numerically, is a voice that can be heard only in combination and cooperation with his local, state and national organizations. That is the challenge that comes to him today.

"There is another responsibility that he must be alive to as well if he would best serve his profession and his community. I have already

noted that we are today more urban than rural. The last census discloses the fact that the large centers are growing by leaps and bounds at the expense of the farming and smaller communities, and that many of these latter are quietly slipping into an oblivion that is waiting just around the corner. While some of the cross-roads villages are passing and will soon pass away for ever from the usefulness which has been theirs I am optimistic enough to believe that this fate is not in store for what we may call the average or key town of the smaller group. While these today are feeling the stress of this age of industrialism I believe that the present state of affairs is but temporary and that in the very near tomorrow these key towns will have a greater field of usefulness than ever before. I believe they are destined to be the economic and cultural centers of the future. They are needed now and will be increasingly needed in the years to come as important parts of our social and economic structure.

"This country cannot afford to lose the small key town and the things for which it stands. It is the healthiest and the most normal gathering place of people we find anywhere in the land. And among its finest assets is the small town lawyer who invariably is its principal leader and builder. In him we find most active the practice of those ideals which have made our profession what it is today. His independence and altruism in a world made mentally foggy by a false sense of values are a saving grace and will be even more so in the adjustment years that are sure to come in the near future. Today, and I say it not in a boastful spirit, but in sober, conscious truth, the average Main Street lawyer is the principal guardian of the traditions of our profession and of the best that there is in our civic and social life. He has been least affected by the back wash of this materialistic age. He has not been so directly or indirectly subsidized by the economic urge which is the dominant characteristic of this day. If there is any virtue in an independent individualistic and detached status in our profession then the Main Street lawyer is today largely the depository of that virtue. He it is who perhaps more than any other must not only keep the torch burning but must also be the torch lighter for others if the beacons are not to be dimmed or go wholly out.

"To continue as assistant 'Keeper of the Seals' it is vitally necessary that he join hands with his fellow lawyers everywhere, and that he take an active and leading part in shaping the policies and practices of the profession. The plea that I would make to my fellow Main Street lawyers is that we may develop a higher class consciousness and a finer spirit of cooperative unity. Then, and then only, can we help make our profession a living, moving and constructive force in every community, both large and small. Then as officers of the courts and as Priests of the Temple of Justice we may better keep alive that reverence for the observance of law which Lincoln has called the Political Religion of the Nation and without which there can be no true liberty.

"Though it may seem to us as individuals working in our own little niche that we may not be able to accomplish much along these lines we, nevertheless, individually do have a very real and present responsibility. That responsibility can best be met by working shoulder to shoulder with our brethren everywhere. It is still true, as Lowell says:

" 'Still through our paltry stir and strife,
Glow down the wished Ideal.
And longing moulds in clay, what Life
Carves in the marble real.'

"We may be certain that if we unitedly take our part and are true to the glorious traditions of our profession that it may be said of us as it has been said of our predecessors:

" 'Tis thus at the roaring loom of time we ply
And weave for God the garments thou seest him by.' "

UNIFORM ACTS APPROVED AND ENACTED

The following tabulation shows the uniform acts approved by the Commissioners on Uniform Laws of the American Bar Association, the year of such approval, and the number of jurisdictions that subsequently enacted such legislation:

Act	Year	
	Approved	Jurisdictions Enacting
Acknowledgments Act	1892	9
Acknowledgments Act, Foreign	1914	8
Aeronautics Act	1922	17
Arbitration Act	1925	3
Bills of Lading Act	1909	27
Business Corporation Act	1928	2
Chattel Mortgage Act	1926
Child Labor Act	1911	4
Cold Storage Act	1914	6
Conditional Sales Act	1918	9
Criminal Extradition Act	1926	6
Declaratory Judgments Act	1922	15
Desertion and Non-Support Act	1910	20
Extradition Persons of Unsound Mind Act	1916	9
Federal Tax Lien Registration Act	1926	10
Fiduciaries Act	1922	13
Flag Act	1917	10
Foreign Depositions Act	1920	11
Fraudulent Conveyance Act	1918	15
Illegitimacy Act	1922	7
Interparty Agreement Act	1925	4
Joint Obligations Act	1925	3
Land Registration Act	1916	3
Limited Partnership Act	1916	16
Marriage and Marriage License Act	1911	2
Marriage Evasion Act	1912	5
Motor Vehicle Code, Anti-Theft Act	1926	6
Motor Vehicle Code, Registration Act	1926	5
Motor Vehicle Code, License Act	1926	2
Motor Vehicle Code, Operation Act	1926	13
Motor Vehicle Code, Operation Act, Amendment	1929
Negotiable Instruments Act	1896	52
Partnership Act	1914	17
Proof of Statutes Act	1920	9
Public Utilities Act	1928
Real Estate Mortgage Act	1927
Reciprocal Transfer Tax Act	1928	3
Sales of Securities Act	1929
Sales Act	1906	31
Sales Act, Amendments	1922	5
Stock Transfer Act	1909	21
Veterans' Guardianship Act	1928	25