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### **CAREER PLANNING IN THE LAW. By Kenneth Robert Redden. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1951.**

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Mr. Darrow's argument and plea to the court for clemency for those young men.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Busch will produce further volumes condensing the lengthy records and proceedings of our famous criminal trials that have produced such great interest in their own time, for the benefit of the layman and the legal profession alike. It must be said that these volumes are more fit for bedtime reading than for serious study. This is meant in no derogatory sense as they are possessed of great interest and are possibly the only accessible source for investigation of these now famous trials.

JULIUS H. ERSTLING

MEMBER DADE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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CAREER PLANNING IN THE LAW. By Kenneth Robert Redden. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1951. Pp. 194. \$3.00.

In a vocational guidance reference library this book might be appropriately classed as "Reliable Occupational Information." It does present a great deal of factual data concerning practice in the law and in allied fields; what lawyers do to earn a living; what kind of living they earn in widely varying fields of law practice and in different types of communities; how many are presently employed; what the future holds for the young lawyer seeking a personally satisfying career, as well as a job; where and how to look for the kind of employment that is most suitable for him as an individual personality; how to progress in it once the choice is made.

The reliability of the information cannot be questioned. Most of the material appeared originally in the *Journal of the American Judicature Society*, the *Virginia Law Weekly*, and the *Harvard Law School Record*, from which sources the author borrowed with acknowledgments to the original contributors. The author, who is Professor of Law and Placement Director at the University of Virginia, is experienced as a personnel worker in private practice, as a placement director, law practitioner, and as a law teacher. But *Career Planning in the Law* is more, much more, than a book of reference. It can be a source of inspiration for those who believe they have only two choices; either to slowly starve to death on a slim diet of professional ethics while waiting in a solo private practice for the "great chance to render a worthwhile social service" (for a fee), or to prolong the inevitable demise by joining the humbler ranks of a large firm in an over-crowded profession. The author does not ignore or minimize the obstacles that lie in the pathway to fame and fortune, nor does he attempt to build up false hopes by childishly glamorizing opportunities which in reality do not exist. He is counseling young lawyers who want to know the facts, who have the ability to organize those facts logically and to translate them dynamically into a plan

of action related to their individual purposes. There is a promise in the book that for those with courage, industry, and ability there is still a limitless range of opportunity for the use of legal training, both within and without the profession.

In private practice, the man on his own has the advantage of the utmost in personal independence but because of the many disadvantages of solo practice, the trend, says Professor Redden, seems to be toward alliances in some type of limited partnership. Forming a partnership, however, "is like getting married. For some it is the ideal state; for others, it is disastrous."

Many young lawyers find that association with large firms provides the strongest probability of their ultimate achievement of desirable goals; relatively high income, professional and social prominence, political opportunities, and big-city standards of living. But, one man's meat is another man's poison. It depends upon the individual's needs and his personal evaluation of "success."

With reference to a general discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of both general and private practice, the book contains brief but significant descriptions of criminal practice and labor relations practice including the opportunities for union lawyers, management attorneys, arbitrators, and government representatives. Emphasis is also placed upon the importance of legal aid work and the opportunities for satisfying experience in this field. Opportunities for employment on the legal staffs of corporations is also given attention with emphasis upon the distinction between "trial lawyers" and "office lawyers."

The question, "In what kind of practice shall I look for employment?" probably cannot be answered satisfactorily without considering the equally important questions, "Where shall I establish a practice or look for employment? How shall I go about it?" The common answer, "Wherever I can get a good job," is not realistic and sometimes not even truthful. The "wherever" is often qualified by unreasonable prejudices against leaving a metropolitan area or moving to an unfamiliar part of the country. The "good job" cannot be defined without realistic self-appraisal, often requiring the help of a qualified personal counselor. The chapters *Where to Practice* and *Landing a Job* contain reliable information, statistical data, and sound common-sense suggestions which should be helpful to every law student or graduate considering a major step or change in his career.

Roughly two-thirds of the book is occupied with showing the opportunities for law-trained men and women in government service. It would seem that the author's purpose here is to encourage the reader to examine more carefully the wide range of professional careers possible for law school graduates in the complex administration of the affairs of the federal government. With reference to the work of the attorney in eight major branches of civil service the material is presented in sufficient detail to give the reader a clear and unbiased picture of both the advantages and disadvantages of legal serv-

ice through a government agency. Even if we admit the inadequacies of salaries in the higher positions, the possibility of stagnating on a plateau of mediocrity, the lack of personal recognition, job insecurity, red tape, and the multitude of bosses, there are many overbalancing assets that produce a favorable net worth for many people who, by training, experience, and temperament, are best suited for government service. Whatever the final decision, it would seem unwise to reject possibilities in federal, state and local government before making a careful analysis of the facts regarding employment in this extensive and expanding field. No one is able to present within the covers of one small book all the information pertinent to the use of legal training in government service and still maintain a pleasantly informal style of writing with a personal appeal to the individual reader. The author has admirably achieved the latter purpose; the former leaves nothing to be desired in a preliminary general survey. Throughout the book, there are many references to original sources of information and current evaluations of specific job opportunities.

According to Professor Redden's definition, every area of vocational activity might be classed as a field allied to that of the law. In fact, "there is no endeavor in which the exercise of legal training could not be successfully used." A few vocational fields such as law teaching, law librarianship, legal editing, publishing, and selling, estate planning, court reporting, and brokerage business counseling, are given special consideration in the closing chapters of the book as examples of the many ways in which the resourceful and imaginative graduate can make profitable application of his legal training.

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LET JUSTICE BE DONE. By James Morfit Mullen. Philadelphia: Dorrance & Company, 1952. Pp. 371. \$3.00.

No man can serve two masters; a lawyer should not let other interests lessen his allegiance to his client; an author who has two purposes should write two books. Unfortunately, Mr. Mullen, while a lawyer for more than forty years, as an author did not realize that that principle is valid in literature as well as in business and law.

The first four chapters are of interest primarily to the legal profession, and a young lawyer may find some vicarious experience in the varied incidents of an attorney's relationships with his clients, adversaries, judges and witnesses. Nine chapters of incidents and ideas in five fields of law, chancery and law courts, written law and technicalities (all in 197 pages), might