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### Why Lawyers

Clyde Duffy

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# BAR BRIEFS

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## STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

M. L. McBride, Editor.

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### WHY LAWYERS?

A dislike for lawyers no doubt antedated the ancient legend that when the blind-folded St. Ives walked down the nave among the statues of the saints to select by chance the one who should be the patron of the Bar, he came to that of Saint Michael conquering the devil and embraced the devil. Extremists have always looked with disfavor on lawyers. The British General Gage insisted that "the lawyers are the source from whence the clamors have flowed in every province." The terrorists of the French Revolution abolished the legal profession. When in our day we encounter efforts to belittle the influence of the lawyers in writing the Constitution and in developing American government, we may view the effort philisophically. More than a hundred years ago Massachusetts barred lawyers from her legislative assembly. Rhode Island had a farmer for chief justice and a blacksmith for his associate. John Quincy Adams wrote: "the mere title of lawyer is sufficient to deprive a man of public confidence." Yet the legal profession has continued as a steadying influence. Even Napoleon, though he feared them, concluded that lawyers were essential in a civilized commonwealth.

CLYDE DUFFY,  
President.