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Trumbull: Materials on the Lawyer's Professional Responsibility

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RECENT BOOKS

MATERIALS ON THE LAWYER'S PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. By *William M. Trumbull*. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall. 1957. Pp. xiii, 409. \$6.

The fact that the law is a seamless web is a matter of inconvenience not only to the unauthorized practitioner but also to the judicial reformer. It would be of untold value in the betterment of the profession, the courts, and their service to the public if every graduating law student were familiar with the principles and issues involved in the major reform projects that are claiming the attention and energy of bench and bar in all states. If many are not, it is at least partly due to the difficulty of finding a place for these matters in an overcrowded curriculum.

Today in many law schools, and not long ago in most or all of them, teaching is and was confined to the familiar substantive courses like property, torts and contracts, plus some new ones like tax and labor law (and no doubt space law in the near future), and certain courses in remedial law like pleading, trial and appellate practice, equity and evidence. Certain areas of judicial reform which fit naturally into one or more of these pigeon-holes have received attention in proportion to the opinion of teacher and casebook writer as to their importance. In the study of procedure, for example, it is almost impossible to avoid reference to its simplification, to federal-state conformity, and to the several devices suggested and used for improvement of jury trial.

Some very important matters have been missed, however, because there was no course to cover them. In the writer's own legal education, professional ethics was the subject of a series of weekly non-credit lectures late in the senior year, and little or nothing was said about unauthorized practice and the lawyer's responsibility regarding it, bar association organization and activities, professional discipline, legal aid, and other matters.

Professor Trumbull has fitted all these seemingly unrelated topics and others into a well organized and unified outline under the heading of the lawyer's responsibility and the result is a course that should have top priority in the training of lawyers. He begins with a broad view of the lawyer's responsibility as a whole and follows with an examination of the right to practice law, discipline of lawyers and judges, the organization of the legal profession, and integration of the bar. Then the canons of ethics, along with cases and related materials, are taken up under convenient groupings, and the book concludes with some stimulating essays on the future of the profession.

The editor was fortunate in being able to use some excellent material of very recent date, including the 1957 *Schwartz* case [Schwartz v. Bd. of Bar Examiners of New Mexico, 353 U.S. 232] from New Mexico on bar admission and the new A.B.A. model disciplinary code. The excellent chapter on the organization of the profession gives much needed orienta-

tion in that field, and by strong implication suggests that the lawyer belongs in them. Judicial opinions for and against the integrated bar are given, and there is a chapter on legal aid and lawyer referral service and the lawyer's important responsibility in that regard.

Unlike much of the substantive law, a great deal of the material in this book is controversial in nature and is currently in the legal news and under discussion at bar meetings. Some smattering of it may be picked up in that way, and that is the extent of most lawyers' knowledge of many of these topics. It is inevitable, however, that the young lawyer will think lightly of matters that were treated only lightly or not at all in law school, and the widespread teaching of a course such as is set forth in Mr. Trumbull's book should make it easier for the American Judicature Society and allied agencies to enlist the next generation of lawyers in support of reform projects which can never succeed without them.

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