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Denver Bar Association Secretary's Report

BY DONALD M. LESHNER

Secretary, The Denver Bar Association

It is only by reviewing and analyzing the work of the various committees of the Denver Bar Association that a true report of the activities of your association can be made; for the effectiveness and value of the association's activities are directly proportional to the efforts of the members and officers.

Your committee on Grievances and Legal Ethics, under the chairmanship of Robert D. Charlton, has had under consideration three complaints of major importance. One complaint was referred by the Supreme Court, action was taken, and the committee's recommendations were accepted by the court. Another complaint was acted on by the committee after several hearings and pleadings by the parties. The third major complaint is still under consideration. The committee disposed of innumerable less major complaints by referral to individual committee members, by direct action from the chairman, or by dismissal for want of merit.

Your committee on Unlawful Practice, under the chairmanship of Charles A. Graham, has held several meetings and determined that extensive investigation should be made into the unlawful practice of the law by laymen. The committee has, therefore, spent a great deal of time as a fact-finding body and has determined that sufficient grounds exist for the commencement of litigation. The principal fields for this litigation are: taxation, real estate, and corporate practice. The assistance of each lawyer is solicited as present committee plans call for the filing of complaints as soon as cases can be properly prepared.

Your Legislative committee, under the co-chairmanship of Fritz A. Nagel and William E. Hutton, have had under consideration several of the bills introduced in the Thirty-Sixth General Assembly and have made recommendations thereon. The committee was instrumental in defeating the community property bills by appearing at two legislative public hearings.

Your committee on Entertainment, under the chairmanship of Cecil M. Draper, was in charge of the summer stag picnic held at Park Hill Country Club and of the banquet held April 9, 1947, at the University Club, honoring those members who had been admitted to practice law in Colorado for a period of fifty years or more.

Your committee on Legal Institutes, under the chairmanship of Harry A. King, presented two legal institutes: one on Taxation and one on Estates. The latter was held with the cooperation of the Colorado Bar Association and was climaxed by a banquet at which Carl B. Rix, president of the American Bar Association, delivered the principal address.

Your Membership committee, under the chairmanship of Ranger Rogers, considered each application for membership, recommending 56 new members.

Your committee on Minimum Fees, under the chairmanship of Hugh B. Kellogg, proposed a minimum fee schedule which was adopted by the association. This schedule has been in operation for several months and is now ready for revision and addition if the experience of the practicing bar shows a need therefore.

Your committee on Real Estate Standards, under the chairmanship of Edwin J. Wittelshofer, has promulgated Standards No. 48 and 49 during the past year. On October 19, 1946, Standards 1-47 were adopted on a state-wide basis by the Colorado Bar Association. Your committee was active in drafting and sponsoring legislation, and a great deal of time was given to answering queries of individual title examiners.

Your committee on Returned Veterans, under the chairmanship of Charles A. Baer, was appointed for the purpose of investigating the applicability of the Servicemens' Re-adjustment Act to returning lawyer-veterans. This investigation was conducted, and recommendations based thereon were made. Because of a change in regulations by the Veterans Administration, further activity of the committee was deemed unnecessary.

Your Junior Bar committee, under the chairmanship of Stanley W. Prisner, in cooperation with the Junior Bar Section, under the chairmanship of Wilbur E. Rocchio, has sponsored two luncheons and one breakfast.

It has been the duty of your fellowship committee, under the chairmanship of Clarence L. Bartholic, to convey an expression of sorrow or good wishes on behalf of the bar association whenever such an expression was warranted. This committee has performed admirably.

For several years, your committee on Municipal Code Revision, under the chairmanship of M. B. Holt, Jr., has been urging the necessity of a codification of Denver's municipal ordinances. Under the 1946-47 administration, such a codification has been commenced, and the committee's services have been offered to the city by the new bar association administration.

Your association has published DICTA for each of the twelve months of the fiscal year, Hubert D. Henry serving as editor and Sydney H. Grossman serving as business manager. One-fourth of DICTA's publication expense is paid by the Denver Bar Association, one-fourth by the Colorado Bar Association, and one-half by the business manager. During the year, printers were changed, and a new publication contract was entered into.

Eight regular luncheon meetings were held by your association during the year, with an average attendance of 126. At each meeting, a topic of interest to attorneys was discussed by speakers from the bench and bar in Colorado, as well as from other states.

Your by-laws were amended to permit the board of trustees to grant honorary memberships under certain circumstances.

This report purposely shows only ultimate facts and accomplishments, for

it would be impossible adequately to report on the human effort and thought involved in each accomplishment.

Your secretary feels that the year has been a highly successful one, reflecting great honor on your president, John E. Gorsuch, and on your board of trustees. It is only by an aggregate view of the work of all the committees that the volume of the association's activities can be recognized, and it is only by a recognition of the volume of these activities that the untiring efforts of Mr. Gorsuch's administration can be appreciated.

Your secretary has had opportunity this past year to observe Mr. Gorsuch as he analyzed and took action on each administrative detail as it arose. It has been a privilege to be in association with him. It is an honor to express herein my personal gratitude to him for all that he has contributed to the legal profession, as well as the gratitude of the entire bar association.

The Waterman Trust

BY DONALD M. LESHNER

Secretary, The Denver Bar Association

Many Denver lawyers do not know of the existence of the so-called Waterman Trust, and many who do know of it are not sufficiently familiar with its terms and its significance to members of the Colorado bar.

Mrs. Anna Rankin Waterman, wife of Hon. Charles W. Waterman, died testate on June 17, 1939, at Washington, D. C., naming The Riggs National Bank of Washington, D. C., as executor and trustee. Under her will, the entire income from her residual estate was left to three named persons for the terms of their natural lives. Under section 10 of the will, the trustee is directed to pay, after the death of said three life tenants, to the Denver Bar Association the income from the residue of the estate to be used "for the sole and only purpose of relieving the financial necessities, assuaging the hardships and lightening the financial burdens of aged, infirm or otherwise incapacitated members of the Colorado bar, in good repute and standing, and who shall have practiced law in Colorado for a period of at least ten years prior to being a recipient of any of the benefits . . ."

At the present time, only one of the three life tenants is still living, and at the time of Mrs. Waterman's death, he was 62 years of age.

The state of assets held by the trustee as of April 15, 1947, shows the following values:

U. S. gov't bonds (face value)	\$234,700.00
Corporate stocks (6/13/47 quotes)	142,920.00
Cash	1,574.00
83,211 shares mining and misc. stock	worthless
\$170 collateral note dated 12/1/1897	worthless