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LEGAL INSTITUTES IN COLORADO

By WILLIAM R. KELLY*

LEGAL institutes are a solution of the desire for advanced legal education in average communities. The response they are receiving shows they fill a long-felt demand. The American Bar Association first sponsored legal institutes and encouraged their growth in large centers especially after the marked success which greeted them in Cleveland and some other larger cities.

As originally planned, these institutes called for the services of largely eminent authorities, but their expense was beyond the means of the average community. Such an institute was a real success in Denver a year ago when Professor W. Barton Leach of Harvard was obtained for the three sessions on the drafting of wills and trusts which evoked problems in future interests. To extend the same activity into communities of average lawyers, Burt J. Thompson, chairman of the sub-committee on Organization and Development of Advanced Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, developed in Iowa a technique which has been highly satisfactory.

It must not take too much time. It must present information to the average lawyer on questions that are to come up frequently in his own actual practice. It must not be too expensive. It must bring together the lawyers of a particular district, judicial or even larger according to density of population. In Iowa, it is being done by judicial districts. In Colorado, the start is being made by organizing these institutes on a basis of river valleys. The South Platte Valley had its institute February 4, in Greeley. The Arkansas Valley had a successful institute on March 10, at Pueblo; and the San Luis Valley had its institute on March 13, at Alamosa. The Colorado River Valley lawyers are expected to have an institute also in March or April.

**Chairman of the Committee to Develop Legal Institutes in Colorado.*

At a meeting of the El Paso County Bar Association at Colorado Springs, Friday evening, February 24th, a proposal to hold an institute in that city in the near future was discussed and received the unanimous approval of all those present. Leon H. Snyder, Esq., was appointed chairman of a committee to arrange the program and entertainment. It is planned to make the institute one of outstanding interest and held at a time convenient to all lawyers in the Fourth Judicial District and others who might attend. Additional information concerning this institute will be published as soon as plans are completed.

The point is not to take too much of a lawyer's time. Under the program adopted in Colorado, all of the institutes have begun in the middle of the afternoon and ended promptly by 9:00 o'clock the same evening, including a dinner and a social hour as an interlude. Thus any lawyer coming even 100 miles may leave his office at noon, attend the entire institute, and return to his home before midnight. In fact, some came over 100 miles to the South Platte Valley institute at Greeley, and those held in Pueblo and Alamosa.

Lawyers who are leaders in the bar and authorities on particular subjects have been willing to cooperate by speaking on designated topics. Papers, tables on which to write, and outlines of the lectures were furnished at Greeley and Pueblo, and the lawyers, by the notes they took and the continued fire of questions that followed, showed that they want these chances to learn what is of practical value in their actual law practice.

A registration fee of \$1.00 pays for a satisfactory dinner and furnishes about twenty-five cents toward the postage and other secretarial expense incident. The state bar association, which is sponsoring these institutes in Colorado under the committee appointed by President G. Dexter Blount, receives no financial return from the institute and does not contribute to their cost.

Legal institutes serve not only as a means of bringing advanced legal education to the smaller local bars. They furnish what is possibly of equal value—a means of getting the lawyers together for a meeting, not too long, where acquaintance will be retained and matters of interest to lawyers are naturally discussed. With every other activity in the country meeting more frequently than lawyers are, members of the bar feel it is high time to begin to be more active within their professional organizations.

“DAT DAM SURE FIX OSCAR”

Not long ago in Anderson County, Texas, the will of one Herman Obleweiss was probated. It seems to us that the suspicious Herman unintentionally wrote a pretty revealing character sketch of himself, to-wit:

“i am writing of my will minselluf dot dam lawyer vont he should have too much money, he ask too many answers about family. first ting i vant i dont vant my brother oscar get a dam ting vot i got. he is a mumser he done me out of \$40 14 years since.

“i vant hilda my sister she gets der north 60 akers of at vere i am homing it now i bet she dont get dot loafer husban of hers to broke 20 akers next plowing time gonoph vork. she cant have it if she lets oscar live on it i vant i should have it back if she does.

“tell momma dot \$600 she has been looking for for 20 years is berried from der backhouse behind about ten feet down she better let little frederick do der digging and count it ven he comes up.

“pastor lucknitz can have \$300 if he kiss de book he vont preach no more dumhead talks about politiks. he should a roof put on der medinghouse mit and der elders should der bills look at.

“momma the rest should get but i vant it dot adolph should tell her vot not she do so no more slick irishers sell her vakum cleaners dey noise like hell und a broom dont cost so much.

“i want it dot mine brother adolph should be my execter und i vant it dot der jedge should pleez made adolph plenty bond put up und watch him like hell adolphus is a good bisness man but only a dumkoph would trust him mit a busted pfennig.

“i want dem sure dot schlienical oscar dont nothing get tell adolph he can have \$100 if he prove it to jedge oscar dont get nutting. dat dam sure fix oscar.”

YATES A. LAND, *of the Denver Bar.*