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Letter to the Editor

Patrick M. Walker

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It will be conceded, I think, that the vast majority of the legal relations between the citizen and the general government are now primarily administrative in character. Consequently, it is transcendently important that the members of the legal profession familiarize themselves with this vast body of executive and quasi-judicial law, in order that they may ascertain not only its nature and character, but the procedure by which it may be effectively applied in order to enable them more competently to advise and assist their clients.

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

May this organization take this means of calling your attention to the very urgent necessity of re-organizing our city courts. You are doubtless aware of the unsatisfactory condition of our justice courts—judges with grossly inadequate pay, one court over-loaded with an undue proportion of the business—numerous delays and continuances, litigants and witnesses compelled to waste hours upon hours in waiting, lawyers unwilling to handle cases in inferior courts without fees greatly disproportionate to the amounts involved, an impractical and unused small-claims statute, a system which by reason of its burdens operates to deny remedy to thousands of meritorious claims, and leave the public with the definite impression that if the litigant wins he loses.

Los Angeles has a wonderfully successful small claims court—lawyers are not permitted to appear therein, any citizen may have his small claim adjudicated by filing an affidavit, paying a docket fee of \$1.00, obtaining service by registered mail, escaping continuances and delays, having his case heard summarily (usually by way of conciliation). One of the best services that could be provided for the people of Denver would be a small claims court similar to the one in Los Angeles.

Worthy of consideration is a suggestion that Denver should have a municipal court, with about four judges, embracing justice court jurisdiction, two police courts (one a night session) and one handling exclusively small claims limited to \$50. No added expense would fall upon tax-payers—such courts are self-supporting.

We hope you will take an active interest in the proposed re-organization of our lower courts. It will be necessary to enlist the interest of lawyers, business men and property owners, and particularly the Mayor, the City Attroney, the Council, Chambers of Commerce and service clubs.

Thanking you and anticipating your cooperation, we are

Very truly yours,

DENVER HOTEL AND APARTMENT OWNERS' ASSN.
By PATRICK M. WALKER, President.