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## American Law Institute

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that important subject. Harry C. Riddle is chairman.

The relation of the press to judicial proceedings is of growing importance. The committee on that subject (Hamley J. Barry, chairman) is so constituted as to ensure the consideration of the subject from several angles. We look forward with interest to the report of the committee.

The legal aid committee (Halsted L. Ritter, chairman) has been and is doing splendid work. In co-operation with others, the committee has actively promoted the interests of the Legal Aid Society. The work of that society is one of which the community may well be proud. The Society deserves and should receive generous support, financial as well as moral.

In recent years there has been a growing interest in the subject of

American citizenship. The American Bar Association has taken the lead in an educational campaign and has been ably assisted by the several state associations. Not to be behind in the movement, this association has a committee on American citizenship, headed by Justice Haslett P. Burke. The committee is a strong one, and is capable of rendering useful service to the cause of good citizenship.

Section 3 of Article II of our by-laws makes the president an ex-officio member of all committees. So far as possible he will perform the duties thus assigned to him.

We regret the illness of Joseph E. Cook, chairman of the Board of Editors, and the recent illness of his able co-worker, Joseph C. Sampson. May they speedily recover their normal health and strength.

## *American Law Institute*

By Wilbur F. Denious

At the last meeting of the Conference of Bar Association Delegates, a section of the American Bar Association, the following resolution was adopted:

"RESOLVED, That the Conference recommend to the delegates that they endeavor to procure the appointment by the respective associations of committees to consider the work of the American Law Institute as it progresses and to communicate to the Director of the Institute their suggestions and comments.

This resolution was adopted as the result of a statement at the Conference by William Draper Lewis with reference to the work of the American Law Institute.

As is well known, the American Law Institute was organized some two or three years ago for the purpose of preparing and presenting to the legal profession a restatement of the law. This organization is composed of about five hundred members, who are among the most eminent of the bench and bar of this country. The principal authority of the Institute is lodged in a Council consisting of about thirty-five members. Colorado is represented on this Council by Mr. William V. Hodges. The directors of the work of the Institute has been placed in the hands of

William Draper Lewis, who is Dean of the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Briefly stated, the work of the Institute is carried on in the following manner: An outstanding member of the profession, being an expert on some particular subject, is selected and is called the Reporter for that subject. A group of eight or ten experts on that subject is chosen to assist the Reporter. For instance, on the subject of Contracts, Professor Williston is the Reporter and some eight or ten eminent lawyers and judges, who are considered authorities on the subject of Contracts, are co-operating with Professor Williston.

The Reporter first prepares a re-statement of the law on his particular subject. He then submits copies of that re-statement to the group working with him. The members of this group offer their criticisms and suggestions of the proposed re-statement, which are considered by the Reporter and the re-statement is re-drafted and is then submitted to a group of experts at a meeting which is attended not only by the experts but also by the Reporter and usually by the Director.

After this meeting is held, the subject is referred back to the Reporter and he prepares a new draft of the

re-statement. That process continues until this group is willing to approve the re-statement, and it is then referred to the Institute proper or to the Council. Before the draft is submitted to the Institute or to the Council, it is in many cases re-drafted as often as eight or ten times.

Undoubtedly this work is being done more thoroughly than any statement of the law ever made in the world's history. The Institute has at its command more than one hundred thousand dollars per annum to spend in this work for a period of ten years. The best talent available is procured. Much valuable work is being done without compensation.

Under the present plan, this work is divided into two parts: First a re-statement of the law is made and then a treatise supporting the re-statement is prepared; this treatise containing a discussion of the principles and citations of authorities.

Annual meetings of the Institute are held at Washington. This year the meeting was held in the early part of May. These meetings are attended by the members of the Institute and other members of the bench and bar, and the Supreme Court of every state in the Union is asked to send a representative, and so far substantially every Supreme Court of the United States has been represented at these meetings. The principal work done at these meetings is a consideration of the various re-statements which have been theretofore agreed to by the respective groups.

Prior to these meetings, copies of the re-statements are sent out with the request that criticisms and suggestions be made with reference thereto. These criticisms and suggestions must be made in writing and sent to the Director prior to the meeting of the Institute and if they have merit they are discussed at the meeting.

Dr. Lewis is very anxious that the Bar Associations of the country become interested in the work of the American Law Institute, and to this end he has suggested that each local and state bar association appoint a committee to ascertain who among the members would be interested in examining these drafts of re-statements and treatises, with a view to making suggestions for the benefit of the Institute, and that provision be

made for furnishing these drafts to re-statements and treatises, with a view to making suggestions for the benefit of the Institute, and that provision be made for furnishing these drafts to those interested.

Arrangements have now been made whereby each Association can obtain at a very nominal cost as many of these drafts as are desired.

The Denver Bar Association has already taken action on this matter and it is hoped that the members of the Association will interest themselves in this matter.

So much talent, time, care and money are being utilized in the preparation of this re-statement that it is bound to result in a work of great merit and one that will be recognized by the bench as well as by the bar as authority.

#### RE MINIMUM FEES

The writer has read, with much interest, the article in the September number of The Denver Bar Association Record, on this topic and desires to voice his opinion that it would be most desirable if the Bar Association should see fit to adopt a schedule of bar or minimum rates covering the usual and ordinary services required of them.

Many Bar Associations, in larger as well as smaller cities and communities, have adopted such schedules and while some of them, in the sparsely settled and outlying districts, are apt to be excessive, yet I think the matter could be regulated in a fair and proper manner and would have a tendency to avoid disputes frequently arising between attorneys and clients as to the reasonable value of their services in given cases.

I wrote Judge Butler, President of the Association, some six weeks ago, suggesting his appointment of a committee to consider the subject and he has replied to the effect that he will bring the matter to the attention of the executive committee.

I respectfully urge that this matter be followed up; that such a committee be appointed and that they start work on devising a schedule of minimum fees or bar rates to be submitted to the full membership for discussion at the proper time and place and I believe the result would be helpful to all the members of the Bar.

L. B. JOHNSON.