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Board of Governors' Letter

Brief Review of Policies; Griffin and Lowe to Replace Barto and Brooke

Under the leadership of the president, Thomas E. Grady, the Board of Governors has had not only a pleasant year but a most successful one. The volume of work has increased steadily during the last year but the Board has found time to give some attention to matters other than disciplinary, which, of course, will continue to take a greater portion of time at each meeting.

The change in the matter of bar examinations, reducing the number from two to one a year and setting it for September, was rather a radical departure, but this step was taken only after long discussion and investigation. Not only will it reduce costs, but it will give the students graduating in June a longer period within which to prepare for the examination.

The greatest problem confronting the Board of Governors is the matter of closer relationship between the Board and individual members of the bar. Much time and thought has been given to this during the last year. Necessarily, because of the fact that such a great amount of time is taken in the investigation and disposal of complaints against individual lawyers, which are found to be wholly groundless, little of the time consumed by the Board in that connection can be publicized in any manner without injury to those members of the bar who, through no fault of their own, have become the targets of complaints by disgruntled clients or losing litigants.

During the last year the Board has extended its policy of meeting at various places around the state to acquaint members of the bar with which it meets with more of the work being done. This year we have met in Everett, Tacoma, Aberdeen and Yakima. That does not wholly solve the problem, however. Constant attention is being given to it and some means will be discovered for giving to the members a more complete picture from time to time of the inner workings of their organization.

With the June meeting the terms of two members of the Board who have served valiantly for the last three years expired. No one not directly connected with the Association and its offices can appreciate the amount of time that Joseph A. Barto of Seattle (First District) and Philip S. Brooke of Spokane (Fifth District) have given to their work as members of the governing body. Those who remain on the Board will miss them exceedingly. Their respective places will be taken by Tracy E. Griffin of Seattle and R. E. Lowe of Spokane, elected on June 15, 1940, who will take office at the Board meeting on August 6, 1940.

NAT U. BROWN.