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## Message from the Board of Governors; Bar Briefs

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# STATE BAR JOURNAL

## Message from the Board of Governors

One of the problems with which your Board of Governors is now wrestling is that of the unauthorized practice of the law. We are all well aware of the fact that many groups are rendering legal service who are not properly equipped either by training or education to render such service, and are not authorized to practice law. All of this is to the detriment of the public. We, as lawyers, owe the duty, not only to ourselves but to the public, to do all within our power to stop the unlawful practice of law. Members of the Board individually receive complaints from various lawyers regarding this matter, but when efforts are made to secure the evidence of specific acts, only upon which action could be taken, we find that the evidence is insufficient for prosecution. Many lawyers who complain to us of such unauthorized practice, when approached with the view of them furnishing specific evidence of violation, often demur on the ground that some of their own clients may be affected or they feel that in furnishing the information that they will antagonize some person or corporation in their community which might result in injury to their business.

We have invited and do now invite the members of the Bar to report to us specific instances of drafting of documents, especially wills, leases, real estate contracts or "adjusting claims," etc., together with the evidence upon which a court could base a decision, so that such action might be taken by us as the facts would seem to warrant. Your Board is of the opinion that such violations can be reached through contempt proceedings initiated in the Superior Court, but without the assistance of the lawyers we do not have the facilities or money with which to procure the evidence to secure a conviction. We have a splendid committee on unauthorized practice of the law which is giving most generously of its time and efforts in this work, and it stands ready to give further of its time and service in presenting to the courts any case which the Board may recommend for suit. We know that it is impossible to entirely eradicate this evil, still with the cooperation of the bar as suggested above, we believe that the unauthorized practice can be reduced to a minimum.

May we remind you that our state bar convention will be held at Paradise, Rainier National Park, on July 25 and 26. The entire program of the convention will appear in the next issue of the Law Review.

## Bar Briefs

The Spokane County Bar Association held its annual Spring banquet on Saturday evening, May 10th, in the Old Grill room of the Spokane Hotel. The meeting was presided over by William V. Kelley, President of the Spokane County Bar Association. Richard S. Munter, Dean of the Eastern Washington Toastmasters, was toastmaster. Judge Louis B. Schwellenbach of the District Court spoke. Visitors and guests included Supreme Court Judges George B. Simpson, Clyde G. Jeffers, Samuel M. Driver, attorneys Tracy E. Griffin of Seattle; Joseph E. Hall of Vancouver, O. D. Anderson of Everett, Hugo Metzler of Tacoma, Roy E. Lowe of Spokane, and the Board of Governors of the State Bar Association. All told, 150 attended.

Harry A. LaBerge and Charles R. Lyon recently announced the formation of a law partnership for the general practice of law. Their office is located in the Miller Building, Yakima, Washington.

James P. Rogers, a recent graduate of the University of Washington law school, is practicing law in Sunnyside, Washington.

George W. Wilkins, who had served as chief deputy prosecuting attorney in Yakima County for several years, is now on the staff of the attorney general at Olympia, Washington.

B. A. Perham, Jr., who for several years was on the staff of the Yakima prosecuting attorney, has resigned and has entered into partnership with Richard T. Perry in the general practice of law, with offices located in the Larson Building, Yakima, Washington.

Owen Clarke and James V. McCabe were recently named as deputy prosecuting attorneys on the staff of Lloyd Wiehl, prosecuting attorney of Yakima County.

On Saturday, May 10th, the Yakima County Bar Association sponsored a law institute at which time Professor Breck McAllister of the University of Washington law school faculty addressed about sixty members of the Yakima, Kittitas and Benton County bars on the subject of administrative law. E. K. Brown of Ellensburg, Charles L. Powell of Kennewick and Don M. Tunstall of Yakima were included on the program and contributed to the general discussion which followed after Professor McAllister's address.

Hugo Metzler of the Tacoma Bar attended the midwinter meeting of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association at Chicago as a representative of the Washington State Bar Association. He was accompanied on his trip by his son, Hugo Metzler, Jr., who is at present serving as a deputy in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney in Tacoma.

Jack H. Jaffe who has been serving for the past year as Law Clerk for the Honorable George B. Simpson, Supreme Court Justice, is now engaged in the private practice of law in Tacoma as an associate of Reuben C. Carlson.

The Prosecuting Attorney's office of Clark County is undergoing a change by reason of the calling of Prosecutor Eugene G. Cushing into service as a Major in the Judge-Advocate General department. R. DeWitt Jones has been appointed Prosecuting Attorney during Cushing's absence, and Dale W. Read has been appointed Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

The Cowlitz County Prosecuting Attorney, Shirley Marsh, resigned his office at the close of the legislative session, during which he served as Senator, to accept a position in the Attorney General's office. H. Jerard Imus has been named Prosecuting Attorney with Joe. L. Johnson and Frank Hallett as Deputies.

J. Guthrie Langsdorf, of Wilkinson and Langsdorf, Vancouver, an infantry reserve officer, has been called into service, being assigned to the Air Corps Procurement Division, performing the functions of Judge Advocate for the Portland Air Base.

Sanford Clement, of Astoria, Oregon, has opened offices as attorney in the Clark County Bank Building, Vancouver.