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STATE BAR JOURNAL

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BAR BRIEFS

The Tacoma Bar Association, at its regular Thursday meeting held February 4, 1943, was addressed by Miss Jane Ramsby, Deputy Prosecutor in Thor C. Tollefson's office, concerning the manner in which the Prosecuting Attorney's office is handling the problem of nonsupport of children where the mother is without adequate means to employ counsel or where civil action has proved inadequate to require the father to furnish adequate support. At the close of the meeting the Association adopted a resolution directing the secretary of the Association to get in touch with the State Bar Association representative at Olympia to look into the advisability of having legislation enacted to authorize the extradition of parents who have abandoned their children without adequate provision for their support.

The Tacoma Bar Association held its annual Lincoln Day banquet on Friday, February 12, in Tacoma. The principal speaker was Judge Charles H. Paul. At the conclusion of the meeting, Cyrus Happy, the new president for the year 1943, was installed.

The Yakima County Bar Association, after some six weeks of consideration, has adopted a new advisory fee schedule.

REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The following letter was mailed by the Legislative Committee to all local bar association presidents with respect to the matters being considered by the Washington State Bar Association at this session of the legislature:

We are enclosing herewith a list of the bills so far approved by the legislative committee of the state bar association so that through you the local lawyers may be advised as to what matters are being considered by your association at this session of the legislature.

A bill amending the present law allowing a person of 18 years of age who is in the armed forces of the U. S. or who is married to make a will.

A bill amending sec. 8725 of the code to read as follows:

"The degree of kindred shall be computed according to the rules of civil law, and kindred of the half-blood shall inherit equally with those of the whole blood, in the same degree unless the inheritance comes to the intestate by descent, devise or gift of some one of his ancestors; in which case all those who are not of the blood of such ancestor shall be excluded from such inheritance."

A bill amending sec. 1368 R. R. S. as follows:

"Debts. No real estate of a deceased person shall be liable for his debts unless letters testamentary or of administration be granted within six years from the date of the death of such decedent: Provided, however, that this section shall not affect the lien of any mortgage, upon specific real property, existing and recorded as required by law at the date of the death of such decedent; (and shall not deprive the Superior Courts of this State in the exercise of probate jurisdiction to determine the heirs of any deceased person regardless of the date of his death nor prevent such courts from making distribution of any estate to the persons entitled thereto and to make awards in lieu of homestead but such Superior Courts shall have jurisdiction for all such purposes.)"

A bill amending sec. 11 of Chap. XIII, Laws of Wash., 1889-90 (R. R. S., sec. 5175) providing that in the event a candidate for office declines to run or resigns after the primary and before the final election that the name of the next highest candidate at the primary be placed upon the ballot.

A bill increasing the salaries of both Supreme and Superior Court judges in this state.

A bill increasing compensation of pro tem judges in municipal court from \$5.00 to \$15.00 per day.

A bill prepared by special committee working with various heads of the departments relating to priority of state liens.

The legislative committee has given its approval to the bills recommended by the judicial council with the exception of four. Those that the committee did not feel they could recommend were as follows:

App. B—Inventories and reports in guardianship proceedings.

App. C—Filing of reports in probate.

App. G—Physician-patient privilege.

App. L—Exemption of the proceeds and avails of life insurance.

It was the unanimous opinion of the legislative committee that App. G of the judicial council report was a matter too controversial for the bar association to approve.

It was thought that App. B and App. C of the judicial council report were not needed.

The committee thought the exemptions named in App. L of the judicial council bills were too low. (*See Eighth Report of Judicial Council.*)

Your committee refused to approve an act amending the laws of 1925 relating to selection of jurors in the Superior Courts of this state. After inquiry among lawyers and judges the committee felt the proposed bill was too controversial to be approved by the bar association.

Another bill the committee approved creates a commission supervising the publication of the decisions of the Supreme Court both in temporary and permanent form. A special committee of the legislative committee worked upon this bill in connection with the Bancroft-Whitney representative in an attempt to in some degree relieve Bancroft-Whitney of a deficit of several thousand dollars each year.

There is another bill approved by the committee with reference to publication of a new code for the State of Washington.

The committee also approved the bulk sales law bill amending present bulk sales law requiring affidavit of vendor to include claims of indebtedness for services and commodities as well as goods, wares and merchandise.

A special committee of which Miss Mary Alvord of Seattle is chairman, together with Seattle Bar Association will undoubtedly have a brief and concise bill relating to adoptions and inheritances of adopted children which will correct many of the inadequacies of our present law. As to whether or not our special committee will be able to get their proposed adoption bill out or not is uncertain at the present time. However, if one does come out you may rest assured it will not be controversial and will be more in the nature of a corrective statute regarding our present adoption statute.

NOTICE

To All Members of the Bar: The members of the Bill of Rights Committee of the Seattle Bar Association are anxious to obtain evidence of infringement upon the civil rights of any persons in this area. All members of the Bar are urged to present to this committee a written statement of the facts relating to any case which may come to the attention of any member of the Bar which, in his opinion, should be submitted to this committee.

Edward E. Henry, Chairman, Bill of Rights Committee, Seattle Bar Association, 535 Central Building, Seattle, Washington.