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Annual Meeting, 1943

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STATE BAR JOURNAL

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Annual Meeting, 1943

The Washington State Bar Association held its annual meeting on September 16-17, 1943, at Aberdeen, Washington. Mr. Scott Z. Henderson of Tacoma, retiring president, was chairman of the meeting. In conjunction with the meeting of the Bar Association, the Superior Court Judges Association held its annual meeting at the same time and place under the chairmanship of Hon. Charles W. Hall of Vancouver, president.

The Bar Association elected for the ensuing year, 1943-1944, Mr. Mark M. Moulton of Kennewick, as president and Mr. Ford Q. Elvidge of Seattle, as secretary-treasurer.

The Superior Court Judges Association elected the following officers:

<i>President</i>	HON. E. V. KUYKENDALL, Asotin
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<i>Trustee, 6th District</i>	HON. ERNEST M. CARD, Tacoma

Members of the Grays Harbor Bar Association were hosts at the meeting. Hon. Joseph W. Henderson of Philadelphia, president of the American Bar Association, and Hon. R. H. Maitland, the attorney-general of the Dominion of Canada and president of the Canadian and British Columbia Bar Associations, were guests of honor at the meeting.

It is regretted that space does not permit a complete report of all all of the many excellent addresses and committee reports presented

to the annual meeting. A brief summary of those which are not here reported follows:

Hon. Charles W. Hall of Vancouver, Washington, addressed the Bar Association upon the question of improving the judicial system of the state. He called attention to the recent legislation increasing the salaries of judges. He made several thoughtful and concrete suggestions for the further improvement of the judicial system. First, he favored a change from the present system of the popular election of judges to some form of appointment of judges, specifically a system whereby the man for the office should be selected originally by proper appointive authority and, at that time or later, his appointment should be referred to the electorate for approval or for rejection.

Second, he suggested that the jury system be revised to make it more flexible and more responsive to the needs of litigation.

Third, he pointed out that the justice of the peace system in this state is out of date and he recommended that instead of the present system, there be a relatively small number of salaried county judges, who would be lawyers and who would hear the cases now heard by justices of the peace, together with other cases involving, for example, up to \$500.

Finally, he stated that the entire court system ought to be reorganized under a chief justice of the state, together with the Judicial Council, and the trial judges ought to be a mobile corps which could be moved about as the volume of litigation indicated.

Hon. Scott Z. Henderson of Tacoma addressed the Bar Association on the subject of administrative law, calling attention to the phenomenal growth of boards, commissions and bureaus of all types, and asserting that it is the duty and responsibility of the Bar to see that administrative control is properly exercised so that the liberties of the states and the people are not impaired.

The report of the Legislative Committee of the State Bar Association was given by Mr. H. Sylvester Garvin of Seattle, chairman.

The report of the Committee on Unlawful Practice of Law was presented by Mr. E. N. Eisenhower of Tacoma, chairman.

Three speakers discussed the topic of legal assistance to men in the armed services: Mr. George Kahin of Seattle; Lt. Com. Warren L. Dewar, legal officer for the Thirteenth Naval District, and Lt. Col. Thomas Green, Jr., JAGD, of Fort Lewis, Washington. Mr. Kahin, who was chairman of the Military Cooperation Committee of the Seattle Bar Association, discussed the work of his committee in affording legal aid and advice to service men. Lt. Com. Dewar and Lt. Col. Green both outlined the work of their respective offices in extending legal service to men serving in the armed forces and both expressed appreciation of the work done for service men by some of the members of the Bar acting either on committees or individually.

Hon. Solon D. Williams, Supreme Court Reporter, presented a paper entitled the Washington Supreme Court Reports. Mr. Williams discussed the history of the Reporter's office and of the reports, and drew the Bar's attention to Chapter 186 of the Laws of 1943, relating to the creation of a commission to supervise the publication of the reports.

Hon. James W. Hodson, justice of the peace and judge of the Municipal Court of the City of Seattle, addressed the Association upon the matter of improving the administration of justice in traffic courts.

In an excellent speech, which was very well received, he called attention to the survey of this problem which was made by Mr. George Warren and published under the auspices of the National Conference of Judicial Councils. Judge Hodson generally endorsed the conclusions reached by Mr. Warren, pointed out their applicability to the situation in this state, and reminded the Bar that the American Bar Association, particularly through the Junior Bar Conference, has become actively interested in the topic. Several resolutions proposed by Judge Hodson were referred by the Association to the Board of Governors with the direction that that body should determine whether they should properly be referred to the Judicial Council or to a committee of the State Bar Association for subsequent action by the Association at its next meeting.

In connection with the new adoption law (Laws 1943, Chapter 268), the Superior Court Judges Association adopted a new General Rule of the Superior Courts as follows:

"Any report filed by the next friend of the child in any adoption proceeding shall be open to inspection by the adopter and his attorney. Such report at the close of the entire proceeding shall be sealed and filed by the clerk in the record of the adoption proceeding, or in the discretion of the court shall be destroyed, and in any event, it shall not be disclosed to any person without a special order in writing by the judge, and shall thereafter be sealed as before."

Report of the State Committee for Recompilation of the Code

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This committee is not technically a committee of the Washington State Bar Association, but is rather a legislative commission created by specific statute. Its three members are the State Law Librarian, the Law Librarian of the University of Washington and the Executive Secretary of the Judicial Council of Washington. These three positions are now respectively occupied, as they have been for several years, by Mr. Mark H. Wight of Olympia, Dr. Arthur S. Beardsley of Seattle, and Mr. Alfred J. Schweppe of Seattle. The report, which was the unanimous report of the committee, was delivered by Mr. Wight. The report follows.)

The Legislature of 1941, by Chapter 149, Laws of 1941, created a committee, consisting of the Law Librarian of the University of Washington, the Executive Secretary of the Judicial Council and the State Law Librarian, and provided that it should determine upon and adopt a complete recompilation of the laws of this state now in force and of a general and permanent nature and also adopt a uniform and perpetual system for the numbering of the sections thereof.

This committee concluded that, in order to accomplish this task, it must—

First, adopt a systematic plan of compilation for the present and future general and permanent statute law;