

# Washington Law Review

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Volume 26  
Number 4 *Annual Meeting of the Washington  
State Bar Association*

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11-1-1951

## Address by Judge Charles R. Denney, President of the Superior Court Judges Association

Charles R. Denney

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### Recommended Citation

Charles R. Denney, Address, *Address by Judge Charles R. Denney, President of the Superior Court Judges Association*, 26 Wash. L. Rev. & St. B.J. 254 (1951).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/wlr/vol26/iss4/4>

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the profession, should be frowned upon and publicly exposed just as actively by lawyers as by anyone else, and as Governor of the state, feeling that we have a future ahead of us in this state, and not only from the standpoint of professional men but the entire economy and the future of the state, I invite all of you again to take an active, a positive, a constructive interest in the business of your government.

ADDRESS BY JUDGE CHARLES R. DENNEY

President of the Superior Court Judges Association

When I asked Mr. Welts what in the world a small town trial judge could talk about to the members of the Bar, he made no suggestion of value to me, except that there was no silence after ten minutes.

I hope you will excuse me after these very brief remarks are made for it is my pleasure to escort Judge Medina to the judges' meeting, and after all, we are the only people who are here at taxpayers' expense, so we have to justify the money we receive from the taxpayers, by at least meeting occasionally.

It is a wonderful thought that a trial judge should have attained the status of a public hero, as Judge Medina has and the most astonishing fact that the people generally have appreciated the fact that it takes a remarkable man to behave with the patience and perseverance that Judge Medina has. It is reassuring that the people do realize this, and it might not be amiss for this body to give serious consideration to disciplining those who organize a conspiracy and carry it into execution so as to so try the patience of the trial judge so that he will do nothing more than what is human and blow his top. It seems to me it would be as serious as some flagrant misusing the practice of his client.

For a long time the Superior judges have met at the same time as the Bar Association, and we are grateful to all the bar associations who have been our hosts, and who have so elegantly entertained us—particularly at this time, of course, the Yakima Bar. I am reminded of a quip I read regarding a visit he made in the south where he met a gentleman of very advanced years, and Bill inquired of him the reason for his longevity, and the old man answered, "Well, I tell you, son, I have never wasted any of my energy in resisting temptation."

We do appreciate the fact that you have been our hosts, and have not expected us to use up any of our energy resisting temptation,

and I hope we have not behaved too badly. It is right that the judges and lawyers should meet at the same time if for no other reason than that the trial judges at least once a year should subject themselves to the friendly banter of the lawyers, lest some of us get stuffy. Indeed, more candor from both sides of the bench, even the court, might be a good thing from time to time, as long as it is done in good taste and without sting.

The judges are also grateful to the Bar Association, and particularly its legislative committee, for the interest you have shown in legislation in which we have been interested. Many years ago, when Joe Beutrow was chairman of your committee and I was chairman of the judges' committee, we had quite a drawnout battle for a proposed juvenile court law, over such a law, and it is a good thing that that battle has finally been resolved by passage by the last legislature of legislation which I am sure will correct the weaknesses and abuses which have grown up in the treatment of juvenile delinquents, and at the same time leave with the local community and the local judge, the handling of the actual juvenile hearings and the dealing with the child where a public officer directly responsible to the people shall stand between the child, its parents, and the sometimes rather unreasonable and intolerant proposals of professional uplifters.

I think if the Bar and perhaps the judges are falling down any place, that the principal place is in molding public opinion. It is a delicate problem for it is so easy to get into politics, but there are certain fundamentals of which we may from time to time remind the people. I think one very simple thing would be that we from time to time remind the people that we are a republic and not exactly a democracy. I think if you will attend a naturalization hearing, you will not hear the word "democracy" used from the time the hearing starts until its end. The people who become citizens on studying are told and taught that this is a republic, that we govern ourselves by elected representatives, the basic idea being that the people shall elect the representatives who will adopt legislation and law for the benefit of all segments of society. A great many people I fear have come to regard the duties of the legislature and the executive branch to reflect in large measure the relative voting power of different pressure groups of one kind or another. The people as a whole, however, and a great majority at any rate, have felt that the courts should be kept free from that, and, Gentlemen, I hope as members of the Bar, that you will at all times, and I know you will, keep it that way.