

Washington Law Review

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

11-1-1951

Report of Committee on American Citizenship

Harold Coffin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/wlr>

Recommended Citation

Harold Coffin, State Bar Journal, *Report of Committee on American Citizenship*, 26 Wash. L. Rev. & St. B.J. 272 (1951).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/wlr/vol26/iss4/12>

This State Bar Journal is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Reviews and Journals at UW Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Washington Law Review by an authorized editor of UW Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact cnyberg@uw.edu.

court vacancies and appointments and supreme court vacancies and appointments. It has been the policy of the committee to obtain from the local bar a selection preference by secret ballot with respect to vacancies occurring in the superior court. The state committee, in view of the obvious inability to know the local citizens, acts only as a screening committee and submits subject to special screening the results of the opinions of the local bar. In some cases the selection is made by names and they are submitted alphabetically, and sometimes it reaches the Governor's office with a number of sheets; but, in any event, the preparation of lists with regard to the superior court originates and should originate in the local bar where the appointment is to be made.

With respect to vacancies in the supreme court, the committee seeks to keep ready at all times a list, with an eye to geographic distribution, of available, able, qualified men who will accept the appointment to the supreme court should it be tendered to them.

It should be borne in mind that the Governor has the sole prerogative of making the appointments, and the committee's work is purely advisory. We have had excellent cooperation from the various members of the committee and the local bar, and on behalf of all of them I want to thank you for the cooperation which has made the work of our committee relatively easy.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

BY HAROLD COFFIN

The Committee on American Citizenship is allied with the American Bar Association committee of the same name. The objective of your committee is to implant in the citizen the widest knowledge of his rights and his duties—how his rights were achieved and what is required for their preservation.

To accomplish this objective the following suggestions are made by your Committee:

1. Start with the high schools and find out from the school authorities what is being done to accomplish the committee's objective. American History, which should include American Constitutional History, should be a required course of study.

2. Sponsor local Americanism essay, oratorical, and debate contests on historical and patriotic subjects among junior and senior high schools with suitable prize awards. Present a bar association

award to an outstanding graduate each year as the "Best Citizen" of the class who exemplifies above all others the teachings of Americanism during his or her attendance at school. Work with the American Legion on its well established oratorical and essay contests.

3. Sponsor local bar programs for the observance of National holidays and Americanism events, including Washington and Lincoln birthdays, "Citizenship Week," "I Am an American Day," and such other important days.

4. Cooperate with public and parochial schools in observing important patriotic and Americanism affairs. Present copies of American Constitution, Bill of Rights and other documents at these ceremonies.

5. Honor a prominent local man or woman annually for contributing most to the advancement of Americanism and Citizenship responsibility in the community. Award to be in form of plaque, citation or framed scroll.

6. Work with local groups interested in the education and naturalization of aliens. Participate in naturalization proceedings in the courts.

7. Encourage wider acquaintance in the high school students with county government and our courts.

The Committee realizes these projects can not all be accomplished at once—that it is a slow process to activate our Bar along these lines. And furthermore, that the objectives must be accomplished on the local level.

With that thought in mind, most of the local bar associations have appointed chairmen of the local committees and they are working to the end that the citizen shall definitely be cognizant of his rights and his duties.

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE CODE

BY BEN C. GROSSCUP

The Report of Advisory Committee on the Code is as follows:

Under date of November 21, 1950, R. V. Welts, President, Washington State Bar Association, on behalf of the Board of Governors, directed a communication to the chairman of your Committee, which communication confirmed the appointment of members and outlined the desired functions, duties and objectives.

The Committee held its first meeting December 8, 1950, at which meeting it thoroughly considered the Code problem and prepared a