WASHINGTON LEGISLATION—1953

In this series of articles, the faculty of the University of Washington School of Law analyzes the enactments of the Thirty-third Session of the Washington State Legislature. Coverage is limited to those statutes having the greatest significance to the practicing lawyer.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Racial Discrimination. The 1909 statute forbidding denial of service, etc., at "places of public resort" because of "race, creed, or color," has been amended by providing very broad definitions of all its terms, definitions which, however, are no broader than could reasonably be given the general terms of the original statute. The legislature failed to provide a civil remedy to redress the private injury, which remedy would probably be a more potent deterrent than the threat of criminal prosecution for a misdemeanor, the sanction provided. The courts had created a tort remedy to implement the old statute. It is to be hoped that the new statute will not be construed as an implied legislative repudiation of this judicial invention.

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1 RCW 9.91.010 [RRS § 2686].
2 L. 1953, c. 87.
3 In fact, the older statute had, because it was a criminal statute, been rather narrowly construed, even in civil litigation. See Goff v. Savage, 122 Wash. 194, 210 Pac. 374 (1922).
4 Anderson v. Pantages Theatre Co., 114 Wash. 24, 194 Pac. 813 (1921).

CORPORATIONS

Corporate Charitable Contributions. The Washington state legislature in its 1953 session adopted an act specifically authorizing corpora-