The Law School

Dale E. Bennett
Editorial

THE LAW SCHOOL

The first full war time session of the Law School opened with a small but sincere group of students. Many, who would otherwise be in the junior and senior classes, had already volunteered and joined the armed forces. Those remaining expected to follow soon and were anxious to complete their law work, or as much of it as possible, before being called. Nine of twenty-three freshmen were either advanced R. O. T. C. students or in one of the military reserves. The Law School is justly proud of the splendid manner in which the members of its student body and faculty are responding to their duty in the present emergency.
Since December 7, 1942, five members of the Law School faculty have entered the armed forces. They are as follows:

Dean Paul M. Hebert—Major in the Judge Advocate General’s Department

Professor Henry George McMahon—Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve

Professor Jefferson B. Fordham—Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve

Associate Professor J. Denson Smith—Captain in the Judge Advocate General’s Department

Associate Professor Joseph Dainow—Captain in the Judge Advocate General’s Department

In addition, Assistant Professor Wex S. Malone, on leave, is serving as an attorney with the United States War Housing in Fort Worth, Texas.

Those faculty members remaining are determined that the present high standards of legal education which have been established for the school shall not be impaired but shall be maintained in every respect, despite the possibility of some further decline in enrollment as the year progresses. The standards and integrity of legal education in Louisiana must be preserved during the emergency; and it is imperative that those in advanced military, or who, for any other reason, are not called for immediate military service, should be given an opportunity to proceed as far as possible toward their ultimate goal of a law degree. To this end the Law School, despite a very curtailed staff, is maintaining a speed-up program continuing throughout the summer, which enables a student to do three semesters work in one calendar year. The law faculty has been aided immeasurably by Mr. A. Leon Hebert, Jr., an honor graduate of the Law School in 1937, who is handling Mr. McMahon’s important course in Louisiana Practice. Also, Dr. Juan Clemente Zamora of the University of Havana, is a visiting professor of law and government during the fall semester and plans to give a series of special law lectures.

The Law School was awarded a chapter of The Order of the Coif, honorary legal scholarship fraternity, on April 29, 1942. The installation ceremony was dignified and honored by President Charles T. McCormick, Dean of the University of Texas Law School, who served as installing officer and gave a short address on “The New Code of Evidence of the American Law Institute.”
It was very appropriate that the first honorary member of the local chapter should be Dean Emeritus Robert Lee Tullis. The first students selected for membership were G. Dupre Litton, Russell B. Long and Alvin B. Rubin.

During the past year, members of the Law School faculty have been privileged to contribute substantially to the important work done by the Louisiana State Law Institute. Mr. J. Denson Smith, now on leave, has served as Director of the Institute. Dean Hebert and Mr. McMahon have acted as Secretary to the Institute. Mr. Bennett was one of three reporters who drafted the new Louisiana Criminal Code which was sponsored by the Louisiana State Law Institute and adopted by the 1942 legislature. He also served on a committee of five that prepared the preliminary draft of the new sentencing, parole and probation statutes which were considered by a special group appointed by the Governor and ultimately adopted by the legislature. Mr. Joseph Dainow, now on leave, was in charge of the new Compiled Edition of the Louisiana Civil Codes. This work has just been brought to a successful conclusion. Mrs. Daggett served as reporter for another completed project which provides a collection of all statutes affecting the Louisiana Civil Code.

DALE E. BENNETT, Acting Dean