The Law School

Dale E. Bennett

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The fall quarter of the 1944-45 session marks the beginning of the third year of our war-time law school. A small student body and a correspondingly reduced faculty have necessitated many adjustments; but the pattern is now fairly well set, and the law school program is running along very smoothly. The 1943-44 registration of 36 students was about evenly divided between first year and advanced students; and two sets of courses were offered—one composed of basic first year subjects, and the other composed of advanced subjects which were given in alternate years so that they could be taken jointly by the Juniors and Seniors.

Under the accelerated war-time program, it is possible for a student to complete his law course in two full calendar years. This has helped the law school in seeking to meet the demands of law offices, state departments, and federal agencies for law-trained personnel. Discharged veterans are also beginning to re-
turn to the law school, and the accelerated plan will be continued as long as it is necessary in order to afford these men an opportunity to partially make up for the time spent in the service of their country. Refresher courses for soldier-lawyers, who completed their legal training before the war, will serve as a further aid to returning veterans.

At the time the present national emergency arose, the law school faculty had made plans to provide additional practical training at the senior level. These plans contemplated a complete course in office practice, additional training in legislative draftsmanship and administrative law, and a further expansion of the successful Moot Court Competition. This expansion of the practice courses will be put into effect as soon as practicable.

Students presently enrolled in the law school, augmented by a few returning veterans, have fully realized the responsibilities which are theirs, and this fine spirit makes up for the lack of numbers. Members of the Law Review staff are to be particularly complimented upon a difficult task well done; and our present experiences have indicated the value of Law Review work for the average student. The Louisiana Law Review will continue its plans of semi-annual publication, placing particular emphasis upon Louisiana statutes and jurisprudence. The law school is pleased to announce the return of Mr. Wex S. Malone, who resumed his duties as Faculty Editor of the Louisiana Law Review, and professor of torts and related subjects, on June 1, 1944. Mr. Malone had been on leave, serving as senior attorney for Construction with the Federal Public Housing Authority in Fort Worth, Texas.

Members of the law school faculty have been glad to participate in the important work of the Louisiana State Law Institute, and the activities of the various sections of the Louisiana State Bar Association. The friendly attitude of these organizations affords law teachers a unique opportunity for practical research, and for cooperative work with leading members of Louisiana's bench and bar.

The Louisiana State University Chapter of The Order of the Coif, honorary legal fraternity, held its annual initiation ceremony on May 5, 1944. Mr. Howard B. Gist, a leading Louisiana attorney from Alexandria, was elected as the second honorary member of the Chapter. Mr. Ben Rice Downing, a senior in the Law School, and president of Omicron Delta Kappa, campus
leadership fraternity, was elected to student membership with a scholastic average of 2.667. Mr. Downing, who is from Monroe, Louisiana, was also the first recipient of the newly-established “honor award” which is to be made annually to the outstanding second year student in the law school. The 1944-45 selection is Mrs. Evelyn Pritchard Cole of Dunn, Louisiana. This award carries a scholarship of $30 per month during the remainder of the recipient’s course in the Law School.

Dale E. Bennett,
Acting Dean.

Comments

CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS UPON STATUTE TITLES IN LOUISIANA

Included in the constitution of forty-one states\(^1\) is what is commonly termed a “title-body clause.” This clause provides certain requirements for the title of a statute, certain requirements for the body of the statute, and for a specified relationship between the title and the body of the statute. The title-body clause found in the Louisiana Constitution is expressed in these words:

“Every law enacted by the Legislature shall embrace but one object, and shall have a title indicative of such object.”\(^2\)

The historical evolution of the present-day title-body clause began with the appearance of such a provision in the Georgia Constitution of 1798.\(^3\) Its inclusion was due to the insistence of General James Jackson, who led the fight against the famed Yazoo Act of 1795,\(^4\) which, by means of its deceptively innocent title, passed the legislature with little difficulty. When the true nature of the Yazoo Act was discovered the public indignation

\(^1\) The exceptions are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

\(^2\) La. Const. of 1921, Art. III, § 16.

\(^3\) Ga. Const. of 1798, Art. I, § 17. C. H. Manson gives a much more complete historical background in “The Drafting of Statute Titles” (1934) 10 Ind. L.J. 155.

\(^4\) The act was entitled: “An act supplementary to an Act, entitled “An Act for appropriating a part of the unlocated territory of this State for the payment of the State troops, and for other purposes therein mentioned,” declaring the right of this State to the unappropriated territory thereof for the protection and support of the frontiers of this State, and for other purposes.”