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## The Law School

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# LOUISIANA LAW REVIEW

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## EDITORIAL

### THE LAW SCHOOL

The Law School opened its thirty-sixth session with an enrollment of seventy-one students. By classes the enrollment is: first year 25; second year 18; and third year 28. This marked decline in enrollment (31.8%) is a reflection of the general tendency in American law schools this year resulting from the present national emergency. Last year a group deferment was accorded to all students registered in colleges and universities to enable them to complete the academic year. Since July 1st, deferment or postponement of induction has been on an individual basis and the effect of the Selective Service Act has been felt not only in the number of students who have been inducted into the military service, but also in the number of students who are discouraged from undertaking a lengthy professional course faced with the prospect of inability to complete the work for the degree prior to induction. In addition, a number of advanced law students

holding commissions in the Officers Reserve Corps have been called to active duty as commissioned officers.

The Law School is justly proud of the splendid manner in which the members of its student body are responding to their duty in the present emergency. The situation is slightly reminiscent of the school's experience in the last World War. However, the law faculty 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 prospect of even further decline in enrollment as the year advances. The standards and integrity of legal education must be preserved during the current emergency since the legal profession is the fountain source of such a large percentage of the leadership that will be so sorely needed in the solution of the complex social and economic problems of post-war readjustment. Leaders of thought in American legal education, with the aid of organizations dedicated to the maintenance of a high standard of professional preparation for the law, such as the Council on Legal Education of the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, may be relied upon to take any necessary steps to avoid the possibility of a serious gap being created in the legal profession as a result of the present emergency. The advancement of the national welfare is paramount, however, and the Louisiana State University Law School in common with other American law schools is prepared to pledge whatever degree of cooperation the national interest may demand.

The fall opening of the Law School was greatly saddened by the tragic death of Professor Newman F. Baker of Northwestern University, a former member of the faculty, in an automobile accident on September 5, 1941. Professor Baker was visiting the University in connection with the work of the Louisiana State Law Institute on the preparation of a Criminal Code for Louisiana. The fatal accident occurred while Mr. Baker was en route to New Orleans to attend a meeting of the Advisory Committee. Mr. Baker's passing is a distinct loss to the teaching profession. His eminence as a legal scholar was attested by his numerous writings and by the many professional honors that had been accorded him, including his recent designation as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Supreme Court of the United States to draft the new rules of procedure in criminal cases in the federal courts. It was indeed a cruel paradox that one who had

given so generously of his time and talents to the nation-wide problem of the regulation of automobile traffic should himself have been a victim of the dangers which he was striving to reduce. A fitting memorial to Professor Baker would be the adoption in Louisiana of adequate legislation requiring the licensing of drivers and the compulsory inspection of motor vehicles. Such legislation on an effective basis might have easily averted the accident in which he lost his life.

After a year's leave of absence under appointment as a Raymond Fellow at the Northwestern University Law School, Professor Henry George McMahon has returned to active teaching duties this year. In addition to his courses in Procedure and Louisiana Practice, this year he will offer a new course in Office Practice to a limited group of senior students. Assistant Professor Dale E. Bennett, who was severely injured in the same automobile accident in which Professor Baker was killed, has been on leave of absence for two months. It is expected that he will be able to resume his teaching duties early in November.

The work of the Louisiana State Law Institute continues to progress steadily. The draft of a code of the substantive criminal law of Louisiana, authorized by the legislature in 1940, will be presented to the next session of the legislature.

Professor Harriet S. Daggett's new book on Louisiana Privileges and Chattel Mortgages has been completed and is expected off the press late this fall.

PAUL M. HEBERT, DEAN