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## THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR BAR ASSOCIATION\*

As Chairman of the Organization Committee entitled "The Committee to Organize an American Young Men's Bar Association" made up of over sixty young members of the Bar, who are thirty-five years of age and under, located in all sections of the country from twenty-two states of the Union and the District of Columbia, I shall attempt to set out the purposes, objects and functions of the Association as the Organization Committee views it.

The purposes, objects and functions of the American Young Men's Bar association may be classified under three headings first, the benefit this association may render to the young members of the Bar in every section of the United States, second, the benefit this Association will render the entire profession of law, and third, the benefit this Association may render to society as a whole.

First will be considered the benefit this Association may render to the young members of the Bar in every section of the United States. The history of young peoples' organizations in other occupations, both locally and nationally, need no survey here other than to call attention to the fact that both the major parties, the Republican and Democratic, have large influential national organizations which assist and coordinate with the local organizations. The young women's organizations, and especially the Junior League, are affording the young women with ability an opportunity to express themselves and obtain accomplishments. The Junior Chamber of Commerce is an outstanding example of this opportunity afforded the young business man, and is a splendid development towards national and local organization.

### HISTORY

For several years there have been local bar organizations made up of young members of the bar in many localities. The local organizations today are found in many different forms,

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\*Address by Greenberry Simmons of the Louisville Kentucky Bar at Washington, D. C., October 11, 1932, at the time the National Junior Bar Association was organized.

such as local clubs, societies, associations, junior committees of Senior Bar Association, bodies known as Barristers' Clubs, and other bodies, some without names. Almost every large city has some type of organization made up of young members of the Bar, but due to way they function they are almost obscure and unheard of. They play a very small part and have very little influence in the organized society of their community. However, recently some of these groups have advanced more scientifically, both as to number and influence, and today we have the Junior Committee of Los Angeles, California, with about five hundred members, the Barristers' Club of San Francisco of about three hundred and fifty members, the Dallas Junior Bar Association with a substantial membership, having no age limit but limiting its membership to seven years of practice, the Law Club of Denver, with seventy-five members, the Barristers' Club of Washington, D. C., the Louisville Young Men's Bar Association, with one hundred and twenty-five members, and many other organizations which have played a noteworthy part in their communities. Although the movement cannot be said to be new, it has in recent years advanced with a great deal of momentum.

#### NECESSITY

From the viewpoint of the young members of the bar, this Association is most necessary. There has grown up an idea in the minds of the public that in the profession of law, as in no other occupation, the young members of the Bar are not competent to handle important litigation. Contrast this idea with that had of the younger members in business, medicine, finance and other occupations and professions, and the result is surprising. Whether this is due to the influence of the older and shrewder members of the Bar, or whether it is due to the lack of organization, and the lack of accomplishments of the younger members of the Bar, or whether the younger members rightfully deserve this unpleasant position, is a matter this organization expects to look into. If the young members of the Bar are entitled to this adverse criticism, it is high time to investigate the defects and remedy them. If they are not entitled to it, it most certainly is time, now and without delay, to begin in an intelligent and specialized manner to combat this adverse criticism with a united, organized effort. It is, therefore, necessary that this

Association have a section or standing committee to study and solve this important problem.

It is suggested that the younger members of the Bar, after several years of study in our colleges, after having obtained the very best training which is offered, and after a few years of active practice, are as capable of going into law libraries and looking up the law and thoroughly analyzing a case, as any other members of the Bar. Where a young man has chosen the profession of law and is diligently applying himself, he should not be subjected to this adverse criticism which is much more pronounced in law than in other professions. It is necessary that this Association intelligently and through an organized effort solve the problem.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association is to get all the young bar clubs, bodies or associations in each city, where there are more than one to consolidate, to merge into one real association, open to all young members of the bar whether already in clubs or not, who are thirty-five years of age and under. This association, if it is correctly or properly conducted, would afford all young members of the Bar an opportunity to display their ability and express their ideas unhampered or influenced by the senior law partner or older adviser. It would supply that locality with an organization that would have some influence and prestige. It is also the purpose of this association, through a standing committee or section, which should be formed where there are no local young men's Bar associations, to assist in forming one for that locality

This Association will assist and encourage young members of the Bar immediately upon becoming such to become members of a bar association and to acquaint themselves from the outset with the code of ethics. One method of affecting the application of this code is to require them upon becoming members to read the Code of Professional and Judicial Ethics of the American Bar Association.

To encourage the younger members of the Bar to become more interested in national affairs and become acquainted with other members of the Bar in other sections of the country, to assist in establishing life long acquaintances in our life's profes-

sion, and above all, to create a national body where the young members may meet on an equal basis with their contemporaries, are the chief purposes of this association.

#### FUNCTIONS

This Association is to function somewhat like the American Bar Association. It is to have a President, a Vice-President from each judicial district, an Executive Committee, which shall have all the power to do anything the association can do between meetings, a General Council and a State Council. The Association will operate largely through sections and committees. It will have several Sections, some of which the American Bar Association has, others such as Section to Lessen Litigation Expense to Litigants, Section to Prohibit Prolonged and Extended Administration of Justice, Section to Eliminate the Unnecessary Steps Taken in the Administration of Justice, Section to Determine How the Legal Profession Can Best Serve Society. The Association will have several standing committees, some of which the American Bar Association has. Others are Committee on Organization of Local Young Men's Bar Association, Co-ordination Committee with the American Bar Association, Committee on Comparing and Altering Antiquated Procedure and Rules of Procedure in State and Federal Courts, Committee on Keeping the Methods of the Administration of Justice up with the Progress of New Methods in Business, Committee on Modernizing the Teaching of the Profession, Raising the Standards for Admission to the Bar, and Making it Uniform Throughout the United States, and other committees as from time to time may be deemed necessary.

The function of these new sections and committees will be to consider and ultimately act upon new ideas and methods, which are so often in the minds of the younger man, which when given the opportunity, may properly be developed into worthwhile benefits to society. It is here suggested that the reason the law has to some extent grown stale and seedy, is either that the older members of the profession have not properly given the younger members an opportunity to be heard, or that the younger members have not been sufficiently organized that they might have a medium through which they could confidently go forward with their ideas. Through this medium and organized support it is

hoped that this Association may function to establish a new era in the profession for the benefit of the young members of the Bar throughout the United States.

#### RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

It is desired that this Association have a co-ordinating Committee with the American Bar Association and co-operate with that Association in any way in which it can assist in the administration of justice. It is desired to have the members of this Association subscribe to the American Bar Journal, where they do not already take it, to have an assistant editor to the Journal to represent the Young Men's Association, to have several pages in the Journal through which the young men can reach the young members of the Bar and voice their ideas, which will afford the Journal and the American Bar Association a wider circulation of the Journal. It is further desired that this Association be permitted to place one of its members on the Executive Committee of the American Bar Association and that this Association's Executive Committee be composed of one member of the American Bar Association. It is further desired that at each annual meeting one member of each Association give a report or address composed of those matters in which both Associations are interested and of which it may be deemed expedient to inform the other Association. Although it is desired that a close relationship be obtained it is expected that this will be an independent Association for the purpose of giving the younger members of the Bar the opportunity they desire. It is not desired that this Association be so closely mingled with the American Bar Association as to defeat the very purpose for which it is formed. However, it is desired that every respectful consideration be tendered the American Bar Association and cooperation be given them as a means to assist the profession in serving society and administering justice.

So much for the benefit that young members of the Bar will derive from this Association. We now come to the second point.

#### II. THE PROFESSION WILL BENEFIT BY THIS ASSOCIATION

Although this is an Association made up of young men, it is expected that this will be a men's Association made up of members who are willing to accept the responsibility, consider it

and deal with it as such. So it is then the primary purpose of this Association not only to assist and render a service to the young members of the Bar, but to render a service to the profession.

#### NEED OF CHANGES

Young men entering the profession of law, although young in years, are willing to depend upon themselves and to assist in shouldering the responsibility of bringing about new changes and remedying the defects from a desire to assist in making their life's work and profession more desirable. The profession today, a wonderful profession, has a number of statistics cited to it showing how many presidents, senators, governors and others are attorneys by profession, but does it add to the profession that it prepares one for some other accomplishment or occupation? The profession itself is one of the most criticized known to society. Is there any reason why this should be the fact, except that the members that make up this profession make it such? Then most certainly if the members of the Bar enter such profession as a life's work, they desire to overcome this criticism. It is time for young and old alike in this profession to undertake to conduct their affairs and regulate the affairs of the profession so this criticism will be overcome. We are the proper parties to do it, and unless we do, we, of this profession are the losers. The profession, it is true, has many "squally wags" and undesirables who cause the profession grief, but there are undesirables in all professions. The way to lift the criticism from the profession is not merely by getting rid of the undesirables, but to see that the profession is conducted so it will eliminate the adverse criticism. The members of the profession permit other members of the Bar to prolong litigation and to take dilatory actions without making it a breach of ethics for so doing. *Where one member of the profession makes IT HARD FOR the other members of the profession by unnecessary delays, he is merely hurting himself and his own profession, because it has a reaction upon every member of the Bar, and the Bar should not permit it.* As long as the Bar permits this, much effort and energy will be wasted which will be a loss to the profession itself. Those of the profession who are organized should not for a

minute permit the other members to resort to such tactics and cause criticism to be heaped upon the profession at large.

We have heard about antiquated rules of procedure. The older members of the profession are accustomed to them and dislike change. Is the entire profession to suffer, labor, do many useless acts, and waste its energies, merely because the older members of the Bar do not care to do anything about it? This profession is as much the young man's as anyone else. It is sadly in need of rejuvenating and it is up to the younger men to do it, or else it won't be done. *The methods of procedure and the many useless functions and acts of this profession are a disgrace to intelligence and merely a hardship upon ourselves.* Until we can become more efficient in the proceedings of a case, we and our profession will be the losers. Why make this profession a hard one, when as a matter of fact, it should and can be made an efficient one? It is one of the purposes of this Association to attempt by organized effort to make our profession easier for ourselves, and at the same time to render a more efficient service to our employers, society

We now come to the third benefit this Association may render.

### III. BENEFIT SOCIETY AS A WHOLE

In our profession, it is commonly known that those who are not members of our profession are laymen. I suggest that this term be changed to "employers" as they are the ones to employ our profession, and whom, if we desire to be successful, we must efficiently serve and adequately satisfy. Therefore, it seems those whom we style "laymen" should more appropriately be styled our "masters" or our "employers"

Every young man here who has chosen the profession of law has done so, not to build up an immense fortune, but to have a lifetime occupation and render a real service, which he believes is necessary and important. It is his mission to satisfy his employers and receive praise for such service. If this is our object, then it is our task individually and collectively to organize for the purpose of rendering this service and see to it that this task is carried out.

It is the hope and desire of this Organization Committee to assist in eliminating the drawn out and prolonged methods

used oftentimes to defeat the administration of justice, to assist in lessening the expense and trouble to litigants, so when entitled to remedies they will unhesitatingly go into the courts to obtain such rights and to assist in keeping the methods of the administration of justice up with the ever increasing progress of new methods in business.

#### CONCLUSION

It is the hope of the Committee that this Association will be the beginning of a new era in assisting and giving the young members of the Bar an opportunity to be heard and afford to them a medium through which they may be collectively recognized. The Organization Committee feels that it is almost unanimous among the young members of the Bar that they proceed along organized ways to assist the younger members of the Bar, but this is secondary. The primary object of this Association is this, that we, as young members of the Bar, recognize our responsibility to the profession and desire to carry out and perform this responsibility by making the required and necessary changes in our profession for its welfare and the welfare of our employers and society.