Editorials

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EDITORIALS

PROFESSOR MORELAND ADDED TO THE FACULTY.

The Law School is pleased to announce that Roy Moreland has been added to the faculty this year. Professor Moreland graduated from Transylvania College in 1920. He graduated from the College of Law of the University of Kentucky in 1923. While a student in the Law School here, Professor Moreland was associate editor of the Kentucky Law Journal. He did graduate work in the Harvard Law School during the 1923-24 session. After returning from Harvard, Professor Moreland was associated with the firm of Allen, Botts, and Duncan, at Lexington, Kentucky, for two years. He attended the summer session of the Law School at the University of Chicago last summer. The fact that Professor Moreland has done graduate work in two of the largest and most progressive law schools of the country, together with the knowledge of Kentucky law he has acquired in active practice in this state, makes him a peculiarly valuable addition to the faculty of the Law School.
KENTUCKY RAISES ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR.

One year ago, the Kentucky Law Journal printed the report of the Committee of the Kentucky Bar Association on "Legal Education and Admission to the Bar." At that time, the rules provided that any person who had studied law for a period of two years in a law school or a law office and furnished evidence of his moral qualifications and his preliminary studies was entitled to take the bar examinations. There was no requirement as to the scope or content of his preliminary academic studies, and there was no authority conferred on the bar examiners to penalize students who indicated in their written examination that their preliminary education was deficient.

The report of the committee of the Kentucky Bar Association in 1925, headed by Honorable W. L. Porter, called for two definite advances over the existing rules. (1) That the completion of a high school education be required of all candidates for the bar. (2) That the rules should prescribe "at least a two year course, three would be better) in a first class characterized law school.'" This splendid report was adopted by the Kentucky Bar Association at its 1925 meeting, and the committee "instructed to take up the matter contained therein with the Court of Appeals and to urge the Court to adopt rules in accordance with the report."

In the year that has passed, the Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, headed in 1926 by Honorable Robt. H. Winn as Chairman, arranged a meeting with the Court of Appeals on December 11, 1925, and submitted three proposals.

(a) That a high school education should be a prerequisite to admission to the examinations; or—

(b) That the applicant should have had one year in a college, the entrance examinations to which were as high as those necessary to a high school graduation; and—

(c) That the Bar Examining Board should be permitted in grading the papers of the applicants on the examinations, to take into consideration the general education of the applicants as manifested in their papers.

The report of the committee states that "the judges of the committee were deeply interested and helpful in the purposes
and aims of the committee," and the subsequent action of the court was an encouraging vindication of the state's policy of placing the control of legal education and admission to the bar in the highest judicial body, rather than in the legislature.

The result of the conference was the adoption by the Court of Appeals of certain amendments to the rules which in part accept and in part modify the proposals of the past two committees of the Bar Association. In the first place, a definite academic standard, graduation from a standard high school, it to go into effect July 1, 1928. In the second place, it is provided that on and after July 1, 1928, the applicants must have studied law for two years (as heretofore) and one of these years must have been in attendance upon a law school. This provision puts the State of Kentucky in line with a growing number of progressive commonwealths which recognize the indispensable character of modern law school education. In the third place, it is provided that "The Board of Examiners in grading the percentages of the answers shall take into consideration the general education of the applicants as manifested in their papers."

These changes in the rules represent such a tremendous advance over the former regulations that the heartiest congratulations are due to the Kentucky Bar Association, which fostered the movement, to its committeemen who gave time and thought to the problem, and to the members of the Court of Appeals who have now promulgated a set of rules that will measurably strengthen the bar of the state. The Kentucky Law Journal rejoices to see these new protections thrown around our courts and the people who must resort to them.

In humble ways, the law school which we represent will seek to cooperate in every effort to bring to the bar only those who in character, intelligence and training are fit for the high calling of the law.

THE REFORM OF PROCEDURE

The outstanding feature of the 1926 meeting of the American Bar Association was its repeated emphasis of the need of improved methods in judicial procedure. The two chief suggestions that were presented by several speakers to the Convention were; first, that a Council consisting of judges and lawyers
should be organized in each State as a permanent body which would give consideration to all suggestions for judicial reform and formulate for action by the rule making body such suggestions as seem to promise improvement in judicial procedure: second, that the power of the court to regulate procedure by rules should be enlarged and that dependence on legislative regulations should be diminished.

In connection with criminal procedure and criminal statistics, several speakers commented favorably on the use of crime commissions in Missouri and in New York. During the past summer Governor Fields of Kentucky has appointed a crime commission for this state and its work will be followed with the greatest interest by lawyers and by the public generally.

There is an increasing evidence that lawyers are awake to the rather widespread criticism of judicial procedure. Much of that criticism comes from those who have no adequate conception of the difficulties inherent in the administration of any judicial system. Such difficulties, however, do not justify the legal profession in resting content with conditions as they are, but rather challenge the lawyers of the nation to work out in a conservative and orderly fashion plans of judicial reform which will more adequately meet the needs of the public today.

THE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION.

The 1926 meeting of the State Bar Association held at Frankfort, Kentucky, was one of the most successful sessions ever held by that body. The full proceedings of the meetings have been compiled by the Secretary, Mr. John Verser Connor, with his usual efficiency and are now in the hands of the members.

The Convention elected Judge John D. Carroll of Frankfort as President for the year 1926-27, but much to the regret of every one Judge Carroll felt impelled to resign his office. Thereafter, the Executive Committee selected Judge Clem S. Nunn of Marion as President for the year 1926-27. The energy and character of Judge Nunn justifies the expectation that the present year will be an active one in the affairs of the Association. Announcement of the standing committees is made elsewhere in this issue.
The Law Journal expresses the hope that every Kentucky lawyer will recognize in the near future his obligation to affiliate with the Bar Association. In no other way can he so effectively work to maintain the profession, not as a mere private business, but as a great public agency for good.