1926

Editorial

Kentucky Law Journal

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/klj
Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/klj/vol14/iss3/3

This Comment is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Law Journal by an authorized editor of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.
EDITORIAL

THE POOR BOY AT THE BAR.

Perhaps the most amazing argument that is sometimes made against high standards for legal education is that such standards will exclude the poor boy who wants to be a lawyer. Happily this argument is not made as frequently today as a few years ago, because everyone who is at all familiar with the tremendous strides that public school education has made in the last two decades knows that poor boys and poor girls have been crowding the doors of our state and our private institutions. The question is not whether a poor boy can go to college, but whether he wants to go; and that is a matter of individual temperament, not controlled by wealth or poverty. If a young man is not willing to undergo certain privations in order to fit himself adequately for a high calling, he is not worthy of that calling. Surely his example is not a sufficient reason for lowering the standards of the calling. Put up the bars high, in medicine, in engineering, in law, in the ministry; and only thoroughbreds will make the jump. None others should be sought.

A study recently made by Professor H. B. Eversole of the College of Commerce, at the University of Kentucky, indicates
that the cost of a college education at the State University is
within the reach of any young man of character, high purpose
and determination. The average cost for students not living at
home was $724.60; the modal class centered at $625. One-half of
the students spent less than $690, and several reported a total
cost of about $400. Of students not living at home, 52.6 per
cent were earning all or part of their expenses.

In view of these facts, it is hardly conceivable that the
argument that standards must be kept low in order to accom-
modate poor boys who cannot afford to go to school, will prevail
much longer. Loan funds, scholarships and other financial aids
are available. Business houses are commendably active in mak-
ing part-time jobs open to deserving young men. Few students
have to withdraw on account of funds, and most of these re-
turn at the next semester ready to go on again. Getting an
education is for a poor boy with the right spirit a great ad-
venture; he asks no favors; he wants to compete on an equal
basis with those who happen to come from wealthier families;
and time and again it is the poor boy who stands first in
scholarship and in character. High standards for those who seek
to practice law or any other learned profession will not handicap
or disqualify the young man with a poor pocketbook, but only
the young man with a poor heart. It takes courage and nerve
and vision to give up five or six or seven years after high school
to prepare for the law, but whether a man has that kind of
courage and nerve and vision is not a matter of dollars, but of
character.