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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

The University of Kentucky, College of Law, was founded in 1908. Its organization was largely due to Judge W. T. Lafferty, who was dean from the time of its founding until his death in 1922. The following table of enrollment is a concise record of the history of the school:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>3rd Yr. Class</th>
<th>2nd Yr. Class</th>
<th>1st Yr. Class</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Students from Other Dept.</th>
<th>Special Students</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1908-09</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>1909-10</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910-11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911-12</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912-13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913-14</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915-16</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>97</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
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<td>53</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>92</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>78</td>
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<td>1920-21</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921-22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>62</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>108</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
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</table>
Some comment on this table may be of interest to the bar of the State. Since 1912, the attendance has not varied greatly, except during the World War, for a constant increase in entrance requirements has repeatedly checked the natural tendency toward increase in enrollment.

When first founded the school required no entrance credits. Beginning with 1912, a high school diploma was required. This fact accounts for the falling off in 1912-13. In 1916-17-18, the World War reduced the numbers in the second and third year classes. By the fall term of 1919 the enrollment had recovered, but in 1920, one year of college work was required for entrance, and this caused another decrease in numbers. The attendance has fully recovered now, the enrollment for the present term being seventy-seven in the Law College, exclusive of the students from other departments. If the special students and students from other departments are counted, the total attendance is one hundred and ten, the largest attendance in the history of the school. At this time last year there were seventy-one students registered in law.

Beginning with the fall term of 1925, two full years of college work will be required for entrance. However, this will not greatly affect the size of the student body, as many of the students now comply with the two-year college requirement, and all, except the special students, have at least one year of college.

From 1908 to 1919, the students from other departments were often counted as members of the first year class, so that the accompanying table is not strictly accurate until the figures of 1919-20.

The school is now on the approved list of schools published by the American Bar Association. When the new requirements go into effect, the standard of the college will be the highest in the State, and as high as any in the south. It will then be rated as a class A school.

The faculty consists of four full time professors, namely: Judge Lyman Chalkley, Prof. W. Lewis Roberts, Prof. Harland J. Scarborough and Dean C. J. Turck.

The trial court system, for which the school has always been noted, is in full operation. In addition, the law school has, for many years, been a member of the Association of American Law Schools, the object of which is the improvement of legal educa-
tion in America, especially in the law schools. The Association requires the maintenance of certain standards of excellence by the schools comprising it, and has among its members the leading law schools of the country.

NEW RULES FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR IN WEST VIRGINIA

The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia on September 16, 1924, adopted the rules advocated by the American Bar Association for admittance to examination for license to practice law. The rules are to go into full effect in 1928.

Briefly, the requirements are as follows:

(1) A preliminary academic education equivalent to at least two years of study in college.

(2) Three full years of study as a resident student in a law school certified by the Association of American Law Schools as standard.

(3) If an applicant who has been admitted to the bar in another state has not been in active practice five years, he must satisfy these rules.

(4) If he has been practicing for five years the board may at its discretion admit him to the West Virginia bar, but he must give such information regarding his academic preparation, experience and law practice as the board may require.

Prior to July 1, 1928, the two years’ preliminary academic education will not be required, and three full years’ study under some practicing attorney equivalent in character and scope to the law school work specified may be substituted for the law college course.

Kansas already requires two years of college work and three years of law study, or the equivalent of each. In Illinois, students who begin their preparation after July 1, 1926, will have to meet the same requirements. Montana requires the equivalent of two years of college work and twenty-four months of law study. At the present time, in Illinois and Colorado applicants for admission to the bar must have one year of college work prior to their legal education. Thirteen states require a high school education or its equivalent as preliminary preparation to the study of law. Fifteen other states require
a certain amount of general education. Kentucky has no definite requirement as to preliminary general education, and is therefore in the class with the backward minority. It may not be wise to raise the requirements for license to practice law in this state on the level of the American Bar Association requirements just now, but there is no reason why some definite standards as to preliminary education and law school work should not be fixed. Such action would in the long run bring added honor and respect to every lawyer in good standing in the state. It would tend to protect the public from the incompetent attorney, and it would restore the law to its former primacy among the learned professions.

The experience of the best lawyers of the country has led to the conviction, as evidenced by the action of the American Bar Association in advocating the adoption of rules for admission similar to those adopted by West Virginia, that the standards for admission to the bar must be raised to insure competent counsellors for all, and to check the influx of unprepared men. As the proof becomes clear that the states, in which the rules have been most stringent and the examinations most difficult, now have the best bars, this tendency will become inevitable. The sooner Kentucky adopts a higher standard for admission to the bar, the better it will be.