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History of the Law College

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HISTORY OF THE LAW COLLEGE

In the expansion of State University, under the law passed by the Kentucky Legislature in 1908, provision was made for the organization of a college of law. During the summer of that year it was announced that the new college would open for the admission of students at the opening of the fall term of that year, using two rooms of the Educational Building for quarters.

A faculty composed of W. T. Lafferty, Charles Kerr and T. E. Moore was employed to do the instructional work for the current year.

On the second Monday of September a few students were collected and enrolled in this new department; classes were organized and instruction began, with no other law books than the text books used in class recitations. Before the end of the year a few volumes of standard law books were obtained as a nucleus for a departmental library. The prescribed course covered only two years of law work. The members of the faculty having had very limited experience in the teaching of law in school, the work was not of the highest quality. The students were faithful and energetic, and the year ended as well as might be expected.

Before the beginning of the second year a course of three years work in law, based on a high school course for entrance, was prescribed and leading to the degree of LL. B. The fall term opened with forty students. By this time about 300 volumes composed the library, including a full set of the Kentucky Reports. The same faculty did the instructional work. The year was marked by considerable improvement in many ways over the previous years. On commencement day of that year all students who had completed the two-year course commenced the first year, were granted the law degree of LL. B. From this time time on, no degree was granted unless the provisions of the new course were fully complied with.

The third year opened with sixty students and a library that had increased to 800 volumes. At the beginning of the year T. E. Moore resigned as a member of the faculty, and Judge Lyman Chalkley, who was an experienced law school teacher (having served as Dean of the Law School of Transylvania and also of the University of the South) was employed in his stead.

By this time the work was going well, and a great deal of enthusiasm was shown both in the student body and in the fac-

ulty. The space in the educational building was by this time too small, and the Board of Trustees authorized the preparation of spacious quarters in the Science Building. One whole floor in this large building was given over to the new Law College, and equipped by the end of the year with a hallway sixty feet by eighteen feet, two large class rooms, library and reading rooms, court room, cloak room, two offices and a hall for the use of the Henry Clay Law Society.

These new apartments were well furnished with everything to make them comfortable and attractive. The department was moved into its new home in April of that year, which year closed as a great improvement over either of the previous years.

The fourth year opened with the addition of Hon. J. R. Bush, Hon. Embry Allen, and Hon. George W. Vaughn and E. R. Sweetland to the faculty, and the library increased to about 2,000 volumes. Three subjects in University work were added to the curriculum.

During the year about ninety students were enrolled and the work proceeded satisfactorily. The course and the instruction being made up to comply with the requirements of the Association of American Law Schools and the National Bar Association, application was made for membership for this college into the said association. During the following summer this College of Law was admitted into full membership in the association, so that the work done here receives credit in all of the great law schools of the country, members of that association. Before the opening of the next term, September, 1912, the law schools of Transylvania University and Central University suspended work, by reason of which the number of students registered during the year 1912-13 reached one hundred and thirty-three. Mr. Sweetland resigned as a member of the faculty and Hon. W. A. Nichols was elected in his stead. Also Hon. W. H. Townsend was made a member of the Law Faculty. Members of the local bar, members of the Kentucky Court of Appeals bench, of the Frankfort bar, and the Attorney General of the State, were invited to lecture to the students. The library was increased to about four thousand volumes.

The present session opened September 15, more promising than any previous year, with a full faculty of eight members, and eight persons on the list of lecturers, beside two members of the University faculty who give instruction on important lines of work useful to the lawyers. The law library, together with the books bought and now being shipped, will contain in the neighborhood of five thousand volumes, including the entire National Reporters System of Reports and Digests, all the English Reports from 1650 down to the present time, duplicate sets of Kentucky Reports, American Decisions, American Reports, American State Reports, CYC., L. R. A., Encyclopædias, and a good col-

lection of other books. This gives the department all of the reported cases of all the courts of last resort of the various states of the Union, and all of the Federal courts, for the past twenty-five years, all the English cases since 1650 down to the present time. Other sets of decisions in the library contain the selected cases of all State Courts, from the beginning down to this time.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Principles of Judicial Proof as given by Logic, Psychology, and General Experience and Illustrated in Judicial Trials. Compiled by John Henry Wigmore, Professor of the Law of Evidence in Northwestern University, author of "A System of Evidence in Trials at Common Law," "A Pocket Code of Evidence," etc. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1913. One volume, 1179 pages.

The appearance of another book on the subject of Evidence, by John H. Wigmore, will be welcomed by the bench and bar and students of the Law generally. His general work upon the law of evidence is a monument and has placed him in the van of trained legal thinkers and scholars. It will rank among the works which have produced lasting effect in the development of American jurisprudence, aiding in its reduction to principle scientifically true.

To the present book he has given the title, "The Principles of Judicial Proof as given by Logic, Psychology, and General Experience, and Illustrated by Judicial Trials." Such a careful and ingenious user of words, one who has a very unusual gift, even in the invention of them when desired, must be taken to have intended, by the use of the word proof, the results and not the instruments or means of judicial enquiry, a distinction which he has himself drawn very sharply at the outset. In the introduction he says: "The study of the principles of Evidence, for a lawyer, falls into two distinct parts. One is Proof in the general sense—the part concerned with the ratiocinative process of contentious persuasion—mind to mind, counsel to juror, each partisan seeking to move the mind of the tribunal. The other part is admissibility—the procedural rules devised by the law, and based on litigious experience and tradition, to guard the tribunal (particularly the jury) against erroneous persuasion. Hitherto, the latter has become largest in our formal studies—has, in fact, monopolized them; while the former, virtually ignored, has been left to the chances of later acquisition, casual and empiric, in the course of practice."