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THE SUMMER SCHOOL—The 1929 Summer Session of the School of Law will consist of two terms of about five and one-half weeks each. Two subjects may be taken in each term, and credit may be secured in the summer for as much as one-third of a year's work. First year subjects are included in those given so that the students who desire to begin the study of law may enter the Law School for the first time in the summer.

The first term will begin June 17 and end July 24. The subjects and faculty for the first term are as follows: Constitutional Law, taught by Justice George W. Connor, of the Supreme Court of North Carolina; Public Utilities, by Professor George J. Thompson, of the Cornell Law School; Federal Taxation, by Mr. F. D. Siefkin, member of the United States Board of Tax Appeals; Domestic Relations,

by Professor A. C. McIntosh, of the regular faculty; and Contracts, by Professor M. T. Van Hecke, of the regular faculty.

The second term will begin July 25 and end August 31. The subjects and the faculty for the second term as follows: North Carolina Pleading and Practice, taught by Justice W. J. Brogden, of the Supreme Court of North Carolina; Trusts, by Professor George G. Bogert, of the University of Chicago Law School, author of "Bogert on Trusts" and former Secretary of National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws; Bankruptcy, by Professor William E. Britton, of the University of Illinois College of Law, author of case books on the subjects of Bills and Notes and Bankruptcy and member of National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws; Criminal Law, by Professor Albert Coates, of the regular faculty; and Contracts (continued), by Professor M. T. Van Hecke, of the regular faculty.

The general plan of the Summer School follows that which was adopted in the summer school which was given in the Law School last year. One-third of a year's work may be covered in the summer, and if a student begins the study of law in the Summer School, he can complete the work for his degree in a little over two years by attending the Law School continuously. The requirements for admission are the same in the summer as in the regular session.

THE TENDENCY TOWARDS HIGHER STANDARDS OF ADMISSION TO THE BAR

The great increase in facilities for securing a college and a law school education, and the increase in the complexity and difficulty of the problems of law, government, and business, which face the lawyer in the present as compared with the past, have combined to create a general demand for genuine professional standards for admission to the Bar.¹

Those are chiefly of two kinds, standards of character, and standards of education. Two states have recently made notable advances, one in the education standard, the other is providing safeguards as to character.

In Pennsylvania, the Chief Justice has announced new rules² which

¹ Albert Coates, *Standards of the Bar* (1927), 6 N. C. L. REV. 34.

² Walter C. Douglas, Jr., *Pennsylvania's New Requirements for Bar Admission* (1928), 14 A. B. A. J. 669.

are designed to put some reality into character requirements. *First*, anyone intending to study law for admission to the bar, must register at the *beginning* of his three year period of study. Upon making his application to register, an investigation is made by a standing board of local lawyers in the county where he lives, as to his character, record, and reputation. Only if these are satisfactory is he allowed to register. *Second*, the student, during his three years of law study, in school or office, is assigned to an older lawyer of approved character, who is called his preceptor, and who aids him in his initiation into the profession with supervision and friendly guidance in its ethics and traditions. *Third*, a second and more stringent investigation of the applicant's character, and an examination upon legal ethics, is given at the *end* of the course of study, before admission to the Bar. *Fourth*, every student must serve a clerkship of six months at least in some lawyer's office, before final admission to the practice. Thus, two character investigations, at the beginning and end of his course of study, and the association with a high-class, experienced lawyer for at least three years are the guarantee of the moral stamina of those who come to the Bar.

The late Justice Brown of the North Carolina Supreme Court said in one of his judicial opinions: "I do not know a more profitable field for gifted rascals to exercise their talents in than in the practice of [law]. This makes it all the more important that the courts should be vigilant to keep them out."³ Ninety-nine out of every hundred applicants are of good character. It is only as to the hundredth man that any safeguards whatever are needed. The character safeguards in the present North Carolina rules⁴ for admission are two: first, the publication of the names of the applicants for admission thirty days before the examination, thus affording an opportunity to protest; second, the requirement that two North Carolina lawyers sign a certificate of the applicant's good moral character. The first imposes no responsibility upon anyone to investigate, and everyone hesitates to perform as an individual volunteer the invidious task of protesting another's character. In practice, the certificate requirement is no real safeguard, because the applicant of bad character is not likely to search out the conscientious lawyer who would make an honest investigation before signing the certificate, but such

³ Brown, Jr., dissenting in *In re Applicants for License*, 143 N. C. 1, at p. 27, 55 S. E. 635 (1906).

⁴ 192 N. C. 840 (1926).

applicant, like water seeking its level, will find two of those who "care for none of these things." To quote Justice Brown again: ". . . Lawyers, on the average, are morally no better and no worse than other people. There are some black sheep in their ranks as in every calling. One black sheep who wishes to enter can apply to two black sheep who are already in to certify to his good moral character. Result: more black sheep to degrade our noble profession."⁵

The other recent advance carries us across the continent to California. In that state, after a struggle of several years, the Bar has been granted a charter of independence. It is, by legislative act, now a self-governing body, and controls the standards of admission to its ranks, as well as the conduct of its members after admission. One of the earliest acts of the self-governing profession, has been the raising of admission standards. By rules adopted December 22, 1928,⁶ the lawyers of California have enrolled their state in the growing list of those states which have conformed to the admission requirements adopted by the American Bar Association. Hitherto California, like North Carolina, has had no requirement whatsoever as to general education for the learned profession of law, not even a grammar school education. The American Bar Association standard requires two years academic work in an accredited college, followed by a three-year course to a law degree in an approved law school. To avoid any hardship upon those who have begun or planned the study of law under the present rules, the change in California has been made in a very gradual way, beginning with the requirement of a high-school education for those who begin the study of law after July, 1929, and culminating with the requirement of two years of college work for those who begin law study after July, 1932.

In California, as well as in Pennsylvania, the law student must register, and pass a character investigation at the beginning of his period of study of law.

California is the ninth state which has adopted the requirement of two years of college and three years of law study.

The North Carolina Bar Association's Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar (of which Mr. A. B. Andrews, now President of the Association, was Chairman) in its 1928 report⁷ published an interesting analysis of bar admission requirements in

⁵ *Loc. cit.* note 3, *supra*.

⁶ (1928) 3 The State Bar J. (Cal.), 111.

⁷ (1928) 30 N. C. Bar Ass. Rep. 111.