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The North Carolina Law Review

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The contributions of the student editors in this issue have been written under the supervision of individual members of the law faculty. Publication of signed contributions from any source does not signify adoption of the views expressed either by the LAW REVIEW *or its editors collectively.*

THE LAW REVIEW makes the following announcements:

The Hill Law Review Prize, established in 1927 by George Watts Hill of the Durham Bar, to be presented to the student editor who makes the best total contribution to the LAW REVIEW during the year, is awarded to Jefferson B. Fordham.

The Phi Delta Phi Prize, established this year, to be awarded to the student editor who makes the best single contribution to the LAW REVIEW during the year, is awarded to Henry P. Brandis.

Allen K. Smith has been selected as Editor-in-Chief, and John H. Anderson, Jr., and J. H. Chadbourn as Assistant Editors-in-Chief.

As a result of the first-year competition the following student editors were selected:

P. B. Abbott, Jr., L. W. Armstrong, Moore Bryson, J. H. Chadbourn, W. S. Jenkins, Henry B. Parker, C. E. Reitzel, Jr., Y. M. Smith, T. A. Uzzell, Jr., J. A. Williams.

ADMISSION AND DISBARMENT OF ATTORNEYS

The influx of applicants for the Bar, from other states and the District of Columbia, seemingly attracted by our unusually low standards of preliminary training,[1] may perhaps be halted by a provision[2] that hereafter all applicants must be *bona fide* residents of North Carolina, or non-resident students in approved law schools in this state. The Act does not specify any time for which the applicant must have resided or attended a law school in this state, and unless the Supreme Court shall construe it as contemplating that such residence or schooling shall have been for the prescribed two-year period of law study, it would seem to be satisfied by establishing a residence here or registering as a law student in a local school at the time of making application thirty days before the examination.

Two new enactments relate to disbarment, a subject which seems to need wholesale rather than patchwork reconsideration by the legislative body. It is now covered by N. C. Consol. Stat., Secs. 204-215. Historical influences, reviewed in *McLean v. Johnson*,[3] have caused the process of purging the bar to be narrowly hedged about with restrictions. An attorney may be disbarred by the court for confession or conviction of crime, or for non-compliance with a judicial order to restore money or property received from a client. The only other causes are "willful deceit or fraud" in the practice of the profession, and soliciting business, and for these the prosecution could hitherto only be instituted by the Committee on Grievances of the North Carolina State Bar Association, and the defendant may demand the sympathetic ears of a jury. It would seem desirable that gross incompetency and some more general standard of professional misconduct, which would embrace such matters as betrayals of confidence, for example, should be added as grounds of disbarment, and that jury trials (almost universally rejected in other states, in disbarment cases) be superseded by trials before one or more judges. The first of the new enactments,[4] however, seems a move in the opposite direction. It amends Sec. 205, which was susceptible of the construction that upon conviction or confession of *any* felony, the

[1] The report of the Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar of the State Bar Association ranks us as the 39th state in this respect. 30 N. C. Bar Asso. Rep. 126 (1928), 7 N. C. LAW REV. 287, 290.

[2] Chap. 166, amending N. C. Consol. Stat., §196.

[3] 174 N. C. 345, 93 S. E. 847 (1917).

[4] Chap. 64, Laws of 1929.