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The U-T Law Letter

Issued Quarterly by the Faculty of the College of Law
of The University of Tennessee

Volume 2

November 1948

Number 1

The New College of Law Building

On September 20 ground was broken for the construction of the new College of Law building in the 1500 block of West Cumberland Avenue. The building is to be readied for occupancy within 365 working days.

An architectural rendering of the building and a detailed account of its interior were carried in the last issue of The U-T Law Letter. Although no radical changes in the original plan were made, some innovations have been introduced. The building will be built of brick with limestone trim to conform to the general style of other University of Tennessee buildings, with crab orchard stone used in the front entrance and the foundation. The library reading room will be mechanically ventilated and air conditioned, thus doing away with the necessity for conventional windows, and its walls will be constructed of glass brick.

The architect's sketch of the new building is on the back page of this publication.

The December Legal Institute

On December 3 the annual law institute sponsored by the College of Law will take place at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis. Different phases of taxation problems at the federal level will be discussed by an unusually able panel of speakers.

Thomas N. Tarleau of Wilkie, Owen, Farr, Gallagher and Fulton, New York City, will speak on the concept of income for income tax purposes. John K. Speck, leading authority, lecturer and tax counsel of the Oklahoma Bar, proposes to discuss the procedure of preparation and handling of federal tax matters. Mr. Speck, known throughout the Southwest for his realistic and practical approach in institute discussions, conducts his own tax practice in Oklahoma City. He has been conducting the tax institutes of the Oklahoma Bar Association for some years and is currently engaged in lecturing before that association and others in adjoining states. William L. Cary from Northwestern University, formerly a special assistant to the Attorney General of the United States in the tax division of the Department of Justice and a member of the Ohio, Massachusetts and District of Columbia Bars, promises a stimulating discussion of the revisions to the revenue act made in 1948. In the evening Judge John J. Parker, the United States Circuit Court, will speak on the judicial office in the United States.

Persons desiring hotel reservations are asked to make them directly through the hotel. Banquet reservations should be made with Charles G. Morgan, Sterick Building, Memphis.

We shall look forward to your attendance. The annual institutes are a good place to brush up on a currently important phase of the law, meet your old friends, make some new ones and to participate in a cooperative enterprise for the betterment of the practice of law.

The Fall Enrollment in The College of Law

Even with the imposition of rather stiff quality requirements, the enrollment of the College has again increased for the Fall Quarter of 1948. A total of 274 students have registered and are attending classes. These are divided as follows: first year students 129, second year students 84, third year students 61.

The University of Tennessee Bar Association

This organization, under the direction of Conway Garlington, Knox County, president, Jim Eden, Campbell County, vice-president, Guy Shanks, Washington County, treasurer and Carl Webb, Shelby County, treasurer, plays an increasingly important part in the student life at the College. Its services are utilized in an important first year orientation program, the bringing of speakers to address its meetings and the conduct of student social functions. The Association is at present setting up an administrative council to provide a centralized supervision of the student activities in the College.

The College of Law and Its Embryonic Politicos

As in the past, election year of 1948 finds many students and recent former students of the College engaged in a vigorous campaign for public office. Not all of them were successful, but their desire and activity were in the tradition of the young attorney. Thomas M. Blackburn, Jr., Republican candidate for the state legislature from Knox County was defeated, as was Warren P. Webster in the Anderson and Morgan County races. James W. Parrott was the successful Democratic nominee from Jefferson County for the post of Justice of Peace, an office previously held by his father and grandfather. Robert M. Summitt, a Democrat, and John P. Davis, Jr., Republican, received the nomination in their counties to the state legislature. John A. Thompson, Jr., a Republican, was nominated in Hawkins County and will take his seat in the next legislature as he has no opposition. John Howard Collett was elected Superintendent of Schools in Unicoi County.

The Legal Fraternities - Phi Alpha Delta and Phi Delta Phi

McReynolds Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta elected new officers in the Summer Quarter: Harry Fortune, justice; William Goodman, vice-justice; Charles Newsom, clerk; Pope Coley, treasurer; and John Odom, marshal. Regular meetings each week are held Thursday noon.

Roosevelt Inn of Phi Delta Phi operated full time the Summer Quarter. Officers for the 1948-49 term are: Hugh F. Carey, magister; Hugh Hendricks, exchequer; William O. Haynes, historian; and Fred Hamblen, clerk. Regular meetings are held each Wednesday noon.

The First Annual Report of The Legal Aid Clinic

Charles H. Miller, director of the Legal Aid Clinic, has just issued his annual report dealing with the work of that organization. Believing that the matters there related are of prime interest, The U-T Law Letter is summarizing this material.

The Clinic as it has operated during 1947-48 had as its purpose these principles: to give the student an opportunity to participate in the creative practice of law and an opportunity to develop a sense of obligation to the general public. In the first category the student has an opportunity to interview clients, gather facts, prepare documents, participate in the trial of causes and the operation of a law office.

At the beginning of each quarter the Clinic student is taken to the courthouse and similar public buildings to become acquainted with the records and information available in such offices, the system of indexing and the use and availability of the matters filed in these buildings. The student then is assigned to duty in the Clinic where he interviews the prospective client. He consults with the Clinic staff to determine the steps to be taken. If the case involves a court appearance the student drafts the pleading or motion to be filed, dictates a final draft of the pleadings, prepares the summons and the action is instituted. If a trial brief is needed this is worked up and made available to the Clinic's attorney. As a part of the course of work in the Clinic each student prepares a trial or appellate brief or a memoranda of law for an attorney of his choice. This gives the student experience in the preparation of a brief as well as an opportunity to contact an attorney in his community who will thereafter be acquainted with him as a lawyer.

A tabulation of cases serviced by the Clinic indicates that a total of 222 cases were received. Eleven involved economic problems, 83 family problems and 31 property. These cases came from legal agencies, social agencies, employment and other sources. Of the finished cases 48 involved consultation only, 37 consultation and referral, 35 were closed without court action, 14 with court action and 29 were terminated after partial service. It is a practice of the Clinic to accept no cases where the client is able to pay a fee or where his claim might produce a fund from which a fee might be paid.

Copies of the report are available from Mr. Miller. Those interested are invited to address Charles H. Miller, director, The Legal Aid Clinic, University of Tennessee College of Law, 720 West Main Street, Knoxville 16.

News About The Faculty

The second annual conference of law school teachers in this area was held at Miami Beach September 1-3, 1948. Dean Wicker and Professors Harold Warner, John Baugh and Elvin E. Overton attended. Emphasis at the meeting was placed upon objectives and methods dealing with classroom techniques and examination methods, the use of a law review as a teaching device and further cooperation with the American Bar Association.

Blakely M. Murphy, who serves as executive secretary and member of the legislative drafting committee of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission, attended a final meeting of the group where a completed draft of a model oil and gas conservation act was studied. Tennessee is a member of the Commission.

Harold C. Warner, member of the legislatively appointed committee to prepare changes in election laws in Tennessee, is preparing a preliminary draft of the group's report.

New Face for The U-T Law Letter

With this number The U-T Law Letter comes to you in a new format. It is contemplated that not only will this change make the publication more appealing typographically but that it will permit the use of pictures. As always The U-T Law Letter is interested in securing news about alumni. Your comments addressed to Blakely M. Murphy will be looked for and used.



S. H. Gurney
'08

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