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Activities of the Montana Bar Association

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Note and Comment

The Justin Miller prize, a \$100 United States Savings Bond has been awarded to Loran A. Johnson for his note entitled "Assignments of Accounts Receivable as Preferences in Bankruptcy." This note appeared in the 1948 issue of the Montana Law Review. This award is made annually for the note which is adjudged the best of those appearing in the Review.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION*

The Montana Bar Association will hold its 1949 convention in Missoula. The date is set for August 25-27, inclusive. Plans have been made to bring many interesting men to Missoula to speak. The president of the American Bar Associa-

*Information for this article was contributed by James C. Garlington, Dean C. W. Leaphart, and Professor David R. Mason. It was written by Bruce R. Toole of the Law Review Editorial Staff.

tion, Frank Holman, of Seattle, will be here. Walter L. Pope, Judge, and Chief Judge Denman, both of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals are expected to attend. The Executive Committee hopes to have James E. Rowe, Jr., formerly of Butte, and who has been serving on the Hoover Commission, speak to the Convention. Another speaker will probably be the Honorable Hatton Sumner who has been for 25 years a Representative in Congress for the State of Texas. Mr. Sumner will have some comments on the Federal Government's bureaus and their practices.

Many other activities have been planned. Some of them are hoped to be of a continuing nature. Though arrangements are still tentative at the time of this writing, a debate is planned on the subject of the valley authorities and their technique as a method of developing the western watersheds. For the younger members of the Bar there will be a panel or institute on the preparation and trial of civil and criminal cases. This particular activity will be sponsored by the Montana Bar Association alone. The Executive Committee hopes that this, among other things, will be repeated at successive conventions. Plans are also being made to further aid the practicing attorney through lectures on estate planning with relation to gift and estate taxes, tax problems in small business organizations, and procedure relating to tax disputes. This activity is being advanced by the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association in cooperation with the Montana Bar Association. These are by no means the only activities that will be conducted at the Convention. They represent but a few of the highlights.

There have been other developments and activities in addition to those connected with the Convention. One of the most significant is the long range program being planned for continuing legal education. A committee has been appointed, headed by David R. Mason of the Montana State University Law School as chairman. Other members of the committee are Leonard DeKalb of Lewistown, E. K. Cheadle of Helena, Norman Hanson of Billings, and Russell Smith of Missoula. The American Law Institute and the American Bar Association are interested in advancing this program and will help to make lecturers and materials available. The character of the program will depend upon the wishes and financial participation of Montana attorneys.

The California Bar is sponsoring the formation of an In-

terstate Bar Council. James C. Garlington, President of the Montana Bar Association, attended a meeting of bar association officers held in San Francisco where the initial plans were laid. A similar meeting will be held in Salt Lake early next winter. It is contemplated that the Council will include eleven western states.

The committee in charge of legislation achieved considerable success in the last session of the legislature. Support was given to the law increasing the salaries of Supreme Court justices, and other bills relating to procedural matters were successfully advanced. The committee was led by W. E. Keeley of Deer Lodge, as chairman, and Tom Patterson of Helena as vice-chairman.

A committee is being appointed to promulgate a procedure which it is hoped may lead to more uniform land titles. Recommendations of the committee will be considered by the Montana Bar Association and if approved will be published. They will not be designed to result in legislation.

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Aside from the program of the Montana Bar Association there is to be conducted a Traffic Institute. This is being sponsored by the University of Montana, Northwestern University Traffic Institute, and the American Bar Association. It will be held from August 22nd through the 25th. The Institute is being conducted for the benefit of county attorneys, police court judges, justices of the peace and other persons interested in traffic control. The date for the Institute has been arranged so that the officials just mentioned can attend the Bar Association Convention as well. The speakers will be experts in their fields, probably including James P. Economas, director of Traffic Court Judges and Prosecutors Conferences of the American Bar Association and Robert E. Donigan, counsel for the Northwest Traffic Institute.

Traffic institutes have been held at the University of California and at Northwestern University; this will be the first to be held in the Northwest.