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Establishment of the Montana Law Review

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Note and Comment

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MONTANA LAW REVIEW

Publication of the MONTANA LAW REVIEW, of which this issue is the first, marks an achievement of significance both to the Law School and to the Bar of the State.

It is especially gratifying, from the standpoint of the Law School, that the idea and the impetus which have produced the REVIEW came in the first instance from the students themselves rather than from the Faculty. While, of course, there has been and will continue to be Faculty cooperation and supervision, the undertaking is primarily that of the Law School Association. The great value of such a publication is in the training it affords in legal research and writing. Student responsibility engenders healthy self-criticism as well as careful scrutiny of the work of others.

The policy will be to confine the REVIEW to matters of Montana law or matters of especial interest to Montana lawyers. It is proposed that each issue contain one or two leading articles by members of the Faculty or of the Bar and a number of student-written notes. The latter, as can be seen from the present

issue, must necessarily be diverse in form and content. Some will be rather broad topical discussions. Others will be only criticisms of recent decisions. Each will be signed.

The Board of Editors, under the plan now in effect, consists of the four Seniors and three Juniors who rank highest in their respective classes. The Business Manager is elected by the Board. The Editor-in-Chief is elected by the Board from its own membership. The Faculty Adviser is appointed by the Dean. Any student is entitled to submit a note. Each member of the Board of Editors is required to do so.

Possibly the adoption of the name MONTANA LAW REVIEW may, especially in view of the annual publication policy, appear a little presumptuous. But, while there is no thought of pretending to rival the law reviews put out by the large law schools, the name is accurately descriptive and it is hoped that in a short time the publication may become semi-annual or quarterly. The future of the REVIEW depends as much upon the cooperation of the Bar of the State as upon the student body and Faculty of the Law School.

MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES*

The Montana Bar Association has this year undertaken a broad program intended to benefit the entire bar of the State and, incidentally, the general public as well.

An attempt is being made to create bar associations in each judicial district in Montana where no such district organization now exists and to stimulate interest in the district organizations where they already exist. It is the thought of the officers of the State association that interest in local associations will engender interest in the Montana Bar Association and that the State association acting for the lawyers of the State as a unit can and will accomplish much for the legal profession.

A further reason for the advancement of the district bar association is the fact that such associations are an indispensable part of a satisfactory program of Legal Institutes. This form of advanced legal education has been carried on with the utmost success and satisfaction in several other States and is fostered by the American Bar Association Committee on Organization and Development of Legal Institutes. Under the accepted plan for conducting legal institutes a number of speakers who are learned in specific branches of the law and among whom are often many law school faculty members, are made available to district associations to discuss legal problems or subjects of general interest to lawyers. The local associations of lawyers prepare for the meeting where the speakers are to appear and the

*This statement has been furnished by Mr. Wesley W. Wertz, Secretary of the State Bar Association.