



APPLICANTS for U.S. citizenship take oath of allegiance in Tulsa Federal court . . . "We do not promise . . . peace, but we do promise . . . liberty."

In the Spirit of Public Service, *A Learned Art*

By BOYD GUNNING, '37ba, '37Law



HICKS EPTON
. . . A Feeling of Fraternalism

The setting was the Federal District court room in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 14, 1953. Several hundred business and professional leaders of Tulsa had gathered to witness the bestowal of the privilege of United States citizenship upon 35 persons from 14 foreign countries. The importance of the occasion was emphasized by the earnestness and sincerity of the speaker, Hicks Epton, '32Law, president of the Oklahoma Bar Association, as he said, "We are here not to admonish or lecture, but in the feeling of fraternalism. We came to welcome you and rededicate ourselves. This business of being an American citizen is not a part-time job."

Federal Judge Royce Savage, '25ba, '27 Law, who is also president of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, concluded the remarks made preliminary to the oath of citizenship with these words: "We do not promise you happiness, but we do promise you the pursuit of happiness. We do not promise you riches, but we do promise equality of opportunity. We do not promise you wisdom, but we do promise freedom of speech. We do not promise you peace, but we do promise you liberty."

The challenge of citizenship, with the responsibilities and the privileges which it embodies, leaves an indelible impression upon all who participate or attend this typically American ceremony.

This story is merely one example of the many-sided responsibilities placed upon members of the legal profession as public servants who administer justice under the law and who defend and interpret the rights of citizens.

And so, let us take a brief look at this deeply-rooted profession as it operates in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court created the integrated State Bar Association in 1939, significantly beginning the statement of regulations with these words: "In the public interest, and for the advancement of the administration of justice, there is hereby created an association of the members of the Bar of the State of Oklahoma." Every lawyer practicing in Oklahoma is a member of this organization.

Roscoe Pound, in his book on *The Lawyer from Antiquity to Modern Times*, states that there are three ideas involved in a profession—organization, learning, and

a spirit of public service. "This third idea is the 'essence' of a profession."

Commenting upon Wigmore's assertion that the practice of law must always be a profession, Pound makes this explanation: "That is, from the very nature of the work of the agent for litigation, and even more from the nature of the work of the advocate, each involving on the one hand, a relation of the highest trust and confidence to the client, and, on the other hand, an equally high relation of trust and confidence as an officer of the court both to the court and to the public, and, as assisting in the administration of justice, high duties toward the law, the practice of law should be carried on by an organized body of men pursuing a common calling as a learned art in the spirit of public service."

How well have the lawyers of Oklahoma fulfilled this obligation of public service? An example has already been given of the splendid work of the State Bar Committee on Citizenship in carrying to the public the message of privileges and responsibilities of citizenship through the indoctrination of new citizens before they are presented to the courts for admission. Besides the new citizens themselves and their families, hundreds of responsible leaders, including teachers, business and professional men, club leaders and students, have attended these programs. They are inspirational and meaningful.

A regular series of broadcasts have been conducted for several years over radio station WNAD, under the direction of Kenneth Harris, '39ba, '49Law, Executive Secretary of the Bar. This program has a large following. The most interesting broadcasts have given information about what a person can expect in the way of service from his lawyer or from the courts in a given set of circumstances.



PRESIDENT of the Oklahoma Bar Association is G. Ellis Gable, '26Law, Tulsa, who took office in Jan.; succeeds Hicks Epton, '32Law, Wewoka.

Another program of information which was started in Oklahoma several years ago and which later spread to many other states, is offered by a committee called—"Know Your Courts—Know Your Liberties." While it is impossible to measure the effectiveness of this work in terms of statistics, members of the Bar have given at least 500 speeches in the past year to church, school and civic groups on this general theme. This service is offered because of the conviction that the strength of a democracy depends upon an understanding of its basic institutions by the maximum number of persons. National recognition was received by the Oklahoma Bar Association for this program with the presentation of the George Washington Honor Medal and a cash award by the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.



JUDGE ROYCE SAVAGE, '25ba, '27Law, Tulsa, president of the O.U. Alumni Association, is judge of the Federal District Court in Tulsa.

The award was presented February 22, 1954.

A committee of the State Bar has worked in close cooperation with the Legislature to modernize procedural statutes of the State. One excellent example of this work was the amendment of 87 sections of the probate code by the 1953 Legislature. In one session of the Legislature 24 such reforms were enacted. To the average person this simply means that his rights under the law are clarified and he benefits directly in the saving of time and expense when he becomes involved in litigation.

In some localities members of the Bar have offered legal aid to the indigent as a public service. Another contribution to the improvement of justice has been the publication of a handbook of information for

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VICE PRESIDENT of the Oklahoma Bar Association is R. Place Montgomery, '25Law, Hobart. He is past president of Kiowa County Bar.



EARL SNEED, '34ba, '37Law, dean of O.U.'s college of Law, is one of the youngest law deans in the U.S. and a leader in state legal group.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY of the Oklahoma Bar Association and co-ordinator of that group's activities is Kenneth Harris, '39ba, '49Law.

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trial jurors. These are distributed to court clerks, judges and the members of the Bar. The Bar has also started an experimental program of internship for junior students of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. This gives the law student an opportunity to secure practical experience in a law office while he is still in school and the results of this experiment, so far, have been most encouraging. Without exception, both students and lawyers who participated in the program were enthusiastic about it.

Lawyers are interested in keeping up to date in their profession. During last year 2,700 practicing lawyers in Oklahoma attended organized legal institutes for the purpose of studying new developments in the law.

The Oklahoma Bar Foundation and alumni of the Law School have set out to build a model courtroom in Monnet Hall, the home of the University Law School. The courtroom now in use was completed in 1913 and except for normal deterioration remains unchanged. It is inadequate for the present needs and was described by President Hicks Epton at the recent Bar convention as "a disgrace to the profession."

Through the leadership of these two groups \$30,000 will be raised from lawyers and other alumni to construct the new courtroom.

According to Dean Earl Sneed, '34ba, '37Law, "This will not only more adequately fulfill an essential part of the academic requirements, but it will also provide an opportunity to establish a system of practical trial and appellate instruction on the campus that would be absolutely unique in the United States."

Federal District Judges, such as the late Bower Broaddus, Eugene Rice and W. R. Wallace, have held actual pre-trial conferences at the school. Other judicial bodies which could utilize this new courtroom would include the Industrial Commission, Federal Tax Court and the Corporation Commission. This program is extremely worthwhile. Although the school takes its classes to other courtrooms for observance of trials, it is far better to have the courts come to Norman. The students not only witness the proceedings at close range, but judges and attorneys feel free to give the students the benefit of their advice and observation. The realization of this dream will provide a superior, practical teaching facility.

Activities of lawyers related, either directly or indirectly, to the practice of law are rather well-known. However, other types of public service which are rendered by members of this profession are seldom understood or appreciated. In 1952 there were 4,158 lawyers in Oklahoma 70% of whom were engaged in the private practice of law serving the public. Officers of the Bar Association, curious about the extent and scope of participation of Oklahoma lawyers in public activities, secured the services of the Bureau of Business Research at the University, under the direction of Professor Francis R. Cella to answer some of the questions about this problem. Professor Cella conducted a survey; the results were surprising even to the lawyers themselves.

It was learned that lawyers participate in a wide variety of public services. Foremost among these is the extent of participation in church activities. It was found that 86% of the lawyers in Oklahoma are church members and a large proportion of these serve on church boards and committees, teach Sunday School classes and are active in the church programs in other ways. Seventy-seven percent of all lawyers are active in one or more fraternal organizations; 72% belong to business clubs; 64% are active and hold offices in charitable organizations. Other activities in which substantial numbers of lawyers participate include patriotic and youth organizations, civil defense and military, educational, recreational and cultural programs.

There are differences of opinion with



AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Oklahoma Bar Association, November 20, Hicks Epton (standing) was master of ceremonies. Seated at head table (from Epton to right) are Harry L. S. Halley, '15ba, '17Law, chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court; G. Ellis Gable, '26Law, (succeeded Epton as president of Bar Association on January 1), Loyd Wright, Los Angeles; L. J. Bond, president of Kansas Bar Association; R. Place Montgomery, '25Law, vice president of the Oklahoma Bar, and Monsignor Ray Harkins. In foreground is Harry Dyer, '29, president of Tulsa County Bar.

respect to the extent to which members of different professions are called upon for free services, but no one doubts that the lawyer does his share.

Other professional groups would undoubtedly benefit from similar surveys of the activities engaged in by their members.

The average lawyer is a hard working professional man who is active in community affairs. He is patriotic and has a keen sense of his responsibility as a citizen. You seldom see a lawyer who takes himself seriously and never one who does not have a serious regard for and loyalty to his profession.

The Mobile University . . .

works to improve teaching in the field; the Interscholastic Press Association, fostering competition for the improvement of high school newspapers and other publications; the Business Extension Service, which makes surveys of retail trading areas and reports to individual businesses, conducts sales clinics and teaches business management; the Oklahoma Speech and Drama Service, conducting speech programs from junior high school through college and adult levels; the Adult Education Service, which puts on entertainment programs, lectures and home town classes in leadership training, marketing and other subjects.

Latest to be added to the Extension Division is the Department of Professional Services, directed by R. L. McLean, '38m.ed, who works with legal, medical and social professions in developing and staging refresher courses.

The work done by McLean and his staff is illustrated by this example: After the last war the large number of hospitals built in Oklahoma offered a chance for a conference in which administrators could discuss their problems with other administra-

tors and hear national authorities discuss new concepts in their field. This meeting, conducted last Fall, was the first held by the service.

Possibly a little out of the line followed by the other departments, the Photographic Service seldom deals directly with the learning public as such, although its products are made available to Oklahomans through the Extension Division and other agencies.

In its new offices in the basement of the Drama School—a vast improvement over its former quarters in a temporary building near the infirmary—the Photographic Service produces everything from sound motion pictures down through photostats and slides to black and white photographs for newspapers.

Having completed a number of sound motion pictures during the past five years for state agencies and oil companies, the service is at work on a series of nine films on Indian dances and other tribal lore. Two of the department's films were judged to be of such quality that they were shown at the annual Cleveland Film Festival last year in competition with commercial producers, according to James Bragg, '36ms, director of the department. Much of its work, however, is devoted to shooting pictures for the sports and public relations departments at the University, and to photo micrographing and processing of photostats.

The motion picture section is one of the few self-supporting operations on campus, having received enough contracts during the past two years to stand on the black side of the ledger, everything included.

At the head of all these departments is Dr. Thurman James White, '41ms, dean of the Extension Division, a dark-haired 37-year-old former Marine captain who moves like a whirlwind.

Dean White, in the position for seven years, earned an A.B. degree from Phillips University and an M.S. from the University of Oklahoma and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He has been at O. U. as instructor in prison education, supervisor of the Statewide Museum Service, director of Short Courses and Audio Visual Education and assistant director, acting director and director of the Extension Division as a whole, before his title was changed to dean in 1950.

He is and has been a member of a number of both national and local education organizations including the Board of Trustees of the Film Council of America, Adult Education Association of America, Oklahoma Education Association, and locally, of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary, out of a long list.

Dean White is a man who knows what

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