

1-1926

News of Bench and Bar

Follow this and additional works at: <https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/ilj>



Part of the [Legal Profession Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(1926) "News of Bench and Bar," *Indiana Law Journal*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/ilj/vol1/iss1/10>

This Special Feature is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Journals at Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Indiana Law Journal* by an authorized editor of Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. For more information, please contact rvaughan@indiana.edu.



JEROME HALL LAW LIBRARY

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

NEWS OF BENCH AND BAR

SECOND DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION ORGANIZES AT VINCENNES

The first meeting of the Second District Bar Association was held at Vincennes in the Circuit Court room on the afternoon of Monday, December 21. Prominent lawyers from every considerable city in the district were in attendance. They had met to formulate a program of activities for the betterment of the legal profession in the Second District and to foster harmony and closer coöperation with the State Bar Associaton. Over forty attorneys were present. The following officers were elected:

President.....JOHN C. CHANEY, Sullivan
Secretary.....S. G. DAVENPORT, Vincennes
Treasurer.....FLAVIAN SEAL, Washington
Vice-Presidents:

Daviess County, C. K. Tharp, Washintgon
Green County, Cyrus Davis, Bloomfield
Knox County, C. B. Kessinger, Vincennes
Martin County, Fabian Givin, Shoals
Monroe County, Robert W. Miers, Bloomington
Morgan County, J. C. McNutt, Martinsville
Owen County, Theodore Slinkard, Spencer
Sullivan County, W. R. Nesbit, Sullivan

The meeting was addressed by George O. Dix, of Terre Haute, president of the State Bar Association. He stressed the importance of higher qualifications for admission to the bar and the value of a close organization among counties in which there is much changing of venue from one county to another. Mr. Dix commented at length upon the extraordinary provision in the Indiana Constitution that "good moral character" shall be the only qualification for admission to the bar.

William A. Pickens of Indianapolis, vice-president of the State Bar Association and chairman of the membership committee, addressed the District lawyers upon the importance of membership in the State Bar Association. He pointed out that there had been an increase of over ten times as many new members in the State Bar Association for the period thus far this year than in any similar period in past years.

EIGHTH DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION MEETS AT MUNCIE

The first meeting, since its incorporation, of the Bar Association of the Eighth District was held on the evening of December 5, 1925, at the Elks' Club in Muncie.

George O. Dix, Esquire, of Terre Haute, President of the Indiana State Bar Association, was the first speaker. He told of the great good the legal profession has accomplished and urged that an effort be made to get more members of the district associations into the State Association. Only 18 per cent of the members of the Eighth

District Association have membership in the State body, he said, the lowest percentage of any in the State.

D. D. Hensel of the Muncie Bar Association announced that the Eighth District Association had been incorporated with the following incorporators:

Abe Simons.....	Bluffton
Clark Lutz.....	Decatur
R. D. Wheat.....	Portland
A. L. Bales.....	Winchester
Willis Ellis.....	Anderson
D. D. Hensel.....	Muncie

The principal address of the evening was given by Arthur W. Brady, Esquire, of Anderson, who chose as his subject, "Liberty with Order." Mr. Brady said in part:

"The bar associations have accomplished a great work in fostering the American system of constitutional government. Our form of government gives us the benefit of the existence of liberty and order at the same time. If the great men who formed the constitution of the United States did not err, the American system is founded on principles as firm and as immutable as the granite hills of New England. It is the duty of every lawyer to see that so far as in him lies, those principles be not abated which will aid in the dispensation of justice and the preservation of liberty with order among the people of the earth."

STATE BAR ASSOCIATION NIGHT AT THE INDIANAPOLIS BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Indianapolis Bar Association held an important meeting on the night of January 16 at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. The meeting was designated "State Bar Association Night," in courtesy to the guests, the officers of the Indiana State Bar Association, and in furtherance of the plans and aspirations for the Indiana State Bar Association, which President George O. Dix had been asked to explain. The members of the Indianapolis bar dined at the Athletic Club at 6:30 and the regular meeting and discussion followed immediately after. President Lawrence B. Davis of the Indianapolis Bar Association presided, and introduced the speakers. The dining room was so crowded for the dinner and meeting that additional chairs had to be brought in for members who came late.

President Davis introduced George O. Dix of Terre Haute, President of the Indiana State Bar Association, who gave the principle address on "Bar Organization," an exceedingly clear, informative, and inspiring presentation of the subject. Mr. Dix reviewed the history of the state bar association in Indiana and compared its accomplishments, both past and present, with bar associations in other states. He spoke of the different forms of organization which now obtain; first, the voluntary form which is the type of organization that

Indiana has adopted; secondly, the compulsory form which means that membership in the state bar association is compulsory upon every practicing lawyer in the state, thus making the state bar association an official branch of the state government with official duties in the setting of examinations for candidates who wish to practice law in the state.

President Dix said that he favored the present Indiana form of organization as being best adopted to our needs and traditions. He pointed out, however, that some effective means must be found for raising the standard of educational requirements for admission to the bar in Indiana if we are to secure lawyers who have the legal and cultural training requisite to the later responsibilities in the practice of the law, and if we are to secure lawyers and prosecuting officers and judges who will be able to maintain a high standard of legal ethics, and secure for the people of the state efficient and economical administration of the law.

James M. Ogden, Esquire, of Indianapolis, was unanimously elected president of the Indianapolis Bar Association for the coming year. Mr. Ogden is also a member of the Board of Managers of the State Bar Association. John W. Kern, Esquire, was re-elected Secretary.

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT GIVES VALUABLE FIGURES

Zach. T. Dungan, clerk of the Supreme Court, of Indiana, in speaking before the Montgomery County Bar Association on the evening of December 31st on the subject of "Appellate Procedure," gave some interesting statistics regarding the increased number of appeals taken to the Appellate and Supreme courts. His figures disclosed that the criminal appeals had increased from 42 in 1919 to 205 in 1925. The number of civil cases in both the Supreme and Appellate courts has not materially changed.

During the last year, the Supreme Court handed down 177 written opinions besides disposing of 54 Appellate Court cases in which petitions to transfer were filed. The Supreme Court during 1925 took over 5 Appellate Court cases on petition to transfer. During the same period the Appellate Court handed down 266 written opinions.

The November Term calendar showed that there are at the present time 397 cases pending in the Supreme Court and 457 in the Appellate Court. Of the 397 total in the Supreme Court on the present term calendar 251 are appeals from convictions in criminal cases. Of this 251, approximately 85% are appeals from violations of the Prohibition Law.

Marion County leads the list of criminal appeals in the present calendar with 48, Delaware second, with 38 and Vanderburgh third, with 13. The total number of cases in both the higher courts of 854 of the November Term calendar is in marked contrast to the May

Term calendar of 1923 at which time there were pending in both courts only 632 cases.

INDIANA TRIALS IN 1924 REPORTED AT \$2,238,856.75

Civil and criminal trials in all Indiana courts in 1924 cost a total of \$2,238,856.75, according to figures compiled by James Kettleborough, Director of the State Legislative Reference Bureau. Mr. Kettleborough's figures show the average cost of each case was \$38.00. A total of 58,745 cases have been disposed of.

Criminal cases filed during the year totaled 11,700 as compared to 11,143 in 1923. Civil cases filed in 1924 numbered 48,061 compared to 45,635 in 1923. In 1924 1,528 civil cases and 103 criminal cases were venued from the counties in which they were filed. Changes of venue were more frequent in 1923, it was declared.

JUDGE JAMES A. COLLINS ADOPTS SUGGESTION OF THE BAR FAVORING JUDICIAL ROBES

It will be recalled that the Indianapolis Bar Association has adopted a resolution calling upon all judges of the state courts in Marion County to wear the usual judicial robes while they are performing the duties of their offices in open court. This recommendation has been urged in many other parts of the country in recent years and is being adopted by an increasing number of courts whether they be of local or state wide jurisdiction. There are a number of instances in which the state legislatures have passed laws requiring the judges to wear such robes during court sessions. The Indianapolis Bar Association in its resolution, however, did not favor legislation on this point, feeling that it was a matter to be left to the personal discretion of the particular bench involved and to be determined according to their own sense of decorum and sound judgment. Where the members of the bar themselves who practice in the courts daily are of the opinion that the wearing of judicial robes will have at least a psychological effect upon the atmosphere of dignity and impartiality which should obtain in the court room, it would seem that this was almost conclusive evidence of the merit of the suggestion.

Judge James A. Collins was the first in Marion County to actually adopt this suggestion. His new robe arrived on Wednesday, December 16 and he immediately put it on for private inspection. He received many comments of approval by lawyers who came in from his court room.

"On the first day of the January term I am going to wear this robe," said Judge Collins. "It will lend dignity to the court." He declared that court robes will have a beneficial effect on persons in the court room and will inspire more confidence and respect for law and order. Other county court judges have this matter under discussion. The recommendation of the Indianapolis Bar Association will come up for decision later.