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# The Committee on War Work of the Indiana State Bar Association

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*Indiana State Bar Association*

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# The Committee on War Work of the Indiana State Bar Association

## **Cover Page Footnote**

Legal Aspects of the Selective Service Act

## THE COMMITTEE ON WAR WORK OF THE INDIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

JEREMIAH L. CADICK\*

After the passage of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, Local Selective Service Draft Boards and State Selective Service Headquarters received a great many requests for advice as to the rights of service men and their families under this law. Neither the Draft Boards nor Selective Service Headquarters were in a position to give legal advice and Col. Hitchcock, State Selective Service Director, asked the assistance of the Indiana State Bar Association in making legal advice available throughout the State to service men and their dependents who could not obtain legal advice in the regular way. At about the same time the American Bar Association Committee on National Defense was organized and all State Bar Associations were requested to organize similar Committees. In response to these requests the Committee on National Defense of Indiana State Bar Association was organized. The name of the Committee was changed at the meeting in Indianapolis on March 14, 1942 to Committee on War Work.

The Committee consists of the State Chairman, a District Chairman for each Congressional District, except the Eleventh District, and at least one member in each County Seat, except Marion County. In the more populous Counties there are several Committeemen, the number of Committeemen roughly corresponding to the number of Local Draft Boards.

The most important activity of the Committee consists of giving legal advice to service men, their families and dependents who are not able to obtain legal advice in the regular way. While the larger number of requests for advice relate to the rights of service men and their dependents under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, many other problems are presented to the Committee Members.

On March 30, 1942, the method of induction of selectees was changed so that when a selectee receives his physical examination and is accepted for service he is immediately

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\* State Chairman, Committee on War Work, Indiana State Bar Association.

inducted into the Army. Since the selectee cannot know prior to receiving his physical examination whether he will be called into service, in many instances, it is necessary for him to empower someone to look after his affairs during his absence. At the request of Col. Hitchcock, the Committee has prepared a form of general power-of-attorney which has been distributed to the Committee Members. The Local Selective Service Draft Boards have been informed that these forms are available and it is anticipated that they will be widely used.

At the time of the organization of the Committee a full roster of Government Appeal Agents was serving with the Local Selective Service Draft Boards. Vacancies in this important office occur from time to time and when and as such vacancies occur this Committee is asked to obtain the consent of properly qualified lawyers to serve in such capacity. All of the vacancies in the office of Government Appeal Agent have been filled by nominations of the Committee since its organization was completed.

The policy of the Committee is not to give legal assistance to service men or their dependents if they are able to obtain such assistance in the regular way.

The Committee has given serious consideration to what, if anything, may be done to assist in the preservation of the practice of lawyers who enter the armed forces and do not have a partner or office associate to take care of the needs of their clients during their absence. In all probability, most lawyers who enter the armed forces will attempt to arrange their affairs in a way satisfactory to themselves and their clients and the type of arrangement made will probably depend upon the circumstances of the individual case. Because of the large number of lawyers who will enter the service in the near future, it is advisable that State and Local Bar Associations should take cognizance of the need for appropriate arrangements being made both in the public interest and in the interest of the members of the Bar. At the meeting in Indianapolis on March 14th, the Association voted to recommend that each local Bar Association appoint a Committee on Conservation of Practice and our Committee on War Work was authorized to prepare and submit to the Committee of each local Bar Association recommendations

for a proper practice in such cases. Steps are being taken to carry out this instruction.

Each day which the war continues it affects in a greater degree civilian life and, therefore, broadens the field wherein the activities of this Committee may be useful. The most recent enlargement of the activities of the Committee is in connection with the National Citizenship Education Program. This program has for its purpose the education of eligible aliens for citizenship. Mr. Clement T. Malan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is the Chairman of this Committee in Indiana. The service of the Committee Members in addressing these classes on the Constitution and the organization of our Government have been tendered to Mr. Malan and he has indicated a desire to avail himself of the services of the Committee Members as soon as the organization of the classes is completed.

It is anticipated that the work of the Committee will expand further as the war progresses. It is the aim of the Committee to make available to the public such services as the organized Bar is particularly well qualified to give in such a manner as to give all possible aid in the conduct of the war and to help demonstrate to the public the patriotism and devotion to public welfare of the members of our profession.

