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WHY YOUNG LAWERS FAVOR A CONSOLIDATED BAR.

It is a noticeable fact that the younger generation of lawyers are more ardent in their advocacy of the consolidation of the bar than those long in the practice. Many of the latter have unconsciously allowed their ideas to run into grooves. They have become ultra conservative. They look askance at anything which, to them, savors of novelty, no matter how long it has been successfully tried. They have achieved success without the aid of a united bar. Their professional attitude has been that of contest, not cooperation. They have obtained results by opposing other lawyers in the hurly-burly of the court room; not by making common cause with them through outside joint activities. They feel so sure of their own standing at the bar and in the community, through long experience and wide acquaintanceship, that the menace of the unethical practitioner means nothing to them. They have become extreme individualists. They ask no aid from their fellow lawyers nor do they feel impelled to give any. Their absorption in their law work has made them acutely aware only of their practice; they have no group or professional consciousness. They believe in the good old doctrine of "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost." By force of habit they regard their occupation as their servant, not their master, and repudiate the idea that "Every man is a debtor to his profession." They would change that maxim to read: "My profession is my debtor and I owe it nothing."

The young practitioner has a different viewpoint. He is mortgaged to no past; the best part of his life lies before, not behind him. He is a natural reformer, with the crusading spirit of youth. Novelty does not alarm him; he has not practiced so long that professional technique has become like a familiar tool, worn smooth and so well fitted to the hand that the worker would not exchange it, even for a new and better implement. Success is yet to be achieved. He feels no sentimental affection for the "dear dead days" of the past, but is willing to try something new if it promises reasonable returns in professional prestige and achievement. The young practitioner has no obsession against cooperation. In school, college and professional institutions he has learned

the value of the combined effort of many, of "team work," and is not yet a rugged individualist. He has a fellow feeling for the professional co-members of his own generation, who have much in common with him, as he and they realize; including lack of experience, acquaintance and financial resources, but abundance of youth, energy and ambition, and a keen sense of professional ethics.

Possessed of these characteristics, it is no wonder that the young lawyer is attracted by the prospect of a united, consolidated bar. He sees in it certain personal advantages to himself; the opportunity to form state-wide professional friendships; the chance to obtain a legitimate degree of publicity through participating work in its offices, committees and sections. He is stirred by the prospect of a united phalanx of 4,000 lawyers moving forward together, capable of doing valiantly and achieving whatever they might seriously undertake for the good of the profession or of the public. He sees a better chance for his professional success, if his pathway is cleared of those whose low professional standards lead them to dig pitfalls for his feet, or compete against him unfairly, while he attempts to practice law ethically. He feels the need of protection from those in league to reduce his chances for obtaining business, or who seek to filch his hard-won earnings away; the lay agencies which, by practicing law themselves, deprive him of employment; certain publishers and book-makers, who charge him exorbitant prices for his library, or a group of law-list racketeers who attempt to sell him a legal directory of questionable usefulness.

He envisages a time when he will need to continue his legal studies and keep abreast of the law in its constant progress. He, therefore, welcomes the proposals of a consolidated bar to establish legal institutes for adult education among lawyers in every quarter of the state.

He realizes there is much improvement needed both in the substantive and procedural law. He sees no chance for its accomplishment under present conditions with a divided bar, a perplexed legislature and courts unwilling to assume the initiative under their inherent power. He hails the prospect of law reforms when a united bar fearlessly and intelligently bends its combined efforts to the task.

He notes, with the aversion of straight-forward youth,

how the bar permits a small minority to practice law who are qualified neither morally nor intellectually. He hears from time to time of some flagrant betrayal of a client's confidence by an attorney devoid of ethical standards; yet he realizes, with chagrin, that under present antiquated statutes, no relief against these abuses is practicable in Indiana.

What wonder that the younger members of the profession cordially greet the advent of a Consolidated Bar; for they are not bound by too great a reverence for a sacrosanct past nor for an inadequate present, but believe that "The best is yet to be," and are eager to set about its realization.

By the Committee on Consolidation
of the Bar, of the Indiana State
Bar Association

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