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## News Concerning a Unified Bar

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## NEWS CONCERNING A UNIFIED BAR

## NOTES ON BAR UNIFICATION IN INDIANA

*State-Wide Committee on Unification In Indiana*

A committee of approximately thirty prominent lawyers, located throughout the state, has been formed for the purpose of bringing before the legal profession and the public, the idea of state-wide bar unification, and familiarizing them with its general and professional advantages. Of the ninety-two counties in Indiana, eighty-seven have been thus organized, with a committeeman in charge of one, two or three counties as his "sphere of influence." The press has been most generous and cooperative in giving large publicity to the movement, which has attracted the attention of even the Chicago newspapers.

The immediate purpose of the "Committee of Thirty" is to acquaint the local bar associations with the nature, objects and advantages of the unified bar. Already enthusiastic meetings of lawyers have been held in Boone, Allen, LaPorte and Vanderburgh counties; at some of which, neighboring bars were represented. The attitude of most attorneys, when they have had the matter fairly presented to them, is, that they not only admit its value, but see in it the solution for many of the difficult problems now confronting the legal profession in its relations to the courts, the legislature and the public.

The "Committee of Thirty" is greatly encouraged over the reception the movement is being given, wherever it has been thoroughly considered.

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*Massachusetts Lawyers "Integration-Minded"*

In a recent report submitted by a special committee of the Bar Association of the City of Boston, on the study of the judicial system, the opinion was expressed that where the bar has been integrated, legislative proposals are likely to receive far greater respect than when presented by a voluntary bar association of limited membership, or by a group of individual practitioners. The suggestion is also made by the committee that the integrated bar might render useful service by seeing that there are nominated and elected to each legislature a few members of the bar, thoroughly familiar with the legislative measures proposed to be submitted by the profession. This action of the committee is especially significant, since the New England states have not, up to this time, responded to the integration program as cordially as have the states of the southern, western and middle sections of the country.

(See American Bar Association Journal, Vol. 24, page 352.)

*Nebraska Unifies the State Bar by Court Rule*

One of the most recent converts to state bar integration is Nebraska. A proceeding was adopted, similar to that attempted in Indiana a few years ago. A petition was filed in the Supreme Court by a committee of lawyers belonging to the Nebraska State Bar Association, seeking integration by court rules. In an extensive and convincing opinion the court of six judges, without dissent, found they possessed ample power to unify the bar, by virtue of the court's inherent power as the highest tribunal of the state, and authorized to regulate and control the bar as part of the judicial machinery; such power being more logically incident to the judicial branch of government than to either the executive or legislative.

The court proceeded on the ground that attorneys are officers of the court, amenable to it as their superior, to which they owe their first allegiance. It also recognized that the court owes a duty to the bar, when it realizes that the latter can do little to better the present unhappy situation in which the profession has been placed in public estimation. The court, after considering the subject in the light of principle and precedent, concluded:

"We feel that it is our duty, especially when the request comes from so large a majority of the bar who participated in the referendum on the subject, to consider favorably the adoption of rules providing for the integration of the bar of this state by court rule under the powers lodged in this court by the constitution of the state. The prayer of the petitioners will therefore be granted."

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