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The National Bar Program

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THE NATIONAL BAR PROGRAM

One of the most significant developments in the history of the organized bar of the United States took place at Grand Rapids, Michigan, when the Conference of Bar Association Officers adopted the National Bar Program. This program is the first step toward aligning the state and local bar associations under the leadership of the American Bar Association.

The gist of the National Bar Program is to concentrate the work and energy of the various bar associations throughout the States upon a few of the common problems of the profession. With hundreds of bar associations attacking the same problems and with the American Bar Association acting as the director of these activities and as a clearing house for all information pertaining thereto, it is believed by the leaders of the profession that great strides can be made in the direction of the improvement of the administration of justice and the general service of the bar to the country. At the fall meeting of the Board of Managers of the Indiana State Bar Association, held at Bloomington Saturday, October 14th, the Indiana State Bar Association was officially enrolled as a participant in this nationwide program. The Board of Managers by resolution adopted the National Bar Program in its entirety as an integral part of its own state program and will allocate to appropriate committees the items of the National Bar Program. The Board resolved upon further definite action to advance the work of the National Program by including it in the work of the Association at its mid-winter meeting. Further announcements will be made in the December issue of the Indiana Law Journal of the place of the National Bar Program in the program of the mid-winter meeting. This Journal will also carry from month to month news of interest to the Indiana State Bar Association and its members concerning the activities in other States in connection with this coordinated program. The following is a letter from Earl W. Evans, president of the American Bar Association, to all members of the bar, whether or not affiliated with the Ameri-

can Bar Association. This letter is of the greatest interest to the members of the Indiana State Bar Association in as much as it indicates the importance of the National Bar Program and suggests the position which this Association should occupy in this first great effort to enroll the combined energy and resources of the legal profession in a common attack upon its most serious and pressing problems.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BAR:

At the recent meeting of the American Bar Association at Grand Rapids, a nationwide movement was inaugurated which, in its accomplishment, will serve the public interest and will also directly benefit every member of the bar. When the history of our profession is written, the Conference of State and Local Bar Association Officials held on August 29th may constitute an important landmark.

At that meeting a National Bar Program was definitely decided upon. A project for focusing the attention of lawyers in all parts of the country on a few important subjects was adopted and will be carried out during the coming year.

The plan for a common effort to solve the most troublesome problems of the profession will go far toward establishing on a firmer footing the position of leadership in the affairs of state and nation rightfully belonging to the lawyer but which he now stands in danger of losing.

The subjects which were selected by the conference of bar association presidents and secretaries and which were ratified by the Executive Committee of the American Bar Association, were:

1. Criminal Law and Its Enforcement.
2. Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.
3. Unauthorized Practice of the Law.
4. Selection of Judges.

A clearing house is being established in the office of the American Bar Association in Chicago, where information on these and other topics will be available and to which reports should be made of any action or activity in bar associations over the country. It is hoped in this way to crystallize the opinion of lawyers on these important matters and to develop a national sentiment which will represent the attitude of the bar.

An assistant will be working with me along these lines and every effort will be made in the office of the American Bar Association to be of assistance to the state and local organizations which may desire help in doing the contemplated task.

I feel that this is a great opportunity for the bar to exert its influence and by a unity of effort in terms of work make an important contribution to the improvement of the administration of justice.

A concrete program outlining steps to be taken by state and local bar associations to assist in this program will be sent out shortly.

I personally believe this movement is designed to promote the public welfare and I pledge myself to give the full support of my administration to it.

Faithfully yours,

EARL W. EVANS,

President of the American Bar Association.