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The Bar and Public Relations, by John S. Bradway

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BOOK REVIEW

The Bar and Public Relations. John S. Bradway. (1934. The Bobbs-Merrill Co., pp. i-xviii; 1-362.)

The author of this book is the secretary of the National Association of Legal Aid Organizations; professor of law and director of the Legal Aid Clinic at Duke University School of Law. He has been the pioneer in an attempt to give to law school students some clinical experience, as a part of the teaching program. He set up at the University of Southern California School of Law a Legal Aid Clinic, under the administration of the law school and as an integral part of the law school curriculum. Third year students have been required to participate in the work of the clinic in connection with the courses in Trial Practice. He has perfected a similar organization at Duke University. The experiment has been successful in both instances and appears to have been accorded a permanent assignment in the curricula of both schools.

The practical value to the law school student of the clinical experience thus obtained as compared with the usual moot court work in trial practice is obvious. The student comes in contact with actual clients and the bitter experiences of a beginning practitioner. The more substantial value, however, lies in the fact that the student is brought face to face with some of the more serious maladjustments in the present social order, which most lawyers seek to and do avoid. Professional standards and the social element in the lawyer's life and work are presented to him in no uncertain terms. Under expert guidance the results should be plain gain.

The present book is a successful attempt to present "a picture of the lawyer in certain of his broader professional aspects which hitherto have received scant attention." The author discusses, in a novel way, the current lay criticism of the lawyer; the organization of the legal profession and its standards; the purposes and benefits of the Legal Aid Clinic; the lawyer's relationships to the "social worker"; the doctor, the psychiatrist, the clergyman, and finally the Legal Aid Societies. The book has been prepared apparently for student use. But the lawyer who continues to be anything of a student will find it interesting and valuable. The author rests his case on the obvious propositions that ultimately a decent administration of justice cannot overlook the field sought to be occupied by the Legal Aid Societies, and that the legal profession must accept the responsibility for an adequate development of the field.

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