

1949

Report of Committee on Legislation

Minn. L. Rev. Editorial Board

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Your committee, and every member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, is deeply indebted to the judges and lawyers who have given of their time, energy and ability to act as discussion leaders in the legal institutes sponsored by the state association. We thank all of those who have assisted the committee in its work.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD B. SMITH, Chairman	M. H. ADAMS
JULIUS NOLTE	L. S. MILLER
MILLETT O'CONNELL	HERBERT E. OLSON
JOHN S. RUENITZ	MARVIN LUNDQUIST
H. S. HOSHOUR	C. L. ERICKSON
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GEORGE LEONARD, JR.	ED THELEN
JOHN COUGHLIN	JOHN E. MANTHEY
WILLIAM C. BLETHEN	HON. D. E. LABELLE
HON. E. J. RUEGEMER	CLIFFORD W. GARDNER
JOSEPH HILGERS	HAYNER LARSON
RUSSELL JOHNSON	ESKO E. RANTA
R. C. ALDERSON	HON. GUSTAVUS LOEVINGER
E. L. BOYLE	OSCAR RONKEN
I. M. HUDSON	HERBERT G. SMITH

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

No written report was filed by this committee.

I. E. KRAWETZ, Chairman

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

TO THE MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION:

Your Committee recommends:

Recommendations

1. As part of our Public Relations program, this Association should provide part or full-time representation before our State Legislature to direct the preparation and submission of measures to be enacted into law under the sponsorship of, or with the approval of this Association.

2. A Special Committee be appointed now to study Judicial salaries in all of our State Courts and to investigate Judicial compensation in other States, to the end that recommendations may be made to the 1951 Session of the Minnesota Legislature, to remove inequities and to promote and maintain the highest standard possible among the Judges of all of our State Courts.

3. That the proposed non-profit corporation code be made immediately available for study by the membership throughout the State and that the Code be developed for submission to the 1951 Session of the Minnesota State Legislature.

Report

Your Committee on Legislation met in December, 1948, with the Executive Committee to consider the bills to be sponsored by the Association at the 1949 Session of the Minnesota State Legislature. More than 20 proposals for legislation had been approved by the 1948 Convention of the Association but only a few of the bills were actually drawn and made available to the Committee. As a result, the December meeting could only approve in principle some of the measures, while 4 of the bills submitted were approved for sponsorship. These were:

1. The Administrative Law Bill—HF 1527—SF 1137
2. 5/6 jury verdict in 6 hours in civil actions—HF 117—SF 118.
3. Compulsory Insurance for aircraft—HF 115—SF 133.
4. Removal of limit on damages in wrongful death cases—HF 116—SF 117.

At the time of this report the Legislature was still in session and none of these bills had been passed. The Senate Judiciary Committee had voted to kill SF 118. HF 1527 had been recommended for passage in the House and all other bills were still in Committees of either House or Senate.

Your Committee has observed the absolute necessity for improving the processing of bills to be submitted to the State Legislature under the sponsorship or with the approval of this Association. Too much reliance in the past has been placed upon volunteer effort and upon the presence among the members of the Legislature of lawyers who are members of this Association. Committee Chairmen of the Association can hardly be expected to come from the various sections of the State and wait upon the Legislature repeatedly at their own expense, though many have done so willingly. Lawyer members of the Legislature owe their first duty to their constituents and frequently find themselves confronted with embarrassing choices. Most of the other professions and many organizations interested in specific legislation engage full-time representatives to handle such measures before the Legislature. It is legitimate and proper to do so. The Minnesota State Bar Association is presently conducting a Public Relations program at considerable cost to its members, and the ability of the Association to serve the public interest as it has repeatedly done, without seeking some selfish advantage for its members could well form a part of our Public Relations objectives.

The matter of adequate compensation for our Judicial officers and the Judges of all our State Courts is a matter of direct concern to this Association. Certain inequities presently existing need to be removed and the entire structure of Judicial salaries throughout the State needs study and action by this Association, if we are to attract and keep good lawyers in Judicial office.

Respectfully submitted,

F. GORDON WRIGHT, Chairman	ROLAND FARICY
JAMES J. COURTNEY, Secretary	ARTHUR GILLEN
F. P. MEMMER	WILLIAM E. FLYNN
CHARLES ROOT	FRANCIS HANZEL
R. J. SHERAN	MAGNUS WEFALD
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H. G. LUND	L. W. RULIEN
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EVERETT L. PETERSON	DONALD A. HOLMES
KENNETH C. WEYL	HAROLD LEVANDER