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# The President's Page: The Pursuit of Justice

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*West Virginia Bar Association*

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THE WEST VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION

## The President's Page

### THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Wherever choice or chance has placed us and whatever path of endeavor we pursue, we labor in the service of a common cause — the pursuit of justice, which has been described as the noblest pursuit of man. The quality of nobleness is ascribed to the practice of law because our calling is a profession. The difference between a profession and a calling is underscored by Dean Pound's definition of a profession as a "group of men pursuing a learned art as a common calling in the spirit of public service — no less a public because it may incidentally be a means of livelihood."

An analysis of Dean Pound's definition reveals there are three ideas involved in a profession: (1) organization, (2) learning, and (3) a spirit of public service. The spirit of service is the point of chief importance. It is of the essence to the legal profession and a prerequisite to the sound administration of justice.

Learning is one of the things that sets off a profession from a calling. Problems of human relations in our society need the resources of the cultivated intelligence of lawyers. To effectively discharge these tasks requires more than resourceful craftsmen. They must be performed by learned men, yes, cultured men.

The stature of the professional man is not the measure of the man standing alone. Only in joint effort with his fellows can the professional man realize the full scope of his function. Without cooperative enterprise the practitioner lacks an essential professional ingredient. The charge of public service that lifts the law above the level of a craft or trade may be fulfilled only in united action. It is the bar association, not the individual lawyer, that can render public service on a community-wide or state-wide basis.

May we, lawyers in a changing world, preserve and advance our tradition of public service and our heritage of the pursuit of justice which have been bequeathed to us by able and devoted lawyers who have gone before.

*Wilson Anderson*  
*President*

[167]