

April 1959

## President's Page

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*West Virginia Bar Association*

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### Recommended Citation

Harry Scherr Jr., *President's Page*, 61 W. Va. L. Rev. (1959).

Available at: <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr/vol61/iss3/5>

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## THE WEST VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION

### PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A matter of vital interest to every member of the Bar is continuing the education of the lawyer after he has graduated and begun his practice. In December of 1958, at Arden House, Harri-man, New York, the "National Conference on the Continuing Edu-cation of the Bar" was conducted under the sponsorship of the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association. The conference was composed of 110 judges, officers and representatives of the organized bar and deans and other faculty members of a number of law schools. The primary purpose of the conference was to determine the extent to which the organized bar was carrying out its obligation to further the education of lawyers, and what should be done to assist lawyers to better serve their chosen profes-sion. A number of states presently carry on very elaborate programs of continuing education, at best consisting of many meetings held in various parts of the states for the convenience of local attorneys, and publication of periodicals and reports in the several fields of the law, and annual compendiums. Notable are California and Wisconsin, which have full time salaried staffs, large budgets and are virtually self-sustaining. When finances have been available this has been undertaken in West Virginia on a lesser scale. Of course, the programs at our annual meetings have always been organized with the object of broadening the horizons of attorneys in general, although we could not presume to say that short pro-grams at annual meetings of lawyers can do much more than present a broad picture of any one subject.

The conclusion of the conference was that future programs, whether conducted under the sponsorship of organized bars or law schools, not only continue to emphasize professional competence, but to give greater emphasis to the professional responsibilities of the lawyer to the courts, to the administration of justice, to law reform, to the law-making process, to his profession and to the public. West Virginia, as one of the smaller states, with compara-tively few practitioners widely scattered except for a few localities, cannot be expected to embark upon or carry out a pretentious and expensive program. However, the West Virginia Bar Association will continue to do what is possible in this regard, and to support

any means whereby the standards of the profession are improved, and give its financial and moral support to this *Law Review*.

The recent regional meeting held in Pittsburgh was most successful and well attended by members of the West Virginia Bar. The programs were interesting and instructive and the hospitality of Pittsburgh most enjoyable. It is the first time that a regional meeting has been held so close to the borders of West Virginia and it was gratifying to know how many of our brother lawyers were able to attend and take part in the activities.

All members recently received a bulletin containing a digest of selected opinions rendered by the Attorney General during 1958. For this helpful service, a debt of gratitude is owed to Stanley C. Higgins, Jr., a member of the Executive Council, who has voluntarily undertaken this task for several years past. The response is enthusiastic and there is no question that it has been of great value to the bar of this state.

It is not too early to remind all members of the Association that the annual meeting will be held at The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, Friday and Saturday, September 4 and 5. The printed program will not be ready for several weeks, but beginning has been made and we anticipate an interesting one. Make your plans to attend now.

Harry Scherr, Jr.