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## Henry Craig Jones

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*and* THE BAR

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## EDITORIALS

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### HENRY CRAIG JONES

When one sees in operation a modern law school he is not apt to give much thought to the many problems met and overcome by the organizers. The death of Henry Craig Jones who for seven years was dean of the College of Law at West Virginia University causes one to pause, take account and give credit where it is due.

On Dean Jones' arrival in Morgantown from George Washington University he found a law school inadequately housed with the College of Arts and Sciences in Woodburn Hall. The faculty, for a time without the leadership of a dean, was striving to give by lecture and casebook method to a small body of students, more work than should have been undertaken by a faculty twice its size. Dean Jones knew the standards a law school should attain to bring it to the plane of his ideal of a state law school. In a quiet, most effective, yet not objectionably aggressive manner, he began his labor. He reorganized the school. He procured new members of the faculty in sympathy with his aims. He then began a campaign of educating the students, not in law only, but also in the needs and requirements of a modern pro-

gressive law school for the state of West Virginia. The students were so thoroughly convinced by his ability that they enthusiastically entered with him on his program to build up and make a better law school.

Confronted with the task of building up an adequate library, without the aid of a law librarian, Dean Jones acquainted himself in a remarkably short time with libraries, books and their prices, and with this knowledge was able to acquire a well selected adequate library with the meager funds at hand—at a saving to the state. Nor did he lose sight of the fact that he was building for the future, for many of the rarer volumes of session laws of the Virginias, codes and revisers' reports of commissions, were obtained by him. The labor and time expended by him and his wise discrimination in the selection of books made not only a usable library but also has lightened the task of his successors and will continue so to do.

Dean Jones, not content to confine himself and his colleagues to the teaching of law as an abstract science, but interested in its social and practical aspects, widened the sphere of the school. Through closer co-operation with bench and bar he introduced the West Virginia practice court, presided over by judges of the circuit courts and Supreme Court of Appeals; interested and spurred the lawyers of the state to the requirement of higher standards of legal preparation for and admission to the bar; and through the Law Quarterly co-ordinated the efforts of the State Bar Association and the school toward attainment of common ideals. He went even further, and by participation in associations of national scope brought the College of Law into recognition as one of the better state law schools of the nation.

With the greatest enthusiasm, Dean Jones threw himself into the task of obtaining funds for and planning the present College of Law building. The school was growing, the library was becoming too valuable to risk in a building not fireproof. To him the time was ripe to stir the people of the state and arouse their interest in the erection of a building, not merely four walls of brick and stone, but a college of law building which would express in itself something of the spirit and atmosphere of the common law as developed from the colonial days of Virginia—a building of which every West Virginia lawyer would be proud. While Dean Jones did not remain to witness the fruition of his plans, the building as conceived and worked out by him, though changed in minor details, stands a perpetual reminder of his labor,—a fitting monument to his memory.

With no thought of disparagement of Dean Jones' predecessors who performed their labors and wrought well, it was his lot to

take up the reins in a period of transition; to accomplish in a remarkably short time the dreams and hopes of the college founders. By dint of hard work, resourcefulness, executive and administrative ability, these and other accomplishments became realities during his short tenure.

The many students stimulated and inspired by him, the lawyers and judges who worked with and co-operated with him, the members of the faculty who associated with him intimately as co-laborers, and his many friends join in honoring his memory as a great builder and sincerely mourn his loss.

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**COLLEGE OF LAW—ENROLLMENT.**—The fifty-first year of the College of Law commenced with an enrollment of one hundred sixty-six. This is the largest enrollment in the history of the school. In 1925-26 the enrollment was one hundred thirty-six, in 1926-27 one hundred fifty-six, in 1927-1928 one hundred fifty-eight and in 1928-29 one hundred sixty-one. This gradual increase we think justifies the Law School in making the announcement that in 1931 three years preparation will be required for admission to the College of Law. We believe that a law school of about one hundred students of more background than can be obtained in two years college preparation will better fit the needs in West Virginia than a larger law school.

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**FACULTY REPORT ON PROCEDURE.**—This issue is devoted to a report of the Law Faculty made in response to a resolution passed by the meeting of the West Virginia Bar Association in Fairmont in 1928. It is hoped that each member of the bar will take the time to study and criticize the report, and the writers of the report will appreciate very much any letters of criticism which any member of the bar can find time to write. We wish to make a list of criticisms of this report so that we can submit them with the report at the next bar association meeting.

While the writers of the report have given a great deal of time to study of the subject they nevertheless feel that they would be greatly benefited by criticisms and suggestions from those active in the practice in West Virginia. Ordinarily it is difficult to get attorneys to take time to study a report of this character and write down their suggestions. We hope however that this report will prove the exception to the rule and that the committee will receive written suggestions from members of the bar over the state.