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A Law Alumni Association

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EDITORIALS

A LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.—It is the desire of the administration of the College of Law to unify its alumni into some sort of formal organization. In creating such an organization we are not attempting to bother the alumni for contributions for any particular philanthropic cause. We are only trying to get them interested in what we are doing so that we can have either their criticism or their support, whichever our activities may merit. The alumni of West Virginia University are vitally concerned with the reputation, standards and accomplishments of their school. It is a fact, however, which might as well be recognized, that some of the most effective support of the law school has not come from West Virginia alumni but from graduates of such schools as Harvard, Yale and Virginia, who are now practicing law in this state. The fact that West Virginia Law alumni have been inarticulate has, we believe, been due to a rather faulty method of distributing information as to the plans and hopes of the Law School.

In the past there has never been collected an accurate list of names and addresses of the West Virginia law alumni. The Law School can scarcely complain of lack of interest on the part of the alumni when it has shown such a complete lack of interest in

the alumni. We do not know what they are doing, whether they are practicing law or in business, and in the past have made no effort to find out. Other law schools have published alumni legal directories which have been of some practical service to lawyers graduating from other schools. All things else being equal, any lawyer prefers to forward business to a fellow alumnus rather than to some attorney whom he does not know. In the past two months two matters of legal business have been forwarded to the office of the dean from West Virginia alumni located in the West, with the express desire that it be referred to some graduate of West Virginia located in this state. An alumni directory can facilitate these friendly and profitable relations. It should have been published in the past.

We are attempting to make up for past deficiencies in this respect by getting a complete list of alumni, finding out what they are doing and eventually publishing an alumni directory. We hope in this way to build up an organization which will be interested in us to the extent at least in which we are interested in them. However the response has been somewhat disappointing. Over fifty per cent of the alumni who were asked to give this information gave us no reply. We are not, however, discouraged. We are sending out a second letter enclosing more return post cards.

We wish those alumni of the Law School who read this and have not answered our first request, would give the matter further thought and send us the needed information as to what they are doing. Circularizing the alumni costs money and consumes a great deal of time. We hope that we will have better success with our second circular letter which we are about to send out, and that the alumni of this school will realize that there is nothing to lose but everything to gain by close co-operation between the College of Law and those whom it has trained for the profession.

—T. W. A.

SHOULD THE JURY SYSTEM BE ABOLISHED?—It is interesting to note the amount of discussion which is going on concerning the jury system among persons not acquainted with the law in any other way except by observation of its processes. The debating teams of West Virginia University are engaged in a discussion of this problem and the law faculty receives letters every week