

Montana Law Review

Volume 5
Issue 1 *Spring 1944*

Article 5

January 1944

Law School

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Recommended Citation

Geraldine Ede Hennessey, *Law School*, 5 Mont. L. Rev. (1944).
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mlr/vol5/iss1/5>

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LAW SCHOOL

The law school faculty has been studying the needs of the school for the post-war period, when enrollment will again be normal. One of the most important changes being considered is the raising of the present requirements for obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

For schools accredited by the Association of American Law Schools and listed as "approved" by the Legal Education Section of the American Bar Association, the minimum standard has been two years' work in an accredited college followed by three years' law study in an approved law school. However, some law schools are requiring a total of six or seven years for the completion of the combined pre-legal and legal courses. Some have a 3-3 plan, i.e., three years' pre-legal followed by three years of legal study. Others have a 2-4 plan, i.e., two years' pre-legal followed by four years' law study with some advanced law-social science in the latter part of the course. Our faculty has considered and viewed with favour the 2-4 plan as operative at the University of Minnesota School of Law. This provides for a closer correlation of pre-legal and legal studies. It presupposes more required work in the pre-legal course. Pre-legal students are organized as a separate group within the College of Arts, the curriculum to cover two years. The law curriculum then follows for a four-year period: the first three years of the law school study consisting of vocational legal training, the fourth of a broad professional training.

The functions of the lawyer in society are considered in arranging this course of study. His business is to aid clients in obtaining justice; but he has other functions. Lawyers provide trained leadership for moulding the institutions and laws of the country. The "Minnesota Plan" emphasizes the lawyer's responsibility for making laws as well as administering them. It also gives recognition to the growing importance of public and administrative law in line with the recent growth and development of administrative agencies in our federal and state governments.

MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION

According to an announcement by W. E. Keeley, President of the Montana Bar Association, the annual meeting of the Association will be held in August or September, 1944, the exact date depending upon when Joseph W. Henderson, President of the American Bar Association, will be available.