



1952

## Inter Alia

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## INTER ALIA

JUDGE HAROLD R. MEDINA has been an esteemed person in this region, particularly since his visit to the Southwestern Legal Center during Lawyers Week in 1951. On March 31, 1951, *The Christian Science Monitor* printed portions of an address entitled, "The Judge and His God," given by him before the Church Club of New York. What he had to say has bearing on the process of adjudication, which is the subject of the Symposium carried in this issue. Hence, in lieu of an editorial, some excerpts are reprinted here:

While there is much in the Bible about judges, I do not recall any occasion on which a judge has been called upon to discuss the impact of religion upon the performance of the judicial function. Perhaps this is because this is an intimate matter—thoughts about which one is likely to keep to one's self. . . .

I suppose I am a more or less a typical American. From boyhood I have had an implicit and unquestioning faith, which I got when I attended the classes in the Episcopal Church at Ossining, New York, in preparation for my confirmation when I was a boy at Preparatory School. . . .

It was not long after I became a judge that I began to feel a new sense of responsibility. It is something very difficult to explain. It was not simply that I wanted to be right and that I took my duties seriously. There came a feeling that everything I did, even the decision of nice questions of interpretation of mere rules of procedure, was in some way becoming a part of a huge fabric which on the whole was part and parcel of the moral law governing mankind and which must of necessity be of divine origin.

As I passed upon the credibility of witnesses and as I wrote my opinions and formulated my judgments, I gradually came to realize that I was weaving my small part of this huge fabric; and I knew that I would not perform my task aright unless I was constantly mindful of the fact that all these matters, large and small, would be mere futility unless I tried to make each one fit into its proper place in the moral law which governed all.

Right here is the part that is difficult to explain.

I was still reasoning as a lawyer. The fundamental principles of law were the same. I was still manipulating the techniques of my profession as before. But there was some subtle force, the impact of which was new to me, which was spiritual in quality. It was as though someone were always watching me and telling me to make very sure

that my rulings and my decisions were fundamentally right and just.

You know we judges are the servants of the people, as are all government officials in our particular type of democracy. But I think it will not be difficult for you to see from the things I have been telling you about that it didn't take me very long to perceive that we judges are the servants of someone else too. . . .

\* \* \*

Thirty-seven seniors received the LL.B. degree in graduation ceremonies June 3, 1952. A. E. Collier was graduated *summa cum laude*, and James W. Hambright was graduated *cum laude*. A. E. Collier, James W. Hambright and Melvin R. Stidham were elected to the Order of the Woolsack.

\* \* \*

Four new members have been elected to the Barristers to replace seniors graduating. They are Michael J. McNicholas, Clifford L. Payne, Sam A. Snyder and Eugene D. Wilson. New officers elected by the group are Sam A. Snyder, Lord Chief Baron; Max N. Osborn, Chief Baron; Michael J. McNicholas, Scrivener; and Clifford L. Payne, Sergeant-at-Arms.

\* \* \*

In Honors Day ceremonies April 30, 1952, A. E. Collier was awarded the J. Woodall Rodgers Senior Medal given annually to the member of the graduating class who has maintained the highest overall average for three years.

\* \* \*

Officers of the Student Bar Association have been elected for 1952-1953. Selected to serve were Charles F. Burgman, President; Charles Benton Musselwhite, Vice-President; Armine Ernst, Secretary; and Clifford L. Payne, Treasurer.

\* \* \*

Lawyers Week, April 14-19, was an outstanding success, bringing to the campus a group of distinguished visitors. Student attorneys participating in the Annual Senior Case Club Argument were A. E. Collier, D. Carl Richards and Donald E. Snyder for the appellant, and John E. Banks, Robert A. Carlton and Melvin R. Stidham for the appellee. The case was concerned with the interesting and timely problem of the exertion of improper influence upon government officials. A court composed primarily of members of the Supreme Court of Texas decided the case in favor of the attorneys for the appellant.

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The *Southwestern Law Journal* notes with deepest regret the death in November, 1951, of William Kent Ratliff, Falfurrias attorney, who was a Student Editor in 1948. Mr. Ratliff made an enviable record in the Southern Methodist University Law School and in his character and demeanor showed every promise of becoming an outstanding lawyer. His untimely passing saddened all who knew him.

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The Summer, 1952, issue of the *Southwestern Law Journal* will be a Survey of Southwestern Law for the year 1951. Important legislation and decisions of the year will be reviewed.