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Editorial Notes

The Editors

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EDITORIAL NOTES
THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW QUARTERLY
It will, of course, be understood by our readers that the views expressed in any article, note, comment or book review are those of the individual contributor and not those of the WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY LAW QUARTERLY. It is one of the purposes of this type of publication to afford a forum for the free discussion of legal subjects, and the usefulness of the QUARTERLY would be considerably impaired by our censorship of the opinions of our contributors.

THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The School of Law has been recently granted a charter for the thirty-fourth chapter of the Order of the Coif, which is a national honorary legal fraternity comparable to Phi Beta Kappa in the academic field. Selection to membership in Coif is restricted to the highest ten percent scholastically of the Senior Law Class. Inasmuch as members from previous graduating classes may be selected on a retroactive basis, approximately fifty alumni were inducted as members at the installation ceremonies and dinner which were held on December 4, 1937, in the Law Library.

Assistant Professor E. S. Stimson, who was on leave of absence for 1936-37 for the purpose of research at Harvard University, has been granted an extended leave of absence for 1937-38. Professor Ralph F. Fuchs has been given a leave of absence for 1937-38 so that he may accept a special fellowship awarded him by the Columbia University Law School for the purpose of research and writing in the field of Administrative Law. Mr. Albert S. Abel, B.A., J.D. Iowa, LL.M. Harvard, was appointed Assistant Professor in the Law School for 1937-38. Prior to his graduate work at Harvard University, Professor Abel served on the editorial staff of the West Publishing Company and the American Law Book Company. He was the revising editor of the recent 14-volume edition of Blashfield's *Cyclopaedia of Automobile Law and Practice*. Professor Abel is a member of the Iowa State Bar and the Order of the Coif. He is teaching courses in Negotiable Instruments, Sales, Wills, and Criminal Law. In July, Miss Irene Gelinas became the assistant librarian of the Law Library. Miss Gelinas has had varied experience in library work, including college library work, public library reference work, and law library experience as assistant in the Michigan State Law Library. She received the B.S. degree in Library Science at the University of Illinois Library School, and previously acquired her A.B. and M.A. degrees at Northwestern University.

The enrollment in the School of Law for the academic year 1937-38 totals 155 students, an increase of eight percent over the
enrollment of last year. The first year of summer sessions at the
School of Law was quite successful. It is planned to continue
summer work, and a six weeks' session will be offered during the
summer of 1938.

NOTES

ST. LOUIS PROCEDURE IN CONDEMNATION

A condemnation procedure under the Charter of the City of
St. Louis is instituted by ordinance of the Board of Aldermen
upon recommendation of the Board of Public Service of the city. The City Counselor is required to file the condemnation suit
within six months after the ordinance becomes effective. It
would seem that the time limit for filing suits would be ample,
yet, many proceedings have failed upon the enactment of the first
ordinance by reason of the limited time in which to secure
certificates of title and other data necessary for the filing of
condemnation suits. However, the object of the time limit is
to speed up the proceedings.

Without going into details as to who should be made parties
defendant, suffice it to say that all parties interested in parcels
of property sought to be taken or damaged are joined as de-
fendants in each cause or proceeding. Upon the filing of the
petition by the City Counselor, summons is issued and defendants
are given ten-days' notice of the hearing on the petition. How-
ever, there is seldom a hearing on the petition unless some de-
fendant desires to raise a jurisdictional or constitutional ques-
tion. Such questions should be raised then, but in actual prac-
tice they are often raised upon exceptions taken to the commis-
sioners' reports. Also at the hearing on the petition the question
as to whether or not the project proposed by the condemnation
is for a public use should be raised and determined by the court
as a matter of law at that time before the cause proceeds further.

When service of process upon all the defendants on the eminent
domain side of the cause is completed, the case is ready for
assignment to a division of the Circuit Court for reference to
the Condemnation Commission to assess damages and benefits.

2. Charter, art. XXI, sec. 1. The charter may be found in Revised Code
of St. Louis (1926) at page 1087. It is hereafter referred to as "Charter."
3. Charter, art. XXI, sec. 1. Ordinances are effective thirty days after
approval by the mayor. Charter, art. IV, sec. 19.