

# The Palm Beach Post ARCHIVES

Tuesday Morning, June 30, 1942

## BAR IS ADVISED TO CLEAN HOUSE

Lawyers should clean up any irregularities in their own number before public scandal arises, thus improving the prestige and honor of the profession, Circuit Judge Ross Williams, Miami, declared today at the monthly meeting of the Palm Beach County Bar Association in the Hotel George Washington.

"We can get rid of public misunderstanding," he said, "if we do a little housecleaning a little faster than we have done in the past."

By disciplining its own members as soon as necessary, Judge Williams said, the bar not only would improve its standing in public esteem, but might return straying members to "the straight and narrow path."

He made these specific suggestions for the elevation of the bar:

1. Raise training standards, requiring lawyers to serve an "internship", like physicians, as well as to hold college degrees.

2. Require a bond of every attorney.

3. Persuade older members of the bar to take care of young attorneys, advising them and perhaps arranging credit unions.

4. Secure public relations advisers for the bar, as the representatives of some great fortunes did when in public disfavor.

Joseph H. Lesser was elected secretary, filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of John S. Leach.

Culver Smith, president, announced that the association has been asked by the U. S. Civil Service Commission to assist in recruiting qualified persons to perform confidential and investigative work for Federal agencies.

Candidates, between the ages of 25 and 55, must have legal training and experience, and pass civil service examinations. Detailed information was turned over to the new secretary.