

Bolitha J. Laws Appointed Associate Justice

On June 10, 1938, President Roosevelt nominated Bolitha J. Laws, President of the District of Columbia Bar Association, for Associate Justice of the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, and on June 16, 1938, the U. S. Senate confirmed the appointment.

To say merely that the appointment of Judge Laws meets with the general approval of the lawyers in the District of Columbia is an understatement. Probably no member of the local Bar is more universally respected and admired than "Bo" Laws. As President of the Association he has accomplished much during the first five months of his term, and his energetic leadership of activities in the Association has been characterized by his personal participation in every phase of the many-sided job he set out to accomplish. Every committee felt the inspiration and urge to work with him as well as for him. The results have been apparent in the reports submitted at each meeting since his election to office.

Bolitha J. Laws was born in the District of Columbia on August 22, 1891, and was educated in the schools of the District. He was graduated from Georgetown University Law School with the degree LL.B. in 1913, and the degree LL.M. in 1914. His scholarship was evidenced by his selection as Editor of the *Law Journal*, and his popularity with the student body is shown by his election as permanent Secretary of the graduating class.

Judge Laws has spent part of his time in private practice and part in the service of the United States. He served as Assistant District Attorney during the terms of Clarence R. Wilson and John E. Laskey; he was Litigation Counsel and Assistant General Counsel for the U. S. Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation.

While engaged in private practice, Judge Laws was Chairman of the Grievance Committee of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia and while serving in that difficult capacity made an enviable record of accomplishment.

Judge Laws is married and has four children ranging in age from five to sixteen; he lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and is a member of the Maryland Bar, as well as of the District of Columbia and the State of New York. He has taken an active part in civic and church affairs, and is a Steward and Trustee of the Mt. Vernon Place M. E. Church, where he has taught a Bible Class numbering 160 men for the past five years.

The JOURNAL extends heartiest congratulations to Judge Laws and predicts for him a brilliant career on the bench.

Address of the Honorable Robert H. Jackson*

Solicitor General of the United States

I shall tread but lightly, even by invitation, upon ground that is in possession of Pi Gamma Mu, a National Honor Society in social sciences. Over the years my profession, as a whole, has shown so little hospitality toward those other learnings which may be grouped as social sciences, that I would not be surprised if, in retaliation, you barred all lawyers from your gatherings.

In early American life when our people had thrown off the discipline of George III, the only group in their midst who had studied or thought carefully about forms of social or political organization were the lawyers. Frontier life had made those early lawyers not only students of the past, but bold thinkers about the future. They, better than any other group, comprehended both the experience of the past and the hopes and aspirations of their day, and they became natural leaders in framing a new government. Their dominance in shaping governmental policy so built up their prestige that the law outstripped all other social sciences in influence and in the number and prosperity of its followers.

But in the course of time the lawyers became the victims of their own over-specialization. They over-refined the law as the dominant philosophy of government. They forgot that at its roots jurisprudence is a social science dealing with the behavior, the movements, the mistakes, and the aspirations of human beings. Instead of viewing law as a social science, the

* Delivered at the District of Columbia Province Dinner of Pi Gamma Mu, held at the Catholic University on May 8, 1938.