

May 1927

Forensics

Chicago-Kent Law Review

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/cklawreview>

 Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Chicago-Kent Law Review, *Forensics*, 5 Chi.-Kent L. Rev. 26 (1927).

Available at: <https://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/cklawreview/vol5/iss8/7>

This Notes is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Commons @ IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chicago-Kent Law Review by an authorized editor of Scholarly Commons @ IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. For more information, please contact dginsberg@kentlaw.iit.edu.



FORENSICS

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FORENSICS AT KENT

Less than five years ago Chicago Kent College of Law had no debating teams and was unknown in intercollegiate debating circles. In 1923 a coach and manager was appointed by the Trustees for the purpose of fostering debating at the college, the theory being that public speaking was closely linked with the study of law. The idea met with the approval of the students and a systematic plan was worked out whereby students were selected from each class to represent the college in intercollegiate debates. In the four years that have elapsed a great change has taken place, and today the Chicago Kent College of Law is known far and wide for its debating teams. This has been made possible through the efforts of the students who have taken part in the debates and through the efforts of William M. James who has had charge of the debating since its inception at Kent and who has given much time and attention to its encouragement and improvement.

The student body of the Chicago Kent College of Law is composed of men and women who have all had some college training. Many, in fact, are college graduates. This means that every student who enrolls at the college has had some training in public speaking. Not a few of them have served on debating teams of other educational institutions. The result is that excellent material is available for debating teams. It should be the desire of the students to see that Chicago Kent is as ably represented in the future as it has been during the past four years. The

students who have ability as orators can assist by whole heartedly supporting the class contests and by trying out in them.

Elaborate preparations are now being made for next year. It is anticipated that the college will continue to broadcast at least three debates over the radio, and in addition, that one of the debating teams will be sent on a trip next year that will include debates with several colleges.

A number of the students who have taken part during the last year will be returning to the college again next fall, and together with the new material which will be available, will, no doubt, furnish the college with sufficient talent to enable it to continue to maintain the position it has achieved in intercollegiate debating circles.

REVIEW OF YEAR'S DEBATING ACTIVITIES

Three intercollegiate debates broadcast over Radio Station W. M. A. Q., together with a fourth debate held at Berea, Kentucky, served this year to add immensely to the enviable reputation which the Chicago Kent College of Law has acquired in the forensic field.

Shortly after the commencement of the first semester, contests were conducted in the respective classes to select the three best debaters in each class. Mr. Chas. H. Edwards, G. R. Waller and Vernon Sigler were awarded first, second and third prizes in the order named in the Freshmen class.

In the Junior Class Irving S. Toplon was awarded first place, R. E. Burke won second prize, and Arthur Quadow third.

In the Senior Class three students, namely, Harold Fishbein, Gray Phelps and

Harold Keele proved to be so equally matched that the prizes were distributed equally among them.

Inter-Class Contests followed the selection of the class winners. The Freshmen Team defeated the Junior Team, but went down to defeat before the seniors who annexed the class championship of the college.

The class and inter-class contests having been disposed of the students next gave their attention to inter-collegiate debating. The University of Oklahoma furnished the opposition for the first debate which was held in December. The prohibition question was discussed. Messrs. Harold Fishbein, Harold Keele and Gray Phelps represented Chicago Kent and advanced the arguments in favor of the 18th amendment. The debate was broadcast over W.M.A.Q. and attracted hundreds of listeners from all parts of the United States. Numerous replies were received after the debate commending the speakers on the able manner in which they had presented their arguments.

The second Intercollegiate Debate was likewise broadcast over the radio and was held in January. Iowa State College of Ames, Iowa, took the affirmative of

"Resolved that the present day press exercises a more harmful than beneficial influence to the community."

Messrs. Charles Edwards, R. E. Burke and Arthur Quadow propounded the negative arguments for Kent. This debate also proved very interesting and instructive and attracted considerable comment.

The final radio debate was with the University of Kentucky. The subject for discussion was

"Resolved, that the five day week in industry would advance the social-economic condition of the country."

The affirmative of the question was taken by the University of Kentucky. Chicago Kent was represented by Messrs. Charles Edwards, R. E. Burke and Vernon Sigler, who spoke on the negative side. This debate attracted almost as much attention as the debate on prohibition, and

some 400 listeners sent in their remarks after the debate. On the evening following this debate Messrs. Irving S. Toplon, Gray Phelps, and Harold Keele journeyed to Berea, Kentucky, where they engaged in a debate with the same team from the University of Kentucky on the same subject, but on opposite sides of the question. Some 1200 high school and college students and high school and college professors were gathered at Berea for the Southern Oratorical Contest and attended the debate. The three judges awarded the decision to Chicago-Kent by a unanimous vote. Because of the representative body which attended the debate the boys from Kent had an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their ability to young men and women from all parts of the south. That they were not lacking in ability is proved by the decision of the judges.

About 1300 replies were received during the year following the three radio debates. These replies came from 152 towns and cities in 31 different states. The above figures give some idea of the popularity of the radio debates and also go to show that the teams of Chicago-Kent are rapidly becoming known throughout the entire United States. Many of the replies received contained a request for more radio debates which is further evidence of the popularity of this form of radio program.

The students who represented Chicago Kent College of Law in Intercollegiate Debating during the past year have given generously of their time and efforts. They have rendered invaluable services to the college, its student body and its alumni and are deserving of the thanks of all.

June 9th

is the DATE
of What?

The HOMECOMING

