

THE HOYNES AWARD



Charles Davis, of South Bend, is the recipient of the Hoynes Award for 1927. This prize was established in January, 1926, by a gift from William James Hoynes, A.M., LL.D., Dean Emeritus of the College of Law. The award is one hundred dollars and is given annually to the member of the graduating class in the program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Laws who has the highest average in scholastic grades, application, deportment and achievement, together with fitting qualifications for admission to the bar and to the practice of law.

The record of Charles Davis in the Law School makes him a fit recipient for the honor. Possessed of a deep knowledge of the law — his future profession — Davis at all times exhibited an ambition and an application which made further mastery of his legal study possible. Charles Davis, at all times a willing student, anxious to learn the letter of the law, not only sought in his study to know the mere law itself as found in his books, but also to know and to understand the spirit of that law — the spirit which has given the legal profession a name of honor, and law the appellation of "the perfection of human reason."

And such an effort to know and to love the law as a thing of honor is indeed worthy of honor and recognition. Today the country is seething in crime and disrespect for law. Time and again there has been a scandalous connection of the bar with crime. Is it not right that that profession examine its conscience and determine whether or not at least part of the responsibility for crime lies at its door? And is it not right that a high regard for the law, and understanding and respect for its ideals — a respect which makes such a situation impossible — should be encouraged with proper honor, such as was accorded Charles Davis?

The profession of the law is not a business for exacting fees from society for clever and technical defenses of the criminal. Law and procedure should not be prostituted to enable criminals to escape deserved punishment. The practice of the law is a public service and a public trust, with responsibilities to society. This is a fact of which many law students lose sight; that is a fact and an ideal which many law students never possess; that is a fact, the knowledge of which Charles Davis has shown to be his, along with a hearty acquiescence of that fact and a respect for it. And so to Charles Davis comes the honor of the Hoynes Award.

In all his years of study in the Law School, this admirable student has manifested by the quality of his grades a high degree of intelligence; he has shown fitting qualifications which will enable the bar to welcome his presence and his practice; and above all, Charles Davis has exhibited a respect for his profession which will, in the years to come, bring nothing but credit upon it. The recipient of the Hoynes Award for 1927 is indeed worthy of the high honor conferred upon him.