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## Editorial Notes

The Editors

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# ST. LOUIS LAW REVIEW

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## NOTES

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The following are the members of the School of Law Faculty for 1925-26: Hon. Richard Livingston Goode, A.M., LL.D., Dean, Professor Tyrrell Williams, A.B., LL.B., Professor Joseph Henry Zumbalen, LL.B., Professor Earnest Bancroft Conant, A.B., LL.B., Pro-

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There has been a small increase in students in the Law School this year, and students have come from eleven different states. The present Senior Class, being the first to enter under the new requirement of two years' pre-legal work, is small. For that reason it is probable that there will be a large increase in 1926-27. Although there is only a two-year pre-legal requirement, about ten per cent of the students already have college degrees.

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## THE LEGAL STATUS OF FRATERNITIES.

It is the purpose of this article to consider the legal status of fraternities, using the word "fraternities" in the sense that they are the well-known secret organizations which are composed of members who are, or who have been, students in the various universities and secondary schools of the United States and Canada.<sup>1</sup> Sometimes these organizations are called Greek-letter fraternities because they usually, but not always, take two or three Greek letters for their name. No distinction is made in the cases between fraternities and sororities. The word "fraternity," in its generic sense includes organizations of either or both sexes.<sup>2</sup>

The first Greek-letter fraternity was founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. It is now a purely honorary society. The first of the several orders of Kappa Alpha originated at the University of North Carolina in 1812, whereas the first of the women's Greek-letter fraternities was founded many years later. There may be some dispute as to which was the first women's fraternity, but the distinction is usually given to Kappa Alpha Theta which was founded at De Pauw University in 1870. The first Greek-letter society in a secondary school was Alpha Phi, which was founded in 1876.<sup>3</sup> There are now over 137 national college fraternities having

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1. Fraternities as we know them exist only in the United States and Canada. *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1910).

2. 26 C. J. 1049; *Bradford v. Board of Education* (1912), 18 Cal. App. 19, 121 Pac. 929; *State ex rel Daggy v. Allen et al.* (1920), 189 Ind. 369, 127 N. E. 145.

3. *Bradford v. Board of Education*, *supra*, footnote 2.