



**Says the Barrister**

A writ of mandamus sounds like the first cousin of the duck-billed platypus. Until you find out that it is another way that we maintain our liberty.

When we elect public officers to work for us, we place a great deal of authority in their hands. Sometimes they fail to do their lawful duty. One way to make a government official do his job is to ask the court for a writ of mandamus. This writ—or court order—if granted, forces the public officer to his duty. Mandamus simply means "we command" and such a writ has the weight of the law behind it. One who fails to obey the command may be removed from office or jailed for contempt.

**SUPPOSE YOU** applied for a permit to build a house under a city or township building code. You submit your plans which meet all the requirements of the code but the proper official won't give you the permit and you can't get one elsewhere.

You can then ask the court for a writ of mandamus and if you were right and the building official had no grounds for refusal, the court will order him to issue the permit.

Mandamus is a special remedy used to right wrongs by a public officer and is not used if other legal action will solve the problem.

**BEFORE THE** court will issue such a strong command as this, the officer must have refused to do his clear cut legal duty, not something that he may or may not have to do as part of his job. Only a citizen personally involved in the matter or a public official seeking action from another public official can use this remedy.

I sleep easier at night knowing that the courts can put the brakes on overzealous officials who after all are only human.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Forbes Hucall, Atty. Briggs Bldg., Birmingham

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland

At a session of said Court, held at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, in and County on the 28th day of November, A. D. 1956.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of VERNON K. PATCH, Deceased.

Cassie Fern Patch having filed in said court a petition praying that the administration of said estate be granted to Milton H. Patch, or to some other suitable person, and for determination of the legal heirs of said deceased.

It is Ordered, That the 27th day of December, A. D. 1956, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition.

It is further Ordered, That notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this cause by delivering a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail with return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

And it is further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper published and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate. (11-27-56)

**Woman Astronomer Named to Board Of Kingswood**

CRANBROOK — Headmistress Marjorie Goodale has announced the appointment of Mrs. Edmond L. Prince, formerly Dr. Helen Dodson, to the board of Directors of Kingswood School Cranbrook.

Dr. Prince is an associate professor of astronomy at the McMath-Hulbert Observatory of the University of Michigan and the only woman member of the American Astronomical Society. She is recognized as an international authority on sun-earth relationships. Dr. Prince, a resident of Lake Angelus Shores, will replace Miss Lou Babcock of Detroit, who recently resigned.

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