

Is First Woman

MISS HAWKES NAMED TO STATE BAR UNIT



MISS ELIZABETH HAWKES

By News-Telegram
WASHBURN, Wis.
Miss Hawkes, Washburn attorney of Bayfield named to the board of the Wisconsin State Bar Association at a meeting in St. Francis Judicial Association.

Wisconsin's only prosecutor, Miss Hawkes is the first woman to serve on the governing board of the association. She was named by the board of directors. Officers of the association are: President, Judge R. J. P. Fells, vice president, Ashland, secretary, Washburn, treasurer, Washburn. A committee, consisting of one attorney from each county in the circuit, was appointed to prepare a statement and to recommend the necessary action. To this committee was named Warren R. Foster, Ashland; Joseph W. Harkley, Iron County; John Whitmer, Price Falls; Price County; Louis Chas. Hedford, Taylor.



NOTE FOR
Mrs. Lillian N. Hughes
Democratic Candidate for
District Attorney
of St. Croix County



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GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6, 1928
Authorized and circulated by Lillian N. Hughes, New Richmond, Wis.

Pioneers in the Law

The First 150 Women



WITH

INSPIRATION

FROM

THE PAST,

WE SHAPE

THE FUTURE.

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Pioneers in the Law

The First 150 Women

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PREFACE

Celebrating the Short History of Wisconsin Women in the Law

*Susan Steingass,
President, State Bar of Wisconsin*

On Oct. 28, 1998, at the Monona Terrace and Convention Center in Madison, the State Bar of Wisconsin celebrates the lives and careers of the first 150 women lawyers to practice in this state. These women span the time from 1879 to 1943, a 60-year period in Wisconsin history. In fact, this project honors the first 156 women lawyers in Wisconsin, because we've included all the women who passed the bar in 1943 – the year in which the 150th woman achieved this distinction.

This is the State Bar's contribution to Wisconsin's own 150th birthday party commemorating the statehood of this great state. We honor not only the lives and careers of these remarkable women, but of their colleagues, families, and the men and women who made it possible for them to reach such achievements.

This event is modeled after a similar one sponsored by the Utah State Bar. While attending an informal session of women bar leaders at a recent American Bar Association convention, the president of the Utah State Bar described an event celebrating that state's first 100 women

to practice law. In Utah the last of the first 100 women went into the law school class of 1976, which was my class. In fact, one of my friends from law school was one of the honorees.

This really pulled me up short. It was hard to believe that it was well into the second half of the 1970s before the 100th woman was admitted to practice law. It reminded me how short the history of women in the law is. In Wisconsin the 150th woman entered the practice of law in 1943.

Publishing the biographies of these remarkable women has been challenging and personally rewarding. With the assistance of nearly 150 volunteers, we have culled material from the often sketchy records of the State Historical Society, law school alumni records, obituaries published in local newspapers, city directories, and so on. In some cases, conversations with friends and family members revealed rich detail not available in any published account. I believe you will find the following biographies as fascinating as I have.

Let us, through this event and this book, celebrate the achievement of the women who paved the path for today's women lawyers.

LET US, THROUGH THIS EVENT AND THIS BOOK, CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE WOMEN WHO PAVED THE PATH FOR TODAY'S WOMEN LAWYERS.



Susan Steingass is 1998-99 president of the State Bar of Wisconsin, only the second woman elected to this prestigious position.

Steingass, a partner in the Madison law firm of Habush, Habush, Davis & Rottier since 1993,

was appointed to the Dane County bench by Gov. Anthony Earl in 1985.

INTRODUCTION

Redefining the 'order of nature'

Women in Wisconsin's Legal Profession: An Historical Perspective

Joseph A. Ranney

In 1848, when Wisconsin became a state, it was virtually unheard of for women to work outside the home, let alone in the professions. Women were idealized as nurturers and preservers of the human race and, as such, morally superior to men; yet at the same time they were regarded as unfit to participate in the world of commerce and politics and compete with men in that world. A Wisconsin territorial legislator expressed the prevailing attitude when he opposed placing guarantees of married women's property rights in the new state constitution:

"Woman is to be transferred from her appropriate domestic sphere, taken away from her children, and cast out rudely into the strife and turmoil of the world, there to have her finer sensibilities blunted, the ruling motives of her mind changed, and every trait of loveliness blotted out. When the husband returns at night, perplexed with care, dejected with anxiety, depressed in hope, will he find, think you, the same nice and delicate appreciation of his feelings he has heretofore found? Will her welfare, and feelings, and thoughts, and interests be all

wrapped up in his happiness, as they now are?"

This attitude changed slowly. In 1874 Lavinia Goodell became the first woman admitted to practice law in Wisconsin when she joined the bar of the circuit court serving her hometown of Janesville. Goodell also was one of the first women admitted to practice in the United States. Janesville had a tradition of liberality as to women's rights. Goodell was sponsored for bar membership by several prominent local lawyers, and Circuit Judge Herman Conger, though he had doubts, could find no legal impediment to her admission. But when Goodell applied for admission to practice before the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1875 she was rebuffed by Chief Justice Edward Ryan, who held that the common law did not sanction the admission of women to the bar. Ryan proclaimed:

"The law of nature destines and qualifies the female sex for the bearing and nurture of the children of our race and for the custody of the homes of the world and their maintenance in love and honor. And all life-long callings of women, inconsistent with these radical and sacred duties of their sex, as is the profession of law, are departures from the order of nature; and when voluntary, treason against it."

In 1877 one of Goodell's Janesville supporters, John Cassoday, was elected speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly. Cassoday secured passage of a bill permitting the admission of women to the bar. In 1879 Goodell renewed her application to the supreme court and this time was admitted; all of the justices except Ryan concluded that the new law settled the issue.

Goodell's admission to the bar showed that Wisconsin men had reached the point where

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Joseph A. Ranney chairs the Pioneers in the Law Committee's Research Subcommittee. Ranney, Yale 1978, is a trial lawyer with DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C., Madison. He has written several articles on legal and historical topics.

“THE EFFORT TO
ACHIEVE SYNTHESIS BETWEEN
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INTO THE 21ST
CENTURY.”

they were willing to tolerate women in the professions; but men still did not treat women seriously in that role. During the century following Goodell's admission, only a trickle of women entered the Wisconsin bar. The work of those women, who are profiled in this book, has gone largely unnoticed and unappreciated until now. This book is an important first step toward filling that gap.

In the early 1970s women began entering the legal profession in large numbers for the first time. They were influenced in part by the modern American women's rights movement and the sweeping women's rights reforms that took place in Wisconsin in the 1970s and 1980s. Wisconsin made its laws gender neutral in 1975, overhauled its divorce laws in 1977, and adopted a community property law system in 1984. Like their male colleagues, women also were attracted to the legal profession because of the cachet that it had at that time as a path to both power and social reform. As recently as 1975 women made up only about 3 percent of the bar; that figure has increased to about 25 percent today.

The modern influx of women into the bar has produced a mix of old and new attitudes among men. A 1984 survey by the State Bar of Wisconsin revealed that few lawyers of either sex believed overt sex discrimination was a problem in the legal profession, but numerous stories were told of “disadvantageous treatment” of women. The most commonly reported problems were judges and lawyers challenging a woman lawyer's credibility and capability where they would not challenge that of a man; treatment of women lawyers with undue familiarity, ranging from the use of mildly sexist terms such as “honey” and “sweetheart” to overt sexual harassment; and generally condescending attitudes toward women. Newer women lawyers earned about 15 percent less and more experienced

women lawyers about 25 percent less than their male counterparts. The issue of balancing family and job demands was of much greater concern, and was a much more serious problem, for women than for men. Many women lawyers looked for jobs that would allow them to take leave or adjust their work schedules to care for their children and relatives, but few found such jobs.

Court of Appeals Judge William Eich, a member of the 1984 survey committee, concluded that there was a fundamental conflict between qualities traditionally prized by lawyers and those most valued by women. He warned that lawyers of both sexes would have to work hard to develop a workable synthesis:

“The law and its trappings have always had decidedly masculine characteristics; it is an adversarial system, one that celebrates intellectual, verbal and strategic combat. It prizes the stereotypical ‘male’ attributes of competitiveness, strength and rational thinking, and it often puts the ‘female’ qualities of negotiation, conciliation and fairness very much in the minus column.”

As the 20th century draws to a close, there are some encouraging signs for women lawyers. Large firms, which traditionally provide the most likely route to wealth and power, have assimilated women at a slightly higher rate than other employers in recent years. The fact that the income gap between the sexes is smaller for new lawyers than older lawyers suggests that traditional barriers to the advancement of women lawyers may be eroding somewhat as more and more women enter the legal work force. The effort to achieve synthesis between traditional legal values and the new perspective that many women bring to the law will likely continue well into the 21st century.

The Woman Has Robes: Four Questions

*Shirley S. Abrahamson,
Chief Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court*

At mid-morning on Aug. 6, 1976, Wisconsin Gov. Patrick J. Lucey was in the State Capitol holding his usual Friday press conference. But the subject of the conference was unusual. Gov. Lucey was announcing that he had appointed me, Shirley S. Abrahamson, a justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In my typically shy and retiring way, I did not attend the conference but was instead a block and a half away at my law office opening bottles of champagne to celebrate the event with colleagues. Within a few minutes of the announcement several women lawyers and nonlawyers joined us at the law office. They had anticipated the announcement and had gone to the press conference to congratulate me, only to find I was not there.

I welcomed these friends and strangers to our office because my appointment was a recognition of their efforts as much as mine. For many years these women had worked – in state and local politics, in volunteer organizations, in business offices, in the women’s movement, and in their day-to-day lives to break down the barriers that prejudice against women had erected. That day an improbability had become a reality: a woman was named to the formerly all-male Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Not long after the women arrived, the Capitol press corps called to request a news conference. They explained that although all appointments to the highest court of the state are news, my appointment was especially newsworthy. I would be the first woman to serve on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, only the third woman ever to serve on any Wisconsin bench, and the only woman sitting on the Wisconsin bench in 1976.

The news conference was a first for me, and I had not thought about or planned for the event. The questions the reporters asked in 1976 have been asked repeatedly since then, and I am still trying to answer them – for myself and for others in both public and private settings. I share these questions and answers with you because I am sure every woman who has been appointed or elected to the bench or another position has faced similar questions. I wonder how you handle them.

Question No. 1: “Were you appointed because you are a woman?”

Had I anticipated the question, I would have realized how obvious it was, given society’s expectation that a woman could not make it on her own merit. I thought, “What a shocking question.” It implied that I was appointed not on the basis of professional and personal qualifications but due to the accident that I had been born a woman instead of a man. For years I had heard remarks of this kind: “You were able to go to law school, become a partner in a leading

“THE QUESTIONS THE REPORTERS ASKED IN 1976 HAVE BEEN ASKED REPEATEDLY SINCE THEN, AND I AM STILL TRYING TO ANSWER THEM – FOR MYSELF AND FOR OTHERS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SETTINGS.”



Shirley S. Abrahamson was sworn in as Wisconsin’s first woman supreme court justice in 1976. Twenty years later she succeeded Roland Day as the first woman Wisconsin Supreme Court chief justice.

Chief Justice Abrahamson received a B.A. from New York University in 1950, a J.D. from Indiana University School of Law in 1953, and an S.J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School (*American Legal History*) in 1962.

These remarks were excerpted from a speech Chief Justice Abrahamson delivered on Oct. 5, 1980, at the Second Annual Meeting of the National Association of Women Judges in Washington, D.C. The full speech was published in the Golden Gate University Law Review, Volume 14, Number 3, Fall 1984. The excerpt is reprinted with permission.

law firm, be a professor of law at the University of Wisconsin, despite being a woman? Fantastic! That means you must be twice as good as a man because in this male world a woman has to be twice as good and work twice as hard to get the same place a man does.”

On that August day I could only answer: “I am confident that I was appointed on the basis of merit. I am sure the governor selected the lawyer who he thought was best qualified for the position.”

In later years I decided that humor was the better way to handle the question. How many times had I heard my mother and father make their points with a funny story?

So I now say: “I have it on good authority that when the governor pondered who should fill the vacancy on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, he asked the staff for a job description, a list of necessary and desirable qualifications, what hardships the job involved, and a list of nominees. The staff told the governor the nominee must be a lawyer who had at least five years of legal experience. The lawyer should be capable of rendering fair and impartial decisions, should have good ‘lawyering skills,’ and should be able to work quickly and well under a heavy case load. Most important, the lawyer should realize that judges are overworked and underpaid. The governor muttered: ‘Overworked and underpaid. Overworked and underpaid. That sounds like woman’s work!’ The governor then asked the staff to compile an alphabetical list of women lawyers. Needless to say, my name was at the top of the list and I got the nod.”

I am convinced that governors in other states fill vacancies in their courts in a similar way. Soon after my appointment, Ruth Abrams was appointed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and Rose Elizabeth Bird to the California Supreme Court.

Question No. 2: “Do you think you were appointed as the token woman on the bench?” (These reporters obviously were going to stay on this tack.)

I answered that “I am not a token anything. I expect to see more and more women on the bench in years to come. When I was in law school, women comprised only 4 percent of the bar; today that percentage is nearly 15. Women comprise 35 to 40 percent of the student body at the University of Wisconsin Law School, whereas I was the only woman in my law school class. Indeed it would not surprise me to see seven women on the Wisconsin Supreme Court some day. I don’t view that possibility as any

stranger than seeing seven men on the bench, as we have for 128 years.”

Now I say, in the words of Patricia Wald, Circuit Judge, D.C. Circuit, that women appointees are not tokens but beacons.

Question No. 3: “Do you view yourself as representing women in the courts?” (There is a pattern to these questions, a pattern I still see.)

Answer: “I represent all the people of the State of Wisconsin. If you view me as representing only women, then you must view male judges as representing only men. If that were the case, men would be overrepresented and the women shortchanged. Just as we expect men judges to treat fairly and impartially, that is, to represent and be responsive to, to judge justly, all persons who appear in court, regardless of gender, race, religion, or national origin, we must expect the same of women judges.”

Question No. 4: “Do you think women judges will make a difference in the administration of justice? Will they bring to the bench the important feminine qualities of warmth, love, sensitivity, forgiveness, understanding of human nature, sympathy with the poor and the downtrodden, a desire to help and ‘do good,’ patience, a willingness to listen, an appreciation of children, family, and humanistic values, an understanding of the harms caused by discriminatory practices?”

I always take a deep breath when I hear this question or one of its variants. The questioner usually has a stock list of the wonderful qualities he or she associates with women. Now I’m trapped. Naturally, I want to have all these wonderful traits attributed to me. It may be useful for me to claim that women have a different perceptual capacity they can bring to the bench. But do I believe that? I have spent a lifetime fighting society’s urge to stereotype both men and women. I believe, and I have often said, that men and women are more alike than different, and that there should be equal opportunity for all. We must look not at gender but at the individual, judging each on his or her own merits. So what am I to do now?

Well, I answer honestly. “What does my being a woman bring to the bench? It brings me and my special background. All my life experiences – including being a woman – affect me and influence me. I have been a practicing lawyer and a law professor specializing in tax and business law. Being a woman never stopped me from pursuing a goal. I decided to be a lawyer when I was six years old. My parents were just

“IF YOU VIEW ME AS REPRESENTING ONLY WOMEN, THEN YOU MUST VIEW MALE JUDGES AS REPRESENTING ONLY MEN.”

happy that I no longer wanted to be President of the United States, a career choice I had made when I was four.”

At 19, 13 years after I had decided to be a lawyer, I went on to law school at Indiana University. In my second year of law school I began to hear that women really didn’t become lawyers. I couldn’t get a part-time job while I was in law school because the practicing lawyers, all males, were reluctant to have me in their offices. They were concerned about what people in the community would think if the male lawyer and I had to work together late at night. That was not a persuasive argument to me, a respectable married woman, because the male lawyer already worked with another woman in the office, his secretary.

When I graduated, the dean of the law school told me he was really happy I was leaving Indiana. That may sound like a curious thing for the dean to say to someone who was graduating first in her class and was considered a good law school citizen. He was telling me that despite my aptitude for law, probably no one in the state would hire me, except perhaps a very large firm that might need a librarian. Now, being a law librarian is a fine career, if that’s the career you want and are trained for, but I did not want to be a law librarian.

In Madison I joined a law firm that had been all-male until then. These were men committed to the idea of social justice. My partners and I practiced law together for 14 years. We were a team, but each of us was also an individual. And I, as an individual, was willing to fight for change in laws and law practice where I thought change was needed.

But being a woman, and being a lawyer, are not the only important parts of being me. Part of what I bring to the court is my background as a child of immigrants, raised in New York City, a product of the New York City public schools. When I was born, my parents were relatively new to the United States, and they had less than a high school education. My father owned a small neighborhood grocery store. We all worked in it. I am also a wife and a worried parent of a teenager who insists on using his driver’s license.

I think that when people ask if “being a woman” brings anything special to the court, they really are asking whether there is any special sensitivity that a person’s background might

bring to the court. My gender – or, more properly, the experiences that my gender has forced upon me – has, of course, made me sensitive to certain issues, both legal and nonlegal. So have other parts of my background. My point is that nobody is just a woman or a man. Each of us is a person with diverse experiences. Each of us brings experiences that affect our view of law and life and decision-making. The concept of a collegial court is to bring together people who will have different life and legal experiences, who may have different views of law and facts. If all the judges were the same, why have seven?

I have traveled across my home state of Wisconsin a great deal since that press conference in August, 1976, talking with and listening to people in rural and urban communities. I have found great support among the men and women of my state for the concept that people should not stereotype one another. Wherever I go I hear men and women say, “I am not a feminist *but* I think we should get rid of the illogical barriers such as discrimination against blacks, Jews, Hispanics ... I am not a feminist *but* I think women should be given a fair shake at any job they want ... I am not a feminist *but* I think there should be equal pay for equal work.” These people don’t like to be labeled, but they, like us, are working to change perceptions.

We all still face four questions: Are you in office because you’re a woman? Are you a token woman? Do you represent women? Will you, as a woman, make a difference in the administration of justice? I hope that we all have answers to these questions for ourselves and for others. But I also hope that by the efforts of ourselves and others we will see the day when people are no longer more curious about our gender than about our ideas and ideals. It will take time to reach that day, but I am confident that we will.

Society has come a long way since I was told that nobody would hire a woman lawyer. There is a little poem affixed to bulletin boards and refrigerators in many homes in Wisconsin that brings me great cheer whenever I see it because it reminds me that we can achieve our goals. It goes like this:

I swear to you
On my common woman’s head
A common woman is
As common as a common loaf of bread —
AND WILL RISE.

“HE WAS TELLING ME THAT DESPITE MY APTITUDE FOR LAW, PROBABLY NO ONE IN THE STATE WOULD HIRE ME, EXCEPT PERHAPS A VERY LARGE FIRM THAT MIGHT NEED A LIBRARIAN.”

In the quest of historical record

Researching Wisconsin's First 150 Women Lawyers

Rebecca Paul had about had it. She'd already spent too long researching Attorney Margaret Anderson, but with no luck. The woman seemed to have vanished from the earth. Now, once more trudging through the Portage County Courthouse, Rebecca stopped to look again at her notes. For some reason, she looked up. There on the wall, in a place Rebecca had passed innumerable times before, hung a picture of Anderson. And below, a copy of the magazine article detailing her life. Since it would take a carpenter to pull the display case off the wall to make a copy of the article, the Clerk of Court, Bernie Flatoff, asked one of her court reporters to transcribe the story.

While a bit unusual, Rebecca Paul's story illustrates the challenges facing any biographer of the less than hugely famous. The resources are fragmented and fickle. More than 100 years of inconsistent record-keeping increases the already difficult assignment. While some women, such as Belle Case La Follette, have statewide importance and numerous biographers, and others merit local importance or interest and at least one biographical article, most woman attorneys, like most people, lead lives that do not land them in the biography section of the local library.

Finding the less than famous requires digging into published local history, public records, law school alumni records, obituaries, newspaper articles, genealogies, talking with family members, and, in the case of a few of the first 150, interviewing the women themselves. These records are incomplete, generally not indexed, and scattered around the state. In short, this is not easy work and the results in this book demonstrate that. While some biographies are quite complete, other women seem to have disappeared right after signing the Wisconsin Supreme Court roll.

The supreme court roll is the origin of all names, being a listing of all lawyers admitted before the Wisconsin bar since statehood in 1848. For some of the 150 pioneers, all we have is their name, year of admission, the name of their law school, if any, and their residence at the time of admission. For some of these, we are not even sure they are women. The supreme court roll is handwritten, and not every signator took Palmer method penmanship. Lynn Schell is a good example. A Milwaukee resident, she was admitted to practice in 1925 without having graduated from law school. There are no other records. Of course, Lynn is also a man's name. But if you look again at the signature, the first name could be Lyman, not Lynn, and Schell could be Schall, or Scheil, or.... Researching each of these and other variations at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin library also yielded no results. And we won't even talk about the "challenges" of tracing women who marry after law school and change their names.

The Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin is rivaled only by the Library of Congress and the Mormon Mountain in Utah as a source for genealogical information. For researching Wisconsinites, there is no rival. Often assisted or instructed by Jim Hansen, the chief reference librarian and a nationally recognized genealogist, the many volunteer researchers and writers for this project used such wide and varied sources as the U.S. Census on microfilm for every year up to 1920; the Wisconsin dicennial census through 1905; the necrology of obituaries through about 1940; the *Milwaukee Sentinel* index through the turn of the 20th century; the Wisconsin marriage and death records indexes through 1907; the hundreds of state and local newspapers, all on microfilm, published in the last 150-plus years; the dozens upon dozens of local histories, including *The*

WHILE SOME
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MOST PEOPLE,
LEAD LIVES THAT
DO NOT LAND
THEM IN THE
BIOGRAPHY
SECTION OF THE
LOCAL LIBRARY.

THIS BOOKLET IS
MERELY A SNAP-
SHOT OF THESE
WOMEN. AND,
LIKE A PHOTO-
GRAPH, IT IS A
REMINDER OF THE
PEOPLE WE WISH
TO REMEMBER
AND AN
HISTORICAL
DOCUMENT THAT
WILL TELL FUTURE
HISTORIANS THAT
WE CARED TO
REMEMBER.

Bench and Bar of Wisconsin and other hagiographies; and the thousands of Wisconsin city directories and telephone books published since before statehood.

Law school alumni officer, Ed Reisner at the U.W. Law School, and director of development programs, Christine Wilczynski-Vogel, at Marquette University Law School, spent hours digging through university records searching for information and photographs of the numerous graduates. Again, the record is fickle. For some there are voluminous materials; for others, only the fact that they attended the school. All these materials were provided to the researchers/writers and often became clues for further research. Local and county historical societies proved to be valuable resources for biographers. They house information about local leaders, such as attorneys, that never made it to the State Historical Society library collections. On the other end of modernity, the Internet provided valuable resources through its searchable database of all deceased Social Security recipients and a searchable Martindale-Hubbell directory.

Oral history often filled in the gaps of information, particularly for pioneers who are still living or who have family members, colleagues, or friends who could be located. Living attor-

neys were asked to fill out questionnaires, while relatives and others were interviewed by researchers. The advantages of oral history, particularly provided by a relative, friend, or colleague, is the sense of intimacy the reader feels with the person being described, such as Attorney Anthony Varda's description of his father, a Madison attorney, receiving a speeding ticket on his wedding day only to be later defended successfully by his new bride, Attorney Margaret Pinkley Varda. This detail often is lost when public records or an obituary are the only available resources.

The biographies of the first 150 women lawyers in Wisconsin are as complete as the information readily available on each woman. Most certainly, the publication of this booklet will result in individuals coming forth with additional stories or information about the pioneers, whether their biographies are fairly complete or substantially incomplete. This booklet then is merely a snapshot of these women. And, like a photograph, it is a reminder of the people we wish to remember, an historical record in and of itself, and an historical document that will tell future historians that we cared to remember.

Biographies of the

FIRST 150 WOMEN LAWYERS

Wisconsin's Early Women Lawyers listed by date of admission

1879		
Rhoda Lavinia Goodell	4	
Angela Josephine King	5	
1881		
Kate Kane	5	
1882		
Frances F. Arnold Bergenthal	7	
Cora Hirtzel	7	
1885		
Belle Case La Follette	8	
Terrie Meahl Sumner	9	
1887		
Kate Hamilton Pier	9	
Kate Hamilton Pier McIntosh	10	
1889		
Jessie Elizabeth Hutchison	11	
1891		
Norma Lawrence Long	11	
Caroline Hamilton Pier Roemer	12	
Harriett Hamilton Pier Simonds	12	
1893		
Sarah C. Brickley	13	
Alice T. Mather	13	
1895		
Elizabeth H. MacDonald Fordyce		
Fenelon	14	
1898		
Neenah Jean Hastings	14	
1901		
Antoinette Jackowska-Peterson	14	
Edith Arelisle Zufelt	15	
1904		
Grace Maekes	15	
1908		
Ellen Adelaide Cross Copp	16	
Mary Ella Thomas Stephenson	16	
1910		
Katherine R. Williams	17	
1912		
Anna B. Hill	17	
1914		
Marie Desrosiers Kusta	18	
Olene Lapham	18	
1915		
Nettie Elizabeth Karcher	18	
1917		
Ida E. Luick	19	
1918		
Lenore Rappaport Mesiroff	19	
1919		
Marie Jackson Brunner	20	
Martha Stezki	20	
1920		
Geraldine McMullen	20	
Belle Bortin Rupp	21	
1922		
Nellie King Donaldson	21	
Emma Hegener	22	
Elizabeth Holste-Kading	22	
Lilian Kohlmetz	22	
Mary Downey Waal	23	
Dorothy Walker	23	
1923		
Gladys Cavanaugh	23	
Clara Conrad	24	
Sarah Maves	24	
Margery Heck Riffle	24	
Caroline Marie Healy Uebele	25	
1924		
Miriam Louise Frye	25	
Irene Higgins	25	
Beatrice Walker Lampert	26	
Catherine J. O'Hara	27	
1925		
Dora Goodsitt	28	
Rosalia Hesse	28	
Charlotte Nachtwey	28	
Gertrude S. Salentine	29	
Adeline Meyer Toner	29	
1926		
Daisy L. Carrington	29	
Alice Craig Edgerton	30	
Louise Ehrhardt	31	
Helen Hoy Greeley	31	
1927		
Lois Katherine Kuenzli Collins	32	
Cecilia Doyle	32	
Lucille H. Heald	33	
Lillian N. Hughes	33	
Julia B. Dolan McClelland	34	
Grace Meyers	34	
Erma C. Miller	35	
Gratia Woodside Monegan	35	
Nora Bell Padway	35	
Mabel Watson Raimey	36	
Clara M. Toppins	37	
1928		
Virginia L. North Lehmann	37	
Estelle Leonore Rowe	37	
Rose Patricia Ryan	38	
Ida M. Steig	38	
Elsie M. Wood	39	
1929		
Margaret Estelle Jorgensen Allen	39	
Harriett Stern Smoler	39	

1930		
Jane DeVoy Gilday	40	
Lucille M. Bragarnick Ostrow	40	
Grace Alma Morgan Rossman	41	
Rowena Elizabeth Smith Nelson	42	
Blanche Lubarsky Swerdloff	42	
1931		
Anna Mae Campbell Davis	42	
1932		
Berniece Lotwin Bernstein	43	
Adriana Orlebeke Hess	44	
Helma Nordin	45	
Eleanor Louise Jones Roe	45	
Elisheva Iushewitz Schwartz	46	
Mary C. Whelan	46	
Helen Bridge Wingert	47	
1933		
Mary Eschweiler	47	
Gertrude Spracker Kiselow	48	
Claryce Margaret Moreland	48	
Eleanor Augusta Schalk Orr	49	
Lilian Renee Cohen Post	49	
Mary C. Hurth Raney	49	
Dorothy Norma Korthals Stock	50	
1934		
Edith Dopp	50	
Marie Wells Galle	50	
Rosalie A. Byer Stevens	51	
1935		
Olga Bennett	51	
Mildred Eda DeVries	52	
Vartak Gulbankian	52	
Irene Gyzinski	53	
Rosalie Stein Horwitz	53	
Phyllis Josephine Hughes	54	
Anne M. Jelik	55	
1936		
Margaret Reinardy Anderson	56	
Marjorie Loomis Marshall	56	
Rhea Ollyers	56	
Mary B. Wendt Riedl	57	
Verle E. Sells	57	
Verne-Marie Kopplin		
Freeman Slade	58	
Emily Wangard Thomann	58	
Ruth Hansen Van Epps	59	
Doris Lehner Vaudreuil	59	
June A. Spearbraker Zwickey	60	
1937		
Sarah Quigley Benham	60	
Christine M. Torkelsen Fellner	60	
Elizabeth Hawkes	61	
Dorothy Clark von Briesen	62	
1938		
Elizabeth Leis Erasmus	62	
Florence Windemuth Lanning	63	
Elizabeth von Benscoten Wight	63	
1939		
Beatrice Groelle Affatica	63	
Virginia Collins Duncomb	64	
Florence Black Kruese Fairchild	64	
Ruth Johnson Kemet	64	
Linda K. Rosenheimer Kroncke	64	
Helen Elizabeth Lutzen	65	
Lois Roehl Redlin	65	
Norma Goldstein Zarky	66	
1940		
Alice Wilson Fine	66	
Ann Ruth Kanevsky Grant	67	
Betty Sheila Mintz Slavick	67	
June C. Healy Wolf	68	
1941		
Mary B. Smieding Kazzik	68	
Elizabeth Mary Pluck Kingfohl	68	
Harriett Frances Zetterberg		
Margolies	69	
Margaret Pinkley Varda	69	
1942		
Dorothy Ann Heil	70	
Jeanette Elise Mett	70	
Alice P. Morrissy	71	
Kate Wallach	71	
Beatrice LaVerne Wissbroecker	72	
1943		
Kathryn H. Baldwin	72	
Anna O. Blum	73	
Helene Ruth Zogg Boetticher	74	
Razy Geraldine Kletecka		
Chojnacki	74	
Catherine Blanchard Cleary	75	
Emily P. Dodge	75	
Katherine Barbara Iding		
Dziekani	76	
Ruth Elizabeth Dunham Foley	76	
Alice Bernice Kleman Harvey	77	
Marian Justus-Warning Hefter	77	
Edith Pierce Mills	77	
Joan Moonan Pinnell	77	
Dorothy L. Wilkinson	78	
		<i>Women completing law school in Wisconsin but who did not sign Supreme Court roll:</i>
		1923
		Shirley Arneson Kalschuer
		1924
		Florence Kyle Cornelisen
		Charlotte Knight
		1926
		Dorothy Blaney Wells
		1933
		Therese Berg
		Louise Parker Frederickson
		Jane Kramer Traxel
		<i>Unconfirmed as Female:</i>
		1925
		Lynn Schell

Rhoda Lavinia Goodell

Date of admission: 1879
(1839 - 1880)

Rhoda Lavinia Goodell was the daughter of a noted abolitionist, William Goodell, the editor of several abolitionist publications. He was the most important influence in her life.

Lavinia, as she was known professionally, was born in May 1839 in Utica, the “burned-over district” of New York, which was the home not only of evangelical religion but also of women’s rights. She grew up in a world focused on reform, primarily abolition and temperance, and on Christian values. The family moved to Brooklyn when she was 13, and she learned editing by working with her father, and later she worked at Harper’s. She came to Janesville in 1871, following her parents who had come the year before to be near their younger married daughter.

When Lavinia was about to graduate from a ladies’ seminary at the age of 19, she wrote her sister, “I think the study of law would be pleasant, but the practice attended with many embarrassments.” It was extraordinary that she even thought of law in 1858, 11 years before the first woman was admitted to the bar in this country. Her sister challenged the idea as “trying to be a man,” and “out of the common course,” but Lavinia replied saying that she was motivated by a sense of duty and a desire to do good. She went on, “What is more womanly than the desire to defend and protect the widow and the fatherless and in a field where they have been wronged hitherto?”

In Janesville Lavinia began to study law at the age of 32. Not accepted initially in any law office to read law, she gradually made a place for herself in the firm of Jackson and Norcross. She was admitted to the bar in Rock County in June 1874, after Harmon Conger, the local circuit judge, decided that a woman could be admitted. Her first court case was representing the temperance women of Fort Atkinson. She had a general practice involving a good deal of litigation, and she took a particular interest in the rights – or really the lack of rights – of married women. Her great interest, however, became jail reform and penal legislation. Shortly after she was admitted to

the bar in Rock County, the circuit judge appointed her to represent two indigent defendants. She visited them in the jail, and what she saw there led to her lifelong devotion to the welfare of prisoners and the reform of prison conditions. She was a reformer in the tradition of her father, and jail reform and penal legislation became an absorbing interest in her life.

Under state law, admission to one circuit court bar entitled a person to practice in any court in the state except the Wisconsin Supreme Court. However, the supreme court customarily granted the right to practice before it upon admission to the circuit court bar.

In 1875, one of Lavinia’s cases was appealed to the state supreme court. She petitioned for admission to practice before the court. Her petition was presented by a male friend, Assistant Attorney General I.C. Sloan. He presented an argument prepared by Lavinia.

The petition was denied in February 1876. Writing for the court, Chief Justice Edward G. Ryan expressed outrage at the petition, describing Lavinia’s efforts as “a departure from the order of nature” and “treason against it.” He wrote: “Nature has tempered woman as little for the juridical conflicts of the court room, as for the physical conflicts of the battle field.”

Lavinia later persuaded the Wisconsin Legislature to remove the barrier the court had erected and on March 22, 1877, it passed a bill prohibiting denial of admission to the bar on the basis of gender. She applied again for admission to practice before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Her petition was granted on June 18, 1879. Ryan dissented.

On March 11, 1880, Lavinia learned that she had won a criminal case before the supreme court. She wrote in her diary: “I have beaten the Attorney General of the State and reversed Judge Conger’s decision. I had no assistance, so it was a pure woman’s victory!” She died three weeks later, just a month before her 41st birthday. Four years earlier Lavinia learned she had an ovarian tumor, ultimately resulting in her early death.

Rhoda Lavinia Goodell’s life typifies what most historians see as the path that led women into law – an involvement in reform – anti-slavery, temperance, women’s rights.

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HITHERTO?”



Angela Josephine King

Date of admission: 1879
(1845 - 1913)

Born on Jan. 23, 1845, in Trumbull County, Ohio, to John King and Margaret McKay King, Angela Josephine King moved to Janesville with her family when she was three months old. She attended the Janesville public school and graduated from the Janesville Ladies' Seminary in 1867.

Upon her graduation, Angela obtained a job as a clerk at the Janesville Post Office. After Ulysses Grant was elected U.S. President in 1868, he announced that he would make several appointments nationwide, including the Janesville postmaster. Before Grant's appointment, however, the postmaster was required to obtain Congressman Benjamin Hopkins' endorsement. Therefore, a special election was held in February of 1869 with the understanding that the candidate who won the election would be endorsed by Hopkins. Despite her misgivings as a result of her lack of political experience, Angela's friends persuaded her to run for postmaster. A large number of candidates entered the race, which was known as one of the most exciting local races in Janesville history.

Angela won the race by 42 votes and trav-

eled to Washington to receive her appointment. The idea of endorsing a woman, however, was simply too radical for Hopkins. Instead, Hopkins gave the runner up, and his political rival James Burgess, his endorsement. As a result, Angela requested an interview with President Grant, but Grant refused to make the appointment without Hopkins' endorsement. Angela returned to Janesville disgusted with politics and motivated to pursue change.

In the fall of 1871, Angela attended Chicago Law School and returned home to Janesville to continue her study of the law after the Chicago fire. In January of 1879, she was admitted to practice law in Rock County Circuit Court. Shortly thereafter, Angela and Rhoda Lavinia Goodell formed the partnership of Goodell and King, located next to the Janesville Post Office. In August, however, the partnership dissolved, and Goodell died a few months later. Angela Josephine King continued to practice law in Janesville and served as an advocate for the women's suffrage movement until her death in 1913.



Kate Kane

Date of admission: 1881
(1855 - 1928)

Kate Kane was born in West Virginia to Irish parents who moved to western Wisconsin when she was a child. She attended Oshkosh Normal School in 1874-75. Kate attended the University of Michigan Law School for one year in 1876-77. Student records from that period are not available, but it was not uncommon at that time for a person to attend law school for a year and then complete their studies in a law office.

Kate came to Janesville in the summer of 1877. There is no record of why, but it may be that she knew Lavinia Goodell had been admitted to the bar there. She called on Goodell on July 19, and they became friends. Kate studied law in the office of A.A. Jackson, and on Sept. 6, 1878, she was admitted to the bar in Janesville. She moved to Milwaukee some time

after that and was admitted to the bar in Milwaukee on March 8, 1879 – the first woman lawyer in Milwaukee. She immediately became the darling of the press. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* story on her admission said:

"The attorneys rushed to their feet and the sleepy bailiffs pricked up their ears yesterday morning when the application of Miss Kate Kane for admission to the bar of the Circuit Court was made. One of the learned gentlemen recited the lady's fitness, and moved that she be admitted, and the judge granted the motion before the mover was hardly reseated. Miss Kane is about 25 years of age and pretty, with sharp, black eyes, and as modest as she is intelligent. The deputy sheriffs smiled blandly when the thing was done, seeing no doubt that the day is

"SHE IS THE ONLY WOMAN IN THIS COUNTRY THAT HAS EVER GRAPPLED WITH POLITICAL SUBJECTS AND ENTERED THE POLITICAL ARENA AS A PARTICIPANT. KATE KANE HAS CREATED CONFUSION IN THE POLITICAL BASE, WHICH HAS MADE HER OPPONENTS SQUEAK."

“THE USUAL
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not far distant when they will not only not have to chase for jurors, but drive ‘em off with clubs.” The press covered not only her courtroom appearances but Kate’s speaking engagements in Milwaukee and out in the state. She also was active politically, filing a petition with the Legislature for women’s suffrage, and with the city council for the appointment of a woman to the police force. She gave a speech on “Legislation for the Poor Man” before a number of audiences. When she spoke in Eau Claire in 1881, she was introduced by the editor of the *Free Press* who said, “She is the only woman in this country that has ever grappled with political subjects and entered the political arena as a participant. Kate Kane has created confusion in the political base, which has made her opponents squeak.”

Kate was admitted to the bar of the Wisconsin Supreme Court in December 1881, and in 1882 she was admitted to practice in the U.S. Circuit Court in Milwaukee.

As time went on Kate gave evidence of becoming something of a spoiled child, and her displays of temperament brought her into conflict with Judge Mallory of the Municipal Court. The tension between them reached a climax in February 1883. An indigent defendant asked to have Kate appointed as his lawyer. Judge Mallory appointed another lawyer instead. She left the courtroom in tears.

After lunch she returned and threw a glass of water in the judge’s face. He fined her \$50 for contempt and committed her to jail in default of payment. In its initial story on the episode, the *Sentinel* commented, “Miss Kane is too nervous and too regardless of precedents, we fear, to succeed at the bar.” This marked a change in the attitude of the press towards her. Henceforth, they tended to make fun of her, and one can imagine that she didn’t really understand what had happened.

This incident attracted national attention. *The New York Times* carried a long story about it, which repeatedly characterized Kate’s behavior as typically feminine. *The New York Post* commented that the incident “does not tend to show that the admission of women to the bar, necessary as it may be on other grounds, will have a softening effect on the tone of professional manners.”

Kate served her sentence, refusing to pay the fine. The contempt citation was never resolved, but Judge Mallory told her lawyer, John J. Orton, that if she appeared in his court again, “he would call her to the bar and ask her why she should not be expelled from the court and debarred from any further practice therein.” That was at the end of May 1883.

In September 1883 the *Sentinel* carried a story that no one knew where she was, and in December it reported that she had moved to Chicago. She was admitted to the bar in Illinois on March 24, 1884, on the basis of her Wisconsin license. She was admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1890.

At some point – as yet undiscovered – she married a man named Rossi. She died in 1928 at her home in Palos Park, Ill., and her obituary in the *Chicago Tribune* said she had retired from practice in 1920.

The history published by the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois on its 20th anniversary in 1934 spoke of the prejudice women encountered in taking up a criminal practice:

“... when a lawyer named Kate Kane undertook to practice criminal law and was forced to use the same tactics and language as her brother practitioners, their sense of propriety was shocked and a great cry was raised that this was the kind one should expect by a woman’s participation in the sacred practice of the Law. The usual salutation for many years when a woman graduate announced that she intended to practice law was: ‘Oh, you are going to be a lawyer like Kate Kane.’”



Frances F. Arnold Bergenthal

Date of admission: 1882
(1857 - 1919)

Frances F. Arnold Bergenthal was the second woman to be admitted to practice law before the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Frances was born in Oshkosh, grew up in Waupaca, and after teaching school for a few years, entered the law office of her uncle, E.P. Perry, in New London. The 1880 Census lists her as “clerk in law office.”

In early 1881 Frances applied for admission to the bar of the circuit court in Waupaca and, according to the *Waupaca County Republican* of Feb. 4, 1881, after “a creditable examination” by a committee of three lawyers appointed by the court, she was sworn in as an attorney at law (also reported in *Milwaukee Sentinel* of Jan. 31).

When Moses M. Strong, president of the State Bar of Wisconsin, in his report to the bar in June 1881, paid tribute to deceased members including Lavinia Goodell, he noted “as a matter of proper satisfaction” that only one other woman had been admitted to the bar and that she has “wisely chosen so circumscribed a sphere as New London, in Waupaca County, for the exercise of her professional powers.” Strong’s facts were wrong, for at that time Kate Kane,

Angie King, and Terrie Meahl Sumner had been admitted to the bar in the counties in which they practiced.

The following year Frances was admitted to the bar of the Wisconsin Supreme Court upon motion by Sen. Thomas Hudd of Green Bay (*New London Times*, March 18, 1882; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 17, 1882).

In that same year Frances moved to the Dakota Territory, as did her uncle, E.P. Perry, and they were among the first settlers in Ellendale (now in North Dakota), which was platted that year. A local historian remembers Mr. Perry as “a venerable, gifted and brilliant lawyer.”

Frances practiced law for a number of years, according to her obituary. She married H.M. Bergenthal and had three children, all of whom predeceased her. She managed her husband’s businesses after his death in 1900. She was active in lodge work and was a prominent club woman in North Dakota. Frances F. Arnold Bergenthal’s obituary in the *Dickey County & Ellendale Commercial* was headed “Death Calls Prominent Pioneer” (April 24, 1919).

BERGENTHAL WAS
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SUPREME COURT.

Cora Hirtzel

Date of admission: 1882

Cora Hirtzel (her middle initial appears variously as H and B) is listed in the Oshkosh City Directory of 1884-85 as a lawyer at 145-1/2 Main, which also was the address of Gary & Barry, the law firm of George Gary and Sabine F. Barry. Her father, John V. Hirtzel, was a grocer.

On Dec. 28, 1886, the Oshkosh *Daily Northwestern* reported, “Miss Cora Hirtzel, the lady lawyer who has been in the office of Judge Gary for a number of years, has moved to Chicago where her mother and other relatives now reside.”

Cora apparently took a job as a stenographer in Chicago, and that is how she is listed in

the city directories from 1887 to 1890. Lelia J. Robinson, in her article on “Women Lawyers in the United States” in *The Green Bag* (1890), reports that Cora B. Hirtzel of Chicago is a student at the Evening College of Law.

Illinois records show that Cora was admitted to the bar in Cook County on Oct. 21, 1890. She is listed as a lawyer at #1031, 108 LaSalle, in the 1890 *Chicago City Directory*.

A footnote: Stanton, Anthony and Gage in their *History of Women Suffrage* say that Cora “Hurtz” was admitted to the bar in Oshkosh in 1882 and began practice there. This led us to discover Cora Hirtzel.

Belle Case La Follette

Date of admission: 1885
(1859 - 1931)

Belle Case La Follette not only has the distinction of being the first woman graduate from the U.W. Law School, but her success in balancing a stable and nurturing family life with an active and distinguished public life is a powerful symbol of modern womanhood. She was a prominent figure in the women's movements of the early 20th century, as well as the supportive wife of Robert La Follette Sr. (Wisconsin congressman, governor and senator, and presidential candidate) and the mother of Phillip (governor), Robert Jr. (senator), and two other children.

Belle Case was born April 21, 1859, in a log cabin in Summit (Juneau County), Wis., to Anton and Mary (Nesbit) Case, who were of English and Scottish descent, and both Unitarian. The family moved to Sauk County in 1862, and Belle attended public school through high school in Baraboo. In 1875 she entered the University of Wisconsin as an undergraduate, studying what was called the "classical course." She joined the Laurean Literary Society, delivered an oration entitled "Children's Playthings" in her junior year, and won the Lewis Oratorical Prize for the best senior oration, entitled "Learning to See." She graduated in 1879 and taught school from 1879 to 1881 – high school in Spring Green and junior high school in Baraboo.

On Dec. 31, 1881, Belle married her former college classmate, Robert La Follette, who was then Dane County district attorney. The ceremony was performed at her home in Baraboo by a Unitarian minister, and by mutual consent the word "obey" was omitted from her marriage vow. Their first child, Fola, was born in 1882. Belle helped Bob with his legal research and writing, and he acknowledged her authorship when her work was praised. She entered the U.W. Law School in 1883, becoming

its first woman graduate in 1885, although she never practiced as an attorney. From 1885 to 1891, she acted as Bob's secretary and administrative assistant during his three terms as congressman. When he was defeated and they returned to Wisconsin, she taught adult classes in physical education; lectured on women's suffrage, coeducation, and dress reform; and advocated protective legislation for women and children, as well as public welfare and consumer legislation. In the process Belle met and became friends with Jane Addams and other feminist leaders. The couple's other three children, Robert Jr., Philip, and Mary, were born in 1895, 1897, and 1899, respectively.

Belle was the governor's wife from 1900 to 1905 and returned to Washington in 1906 when Bob became a U.S. senator. In January 1909, she and Bob established *La Follette's Weekly Magazine* and she edited the "Women and Education Department," writing most of the articles herself. In 1911 and 1912 she wrote a syndicated column for the *North American Press Syndicate*.

Around 1918 she helped found the Women's Peace Party, which later became the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and after the war she was active in the Women's Committee for World Disarmament. In 1921 she helped found the National Council for the Prevention of War; the convening of the Naval Arms Limitations Conference in 1922 was considered by many to be the work of women like Belle. Upon Bob's death in 1925, she was urged to fill his unexpired term in the Senate but she declined, saying "at no time in my life would I ever have chosen a public career for myself." Their son Robert Jr. was elected instead. Belle took on the associate editorship of *La Follette's Magazine* and began work on a biography of Bob, which Fola completed after her mother's death. Belle died on Aug. 18, 1931, of complications following a routine medical exam.



LA FOLLETTE NOT ONLY HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST WOMAN GRADUATE FROM THE U.W. LAW SCHOOL, BUT HER SUCCESS IN BALANCING A STABLE AND NURTURING FAMILY LIFE WITH AN ACTIVE AND DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LIFE IS A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF MODERN WOMANHOOD.

Terrie Meahl Sumner

Date of admission: 1885
(1849 - 1919)

Terrie Meahl was born in the town of Genessee, Waukesha County, Wis., and taught school in that county before she married Daniel H. Sumner in 1877. Mr. Sumner was a lawyer and former U.S. Congressman.

Terrie Meahl Sumner worked in her husband's office after their marriage and in December 1880 was admitted to the bar in Waukesha County. Terrie became the first woman member of the Wisconsin Bar Association in June 1881 on the recommendation of its Committee on Membership submitting the applications that it had considered "of each of

the following named gentlemen," including Terrie M. Sumner.

After the death of her husband in 1903, Terrie assisted her nephew, Charles E. Nelson, in his insurance and real estate business in Waukesha. Mr. Nelson, before his death several years ago, said that he had no written records of his aunt's life but that he remembered she had the best cookie jar in town.

The obituary of Terrie Meahl Sumner stated, "While appearing in court only occasionally, Mrs. Sumner performed a vast amount of office work and was successful in her profession."

Kate Hamilton Pier

Date of admission: 1887
(1845 - 1925)

Kate Hamilton Pier (Mrs. Kate Pier) was the matriarch of an extraordinary family of women lawyers from late nineteenth century Fond du Lac.

Kate Pier was born Kate Hamilton in St. Albans, Vt., on June 22, 1845. When she was 8 years old, she moved to Fond du Lac with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hamilton, and her two brothers. She graduated from Fond du Lac High School in 1862 and began a career as a teacher. She was the first woman to cast a vote in Fond du Lac County, well before the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Kate's father bought and sold real estate and often took his daughter with him when he viewed real estate. Thus, Kate developed an aptitude for and an interest in business at a young age. When her father died in 1871, she assumed the management of his business and her family's extensive real estate holdings, opening an office in downtown Fond du Lac and becoming one of the first businesswomen in the state.

Kate married Col. Colwerth Pier on June 25, 1866, at her family's home in Fond du Lac. The families of Colonel Colwerth and Kate Pier were the first two families of colonists to settle in Fond du Lac. Colonel Colwerth and Kate Pier had four daughters, three of whom survived and became lawyers. They also raised two orphaned nephews.

In the fall of 1886, realizing that a law degree would be helpful to her real estate business, Kate entered the U.W. Law School with her oldest daughter (also named Kate Hamilton Pier). The two women completed the two-year course in one year and graduated together on June 22, 1887, Kate's 42nd birthday. Her two other daughters, Caroline Hamilton Pier Roemer and Harriet Hamilton Pier Simonds, graduated from law school together in 1891.

Kate and her oldest daughter began their law practice at the Pier Law Office in Fond du Lac, joining Colonel Colwerth Pier in his practice there. In 1888 the family moved to Milwaukee and opened a law office, which the other two daughters eventually joined. While Kate made some court appearances during her years in practice, most of her time was spent managing estates. She also belonged to several professional organizations, including the Milwaukee Business and Professional Women's Club, the Wisconsin and American

PIER WAS THE
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LAWYERS FROM
LATE NINETEENTH
CENTURY FOND
DU LAC.



bar associations, the National Women Lawyers Association, and the Portia Club.

In 1891 Kate was appointed a Milwaukee County circuit court commissioner, becoming the first woman in the United States to be ap-

pointed to serve in a judicial capacity.

Kate Hamilton Pier died on June 23, 1925, in Fond du Lac, the morning after her 80th birthday.

Kate Hamilton Pier McIntosh

Date of admission: 1887
(1868 - 1931)

Kate Hamilton Pier was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., on Dec. 11, 1868. She was the oldest child of Kate Hamilton Pier and Col. Colwerth Pier. She attended elementary school at the German and English Academy in Fond du Lac and graduated from Fond du Lac High School in 1886. She grew up just outside Fond du Lac on the farm where her father was born. She had three younger sisters, two of whom became lawyers and one of whom died as a young girl. Kate's parents also raised two of the girls' orphaned boy cousins.

On June 22, 1887, Mrs. Pier's 42nd birthday, Kate and her mother graduated from the U.W. Law School. Both women completed the two-year program in

one year. In law school, she was a member of the E. G. Ryan Society and the Delta Gamma fraternity and was vice president of the senior law class. After graduating, she began her practice with mother and father at the Pier Law Office in Fond du Lac while continuing her studies in German and stenography.

The Pier family practiced law in Fond du Lac until 1888, when they moved to Milwaukee. Shortly after the move, Kate joined the law department of the Wisconsin Central Railroad, where she stayed for one year before going into general practice with her family. By 1891, when the two youngest Pier daughters, Caroline and Harriet, graduated from law school, every member of the family was a law-

yer. Notably, the Pier women comprised one-quarter of the women to graduate from the law school between 1875 and 1919.

Kate had an extraordinary legal career. In September of 1889, two years after graduating from law school, she won her first victory in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, becoming the first woman to argue (and win) in front of that body. In 1894 she became the first woman to argue before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. In addition, she was admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court.

By the turn of the century, Kate was involved with numerous projects in addition to her law practice. She worked on state legislation focusing on women's rights, was a member of the board of inspectors of the cooking department of the Milwaukee public schools, and was studying at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Milwaukee.

On Nov. 26, 1901, Kate married James Alexander McIntosh, a railroad contractor. After she married, she stopped practicing law and moved with her husband to New York City. After her husband died, she returned to Fond du Lac and assumed management of her family's extensive real estate holdings. She also resumed her involvement in the Wisconsin legal community. In 1928 she was elected president of the Portia Club in Milwaukee, an organization of women lawyers, and in 1929 she served on the Wisconsin Bar Committee on Women Lawyers.

Kate Hamilton Pier McIntosh died on April 1, 1931, in Fond du Lac.



TWO YEARS
AFTER GRADUAT-
ING FROM LAW
SCHOOL,
MCINTOSH WON
HER FIRST VIC-
TORY IN THE
WISCONSIN
SUPREME COURT,
BECOMING THE
FIRST WOMAN TO
ARGUE (AND
WIN) IN FRONT
OF THAT BODY.

Jessie Elizabeth Hutchison

Date of admission: 1889
(1861 - d.)

Born in Michigan in 1861, Jessie Elizabeth Hutchison was a resident of Richland Center, Wis., when she graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1889 at age 28. She returned to Richland Center and lived there until 1893. There is no record that Jessie practiced law while living in Richland Center.

In June 1893 Jessie accepted a civil service appointment as a clerk in the Post Office department. She worked there almost continuously from 1893 until her retirement in 1930 at age 69. Her only break in service occurred in 1916 when she left Washington, D.C., to care for her father in Omaha, Neb., during his terminal illness. She returned to the Postal Service in the nation's capitol following her father's death, although her reinstatement was delayed

for a time due to her lack of typing and stenography skills.

Jessie remained classified as a clerk throughout her working career, and there is no evidence that her Post Office duties were directly law related. In her later years, however, her duties required a knowledge of relevant postal and railway statutes and rules.

Jessie Elizabeth Hutchison's activities during her retirement years and the date and location of her death are unknown.



Norma Lawrence Long

Date of admission: 1891
(1864 - 1894)

Norma Lawrence was one of seven children of Daniel Lawrence and Helen Thompson Lawrence. Her father raised quality horses near Gays Mills, Wis. She was a graduate of the Boscobel High School, probably about 1881 or 1882. In 1890 she entered the one-year course at the U.W. Law School. A college degree was not required, only "good moral character and a fair English education."

Norma graduated on June 17, 1891.

She was the fifth woman to graduate from the U.W. Law School, but she was joined almost immediately by Caroline and Harriet Pier, her classmates. This was the second law school class with more than one woman student, a situation not repeated for almost 20 years.

In March 1892, Norma married Albert H. Long in Boscobel, Wis. Albert was born in 1859 in Gotham, Wis. He graduated from the U.W. with a bachelor's degree in 1885, served as superintendent of schools for Richland County from 1885-1889, and found time to attend the



U.W. Law School, graduating in 1889. It is possible that Albert taught Norma in high school, and since they were from roughly the same area, it is likely they knew each other for some time before marrying.

We do not know if Norma ever practiced law. An 1892 university alumni directory places her in Omaha, Neb. Her husband may have practiced law in Prairie du Chien, Wis., before their marriage, and he clearly was there in 1893 when serving as district attorney. We do know that, in April 1894, Norma was at her father's home in Petersburg, Wis., awaiting the birth of her first child. On Tuesday morning, April 17, Norma Lawrence Long died during childbirth. Her child died as well. She was not yet 30 years old. The funeral took place in the Congregational Church in Boscobel.

Her family remembers that her husband later remarried and, from about 1907-1913, served as Crawford County judge in Prairie du Chien.

LONG WAS THE FIFTH WOMAN TO GRADUATE FROM THE U.W. LAW SCHOOL.

Caroline Hamilton Pier Roemer

Date of admission: 1891
(1870 - d.)



Caroline Hamilton Pier was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., on Sept. 18, 1870. She was the second child of Kate Hamilton Pier and Col. Colwerth Pier. She Graduated from Fond du Lac High School, where she studied music, in 1888. Shortly after high school, she entered law school with her sister Harriet. Both women graduated in 1891, two of the three women graduates of the law school that year.

After law school Caroline studied elocution briefly at Northwestern University. Soon thereafter she joined the Pier family

law firm in Milwaukee, with father, mother and two sisters. *Woman of the Century*, published in 1893, reported that Caroline Pier was specializing at that time in admiralty and maritime law. In 1897 she was admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Nov. 17, 1897, Caroline married Milwaukee attorney John Henry Roemer. They lived primarily in Milwaukee and at the Pier home in Fond du Lac but moved to Elmhurst, New York, after John's retirement in 1931. The Roemers had three children: Kate Pier (9/17/1898), John Pier (8/10/1901), and James McInitosh (11/3/07-1/29/08). Her husband's obituary in 1935 reported that the couple also had three foster children at that time.

Harriet Hamilton Pier Simonds

Date of admission: 1891
(1872 - 1943)

Harriet Hamilton Pier was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., on April 26, 1872. She was the third child of Kate Hamilton Pier and Col. Colwerth Pier. She attended high school in Fond du Lac, Madison, and Milwaukee, graduating from Milwaukee High School in 1889. Immediately after high school, she entered law school with her sister Caroline. After graduating from law school in 1891, she joined the Pier family law firm in Milwaukee. During the early years of her practice, she continued to study, taking courses in Polish with her sisters, both of whom, like her, already knew German.

Sometime around the turn of the century, Harriet married Charles Gilchrist Simonds and moved to Rhinelander. The couple had two children: Kate Simonds and Hamilton Simonds, who became a doctor.

Harriet did most of her legal work in northern Wisconsin. The majority of her cases involved real estate titles and the proceedings of county officers. According to a 1943 *Wisconsin Bar Bulletin*, she also was a "timber cruiser" who rode the cabooses of freight trains into the "hinterlands" in order to estimate timber value. Harriet argued her first case before the Wisconsin



Supreme Court in 1896. She served as treasurer of the Milwaukee Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution and was a member of the Portia Club, the National Association of Women Lawyers, and the Rhinelander Women's Club. In addition, she was a member of the American Bar Association, the Wisconsin Bar Association, the 16th Circuit Bar, and the Oneida County Bar Association.

Harriet Pier Simonds died in Rhinelander on April 4, 1943.

SIMONDS ALSO WAS A "TIMBER CRUISER" WHO RODE THE CABOOSES OF FREIGHT TRAINS INTO THE "HINTERLANDS" IN ORDER TO ESTIMATE TIMBER VALUE.

Sarah C. Brickley

Date of admission: 1893
(1857 - d.)

Born in Wisconsin in 1857 to a native New Yorker and his Prussian-born wife, Sarah C. Brickley was one of two women admitted to practice law in Wisconsin in 1893. The 15th woman admitted since Lavinia Goodell in 1879, Sarah was the first woman admitted since 1885 not to have graduated from law school.

Thirty-six years old at the time of her admission, Sarah was the first of three daughters born to Benjamin and Augusta Brickley. Sarah was living with her family in Boyceville, Dunn County, at the time of her admission, but, like many frontier families, the Brickleys had lived in numerous communities throughout the state as they followed their economic fortunes westward.

By 1870 the 47-year-old Benjamin Brickley operated a lumber mill in the Town of Wolf River in northwest Winnebago County. A wealthy family by local standards, with more than \$6,000 in real and personal property compared to his neighbors' \$300 to \$500 in property, the lumberman and his 32-year-old wife now had two children, 13-year-old Sarah and her 8-year-old sister Elvira. Ten years later, the family had relocated to the Town of Eau Pleine in Portage County, where the Brickleys were heavily engaged in lumber milling and farming. Benjamin operated the mill and farm while Augusta operated the boarding house the family kept for their eight mill workers, with the help of a young servant girl. Twenty-two-year-old Sarah clerked in the mill, 18-year-old Elvira

was "attending Normal School" (most probably what is today the U.W. -Stevens Point), and 7-year-old Gertrude was at home.

In 1890, at the age of 67, Benjamin Brickley, having moved his family to the Town of Tiffany in Dunn County during the 1880s, tried his hand at a new economic enterprise. In that year he opened the first creamery in the village of Boyceville, which quickly failed. Why he shifted businesses so late in life probably will never be known, but is most likely related to the rapid decline of the lumber trade in the 1880s as Wisconsin forests were clear-cut to provide lumber for homes in Chicago and Milwaukee. The economic failure may well have led Sarah, as the eldest daughter, to move into a new career in the law. With the middle daughter, Elvira, teaching school and staying at home to care for her aging parents, Sarah was free to pursue her goal.

Having signed the Wisconsin Supreme Court roll in 1893, Sarah C. Brickley disappears from the Wisconsin historical record. She no longer lives at home by 1895, nor is she listed in the 1900 or 1910 U.S. Census records for Wisconsin. Since the pre-1907 Wisconsin marriage and death records do not list her name, we can only surmise that she moved out of state. By 1910, her 87-year-old father and 72-year-old mother continued to live in the Boyceville area under the care of the faithful Elvira, at age 48 still a schoolteacher, still single, and still living at home.

THE 15TH
WOMAN
ADMITTED SINCE
LAVINIA GOODELL
IN 1879,
BRICKLEY WAS
THE FIRST WOMAN
ADMITTED SINCE
1885 NOT TO
HAVE GRADUATED
FROM LAW
SCHOOL.

Alice T. Mather

Date of admission: 1893

Alice T. Mather graduated from the University of Wisconsin and was admitted to the bar in 1893. On the Supreme Court roll, she listed her residence as Madison. No other information about her was obtained.



Elizabeth H. MacDonald Fordyce Fenelon



Date of admission: 1895
(b. - 1930)

Born to Alexander and Margaret MacDonald in Portage, Elizabeth (Bessie) married John Fordyce in the middle 1880s. Scant records reference a minor daughter of John Fordyce named Kathryn. It is unclear whether Kathryn is Bessie's daughter or step-daughter. (Kathryn's married name was Neef.) Mortgage of their house was assigned to Bessie in 1890 after John died.

Bessie taught in Price County beginning in 1884. Her first teach-

ing assignment was in the German settlement in the town of Fannan where she taught 18 German boys and girls. The school closed in March. She then attended the first Price County teacher's institute in April 1884. Also in 1884 a school house was built in Worcester, and Bessie MacDonald (later Elizabeth Fordyce Fenelon) was its first teacher. In 1899 she became the superintendent of schools in Price County. She championed for the planting of trees on the school grounds. Bessie served as superintendent until 1903 when she married Dr. Charles David Fenelon at Phillips. She died in 1930.

Neenah Jean Hastings

Date of admission: 1898

Neenah Jean Hastings passed the Wisconsin bar examination in 1898; she lived and practiced in Beloit. No other information about her was found.

Antoinette Jackowska-Peterson

Date of admission: 1901
(1867 - 1952)

Antoinette Jackowska, born in Poland, was a milliner on the south side of Milwaukee when lawyer Kate Pier McIntosh came into her shop to buy a hat. That visit inspired Antoinette to study law. She continued her business until she had saved enough money to support herself through law school and the launching of her practice. She met and married her husband, Charles N. Peterson, after enrolling in the U.W. Law School. From then on she was known as Antoinette Jackowska-Peterson, even after their divorce in 1925.

Antoinette graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1901, the only woman in her class. She and her husband set up their practice on the south side of Milwaukee. They had two daughters, but little is known about them. Apparently they predeceased their mother.



On Dec. 3, 1923, Antoinette was appointed a member of the City Service Commis-

JACKOWSKA-
PETERSON
FOUGHT FOR THE
EXTENSION OF
EQUAL RIGHTS
AND FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF
WOMEN.

sion by Mayor Dan Hoan. This five-member commission was responsible for the Milwaukee civil service and has been described as “the personnel department” of the city. She was regularly appointed to a new term by the mayor until her final term expired on July 2, 1939. She served as president of the commission in 1928-29, and as vice president in 1927-28 and again in 1932-33.

Antoinette’s Polish background was a positive factor in her career. The seat she occupied on the City Service Commission was the “Polish seat,” and her obituary said that her

knowledge of the Polish language brought her many clients from the south side, which had a large Polish population.

Her obituary also noted that “throughout her legal career Mrs. Jackowska-Peterson fought for the extension of equal rights and for the advancement of women.” It also stated that at one time Rosalia Hesse was associated with her in the practice of law, but no record of this has been found.

Antoinette Jackowska-Peterson suffered a hip injury, which kept her inactive for five years prior to her death in 1952.

Edith Arelisle Zufelt

Date of admission: 1901
(1863 - 1935)

Born in Sheboygan Falls in 1863, Edith Arelisle Zufelt would eventually become the first female member of the Sheboygan County bar and the 19th woman admitted to the practice of law in Wisconsin.

Edith was the daughter of Phoebe and John Zufelt, two of the first pioneers in the Sheboygan area. John Zufelt was a wagon manufacturer.

After graduating from Sheboygan High School in 1880, Edith attended the Spencerian Business College in Milwaukee and then joined the law offices of William H. Seaman as the first shorthand writer in Sheboygan. Seaman would eventually be appointed to the federal bench, first serving as a federal district judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and later sitting on the Court of Appeals, during which time he maintained his law offices in Sheboygan. While working for Seaman, Edith took advantage of every opportunity she could to study law under his tutelage. Edith’s association with Seaman was an important factor in gaining admission to the bar in 1901. Some years later, Edith

studied law at Columbia University, returning after the completion of her studies to her position in Judge Seaman’s law office.

Edith became recognized as the leading authority on abstract of titles to Sheboygan county properties. According to her obituary in the Sheboygan newspaper, “papers that left her hands were acknowledged to be models of perfection in meeting legal requirements.” Edith remained associated with the Seaman firm throughout her career, with the exception of a stint in Madison as private secretary to Governor Francis McGovern from 1911-1915. She was a charter member of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as its historian for many years. During and following World War I, Edith compiled the records of the Sheboygan County men who served as soldiers in the war.

Described as a person with “an aesthetic and studious temperament” who enjoyed the finer things of life such as flowers and good literature, Edith Arelisle Zufelt died in 1935.

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COUNTY
PROPERTIES.

Grace Maekes

Date of admission: 1904

Little is known of Grace Maekes, the third woman to become a member of the Wisconsin bar in the 20th century. We are not even sure of the spelling of her last name for when she signed the Wisconsin Supreme Court Roll in

1904, her illegible handwriting prevents her name from being deciphered with confidence. Grace did not list a law school, indicating that she read the law rather than attended a law school. Though she had listed Milwaukee as her

residence, there is no indication in the Milwaukee City Directory of a Grace Maekes or other similar spelling. She may well have been a boarder in a rooming house; it was uncommon for large city directories to list such people. Since neither directories nor the census before or subsequent to 1904 list a woman with a similar name, speculation continues about her ori-

gins and her legal career. Did she practice law as a legal researcher for another lawyer? Did she marry and never practice law, or did she work for a corporation or government, thus preventing her name being listed among the city's private practitioners? Or, did Grace Maekes simply move from the city and the state?

Ellen Adelaid Cross Copp



Date of admission: 1908
(1849 - 1924)

Ellen Adelaid Cross Copp was born in 1849 in Omro, Wis. In 1870 she attended Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich. In 1871 she left Hillsdale to assist Pennsylvania State College with opening its women's department. She graduated from Pennsylvania State College's National School of Oratory in 1873. Ellen later returned to Hillsdale College and obtained an A.M. degree in 1888, and a B.D. degree in 1890. In 1895

she was ordained to the Free Baptist ministry, one of the first women ordained in the United States. In 1896 she was the only woman faculty in the theological department at Hillsdale. She served as the principal of the college from 1897 to 1901.

Ellen obtained her law degree from the U.W. Law School and was admitted to practice law in 1908. At the age of 70 she began working on her doctorate. She authored several books including, *Studies of Law*, which was used in schools in several states and was an accepted text for Army training camps. Ellen Adelaid Cross Copp died in 1924 in New York.

Mary Ella Thomas Stephenson

Date of admission: 1908
(1880 - d.)

Mary Ella Thomas, like so many lawyers, was an oldest child. Born to Joshua and Candace Davis Thomas in 1880, she grew up with two brothers on a farm near Auroraville in southeastern Waushara County. About the time Mary was 10, Auroraville consisted of a post office, two churches, two general stores, a sawmill, a nursery, and a hotel.

The Thomas family was prominent locally and active in civic affairs. Mary's paternal grandparents had been pioneer settlers in the Auroraville area; they established the family farm after emigrating from Wales in 1848. Mary's maternal grandparents also settled in Waushara County early in its history. Mary's father worked as a teacher for some years before turning his attention to farming, subsequently holding vari-



ous offices in the Waushara Dairy Association and serving as town treasurer. One of Mary's uncles served as the area's representative in the 1875 state Legislature, a founder of the Aurora Fire Insurance Company – organized to protect local farmers – and senior deacon of the First Baptist Church of Berlin.

Mary attended high school in Berlin, just across the Green Lake County line from Auroraville. She earned her B.A. in 1906 at the University of Wisconsin. She earned her LL.B. degree in 1908 from the U.W. Law School. The

law school class of 1908 also included another woman, Ellen Copp. Mutual support may have contributed to their law school success; no other woman graduated from the school for several years before or after 1908.

Also in 1908, Mary was admitted to practice law in Wisconsin. She and her husband, Walter Stephenson, moved to Texas shortly thereafter. A 1911 U.W. Law School alumni directory lists Mary Thomas Stephenson as a teacher in Waco, Texas. She later relocated east of Dallas to Kaufman, Texas.

Katherine R. Williams

Date of admission: 1910
(b. - 1942)

In 1908 Katherine R. Williams became the first female student at Marquette University, and in 1910 she was the first woman to graduate from Marquette University Law School. Prior to attending Marquette, Katherine was a teacher, having taught grade school at First and Center Streets in Milwaukee. At the time of her graduation from law school, which she attended as a “sideline” to her teaching, Katherine was the secretary of the Wisconsin Teachers Association.

Katherine practiced law for many years with the firm of Stem, Murphy & O'Brien in Milwaukee. She was very active in Catholic women's groups, serving as the president of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women from 1923 until 1941, and as president of the Catholic Instruction League. She also was a member of the Marquette Women's League,

president of the Milwaukee Teachers Association and the House of Good Shepard Auxiliary, and founder of the St. Catherine Sienna. She received two papal decorations from Pope Leo XIII in 1926.

Katherine also was active politically, serving as secretary of the Associate Republican State Central Committee. Although Katherine believed that most women had little interest in politics, she also felt that more women should run for public office, which she believed would, in time, make political equality with men a reality. Katherine was awarded an honorary doctorate in law degree by Mount Mary College in 1938, and she was chosen to represent Wisconsin on the board of the International Union of Women Advocates in 1929.

Katherine R. Williams died in 1942 after a lengthy illness.

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Anna B. Hill

Date of admission: 1912

When Anna B. Hill signed the Wisconsin Supreme Court roll in 1912, she was the eighth woman to become a Wisconsin lawyer in the 20th century. The Montello, Marquette County native did not attend law school, but must have read the law before being admitted before the bar. Though a family named Hill lived in the Montello area at the time of her admission, the

“Annie Hill” listed in the census would have been 42 years old at the time of the admission of Anna B. Hill. It is unlikely that they were the same person, even at a time when women being admitted before the bar tended to be older. No other information is available about her in the public records.

Marie Desrosiers Kusta

Date of admission: 1914
(1882 - 1965)

In 1914 Marie Desrosiers became the second woman to receive a Marquette University law degree. Marie began her legal studies at Marquette on Feb. 7, 1910, and attended the evening law program for four-and-a-half years. She received more credits than required by the Association of American Law Schools before graduating with a class of 19 people. Marie paid \$30 per semester for tuition. While she attended, Marquette University Law School estimated the average living expenses for a year, including tu-

ition, room and board, laundry, books and incidentals, to be \$345.

Shortly after graduation, Marie Desrosiers married a law school classmate, Frank J. Kusta. Little could be discovered about Marie Desrosiers Kusta's legal career. However, records indicate the couple practiced law together for several years at offices located at 433 17th Street, Milwaukee. Marie Desrosiers Kusta died in Milwaukee on Jan. 26, 1965, at the age of 83.

Olene Lapham

Date of admission: 1914
(1892 - 1982)

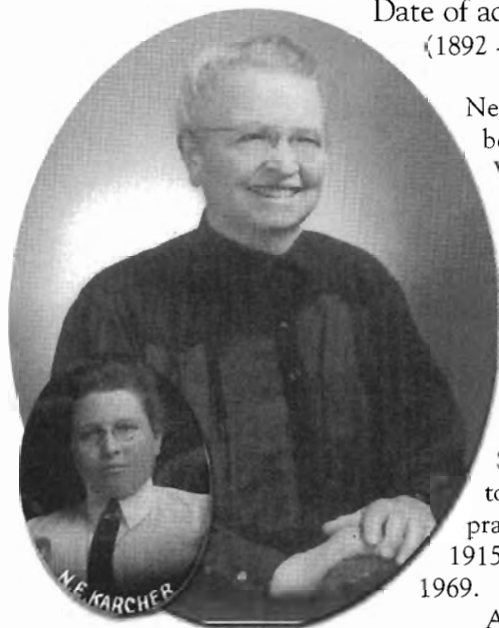
Olene Lapham was born in Waterford, Wis., on July 31, 1892. She graduated from high school in 1911 and entered law school that same year, graduating with her law degree in 1914.

Olene Lapham died at her home in East Troy on Dec. 26, 1982.



Nettie Elizabeth Karcher

Date of admission: 1915
(1892 - 1969)



Nettie Elizabeth Karcher was born south of Burlington, Wis., in 1892 to Albert and Minnie (Sawyer) Karcher. She attended school in Burlington and graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1915. At the urging of George Waller, an attorney she worked for, Nettie opened her own practice. She was the first woman attorney in Racine County and practiced in Burlington from 1915 until her death in March 1969.

According to *Grassroots His-*

tory of Racine County, Nettie said she experienced some prejudice when she began to practice, but after she became well known she rarely encountered any discrimination because of her sex. Her brother Gilbert Karcher, also an attorney in Burlington, shared her law office for a time.

In 1919 Nettie was the first woman attorney to appear in the Justice Court at Lake Geneva to plead for a male client, according to *A Tribute to Nettie Karcher*, which appears to be published by the Burlington Historical Society. She served on the grade school board for 32 years and on the high school board for five years, illustrating her commitment to young people. She was a charter member of the Burlington Business and Professional Woman's Club and a mem-

ber of the Eastern Star. In 1960 Nettie was chosen as the V.F.W. "Citizen of the Year." In 1966 the Racine County Bar Association honored Nettie for her 50 years of service as an attorney. Nettie Elizabeth Karcher was a long-respected leader in Burlington and her standards of

achievement left a legacy and a challenge not only for women, but for all. An annual scholarship is given in memory of Nettie E. Karcher to four Burlington High School students based on their character, need, and scholastic abilities.

Ida E. Luick

Date of admission: 1917
(1886 - 1972)

In 1917 Ida E. Luick became the first woman graduate of Marquette University's night law school. She was a member of a prominent Milwaukee family, which founded and ran the Luick Dairy Company for more than 60 years. After graduating from law school, Ida practiced probate law in Milwaukee until 1970, when she became ill.

Although there were few women in law school in 1917, much less night school, Ida clearly earned the respect of her fellow students. The 1917 Marquette University "Hilltop" yearbook referred to Ida as a "good fellow," who did more real work during her courses than any of

her male classmates. For unknown reasons, Ida's nickname at the night school was "Fatty," although her yearbook photo would indicate that this nickname was bestowed in jest by her classmates. Indeed, she was admired for her keen sense of perception and wit, as well as her masterful manner of solving difficult legal problems. Her fellow students predicted an interesting and successful career for Ida.

In addition to the practice of law, Ida Luick belonged to many professional organizations, as well as St. John's Cathedral and the St. Boniface Mission League in Milwaukee. Ida E. Luick passed away in 1972.

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Lenore Rappaport Mesiroff

Date of admission: 1918

Lenore Rappaport Mesiroff graduated from the U.W. Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1918. Lenore also was admitted to the Illinois bar and practiced law for a short time in Chicago. Lenore was married on Feb. 11, 1912, to Joseph Albert Mesiroff. She was born in New York City and received some of her education in Chicago.

Although few details are available about her career path, it is known that Lenore was frequently consulted on legal matters by her husband, a prominent engineer in Milwaukee. She may have been consulted on a wide variety of legal matters as her husband, Joseph A.

Mesiroff, was president of Western Engineering & Construction Company, which designed and built railroads and power plants. He also was the constructing engineer of the Grand Avenue viaduct in Milwaukee, "one of the finest of its kind in the world, with the greatest aggregate of large arches in the United States." Joseph Mesiroff later became city engineer for the City of Milwaukee.

In addition to her legal knowledge, Lenore Rappaport Mesiroff was said to possess marked musical and artistic skill. The Mesiroffs had three sons.

Marie Jackson Brunner

Date of admission: 1919
(1888 - 1943)

“SOME SAY THAT
WOMEN MAKE
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IF MARIE
BRUNNER WAS A
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CONCLUSION.”

Marie Brunner, nee Jackson, practiced law with her husband S.W. “Steve” Brunner in Clintonville, Wis., from the date of her admission to the Wisconsin bar in the winter of 1919 until her death in August of 1943. She was well respected as an attorney, as evidenced by the fact that her colleagues in the Seventh District Bar Association, all of whom were men, elected her president of the organization in 1939. A colleague described as “dean” of the Clintonville Bar eulogized Marie at the time of her death, saying: “Some say that women make better attorneys than men. If Marie Brunner was a fair sample, I agree with the conclusion. Marie’s intellect was razor-sharp and she was gifted with a rare understanding of human nature.”

Marie was born in Manawa, Wis., on July 20, 1888, and graduated from high school there. She was originally trained as a teacher and while teaching in North Crandon, she met and married her husband who, at the time of her death, was mayor of Clintonville. Both continued to teach at North Crandon for a period of time and then decided to go to law school together. They graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1918; Marie was the only woman in the class.

In addition to her law career, her duties as a wife, and her charitable activities, Marie was an avid angler and hunter. At the time of her death, Marie Jackson Brunner and her husband had practiced law together for nearly a quarter of a century. They had no children.

Martha Stezki

Date of admission: 1919

Martha Stezki joined the Wisconsin bar in 1919 and practiced law in Milwaukee.

Geraldine McMullen

Date of admission: 1920
(1894 - 1984)

Born in Chilton, Wis., in 1894, Geraldine McMullen went on to become one of Milwaukee’s most active women lawyers, with a law career that spanned more than 60 years. She attended Lawrence College in Appleton. She went on to become a member of Marquette University’s first law class. After graduating in 1920, Geraldine went to Chicago where she practiced law for a few years before returning to Milwaukee.

Geraldine remained in Milwaukee, serving four years in a corporate legal department before entering private practice. A solo practitioner, Geraldine’s practice focused on family and juvenile matters, and she often served as a guardian ad litem. In 1949 Geraldine was one of three females among seven candidates who sought to be Milwaukee’s first elected juvenile court judge. She also served as president of the

Milwaukee Women Lawyer’s Association and was active in the Marquette chapter of Kappa Beta Pi, a sorority for female law students and alumni.

Geraldine’s decision to enter the field of law was influenced strongly by her father, John E. McMullen, an attorney who argued numerous cases before the Wisconsin Supreme Court and whose career also included stints as district attorney, mayor of Chilton, and state senator. Like her father, Geraldine McMullen was a staunch Democrat. She worked actively for the Democratic Party in Milwaukee, serving as a delegate to the National Convention in Chicago in the 1940s.

Geraldine McMullen continued to practice law in Milwaukee until her late 80s, when she moved to Menasha to be near her niece. She died in Menasha on Nov. 27, 1984.



Belle Bortin Rupp

Date of admission: 1920
(1898 - 1981)

Belle Bortin Rupp overcame a difficult, poverty-defined childhood. After her father abandoned the family, her brother Herman, three years Belle's senior, left school at the age of 13 to help support the family. Their mother also worked outside the home to help make ends meet. There were five children, and as the eldest daughter, Belle took on many parental responsibilities as a pre-teen.

Belle Bortin graduated from North Division High School in Milwaukee and entered Marquette University in 1917. With considerable fanfare from the press, Belle passed her Wisconsin bar exam in 1920. Not only was she one of the few women to enter the legal profession that year, at the age of 22 she was the youngest woman ever to pass the bar in Wisconsin.

Upon graduation from Marquette, she was quoted in a local newspaper as saying, "My ambition is to become the head of a legal aid society for women. ... My admittance to the bar is due to perseverance and being able to accomplish what I set out to do."

She started out in private practice as a



criminal defense lawyer. In 1920, after Women's Suffrage in the State of Wisconsin, Belle became the first woman to run for an elected office in Wisconsin. Running on the Republican ticket, she made an unsuccessful bid to represent the Sixth District as a state senator.

In 1927, as "the Chairman of the National Women's Party and attorney handling Wisconsin's new fight for equal rights," Belle published an article about women's rights in Wisconsin. In 1930 she was the "state chairman of the Equal Rights International, a feminist organization seeking 'equality for women.'"

In 1921 Belle married attorney John Rupp. After the birth of her son Rex in 1922, she took a year off from her law career. In 1923 Belle Bortin Rupp returned to the courtroom, practicing law with her husband until they both retired in 1950. She died in 1981.



"... MY ADMITTANCE TO THE BAR IS DUE TO PERSEVERANCE AND BEING ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT I SET OUT TO DO."

(Left) On March 4, 1919, Belle Bortin Rupp, then a junior at Marquette Law School, made her first presentation to a courtroom jury.

Belle also acted in school plays playing the female lead in "Charley's Aunt" while at Marquette. After the play, Belle turned down an offer from a Broadway agent to go to New York. Perhaps it was because she was more vested in her family and excited about practicing law.

Nellie King Donaldson

Date of admission: 1922
(1869 - 1938)

Nellie King was born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter King in Platteville, Wis., on Oct. 20, 1869. In the spring of 1884 she entered the Platteville Normal School, later known as the Platteville State Teachers' College. With alternate periods of study and teaching in rural and town schools in

Wisconsin and Minnesota, Nellie graduated from the Teachers' College in June 1891.

For several years Nellie taught for the Milwaukee Public School system. She married Harry N. Donaldson on Aug. 29, 1894. They bore one daughter while living in North Dakota. In 1896

they moved to Racine. Nellie enrolled at the University of Wisconsin in 1913 and graduated in June 1917 with a bachelor of philosophy. Later she enrolled at Marquette University Law School and graduated in 1922. In that same year

she was admitted to the Wisconsin bar and practiced as her health permitted.

Nellie King Donaldson died on April 19, 1938.

Emma Hegener

Date of admission: 1922

Emma Hegener was admitted to the Wisconsin bar by exam in 1922 and listed Milwaukee as

her residence. No other information on her was located.

Elizabeth Holste-Kading

Date of admission: 1922
(1877 - 1925)

Elizabeth Holste-Kading was born in Watertown, Wis., on July 17, 1877. Before she was five years old, both her parents had died and she was adopted into the family of Henry Holste. After graduating from high school, she took up teaching and became the assistant principal of the Theresa grade school where she met her future husband, Charles Kading, who was the principal.

Elizabeth and Charles decided to pursue the practice of law and took the law course at Valparaiso, Ind. They graduated in 1900, were married that same year, and established the firm of Kading & Kading in Watertown. Elizabeth and her husband shared the responsibility of

appearing on behalf of clients before courts and juries, including the Wisconsin Supreme Court. She was a member of the civil service commission of Wisconsin, and Gov. Blaine appointed her to the State Board of Control in 1923, where she was soon elected its president.

On July 31, 1925, a tragic accident took the life of Elizabeth Holste-Kading while she was on a vacation to Colorado with her son. During the memorial services conducted by the Dodge County Bar Association, she was remembered not only for her legal expertise but also for her deep personal interest in her clients, particularly those who were less fortunate and those who were oppressed.

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OPPRESSED.

Lilian Kohlmetz

Date of admission: 1922
(1892 - 1968)

Born on Feb. 17, 1892, Lilian Kohlmetz received her law degree from Marquette University Law School in 1922. After her graduation, she practiced law in Milwaukee County for many years representing clients in criminal, divorce, pro-

bate, and real estate matters, including extensive appellate work.

Lilian Kohlmetz remained a resident of southeast Wisconsin throughout her entire life. She died on Nov. 19, 1968, at age 76.

Mary Downey Waal

Date of admission: 1922

Mary Downey Waal graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1922 and practiced law in Milwaukee for more than 50 years, retiring at age 81. In 1972 she gave the invocation at the 50th reunion of her law school graduating class. Mary died shortly thereafter in June

1972. During her career, Mary was a life member of the Milwaukee Bar Association and served on its executive committee. She also was a member of the Kappa Beta Pi Sorority and the City Club of Milwaukee. Her husband, Christopher Waal, was an attorney specializing in patent law.

Dorothy Walker

Date of admission: 1922
(1899 - 1983)

Dorothy Walker had a distinguished litigation career that spanned 61 years. In 1922 she received her law degree from the U.W. Law School and began working for the Portage law firm of Grady, Farnsworth, and Walker.

She may best be remembered as Wisconsin's first female district attorney, winning an election in Columbia County in 1924 at age 23. This feat brought her national recognition, as the *New York Times* also reported her as the *nation's* first female district attorney. Dorothy served one four-year term in office, and in that time prosecuted more than 300 cases, with only two acquittals and one jury disagreement.

Upon serving her term, Dorothy returned to private practice with the Grady firm, where she stayed until opening her own firm in 1938.

Dorothy became an accomplished litigator. She earned an outstanding reputation in the legal community for her knowledge of the law and the degree to which she prepared cases on behalf of her clients. During the middle of her

career, she was known for her personal injury litigation practice.

A member of the State Bar of Wisconsin since her graduation, Dorothy served on the Special Committee on Women Lawyers where she assisted with plans for the 50th Anniversary Convention held in June 1928. She also assisted a committee of 100 women in planning Wisconsin's Centennial Celebration. On a political front, she actively supported Republican candidates.

In 1974 Dorothy was honored as the first female to receive the Distinguished Alumni Faculty Award from the U.W. Law School Alumni Association.

Dorothy Walker passed away on Aug. 1, 1983, while standing at her secretary's desk in her law office at Portage. She was 84 years old, still practicing law as a solo practitioner.



Gladys Cavanaugh

Date of admission: 1923

Gladys Cavanaugh graduated from Marquette University Law School on June 13, 1923. No other information was discovered.

Clara Conrad

Date of admission: 1923
(1902 - 1980)

Clara Conrad was born in Wisconsin on June 12, 1902. She graduated from Marquette University Law School on June 13, 1923, and was admitted to the bar that same year by examination. She was one of only three women in her

class of 56 students. Clara spent the latter half of her life in Fond du Lac where she worked as a clerk and later retired. Clara Conrad died in Winnebago County on Aug. 27, 1980.

Sarah Maves

Date of admission: 1923

Sarah Maves passed the Wisconsin bar exam in 1923 and was located in Milwaukee.

Margery Heck Riffle

Date of admission: 1923
(1900 - 1973)



Margery Heck was born on May 11, 1900, in Racine, Wis. Her father, Max W. Heck, was a lawyer and a judge for many years in Racine, and served as state senator for one term. Margery graduated from Racine High School and was admitted to Marquette University Law School on Sept. 22, 1918. (A bachelor's degree was not an admission requirement in the 1920s.)

She was a standout during her college years: on the Law Dance Committee, president of the Coed Club, Grand Mistress of Kappa Beta Gamma, and class secretary. She drove a classy electric car, one of only about three in Racine in the 1920s. She graduated with an LL.B. on

June 16, 1922, and was admitted to the bar by examination in 1923. (There was no diploma privilege at that time.)

After graduation Margery worked at the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee for eight years. She was married to Francis Riffle, who had graduated in engineering from Marquette in 1924, and they moved to Glendale, Calif. There is no record that she was admitted to the California bar and it appears that she did not practice law after she left Wisconsin. The Riffles had no children. Margery Riffle died in Glendale, Calif., on July 30, 1973.

Did Margery want to work for Legal Aid or was that the only job she could get? And was she even paid? The answers to these questions may explain why she didn't practice law in California. As late as 1956 the only job a female graduate of the Stanford Law School could find in Marin County was as a volunteer for legal aid. This woman had been an editor of the *Stanford Law Review*.

Caroline Marie Healy Uebele

Date of admission: 1923
(1900 - 1991)

Caroline Marie Healy Uebele was born on April 25, 1900, in Rochester, Wis. Her father, William Healy, was an attorney in Manitowoc. She was one of the first women graduates of the Stetson Law School in Florida and attended the U.W. Law School.

From 1923 to 1925, Caroline practiced in the law office of Nettie Karcher in Burlington. Following her marriage to Walter Uebele in 1925, she gave up the practice of law to raise

her family. She continued to be active in her community and was a member of the Burlington School Board and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Caroline Healy Uebele died on May 5, 1991.



Miriam Louise Frye

Date of admission: 1924

Little is known about Miriam Louise Frye. However, she graduated first in her U.W. Law School class of 1924 and was the first woman president of the Winnebago County Bar Association. In accepting the office she expressed deep appreciation and said she “[would] not try to turn the association into a sewing circle.”



Irene Higgins

Date of admission: 1924
(1897 - 1982)

Born in 1897, Irene Higgins practiced law in Eagle River, Wis. She focused mainly on real estate law, working with her father. In fact, it seems that her father's influence probably led her into a law career, according to Irene's attorney, John L. O'Brien.

O'Brien shares two stories about Irene that provide a glimpse into her quick mind and vibrancy. Working with Irene to draft her new will, O'Brien counseled her to burn the previous will. Quickly pointing out the error of his advice (“Oh, no, you are wrong about that, Mr. O'Brien”), she reminded him that if someone contested her new will, the previous will would

come into effect. O'Brien credits Irene with teaching him a valuable lesson!

O'Brien also relates a second incident. Walking by the home Irene shared with her friend Ann Christman, he noticed Ann banging on a pole with a hammer. Both Irene and Ann were in their 80s at the time. He asked Ann why she doing this, and she confided to him that Irene was in the garden behind the house shooting rabbits. Because they both knew it was illegal to shoot a firearm in the city, Ann hoped to fool the neighbors into thinking it was she making all the noise.

Irene Higgins passed away in 1982.

**HIGGINS FOCUSED
MAINLY ON REAL
ESTATE LAW,
WORKING WITH
HER FATHER.**

Beatrice Walker Lampert

Date of admission: 1924
(1902 - 1997)



Born on a Nebraska homestead, Beatrice Walker Lampert spent much of her distinguished legal career exploring the frontiers of labor and employment law in Wisconsin and the nation.

The youngest of five children, Bea, as she was called, and her siblings were raised by their widowed mother, Katherine, who ran a boarding house in Lincoln, Neb., so that her children could obtain an education. Bea and her mother moved to Alliance, Ohio, in 1920, and Bea began her college education at Mount Union College where her older sister, Louisa, was an instructor. When Louisa moved to Madison to study for her Ph.D. degree, Bea and her mother came along.

Bea enrolled in the U.W. Law School, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif, graduating third in her class in 1924. (The only other woman, Miriam Frye, was first in her class.) According to Bea's niece, Betty Walker Smith, the strong women in Bea's life, including her mother, sister, and grandmother, undoubtedly inspired her career in the law. She herself once humorously ascribed her choice of a legal career to the fact that she had two older brothers who were engineers and one who was a lawyer, suggesting that she wanted to even the professional score.

Bea married Harold Lampert, a chemist, shortly after law school graduation and admission to the bar. After her honeymoon, she attempted to find work among the private law firms in Madison, but no one was interested in hiring her. She eventually supplemented her legal training with shorthand and typing skills. With that dual clerical and professional training, Bea was hired as the first woman assistant city attorney in Madison in 1927. Thus began a long legal career in public service, which continued, with only one significant break, until 1982, when she finally retired a second time at the age of 80.

As assistant city attorney, Bea took shorthand, typed, tried ordinance cases, advised the city council, and prepared a recodification of the city ordinances. She served as assistant city attorney until 1934, was acting city attorney for a time, and very briefly, was the first woman

city attorney. In 1934, Bea accepted a civil service appointment as a law examiner for the Public Service Commission where she worked as a hearing examiner until 1938. In 1939, she took a break from state service and, for a year, assisted Prof. William Herbert Page in the preparation of the post-Depression "Lifetime Edition" of his Treatise on Wills.

In 1941 Attorney General John Martin (later a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice) appointed Bea to a position in the Attorney General's office, where she served as an assistant attorney general until her formal retirement in 1967. Throughout most of those 26 years, she was counsel to the Wisconsin Employment Relations Board (WERB) and represented the state in hundreds of cases enforcing the nascent Wisconsin Employment Peace Act, as well as cases interpreting the state's fair employment and worker's compensation laws.

Although she tried many cases in circuit courts statewide, Bea's most important contribution to the law was as an appellate advocate in the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. She briefed and argued more than 130 reported cases in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, including many that remain leading cases in the interpretation of labor, worker's compensation, and administrative law today. For an interesting example of the results of her legal advocacy, see the successive decisions in *Muskego-Norway C.S.J.S.D. No. 9 v. W.E.R.B.*, 32 Wis. 2d. 478 (1966), and 35 Wis. 2d 540 (1967), still a significant administrative law case today.

Bea's most visible, and undoubtedly her proudest, legal accomplishment, however, was her representation of Wisconsin and the WERB in a series of cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, from 1949 to 1966, in which the Court defined the boundaries between state and federal power to regulate collective bargaining and labor-management relations. In several important decisions interpreting the Commerce Clause and applying the doctrine of preemption, the Court, with Bea appearing among the leading labor relations advocates of the era, sought to define those areas of labor law where the states remain free to regulate and those in which state power has been preempted, so that federal law governs completely.

The most significant of the Supreme Court cases in which Bea was lead counsel for the state include *Algoma Plywood Co. v. Wisconsin E.R. Board*, 336 U.S. 301 (1949); *Auto Workers (UAW) v. Wisconsin E.R. Board*, 336 U.S. 245 (1949); and *Auto Workers (UAW) v. Wisconsin E.R. Board*, 351 U.S. 266 (1956). *Algoma Plywood* involved a challenge to the state's authority to regulate maintenance of membership clauses in collective bargaining contracts. The Court held that Wisconsin's authority to define unfair labor practices in the area of union security agreements had not been preempted by federal law.

The 1949 UAW decision grew out of a series of unannounced and intermittent work stoppages at the Milwaukee Briggs & Stratton plant. The Court addressed what it described as the "substantial question" whether Congress had protected union conduct that the state had forbidden and concluded, in that instance, that the answer was no. The 1956 UAW decision resulted from the bitter Kohler Company strike in Sheboygan in the early 1950s. In that case, the Court upheld the independent authority of the states to enjoin violent concerted action by labor organizations against a preemption challenge, even though such conduct would have constituted an unfair labor practice under federal law as well.

Bea retired from state service for the first time in 1967. After traveling for a time and following the death of her husband in 1973, she again returned to the Attorney General's office in 1976, accepting a part-time appointment briefing fair employment, labor, and worker's compensation cases. She retired, again, in 1982.

Catherine J. O'Hara

Date of admission: 1924
(1892 - 1987)

Catherine J. O'Hara was born in 1892 and obtained her law degree from Marquette University in 1924 after attending night school. She was well known in Milwaukee's financial world and worked for Mutual Savings Bank for 50 years. Catherine began working at Mutual Savings Bank as an office clerk while she was a senior in high school.

In 1927 she was appointed assistant secretary and treasurer of the institution. In 1954

After making her home with a granddaughter in Florida for several years, Bea died in 1997 at the age of 95.

Bea's two children were born in 1931 and 1939, well into the course of her developing legal career. Although she took time off to care for them, she always returned to full-time employment. Much later, Lampert told one young colleague that part-time employment had never been an option for her. She also stated emphatically that she "never" would have been able to have a career and raise her children without the help of her mother, who lived with her family while the two children were small.

In addition to her mother, a central figure in her career as well as her personal life, Bea would likely have identified two men, Prof. Page and Justice (then attorney general) Martin, as having been instrumental as mentors in her legal career.

Although Bea was one of the most visible Wisconsin women attorneys of her day, her civic and community contributions extended well beyond the law and labor relations. She was a long-time member and then president of the Madison Police and Fire Commission. She was an active member and president, at various times, of the Madison Civic Music Association, the Library Board, and the League of Women Voters, as well as a den mother for her son's Cub Scout troop.

According to her niece, Betty Walker Smith, if Beatrice Walker Lampert were asked for advice about embarking on a legal career, Bea's advice would be short and to the point. She would undoubtedly say, "Go to it!" That advice can hardly be more vividly illustrated than by her own career.

LAMPERT BRIEFED
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INTERPRETATION
OF LABOR,
WORKER'S COM-
PENSATION, AND
ADMINISTRATIVE
LAW TODAY.

she advanced to the position of executive vice president and later became a member of the board of directors. Catherine was the first woman member of the State Savings and Loan Advisory Board.

In 1962 Catherine left her savings and loan career to practice law. She was associated with the Milwaukee firm of Kluwin, Dunphy, Hankin & Hayes. Catherine J. O'Hara died on Jan. 10, 1987.

Dora Goodsitt

Date of admission: 1925
(1898 - 1986)

Dora Goodsitt, we believe, is the same person as Dorothy Goodsitt, who was born in January 1898 and died in January 1986 in Berkey, Ohio.

Goodsitt graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1925 and practiced law in Milwaukee.

Rosalia Hesse

Date of admission: 1925
(1893 - 1974)

Rosalia Hesse graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1924 and was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1925. Before that, she was a bookkeeper at the law firm of Quarles Spence & Quarles in Milwaukee.

By 1926 Rosalia was practicing law in downtown Milwaukee. She shared offices with several different law firms and lawyers, including several years in the early 1930s with Gertrude Salentine. After 1937 Rosalia maintained her office in her home, and the 1938 Milwaukee City Directory lists the Milwaukee Women Lawyers Association at her home address. In 1945 District Attorney William McCauley named Rosalia an assistant district attorney, specializing in abandonment, nonsupport, and family problems.

When the first judge of the Children's Court in Milwaukee County was elected in the spring of 1949, Rosalia was one of the seven candidates in the primary, including two other women Marquette University Law School graduates, Irene

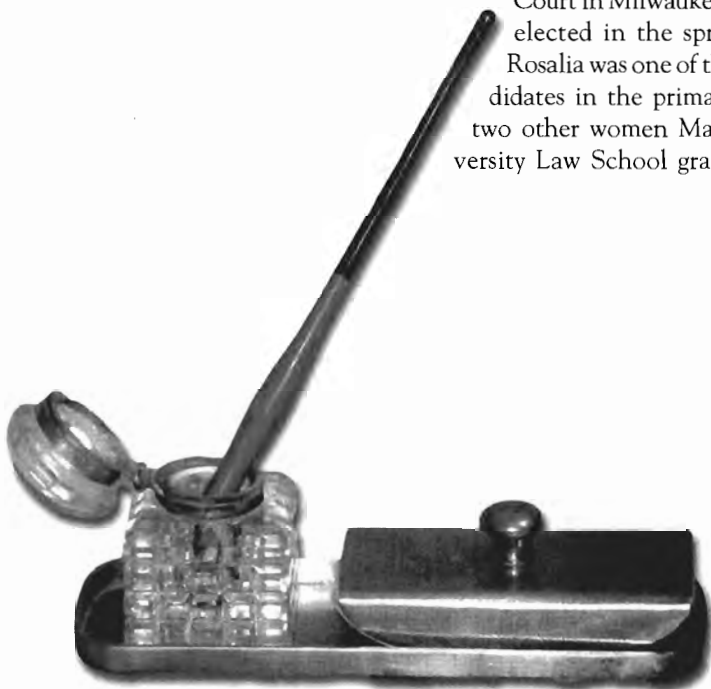
Gyzinski and Geraldine McMullen. Judge Robert Cannon outdistanced his six opponents, and none of the women survived the primary. An editorial in the *Milwaukee Journal* on the background of the seven candidates noted that Rosalia, "conducts a course on family and business law at Wauwatosa School of Adult Education. Co-originator of training courses for women in the county jail."

Rosalia's service as an assistant district attorney ended in December 1952 when McCauley fired her "for the welfare of the office and the public." She protested this vigorously and publicly, including a charge that the district attorney was covering up fraud in the administration of county relief. After a six-month probe, the County Board dismissed these charges as "unsubstantiated by the evidence."

Rosalia moved to Glendale and ran unsuccessfully for city attorney in 1955 and for alderman in 1956.

Rosalia Hesse's obituary said, "she was well known for her marriage counseling and for her lectures on the rights of parents and children."

HESSE WAS WELL KNOWN FOR HER MARRIAGE COUNSELING AND FOR HER LECTURES ON THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN.



Charlotte Nachtwey

Date of admission: 1925
(1894 - d.)

Charlotte Nachtwey was born March 9, 1894, in Clark County, just outside of Dorchester. Around 1918 she worked as a commercial teacher at the Turtle Lake High School in Turtle Lake, Wis. Charlotte Nachtwey passed the bar exam in 1925.

Gertrude S. Salentine

Date of admission: 1925
(1883 - 1966)

Gertrude S. Salentine was born in 1883 in Kenosha County, Wis. She was admitted to the bar in 1925 and practiced in Milwaukee for many years with the firm of Lines, Spooner & Quarles and then in her own practice at 759 N. Milwaukee Street. Gertrude S. Salentine retired from the practice of law in 1950 and died in 1966.

Adeline Meyer Toner

Date of admission: 1925
(1902 - 1976)

Born in Madison, Wis., in 1902, Adeline Meyer Toner began attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 1920.

Before earning her B.A., she enrolled in the U.W. Law School in the fall of 1921. Two years later she received her Bachelor of Arts degree, and by February 1924 she earned her law certificate. Continuing on with this whirlwind of education, Adeline received her LL.M. in October 1925 and apprenticed briefly at Stephens & Sletteland, which is now the Boardman law firm, in Madison and then with Attorney Henry Frelske in Milwaukee.

By the fall of 1926, Adeline was back in school. She returned to the University of Wis-

consin to enroll in undergraduate economics courses, which she took between 1926 and 1930.

Eventually, Adeline married Harold J. Toner, and they moved to Silver Springs, Maryland, although we don't have dates for either of those occasions. According to the U.W. Alumni office, Adeline last worked as a title examiner for District Title Insurance in Washington, D.C.

Adeline Meyer Toner died in February of 1976.



Daisy L. Carrington

Date of admission: 1926
(1880 - 1970)

Daisy L. Carrington was born in Waupun, Wis., in 1880 but lived in the Milwaukee area for more than 70 years. She worked for the L.J. Mueller Furnace Company for 34 years, from 1906 to 1940. In 1914, she created a credit department handling more than 45,000 accounts. At that time, credit work was a new field.

While working at L.J. Mueller, Daisy attended night school at Marquette University Law School. She graduated in 1926 at the age of 46. That same year, she helped organize the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, an organization for

business and professional women. Daisy once said, "I think women have proved their ability for any job."

In 1966 the Zonta Club honored Daisy at its 40th anniversary as a woman who had helped open the business field to women in the early years of the century. Daisy L. Carrington was a member and president of the Milwaukee Business and Professional Women's Club.

After her retirement she devoted her time to gardening. Her home in Shorewood was long-considered a showplace of flower gardens.

"I THINK WOMEN
HAVE PROVED
THEIR ABILITY FOR
ANY JOB."

Alice Craig Edgerton

Date of admission: 1926
(1874 - 1946)

EDGERTON WAS
THE FOUNDER
AND HONORARY
PRESIDENT OF
KAPPA BETA PI,
THE FIRST INTER-
NATIONAL LEGAL
SORORITY EVER
ORGANIZED, AND
WAS FOUNDER OF
THE WOMAN'S
BAR ASSOCIA-
TION OF ILLINOIS.

Alice Craig Edgerton was born on June 25, 1874 in Caldwell, Wis., to Asa and Rebecca Craig, who were pioneer residents and farmers. She attended the local school and then went to Carroll College where she received a B.A. in 1893. Alice married Charles Edgerton in 1896 and moved to Chicago, Ill. Tragically, her husband died shortly after their marriage. Fortunately, Alice was able to obtain employment as a secretary to a judge. The judge was very impressed with her work and encouraged her to attend law school. When Alice graduated from law school in 1910, she was one of three women in a class of 100 at Chicago Kent College of Law. In 1911 she received an LL.M. degree from Chicago Kent College of Law. For the next 12 years, Alice was part of the legal staff of an appraisal firm in Illinois.

When Alice's mother died in 1923, Alice returned to Mukwonago to help her father with the family farm and raise the famous "Craig's Honey Melons." During this period she also studied for and passed the Wisconsin bar exam, and was admitted to practice law in Wisconsin in 1926. Alice promptly opened a law office in Mukwonago where she practiced law until just before her death in 1946. For several years, she also held the position of justice of the peace. When Alice joined the Waukesha County Bar Association in 1926, she was the first female member.

In addition to her law practice, Alice was a distinguished author. Her first work of impor-



tance was *Queen Nature's Fairy Helpers*, published in 1921. This was followed in 1926 with *Thirty Complete Debates* published in cooperation with her father. A book of original speeches, *A Speech for Every Occasion*, was printed in 1931, and the same year she published *Juvenile Selections and Dialogues*. A volume containing more speeches and debates was published in 1936, and in 1937 she wrote the history of the Kappa Beta Pi Sorority. Her last published work was a revised issue of the Kappa Beta Pi history in 1941. Besides

these books, Alice was a popular contributor to books, magazines, and newspapers. She also wrote speeches for businessmen and masters of ceremonies.

It is clear from her writings that Alice treasured children. Friends acknowledge that children adored her because she spoke to them as equals, respected their opinions, and always had an encouraging and inspiring word for them. Her beautiful Victorian home still stands proudly in downtown Mukwonago, and an exquisite dress she wore is displayed in the Mukwonago museum.

In 1941 Alice Craig Edgerton won an award from the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs for professional achievement and public service. She was the founder and honorary president of Kappa Beta Pi, the first international legal sorority ever organized, and was founder of the Woman's Bar Association of Illinois.

Louise Ehrhardt

Date of admission: 1926

Louise Ehrhardt passed the bar examination in 1926 and was located in Milwaukee. According to the Milwaukee City Directory, a Louise E. Ehrhardt worked as a stenographer for the law firm of Upham, Black, Russell & Richardson

from 1931 through 1935. In 1937 she is listed as a lawyer for the same firm. However, by the 1950 entry Louise Ehrhardt is no longer listed as a lawyer, and by 1956 she is not listed as a resident.

Helen Hoy Greeley

Date of admission: 1926

Helen Hoy graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College in 1899. Immediately after graduation, she taught English and Greek in a girls' preparatory school in New York. She received her law degree from New York University in 1903, and proceeded to form the law firm of Hoy and Martin with Sarah E. Martin in New York. While building a general law practice, Helen was actively involved in various municipal activities such as the Woman's Municipal League. In 1907 she was appointed assistant counsel to the Governor's Commission to Revisit the Greater New York Charter.

In 1908 Helen married Horace Greeley, a fellow attorney. During that period, Helen became involved with the woman's suffrage movement, finding "without the ballot, it was the old story of bricks without straw." (Vassar Class Bulletin, 1909.) Moving her law office into her New York home, Helen devoted herself fulltime to the suffrage movement. She campaigned throughout the state of New York and elsewhere in the country. Helen cited with amusement the following description of herself in a New York newspaper:

"The gem (at the banquet) from an oratorical standpoint was the address of Mrs. Helen Hoy Greeley, a New York feminine barrister, ...

She is one of the foremost orators of her sex and as a number of hearers observed, it was too bad that with all her forensic talent and her ability as a lawyer she was not a man." (Vassar Class Bulletin, 1915)

From 1918 to 1920, Helen successfully worked to attain rank for army nurses in her position as secretary and counsel of the National Committee to Secure Rank for Army Nurses. (Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., et al., *History of American Red Cross Nursing* (1922).)

Admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1926, Helen resided in Milwaukee for a time in the late 1920s and 1930s. During that time period, she worked for the League of Nations on various disarmament committees. She served as the secretary of the Milwaukee County Branch of the League of Nations, a member of the Executive Committee of the Emergency Peace Campaign, and Director of the Milwaukee County Council on Education in American Foreign Policy.

In 1937 Helen Hoy Greeley relocated to Washington, D.C., and became an assistant solicitor in the U. S. Department of the Interior where she worked for many years on a wide variety of environmental issues.

"GREELEY IS ONE OF THE FOREMOST ORATORS OF HER SEX AND AS A NUMBER OF HEARERS OBSERVED, IT WAS TOO BAD THAT WITH ALL HER FORENSIC TALENT AND HER ABILITY AS A LAWYER SHE WAS NOT A MAN."

Lois Kathrine Kuenzli Collins

Date of admission: 1927
(1906 - 1993)

Lois Kathrine Kuenzli Collins was born on July 22, 1906, in Pewaukee, Wis. Her banker father, Herman Kuenzli, died when she was 10 years old. Her widowed mother, Cora, raised Lois and her three siblings. All four children received degrees from either Carroll College or Marquette University during the 1920s. Lois was raised to believe that she could do anything she wanted in life. Her own mother was living proof.

Lois was 21 when she graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1927. Her first position after law school was as assistant city treasurer in Waukesha. She married attorney Vincent John Collins on Aug. 28, 1930. They met while attending law school. Vincent left his home and his practice in Fond du Lac to follow his future law partner and wife to Waukesha. Together Lois and Vincent formed the law firm of Collins and Collins in 1933. They were the only husband-and-wife partnership in Waukesha. When Lois joined the Waukesha County Bar Association, she was one of only two women. She maintained her partnership interest in the firm until the early 1970s



when her son, James, formed a partnership with his father. In June 1970 Lois was honored by the Waukesha Bar Association for 30 years of distinguished service.

If approached by a young woman attorney today, Lois would emphasize that no one can ever take your education away from you. Whether you practice formally or not, you will definitely use your law education throughout your life. She devoted her life to raising her seven children and

to her Catholic faith. Her children fondly remember that even though she rarely worked at the office, she practiced law and order in her own "just" home. All decisions she made at home were based on her strong sense of morality. Lois is described as a common sense woman who never felt she had anything to prove. She tried everything and excelled, whether it was horseback riding, golf, bridge, cooking, sewing, or practicing law.

Today her grandchildren, inspired by their family legacy, are the third generation of Waukesha County attorneys.

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THROUGHOUT
YOUR LIFE.

Cecilia Doyle

Date of admission: 1927
(1904 - 1973)

Cecilia Doyle, a native of Fond du Lac, graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1927. Her father was a prominent Fond du Lac lawyer, and she practiced with him from 1927 until his death in 1945. She was a leading probate attorney in her area for many years.

Cecilia served as a member of the Board of Governors (1938-39) of the State Bar of Wisconsin and as president of the Fond du Lac County Bar Association. She

served as a circuit court commissioner from 1939 to 1947, and also as president of the 18th Judicial Circuit. She was a fellow of the American College of Probate Counsel, an honorary group of trust and estate lawyers. Cecilia Doyle was listed in the first edition of *Who's Who of American Women* in 1959.

(This picture of Cecilia Doyle is taken from a 1940 display of photographs of members of the Fond du Lac County bar in 1940. She is the only woman.)



Lucille H. Heald

Date of admission: 1927
(1904 - 1957)

Born in Appleton, Wis., in 1904, Lucille Heald graduated from high school – but carried the distinction of never actually attending college. Nevertheless, with tutoring help from her husband, she successfully passed the Wisconsin bar examination and was admitted to the bar in 1927.

For many years Lucille Heald worked in a law partnership with her husband in Thiensville, Wis., retiring in the mid-1950s. She died of cancer in the summer of 1957.

Lillian N. Hughes

Date of admission: 1927
(1890 - 1970)

Lillian “Billie” N. Hughes was born in 1890 in Mellen, Wis. She became a teacher and moved to New Richmond. In 1914 she married attorney James E. Hughes, and taught school for several years. To help out with finances during the farm depression of the early 1920s, Billie entered her husband’s law firm and studied law. In 1927 she became a licensed attorney.

In 1928 Billie ran for St. Croix County district attorney on the Democratic ticket. She campaigned vigorously, but lost the election. However, she garnered 1,000 more votes than any other Democratic candidate in the county. In 1934 she became postmaster, a position she held until 1958.

James Hughes once described his wife’s typical day. An avid gardener, she rose at 5 a.m. and worked in her garden until 7 a.m. She then divided her time between the post office, the law office, and various civic duties including the library board and hospital board. She also was the attentive mother of two adopted children. Once when her husband informed a friend that Billie was tired, the friend replied, “Don’t be silly. Billie never gets tired!”

James’ and Billie’s two children went on to successful careers in the law. Joseph W. Hughes was admitted to the bar in 1958 and served as St. Croix County Circuit Court judge from 1971 until his retirement in 1983. Anne



Hughes worked as a legal secretary in Chicago.

The daughter of a sawmill owner, Billie had an abiding interest in trees. She planted unusual trees including ginkgos, white birch, hemlock, concolor firs, Kentucky coffee trees, buckeye trees, and others. In an essay written shortly before her death, she observed, “I am never so blasé that I do not see the wonders of nature around me. On any trip or ride I ever took, my family would make a joke of holding their hands in front of my eyes if we came on any particularly beautiful scene because I always had to stop and drink it in.”

As her daughter-in-law, Betty Hughes, observed, “Billie was interested in everything and everyone.” Billie N. Hughes passed away in 1970 leaving a legacy of service and commitment to the community and the law.





Julia B. Dolan McClelland

Date of admission: 1927
(1906 - 1996)

Standing less than five feet tall, Julia Dolan McClelland nevertheless cut an imposing presence in Milwaukee law practice and law firm management for several decades.

Julia McClelland graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1927. The year before graduation she married law school classmate John Dolan. For 10 years they practiced law together at their home on Milwaukee's eastside. After John Dolan became an assistant city attorney in 1936, Julia continued solo practice until 1939, when she was named executive attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee Inc. Though the Society's offices and her title would change several times, she remained at the helm of the Society for 32 years, until her retirement in 1971.

The terms of professional employment of females in 1939 might be reflected somewhat in Julia's negotiations. When Julia applied for the Legal Aid Society executive attorney job she asked for a salary lower than the office secretary's pay. Her rationale? She would insist on being home in case one of her three sons became ill; if she had to be replaced there would always be some money left in the budget to do so.

Julia was known to be feisty and outspoken on issues and causes, many related to the interests of women. She administered the Society's law firm practices and its services to the poor during the end of the Great Depression, World War II, the Great Society, and the War on Poverty years; and through the changing legal needs of the poor created by such

events. Besides practicing law herself, she "kept the Society's doors open," raising funds for the nonprofit law firm through a variety of means, from hosting afternoon tea parties to negotiating federal Office for Economic Opportunities funds.

Julia served on countless committees, including the committees that led to the creation of the Milwaukee County Children's Court and Family Court. She launched the city's first clinic on "marriage relations"; built a network of attorneys' wives to provide volunteer work at the law firm; developed a program to train Marquette law students; and built a staff and pro bono attorney panel who represented literally thousands of clients. In 1958 she developed a system for private attorneys to represent indigent criminal defendants, which eventually served as the public defender system in Milwaukee and the forerunner of the State Public Defender.

Julia McClelland and John Dolan had three sons, John, Thomas, and Philip. Her husband John died in 1969. In 1971 Julia married Raymond McClelland, who was the executive director of the forerunner of United Way of Greater Milwaukee. She had three stepchildren: Judith, Bruce, and Robert. Raymond McClelland died in 1991. Julia Dolan McClelland died in 1996. She was survived by all of her children and stepchildren, and the Legal Aid Society to which she contributed so much, so selflessly for so long.

McCLELLAND
CONTINUED SOLO
PRACTICE UNTIL
1939, WHEN SHE
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TORNEY FOR THE
LEGAL AID SOCI-
ETY OF MILWAU-
KEE INC. SHE
REMAINED AT THE
HELM OF THE
SOCIETY FOR 32
YEARS, UNTIL HER
RETIREMENT IN
1971.

Grace Meyers

Date of admission: 1927

Born in Verona, Wis., Grace Meyers attended Blackstone Institute in Chicago in the 1920s and joined the Wisconsin bar in 1927. She began working at the Madison firm of Rieser & Mathys during World War II, and gained the

distinction of being the first woman attorney ever hired by that firm. Grace Meyers practiced probate and real estate law. Her office was located on the top floor of what is now the M&I Bank building in downtown Madison.

Erma C. Miller

Date of admission: 1927
(1899 - 1975)

Erma C. Miller, born in 1899 in Baraboo, Wis., passed the bar examination in 1927. She remained in Baraboo and began working for Judge James Hill, reading law in his office as his secretary. Eventually, she achieved a full partnership in the firm of Hill, Miller & Hill, which later became Hill, Miller & Quale.

A member of both the Sauk County and Wisconsin Bar Associations, Erma C. Miller retired and, after a long illness, died in October 1975.

Erma C. Miller (seated behind desk) became a full partner in the Baraboo firm of Hill, Miller & Hill.



Gratia Woodside Monegan

Date of admission: 1927

Gratia Woodside Monegan was graduated from law school in Missouri in the mid-1920s. In 1927 she joined the Wisconsin bar. Although she is listed in city directories in 1926, 1928, 1930, and 1934 as a La Crosse resident, she is not listed among the attorneys; and there is no record of

Gratia practicing law in La Crosse. If she did practice law in La Crosse, she either did not list herself professionally or practiced with a firm that did not individually identify its attorneys in the city directory.

Nora Bell Padway

Date of admission: 1927
(1904 - 1970)

Nora Bell Padway, born on Dec. 22, 1904, graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1927. According to the Supreme Court Rolls, she lived in Milwaukee, but we could not deter-

mine how long she remained there. Her last residence was Los Angeles, Calif.

Nora Bell Padway died in May of 1970.



Mabel Watson Raimey

Date of admission: 1927
(1898 - 1986)

Mabel Watson Raimey is the first African American woman known to have attended law school in Wisconsin and the first African American woman admitted to the Wisconsin bar. Mabel was the last surviving member of her family, but there are records that trace the family back to 1822.

Among Mabel's personal effects was a hand-

written statement indicating that her great grandfather, Sully Watson, "was the only son of Molly" who was "the daughter of an African chief from New Guinea." Apparently, Molly and her brother were lured from their African homeland by promises of receiving an education but were instead sold into slavery. Sully Watson was born in Virginia. Molly's slave owner was listed as her father. Sully and his wife Susan obtained their freedom and, in 1851, moved to Milwaukee. They were among the first African Americans to settle in Wisconsin. Members of the family acquired property and enjoyed considerable economic and social success despite prejudices and anti-Black sentiments in the community.

Mabel was born in 1898 and it seems clear that her family was committed to providing her an education. She graduated from West Division High School. In 1918 she obtained her B.A. in English from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She believed she was the first African American woman to have graduated from that institution. Mabel obtained a teaching position with the Milwaukee Public Schools, but her teaching career lasted only three days. School administrators dismissed her when they discov-

ered she was African American. During later interviews, Mabel remarked that the event changed her life.

Denied the opportunity to teach, Mabel became a legal secretary. In 1922 she enrolled in the Marquette University Law School and attended night classes while continuing her employment. When she entered law school, there were few white women practicing law in the state; there were fewer, if any, African American male lawyers, and there were no African American female lawyers. Mabel believed that no one at Marquette University knew of her African ancestry, "nobody asked me, I never told," she said. In 1911 the American Bar Association had barred Blacks from membership, a barrier it would not remove until 1943. In 1927, when she was admitted to the Wisconsin bar, there were few opportunities for female lawyers. Many of them opted to practice with their fathers or husbands, a route not open to Mabel. Despite her law degree, she continued working as a legal secretary. She began practicing law in the offices of the attorney who had hired her as a legal secretary. She slowly developed a practice in which she represented clients of all races in probate and business matters.

In addition to practicing law, Mabel was very active in organizations working to improve the conditions of African Americans in Milwaukee. She served on the board of the Milwaukee Urban League for 25 years. Despite this involvement, there were some in the African American community who resented that she may have passed as "white" while in law school. Her practice of law ended in 1972 after she suffered a stroke while bathing alone in her apartment. Paralyzed, she survived for five days by drinking water from the bathtub faucet until she was discovered by friends. Mabel Watson Raimey died in 1986.

WHEN RAIMEY ENTERED LAW SCHOOL, THERE WERE FEW WHITE WOMEN PRACTICING LAW IN THE STATE; THERE WERE FEWER, IF ANY, AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE LAWYERS, AND THERE WERE NO AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE LAWYERS.

Clara M. Toppins

Date of admission: 1927
(1900 - 1989)

Although never officially practicing law, Clara M. Toppins holds the honor of being one of Milwaukee's first female attorneys. She was born in 1900 and entered law school at Marquette University in 1927, attending night school and eventually completing the requirements to earn her law license.

Instead of a law practice, Clara chose work as an assistant legal adviser for several companies and firms around Milwaukee. She was a member of both the Wisconsin and Milwaukee Bar Associations.

Clara M. Toppins died in a car accident in Wauwatosa in the autumn of 1989.

Virginia L. North Lehmann

Date of admission: 1928
(1904 - 1986)

Virginia North was born in Green Bay, the daughter of a prominent Green Bay attorney. She graduated from Smith College and from the U.W. Law School in 1928, where she was a law review editor and was elected to the Order of the Coif. She moved to Milwaukee where she did her clerkship with Louis Quarles, a distinguished Milwaukee lawyer. After a brief time as assistant secretary of Farm Sales & Mfg. Co., she became an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee (1930-1932). Virginia then formed a partnership, Beyer Powers & North, with two male lawyers. The record of her life after 1935

is not complete. She worked for the Chicago Legal Aid Bureau from 1940 until she moved to Washington, D.C., in 1959.

In Washington during the 1960s she worked for the Children's Bureau and the Office of Aging. She also was an attorney for the National Council on Aging and a consultant to the District of Columbus government for a demonstration project on protective services for older adults.

Virginia North Lehmann died on Oct. 18, 1986, and was survived by her husband, Hans J. Lehmann, who also was a lawyer.

Estelle Leonore Rowe

Date of admission: 1928
(1892 - 1977)

Born in Minnesota in 1892, Estelle Leonore Rowe began work as a stenographer for the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (formerly the Railroad Commission) in 1919. While continuing to work at the commission, Estelle sat for, and passed, the Wisconsin bar exam, despite never having attended law school. She was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1928.

While at the commission, Estelle was the first woman reporter, one of the first three women law examiners, and the first woman assistant secretary. She retired in 1950 after 31 years of service. Estelle later worked as a secretary for Judge F. Ryan Duffy Sr., who was the chief judge for the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Estelle Leonore Rowe died in 1977 at the age of 84.



Rose Patricia Ryan

Date of admission: 1928
(1902 - 1969)

RYAN WAS ACTIVE IN THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AND SERVED AS SECRETARY FOR MANY YEARS. IN THOSE DAYS BEFORE SPECIALIZATION, SHE HAD A GENERAL PRACTICE BUT "LEANED" TOWARD PROBATE AND WILLS WORK.

The first woman to practice law in Appleton, Rose Patricia "Pat" Ryan was born in Appleton on Feb. 28, 1902. She was the daughter of criminal lawyer and soon-to-be first Outagamie County municipal judge, Thomas H. Ryan.

After graduation from Appleton High School in 1920, Pat attended Lawrence College, receiving a B.A. degree in 1925. An accomplished pianist, she spent the year following graduation at Lawrence Conservatory of Music. Also, during that time, she was a member of a piano duet that played with the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra. Then, deciding to become a lawyer like her father and her brother Tom, she chose Marquette University for her law school, graduating in 1928.

Pat's father believed in education. Although somewhat unusual for the times, all of her sisters also obtained graduate degrees.

Returning to Appleton, she first practiced with her father. Later she shared office space above the meat market on West College Avenue with her brother, and after World War II, with attorneys Syd Jacobsen and Paul Cary.

Pat was active in the Outagamie County Bar Association and served as secretary for many years. In those days before specialization, she had a general practice but "leaned" toward probate and wills work. Patricia Ryan



—Photo by Photart House.

Like Father, Like Daughter

Appleton and Outagamie county will soon have a practicing woman attorney when Miss Rose Ryan, daughter of former Municipal Judge T. H. Ryan, enters her father's law firm. Miss Ryan is a graduate of Lawrence college and the Marquette university law school. She recently passed the bar examinations at Madison.

remained active in full-time practice, doing the work she loved, until seven years before her death on Oct. 8, 1969.

Ida M. Steig

Date of admission: 1928

Ida M. Steig passed the Wisconsin bar examination in 1928 and was located in Madison. No other information could be found.

Elsie M. Wood

Date of admission: 1928
(1883 - 1972)

Elsie M. Wood was born Sept. 21, 1883, in Wisconsin, the daughter of Archie Wood and Jessie Dissmore. She was employed as a secretary to John Blaine, who practiced law in Boscobel, Wis., and was elected governor in 1920, 1922, and 1924, and U.S. Senator in 1926. Although her exact years of employment could not be confirmed, it is believed that Elsie's employer appreciated her keen intelligence and encouraged her to study for the bar. Elsie was admitted to the bar by exam in 1929.

Elsie later worked as an assistant to Eugene E. Brossard, the Revisor of Statutes, until he retired in 1951. Elsie was named an assis-

tant revisor of statutes and continued to work for revisors John E. Conway from 1951-53, and James J. Burke from 1953-57 when she retired. Under the Wisconsin system of biennial publication of a completely revised set of statutes, Elsie prepared the copy, working in all the changes made by the current Legislature, and supervised the proofreading and printing.

Elsie M. Wood died on July 8, 1972, at age 78. John E. Conway, Professor Emeritus at the U.W. Law School, and Elsie's former employer, believes that if she were asked, Elsie would advise young women that a legal career is worth working for.

Margaret Estelle Jorgensen Allen

Date of admission: 1929
(1900 - 1977)

Margaret Estelle Jorgensen Allen joined the Wisconsin bar in 1929. After checking variations of her name, we uncovered a Margaret E.

Jorgensen who died in February of 1977 at the age of 77, but no obituary information could be found.

Harriet Stern Smoler

Date of admission: 1929
(1905 - 1997)

Harriet Stern, born and raised in Kenosha, grew up under the influence of her mother, Mary, who believed that women were bright and capable and, if given the opportunity, could compete successfully in fields dominated by men. Harriet's older brother became a doctor, and it seemed natural that she would want to become a lawyer.

Harriet Stern attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison for both her undergraduate work and for law school, graduating in the law school class of 1929.

After graduation Harriet clerked, without pay, for an attorney in Milwaukee in order to gain experience. She returned to Kenosha and opened a private solo practice using office space above her father's mercantile store. Actively

practicing for about one year, Harriet concentrated on wills, real estate contracts, divorces, and other civil matters. Clients were scarce during the Depression, so she went to work for the Kenosha Relief Department as a caseworker. Although Harriet did not return to the full-time practice of law, she maintained her membership in the State Bar of Wisconsin until her death in 1997 at age 92. She represented her father for several years in actions concerning contract breaches in his personal real estate transactions.

In 1938 Harriet married Fred



Smoler. They had four children, born between 1939 and 1946. Together, the Smolers opened the Household Appliance & Radio Company in 1946, in which she was an equal partner and to which she devoted full-time hours.

When the appliance business became unprofitable, she began to substitute teach at the age of 57. Harriet returned to the University of Wisconsin, this time to the Kenosha Parkside campus, where she earned her teaching certifi-

cate in special education. She taught full-time until age 70.

Of her four children, her son, Bill Smoler, became an attorney. He practices in Madison as a partner in the firm of Murphy & Desmond S.C. Three of Harriet's 10 grandchildren practice law.

Widowed in 1980, Harriet Stern Smoler was a 50-year member of the American Bar Association and the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Jane DeVoy Gilday

Date of admission: 1930
(1907 - 1983)

Jane DeVoy Gilday, born in Milwaukee in 1907, took the bar exam in 1930 sitting in a different room from all the men. It was required. Jane was the third daughter in a family headed by a father who wanted a son; she decided to attend Marquette University Law School to help fulfill her father's wishes.

Although she never practiced law, Jane worked in her husband's law office in Racine; they had met while in law school. They worked together from 1930 until her husband's death in 1939. Jane then tried practicing law on her own to support herself and her two small children. However, according to Jane's daughter, she could not get the cooperation she needed from the Racine legal community.

Instead, Jane found a job with Catholic

Community Services/USO while earning her master's degree in social work from the University of Chicago in 1941. By 1944 Jane was working with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as the Director of Field Operations for the National Catholic Community Services/USO in Washington, D.C., an organization focused on helping the spouses of U.S. service personnel.

From 1945 to 1956, Jane worked for the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and then until 1972 she headed the family department of the Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Jane DeVoy Gilday remained a member of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and American bar associations until her death on Nov. 8, 1983.

GILDAY COULD
NOT GET THE
COOPERATION SHE
NEEDED FROM THE
RACINE LEGAL
COMMUNITY.

Lucille M. Bragarnick Ostrow

Date of admission: 1930
(1907 - 1993)

Lucille Bragarnick was born in Odessa, Russia, on Aug. 27, 1907, and emigrated to the U.S. with her parents and younger sister in January of 1913. They settled in Milwaukee where she attended public schools and was a student of the soon-to-be famous Golda Meir.

Lucille's father was obsessed with the opportunity for free public education in this country and insisted that all his children get college educations. Law school was the logical option for her. Several weeks

before graduation from Marquette University Law School, she learned that she was short a geometry credit from high school and was not qualified to graduate. In consulting her advisor, he said if she was not a good enough lawyer to defend her own case, she didn't deserve to graduate. Her defense was that, although her failure to finish geometry was clearly her fault, the university should never have let her get that far without it. The university agreed, and she received her degree.

Lucille graduated from Marquette University Law School in June 1930, passed the bar



exam in July, and married Maurice Ostrow in August. Because her husband had gained entrance into dental school, she went to work in her father's retail store as employment for female attorneys was not readily available at the height of the Great Depression.

Her daughter, Sue, was born in March 1939, and Lucille spent the next 17 years as a full-time mother and housewife, with a heavy involvement in volunteer projects, primarily in

the Milwaukee Jewish Community.

Although later in life Lucille gave some time to the Milwaukee Bar Referral Service, she was always proud of her law degree and the fact that she was one of only two women in her class.

By the time of her death in December 1993, Lucille Bragarnick Ostrow had two granddaughters with professional degrees from the U.W.-Madison, and a 20-month-old great granddaughter.

Grace Alma Morgan Rossman

Date of admission: 1930
(1905 - 1977)

Grace Morgan Rossman, born Grace Alma Morgan in Spring Green, Wis., on June 17, 1905, received her law degree from the U.W. Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1930. Grace also received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Because of the Great Depression, jobs for women lawyers were scarce in the early 1930s. Therefore, Grace never formally practiced law. She moved to Chicago upon graduating from law school and worked for the Chicago Title and Trust Company and the law firm of Pam & Hurd.

In 1934 Grace married Dr. Edward John Rossman. The couple moved to Aurora, Ill., and had a daughter, Mrs. Virginia Erlanson of Chicago, Ill., and a son, Dr. John Rossman, a resident of New Jersey. In Aurora, Grace worked for a time as a legal secretary for Judge William Richards, circuit court judge, Kane County, Illinois. Grace died on Sept. 24, 1977, at age 72.

Grace came from an accomplished family. Her father, John E. Morgan, was a member of the U.W. Board of Regents for a number of years and twice represented his district in the Legislature. His brother, David E. Morgan, was the Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court. Grace's mother, Grace R. Morgan, taught school and was appointed the first woman postmaster of Spring Green in 1925. Many other women in her family were high achievers in



business and education at a time when career women were rare. Because of her family's interest in law and politics, Grace found law fascinating and the challenge of being one of the first women to enter the U.W. Law School undaunting. In later life, Grace Morgan Rossman found her law school education invaluable in handling the family's investments.

ROSSMAN FOUND
LAW FASCINATING
AND THE
CHALLENGE OF
BEING ONE OF THE
FIRST WOMEN TO
ENTER THE U.W.
LAW SCHOOL
UNDAUNTING.

Rowena Elizabeth Smith Nelson

Date of admission: 1930
(1905 -)

Rowena Elizabeth Smith was born Aug. 21, 1905, in Rockford, Ill., the daughter of Mr. F.H. Smith. She received a B.A. from Rockford College in 1927. She then attended the U.W. Law School and graduated in 1930. Rowena

was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1930, and practiced law in her father's law firm for one year before marrying and becoming a homemaker.

Blanche Lubarsky Swerdloff

Date of admission: 1930
(1905 - 1989)



Blanche L. Swerdloff's daughter remembered her as "a fireball." The longtime Milwaukee attorney began practicing law in 1931 and kept going for 53 years, when she retired from the Swerdloff & Weis law firm in 1984.

Blanche attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison when she was just 16, and she was described as "outspoken and bright." Frederick Fowle, a partner of Blanche Swerdloff and her husband in the 1950s, believes her father inspired

Blanche to become a lawyer because he wanted to make sure she was well-educated. Fowle says of Blanche: "She was very astute at purchasing real estate - very shrewd."

Fowle also describes Blanche as a wonderful woman. He recalls that she often would ask her husband, Joseph H. Swerdloff, a question and then ask Fowle the same question. If the answers were different, she would "raise hell" with her husband - always believing Fowle gave her the correct one.

Blanche L. Swerdloff died in 1989 in Milwaukee.

Anna Mae Campbell Davis

Date of admission: 1931
(1896 - 1991)

Born in Missouri in 1896, Anna Mae Campbell Davis early evidenced a zeal for education, due to the encouragement of her mother. She completed her junior college degree and worked as a secretary in the firm of labor lawyers Frank P. Walsh and Redmond S. Brennan, an experience that inspired her to attend law school. She received her law degree from the Kansas City School of Law (now part of the University of Missouri-Kansas City) in 1919, and was admitted to the Missouri bar.



She did not practice law, but continued her education at the University of Illinois (B.A., 1920) and worked briefly as a social worker before entering graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, earning her M.A. in 1923. She then took her Ph.D. in economics under John R. Commons (1927).

An instructor in economics at Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland, for two years, she returned to Madison as a research associate with Commons and was awarded a fellowship by the Social Science Research Council for postdoctoral

research in London. Meanwhile, she took the Wisconsin bar examination and was admitted to the bar in 1931.

Anna Mae had a life-long concern with women's issues beginning in 1913, while still in high school, when she circulated petitions for women's suffrage. She was active in various women's groups including the YWCA and the Wisconsin Committee on Women's Employment, and served as assistant state director for women's work in the Civil Works Administration early in the New Deal years.

Parallel to this was her activity in the consumers' cooperative movement, serving on the board of directors of Madison Consumers' Cooperative Inc. from 1935 to 1940.

She also was concerned about world peace and nonviolent social action, being active in such groups as Jane Addams' Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Politically active, Anna Mae voted for Eugene V. Debs in 1920 (her mother voted Democratic and her father Republican) and Robert La Follette in 1924, and subsequently supported Norman Thomas. She was active in Socialist circles, running for office several times.

From 1936 to 1970 Anna Mae practiced law, all but two years as a solo practitioner. Her special areas of interest were labor and civil liberties law, but she maintained a general practice throughout her career. Her clients included labor unions, minority businesses, conscientious objectors, religious groups (Jehovah's Witnesses), and the general public.

She married Robert H. Davis, a fellow graduate student in economics who, next to her mother and her professors, constituted the most important influence in shaping her life. His many years with the division of corrections of the Wisconsin Department of Welfare added a depth of knowledge about criminal law and the administration of justice that otherwise would not have developed from her practice.

Toward the end of her 95-year-life Anna Mae reflected on her struggle and said that women today have such a range of opportunities that they must be overwhelmed by them. But, she added, she hoped they would achieve a balance between all the roles they can play both professionally and socially.

Anna Mae Campbell Davis's personal and professional papers are deposited in the manuscript collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

TOWARD THE END OF HER 95-YEAR-OLD LIFE DAVIS REFLECTED ON HER STRUGGLE AND SAID THAT WOMEN TODAY HAVE SUCH A RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES THAT THEY MUST BE OVERWHELMED BY THEM.

Berniece Lotwin Bernstein

Date of admission: 1932

Berniece Lotwin Bernstein, born and raised in Menomonee, Wis., graduated from law school in 1932. Her father had encouraged her to attend. She began her career working for the federal government in the Social Security Administration. In fact, Bernstein served in various government jobs: assistant general counsel for the Federal Security Agency, assistant solicitor

in the U.S. Department of Labor, and regional attorney for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Bernstein retired as special assistant to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for welfare reform and national health insurance.

Adriana Orlebeke Hess

Date of admission: 1932
(1910 - 1998)



PRODUCTIVE
WORK HAS BEEN
THE SUBSTANCE
OF HESS' LIFE —
A HAPPY,
ABUNDANT,
DETERMINED LIFE
DEDICATED TO
PROTECTING AND
CARING FOR
OTHERS.

Adriana Orlebeke was born in Sheboygan, Wis., on Aug. 17, 1910. She grew up there and attended two years of high school before the family moved to Oshkosh. She was editor of the school paper and valedictorian of the Oshkosh High School class in January 1927.

Continuing her journalism career at the University of Wisconsin, Adriana joined the *Daily Cardinal* staff in the spring of 1929 as copy editor and then assistant news editor.

She also worked in the University Press Bureau and was a board member of the Women's Self-Government Association. She was elected to Phi Kappa Phi national honor fraternity. On May 10, 1930, 19-year-old Adriana Orlebeke became the first woman ever to be managing editor of the *Daily Cardinal*. The job was short-lived. Two months later she received a letter informing her, that: "Your scholastic record makes you eligible to the board of editors of the *Wisconsin Law Review*." She accepted the offer as editor. Her letter of resignation from the *Daily Cardinal* staff told of another offer "which gives somewhat different opportunities that may be of more value than any future experience on the *Cardinal*." That fall she entered the U.W. Law School.

Adriana continued to be outstanding in law school. She was a member of the Wisconsin Chapter of Order of the Coif, a national organization recognizing legal scholarship. She earned her law degree in June 1932 and was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in October of the same year.

In August 1967, Adriana summarized for her daughter Nina, then in high school, ways in which she had practiced her law profession. "While still in law school, I drew up a contract under which creditors agreed to extend time and thus saved my father from bankruptcy, worked two summers in Oshkosh as law clerk at \$30 per month, was student editor of *Wisconsin Law Review*, student attorney at Legal Aid Bureau,

helped a friend get released from an over-expensive contract, and presented myself, at age 22, for admission to the Wisconsin bar and practice in federal courts. After graduation, I worked in 1932-33 for Madison attorney Phillip Porter at \$60 per month, and became law examiner in 1933-36 for Wisconsin Public Service Commission at \$150 per month."

In 1936 Adriana resigned to raise her family but continued to practice her profession pro bono. She further listed 12 more instances of her applied legal training.

Adriana's legal activities became secondary while she bore and raised four children. As her family expanded and aged, she again found time to apply her intellectual capabilities to public causes.

While Adriana was president of Arizona Federation of Woman's Clubs, legislation was passed establishing a Children's Colony, and conditions at the state mental hospital were improved. Her 1947 guest editorial in the *Phoenix Gazette* dealt with those two items. The religion editor of the *Arizona Range News* introduced a holiday message from Adriana Hess by saying: "she speaks like a true daughter of the line of Elijah, Hosea and Amos." The message opposed universal military training because it diminished family life and values. The religion editor nominated her for Arizona Citizen of the Year.

When the family moved to University Place, Tacoma, Wash., in September 1954, Adriana quickly found an outlet for her abilities in church and PTA. She was bookkeeper and nurse in her husband's medical office. Eighteen months later, her son John quit Stanford, joined the Navy, and was killed in a training accident at age 21.

Adriana's energies then became focused on peace and justice issues to be achieved by nonviolent means. Two months after John's death, Adriana drew up a trust agreement to establish the John William Hess Memorial Scholarship for black students in a southern all-white college. Six months after John's death she delivered the 1958 Laymen's Sunday sermon on the subject "Is Our Religion Showing?" Her sermon closed with: "What we are in youth is God's gift to us. What we become as adults is our gift to God."

In 1969 Adriana and her husband, Dr.

Hess, applied to be volunteers in the Peace Corps. They were a team working with and emotionally supporting Peace Corps volunteers. She nursed sick volunteers in her home and personally fed helpless Panamanian children in a burn ward of the Panama City hospital.

Soon after her return from Panama, Adriana became involved in the Pierce County Council on Aging and served on its board. In 1978 she initiated the University Place Park and Recreation District and served as a commissioner for 10 years. She became immersed in legal research, land use planning, and hearings. Her journalism skills enabled her to write comments and publicize development affecting her community. She was president of Save (later

Serve) Our University Place. She wrote, edited, laid out, and published a 24-page illustrated documentary of the Race For Our Space. As part of the 1989 State Centennial Project, Adriana produced a colorful and educational poster-map of University Place water resources.

Tacoma Audubon Society gave Adriana a Distinguished Service Award "for her caring, determination, and dedication in working to protect the environment." Productive work has been the substance of her life – a happy, abundant, determined life dedicated to protecting and caring for others.

Adriana Orlebeke Hess died on Aug. 5, 1998, in Tacoma, Wash.

Helma Nordin

Date of admission: 1932
(1896 - 1988)

Helma Nordin passed the Wisconsin bar examination in 1932 and began her law career in Marinette that same year. She worked in the Dunlap Square Building in downtown Marinette. Her husband, Clarence Nordin,

worked for the Michigan audit bureau, and according to several Marinette city directories from this time period, they lived in various residences in Marinette.

Eleanor Louise Jones Roe

Date of admission: 1932
(1905 - 1980)

Eleanor Louise Jones was born May 6, 1905, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Jones of Waupun, Wis. She attended Milwaukee Downer and Ripon College, and received a teachers certificate and a B.A. from UW-Madison on June 20, 1927.

Eleanor received an L.L.B. from the U.W. Law School in 1932 with an exceptional academic record that included Law Review and Order of the Coif. That year she married John (Jack) Ernest Roe, a Madison attorney.

Following her husband's death, Eleanor returned to the U.W. Law School in 1956 as a graduate fellow and earned an S.J.D. in 1962 under Willard Hurst.

Eleanor taught labor relations law at the U.W. Law School for many years. She team-taught a labor law course and a disputes settlement seminar with Prof. Nate Feinsinger, and served as associate director of the law school's

Dispute Settlement Center. As a teacher she was appreciated by students, according to a colleague, because she showed them what it all meant. She also was an active labor arbitrator.

Eleanor contributed generously to the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association and to other U.W. Law School building improvements, although she never wanted any publicity for these contributions. She was a strong supporter of the law school's Legal Education Opportunity Program. Described by one of her colleagues as "the best dressed woman on campus," she also was said to be one of those indispensable people who keeps institutions going.

Eleanor Jones Roe died on July 28, 1980.



"THE BEST DRESSED WOMAN ON CAMPUS," ROE ALSO WAS SAID TO BE ONE OF THOSE INDISPENSABLE PEOPLE WHO KEEPS INSTITUTIONS GOING.

Elisheva “Ellie” Iushewitz Schwartz

Date of admission: 1932
(1908 -)

“I WAS USED TO BEING REJECTED BECAUSE IT HAD HAPPENED MY WHOLE LIFE. I JUST WENT AHEAD AND DID WHAT I WANTED TO. I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY NATURAL FOR ANYONE TO DO WHAT THEY WANT IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.”

Elisheva Schwartz actively practiced law for the people of Racine until her retirement in 1992, when she was 84. In her more than 60 years as an attorney, she overcame obstacles that may be familiar now but were then uncharted territory. Her tools were fearless pride, hard work, and a compassionate nature.

Ellie was poor, female, and Jewish – the latter two making an unlikely fit to the Catholic masters of Marquette University Law School during the Great Depression. Yet for all of the decades since, Ellie has bespoken her warm memories of the Jesuits who saw to it that she found income to carry her through the education that she was determined to have. She was one of two women who received degrees in 1932 from Marquette University Law School.

Elisheva married Ben Schwartz, a fellow law student, and they established a practice as Schwartz & Schwartz in Racine. Over the next 60 years, the firm was home to Ellie, her husband, their son, and a series of surrogate sons. That firm currently is known as Schwartz, Tofte & Nielsen Ltd.

The firm’s practice has been largely devoted to assisting generations of Racine’s working class families, and through Ellie’s husband and son it was a champion of organized labor. Ellie herself handled a varied practice and focused primarily upon family law, unemployment compensation, and social security benefits. In her career Ellie served as a member of the origi-

nal Public Defender’s board, was a candidate for circuit judge, and served on the Heart Fund campaign among many other charitable works.

Discrimination was a problem, but not an obstacle. Judges and other lawyers were sometimes puzzled by and generally resistant to a woman lawyer. Ellie and her husband also were accused from time to time of being communists because of the firm’s work for labor unions. However, Ellie was undaunted. As she told a profiler for the *Racine Journal Times* upon her 80th birthday, “I was used to being rejected because it had happened my whole life. I just went ahead and did what I wanted to. I thought it was very natural for anyone to do what they want in the United States of America.”

This is not to say that hard-won respect was not carefully guarded. The author of this note once made the mistake as a young prosecutor of addressing the then septuagenarian Ellie Schwartz as “Ma’am.” The rebuke was swift: “Don’t you ma’am me, I am your colleague!” Having appropriately disarmed the prosecutor, she then proceeded to get everything she wanted for her client.

Elisheva Iushewitz Schwartz raised four children, two of whom (Jay and Sandy) became renowned attorneys in their own right. Her tradition is carried on not only by her colleagues at the firm, but by three grandsons who also have become attorneys.

Mary C. Whelan

Date of admission: 1932
(1888 - 1939)

Mary C. Whelan was born in Ohio in 1888, but moved to Beloit, Wis., with her parents when she was a child. Mary began her career in the law after training as a secretary and becoming a legal secretary for a Beloit law firm. In addition, she served as clerk of the Beloit municipal court from 1912 to 1917.

Mary then went to Washington, D.C., taking a job as a secretary in the State Department while studying to become a lawyer. She was admitted to the bar in Washington, D.C.,

in 1925. Thereafter, she joined the U.S. Department of Justice serving on the attorney general’s staff, first in Washington and later in New York and Chicago.

Around 1933 Mary returned to Wisconsin and opened an office for the general practice of law; at that time she was the only woman with a law practice in Beloit. She was a member of Rock County’s first pension board. Mary C. Whelan died on July 2, 1939, leaving no close relatives.



Mary's obituary indicates that she worked as legal counsel for the Bureau of Narcotics for the U.S. Justice Department, which seemed like a promising research lead. However, at that time the Bureau of Narcotics was located in the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Therefore, if she was legal coun-

sel for the Bureau of Narcotics, she could not have been with the U.S. Justice Department, and if she worked for the U.S. Justice Department, she could not have been legal counsel for the Bureau of Narcotics. Neither of the librarians at either department was able to shed more light on this.

Helen Bridge Wingert

Date of admission: 1932
(1891 - 1964)

A graduate of both Columbia and Harvard Universities, one could say that Helen Bridge Wingert had a full, professional career before even contemplating law school, but two university degrees were not to be the end of erudition for this driven woman.

Helen Bridge was born on Sept. 15, 1891, in Haledon, N.J. She began her studies at Columbia University where she graduated in 1918, and then went on to receive her doctor's degree in education from Harvard University in 1923. Helen set out to use her scholarship by teaching in the fields of education and home economics. She found herself traveling cross continent throughout her career to work at the Universi-

ties of Delaware, Nebraska, California, and Missouri. Come summer sessions she was on the road again, traveling to Harvard and other universities to teach. It was in the Grace Economics Department at the University of Missouri that Helen finally concluded her teaching career.

Helen married former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Emmert Wingert. She enrolled in the U.W. Law School shortly thereafter. Helen Bridge Wingert and her husband remained in Madison after her graduation from law school in 1932. She was associated with her husband's Madison law firm until her death in 1964. She was 73 years old.

WINGERT HAD A FULL, PROFESSIONAL CAREER BEFORE EVEN CONTEMPLATING LAW SCHOOL, BUT TWO UNIVERSITY DEGREES WERE NOT TO BE THE END OF ERUDITION FOR THIS DRIVEN WOMAN.

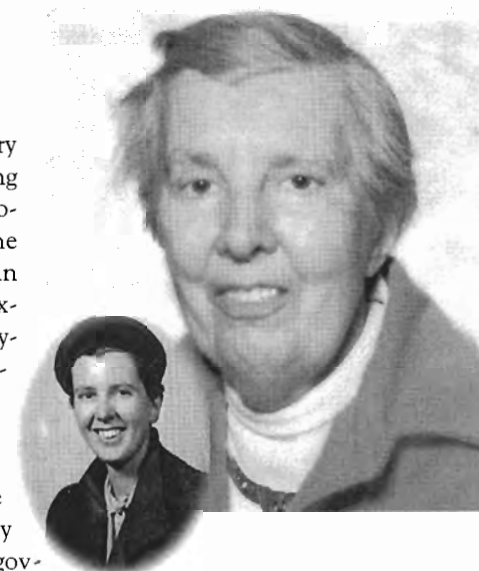
Mary Eschweiler

Date of admission: 1933
(1906 - 1998)

The daughter of a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice, Mary Eschweiler was destined for a career in law and public service. Mary's father, Justice Franz C. Eschweiler, who served on the supreme court from 1916-1929, greatly influenced and encouraged her to become a lawyer. With her father's inspiration, Mary Eschweiler entered the field of law with the notion that being an attorney gives one the opportunity to become a champion of people's rights.

Mary Eschweiler began law school at Marquette University, but after her first year transferred to the U.W. Law School. She remembers law school as a relaxed, friendly atmosphere without the competitiveness that she feels is prevalent in law school today. Mary excelled in law school and became editor of the *Wisconsin Law Review*. She graduated Order of the Coif in 1933.

Upon graduation, Mary faced the obstacles in finding employment that many professional women faced in the 1930s. Looking for work in private practice, she heard excuses from potential employers such as that the stenographers would not work with a woman attorney. Mary's first job out of law school was with the Office of the Wisconsin Attorney General, but even in state government she felt discriminated against. She soon realized that, as a woman, promotion to an assistant attorney general was unlikely. She left the attorney general's office after two years.



Mary continued her public service working in a variety of local, state, and federal government jobs. She was a senior law clerk in the Milwaukee City Attorney's Office, an examiner with the State Department of Public Welfare, and an assistant counsel with the State Labor Relation's Board. In 1939 she worked for Gov. Julius Peter Heil, and in 1942 became a law clerk and secretary to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Edward T. Fairchild.

From 1943 to 1959, Mary worked for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Alien Property in San Francisco, where she handled

many of the legal complexities involving the Trading with the Enemy Act. After several years in private practice and as a legal editor at Bancroft-Whitney, Mary retired.

Mary Eschweiler credited her mother for giving her the self-reliance and confidence to succeed as a single woman. When asked what advice she would give young women entering law today, her response was as simple and as confident as the advice her mother gave her, "Go for it!" Mary Eschweiler died in San Francisco on Sept. 1, 1998, after a long battle with pneumonia.

Gertrude Spracker Kiselow

Date of admission: 1933

Gertrude Spracker began practicing law in the Majestic Building in Milwaukee in 1933. She is listed in the 1935 Milwaukee City Directory as practicing law with Attorney Maurice Spracker in the Plankinton Building. By 1937, Gertrude Spracker Kiselow is no longer listed in the directory.



Claryce Margaret Moreland

Date of admission: 1933
(1908 - 1955)

Claryce Margaret Moreland was born in Hayward, on Aug. 27, 1908. She followed her two brothers, Ernest Slayer Moreland and Harley Oscar Moreland to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where all three graduated from the law school; Claryce in 1933. During World War II, Claryce worked in Edina, Minn., for the federal government. In May of 1945 her father died, and Claryce moved back to Hayward.

Throughout the rest of her life, Claryce and her brother Ernest were leaders of the Democratic Party of Sawyer County. Claryce was especially active during the Stevenson/Sparkman campaign. She also was a partner in a variety store with Ernest and assisted him with the book-



keeping. Not long after her return to Hayward, Claryce was diagnosed with cancer. She sought treatment in Chicago and was given a form of laetrile that coincided with a remission of one to two years. Her case made the Chicago newspapers and, as a result, she received thousands of letters from people around the world. Sadly, she became ill again and eventually died on Aug. 4, 1955. Although Claryce was married briefly, she had no children.

Unfortunately, little is known about Claryce's law practice. She did not practice law while she was living in Hayward, but may have been a practicing attorney with the federal government during World War II.

MORELAND AND HER BROTHER ERNEST WERE LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SAWYER COUNTY. SHE WAS ESPECIALLY ACTIVE DURING THE STEVENSON/SPARKMAN CAMPAIGN.

Eleanor Augusta Schalk Orr

Date of admission: 1933
(1905 -)

Eleanor Augusta Schalk graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1933. In 1934 she was an associate of the Herbert H. Thomas Law Firm. It is there where she met her husband, San W. Orr. In subsequent years, Mr. Orr was made partner in the firm. During this time the firm was growing and changing. Eleanor continued to work for the firm as an associate as well as keeping the books. After the birth of a son, San W. Orr Jr. in 1944, Eleanor retired from the practice of law.

According to historical documents of the

firm, today known as Lathrop & Clark, Eleanor appears to have continued on a part-time basis working from her home as the firm's bookkeeper. The bookkeeping system she established continued to be used into the early 1980s.

Continuing in the family tradition, San W. Orr Jr. obtained a law degree and today performs estate management in Wausau. San W. Orr III received his law degree from the University of Chicago in 1997.

Eleanor continues to live in Madison.



Lilian Renee Cohen Post

Date of admission: 1933

In 1933 Lilian Renee Cohen Post graduated from Marquette University Law School and joined the Wisconsin bar. She was hired by the Milwaukee County Department of Public Welfare – Children's Division, working for Cornelia Heise, who became Lilian's mentor for social work. After taking time off to raise her four children, Lilian returned to the office, spending the

next 20 years there in a volunteer capacity. In 1966 Lilian and her husband managed the Knickerbocker Hotel. After 17 years in that office, Lilian retired at age 75.

Her legal mentors were fellow law pioneers Belle Bortin Rupp and Mabel Watson Raimey. The three belonged to the legal sorority kappa Beta Pi and met in each other's homes for career support.



Mary C. Hurth Raney

Date of admission: 1933
(1908 -)

Mary Hurth was born in Cedarburg, Wis., on May 30, 1908. She received a B.A. in English from the University of Wisconsin in 1930. Mary received an LL.B. from the U.W. Law School in 1933 and graduated Order of the Coif.

Upon recommendation of the law school dean, Mary was hired by the Wisconsin attorney general. She wrote a number of official opinions that were published in the *Wisconsin State Journal*. She worked for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Oscar Fritz doing research and secretarial work.

In 1938 Mary married Richard Raney, a 1934 U.W. Law School graduate. Richard died in 1944. Mary served on the Executive Board Five of the Northshore Suburb of Milwaukee

and was a delegate to a number of Republican state conventions in Wisconsin.

Mary traveled extensively throughout the world with her family. She pursued an avocation in music, performing for 20 years with a group that played eight-handed, two pianists to a piano. After her retirement, Mary moved to Sun City, Ariz., where she became a member of the Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, the Lakes Club, and the Lawyers Club of Sun City. Mary continues to belong to the P.E.O. Chapter U of Milwaukee and is a life member of the Republican Senatorial Committee. Mary Hurth Raney has three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Dorothy Norma Korthals Stock

Date of admission: 1933
(1911 - 1995)

STOCK CHOSE
TO ATTEND
MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY LAW
SCHOOL BECAUSE
SHE WAS ENCOUR-
AGED TO DO SO
BY GRADE SCHOOL
TEACHERS.

Dorothy Norma Korthals, daughter of Milwaukee realtor and insurance agent Rudolph Korthals, was born in Milwaukee on April 5, 1911. She attended Milwaukee State Teachers' College for two years and then Marquette University, graduating with a BA in English in 1931. She chose to attend Marquette University Law School because she was encouraged to do so by grade school teachers.

Dorothy married Ellsworth (Bob) Stock, a chemistry professor and college dean who later worked as a Boy Scout executive.

From 1933 to 1937 Dorothy worked as a lawyer and social worker with the Milwaukee County Department of Outdoor Relief. She then focused her energies on her family, raising Betty

Jane, Donald, and Michael.

In Dorothy's application for membership in the Emeritus Alumni Club of Marquette University, she listed many organizational memberships including Alpha Sigma Alpha, League of Women Voters, AARP, Girl and Boy Scouts of America, American Bar Association, Independent Republican Party, Milwaukee County Women Lawyers Association, and the Bloomberg Symphony, Board of Directors. For hobbies, Dorothy listed crafts of all kinds, stamp collecting, trailer camping, and travel in Europe.

Mr. Stock relocated the family to Minnesota, where Dorothy Norma Korthals Stock died in 1995.

Edith Dopp

Date of admission: 1934

Edith Dopp passed the bar exam in 1934 and was located in Milwaukee.

Marie Wells Galle

Date of admission: 1934
(1905 - 1976)

In 1905 Marie Wells Galle was born in Watertown, South Dakota, where her parents, Peter and Clara Wells had a farm. Her great-great-great grandfather, Peter Wells, was one of the settlers and founders of Monroe, Wis. When Marie was three the family moved back to the homestead in Monroe, where she attended public school. She met Fredrick Leon Galle during her high school years and married him in 1929. They had one son, James Wells Galle, and were divorced in 1931.

Marie graduated from the U.W. Law School and was admitted to practice law in



1934. In 1935 she performed secretarial and research work with Sheridan, Farwell, & Morrison Investment Counselors in Chicago, Ill. From 1936 until 1972, she was an attorney and ultimately a partner with Kirkland, Flemming, Green, Martin & Ellis in Chicago. She concentrated in probate law and had a long and successful career.

Marie married Jack Ackermann in 1941 and a third husband, Robert Johnson, in 1950. She was devoted to Robert's two young daughters, Kendra and Carol. Kendra followed Marie's footsteps and is now an attorney in New Jersey.

Marie Galle was a leader of the highest integrity. She was intelligent, enthusiastic, and energetic. During her years at the University of Wisconsin, she was a member of the Women's Rifle Team. Always, she was a loving mother and grandmother. If a homework question

baffled her grandchildren, they would call Marie for the answer. She was a person family, friends and colleagues could count on. Marie Wells Galle certainly led the way for other women with her remarkable achievements and pioneering spirit.

Rosalie A. Byer Stevens

Date of admission: 1934

Rosalie A. Byer Stevens joined the Wisconsin bar in 1934 and began practicing law in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee City Directory for that

year lists her (as Rosalie Byer) practicing with attorney Milton E. Zulegar.

Olga Bennett

Date of admission: 1935
(1908 - 1985)

Olga Bennett was a woman of many firsts: the first woman to practice law in the then Wisconsin Sixth Judicial Circuit consisting of La Crosse, Vernon, and Monroe counties, the first woman to be selected Viroqua city attorney, probably the only elected judge ever to successfully defend an "Ouster Action." And she was one of the first elected woman judges in Wisconsin.

Olga lived all of her 77 years in Viroqua, Vernon County, Wisconsin, except for her post-high school education including attendance at the University of Wisconsin and its law school, and five years immediately following her admission to the bar as a law clerk for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice John D. Wickhem.

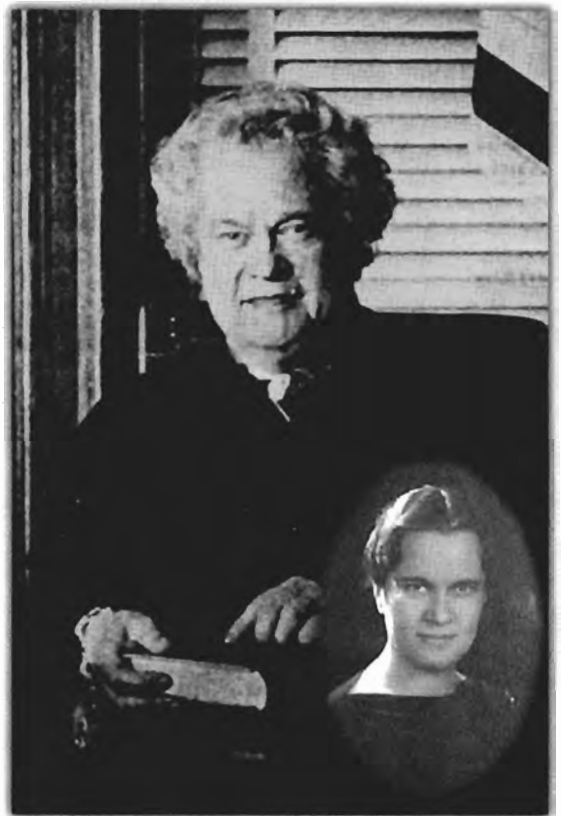
Olga was born to a pioneer Vernon County family. Her great-grandfather Bennett had served many years as Vernon County clerk. Her father, J. Henry Bennett, practiced law for 61 years in Viroqua, and was for many years the dean of the Vernon County Bar.

A 1925 graduate of Viroqua High School, where she had starred on the debate team, Olga got her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1928 at age 20. After working four years in the Viroqua Farmers Bank and after a short stint at Madison Business College, Olga entered the U.W. Law School in 1933 (without her father's encouragement or knowledge), graduated, and was admitted to practice in 1935. After clerking for Justice Wickhem, she joined her father as a partner in Bennett & Bennett in 1941 and, ex-

cept for her six-year term as Vernon County judge from 1969 to 1975, she practiced law out of the Bennett Law Office Building on Main Street in Viroqua to within a few days of her death.

Olga and her father disagreed as to whether being a woman lawyer was a handicap. In 1944 when Olga was having a problem as the city attorney, believing it was the result of her gender, Mr. Bennett wrote, "It is the penalty she must bear for having been born a woman." Olga believed that she was not discriminated against as a woman lawyer, although she agreed that practicing with a father who was the leader of the local bar no doubt helped. But being elected to the county judgeship, and holding that office, was another story.

After winning the 1969 spring election over an appointed



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HER FATHER
DISAGREED AS TO
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WOMAN LAWYER
WAS A HANDICAP.

incumbent, Olga was forced to defeat an attempt to oust her from office by the election loser and his supporters. At that time Chapter 12 of the Wisconsin Statutes, entitled "Corrupt Practices Relating to Elections," contained a prohibition against the use of false statements in the election campaign, similar to present section 12.05, and provided for "special proceedings and counsel to prosecute violations," – the conviction of which resulted in the successful candidate being ousted from the office and prohibited from again seeking the vacated office. The complainant under the then law, before being allowed to prosecute the ouster action, was required to sat-

isfy a high state official that there was probable cause the action would succeed – a hearing similar to our present preliminary hearings in criminal prosecutions. In a well-publicized hearing before then attorney general, now senior federal district judge Robert W. Warren, no such cause was found, and Olga was sworn into office by circuit judge Peter G. Pappas. The group that failed to unseat her in the ouster action succeeded in 1975 by recruiting and supporting a rival candidate. Olga Bennett then returned to her successful law practice at the Bennett Law Office, dying shortly after completing 50 years on the bench and in the practice of law.

Mildred Eda DeVries

Date of admission: 1935
(1908 -)

Mildred Eda DeVries was born on Aug. 16, 1908, to Martin and Eda DeVries of Lake Geneva, Wis. Mildred received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1934 from the University of Wisconsin and her law degree in 1935 from the U.W. Law School. Upon graduating from law school, Mildred was an apprentice with the Madison law firm of Loffing, Buggs & Dawson for six months.

On Aug. 29, 1936, Mildred married Burgess Ela, an attorney practicing in Madison. After they were married, Mildred began her own law practice out of their home, concentrating

in estate and family law, while Burgess continued to practice for the firm that is today known as Lathrop & Clark. All through her practice, Mildred continued to use her maiden name.

In 1947 Mildred and Burgess had a son, Dennis, and subsequently adopted a daughter, Roberta. In 1975 after Dennis had married, Mildred followed him to Austin, Texas, where Dennis had set up a family medical practice and begun a family of his own.

Mildred DeVries continues to live in Austin today.

Vartak Gulbankian

Date of admission: 1935
(1913 -)



Vartak Gulbankian graduated in 1935 from the U.W. Law School. She was told that she was the youngest law school graduate in Wisconsin, and the youngest to graduate high school at the age of 14. Once graduated from law school, Vartak immediately began to practice law with her brother, George Gulbankian, and has been practicing every since.

As an Armenian immigrant, Vartak had an intense desire to help others, and the legal profession

seemed the right vehicle. Several males in the Gulbankian family were lawyers, including her father, two brothers, uncles, and cousins.

In her many years of practice, Vartak also was secretary of the Women's Bar Association of Wisconsin and, for a short while, its president. She is a lifetime member of the National Association of Women Lawyers, and is a past treasurer and associate editor of its publication. Vartak is a member of the Honor Society, CORF, and the International Women Lawyer's Society, and has traveled worldwide studying social conditions in other countries.

Vartak's practice continues today at a

PIONEERS IN THE LAW:

much slower pace due to age and failing health. She lost her sight in 1994 due to cataracts and a long bout with diabetes. Being a strong-willed woman, she refused to quit practicing law because her clients needed her services, and she has been faithful in her concern to help her clientele. Her clients are now third- and fourth-generation. She concentrates in probate law and is more set on helping her clients than in collecting for services rendered.

Vartak currently resides with her sister, Akabe, at the farm her family built in 1926. She

enjoys public radio and her faithful dog and companion, Posha. In an ever-changing society, Vartak keeps up with the times by listening to her radio. She also enjoys the company of family and a variety of friends that include past and present judges, other attorneys, and clients. When Vartak Gulbankian talks about her friends and clients, she always has a smile on her face that shows the genuine love she has for all of her friends.

GULBANKIAN
WAS TOLD THAT
SHE WAS THE
YOUNGEST LAW
SCHOOL
GRADUATE IN
WISCONSIN, AND
THE YOUNGEST TO
GRADUATE HIGH
SCHOOL AT THE
AGE OF 14.

Irene Gyzinski

Date of admission: 1935
(1911 -)

Irene Gyzinski graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1935, despite, she says, the discrimination against women she encountered in law school. Upon graduation, she worked for the Legal Aid Society. Then she indulged a lifelong interest in government by working next for a congressman in Washington, D.C. – she even attended President Franklin Roosevelt's funeral.

Irene returned to Milwaukee and opened a solo practice on the city's south side. She dissolved her practice around 1962 and worked for the Internal Revenue Service until her retirement in 1975. Irene Gyzinski would advise any young woman contemplating a law career that it can be difficult and it is a challenge. But, she has "always had a great respect for the law," she says.

Rosalie Horwitz

Date of admission: 1935
(1914 -)

I was 18 years old when I entered Marquette Law School, after two years at the University of Wisconsin Extension. The year was 1932. We were still in the grips of the Great Depression. Tuition was \$75 per semester. Our class started with about 100 students, and graduated about 67 or 68. There were three women in the class, and one Joe McCarthy. He came to class in sneakers, sat in the front row, and slept.

But this is my *my* story:

My mother remembers in detail how I was sworn in that fateful day in Madison, June 1935. Today, at age 96, she recalls the details I have long forgotten. It was she who set the stage and inspired me to become a lawyer. My mother came to the United States as a youngster from Russia. She had no formal education but a great deal of wisdom, and ambitious plans for me. She had visions of me, standing before judge and jury, making impassioned pleas for my clients.

But the reality was another matter.

I had married at 19 while still in law school. My husband, a young lawyer, had made some working arrangements with Harry Meissner and Herbert Hirschboeck, gone these many years. There seemed to be little need of my services in that setup, and I must have felt discouraged. Motherhood then became a viable alternative. In today's market, I would be diapering, breast feeding, and juggling a career all at the same time. It wasn't the style then.

My marriage came to an end when my children, Richard and Sandra, were 10 and 7, respectively. News of our divorce sent shock waves to family and friends. In that day, divorce was taboo, a rare and scandalous thing to do. I opened up an office, a tiny cubicle, in the Plankinton Building and started slowly, ever so slowly, to build a practice. These were the war years of rent control, rations, and general chaos

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in the world. Then one very lucky day I met Matthew Horwitz, a probate attorney. We fell in love and married.

He rescued me from my struggling practice and I became his Girl Friday. I remember those days – flying around from clerk’s office to sheriff’s office, making brief appearances in court, always on the run. Motherhood again conveniently put my career on hold. I am sure many of you know my son, Dean Horwitz, a fine lawyer and a partner in the firm of Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman S.C. It wasn’t just raising Dean that took me away from pursuing my law career. Destiny had something else in mind for me.



All along, without my being consciously aware, fate was nudging me in another direction. It took all those many years for me to finally acknowledge that fighting, confronting, competing – in other words,

doing “battle” in one form or another – was not really what I was meant to do, or innately felt qualified to do. I discovered there is more to the practice of law than passionate pleas to a jury.

So, in 1962, when Dean was 13 years old, I went back to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and got a masters degree in social work. And for 18 years, until 1982 when I retired, I was a social worker in the Milwaukee Public Schools. Here, at last, I found my “place,” working with children, mothers, teachers, and colleagues. This is what I was meant to do.

I have lived through almost six decades of the “changing times” in our profession. The “ambulance chaser” of my day was considered a disgrace to the profession and faced the possibility of being disbarred. Looking at almost 50 pages of attorney listings in the yellow pages has had a startling and sobering effect on me, as I sprang from a different age that defined “profession” in a different framework. So, today, you are computerized and specialized, and some law firms have a working force of perhaps a hundred personnel or more.

Fifty-five years ago, there was not a single woman judge and only a handful of women practicing law. From my time of comparative simplicity, it has been a quantum leap to greater and greater complexity in the many fields of law and its practice. It is a great challenge for women to work and compete in today’s “new age” atmosphere. I salute, with respect and admiration, all the women in the practice of law today. And the respect and admiration also goes to the women judges honored here tonight. In these challenging and changing times, they are enriching the outworking of justice with their compassion and wisdom, a truly feminine dimension and perspective.

Though I have escaped the demands of practicing law in these greatly changing times, I have not taken to the rocking chair. In spite of the loss of my husband 12 years ago, I have tried to carry on courageously, with some success now and then. My four grandchildren, and one great-grandson who lives in Morocco, have inspired me to write an original story for children. It is about love, and trust, and belief in oneself. I tell my story to the school children, magic wand and all. It has been the joy of my life to watch their faces as they listen with rapt attention to my story. The love I feel, and through love returned, has been one of the great blessings of my life. Have I come full circle in my life? Instead of dramatic pleas to a jury, I am telling stories of love to little children.

Phyllis Josephine Hughes

Date of admission: 1935
(1917 -)

Phyllis J. Hughes says she was born knowing she would be an attorney. Her father dreamed of being an attorney himself, but never had enough money for law school. Phyllis describes her

mother as “an activist” and businesswoman who may have cast the first vote by a woman – she was at a Casper, Wyo., polling center at 6 a.m. after the law changed, and she never missed an

opportunity to vote, even voting from her deathbed. Phyllis, born in 1917, says her parents raised her to be proud of her country, and she chose to follow their advice by joining the Milwaukee Young Democrats at age 13, eventually becoming their secretary. Later she served as secretary of the state democratic party.

Phyllis attended Marquette Law School with several older students as classmates, who treated her as their younger sister; one of her classmates was Joe McCarthy. Hughes graduated in 1935 and began practicing law the day after graduation at a firm on Milwaukee's northwest side. She worked there for about a year, while at the same time teaching a bar exam review course at Marquette. She then practiced with several other attorneys before eventually moving to the Pommerening firm, where she focused on corporate law.

Phyllis had the opportunity to secure a contract for a client in Washington, D.C., and spent six weeks there. During her stay, she received an invitation from the Curtis Wright Corp. to join their company, although they hadn't realized she was a woman. Phyllis remembers dressing as femininely as possible, but professionally, and when she arrived at the meeting, the company representatives, all men, asked if Dr. Hughes would soon be joining them. Taken aback to discover she was Dr. Hughes, they were reluctant to consider hiring a woman for an executive position, but she refused to take the job of creating a contract ter-

mination department unless she was made an executive. It was an arduous day-long meeting that resulted in her invitation, a week later, to meet with the Board of Directors. She agreed, and remembers being the only woman "in a room full of white-haired men." They offered her the position, and she accepted.

After three years with Curtis Wright, Phyllis had decided to return to Pommerening in Milwaukee when she was urged by a general to meet with the Star Interests Company, which was looking for someone to set up a legal department to work with banking and insurance in foreign countries. She quickly accepted that position and stayed with them for many years, living in Europe for two of those years.

About 15 years ago, Phyllis decided to represent farmers on a pro bono basis. She leaves the courtroom work to the other attorneys, but she does handle a lot of negotiation work.

Phyllis credits Alben Barkley, who served as a senator and then as U.S. Vice President under President Harry Truman, as her mentor. They met when Barkley gave an address to the Young Democrats in Milwaukee and continued to stay in touch. Phyllis based her practice on a statement Barkley once made: "A reputation of 1000 years can be lost in the actions of a solitary moment."

Phyllis J. Hughes says, "I have encouraged every woman who has asked me" about a law career, and she believes one can "never go wrong with law school."

"A REPUTATION OF 1000 YEARS CAN BE LOST IN THE ACTIONS OF A SOLITARY MOMENT."

Anne M. Jelik

Date of admission: 1935
(1891 - 1976)

Anne M. Jelik graduated with an LL.B. degree from the Minnesota College of Law in Minneapolis in 1935 and was admitted to the Wisconsin bar that same year.

After graduation, Anne worked for the William E. Donely Law Office in Menomonie, Wis., from approximately 1936 to 1946. According to Mr. Donely's daughter, retired Judge Donna Musa also from Menomonie, Anne left

the firm in 1946 and returned home to either California or Florida. Interestingly, when asked if Anne Jelik was an attorney who practiced law for her father, Judge Musa instead remembers Anne as doing quite a bit of secretarial work around the office. However, she also remembers Anne Jelik speaking to clients and drafting some documents.

Margaret Reinardy Anderson

Date of admission: 1936
(1912 - 1965)

Margaret Reinardy was born in Burlington, Wis., on Feb. 24, 1912. She attended the U.W. Law School, where she met and then married Kenneth Anderson. They graduated from the law school in 1936.

Margaret worked on the legal staff of the Committee for Public Welfare for Gov. Phil La Follette. In September 1937 Margaret and Kenneth moved to and began practicing in Stevens Point. They continued their practice until 1953. Despite having run unsuccessfully for district attorney in 1942 as a Republican candidate, Margaret was appointed as the acting district attorney in 1945, when Herman J. Glinski vacated the seat upon his entering military service during World War II.

During the 1954 congressional elections Kenneth ran against incumbent Melvin Laird in Wisconsin's seventh district. While he lost this election, he received the largest number of

votes by a Democrat in the seventh district for many years prior. This success within the Democratic Party probably led Kenneth to run against Laird again in the 1956 election. Kenneth's campaign was cut short when he died from a heart attack just five days before the primary election.

Having received the minimum number of votes during the primary, the Democratic Party was able to name a substitute to replace his candidacy. That replacement was Margaret. She was appointed unopposed by the Democratic Party to fill her husband's vacancy. Having received the Democratic Party nomination Margaret said, "(Ken and I) tried to go Republican with Bob La Follette but we just couldn't stomach it." During the general election Margaret lost to Laird.

Margaret Reinardy Anderson passed away in Stevens Point on Jan. 26, 1965, at the age of 52.

"(KEN AND I)
TRIED TO GO
REPUBLICAN
WITH BOB LA
FOLLETTE BUT WE
JUST COULDN'T
STOMACH IT."

Marjorie Loomis Marshall

Date of admission: 1936
(1907 -)

Marjorie Loomis Marshall was born in the small town of Rockwell City, Iowa. As a young woman she taught high school for several years, but "wanted a change."

She enrolled in the U.W. Law School, graduating in 1936. After graduation, she practiced with a sole practitioner in Madison. World War II found her serving on the War Manpower Commission in Washington, D.C., from 1943 to 1945. There she "won acclaim" for her service to the federal government, according to one

author in the *Marquette Law Review*.

Marjorie describes herself as having had no mentors in the practice of law, except for her husband, with whom she practiced in partnership. She practiced full time, except for two or three years, when her only child was young. Marjorie's only advice to a young woman attorney embarking on a legal career today, would be: specialize.

Marjorie Loomis Marshall presently resides in Milwaukee.



Rhea Olyers

Date of admission: 1936

Rhea Olyers entered the Wisconsin bar by reciprocity in 1936. In other words, she managed to bypass the Wisconsin bar examination. Rhea earned such a privilege by practicing in Texas

prior to 1936. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate further information about Rhea Olyers from the Texas bar.

Mary Wendt Riedl

Date of admission: 1936
(1913 -)

Mary Wendt Riedl probably would not have become an attorney if not for the encouragement of her college president. While attending Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Mary was persuaded to attend law school by the president of Mount Mary, Dr. Edward A. Fitzpatrick. Respecting his advice, Mary enrolled at Marquette University Law School.

Law school was a time of academic and social achievements for Mary. She was initiated into the Kappa Beta Gamma social sorority and Gamma Pi Epsilon national Jesuit honorary, and also was a member of the national legal sorority, Kappa Beta Pi. Her "crowning" law school moment, though, was becoming Marquette University's Prom Queen in 1935. Mary graduated from Marquette in 1936.

The Prom Queen soon found her life shaped by the needs of a nation at war. Inducted into the first class of U.S. Navy Waves and stationed in Boston, Mary soon was transferred to a legal billet in the Bureau of Personnel in Washington, D.C. During this time she was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court. Mary's service with the U.S. Navy ended at the conclusion of

World War II and after she had reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Like many young men and women at the time, the end of World War II allowed Mary to begin a family. She married attorney Charles A. Riedl, who served in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General Corps, and together they raised eight children. One of their daughters, Marguerite Riedl Dineen, followed her parents' footsteps and became an attorney. A 1974 Marquette Law School graduate, Marguerite is a civilian assistant counsel to the Commander at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Virginia.

Mary continued her legal career in 1963 as a contract administrator for the Department of Defense. In 1969 she became an adjudicator with the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Milwaukee, a position from which she retired in 1980. Mary Wendt Riedl currently resides in Montello, Wis.



Verle E. Sells

Date of admission: 1936
(1889 - 1940)

Verle E. Sells may have been Wisconsin's first female circuit court judge, appointed to the Florence County bench by Gov. Philip F. LaFollette on March 5, 1936. She was elected without opposition for the balance of the term a month later and was reelected without opposition for a six-year term in April 1937. Judge Sells died in office on April 23, 1940.

Verle was born Dec. 1, 1889, in Eagle River and grew up in Florence where her father, Max Sells, practiced law.

She graduated from Florence High School in 1907, from Milwaukee Downer in 1911, and from Gregg Commercial School in Chicago in 1915. She taught at high schools



in Florence and Randolph, Wis., Dubuque, Iowa, Pontiac, Mich., and Normal, Ill.

Verle graduated from Marquette University Law School on Feb. 7, 1936, with high honors and was admitted to the bar on Feb. 14, 1936. She practiced law in Florence with her brother Arthur, who later moved to Milwaukee and then Florida. In addition to her judicial duties, Verle operated an abstract company in Florence.

She was a member of a select committee appointed by Gov. LaFollette to study social welfare programs in Wisconsin. Verle Sells also served on the Florence School Board and as director of a local bank.

SELLS MAY HAVE BEEN WISCONSIN'S FIRST FEMALE CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, APPOINTED TO THE FLORENCE COUNTY BENCH BY GOV. PHILIP F. LAFOLLETTE ON MARCH 5, 1936.

Verne-Marie Freeman Slade

Date of admission: 1936
(1910 -)

SLADE APPLIED FOR A POSITION IN A PRESTIGIOUS SAN FRANCISCO FIRM BUT WAS MET WITH A “FIRM POLICY” ON NOT HIRING WOMEN.

Verne Freeman Slade, nee Verne-Marie Kopplin, was born in 1910 in a log house in the northwoods village of Iron River, Wis. Her parents and paternal grandparents were pioneers, arriving in the area just before the turn of the century. It marked the beginning of a century of change and Verne was to be among those to change it.

Verne attended the U.W. Law School and graduated in 1935, for which she credits her mother, Lydia Leslin Kopplin, an 1898 graduate of the University of Minnesota, as one of her inspirations. Following graduation Verne was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1936, and a short time later received a civil service appointment as an Unemployment Compensation Examiner with the Wisconsin Industrial Commission.



Change was in the wind for Verne and she set her sights on passing the Massachusetts bar, which she did in 1940. Admittance to the California bar followed shortly thereafter in 1942. She applied for a position in a prestigious San Francisco firm but was met with a “firm policy” on not hiring women. Undeterred, she went on to take a position in the San Francisco firm of Rogers and Clark. She stayed with Rogers and Clark for eight years before venturing out to form her own solo practice in both California and Connecticut. Her transition into Connecticut did not come easy. Verne’s application for admittance to the latter in 1974 sparked an unexpected fire in the quiet eastern town of Haddam, Conn.

The little spark began in April 1974, when Verne applied for admission to the bar without taking an examination (on the basis that she had been a practicing attorney in other states), and smoldered for 19 months. It burned all the way from the Middlesex County Superior Court to the Connecticut Supreme Court before finally being extinguished. In the end, Verne was the victor and was granted admission to the Connecticut bar in 1975.

A successful career followed the “fiasco in Connecticut,” and on Dec. 2, 1998, she will mark 56 years in private practice. Verne-Marie Freeman Slade moved to California in 1996, and still focuses on the issues she knows best – business, taxation, probate and estate planning – with the same determination she once used to take on Connecticut. She is currently trying, so far unsuccessfully, to retire.

Emily Wangard Thomann

Date of admission: 1936
(1891 -)

Emily Wangard was born on Aug. 20 or 28, 1891. She graduated from North Division High School in Milwaukee, Wis. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate, Emily received her teaching certificate and a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1914. Emily married A.J. Thomann, who was born in Pleasant Prairie, Iowa, in 1884. Mr. Thomann graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1914.

Emily received a masters degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1922. In 1933 Emily entered the U.W. Law School, earning her law certificate in June 1934 and her LL.B. on Dec. 14, 1934. After 14 months of office study at her husband’s firm, Hill, Thomann & Beckwith, Emily Wangard Thomann was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1936.

Ruth Hansen Van Epps

Date of admission: 1936
(1906 -)

Born in Manitowoc, Wis., in 1906, Ruth Hansen Van Epps started her law career in the late 1920s as a secretary and law clerk with the firm of Kelley & Wyseman. She stayed with the firm in Manitowoc for 12 years and eventually passed the bar exam in 1936, completely bypassing the traditional law school route. In a 1988 interview with David Tenenbaum for the *Wisconsin Lawyer*, Ruth describes her achievement: "I did it like Lincoln – I read the law."

After joining the Wisconsin bar, Ruth moved into her new role as partner at Kelley & Wyseman; the 1938 Manitowoc City Directory

lists the firm as Kelley, Wyseman, Muchin & Hansen. A few years later, in 1941, Ruth married banker Kenneth Van Epps and moved to Weyauwega. Ruth opened her own law firm above the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank of Weyauwega, the bank of which her husband eventually became president. Her practice focused on tax preparation, real estate, and estate planning. She also handled the legal matters for her husband's bank, ran an apple orchard, and raised three daughters.

As her practice grew, Ruth added partners, attorneys Jerome Gull in the early 1960s, and David Werth in 1967. In 1975 Kenneth Van Epps died. Then in the late 1980s Gull left the firm, resulting in the firm's changing its name to Van Epps & Werth. Ruth continued to work three days a week at her firm, while taking time for tending the orchard and bow-hunting, one of her favorite activities. With the addition of Michael Brey in 1992, the firm became Van Epps, Werth & Brey, and Ruth retired the following year. She has faced health problems in the last few years, and David Werth believes it is her feistiness and stubbornness that have kept Ruth Van Epps going all these years.

"I DID IT LIKE
LINCOLN –
I READ THE LAW."



Doris Lehner Vaudreuil

Date of admission: 1936
(1910 -)

Doris Lehner Vaudreuil was born on Jan. 16, 1910. Her father, Philip Lehner Sr., was a lawyer and, by his example, he inspired her to become a lawyer. However, he advised her against becoming a lawyer by stating that it would be "too hard for a woman." Nevertheless, Doris decided to pursue a legal career and she graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1936.

After graduation, Doris worked as a Madison assistant city attorney until May 1941. She then worked for a short time, until December

1942, as an enforcement lawyer for the U.S. Office of Price Administration. She then entered private practice with her husband, Leo E. Vaudreuil, and practiced with him until his death on May 12, 1984. From that time until the present, Doris Lehner Vaudreuil has been a solo practitioner in Kenosha.



June A. Spearbraker Zwickey

Date of admission: 1936
(1912 - 1991)

IF A YOUNG
WOMAN ATTOR-
NEY WERE TO ASK
ZWICKEY FOR
ADVICE, SHE
WOULD ENCOUR-
AGE HER TO
FOLLOW HER
INSTINCTS AND
TO DO WHAT
MADE HER HAPPY.

Born in 1912, June A. Spearbraker Zwickey attended Downer College at the age of 16 and graduated from Lawrence University in 1934. She graduated from the U.W. Law School and was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1936. June then practiced probate and family law in a partnership with her husband in Clintonville, Wis. She worked full time until 1950 when her third child was born, and then she cut back to part time.

June's biggest mentors were her parents. They instilled in her the idea that a woman could do anything she set her mind to.

In the early 1970s, June decided to retire and relocate to Appleton, Wis. For a short time, she worked for Legal Aid and then decided to pursue her dream of writing. From the 1970s until her death in 1991, June wrote poetry and had several poems published, winning state and regional awards, all the while keeping up with the law and continuing her Bar membership.

If a young woman attorney were to ask June A. Spearbraker Zwickey for advice, she would encourage her to follow her instincts and to do what made her happy.

Sarah Quigley Benham

Date of admission: 1937
(1904 - 1974)

Little is known of Sarah Quigley Benham, who was admitted to the bar by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in January 1937 on the basis of her having practiced law in Ohio since 1928.

She received her law degree and an LL.M. from John Marshall School of Law in Cleveland. She practiced law in Cleveland with her father until she moved to Wisconsin in September 1936. By that time she was married to James Benham. Her application for admission to the Wisconsin bar dated Sept. 14, 1936, said she was

a bona fide resident of Milwaukee, living in an apartment on 12th Street. By the time she signed the roll at the Supreme Court in January 1937, she gave her address as Manitowoc. No record of her residence in Manitowoc has been found.

Sarah Quigley Benham applied for Social Security in Cleveland in 1969. She died in Cleveland in 1974, survived by her husband, three children, and 17 grandchildren.

Her death certificate gave her occupation as retired attorney.

Christine M. Torkelsen Fellner

Date of admission: 1937
(1911 -)



"Go for it!" is what Christine M. Torkelsen Fellner tells young women these days when asked whether to embark on a legal career. She speaks from experience.

Christine embarked on her own law career when enrolling in the U.W. Law School Class of 1936. She remembers back to the days when the six women in her class were forced to share a small 9'x 6' "lounge" for a quiet study space in between classes. Al-

though times have changed, Christine's dedication to the profession remains the same.

After graduation in 1936, Christine went on to hold a variety of jobs including that of a legal researcher for the Wisconsin Trade Practice Commission, a Law Fellow in the Wisconsin Attorney General's Office, and a secretary and law clerk for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Joseph Martin. Christine would then decide to embark upon another career using the

same gusto she employed in law school: It was to be the career of motherhood.

Her new career as a full-time mother as well as her husband's frequent transfers (an active, on-the-go F.B.I. agent) precluded Christine from continuing her practice of the law. Yet even in those years she continued to help

those in need by working as a volunteer for the Legal Aid Society and the Milwaukee Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service. It was this commitment to individuals in need of help that inspired Christine Fellner into the legal profession, and it remained the underpinning throughout her legal career.

Elizabeth Hawkes

Date of admission: 1937
(1906 - 1978)

Elizabeth Hawkes was born in Washburn on Nov. 22, 1906. Although women lawyers were not common in the 1920s, especially in northern Wisconsin, Elizabeth knew that she wanted to be one. One of her favorite things was to skip school and spend time in the Bayfield County Courthouse watching lawyers perform their trade. She graduated from Washburn High School in 1922 at the age of 15.

Elizabeth attended Superior State College and completed her undergraduate work at Boston University. She studied law at George Washington Law School and was one of seven women in her class of nearly 200 graduates. She was admitted to the Wisconsin bar upon examination in 1937. Elizabeth had a strong will, quick wit, and a good sense of humor. She was a well-respected advocate and counselor. Her legal career includes services as a court commissioner and one term as the Bayfield County District Attorney. She also served on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Elizabeth was a political activist. She was a member of the State Democratic Committee for 20 consecutive years. She attended numerous National Democratic Conventions, serving as a delegate five times.

Elizabeth was appointed to the U.W. Board of Regents in 1961. She served a term as president of the Board and later was appointed a Regent Emeritus. In 1967 a new residence hall at UW-Superior was named in her honor.

Elizabeth was fond of the theater and made numerous trips to Chicago and New York to see Broadway productions.

Elizabeth built her own building to house her law office on the main street in Washburn; half of the building was her home. This was very efficient. Elizabeth knew the law was a jealous master. Combining her house and her law office allowed her to pursue her passion for the law, yet still be close to home. Nowhere in her law office would you find a sheepskin from her law school; she had refused to pay the \$25 fee for the diploma.

Elizabeth continued to work until her death on Feb. 8, 1978. Elizabeth Hawkes was truly a fine lawyer and a credit to her profession. She was an inspiration and role model for many young men and women who are lawyers today.



ONE OF HAWKES FAVORITE THINGS WAS TO SKIP SCHOOL AND SPEND TIME IN THE BAYFIELD COUNTY COURTHOUSE WATCHING LAWYERS PERFORM THEIR TRADE.

Dorothy Clark von Briesen

Date of admission: 1937
(1912 - 1998)



Dorothy Clark von Briesen, U.W. Law School class of 1937, majored in Sociology at Cornell and Northwestern Universities. With her law degree, she served briefly in the Racine County Welfare Department. She did not practice law until some years after starting her family of four children. Her son Richard also received a law degree at U.W. Law School and turned to teaching law and computers; one of his early projects became the basis for Westlaw.

Dorothy's legal work was with the Legal Aid Society and Legal Services, and as a long-time volunteer in the Milwaukee Bar Association's

Legal Reference Service. Years later, she received the first Posner Pro Bono Award.

However, most of her energies were devoted to civic services and international relations. Dorothy served on the boards or as an officer of numerous nonprofit organizations, including Curative Workshop, the Wisconsin

Correctional Services, and YWCA. She was vice chair of United Way of Greater Milwaukee, having volunteered for its committees and those of other civil organizations. She twice was president of College Endowment.

Having hosted several foreign students, Dorothy was deeply involved in the American Field Service International Scholarship program for which she was the Wisconsin chair for almost a decade. The International Institute of Wisconsin had her as a board member for many years, and twice she was chair of its Holiday Folk Fair. With that background, she served on the board of a U.S. State Department agency that sent her to South and Central America as the leader of a group "debriefing" important visitors.

As a woman lawyer when there were few, Dorothy always said she had the best of two worlds: "The men treated me as a fellow lawyer, yet always held doors open for me."

A law degree was a step on the way to her early goal of doing juvenile court work, but instead, it served her well when she turned to mostly volunteer, nonlegal work – "the rent we pay to occupy space in this world," as Dorothy von Briesen often said.

Elizabeth Leis Erasmus

Date of admission: 1938
(1915 -)

Elizabeth Leis Erasmus, born in Pittsburgh in 1915, graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1938. She immediately began her law career, first with a solo practice and later with her husband, Charles Erasmus.

Elizabeth mentions that Prof. Darnieder from Marquette University encouraged her regarding private practice. She passes along the following advice to young women interested in pursuing



legal careers: "specialize, specialize, specialize; as early as possible, concentrate in an area of choice ... understanding, of course, that such an option is not available in a solo practice. In my *early* time, we 'took in' any and all matters, for survival. [We] could not 'pick and choose' our field until we were in a well-established practice. Now, with group practice being the norm, the choice is available almost from 'day one.'"

Elizabeth von Benscoten Wight

Date of admission: 1937

Elizabeth von Benscoten Wight received a B.A. from Vassar College, and was admitted to the bar in 1937. There is no law school listed for Elizabeth in any of the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directories between 1941 and 1958. Her last listing in Martindale-Hubbell is for 1958. She was employed by Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, and was listed in the Mil-

waukee City directories as being affiliated with NML in 1939, 1941, and 1955. In 1939 Elizabeth was listed as a clerk, in 1941 she was listed as a librarian, and in 1955 she was listed as an office worker for Northwestern Mutual. It is not known whether Elizabeth von Benscoten Wight ever practiced law.

Florence Windemuth Lanning

Date of admission: 1938
(1904 -)

Florence Windemuth was born Oct. 8, 1904. She received her undergraduate degree from Hamline University in St. Paul. She was married to Victor Halpert Lanning, who received an undergraduate degree from U.W.-Madison and had 21 credits for law classes there.

Florence received her LL.B. from the U.W. Law School in January 1938. She had attended the U.W. Library School simultaneously, and her work as an assistant librarian at the U.W. Law School Library in 1937-38 was accepted in lieu of a law apprenticeship.

She devoted much of her career to education. Florence taught school in Annandale

and Moose Lake, Minn., in the early 1940s and then in Harlingen and San Antonio, Texas. She began teaching social studies at East High School in Madison in September 1952 and taught there until she retired in June 1970. Victor Lanning, who died in July 1965, also was a social studies teacher with the Madison School District. The couple had a daughter, Victoria.



Beatrice Groelle Affatica

Date of admission: 1939
(1915 - 1996)

Beatrice Groelle Affatica of Pewaukee, Wis., seemed an ordinary enough girl. She was born on Jan. 26, 1915 and, given the era, seemed destined to become a secretary or teacher, or some other "acceptable" position for a career woman. But Beatrice had other plans. She did what was then unthinkable – she attended and graduated from Marquette University School of Law in 1939.

Her graduation was a definite accomplishment given the year, but a career in law was not in the cards. Beatrice moved to Hawaii where she became a teacher at St. Anthony's Catholic School. She stayed in Hawaii through her death in Kapolei on Dec. 2, 1996, at the age of 81. Beatrice Groelle Affatica was survived by her three children: Catherine Agor, Janice Sablan, and John Affatica.

Virginia Collins Duncomb

Date of admission: 1939
(1914 - 1988)

Born Virginia Elizabeth Collins on April 21, 1914, in Marathon County, Wis., Virginia attended Edgewood Junior College, and earned an education degree and teaching certificate from the U.W. in 1934. She received her law degree from U.W. Law School in June 1939 and her LL.B. in August of that year. She was a member of the Order of Coif. Virginia was married to Harmon Duncomb. Virginia Collins Duncomb died on Dec. 11, 1988, in Long Beach, N.Y.

Florence Black Kruese Fairchild

Date of admission: 1939

Florence Black Kruese Fairchild graduated from the University of Madison and passed the bar examination in 1939. We could find no other information on her.

Ruth Johnson Kemet

Date of admission: 1939

Ruth Johnson Kemet graduated from Marquette University School of Law in 1939. And then she vanished without a trace.

Linda K. Rosenheimer Kroncke

Date of admission: 1939
(1915 -)

Linda Rosenheimer Kroncke can't remember a time when she was growing up in Kewaskum that she did not want to be a lawyer, even though her parents were not lawyers. "From the time I was a little child, I used to write imaginary stories about practicing law," she remembers. She attended the U.W. Law School, graduating in 1939. She worked for about a year in the Attorney General's office in Madison. There she met her husband, Robert Kroncke, who had graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1935.

Later, Linda worked for the West Bend firm of Cannon and Meister in general practice. She was married in June 1942. Linda continued to practice part time until the birth of her son in November 1943 and her husband's return from the Army in December 1945. After that, while she maintained her membership in the bar and did some legal work for her family in the late

"FROM THE TIME I WAS A LITTLE CHILD, I USED TO WRITE IMAGINARY STORIES ABOUT PRACTICING LAW."



1960s, she concentrated on raising her children and running their home.

Linda credits her parents for bringing her up to believe women could be professionals and encouraging her in every way. She was paid less than male lawyers of her age and experience, and her parents' continual support helped her

not only financially but, equally important, in dealing with the attitudes of society at large. Her husband also was a mentor and supporter. Linda Rosenheimer Kroncke's advice to young women is to follow the career path that interests them. It is far easier now than it used to be.

Helen Elizabeth Lutzen

Date of admission: 1939
(1910 - 1982)

Helen Elizabeth Lutzen was born in Milwaukee on Sept. 16, 1910, the oldest of three children to William Cornelius Lutzen and Annie Schaefer. She was raised in homes on 9th and Davis (Locust) and 64th Street (off Wisconsin Avenue) that were built by her father, a self-taught carpenter from Random Lake, Wis. Both Helen and her sister, Mamie, helped with their school expenses by working at the downtown Milwaukee Public Library. The children graduated from Wauwatosa West High School. Helen and her brother William graduated from the U.W.-Madison schools of law and engineering. Mamie married, and ultimately moved to Asheville, N.C., where she and her sister remained close until Helen's death in 1982.

After Helen graduated from U.W. Law

School in 1939, she worked for the commodity credit department of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Chicago. She then transferred to the department's Washington, D.C., office and lived there until her retirement.

Helen was an avid tennis player, swimmer, and horse lover, who ran with the hounds. Survived by her sister and brother, they recall her as well able to handle her end of any debate, including one with their father. The Lutzen's are proud of Helen and her role as an early lady lawyer in the service of her country.



Lois Roehl Redlin

Date of admission: 1939
(1916 - 1989)

Although born in a time when women were not groomed to be attorneys, Lois Roehl Redlin from day-one was to take over her father's prosperous law firm in Wauwatosa. There was no question that she would attend the University of Marquette Law School and, upon her graduation in 1939, clerk for her father. This arrangement worked well until a short time later when her father had a stroke



and Lois was forced to run the office and raise her two daughters solo. As a pioneer, support

was not readily available.

In order to be more accessible to her children, Lois sold the firm when it became too much to be a full-time mother and attorney. She opened her own tax and probate practice out of her house in Milwaukee. To supplement her income she worked full time days as a secretary for an appliance store – and even sold Fuller Brush products on the side. She also still managed to

find the time to be a Girl Scout leader and an active member of the B'nai Brith Anti-Defama-

EVEN AFTER AN ENTIRE LIFETIME OF PRACTICING LAW – MOST OF HER MAIL STILL CAME ADDRESSED TO ATTORNEY "LOUIS" INSTEAD OF ATTORNEY "LOIS."

tion League. Even though sometimes the world seemed against a young female lawyer, Lois still kept her sense of humor. To celebrate a closing, she would announce to the girls before they would go out for dinner that “tonight we have weenies with our beans.”

Lois Roehl Redlin never hyphenated her

name but used both her maiden and married names. She died after a long illness in 1989.

The most telling story regarding her struggles is very simple. Even after an entire lifetime of practicing law – most of her mail still came addressed to Attorney “Louis” instead of Attorney “Lois.”

Norma Goldstein Zarky



Date of admission: 1939
(1917 - 1977)

Norma Goldstein Zarky received her law degree in 1939 from the University of Wisconsin through a combined six-year arts and law program. She married Hilbert Zarky, also a Wisconsin law graduate, and moved to Washington, D.C., where her husband already worked. Norma held a number of positions, first clerical, then as an attorney, with a variety of government agencies, ultimately spending four years with the Office of Price Administration during World War II.

ZARKY AND HER HUSBAND SUCCESSFULLY BATTLED MCCARTHYISM BY WINNING REINSTATEMENT FOR HILBERT, WHO HAD BEEN SUSPENDED FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BASED ON NORMA'S BRIEF FLIRTATION WITH COMMUNIST GROUPS DURING COLLEGE,

After a hiatus of some years while beginning to raise a family, Norma returned to work for Joseph Rauh Jr., a prominent civil rights attorney. Zarky and her husband successfully battled McCarthyism by winning reinstatement for Hilbert, who had been suspended from the Justice Department based on Norma's brief flirtation with Communist groups during college, along with such “crimes” as belonging to a particular book club and knowing certain “suspect” individuals. In 1957 Hilbert took a job in Los Angeles, Calif., and Norma continued her career there in different fields of law, gradually migrating to entertainment and contracts law. Ul-

timately, she joined her husband's firm, Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp, eventually becoming a partner with her husband.

Always active in the service side of her profession, Norma was the first woman president of the Beverly Hills Bar Association. She was influential in establishing the Beverly Hills Bar Association Law Foundation, a public interest law office. She was active in litigation that brought about changes in California's abortion law, and wrote an amicus brief in *Roe v. Wade* on behalf of the American Association of University Women.

Norma was a founding member of Women in Film, which annually issues a Humanitarian award in her name. She also was active in the Constitutional Rights Foundation and particularly in the Exceptional Children's Foundation, an interest arising out her daughter's profound mental retardation.

Norma Goldstein Zarky continued her career nearly until her death from cancer in 1977. In her last year she was honored by the Women's Lawyers Association of Los Angeles with its Ernestine Stahlhut Award in recognition of her distinguished achievements in public service and as woman lawyer of the year.

Alice Wilson Fine

Date of admission: 1940
(1901 - 1993)

Alice Wilson Fine was born on June 27, 1901. She was married to a furniture dealer in Milwaukee, and she graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1940. It is believed that she practiced in Milwaukee. She did not

have any children.

After her husband's death, Alice resided on Milwaukee's eastside in the Knickerbocker Hotel. Her health began to decline in the early 1980s, and Ms. Cleone Flood, of Waukesha, was

appointed as her guardian.

Alice then moved into the Milwaukee Jewish House, where her health greatly improved. Eventually, however, she succumbed to Alzheimer's disease. She died on Jan. 19, 1993. Cleone saw to it that Alice was buried in Michi-

gan, next to her husband.

"She was a remarkable woman to have gone into the law at the time," Cleone recalled. "She was an exceptional person." Staff from the Milwaukee Jewish House remember Alice Wilson Fine fondly as well.

Ann Ruth Kanevsky Grant

Date of admission: 1940
(1917 - 1996)

Ann Ruth Kanevsky Grant was born in Chicago in August 1917. She attended the U.W. Law School and passed the Wisconsin bar examination in 1940. Ann gained admittance to

the Connecticut bar in 1947 and the California bar in 1953. It seems she remained in California; her last known address is listed as Downey, Calif.



Betty Sheila Mintz Slavick

Date of admission: 1940
(1917 - 1982)

Betty Mintz Slavick dreamed of the day she would complete law school. It was a dream shared by her parents. Unfortunately, that dream was realized too late for her father to see.

Born in Wisconsin in 1917, Betty grew up watching her father run his own real estate business. In turn, Betty's father watched as she pursued studies at Marquette University, and waited for the day they could form a father-daughter team in his real estate business. That day never came. Mr. Mintz died prior to seeing Betty graduate from Marquette University Law School in 1940.

Betty never wandered far from those shared dreams, however. Upon admittance to the bar in 1940, she opened her own law office in the space that had housed her father's real estate office. Although it was not easy being a woman lawyer in those days, she persevered in her practice of the law until 1943.

In October 1940, Betty Mintz and Monroe Slavick were married; they began a family three years later. Betty decided to give up her practice in 1943 with their decision to begin a



family. Later that same year, Betty gave birth to Harris David Slavick, followed by Marjorie Ann Slavick in 1948.

Family became the focus for Betty Mintz but it did not keep her from staying active in community causes. After successfully raising a family, Betty decided on an entrée back into the legal profession. She accepted an attorney position for the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Insurance Company in 1962.

She remained in their employment until retiring in 1973. While formally retiring from the legal profession in 1973, Betty continued to use her legal knowledge to assist those in need in such ways as providing legal services to Jewish Vocational Services, staffing legal hot lines, and providing legal work for battered women's groups.

Betty Mintz Slavick fulfilled the dream she once shared with her parents and went on to use that dream to help others. She passed away in 1982, but is remembered by a loving husband, two children, and three adoring grandchildren who see her legacy live on.

SLAVICK FUL-
FILLED THE DREAM
SHE ONCE SHARED
WITH HER PAR-
ENTS AND WENT
ON TO USE THAT
DREAM TO HELP
OTHERS.



June C. Healy Wolf

Date of admission: 1940
(1917 -)

June Healy Wolf was born in Manitowoc, Wis., on June 2, 1917. The daughter of a prominent Manitowoc attorney, June became well-acquainted with the practice of law during her childhood. After graduating from Manitowoc Lincoln High School in 1934, June attended the College of St. Theresa in Winona, Minn., for two years before enrolling in Marquette University's combined law degree program, where she was one of three women in her class.

After receiving her law degree in 1940, June was hired by Wausau Insurance (formerly Employers Mutual of Wausau) in Milwaukee, where she was placed in the claims department. A year later, she transferred to the company's claims department in Detroit, Mich. While in Detroit, June met Henry Wolf, and the two were married in 1943. About two weeks after their wedding, Henry was sent to India, where he would spend the next 29 months in the armed forces. Around the same time, Wausau Insurance asked June if she would return to Milwau-

kee to join the company's legal department, a position rarely offered to women but necessitated by the loss of qualified men to the World War II effort. June accepted, and remained there until her husband's return from the war in 1946. That year, the Wolfs moved to Muskego and started a family.

Although June did some legal work out of her home in Muskego, she did not return to full-time legal practice, instead devoting her time to raising her family of seven children. June never regretted giving up her legal career, saying, "Having a good husband and seven good kids was more important and more fun to me than my law career."

Of her mentors, June says, "Everyone at the law school was very supportive. I never felt a bit of opposition. Joel Bloomquist, the head of the legal department at Wausau, was also very helpful."

June Healy Wolf and her husband still reside at the same home in Muskego.

"EVERYONE AT THE LAW SCHOOL WAS VERY SUPPORTIVE. I NEVER FELT A BIT OF OPPOSITION."

Mary B. Smieding Kazzik

Date of admission: 1941

Mary B. Smieding Kazzik was admitted to practice in Wisconsin in 1941. No death record for Mary was located through the State Historical Society of Wisconsin or Social Security Death Index under either her maiden or married names. Various spellings of both the names were tried

with no luck. Mary Smieding Kazzik listed Racine as her city of residence when she signed the Wisconsin Supreme Court roll but there are no records for either Smieding or Kazzik in the Racine, Kenosha, or Milwaukee city directories circa 1940-50.

Elizabeth Mary Pluck Kingfogl

Date of admission: 1941
(1916 - 1996)

Elizabeth Mary Pluck Kingfogl was employed as an executive assistant at the Nordberg Mfg. Co. in Milwaukee from 1941 to 1945.

In September 1944 she married Carl T. Kingfogl, who she met at Marquette University Law School. Carl was a 1942 graduate. A daugh-

ter was born one year later.

In 1947 Elizabeth joined her husband in the practice of law emphasizing legal work for clients in the contracting and building of homes in the Milwaukee area. The following year she became a partner in the Kingfogl Construction

Co. formed by her husband. This company still exists today.

Elizabeth and Carl also were real estate brokers for more than 50 years. They purchased land and developed it into subdivisions for new homes in the Milwaukee area. Elizabeth managed all the necessary office requirements as well as fulfilling all the legal requirements of the

business until she became ill in 1995 and died in January of 1996.

The Kingfogl Construction Co. presently is run by Elizabeth Mary Pluck Kingfogl's daughter, Mary Beth Doyle, and two of her grandsons, John J. Doyle and Daniel Doyle, all of whom also are graduates of Marquette University.

Harriet Frances Zetterberg Margolies

Date of admission: 1941

Harriet Zetterberg Margolies, a native of Valley City, North Dakota, held the honor of graduating at the top of her class in 1941 from the U.W. Law School. After passing the bar examination the same year, she began working in the rubber division for the Board of Economic Warfare. She worked for the board for just a few

years.

In 1943 Harriet married Daniel Margolies, a Harvard graduate, and they moved to Europe for several years while he worked in the foreign service. They also raised a son and a daughter during this time.



Margaret Pinkley Varda

Date of admission: 1941
(1917 -)

Born in 1917, Margaret Pinkley graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1941, Order of the Coif and a member of the *Wisconsin Law Review*. Upon graduation she married State Assemblyman John P. Varda, U.W. Law School class of 1940. Together they opened a law practice in Eagle River, Wis.

In 1942 Margaret Pinkley Varda was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly as a Progressive to succeed her husband, after he enlisted in the armed forces. While in the Legislature, Margaret successfully argued against a state program of veterans bonuses and instead guided her colleagues towards a system of educational grants and loans to assist returning veterans whose education had been interrupted by military service.

"There will be a place for women in industry after this war. The problem of adjustment of masculine and feminine workers will not be



the same after this war as after the last because of the need of expanded production," Margaret predicted. She was an advocate for equal rights for women, saying that every woman should have a profession, trade, or skill.

With the demise of the Progressive Party by 1944, Margaret declined to run for reelection but instead joined the U.S. Army as a WAC. Private Margaret Varda was assigned to the European theater.

After the war, Margaret returned to Milwaukee and later, in 1951, moved to Madison. During the ensuing years she raised four sons and served as a voluntary member on numerous governmental committees and organizations, including the Kellett Committee on Governmental Reorganization. The Kellett Committee's work led to the consolidation of state higher education facilities into the University of Wis-

WHILE IN THE LEGISLATURE, VARDA SUCCESSFULLY GUIDED HER COLLEAGUES TOWARDS A SYSTEM OF EDUCATIONAL GRANTS AND LOANS TO ASSIST RETURNING VETERANS.

consin System. Margaret remained active in the Wisconsin bar until age 62.

Margaret Pinkley Varda presently resides in Hurley, Wis. Her sons John and Anthony are attorneys at DeWitt, Ross & Stevens law

firm in Madison. Son Michael is an attorney with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and the fourth son, Richard, is an architect with RSP Architects of Phoenix and Minneapolis.

Dorothy Ann Heil

Date of admission: 1942
(1908 - 1993)

AS FIRST EDITOR
OF THE
WISCONSIN
ADMINISTRATIVE
CODE, HEIL
PLAYED A KEY
ORGANIZATIONAL
ROLE IN THE
PUBLICATION OF
THE FIRST
WISCONSIN
ADMINISTRATIVE
CODE AND THE
WISCONSIN
ADMINISTRATIVE
REGISTER.

Dorothy Ann Heil was born on May 16, 1908, in Watertown, Wis., the daughter of Walter A. Heil and Anna E. (Bub) Heil. She graduated from Watertown High School in 1926, studied at Northwestern College from 1926-28 and studied law at U.W. Law School from 1938-41, where she was one of two women in her class of 30. According to a friend, she was particularly proud of her attendance at law school, and took "a lot of ribbing from the men who wondered why she wanted to go on to a career because marriage was the only thing for women at the time." Dorothy was admitted to the bar in 1942.

There were few opportunities for women to practice law when Dorothy was admitted to the bar. She served as secretary to Justices Wickham and Gehl of the Wisconsin Supreme Court from 1942-49, and 1950-55. Dorothy served as an assistant revisor of statutes from 1955 until her retirement in the 1970s. As first editor of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, Dorothy played a key organizational role in the publication of the first Wisconsin Administrative Code and the Wisconsin Administrative

Register. Published monthly, the volumes were the state's first compilation of administrative rules for various state agencies. Only three books at the time of its first publication, the Code has since grown to more than two dozen volumes.

Dorothy had a particular interest in real property law. For years she attended the weekly luncheon meetings of the Madison Real Estate Lawyers. She monitored bills that might affect real estate law and then summarized and reported them to this group.

Dorothy was a member of the Dane County Bar Association, serving as secretary from 1949-50, and a longtime member of St. Raphael's Catholic Church, where she chaired the Catholic Women's Club. Dorothy enjoyed traveling and was an avid reader.

In January 1993 Dorothy celebrated her golden anniversary as a lawyer with Emily P. Dodge, who is another of the first 150 women admitted to the bar in Wisconsin. Dorothy Ann Heil died May 23, 1993, at age 85, and is buried at St. Henry's Cemetery in Watertown.

Jeanette Elise Mett

Date of admission: 1942
(1917 -)

Jeanette Elise Mett attended Marquette University Law School at the urging of her father and graduated in 1941. She began practicing law for Kimberly-Clark for a short while and then moved on to Wisconsin Trust.

Jeanette remembers 1941 as being substantially different from today and recalls her father making decisions for her. She also refers to ob-

stacles during law school: "I told a certain professor things I would not repeat to you!"

Jeanette Mett chose not to continue practicing law, mainly because she didn't like the idea of appearing before a judge. However, she offers concise counsel to young women who are interested in a legal career. "If you want to do it, do it!"

Alice P. Morrissy

Date of admission: 1942
(1913 -)

Inspired by her husband, Philip B. "Pete" Morrissy, Alice P. Morrissy applied for acceptance as a candidate under the law tutelage system after earning her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin. Upon acceptance, she filed quarterly study reports with the Wisconsin Supreme Court for four years and passed the bar exam in June 1942, becoming the first woman in Walworth County admitted to the bar. Alice then began working in a small partnership and focused on estate planning, probate, real estate, and juvenile/social service representation.

During her 56 years of active practice, Alice has served as assistant district attorney and assistant public administrator for Walworth County, Walworth County Board supervisor for 15 years, director of Gateway Technical College and its Foundation for 17 years, chair of a state study examining the need for a family counseling center, and sponsor of the successful Walworth County Board resolution to create a family counseling center in response to the state study. Alice and her husband also raised two children during this time and enjoyed the convenience of having their offices located three blocks from their home.

Alice has been recognized with a Community Service Award from the Rotary Club and an Outstanding Wisconsin Alumni Award

for contributions to the Walworth County legal profession. She also has been honored by the City of Elkhorn and by Geneva Lakes AAUW, which identified an educational gift to the Helen C. White International Fellowship in Alice's name.

Among her mentors and supporters, Alice lists her husband, Pete Morrissy; Congressman Harry Sauthoff; Judge Kroncke; attorney Herbert F. Hansen; and Walworth County Judge Roscoe R. Luce.

Alice says, "During the 56 years I practiced, I was privileged to work with various partners, three of whom went on to be Walworth County judges. When Judge John R. Race was sworn in, the standing-room-only crowd had many recently graduated lawyers in attendance. Judge Race was very complimentary in his remarks about me and the years we had been partners. One young lawyer came up to me afterwards and, tongue in cheek, inquired, 'How many years do I have to work for you before I can be a judge?'"

Alice P. Morrissy, now semi-retired, is of counsel to the Elkhorn firm of Seymour, Kremer, Nommensen, Morrissy & Koch.



"... ONE YOUNG LAWYER CAME UP TO ME AFTERWARDS AND, TONGUE IN CHEEK, INQUIRED, 'HOW MANY YEARS DO I HAVE TO WORK FOR YOU BEFORE I CAN BE A JUDGE?'"

Kate Wallach

Date of admission: 1942
(1905 -)

Kate Wallach was born June 17, 1905, in Berlin, Germany. She attended the University of Cologne, Germany, and later the U.W. Law

School, passing the Wisconsin bar examination in 1942. Kate Wallach's last known residence was Baton Rouge, La.

Beatrice LaVerne Wissbroecker

Date of admission: 1942
(1911 - 1978)



Beatrice L. Wissbroecker grew up in Sheboygan and graduated from Sheboygan High School in 1929. After working for a few years, she attended Carroll College and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1939 with a B.A. in economics. She received her law degree from the U.W. Law School in 1942. David Rabinovitz, the well-known Sheboygan lawyer for whose firm she worked before going to college, persuaded Beatrice to go to law school.

After working as a research assistant for several insurance companies in Chicago for a few years,

Beatrice returned to Sheboygan in 1945 to practice law, first with the firm of Gruhle, Fessler & Wilkus where she became a partner in 1959, and then in her own firm in 1966. She retired in 1975 because of poor health.

Beatrice L. Wissbroecker served as secretary-treasurer of the Sheboygan County Bar Association for 25 years. On her death in 1978 the association presented a resolution to the Sheboygan County Circuit Court remembering her not only for her "really devoted service" to the association but also as "a sincere, loyal, professional woman of great integrity and honesty" and "a conscientious and industrious lawyer ... never afraid to fight for what she felt was right."

Kathryn H. Baldwin

Date of admission: 1943
(1904 -)

Kathryn H. Baldwin was born in Darlington, Wis., in July 1904. From the age of 16 Kathryn's desire was to become a lawyer. After working for several years as a secretary in Madison during the Great Depression, Kathryn entered the University of Wisconsin in 1937 to pursue an education in law. While still attending the U.W., she worked part time for the law firm of Spohn, Ross, Stevens & Lamb. Kathryn received her B.A., and then her law degree with honors and an election to the Order of the Coif, in 1943. She was admitted to the bar the day of her law school graduation.

In 1945 Kathryn established a law firm with Emily P. Dodge, another member of the U.W. Law School class of 1943, who had previously been practicing with another well-recognized law firm in Madison. The new firm con-



tinued for about two years, after which Kathryn continued as a private practitioner.

In 1951, after a year-and-a-half out of legal practice, during which time she was associated with a Dominican order of sisters, Kathryn accepted a position as a lawyer with the Office of Price Stabilization in the federal government in Washington, D.C.. In 1953 she transferred to the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial lawyer in the Court of Claims Section of the Civil

Division. In 1959 she accepted an offer of a billet by the chief of the appellate section of that division. From there she became a review officer and, ultimately, assistant chief of the appellate section. For more than 14 years she represented the United States in the appeals courts.

Kathryn retired for reasons of health at the end of 1973, but even those health ailments

IN 1945
BALDWIN ESTABLISHED A LAW
FIRM WITH EMILY
P. DODGE, AN-
OTHER MEMBER OF
THE U.W. LAW
SCHOOL CLASS OF
1943.

could not fully stop her from practicing in the profession she loved. In retirement she still found the time and energy to serve as the part-time supervisor of a paralegal program that pro-

vided free services for senior citizens over age 60 in Montgomery County, Maryland. Kathryn H. Baldwin continues to reside in Montgomery County today.

Anna O. Blum

Date of admission: 1943
(1908 - 1985)

When Anna O. Blum returned to her hometown of Monroe, Wis., in 1943, after graduating Order of the Coif from the U.W. Law School, no one in the small town was surprised. Blum was joining the family business. Blum & Blum Law Offices had been providing legal services to the residents of Green County since 1898.

Anna was born in Monroe, Wis., on April 6, 1908. After graduating as valedictorian of the Monroe High School class of 1925, Anna attended U.W.- Madison. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate in 1929, she worked in the family firm and "read law" prior to beginning her formal legal studies at U.W. Law School. Anna's mentors were her father, Sam Blum, and brother, Bruce Blum.

When Anna joined the firm after her law school graduation, she focused her practice on probate and tax cases. Throughout her career, she argued tax and probate cases before numerous courts, including the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Every year Anna attended the tax school held in Madison. Prior to attending the seminar she would spend hours formulating a question she believed would stump the presenters. According to local legend, she usually succeeded!

Active in both local and national bar organizations, in 1960 Anna was elected to serve

as president of the National Women's Bar Association. She served as treasurer of the same organization from 1958 to 1960. She was president of the Green County Bar Association in 1971.

As a member of the community, Anna served as president of the Green County Historical Society and assisted in acquiring the building that still operates today as the Society's museum. She was a regular delegate to the State of Wisconsin Republican Convention. Throughout her life, Anna was adamant that people address her as "Miss Blum" rather than "Ms. Blum." She refused to open mail addressed to "Ms." as it was her belief that "Miss" was a sign of respect that she deserved and expected.

Anna believed in being self-sufficient. If an attorney came to her today for advice on solving a legal problem, she would probably give the same advice she gave a young attorney 25 years ago: "Go look it up. It will make you a better lawyer."

Anna O. Blum never retired. She continued to practice probate and tax law until her death at age 77, on April 20, 1985.



EVERY YEAR PRIOR TO ATTENDING TAX SCHOOL IN MADISON, BLUM WOULD SPEND HOURS FORMULATING A QUESTION SHE BELIEVED WOULD STUMP THE PRESENTERS. SHE USUALLY SUCCEEDED.

Helene Ruth Zogg Boetticher

Date of admission: 1943
(1921 -)



Helene Ruth Zogg Boetticher never wanted to be anything but a lawyer – starting when she was 11 years old. She graduated from the U. W. Law School in 1943 when she was 22, and moved to Milwaukee where she worked for two firms in private practice and had her own office for a while. Helene found that at the time, Milwaukee was not a good place for a woman lawyer – much too conservative, although not too conservative to elect her president of the Junior Bar. Helene believes she was the first woman elected a bar president in Wisconsin.

In 1951 Helene moved to Chicago and joined the National Labor Relation Board regional office. At the NLRB, she became a “specialist” in labor law and learned how to litigate a case. The Regional Director Ross M. Mad-

den and Chief Legal Officer Robert E. Ackenberg were two mentors who demonstrated their confidence in Helene by assigning her important cases. They were always there to help whenever she needed it. Helene left the NLRB to join a law firm in Evansville, Ind. Evansville was even less welcoming to a woman lawyer than Milwaukee, and Helene left there soon after. The next few years she traveled abroad, married, worked for a labor law firm, adopted three babies, and was a stay-at-home mom.

In 1972, having moved to Washington, D.C., Helene went to work for the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. From there she went to the Department of Labor, becoming Counsel for Litigation, enforcing various federal statutes. She remained in that position for 18 years. Helene Ruth Zogg Boetticher retired in 1995, worked for about a year on the Teamsters’ supervised election, and then became a consultant and wrote some articles for labor law publications.

Razy Geraldine Kletecka Chojnacki

Date of Admission: 1943
(1921 - 1951)



Razy Kletecka Chojnacki was the first woman to practice law in La Crosse County. Born in La Crosse in 1921, she was graduated from Marquette University Law School and admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1943. She returned to La Crosse and went into practice with Frank E. Withrow for the next three years. In 1946 Razy married a law school classmate who was then practicing in Milwaukee, Leonard R. Chojnacki. They opened a practice in the Rivoli Building and became one of the few pairs of spouses practicing law in the United States.

Razy handled many family practice cases such as divorce, child support, and adoption, but also served as legal counsel for the La Crosse AFL-CIO.

Razy Kletecka Chojnacki died at the age of 29 from complications following childbirth.

Catherine Blanchard Cleary

Date of admission: 1943
(1916 -)

Born in Madison and raised in Milwaukee, Catherine B. Cleary graduated from the University of Chicago in 1937. After teaching school in New England for three years, she entered the U.W. Law School in the fall of 1940 for reasons she can't explain.

The law school at that time had a reputation for being welcoming to women students. She found the faculty friendly and helpful. The fact that there were seven or eight women in her class eliminated any feeling of being out of place. She found she really enjoyed studying law, and she graduated with highest honors in 1943.

After a short time in the legal department of Kohler Co. and three-and-one-half years in a relatively small Chicago law firm, Catherine joined First Wisconsin Trust Company in Milwaukee in 1947. She stayed there until her retirement in 1978 except for one year on leave in the U.S. Treasury Department in 1953-54. In 1947 Milwaukee law firms were not open to women. The senior partner of a large firm told her they might have a place for her if it were understood she would not see clients. She became the first woman officer of First Wisconsin in Milwaukee in 1949.

Catherine was active in the Milwaukee Junior Bar and was given opportunities for responsibilities and visibility within the Milwaukee Bar Association. As lawyers in corporations move up in the organization, they tend to assume responsibilities outside the legal field. That was true in her case. By 1963 she was a vice president of the First Wisconsin Trust Company and was elected to its board of directors. In 1969 she was elected president of the trust company and to the board of First Wisconsin Bankshares. She was the first woman on this board, as well as on a number of other boards including Northwestern Mutual Life (1955), AT&T (1972), General Motors (1972), and Kraft (1972).

Following her retirement from the trust company, Catherine B. Cleary taught at the U.W.-Milwaukee Business School for three years and, after her retirement from the business boards on which she served, she did research at U.W.-Milwaukee on women and law in early Wisconsin, including an article on Lavinia Goodell.



THE SENIOR PARTNER OF A LARGE FIRM TOLD HER THEY MIGHT HAVE A PLACE FOR HER IF IT WERE UNDERSTOOD SHE WOULD NOT SEE CLIENTS.

Emily P. Dodge

Date of admission: 1943
(1915 -)

Emily P. Dodge, born in 1915, entered the U.W. Law School after earning a B.A. in French and an M.A. in economics. Dodge passed the Wisconsin bar examination in 1943 and then be-

gan teaching legal writing and legal bibliography at the U.W. Law School.



Katherine Barbara Iding Dziekan

Date of admission: 1943
(1917 - 1996)

DZIEKAN
GRADUATED FROM
MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY LAW
SCHOOL IN 1943,
AND PRACTICED
FOR A FEW YEARS
AS A WORKER'S
COMPENSATION
ATTORNEY.

Katherine Dziekan was born in Milwaukee on Sept. 19, 1917. She graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1943, and practiced for a few years as a worker's compensation attorney for the Employer's Insurance Co. of Wausau.

Katherine married Edward Dziekan in 1950 and became a full-time homemaker in 1952. She never practiced law again, which is "a real shame," according to her son, John Dziekan. She also had two daughters.

The Dziekans resided in Racine where Katherine was very active in the community. She was the secretary of the Northside Business Association, and she served on the board of the

St. Mary's Auxiliary. She also was a president of the Marquette Alumni Association.

When Katherine's children were older, she began to work in the family businesses, as an officer for Mayer's Memorial Works and later as vice president for Pristine Products.

In her free time, she was a composer and musician. She also was an avid bowler and knitter, making baby caps for the newborns at St. Luke's Hospital. She was a member of the Bel Canto Choir, and she was mentioned in "Collegiate Who's Who."

Katherine Barbara Iding Dziekan died on Dec. 4, 1996, at the age of 77.

Ruth Elizabeth Dunham Foley

Date of admission: 1943
(1920 -)



Ruth Foley, born Ruth Elizabeth Dunham on Sept. 25, 1920, in Racine, traces the inspiration for her decision to practice law to her high school days when she conducted an interview with an attorney for Career Day. She graduated from Marquette University Law School in February 1943 and joined the legal department of Chain Belt Corp., Milwaukee, where she worked until her marriage to attorney Jerome Foley in December 1944.

For the next 20 years, Ruth worked on and off with the firm, now known as Dye, Foley, Krohn & Shannon S.C., as the couple raised their three children. "My husband allowed me the freedom to do my legal work my way," she notes. Even after retiring in April 1996, she continues to do "a bit of legal work" with the firm.

Ruth recalls one court case in which she was involved while seven months pregnant with her first child. "While the judge didn't refer to my pregnancy, he managed to make it obvious

that he was uncomfortable with 'my condition,'" she says. "I'm sure he was relieved that I didn't go into labor in his courtroom."

In addition to her legal work, Ruth has been an active volunteer in her church and community, contributing her time and expertise to organizations serving homeless women and their children and focusing on the problems of teen pregnancy and domestic violence. She also serves on the coordination council of the Association of Funding Organizations, a community planning group, and with the board of trustees of the Hyslop Foundation, which owns and promotes Hawthorn Hollow, a nature preserve in Kenosha County.

Ruth is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International and the recipient of several awards from the YWCA, Girl Scouts, and Wisconsin Women Entrepreneurs. Ruth's daughter, Mary F. Wyant, is an attorney practicing with her husband, C. Judley Wyant, in Racine. "My two other children are doing well in their nonlegal chosen professions," Ruth Foley reports. "To quote the Roman matron, Cornelia, they are 'my jewels.'"

Alice Bernice Kleman Harvey

Date of admission: 1943
(1919 - 1993)

Alice Bernice Kleman Harvey was born in Milwaukee in 1919. She passed the bar exam in 1943.



Marian Justus-Warning Hefter

Date of admission: 1943

Originally from Oshkosh, Marian Justus-Warning Hefter studied at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and graduated with her law degree in 1943. From the 1943 Madison City Directory and a few school records, we've pieced together that Hefter lived with her mother, Meta Justus, who was a factory worker. It seems that prior to her marriage, Hefter would at times hyphenate her surname. We found no records of her husband; although the 1951 Madison City Directory lists a Thomas Hefter living on State Street, no spouse is listed.

Further searches in Madison and Oshkosh City directories from the early 1930s through the late 1950s came up empty, as did searches through the histories of Outagamie and Dane counties for the same time period. Some information turned up on both the Justus and Warning families, but we uncovered no mention of a person named Marian.



Edith Pierce Mills

Date of admission: 1943
(1916 -)

Edith Pierce Mills was born on Nov. 6, 1916, and grew up in Janesville. She attended the U.W. Law School and passed the bar examination in 1943.



Joan Moonan Pinnell

Date of admission: 1943

Joan Moonan Pinnell hails from a family of many attorneys, most of whom were graduates of Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. Joan decided that she preferred a different Jesuit university, however. She chose Marquette University Law School for her legal education. Joan graduated in 1943.

Joan then returned to her home state of

Minnesota to study for the bar exam. She passed and began general practice with her family's firm in Waseca, Minn., a small community in the south-central part of the state. She later married, and she cut back from her full-time law practice to part time when the Pinnells began their family.

Her spouse, a university professor, was of-

ferred a position with the University of Missouri in Columbia, and the Pinnells relocated. By this time Joan was a full-time homemaker. She eventually had seven children.

Joan was waived into practice in Missouri on the basis of her experience in Minnesota, and she reentered the world of work outside of the home as a probate clerk. She later ran for the post of magistrate judge, but with the changes in Missouri law at that time, the office became

known as an associate circuit judgeship. She served on the bench for 15 years, being reelected four times. She retired in 1985.

Joan speaks with great pride about all of her children's accomplishments, noting that one of them is a lawyer, carrying on the family tradition.

Joan Moonan Pinnell still lives in Columbia, Mo., and she enjoys traveling.

Dorothy L. Wilkinson

Date of admission: 1943
(1920 - 1996)

Dorothy L. Wilkinson is believed to have been born on Feb. 29, 1920, and she was a 1943 Marquette University Law School graduate.

She practiced in Milwaukee, and she lived

on W. Juneau Avenue. She later worked at the Bethesda Senior Center. Dorothy L. Wilkinson died at the age of 76 on March 24, 1996, survived by a cousin and friends.

CONTRIBUTORS

The State Bar of Wisconsin expresses its appreciation to the many volunteers – lawyers, family members and friends of our honorees, staff, and others – who gave unselfishly of their time and talents to plan the celebration, work on the commemorative videotape, or assist with the publication of this book.

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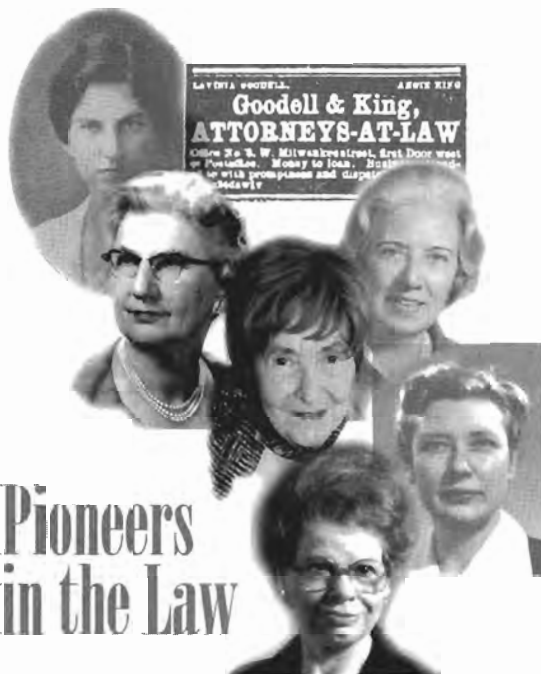
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