

The Women's Bar Association  
of the District of Columbia



SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
1917-1987

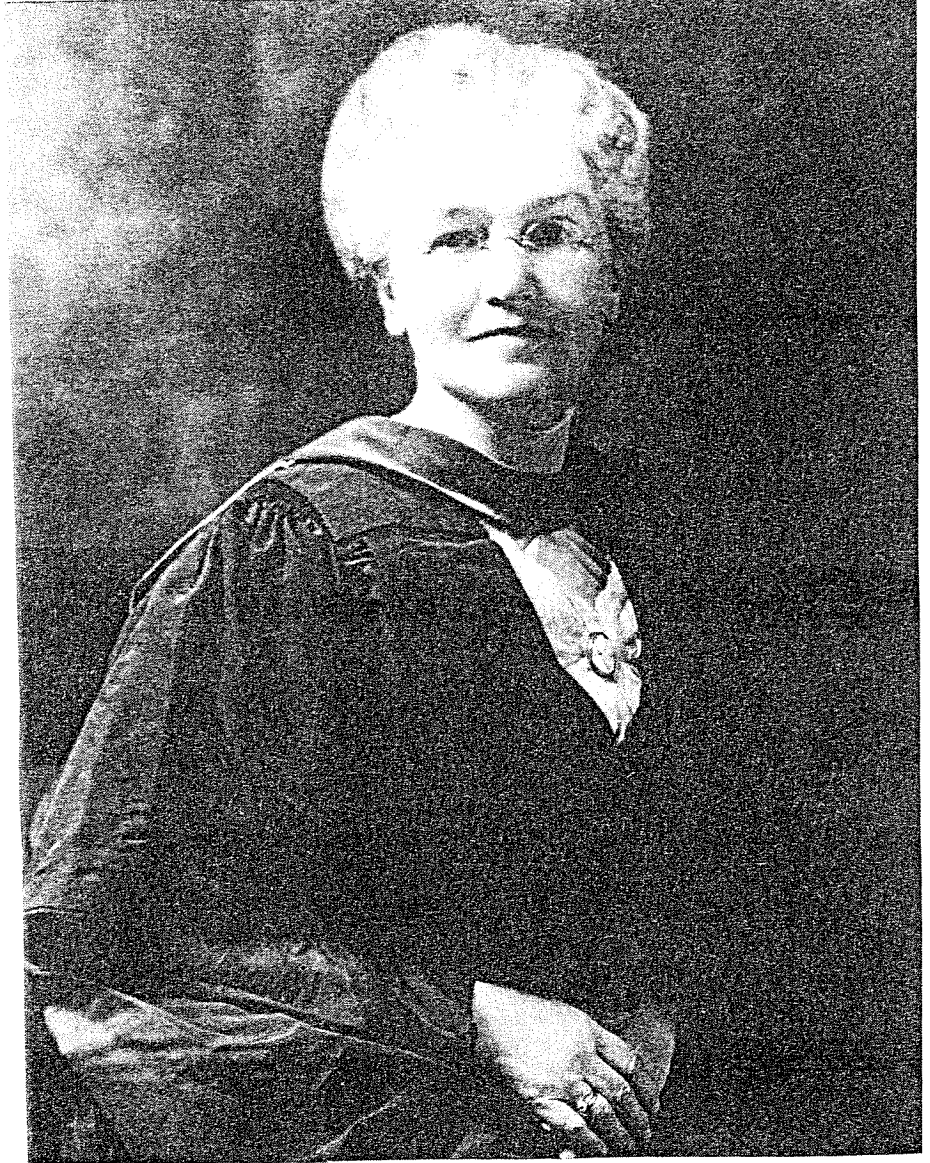
Tuesday, May 19, 1987  
Gold Room, Rayburn Building

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of the District of Columbia



SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
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ELLEN SPENCER MUSSEY  
FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT

**PROGRAM**  
**WBA Annual Meeting - May 19, 1987**

**Opening Remarks**

**Marjorie R. Freiman**  
*Chair, History/70th Anniversary Committee*

**Woman Lawyer of the Year Presentation**

Presenting:     **The Honorable June L. Green**  
                  Senior Judge, U.S. District Court  
                  for the District of Columbia

**Remarks**

**Betty Southard Murphy**  
*1987 Woman Lawyer of the Year*

**WBA Foundation Annual Report**

**Barbara Werthmann**

**President's Remarks**

**Bettina M. Lawton**, *President, 1986-87*

**President-Elect's Remarks**

**Martha Saenz-Schroeder**, *President, 1987-88*

**Election Committee Report**

**Linda Kurjan**, *Chair, Election Committee*

## BETTY SOUTHARD MURPHY

Betty Southard Murphy is a member of the national law firm of Baker & Hostetler, which has offices in Washington, D.C., Ohio, Colorado, Maryland, Virginia, and Florida.

When she was named Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, President Ford said she was "the most qualified and best respected person for the job." When she resigned, she was praised by the AFL-CIO, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Manufacturers for her "outstanding contributions."

Mrs. Murphy, who has held four other Presidential appointments, is also a former Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor.

President Reagan appointed her to the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, which is chaired by Warren E. Burger. She also serves on the Commissioner's Executive Committee and is Chairman of its International Advisory Committee.

An active trial lawyer, Mrs. Murphy has tried cases in federal or state courts in some 20 states and has argued in 9 U.S. Courts of Appeals. She has also been a First Amendment lawyer and has defended reporters and columnists in a number of libel actions.

Mrs. Murphy received a B.A. degree from Ohio State University, studied in Paris, and obtained her J.D. degree from The American University. She is active in various bar associations, has served on four academic boards, and has several degrees. She has lectured in a number of countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America.



Betty Southard Murphy  
Recipient of the WBA  
Woman Lawyer of the Year  
Award for 1987

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 70th Anniversary/History Committee would like to thank the following members who contributed generously of their time and provided the Committee with notes and other memorabilia for use in this presentation:

The Honorable Burnita Shelton Matthews

Clarice F. Hens

The Honorable Nadine Lane Gallagher

Mellie H. Nelson

Elizabeth Guhring

Rotraud M. Perry

Martha Saenz-Schroeder

Sarah A. Perrin

The Honorable June L. Green

Sadye Jane Davis (now deceased)

Mrs. Ward Stewart

Margaret Muth Lawrence

Marguerite Rawalt

B. A. Vertiz

Margery Waxman

Elaine S. Kahn

In addition, heartfelt thanks are extended to the members of the History Committee: Gayle D. Nelson, Ruth W. Robinson and Lora Tredway, for their efforts in researching and developing the history for this brochure, and to Kaye F. Hearn, Administrative Director of the WBA, for her efforts and cheerful assistance throughout this project.

Marjorie R. Freiman

*Chair, History/*

*70th Anniversary Committee*

May 19, 1987

# **FIRST DECADE**

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## **1 9 1 7 - 1 9 2 7**

### **Presidents:**

1917-1919 Ellen Spencer Mussey  
1919-1921 Ida May Moyers  
1921-1922 Emma M. Gillett  
1922-1924 Helen E. Jamison  
1924-1925 Marie Easby-Smith  
1925-1927 Burnita Shelton Matthews

### **Number of Women Lawyers and Judges in the United States:**

1910 - 558 or .005%  
1920 - 1738 or .014%

### **WBA Membership:**

1917 - 31 charter members  
1920 - 63 members

### **Founding the WBA:**

Seventy years ago, at a meeting to mark the anniversary of the historic March 13, 1913, suffrage parade, women lawyers in D.C. discussed seriously for the first time, the idea of establishing a professional organization of their own. They felt a need for such an association because the Bar Association of the District of Columbia would not admit attorneys who were women. Two months after that meeting, on May 17, 1917, 31 women attorneys became charter members of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. Only three other cities --New York City, Chicago, and Omaha -- already had permanent associations of women members of the local bar. The original "objects" of the WBA, adopted in the



Portrait of the Honorable Burnita Shelton Matthews, first woman to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge, presented to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, February 1, 1973.

temporary constitution of May 19, 1917, were: "To maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of the law, to increase its usefulness in promoting the administration of justice; to advance and protect the interest of women lawyers of the District of Columbia and encourage their mutual improvement and social intercourse."

The founding of the WBA was a result of several decades of effort by Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma M. Gillett to gain admittance for women into the practice of law. Ellen Mussey had practiced with her husband in his D.C. law office since 1876, but when she decided to become a member of the bar herself, after his death in 1888, she met a series of obstacles. She was denied admission to National University and Columbian College (both later incorporated into George Washington University), and for four years she was unable to persuade the bar examination committee to test her knowledge.

Eventually, Ellen Mussey prevailed on the committee; she passed the examination and was admitted to the bar in 1893 at age 42. Five years later, she and Emma Gillett founded the Washington College of Law, principally as a law school for women who were denied admittance elsewhere because of their gender. The WBA, as a result, has always had a close association with the Washington College of Law at The American University.

#### **Ties to the Suffrage Movement:**

Both Ellen Mussey and Emma Gillett were active in the woman suffrage movement. Mussey led a division of women lawyers in the 1913 parade and other members of the WBA were undoubtedly supporters of rights for women. For example, Burnita Shelton Matthews, the sixth president of the

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*... for four years she  
was unable to persuade  
the bar examination  
committee to test her  
knowledge.*

---

WBA, actively campaigned for woman suffrage beginning in 1918 when she came to Washington to attend the National University Law School. In 1920, the National Woman's Party awarded her a "picket pin" for picketing President Wilson at the White House to obtain his support for the Woman Suffrage Amendment. During Mrs. (later Judge) Matthews' term as WBA president, she represented her native state of Mississippi, by appointment of its Governor, as a delegate to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance meeting in Paris.

The WBA also was concerned about suffrage for District of Columbia residents. In December of 1917, the WBA passed a resolution in favor of granting the right of suffrage to the residents of the District of Columbia.

---

*... Ellen Mussey to  
taunt the male-only  
Bar Association of  
D.C....*

---

#### **The Early Years:**

The WBA was incorporated in November 1917, and by the end of the year the membership totaled 45, permitting Ellen Mussey to taunt the male-only Bar Association of D.C. At the WBA's first annual meeting, she commented, "The senior bar association . . . to which all male members of the local bar in good standing are eligible, after an existence of thirty years, numbers less than three hundred, while our association in less than a year has enrolled at least forty percent of those eligible."

Dues for charter members (those who joined before October 15, 1917) were \$1.00. The founders apparently dealt with the first financial crisis by increasing dues to \$5.00 in the permanent Constitution of September 1917, easing the burden on members by making the amount payable in two equal installments.

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### Achievements of Members:

Addressing the WBA members in May 1918, Ellen Mussey declared:

*We must as women stand for the recognition of the value of service rendered without regard to sex and it is for the stronger to help the weaker to receive proper recognition in the way of salaries and wages.*

*As pioneers in your profession, you have special responsibilities and in this world crisis you will have unusual opportunities for advancement and for service. May you all prove equal to the demands and opportunities of the present age.*

---

*"number of women practicing law in Washington and performing legal work for the Government has probably doubled within the past year [1917-18]."*

---

Then and subsequently, the members heeded her call. In her "Women in the Legal Profession" column in the September 5, 1918, *Washington Times*, Helen E. Jamison, the Associate Dean of the Washington College of Law and a WBA charter member, took note of the effects of "this world crisis," World War I, on the status of women in the law. She opined, "Probably few people realize the demand in these busy times for women with legal training and the extent to which such women have come into prominence." She suggested that the "number of women practicing law in Washington and performing legal work for the Government has probably doubled within the past year [1917-18]." To illustrate her point, Helen Jamison noted the accomplishments of several women lawyers including the following WBA members: Kathryn Sellers, who had just been nominated as judge of the D.C. Juvenile Court, and was the first woman to be appointed to the bench under federal authority; Elizabeth C. Harris, who had recently opened an office in private practice and who would be WBA president in 1927-29;

Mary O'Toole, who had been named to the board of directors of the Washington Chamber of Commerce; Gertrude E. Leonard, Helen F. Hill, and Laura Berrien, who were all recent appointees at the Internal Revenue Bureau, where, "with its large increase of work, due to war taxes, they were applying the income tax laws"; Katherine Pike and Clare Graecen, who worked at the United States Treasury Department; Sarah Andrews, who had been appointed to a legal clerkship at the Department of Labor; and Katherine Horan, who worked in the General Land Office, applying laws relating to public lands.

#### **Annual Meetings and Banquets:**

The original permanent Constitution of the WBA mandated that the annual meeting be held on the second Tuesday in May. The annual banquets also were important occasions for the membership. The programs focused on the interests and concerns of the members of that time, and included many topics that would still interest women lawyers. For example, the 1923 annual banquet speakers discussed "Opportunities for Women of the Legal Profession in the Banking Business," "Press Agenting the First National Convention of the Women Lawyers' Association," and the centennial of the promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine. In 1925, the speakers included the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of the Irish Free State Legation, the District Attorney, the Corporation Counsel, and Miss Jessie Dell, United States Civil Service Commissioner.

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*... the 1923 annual  
banquet speakers  
discussed  
"Opportunities for  
Women of the Legal  
Profession in the  
Banking Business, ..."*

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# **SECOND DECADE**

## **1 9 2 7 - 1 9 3 7**

### **Presidents:**

1927-1929 Elizabeth Harris  
1929-1930 May Bigelow  
1930-1931 Mary M. Connelly  
1931-1933 M. Pearl McCall  
1933-1935 Edwina Austin Avery  
1935-1937 Beatrice A. Clephane

### **Number of Women Lawyers and Judges in the United States:**

1930 - 3,385 or .02%

### **WBA Membership:**

1933 - 239 members

### **Ongoing Activities:**

By the middle of the WBA's second decade, the organization's membership totaled 239, while annual dues remained at \$5.00. Little survives in the public records of the association from this period; there certainly were no newsletters, and the WBA archives contain no minutes of meetings. The financial records of the time, however, are in impeccable order -- as befitting professionals who had been trained to be precise in their work -- and all drafts from the checking account at the Lincoln National Bank, 17th & H Street, N.W., have been carefully reattached to their stubs. The financial documents indicate that monthly dinners, annual banquets, and other special events were the occasions that permitted the members to engage in "networking,"



**Women's Bar Association  
of the  
District of Columbia**

**Annual Banquet**

**Wednesday, April 3, 1935  
Hotel Mayflower**

exchange ideas, and undoubtedly, give and receive support as women in their profession. No detail regarding these events seems to have escaped documentation in the financial records: the costs of flowers, mimeography, postage, engraved invitations, music, the hotel rooms, and catering are carefully set down. We even know that in April 1935, the association expended \$2.22 to provide cigarettes at a dinner.

#### **Banquets and Special Events:**

The banquets and special events of the association during the second decade, as during the first, featured programs and topics very similar to those of today. The Chief Attorney of the Department of Agriculture's Office of the Solicitor, Agricultural Division, and the Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. addressed the group in 1935. In 1936, the first vice president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's clubs offered "The Achievements of Women Lawyers: A Challenge to Women in Business," the president of the Bar Association of District of Columbia queried, "Why Bar Associations?", and the director of the Public Assistance Bureau of the Social Security Board expounded on "Crime in the Community."

#### **Achievements of Members:**

The achievements of individual members provide some insight into WBA activities. For example, Mary O'Toole, who was appointed to the District of Columbia Municipal Court bench in 1921 -- the first woman to receive such an appointment -- strongly advocated admission of women to the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. She, too, was a proponent of special causes, and according to the 1934-35 edition of "Who's Who in the Nation's

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*... the Ambassador of  
the U.S.S.R. addressed  
the group in 1935.*

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Capital," in 1929 she prevailed "in her long battle to have the Washington Chamber of Commerce go on record as opposing capital punishment." In 1929, M. Pearl McCall, who was an Assistant United States Attorney, was elected a director of the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the only woman on the board at that time. As vice chairman of the committee on universities, colleges and private schools, she focused on "diploma mills" in the District and helped pass legislation that made the institutions and their owners subject to prosecution.

**Legislation:**

Ellen Mussey was responsible for, among other enactments, the Mussey Act, which put mothers and fathers on a par with regard to guardianship rights and provided that married women would have control over their own property and earnings. In 1935, the WBA legislative committee worked with Burnita Shelton Matthews to achieve a longtime goal of Mrs. Matthews--passage of a bill on inheritance laws that improved the status of women.

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*Ellen Mussey was  
responsible for ... the  
Mussey Act ...*

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WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION  
*of the*  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*Nineteenth Annual Banquet*

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1956  
MAYFLOWER HOTEL



## BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO MISS GILLETT

Dean of Lawyers Is Given Testimonial Banquet by Women's Bar Association.

REACHES 70TH MILESTONE

Wrist Watch Presented by Those in Charge of Tribute to the First Woman Notary.

Tribute was paid to Miss Emma Gillett, dean of Washington lawyers, at a celebration banquet of her seventieth birthday at the Grace Dodge hotel last night, given jointly by the Legal club of the Washington College of Law and the Alumni association of the Washington College of Law and the Woman's Bar association.

Among the speakers were Judge Mary O'Toole, Judge Kathryn Sellers, of the juvenile court, Miss Alice Paul, vice president of the Woman's party; Mrs. Ruth D. Haven, who, with Miss Gillett, was the first woman law student in the District; Chapin Brown, Harry A. Hegarty, Miss Laura Berlioz, representing the alumni of the Washington College of Law; Miss Mary Kessler, representing the women students; Harry A. Barron, representing the men students; Thomas H. Patterson, representing "Teachers trained by Miss Gillett; Judge Michael Doyle, representing the District bar; and Miss Helen E. Jamison, representing the Woman's Bar association.

Miss Grogan Toastmistress.

Miss Sara Grogan, District chairman of the National Woman's Party, acted as toastmistress, and was introduced by Miss Lillian Raff in charge of arrangements for the banquet.

Miss Grogan defended the so-called "flapper," who has the courage to dress up-to-date, she said, and to bob her hair if she wants to.

Only Women Deans in U. S.

Miss Gillett is the only woman dean of a law college in the United States, and one of the founders of a law college primarily for women; she is the senior woman lawyer in the District; the first woman to be appointed a notary public by a President of the United States; the first woman to be made a member of a law firm in the District; and was a coworker of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw. Assistant Attorney General Franklin presented Miss Gillett with a wrist watch, the gift of the members of the three organizations in charge of the banquet.

## 'Women Are Satisfied'

### WOMEN BATTLE FOR LAST WORD ON EQUAL RIGHT

Witnesses Disagree at Senate Hearing on Need for Parity; Acheson's Views Assailed

Two distinguished Senators listened askance yesterday as a bevy of women debated a momentous issue.

The portentous question was whether women should have "equal rights" with men, as provided by the proposed Burke constitutional amendment. The immediate question was who was going to have the last word.

Mathews vs. Straus

The National League of Women Voters are "agin it." Who wants to be "equalized" by men, its representatives declared. The National Women's Party are all for it. Senators Burke (D.), of Nebraska, and Borah (R.), of Idaho constituting a Judiciary subcommittee, decided this was the place to just listen.

In this corner ladies and gentlemen. Mrs. Burnita Shelton Mathews, of Mississippi, legal counsel of the National Women's Party, seconded by Mrs. Stephen Pell, chairman and president of over 50 many women's organizations.

In the other corner, Miss Dorothy Straus, New York city attorney, who earlier had testified that "why any woman taking a good look at the world around them in which after all they have heretofore been excluded from a very large measure of direct participation, should want to recreate themselves in the image of man is beyond me."

Alimony Angle

As the gong sounded, Mrs. Mathews led with a left hook on the testimony presented by Dean Acheson, Washington attorney, and former Undersecretary of the Treasury.

"I would like to appear here today to clear up the confusion that exists in the mind of Mr. Acheson," she said. "The laws of nature are unchangeable and even if they were changeable, I am sure we women are satisfied with them as they are."

She denied Acheson's contention that the amendment would enable women to collect more alimony in divorce cases.

"Some of the States have even imposed payments of alimony on women," she continued, and many people think women get a great deal of alimony, but records show that less than 10 per cent of the divorce cases carry alimony payments."

Then the quick-witted New York woman attorney came back with a woman's touch holding that the amendment was "of order" because it would enable women to de-



Testimony-Testimony Mrs. Burnita Mathews Testifies She Denied at Senate Hearing That Equal Rights Amendment Would Enable Women to Collect More Alimony in Divorce Cases

## JUDGE O'TOOLE IS SWORN IN



Judge George C. Akam, presiding jurist of the Municipal Court, administers the oath of office to Judge Mary O'Toole, recently reappointed by President Hoover.

## Pearl McCall Appointed To Chamber Board Here

Assistant U. S. Attorney Is Only Woman Director In District.



M. PEARL MCCALL

Miss M. Pearl McCall, assistant U. S. attorney for the District of Columbia, was elected a director of the District Chamber of Commerce at the monthly meeting of the board last night in the Homer Building. She is the only woman director of the civic organization.

Miss McCall, as vice chairman of the committee on universities, colleges, and private schools, was active with Col. William O. Tufts in the drive against the so-called diploma mills in Washington that resulted in the enactment of a bill to prosecute them.

Col. Tufts reported that the work of compiling a directory of schools in the District is progressing and will be in shape for presentation to the board in a few months.

Charles W. Carr, president of the Chamber of Commerce, presented an invitation from the Fairfax County Fair Association to send representatives to the fair on Northern Virginia day, September 12. The directors accepted.

The board voted to instruct H. B. Moulton to invite the Grand Army of the Republic to hold its next annual meeting in Washington when the veterans convene on September 4.

Maj. Gen. Anton Stephan, chairman of the Cherry Blossom Festival, reported that the personnel of the committee would be much more extensive in character next year. Resolutions of appreciation of the work of the promoters of the Festival's parade on Labor Day were adopted and addressed to August J. Bargagli, grand marshal.

Sept 4/29

# THIRD DECADE

## 1937-1947

### Presidents:

1937-1939 Annabel Matthews  
 1939-1940 Helena Doocy Reed  
 1940-1942 Elizabeth M. Cox  
 1942-1943 Mary-Agnes Brown-Groover  
                   Helen Goodner Washington  
 1943-1945 Nadine Lane Gallagher  
 1945-1947 Sara Mero Williams

### Number of Women Lawyers and Judges in the United States:

1940 - 4,447 or 2.5%

### WBA Membership:

1941 - 300  
 1945 - 387

### Ongoing Activities:

#### Judiciary Dinners:

Each year, the WBA honored members of the judiciary -- judges of the Municipal Court, District Court, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court -- at the annual meetings of the WBA. The programs included elegant meals, prominent speakers, and entertainment, in addition to the election of officers and reports by the outgoing president.

#### Liaison with other Organizations:

The WBA maintained continuing and substantive liaison with the D.C. Bar Association, the National Association of Women Lawyers, the American Bar Association, the Inter-American Bar

<p> <small>TWENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY</small>  <b>WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION</b>  <small>OF THE</small>  <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>  <small>1917 - 1946</small>  <b>DINNER</b>  <small>HONORING THE JUDICIARY</small>  <small>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1946</small>  <small>MAYFLOWER HOTEL</small> </p>	
<p><b>OFFICERS</b></p>	
<p> <small>Mrs. Sara Mero Williams</small>  <small>Mrs. Mary-Prances Glenn</small>  <small>Mrs. Nora Rente</small>  <small>Mrs. Mary E. Ruepka</small>  <small>Mrs. Evelyn L. Krupp</small> </p>	<p> <small>President</small>  <small>Vice President</small>  <small>Treasurer</small>  <small>Recording Secretary</small>  <small>Corresponding Secretary</small> </p>
<p><b>DIRECTORS</b></p>	
<p> <small>Miss Mary M. Connelly</small>  <small>Mrs. Elizabeth M. Cox</small>  <small>Miss Florence Curren</small> </p>	<p> <small>Mrs. Julia Benton Hopkins</small>  <small>Miss Della Sheldon Jackson</small>  <small>Mrs. Una Rita Morris</small>  <small>Mrs. Nadine Lane Gallagher, Ex Officio</small> </p>

Association, and the Women's Bar Association of Baltimore, attending meetings, and working together on programs and issues. WBA members were also active participants in the annual Judicial Conferences, Citizenship Conferences and a number of international bar activities.

#### **Endorsements:**

The WBA actively endorsed members for vacancies on the benches of the Municipal Court, District Court, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court, as well as for political appointments in the public sector. According to a Women's Bureau Survey, women attorneys and judges employed by the federal government comprised 5.2 percent of all federally employed lawyers and judges in 1938. The median salary for women in these positions was \$2,780 a year.

#### **Junior Bar Association:**

A Junior Bar Association was active during part of this period. Records indicate bylaws were adopted by the Junior Bar Association in 1935, and that the Junior Bar Association played an important role in the annotation of the D.C. Restatement of Trusts.

#### **Legislation:**

The Legislation Committee was very productive, studying a large number of proposed and pending legislative actions and making recommendations on action for the membership to take. Members lobbied in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment, equalization of inheritance laws and permitting women to serve on juries in the District of Columbia. The Association also wrote letters or lobbied concerning many proposals related to the courts, the judiciary, legal practice and court rules and procedures.

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*The median salary for women in these positions was \$2,780 a year.*

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### **Current Decisions:**

WBA members published a "Current Decisions" pamphlet which briefed recent significant court decisions for the members' use.

### **Scholarship Committee:**

The Association selected women students for scholarships for legal or paralegal studies at the National University.

### **Women's Room at Courthouse:**

The WBA furnished and maintained a room for women lawyers at the D.C. Courthouse which contained, among other things, a locker (acquired in 1938), a table, a chair and a cabinet.

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*... vote on amending  
its bylaws to admit  
women.*

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### **Special Events:**

1940: Past president Burnita Shelton Matthews delivered an address at the dedication of the new Municipal Courthouse.

1941: The D.C. Bar Association, the "men's" bar, planned to vote on amending its bylaws to admit women. A letter was sent to all WBA members urging them to lobby their male friends to vote in favor of the amendment. [The Amendment passed]

1942: WBA Twenty-fifth Anniversary

1946: The Association went on record in support of suffrage for District of Columbia residents in connection with a plebiscite on the issue. President Sara Mero Williams delivered a radio address on the subject.

World War II: The war opened up appointments for women lawyers as it did for women in many occupational areas. WBA President Nadine Lane

A number of WBA members entered the armed services; others did war-related volunteer work at home. One member was influential in developing a legal assistance program for service personnel at a local service center. Many others worked at other non-law related tasks at service centers, blood banks and in other war relief activities.

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Dinners With Guest Speakers  
To Be One of High Lights  
Of the Coming Season

[illegible]

Plans for the new season of the Women's Bar Association of the District were discussed by officers and committee chairmen at a meeting at the Mayflower Hotel last week. Chatting together, left to right, are Mrs. Elizabeth M. Coe, chairman of the Committee on Co-operation With the District Bar Association; Mrs. Helena D. Rees, newly elected president; and Mrs. Grace Brown Ellis, program chairman.

Joe Annunzio, president of the American Bar Association, was named attorney for the defense. He is a member of the American Bar Association and is a member of the American Bar Association. He is a member of the American Bar Association and is a member of the American Bar Association.

# **FOURTH DECADE**

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## **1 9 4 7 - 1 9 5 7**

### **Presidents:**

1947-1949 Mary Frances Glenn  
1949-1950 Olive Geiger Faircloth  
1950-1951 Sarah A. Perrin  
1951-1952 Irene Kennedy  
1952-1954 Joan Murphy  
1954-1956 June L. Green

### **Number of Women Lawyers and Judges in the United States:**

1950 - 6,271 or 3.5%

### **WBA Members:**

1948 - 430  
1956 - 340

### **Ongoing Activities:**

#### **Judiciary Dinner:**

The Association continued its practice of honoring members of the judiciary at its annual meetings. These were gala events, with speakers, entertainment, fine meals, usually for five or six dollars per person, which covered the cost of numerous guests.

#### **Liaisons with other organizations:**

The WBA maintained relationships with local, national and international bar associations including both women's and "mixed" associations. Active participation in the annual Judicial Conference and Citizenship Conference were also regular parts of the WBA's activities.

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*The law abolishing dower  
and curtesy in the  
District of Columbia ...*

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**Endorsements:**

The association endorsed a number of members for positions on the Tax Court, Municipal Court and other benches as well as for public offices. A committee was formed in 1949 to find out how women were represented in legal divisions within the federal government, and to work with the Attorney General on a survey of government lawyers. The objective of the committee's work was to increase opportunities for women lawyers through their appointment to public office and as government lawyers. A 1954 Women's Bureau survey reported 747 women employed as attorneys and judges in the federal government. These women, who earned a median annual salary of \$6,142, comprised seven percent of all federally employed attorneys and judges.

**Legislation:**

The Legislation Committee studied a large number of proposed legislative initiatives and reported to the membership on their findings so the Association could vote on appropriate action. The Association formally supported suffrage for District of Columbia residents and the establishment of a marital affairs counsel and a family court, and commented on the District of Columbia adoption law and the legislation reforming the administration of estates. The law abolishing dower and curtesy in the District of Columbia, which was passed in 1957, contained a provision that resulted from a report made by the WBA.

**Joint Meetings with the Women's Medical Society:**

A number of joint meetings were held with the Women's Medical Society

of the District of Columbia featuring programs and speakers on issues of interest to both women doctors and lawyers.

**Scholarship Committee:**

The WBA selected women students for scholarships at the National University and sponsored a scholarship for women law students.

**Receptions for Women in Congress:**

The Association hosted several receptions during this period to honor women members of Congress. In 1949, Mrs. Bess Truman attended the reception.

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*... Mrs. Bess Truman  
attended the reception.*

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**International Committee:**

Throughout this decade, the International Committee was very active, participating in International conferences and programs and sponsoring speakers and programs on a variety of international issues.

**Legal Aid Bureau:**

The WBA was an early supporter of the District of Columbia Legal Aid Bureau. In 1956, the Director of the Bureau wrote that the WBA "was one of the first associations that recognized the usefulness of legal aid services and backed it up with funds from its own treasury."

**Special Events and Activities:**

**New Courthouse:**

In 1950 the WBA placed a gold-plated case containing the WBA letterhead and "greetings" in the cornerstone of the new United States Courthouse. The Association also negotiated with the Chief Judge of the Court to obtain a space for women lawyers in the new building. It was

March 1, 1942

THE SUNDAY STAR, WASH.

## Women's Bar Marks 25th Anniversary With Banquet

Talk on Latin American Law Is Given by A. B. A. Leader

While outlining a sharp distinction between lawyers of the United States and those of Latin America, David E. Grant, chairman of the American Bar Association's section of international and comparative law, last night called for more comprehension of Latin American codes and laws.

At the 25th anniversary

## Women Lawyers Meet

By DAISY CLELAND  
Star Staff Writer

Lawyers of the District were told yesterday that "push" and "pull" are necessary for a woman to win a judgeship.

So commented the only male participant at the monthly meeting of the District Women's Bar Association last night in the fourth-floor jurors' lounge Courthouse.

He was No. 1 lawyer now in the district, but former attorney general Frank B. Rowland, who retired last year.

Women last night was honored with the presentation of a Chief Justice of the United States at its annual banquet at the Mayflower Hotel. Associate Justices Wiley Rutledge and Harold H. Burton also they had received praise from all members of the Women's Bar Association.

Principal speaker was Sir Fred E. Hargrave, Australian Minister and Envoy, who discussed "Law and the Lawyers in Australia."

Declaring that he was "surprised" at the power of bar associations in this country, the former Australian attorney general said his country had no counterpart in fees and costs.

Pointing to a "great discrepancy" in fees and costs between the two countries, Sir Frederick said that in Australia "the user pays" costs for both sides and the "same" practice here is almost nonexistent in Australia. It is assumed, there, he said, "the law-



Woman Lawyer Of The Year

UNA RITA QUENSTEDT

WOMEN BARRISTERS in the Mayflower wait, toastmistress

At the 25th anniversary celebration of the District of Columbia Bar Association, Una Rita Quenstedt was presented the WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD for 1941, before a distinguished gathering of members of the judiciary and their friends.

The reception and dinner took place at the Mayflower Hotel, Wednesday night.

Mrs. Quenstedt has been an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia since 1937, and is presently Chief of the division of legal affairs.



25th anniversary banquet last night (left to right) Miss Marguerite R. Cox, association president.

## Stone Is First Chief Justice To Honor Women's Bar Dinner

For the first time in its 29 years, the District Women's Bar Association is concerned with the judicial aspects of the case and not with the "royal" of a Chief Justice of the United States at its annual banquet at the Mayflower Hotel. Associate Justices Wiley Rutledge and Harold H. Burton also they had received praise from all members of the Women's Bar Association.

Principal speaker was Sir Fred E. Hargrave, Australian Minister and Envoy, who discussed "Law and the Lawyers in Australia."

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Pointing to a "great discrepancy" in fees and costs between the two countries, Sir Frederick said that in Australia "the user pays" costs for both sides and the "same" practice here is almost nonexistent in Australia. It is assumed, there, he said, "the law-



THE LAW: At yesterday's reception for the judiciary given by the Women's Bar Association at the new Federal Bar Building, two judges and their hostesses enjoy some forensic banter. From left to right are Marvin Jones, Chief Judge of the U. S. Court of Claims; Ruth Joyce Hens, president of the Women's Bar Association; and Burnita S. Matthews, Judge at the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

By Harry Naffabaran, Staff Photographer.

## Active Part in Politics For Women Is Urged At Bar Group Dinner

Women should be more active in politics as part of their citizenship responsibilities, Miss Mary Donlon, chairman of the New York State Workmen's Compensation Board, last night told a dinner meeting of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. The annual dinner, held at the Mayflower Hotel, was in honor of the national and city judiciary.

"We have to change the habits of our thinking," Miss Donlon told the gathering of women lawyers and friends. "Government is nothing but public housekeeping and politics is the home economics of public housekeeping. We have to correct a state of mind which has made it seem this is something it is good for us not to be mixed up in."

"We should dedicate ourselves," she said, "to carry everywhere the opportunity for women to take their full measure of responsibility as citizens of this country and of this world."

### Clark Is Present.

In the audience were Attorney General Clark, Justice E. Barrett Prettyman of the United States Court of Appeals, and Chief Justice Bolitha J. Laws of the District Court.

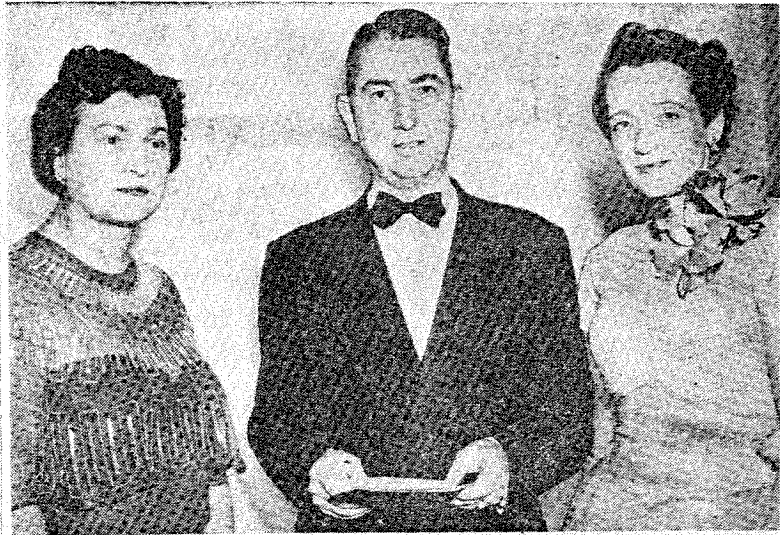
Also present, for the first time at a public function in Washington since she was married, was Municipal Court Judge Ellen K. Ready. She was married last month at Miami Beach, Fla., to Johnston R. Zimmerman of Miami Beach. Judge Ready will use her maiden name on the bench, she said.

Miss Mary Frances Glenn, president of the Women's Bar Association, introduced Lt. Joseph Garrison, U. S. N. R., of the committee on arrangements, who presided.

### Women's Obligation Seen.

The 100 years since 1848, date of the first American women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, N. Y., have been devoted by women to fighting for their rights, Miss Donlon said. "The next 100 years will be devoted to accepting their responsibilities."

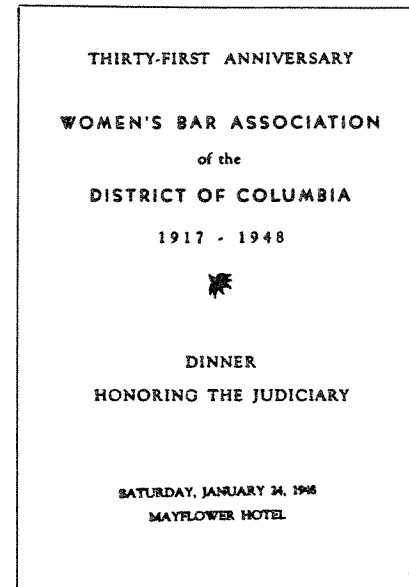
"They must accept the responsibility of leadership," she declared. "They should accept the same obligation to the leaders in all forward-looking movements in society."



**WOMEN'S BAR HOLDS DINNER**—Among those at the dinner of the Women's Bar Association last night at the Mayflower Hotel were, left to right, Judge Ellen Raedy of the Municipal Court, Attorney General Clark and Miss Mary Frances Glenn, president of the association.

—Star Staff Photo.

1948-WBA annual dinner honoring the judiciary: Judge Ellen Raedy, Attorney General Clark, Mary Frances Glenn, WBA President.



too late to get a separate room, but the Association was assured that a partition would be installed in the lawyer's lounge to provide a separate space for women attorneys.

#### **Public School Awards:**

In 1954 the WBA launched a program in three public schools in the District of Columbia to foster good citizenship by giving certificates to high school seniors who received straight A's in citizenship and pins for junior high students who demonstrated outstanding progress. The program was considered very successful in encouraging students, and was eventually expanded to all city junior and senior high schools.

#### **Citizenship Committee/ Naturalization Ceremonies:**

In 1954 the Association held the first reception in honor of new citizens at the United States courthouse after the monthly naturalization ceremony. Members of the judiciary, local organizations, local bar associations and patriotic and civic groups were invited. The party was such a success that the WBA continued the receptions as an ongoing activity, with the help of a large number of local organizations which took turns cosponsoring the events.

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*In 1954 the Association  
held the first reception in  
honor of new citizens ...*

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WBA Officers in 1949:  
left to right: Sarah  
Perrin, Vice President;  
Marjorie Hansen,  
Treasurer; Ruth Major,  
Secretary; and Olive  
Faircloth, President.



# FIFTH DECADE

## 1957 - 1967

### Presidents:

1957-1958 Mary M. Garner  
1958-1959 Doris G. Wilkins  
1959-1960 Lenore G. Ehrig  
1960-1962 Joyce Hens Green  
1962-1963 Mary Ellen McCorkle  
1963-1964 A. Patricia Frohman  
1964-1965 Margaret Lawrence  
1965-1966 Elizabeth Guhring  
1966-1967 A. Joyce Capps

### Number of Women Lawyers and Judges in the United States:

1960 - 4,954 or 2.4%

### Ongoing Activities:

#### Legislative Issues

#### District of Columbia Fair Employment Practices:

In 1965, Rose Mattingly and the WBA's Committee on the Status of Women persuaded the District of Columbia Commissioners to prohibit sex discrimination in its Fair Employment Practices (FEP) regulations. Until that time, the District of Columbia FEP regulations prohibited only discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, and national origin.

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*... WBA unanimously  
voted to endorse ERA .*

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#### Equal Rights Amendment:

On March 24, 1964, continuing a long tradition of support, the WBA unanimously voted to endorse the

proposed Equal Rights Amendment. At that time, only New York, North Dakota, Minnesota, Maryland, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and California had passed resolutions asking Congress to approve the ERA.

#### **Uniform Jury Service:**

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*... D.C. Commission on the Status of Women was established.*

---

The WBA was also a long-time supporter of removing barriers to women serving on juries in state courts. WBA Member Marguerite Rawalt, President of the District of Columbia Federation of Womens' Clubs, presented citations to Representatives Martha W. Griffiths (D. Mich.) and Florence P. Dwyer (R.N.J.) for their "personal leadership in sponsoring legislation to remove legal discrimination against women as citizens serving in state court juries."

#### **Family Law:**

In July 1965, WBA President Elizabeth Guhring testified in support of Public Law 89-217, which modernized the laws of the District of Columbia relating to divorce, legal separation and the annulment of marriages.

#### **Liaison with Other Organizations:**

One of the most significant organizational liaisons during this period was the WBA's involvement in the establishment of the District of Columbia Commission on the Status of Women. WBA members Marguerite Rawalt and Louise O'Neil were appointed to the District of Columbia Commission on the Status of Women on February 3, 1967. This Commission had been created largely due to the efforts of the WBA's Committee on Equal Status of Women which O'Neil had chaired. In 1966, the Committee had organized a conference of women's

organizations regarding the status of women in the District of Columbia--almost twenty women's clubs and organizations participated. WBA's Committee conducted an in-depth composite study and investigation and concluded that there was an urgent need for the creation of a Commission on the Status of Women.

#### Canine Corps:

A highly touted WBA program activity was the "Canine Corps" of the District of Columbia. In 1959 and 1960, the WBA raised funds to support the Canine Corps through individual solicitations of WBA members, from other civic groups and the general public. Approximately \$2,600 was collected, which made it possible for two members of the District of Columbia Police Department to travel to Scotland Yard for training to establish a Canine Corps. The first of six police

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*... WBA raised funds to support the Canine Corps ...*

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**YOUR SUPPORT IS NECESSARY!**

MORE TEAMS LIKE THIS WILL SOON REDUCE A CRIME WAVE DOWN TO A RIPPLE



MAKE THE STREETS OF WASHINGTON SAFE FOR ITS CITIZENS. YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE

**D.C. K-9 CORPS FUND**

MAY BE MAILED

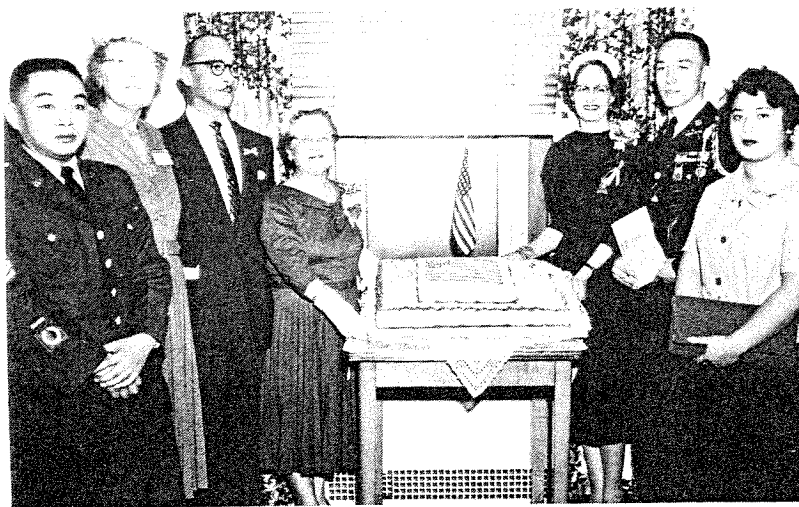
TO: MRS. LENORE G. EHRIG,  
PRESIDENT, WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION  
1026 PENNA. BLDG. N.W. - WASH. 4, D.C.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION OF \$1.00 OR MORE TODAY!

dogs went on the streets on April 13, 1960. This initial effort led, by 1967, to 100 man-dog teams in service in the District of Columbia. Four years after the creation of the Canine Corps, Lieutenant William C. Wright, Officer in Charge of training the Canine Corps, stated that there was a clear decrease in the crime rate in areas patrolled by Canine Corps members.

#### **Naturalization Ceremonies:**

The WBA continued holding receptions for new citizens throughout this decade. The fifth anniversary of the reception program was observed on February 10, 1959, with a large birthday cake, the receipt of a beautiful flower arrangement from the Sertoma Club (one of the program's co sponsors) and by the Chairman of the WBA being interviewed by Patty Cavin on WRC Radio.



D.C. American Legion Auxiliary and WBA co-sponsor reception honoring new citizens in the Lawyer's Lounge at the United States Courthouse on February 10, 1959. The birthday cake and flag celebrate the fifth anniversary of WBA's new citizen receptions. Elizabeth Reed, second from left, organized the receptions for several years for the WBA.



Citizenship Reception,  
February 10, 1959.  
Front row, left to  
right: Rotraud M.  
Perry, Florence  
McLouth, Elizabeth M.  
Cox, Maurine Aber-  
nethy, Sophie Lyman,  
Florence McGee,  
President-Doris Wil-  
kins, Kate Briggs.  
Back row, left to  
right: Beatrice Offuth,  
Edwina Avery, Cath-  
erine Myers, Eona  
Gatchell, Elizabeth F.  
Reed, Chairman, Cari-  
bel Sternberg.

### Special Events:

1964: The Women's Bar Association donated pictures of Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma Gillet, founders of the Washington College of Law, to be hung in the new Law School building, which was scheduled to open later that year. The gift was made possible by former WBA President Helena Doocy Reed. Thanking the WBA, Dean John S. Myers wrote:

*These pictures and the inscriptions they bear will be a perpetual reminder to future generations of faculty and students of the great contributions these ladies made. Contributions benefitting not only the institution they created, and the University of which it is now a part, but, as well, the advance of legal education and learning, and through this entire legal profession.*

Also in 1964, the WBA established its "Woman Lawyer of the Year" award.

1965: In October 1965, WBA President Elizabeth Guhring presented a bronze bust of Belva A. Lockwood as a gift from the WBA to the United States Courthouse.

1967: The WBA held its 50th Anniversary celebration on May 18, 1967 at the Mayflower Hotel. The program included opening remarks by President A. Joyce Capps; presentation of the 1967 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award to Una Rita Quenstedt; and a musical program entitled "Bar Review of 1967" (featuring the Bar Maids). Two hundred and fourteen members and guests attended: many of those in attendance remain active members of the WBA today.

WBA Members Louise O'Neil, second from left and Marguerite Rewalt, third from left, appointed to the D.C. Commission on the Status of Women. Judge Mattie Belle Davis, far left, and WBA member Rita Quenstedt, far right.



At the WBA 50th Anniversary dinner, May 18, 1967, The Bar Maids shared the limelight with Musical Chairman and past President, Elizabeth Guhring.



# **SIXTH DECADE**

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## **1 9 6 7 - 1 9 7 7**

### **Presidents:**

1967-1968 Antoinette B. Friedman  
1968-1969 L. Marie Van Hise  
1969-1970 Lee Berger Anderson  
1970-1971 Margaret Beller  
1971-1972 Elaine S. Kahn  
1972-1973 Marlene C. McGuirl  
1973-1974 Elsa Kaufman  
1974-1975 Gladys L. Fishel  
1975-1976 Rotraud M. Perry  
1976-1977 Mellie Nelson

### **Number of Women Lawyers and Judges in the United States:**

1970 - 13,051 or 4.8%

### **WBA Membership:**

Dues \$10-\$20

### **Ongoing Activities:**

#### **Liaison with Other Organizations:**

The WBA continued its activities with other professional organizations, including the American Bar Association, the D.C. Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the InterAmerican Bar Association, the Maryland Bar Association, National Association of Women Lawyers and the Virginia Bar Association, as well as the Women's Medical Society, holding and attending meetings which addressed current issues of concern to women and professionals alike. In addition, the WBA announced

its participation in the work of the D.C. Women's Commission for Crime Prevention, taking positive action to reduce crime in the city.

**Endorsements:**

The WBA continued to endorse qualified women attorneys for appointment to the benches of the local and federal courts. In 1968, June L. Green, WBA Woman Lawyer of the Year in 1965, was sworn in as a Judge to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, succeeding Judge Burnita Shelton Matthews, who was named Woman Lawyer of the Year in 1968. In March 1975, Julia Cooper Mack was sworn into a position on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, joining Judge Catherine B. Kelly who had been sitting on the bench since 1967. The WBA also continued to endorse its members for appointments in the executive branch.

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*The WBA played an active role in supporting and opposing pending legislation ...*

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**Legislation:**

The WBA played an active role in supporting and opposing pending legislation, both locally and on a national level. In 1968, Judge Edward Curran of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia proposed to Congress that a District of Columbia Superior Court of Criminal Jurisdiction be established to halt the ever-increasing backlog of criminal cases before the District Court. At the time, the District of Columbia was the only jurisdiction in which common-law crime was tried in a federal court. Judge Curran urged the WBA to endorse his proposal, but the WBA formally opposed the pending court reorganization bill, fearing resulting confusion and no change in the docket backlog.

In May 1970, the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments held hearings on the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. The WBA designated Marguerite Rawalt to testify on the first day of the hearings. The WBA actively supported the ERA throughout the ratification process by communicating with Congressional representatives, writing letters, and lobbying at local levels. The WBA Legislative Committee also studied proposed and pending legislation on the issues of bail reform, court reorganization, narcotic addiction, no-fault insurance and sex discrimination, making recommendations for WBA positions on the respective issues.



WBA President Marie Van Hise and Clifford Dougherty, George Washington University Law School Public Relations Director, admire plaster bust of Belva Lockwood, first woman admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. WBA presented the statute to the law school in July 1968.

### **Recent Cases of Interest:**

Picking up on the Current Decisions bulletins of earlier years, the *WBA Newsletter* published a synopsis of recent cases of interest in the areas of civil procedure, constitutional law, appellate practice, criminal law and procedure, libel and slander, torts, wills and excluding women from jury service.

### **Membership Meetings:**

Membership meetings were informative and covered a wide area of useful topics, including the new American Bar Association Code of Professional Responsibility, enforcing rights of consumers, crime in the District of Columbia, domestic relations, international law, child abuse, administration of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and tax reform. Discussions by guests and members were followed by lively question and answer periods.

### **Continuing Legal Education:**

In 1969, the WBA began a continuing legal education series, planning seminars led mainly by WBA members. During the following years, topics included practice before federal regulatory agencies, family law, civil trial practice, private versus government law practice, how to defend a criminal case, real estate law and transactions, practice in the new District of Columbia Superior Court, and wills and probate practice.

Tom Clark, former Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court and then director of the Federal Judicial Center, chats with WBA President Lee Berger Anderson, at the July 29, 1969, party in the Dolley Madison House which had recently been converted into the Federal Judicial Center. Justice Clark welcomed one hundred members and guests and told them the history of the restored house at 1520 H Street, N.W.



### Special Events:

1970: In August, twenty-two WBA and National Association of Women Lawyers members embarked on an around-the-world travel and study tour. The trip commenced in New York and stopped in London, Moscow, Leningrad, Pushkin, New Dehli, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Osaka and finally San Francisco.

1971: On February 1st, the new Superior Court of the District of Columbia commenced operations. In July, the Women's Legal Defense Fund was formed. Earlier that year, a group of approximately 35 women lawyers and law students had begun to meet to discuss the need for an organization the goal of which was to secure equal rights for women through litigation, education, information and counseling.

1975: Proclaimed "International Women's Year," seminars throughout the year focused on women. The Seventh Washington Conference on the Law of the World was held in October in Washington, with eminent women lawyers and judges from all over the world in attendance.

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*... the Women's Legal  
Defense Fund was  
formed.*

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# SEVENTH DECADE

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## 1 9 7 7 - 1 9 8 7

### **Presidents:**

1977-1978 Suzanne V. Richards  
1978-1979 Patricia D. Gurne  
1979-1980 Suzanne M. Snedegar  
1980-1981 Judith E. McCaffrey  
1981-1982 Susan A. Low  
1982-1983 M. Elizabeth Medaglia  
1983-1984 Jane A. Golden  
1984-1985 Janine D. Harris  
1985-1986 Patricia N. Gillman  
1986-1987 Bettina M. Lawton

### **Number of Women Lawyers and Judges in the United States:**

1980 - 67,639 or 13.6%  
1986 - 111,000 or 18%

### **WBA Membership:**

1978 - 400  
1979 - 500  
1980 - 850  
1981 - 1200  
1985 - 1700  
Dues: \$20-\$45

### **Ongoing Activities:**

#### **Cooperation with other organizations:**

The WBA maintained and expanded its contacts with other professional organizations, including the District of Columbia Bar, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, the Coalition for Women's Appointments, staffed and serviced by the National Women's Political Caucus, the Women's Bar of



June 1983 Judicial Reception.  
Left to right: WBA past  
President Pat Gurne; U.S.  
District Court Judge Thomas  
Penfield Jackson; WBA  
President Jane Golden.

Maryland, the National Association of Women Lawyers and the Women's Bar Association of Virginia. In addition, the WBA co-sponsored numerous programs including an annual meeting with the American Medical Women's Association, programs with the Washington Bar Association, Women in Information Processing, the Young Lawyers Section of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, the Radcliffe Club of Washington and the Harvard Law Women, the National Association of Women Judges, the National Association of Black Women Attorneys, the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, the ABA's Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities, the Small Business Administration, the National Association of Women Business Owners and the Department of Justice. These programs covered the spectrum from lawmakers to legal areas for people in business to honoring senior executive women, to computers and the law.

#### Endorsements:

During this decade, the WBA endorsed several of its members for appointment to the benches of the District of Columbia Superior Court, the federal district and circuit courts and the United States Supreme Court. Almost a dozen WBA members were confirmed for appointment to the various benches, including Rosalyn Bell to the Montgomery County Circuit Court, Margaret Haywood, who was named Chief of the Probate Division of the Superior Court, Joyce Hens Green, who was named Chief of the Family Division of the Superior Court and later nominated and confirmed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Harriet Taylor, Iraline G. Barnes and Nan Huhn to the District of

Columbia Superior Court, Patricia M. Wald to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Helen Nies to the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, Edna Parker to the United States Tax Court, Norman Holloway Johnson to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Judith Rogers to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Sandra Day O'Connor to the United States Supreme Court. The WBA continues to endorse its members for vacancies on the various courts.

#### Legislation:

WBA was active in investigating and studying proposed legislative bills, informing the membership of pending



Sarah Weddington, center, American Medical Women's Association President Lillian Beard, left, and WBA President Liz Medaglia at the February 15, 1983, joint AMWA-WBA meeting at which Weddington shared recollections of Roe v. Wade, which she argued before the U.S. Supreme Court.

action and encouraging the members to take appropriate action. Among the topics studied and addressed by the WBA included the Equal Rights Amendment, battered wives, Title VII Gilbert Amendment, prohibiting discrimination against women based on pregnancy, athletic provisions of Title IX, urging enforcement as to women in physical education, athletics and sports, equality of women in education, women in the armed services, affirmative action, parental and medical leave and equal pay and comparable worth.

### Continuing Projects:

Among the continuing projects of the WBA were the monthly new citizen's receptions. In 1979, the 25th Anniversary reception was co-sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, the largest women's patriotic organization in the world. The WBA continued to hold its judicial reception, honoring members of the judiciary in the local and federal courts in Washington. The WBA also continued its participation in the District of Columbia Women's Commission for Crime Prevention, celebrating its 10th Anniversary in May 1978. During the last several years, the WBA has held an annual holiday party to benefit the House of Ruth, the largest city shelter for homeless women. The WBA sent voting delegates to the District of Columbia Judicial Conference each year and participated in the Community Law Fair on Law Day, with essay and poster contests, mock trials, projects involving the courts and the District of Columbia council and booths with information on local service organizations and facilities in the city.



June 1983 Judicial Reception. Left to right: U.S. Military Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robinson O. Everett and WBA member Linda Bridgman.

### Committees:

The majority of the work of the WBA is performed by committees and during the past decade, the committees have included the following: Administrative Law/Government Relations, Audit, Budget/ Resources Development, Career Opportunities, Citizenship (naturalization), Citizenship Certificates (high school students), Directory, Executive Endorsements, Forum Steering, Legal Status of Women/ Community Projects, Legislation and Issues, Networking, Membership/Admissions, History, Newsletter, Program and Speakers Bureau.

### Forums:

In 1980, largely due to the recommendations of a WBA task force, the WBA instituted the use of forums as a vehicle for members to meet with other members who shared similar interests, problems and concerns. The forums are generally loosely structured, featuring brown bag lunches or after-work meetings. Initially, a dozen forums were activated including litigation, labor and employment, working mothers, private practice, law faculty, new lawyers, administrative, consumer, family, tax and public interest. Over the years, the number and focus of the forums have greatly expanded, and the forums continue to be an integral and dynamic component of the WBA's work.



D.C. Bar President-elect Marna Tucker, WBA President-elect Janine Harris, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and WBA President Jane Golden at November 1983 dinner meeting at which Justice O'Connor addressed the WBA.



Professor Irving Younger, right, with wife Judith Younger, also a law professor, left, and WBA member Elizabeth Guhring, center, gave an entertaining lesson in evidence at the February 1984 WBA meeting.

### Speakers:

The WBA has sponsored and featured over 50 speakers during the last decade, covering a wide range of topics of interest to women, lawyers and professionals in general. A few of the topics covered have included Legal Malpractice, Title VII Sex Discrimination Cases, Women in Sports, Women in the Military, the Image of the Woman Lawyer, Financial Planning for Professional Women, the ERA and Political Prospects for Equality, Starting and Running Your Own Law Firm, the New Right, Getting Ahead in Bar Associations, Lawyers and the Media, Women Lobbyists, the Art of Rainmaking, Transferring Out of the Traditional Practice of Law, Stress Management, Women Attorneys as Advocates, Women's Issues in the Reagan Administration, Women in Congress, Advancement to the Judiciary, Grenada and the Press, and Executive Women in Government. The speakers

Nancy Dickerson, center, shown here with WBA President Jane Golden, left, and WBA President-elect Janine Harris, right, spoke on women's issues and press-government relations at WBA's monthly meeting in January 1984.



Financial advisors Lillian Blucher, second from left, William Johnson, center and Anita Martin, second from right, talk with WBA President Jane Golden, left, and Program Co-chair Linda Ravdin, right, at the March 1984 program on investments.



have included Nancy Dickerson, Geraldine Ferraro, Richard Cohen, Edwin Meese and numerous other notables in the D.C. and surrounding communities.

### Special Events:

1977: The WBA celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a cocktail buffet in the Library of Congress, inviting members of the judiciary, including members of the Supreme Court and high level women members of the administration.

1979: The WBA task force was formed to perform an in-depth examination of WBA, its purposes and its objectives. Among the topics addressed by the task force were the formation of special interest sections, the development of placement and referral services, fostering an effective network, updating and revising the membership directory and increasing visibility for the WBA through increased lobbying efforts as well as increased interaction with other professional women's groups.

1980: The Women's Bar Foundation was created as a charitable foundation to fund various WBA projects. Tax exempt status was granted in October 1981. Also in 1980, the WBA membership was open to all members of the bar regardless of gender.

1981: Symposium on women and economic issues in the law, covering a wide range of women's issues including property rights of unmarried cohabitants, evolution and status of women's property rights, antitrust aspects of midwifery, comparable worth claims under Title VII, tax issues important to women, women in credit rights and women in estate planning.



"I am delighted to have you here this evening, if only to show my friends I am still alive!" Actress Deborah Baber delighted WBA members with the wit and wisdom of Susan B. Anthony in "Half the Battle," a one-woman play featured at the WBA's second annual symposium, "Womanpower and the Law," March 30-31, 1984.

1982: The first Annual WBA Weekend Outing at the Greenbriar Hotel. WBA presented workshops on leadership techniques, career development and stress management. The two-day weekend, arrival on Saturday and departure on Monday, featured a cocktail reception Saturday night, magnificent accommodations and other indoor activities at the Greenbriar.



Washington Post columnist Judy Mann addressed the WBA on September 25, 1984, on the subject of America's working women's impact on the "unreconstructed attitudes" of the past.

1983: The WBA held a two-day conference entitled "The Emerging Self-Image of the Professional Woman" to afford participants opportunities to examine their goals, attitudes and priorities through the media of theatre, speakers and workshops. The conference opened with "Silkwood," an original play written and performed by Jehane Dyllan, tracing Karen Silkwood's life from her small-town childhood in Texas to the growing sense of self-worth that she found in her fight for worker's safety through her union activity. Saturday featured talks by women role models, whose own struggle and writing had given insight and inspiration to others. Several workshops were held on issues of women's development as professionals led by experienced psychologists and social workers, including such topics as Infertility, Women in Dual Career Relationships, To Have or To Have Not (Children - the Major Question), Parenting Children from Birth to Three, How to Cope with Life After Work (How to Survive Weekends and Vacations), Work and Love (A Juggling Act), The Crisis of Femininity in the Workplace, Fear of Success, What Price Power, Making the System Work for You, and others.

Also in 1983, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor addressed the WBA at its November meeting. The

meeting was held at the Vista International Hotel as a social outreach to less fortunate women, and small gifts were requested to be donated to the House of Ruth shelter for women. Justice O'Connor discussed how to combine a successful career with family life in "147 easy steps."

1984: The Second Annual WBA Symposium focused on women's roles in the law, past, present and future.



Robert Ford, Deputy Assistant Attorney General; Judge Thomas Hogan, U.S. District Court; and Richard Duvall, Partner at Dunnells, Duvall, Bennette and Porter, discuss advancement of women in the legal profession at the June 26, 1984, meeting co-sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Bar Association of D.C.



Judges Edna G. Parker and Harriet R. Taylor, seated, addressed the WBA on "Advancement to the Judiciary: The Selection Process and Life After Reaching the Bench," at the March 1983 meeting. Standing are program co-chairs Joan Countryman, left, and Janine Harris, flanking retired Superior Court Judge Margaret Haywood.

Entitled "Womenpower and the Law," it opened on Friday evening with a reception followed by "Half the Battle," a play about suffragette Susan B. Anthony.

The emphasis of the symposium was on the ability of women to "thrive and survive" in the legal profession today. A panel of distinguished women who "have made it" shared their experiences and techniques for success. The symposium continued with a luncheon

featuring a keynote speech by Dr. Carolyn Heilbrun, a Columbia University professor of English, author of 11 books, including "Inventing Womanhood." The symposium also featured workshops to develop personal and professional skills.

WBA President Janine Harris and journalist Emily Couric laughing at recent headlines about Women in Law, October 23, 1984. Couric addressed the WBA about society's attitudes towards women as professionals and the difficulties of combining career and family, stress and love.



June 1983 Judicial Reception. Left to right: D.C. Superior Court Judge Reggie B. Walton; Becky Ferrell; Superior Court Clerk Thomas A. Duckenfield, Jr.; D.C. Judicial Nominations Commission Chairman Frederick B. Abramson; WBA member Betsy Merritt.



June 1983 Judicial Reception. Left to right: WBA Reception Chair Judith Hetherton; U.S. District Court Judge Harold H. Greene.



## WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

1964	Marguerite Rawalt
1965	June Green
1966	Elizabeth Buntin
1967	Una Rita Morris Quenstedt
1968	Burnita Shelton Matthews
1969	Catherine B. Kelly
1970	Margaret H. Brass
1972	Margaret A. Haywood Louise O'Neil
1974	Alice Patricia Frohman
1975	Roslyn Bell
1976	Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt
1977	Suzanne V. Richards
1978	Jean Dwyer
1979	Joyce Hens Green
1980	Helen Nies Edna Parker
1981	Brooksley Born
1982	Florence King
1983	Gladys Kessler
1984	Patricia McGowan Wald
1985	Marna S. Tucker
1986	Jean Ramsay Bower
1987	Betty Southard Murphy