

Congratulations
on your
Seventy-fifth Anniversary

WOMENS BAR ASSOCIATION

OF

WASHINGTON, D.C.



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Celebrating 100 Years

75TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

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

The Women's Bar Association Foundation
presents

A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN THE LAW

on the occasion of the

75TH ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

OF THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1917-1992

Tuesday, May 5, 1992
The Mayflower Hotel



ELLEN SPENCER MUSSEY

Founder and First President

Dear Colleague:

We are delighted that you have joined us on this historic occasion — the 75th anniversary of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA). The growth and advancement of women in the law has been tremendous over the last 75 years, and the WBA has been in the vanguard of this movement.

This commemorative program booklet tells the story of the WBA, one of the oldest, largest and most active women's bar associations in the United States today. Since its founding in 1917, the WBA has been a leader in a world changed by women in the workplace, supporting cutting-edge legislation affecting the rights of women and children and developing model policies such as the *Guidelines on Family and Medical Leave and Alternative Work Schedules*. Throughout its history, the WBA has promoted its members as leaders of the legal community and, through endorsements, helped open the door to appointment to the federal and local bench and high level executive positions. One of the most valuable resources of the Association is the network of dedicated members, who have provided mutual support and advice throughout the years and who have consistently pressed local and national governments and public and private sector employers to treat women equally.

In 1981, the WBA established the Women's Bar Association Foundation (Foundation) and broadened its service to the local community. The Foundation addresses the special legal problems of women through educational activities and sponsorship of innovative programs in the community, the courts and the legal profession. During its 11 year history, the Foundation has provided significant support for many legal and community projects, including co-sponsoring seminars with the D. C. Commission for Women and The Women's Law Center, partially funding publication of the WBA's *Guidelines*, co-sponsoring the D.C. Bar's Task Force on Family Law Representation, sponsoring high school students' participating in the National Mock Trial competitions and creating a Corporate Clerkship program. This year, the Foundation has awarded grants or made contributions to Sarah's Circle (a multiservice agency for the elderly), the D.C. Rape Crisis Center, the Women's Law Center's conference on race and gender bias in the judicial process and the D.C. Women's Commission on Crime Prevention. The Foundation also held a successful theater party in conjunction with Hexagon, to benefit the St. John's Child Development Center and upcoming projects of the Foundation.

In this, the WBA's 75th year, it is fitting that we bring together women of national prominence who illustrate the diverse and dynamic contributions that women have made to the legal profession. Our honorees — Elizabeth Hanford Dole, Elaine R. Jones, the Honorable Patricia Schroeder and the Honorable Patricia Wald — are truly shining stars in the galaxy of women who illuminate the legal profession. Our keynote speaker, the Honorable Geraldine Ferraro, through her historic vice-presidential candidacy, has inspired countless women to value their "political voice" and to seek political office.

We give special thanks to our emcee, Carol D. Randolph, for her time and talent, to Cecelia Higgins and her History Committee, for writing the history of the WBA, and to Susan Colman and her 75th Anniversary Committee, for working arduously to ensure that tonight's program is memorable! We hope you enjoy the program.

Kathryn A. Ellis
President
Women's Bar Association Foundation

Kathleen V. Gunning
President
Women's Bar Association of D.C.

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A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN THE LAW

MENU

Appetizer

Ragout of Sea Scallops, Shrimp and Dill
in Puff Pastry, Noilly Prat Sauce

Salad

Boston Lettuce, Hearts of Palm and Julienne Vegetables
Walnut Dressing

Entree

Poulet d'Anniversaire
Marinated and Grilled with Tarragon Sauce
Seasoned White and Wild Rice
Melange of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Chocolate Blackout Cake
Raspberry Coulis

Coffee and Tea

Sauvignon Blanc and Zinfandel, Mirassou

Table flowers will be given to Columbia Hospital For Women.

A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN THE LAW

President's Welcome

Kathryn A. Ellis
WBA Foundation President 1991-1993

Dinner

President's Remarks

Kathleen V. Gunning
WBA President 1991-1992

Presentation of Awards

Introduction: Susan E. Colman
75th Anniversary Committee Chair

Emcee: Carol Randolph
Counsel, O'Toole, Rothwell, Nassau & Steinbach
former Emmy award-winning TV talk show hostess

Honorees: Elizabeth Hanford Dole
President, The American Red Cross
Elaine R. Jones
Deputy Director/Counsel
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
The Honorable Patricia S. Schroeder
United States Representative, Colorado
The Honorable Patricia M. Wald
Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals
for the District of Columbia Circuit

Speaker: The Honorable Geraldine Ferraro
1984 Democratic Vice Presidential Nominee
and former United States Representative, New York

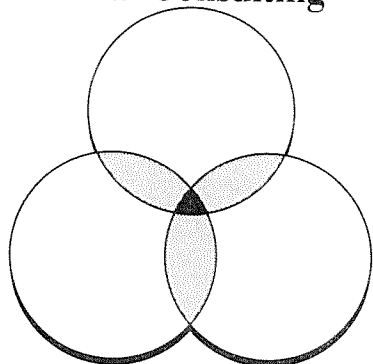
Closing Remarks

Delissa A. Ridgway
WBA President 1992-1993

Music provided by the Tom Teasley Trio
courtesy of WJZE Jazzy 100

WE CAN HELP YOU WIN YOUR CASE.®

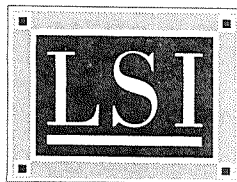
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A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN THE LAW

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(\$5,000)

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(\$2,500)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The WBA and WBAF extend their grateful appreciation to those whose generous contributions of time and resources helped defray the cost of this Celebration.

WJZE Jazzy 100.3 FM

Brewood Engravers

Blackistone Florist

Wordscape

Hecht's (Awards)

William H. Irvine of
The Mayflower Hotel

Robert DiGiovanni

Sara-Jane DiGiovanni

Lynne Frey

Kaye Hearn

Katherine Kelley

Mellie Nelson

Susan Notar

Barbara Offer

Susan Buckingham Reilly

Dorothy Reynolds

Theresa Thoman

Lucy Thomson

Margaret Richardson and William Chip of
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan



ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE

Honoree

After graduating with distinction from Duke University, North Carolina native Elizabeth Hanford Dole traveled north to Harvard, where she earned a masters in education and government and a law degree. She has witnessed many changes in the legal profession since her law school days, particularly the increasing number of women attorneys. There were 550 members of the Class of 1965 at the Harvard Law School, and only 24 were women. Today, 21 percent attorneys and 42 percent of law school students are women and she has the privilege of sitting on the Harvard Board of Overseers.

Elizabeth Dole spent some time after law school as a public defender representing the indigent and found it to be rewarding work—sometimes frustrating, often heartrending, but never dull. While she has taken on a number of challenges since then, she believes that her brief courtroom experience following law school was important because it helped affirm in her mind that the work of public service is crucially important in helping the less fortunate and those at-risk among us.

She began her professional career in Washington at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, where she planned the first national conference on education of the hearing impaired. She next served under Presidents Johnson and Nixon in the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, which was the start of service to the nation under six presidents.

Mrs. Dole served for five years as a member of the Federal Trade Commission and two years as Assistant to President Reagan for Public Liaison. Reagan appointed Elizabeth Dole Secretary of Transportation in 1983; she was the first woman to hold the position. During Mrs. Dole's five year tenure, the nation enjoyed the safest years in its history in rail, air, and highway transportation. The Department adopted regulations increasing the production of automobiles with air bags and automatic safety devices and overhauled the aviation safety inspection process as well.

As Secretary of Labor for two years under President Bush, Elizabeth Dole concentrated on workplace safety and boosting the skills and education of "at-risk youth."

Now President of the American Red Cross, Mrs. Dole heads 23,000 staff members and more than a million volunteers worldwide. Recognizing that volunteers are the "heart and soul" of the Red Cross, Elizabeth Dole announced that she would take no salary during her first year as President. She has overseen the organization's largest fund raising drive since World War II, in which \$26 million was raised in the Gulf Crisis Campaign. She also has announced a complete transformation of the way the Red Cross collects, processes, and distributes blood.

Elizabeth Dole is married to Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, resides in Washington, and has been named by the Gallup Poll as one of the world's ten most admired women.

In reflecting on the legal profession, Mrs. Dole noted that it now seems fashionable to criticize attorneys — and to highlight the weaknesses of our criminal and civil justice systems. And there can be no doubt that reforms are needed. It is her hope that the attorneys, who have been in the forefront of the civil rights movement and so many other areas that have moved America forward, will be in the forefront of making these necessary reforms.

Her hopes for women lawyers are her hopes for women in general — hopes summed up by the great Helen Keller, who said, "One can never consent to creep, when one feels an impulse to soar." When Elizabeth Dole first worked on Capitol Hill, after graduating from Duke, she sought career advice from several women she admired, including Margaret Chase Smith, Maine Republican. Mrs. Dole was so deeply impressed that a busy legislator would share an hour with a twenty-two year old stranger, that whenever a young woman calls her office with a similar request, she makes time to see her.

If she could write her legacy, it would simply be, "She did her best to ensure that everyone counts." Throughout her career, she has tried to reach out to Americans who have been on the outside looking in — women, minorities, at-risk youth, and those in dire human need. Her mission has been to increase their opportunities, and to help ensure that all Americans — no matter their sex, race, or religion — have the opportunity to use their God-given talents to undertake that which infuses them with a sense of mission and fulfillment. It is her strongest belief that service to others gives true meaning and purpose to life.



ELAINE RUTH JONES
Honoree

As a civil rights activist and advocate for more than twenty years, Elaine Jones has made her professional career the fulfillment of her girlhood dreams.

A product of the segregated South of the 1940's and the 50's, Elaine Jones remembers the unfairness and cruelty of segregation. Although she grew up among people of diverse economic backgrounds in Norfolk, Virginia, she still recalls the oppression experienced by African Americans from a legal and political establishment dominated by whites. She experienced with her brother and sister the anger and humiliation of not being able to find a place to stay, when her father, a Pullman porter, took them as small children on trips to Chicago and New York.

Elaine Jones knew from the age of twelve that she wanted to be a civil rights lawyer; her models were Thurgood Marshall and Constance Baker Motley, the first African-American woman appointed to the Federal Bench. Her mother strongly supported Elaine's career goals, but insisted that she also get a teaching certificate while in college "just in case." She received a bachelor's degree *cum laude* at Howard University and served for two years with the Peace Corps in Turkey.

It turned out that Ms. Jones did not need to fall back on teaching. In 1970, she was the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Virginia Law School. During her third year in law school, she accepted a position with a Wall Street law firm but later declined it to work for the NAACP Legal

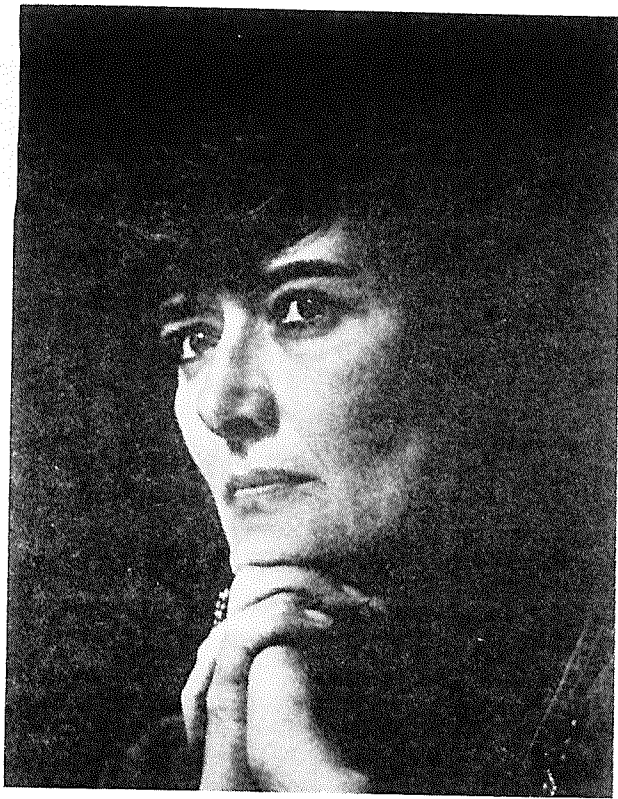
Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). Except for a two year stint as Special Assistant to Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman during the Ford administration, Elaine Jones has worked in civil rights her entire professional career, based first in New York and then in Washington, D.C. She has represented numerous defendants in death penalty cases and was a counsel of record in *Furman v. Georgia*, in which the Supreme Court abolished the death penalty statutes in 37 states. In addition to litigating civil rights cases in the federal courts, she has also represented retarded defendants in state criminal proceedings. Elaine Jones has monitored executive branch enforcement and worked for passage of a number of civil rights bills, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Civil Rights Restoration Act (1988), the Fair Housing Amendments of 1988, and the Voting Rights Amendments of 1982. Since 1988 she has served as Deputy Director-Counsel for Policy and Planning at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund serving in its Washington, D.C. office.

Ms. Jones has received numerous awards and recognition from organizations such as: the Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association, the National Association of Black Women Attorneys, National Black Law Students Association, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Alabama Lawyers Association, National Council of Jewish Women, Old Dominion Bar Association (statewide association in Virginia of African-American lawyers) and the National Bar Association.

Although recently there has been increased racial divisiveness in the United States, Elaine Jones believes that, despite obstacles, there still has been progress. She sees the civil rights struggle as having peaks and valleys, and believes that the climate today is not what it should be for civil rights. It is her view that the American people, with their innate decency and even without proper leadership, want to achieve racial fairness. The challenge still, as she sees it, is living up to the ideals set forth in our living Constitution. Since federal courts in the last ten years often have sought to restrict the application and interpretation of the civil rights laws, she believes it is more important than ever that we continue to litigate these important issues.

Noting that the organized bar has grown in its understanding of and outreach to lawyers of diverse backgrounds, Elaine Jones cites the enthusiastic support of the American Bar Association for the Civil Rights Act of 1991 as an example. Another example is that Elaine is the first African American to sit on the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, and now in her final year of a three year term, sits on its Executive Committee. One of only five women in her 1970 law school graduating class, she believes that the dramatic increase of women in the profession does not mean that we can accept a "business as usual" approach to lawyering. She advocates that women must bring their strengths to the bar, assist it in becoming pro-family and work to permit lawyers to earn a decent living. Yet lawyers must practice law in a way that does not dehumanize lawyers and the people they serve. Elaine Jones believes that the profession must continue to make adjustments so that public service is truly an important part of lawyering. She believes that, in order to be productive and successful, lawyers must not be required to "worship at the altar of billable hours."

Ms. Jones hopes that her legacy will be that she made an important difference in the lives of those she represented. She would like the body of civil rights law that evolves during her time at the bar to reflect the noble efforts of civil rights lawyers who tried to make a difference.



PATRICIA SCOTT SCHROEDER
Honoree

For nearly twenty years, she has been our voice in the House of Representatives as a woman, as a lawyer, as a mother, as a person of conscience. The most senior woman in the Congress, Congresswoman Schroeder has served as a Democratic Whip since 1978 and Deputy Whip since 1987. Dean of Colorado's congressional delegation, she represents the first district, comprising most of the city and county of Denver.

Highlights of Congresswoman Schroeder's career illustrate why she is one of the six most respected women in America according to a 1988 Gallup Poll. One of only four women to chair a House committee in this century, she is Chair of the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. Congresswoman Schroeder has been a lead sponsor through many congresses of the Family and Medical Leave Act that gives workers a right to a job-guaranteed unpaid leave for family emergencies, such as birth, adoption, and serious illness. Her 1989 book, *Champion of the Great American Family* (Random House) outlines a family policy agenda for the twenty-first century.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, which she helped found in 1977, Congresswoman Schroeder has worked to develop the Economic Equity Act, a comprehensive package of legislation that includes private and public pension law reform, tax policy, child support enforcement laws, insurance, and child care policy. The Caucus also has promoted the Women's Health Equity Act, among other legislation.

Congresswoman Schroeder has assignments on the House Armed Services Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. She is a sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, and the Freedom of Choice Act, which would put into Federal law the principles of *Roe v. Wade*.

Born in Portland, Oregon, Congresswoman Schroeder attended school in Texas, Ohio, and Iowa. A 1961 graduate of the University of Minnesota and a 1964 Harvard Law graduate, she practiced law and lectured at Denver colleges prior to election to Congress in 1972. Congresswoman Schroeder is married to attorney James Schroeder, and their two children are grown.

Although quite occupied in legislating, Congresswoman Schroeder kindly answered our questions about the legal profession today and her view for tomorrow. Congresswoman Schroeder did not always want to be a lawyer; rather, she chose the field because it offered her a wide range of options. Noting that the profession now has a greater emphasis on billable hours and rainmaking than when she entered it in the 1960's, Congresswoman Schroeder finds that being a lawyer has become more of a business than a profession. She believes that women are changing the profession for the better, however, and compliments the WBA on being in the forefront of change on professional issues that women confront. Congresswoman Schroeder hopes that as a result of her own and her Congressional colleagues' efforts, there will be more family-friendly and woman-friendly laws in the future. She would like to see the paternalism removed from the law, and favors legislation that treats women as equals without making choices for them.





PATRICIA MCGOWAN WALD
Honoree

Born in Torrington, Connecticut in 1928 to working class parents, Patricia McGowan Wald was the first in her family to attend college (B.A., Connecticut College, 1948). During summer work at the local factory, Judge Wald experienced a strike and determined to become a labor lawyer. She was graduated from Yale Law School in 1951, where she was an editor of the Law Journal. The same year she married classmate Robert Wald.

Ironically, Judge Wald has never practiced labor law. She worked for one year at Arnold & Porter, one of the few Washington firms that hired women at the time. She left the firm in 1953 and devoted the next ten years to raising her five children. During that decade, she stayed active in politics and with the Yale Law Alumni and wrote articles on legal subjects.

Reentering the workforce in 1963, Judge Wald was a member and consultant to the National Conference on Law and Poverty and later the President's Commission on Crime in the District of Columbia. A year doing criminal law at the Justice Department followed. She then spent nine years in various public interest projects, including Neighborhood Legal Services, the Ford Foundation Drug Abuse Research Project, and the Mental Health Law Project.

President Carter tapped Judge Wald to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs at the Justice Department in 1977, where she worked on the

Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, the Special Prosecutor Act, and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, among others. Recognizing her superior abilities, Carter nominated Patricia Wald to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit two years later. She served as Chief Judge from 1986 through 1991.

A prolific author, Judge Wald has had approximately 85 articles, book reviews and speeches printed in law reviews and other publications on such topics as criminal justice, mental disability law, poverty law, judicial process, and women's rights. She serves on numerous boards, committees, and commissions concerned with an array of subjects.

Judge Wald, an avid reader, enjoys contemporary fiction with a "feminist orientation" and mystery novels. The Walds live in downtown Washington.

A delightfully warm person, Judge Wald gave us her views on the profession and women in the law. Recognizing the strides women have made since she became a lawyer in 1951, Judge Wald thinks that women still have a long way to go. Although women are nearly 50 percent of law students, women comprise only 10 percent of law school faculties. Two other women serve with her on the D.C. Circuit, but some federal courts still have no female judges. Noting that it is a rare event today when there are no women attorneys involved in a case that she is deciding, Judge Wald remarks that women's valuable experience should be represented more in the profession and on the bench.

Judge Wald further believes that the structure of the legal profession makes it difficult for women to attain power at the same pace as men. The timing is such that the long hours and hard work needed to gain success in the legal profession coincide with women's childbearing years. She regrets that employers are not adjusting sufficiently and that women are not given the same mentorship as men. Recognizing that a non-blatant, residual prejudice still exists, Judge Wald believes that the profession and its institutions make it hard for women to reach top positions.

Judge Wald would like to leave a legacy of "considered compassion" in her judicial opinions. Believing that a judge can be compassionate as she crafts scholarly decisions, Judge Wald recognizes that deciding cases is an exercise in solving human problems and it requires experience and a strong sense of humanity to decide a case in the best way.





GERALDINE FERRARO

Keynote Speaker

The first woman vice-presidential nominee on a national party ticket (1984), Democrat Geraldine Ferraro of New York has already earned a place in history. Ferraro taught in the New York City public schools while she attended Fordham University Law School at night. She first decided to be a lawyer because she felt it was a way to have an impact on society and considers the day she applied to law school in 1956 as the day of her best career decision.

When she graduated from law school, one of only two women in her class, she remembers going through five interviews at a major Wall Street firm. After the final hour-long interview, the partner said "I think you're terrific, Miss Ferraro, but we're not hiring any women this year." She found employment as an attorney at the Queens District Attorney's Office, where she started the Special

Victims Bureau, prosecuting sex crimes, spouse battering, child abuse, and violent crimes against senior citizens.

After working in local politics, Ferraro was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1978 and served three terms as the representative of New York's Ninth District, in Queens. In Congress, Ferraro spearheaded efforts to achieve passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and sponsored the Women's Economic Equity Act, which ended pension discrimination against women, provided job options for displaced homemakers, and enabled homemakers to open IRAs. She was a member of the Public Works Committee, Post Office and Civil Service Committee, and Budget Committee and served on the Select Committee on Aging.

Now a candidate for United States Senate, Ferraro serves on the Board of the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the Board of the New York Easter Seal Society, and the Fordham University Board of Visitors.

Ferraro and her husband, businessman John Zaccaro, have three grown children.

In discussing her vision for the legal profession, she expressed the hope that our profession will become more activist. She believes that, as professionals, we should make our voices heard in the political arena, advocating and supporting day care, health care, and a safe, clean environment. Although women have come a long way in the legal profession since 1960, representing almost a quarter of the nation's attorneys, we make up only six percent of the partners in law firms. Women continue to face obstacles in the workplace: as staff in offices or as courtroom attorneys, we remain subject to sexual harassment, wage inequity, and glass ceilings. In her view, we must recognize and speak out against these obstacles.

As to her legacy--she hopes that more doors are open to woman in all walks of life, and that our values are heard and valued in the political system.



WOMEN LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

1964	Marquerite Rawalt
1965	<i>June Green</i>
1966	Elizabeth Bunten
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	Rosalyn 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
1988	Patricia Price Bailey
1989	Judith Lichtman
1990	Judith Rogers
1991	Sara-Ann Determan

WBA PAST PRESIDENTS

1917-1919	Ellen Spencer Mussey	1963-1964	A. Patricia Frohman
1919-1921	Ida May Moyers	1964-1965	Margaret Muth Lawrence
1921-1922	Emma M. Gillett	1965-1966	Elizabeth Guhring
1922-1924	Helen E. Jamison	1966-1967	A. Joyce Capps
1924-1925	Marie Easby-Smith	1967-1968	Antoinette B. Friedman
1925-1927	Burnita Shelton Matthews	1968-1969	L. Marie Van Hise
1927-1929	Elizabeth Harris	1969-1970	Lee Berger Anderson
1929-1930	May Bigelow	1970-1971	Margaret Beller
1930-1931	Mary M. Connelly	1971-1972	Elaine S. Kahn
1931-1933	M. Pearl McCall	1972-1973	Marlene C. McGuiri
1933-1935	Edwina Austin Avery	1973-1974	Elsa Kaufman
1935-1937	Beatrice A. Clephane	1974-1975	Gladys L. Fishel
1937-1939	Annabel Matthews	1975-1976	Rotraud M. Perry
1939-1940	Helena Doocy Reed	1976-1977	Mellie Nelson
1940-1942	Elizabeth M. Cox	1977-1978	Suzanne V. Richards
1942-1943	Mary-Agnes Brown-Groover	1978-1979	Patricia D. Gurne
	Helen Goodner Washington	1979-1980	Suzanne M. Snedegar
1943-1945	Nadine Lane Gallagher	1980-1981	Judith E. McCaffrey
1945-1947	Sara Mero Williams	1981-1982	Susan A. Low
1947-1949	Mary Frances Glenn	1982-1983	M. Elizabeth Medaglia
1949-1950	Olive Geiger Faircloth	1983-1984	Jane A. Golden
1950-1951	Sarah A. Perrin	1984-1985	Janine D. Harris
1951-1952	Irene Kennedy	1985-1986	Patricia N. Gillman
1952-1954	Joan Murphy	1986-1987	Bettina M. Lawton
1954-1956	June L. Green	1987-1988	Martha Saenz
1957-1958	Mary M. Garner	1988-1989	Lucy L. Thomson
1958-1959	Doris G. Wilkins	1989-1990	Jennifer Porter
1959-1960	Lenore G. Ehrig	1990-1991	Gwendolyn Simmons
1960-1962	Joyce Hens Green	1991-1992	Kathleen V. Gunning
1962-1963	Mary Ellen McCorkle		

HISTORY

First Quarter Century, 1917-1941

As of 1910, there were 358 women lawyers and judges in the United States. Some of them were among the 10,000 women who descended on Washington in March 1913 to parade for the right to vote. Ellen Spencer Mussey led the division of women lawyers. Four years later, to the day, 70 of the 80 women lawyers practicing in the District met at a dinner honoring the four men who had carried their parade banner. Their dinner conversation birthed the notion of an association for women lawyers, because the Bar Association of the District of Columbia admitted men only. As Ellen Spencer Mussey declared, "We need a woman as an associate justice on the District Supreme Court and we need a woman as assistant district attorney to help with domestic relations problems." She vowed to press for the appointments through a new women's bar association.

Mussey kept her word. On May 17, 1917, the feisty 67 year old convened a meeting at the Washington College of Law (now a part of American University) to discuss the formation of such an association. She and Emma M. Gillett had founded that college 20 years earlier, in 1896, so women could study law in the District. Most of the other area law schools (and throughout the nation) refused women, with the notable exception of Howard University Law School, which had admitted women from the time of its founding in 1869.

At that first meeting, those present named the organization the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA), elected Mussey its first president, and crafted a temporary constitution. Its stated object was:

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 interests of women lawyers of the District of Columbia and encourage their mutual improvement and social intercourse.

Any woman member in good standing of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia could join for annual dues of \$1.00. Members enrolled before October 15, 1917 were Charter Members. At its September 29, 1917 meeting, the WBA adopted a permanent constitution and by-laws, thus becoming

CHARLOTTE RAY

The first woman admitted to practice in the District of Columbia was Charlotte Ray, who also was the first African-American woman attorney in the United States. Born in 1850 in New York City, she was one of seven children of the Rev. Charles Bennet Ray, editor of Colored Youth, pastor of a large congregation, and strident abolitionist. Ray attended the Institute for the Education of Colored Youth in the District of Columbia. She first trained as a teacher and taught in the normal department (teacher preparatory program) at Howard University. Ray began evening law studies at Howard's Law School in 1869, the year of its founding, and specialized in commercial law.

In 1872, Ray graduated and was admitted to practice before the D.C. Supreme Court. Ironically, that also was the year in which the United States Supreme Court decided Bradwell v. The State of Illinois, holding that it was constitutional for a state to refuse to license women to practice law. The District's legal code had recently been amended to strike out the word "male" in connection with admission to the bar.

Ray opened a law office in the District which soon closed because of insufficient business. At least one colleague attributed the failure to racial prejudice. Ray remained an active suffragist and member of the National Association of Colored Women.

She returned to New York and to teaching in 1879, later married a Mr. Fraim and moved to Long Island, where she died in 1911.

the fourth organization of women attorneys in the United States; the others were located in New York, Chicago, and Omaha. Mussey served as the WBA President for two years before she was granted the status of "honorary President for life."

The minutes of the WBA's October 1917 meeting reflect that because of World War I, women were "coming to Washington in increasing numbers." Some were ignorant of the law. Others were not. Helen E. Jamison, the Associate Dean of the Washington College of Law and a WBA charter member (President in 1922-24), wrote in her column in the Washington Times on September 5, 1918 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]."

The WBA was officially incorporated on November 19, 1917. There were 31 members, a number which would increase to 45 by 1918. In December 1917, the WBA held its first banquet at the Lafayette Hotel at 16th and I Streets, N.W. The cost was \$2.00 per member, and each member was permitted to invite one woman guest. Miss Lathrop of the Children's Bureau, Miss Bates, Prosecutor of the Federation of Child Labor Law, and Lady Averdeen, President of the International Council of Women, attended.

Later that same month, the WBA convened a special meeting to discuss suffrage in the District of Columbia. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives had a Joint Resolution pending which gave D.C. residents the right to vote; the WBA placed itself on the record in support of that resolution.

At her first annual address to the WBA on May 14, 1918, Mussey emphasized the important leadership roles for WBA members:

We must as women stand for the recognition 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.

The WBA continued to grow in the post-war years. By 1920 the Association had 63 members, a new president, Ida May Moyers, and dues of \$5.00, a large sum for the time. The number of women lawyers and judges in the country stood at 1,738.

One of the WBA committees worked to legitimize children born out of wedlock, a project described in the annual report as "the righting of a great wrong which the world has already tolerated longer than it should." The WBA also pledged its cooperation in furthering a National Association of Women Lawyers. Moyers stated in her report that such an organization would "become a great power in advancing the interests of women lawyers and especially in breaking down the barriers which still bar their way to the higher judicial positions." WBA member Kathryn Sellers was the first woman appointed to the bench under federal authority when she joined the D.C. Juvenile Court in 1918.

At its May 1920 meeting, the WBA resolved to inform Chief Justice McCoy of the District of its existence and to offer him a list of the membership if he should wish to see it. As of 1921, however, Justice McCoy had yet to ask for the list.

In the wake of the 1920 passage of the XIX amendment, giving women the right to vote, the WBA turned its attention towards governmental positions which

had previously been denied to women. Mussey kept her dinner party promise of 1917 by meeting with the Attorney General in 1921 concerning the appointment of women to the office of the District Attorney. That same year, Pearl McCall (WBA President 1931-33) became an Assistant District Attorney and President Harding appointed Mary O'Toole to the D.C. Municipal Court. In 1922, the WBA adopted a resolution recommending the appointment of women to legal positions in the departments of government. The WBA's 1925 annual banquet featured the Attorney General of the United States, the District Attorney, the Corporation Counsel, a woman United States Civil Service Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Irish Free State Legation.

During the 1930's the WBA continued its efforts to help women advance. It endorsed women for vacancies on the Municipal and District Courts and the Court of Appeals, as well as other public sector appointments. It furnished and maintained a room for women attorneys at the D.C. Courthouse. The WBA claimed the attention of the White House by moving on May 20, 1930 to request that the President's Social Secretary send invitations to judicial receptions to WBA officers. According to a 1938 survey of Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, women attorneys and judges employed by the federal government constituted 5.2 percent of all federally employed lawyers and judges. Their median annual salary was \$2,000.

The era was also one of legislative activism for the WBA. At a January 11, 1921 meeting, Mussey reported on her lobbying efforts in support of a bill which would allow American women who married foreign citizens to retain their U.S. citizenship. The bill eventually passed in 1922. In 1935, the WBA's Legislative Committee and Burnita Shelton Matthews (WBA President, 1925-27) worked towards passage of a bill that would improve the inheritance status of women. In 1936, the WBA endorsed joint resolutions in the United States House of Representatives and Senate proposing a Constitutional amendment granting the District of Columbia representation in the House, Senate, and electoral college and granting the citizens of the District the same rights before federal courts as residents of the states. The next year, the WBA moved to endorse bills in the House and Senate to have the D.C. Code rewritten. During the 1930's the WBA legislative committee also worked to allow women to serve on juries in the District.

In the middle of the twenties, the WBA had 105 members. Membership more than doubled by 1933, when the Association boasted 239 members and the number of women lawyers and judges in the country rose to 3,385. The 1934 WBA dues of \$5.00 dropped to \$2.50 in 1937 and the membership roster swelled to 300. The WBA had proved itself an important forum for women to network, gain recognition, and work for change through legislative advocacy and public commentary. By 1940, 4,447 (2.5 percent) of American lawyers and judges were women.

The WBA membership lobbied male lawyers in 1941 to support a proposed amendment to the Bar Association of D.C.'s by-laws permitting the admission of women. The amendment passed, and the WBA entered its second quarter century as an organization of choice for women attorneys who believed that they could advance themselves, and the status of women in general, through their collective efforts.

Second Quarter Century, 1942-1966

The War Era and the late Forties

World War II strengthened the WBA's commitment to service. Mary-Agnes Brown-Groover, WBA President for 1942-43, resigned her office when she was commissioned in the Women's Army Corps, and other members joined the various women's branches of the armed services. In 1943, the WBA was the first organization to purchase a war bond (\$1,500). Through the WBA's War Work Committee, members volunteered for duty at service clubs, donated blood, gave to bond drives, worked with the American Red Cross and women's volunteer groups, and collected books for the Victory Book Campaign. One member helped to develop a legal assistance program for service personnel at a local service center.

The war also expanded opportunities for women in law. Many more women entered law school as male enrollment dwindled during the war. The Association sponsored scholarships for women students to the Washington College of Law (American University) and National College of Law (since merged with George Washington University Law School) and for paralegal studies. As President Nadine Lane Gallagher (1943-45) pointed out, "the war has given us a break. Those that are good in the profession will remain and advance." WBA membership stood at 358 in 1944; by 1946, there were 414 members. The ranks of women lawyers continued to grow after the war, due in part to women veterans attending law school on the G.I. Bill. The WBA reported 430 members in 1948.

The Association continued to endorse members for vacancies on the Municipal Court and all the federal courts in the District. The first woman to sit on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Burnita Shelton Matthews, took the bench in 1949. The first of successive invitations arrived for the WBA President, inviting

JUDGE

BURNITA SHELTON MATTHEWS

Born in Mississippi in 1894, Burnita Shelton Matthews was the only girl in a family of seven children. Her father, a planter, was elected Clerk of the Chancery Court and her mother was a college graduate. She married attorney Percy Matthews in 1917.

Matthews worked while she attended National University Law School at night and received a Bachelor of Laws in 1919 and Master of Laws and Patent Law in 1920. An active suffragist, she managed to spend some of her precious free time in 1919-20 picketing in front of the White House to get women the vote.

After Matthews was admitted to practice, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia returned her uncashed check with the excuse that her sponsor had withdrawn his support. (The Bar Association would not admit women for 20 more years.) In private practice in the District for 25 years, Matthews represented the National Women's Party, among others. In the 1927 condemnation action to acquire the permanent site for the U.S. Supreme Court building, Matthews obtained the largest award in the case for the Women's Party. A 1938 Washington Post article featured Matthews and four other women lawyers who shared offices in the District; they sometimes worked individually and sometimes teamed up on large projects, such as lobbying for equal rights legislation.

Matthews drafted numerous laws promoting equal rights for women, including the District of Columbia law allowing women to serve on juries; Arkansas, District of Columbia, and New York laws eliminating preferences for males in the inheritance laws; Maryland and New Jersey laws providing equal pay for male and female teachers; a South Carolina law giving married women the right to sue and be sued without joinder of their husbands; and the 1931 and 1934 amendments to the nationality laws of the United States extending to women citizenship rights previously accorded only to men. An avid supporter of the

her to participate in the Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia Circuit, dedicated to improving the administration of justice. The Association also began to honor members of the judiciary at annual meetings that had become gala events.

The work of Ellen Spencer Mussey was continued by a new committee, formed in 1949, to increase the appointment of women to public office and government legal positions. The committee worked with the Attorney General on a survey of government lawyers and examined women's employment in legal divisions within the federal government. For the benefit of members, the WBA regularly published a pamphlet which briefed recent significant court decisions.

The WBA's longest standing committee, on legislation, recommended action on many proposed and pending pieces of legislation. Members lobbied in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment and equalization of inheritance laws. The WBA wrote letters or lobbied for many proposals concerning legal practice, court rules and procedures, and the judiciary. In 1946, the WBA supported a plebiscite on suffrage for District of Columbia residents, and President Sara Mero Williams spoke on the radio in its favor.

The WBA worked with other bar associations to advance the profession through programs on issues of mutual interest. It coordinated with the Bar Association of D.C., the National Association of Women Lawyers, the American Bar Association, the Inter-American Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association of Baltimore. Members also attended international bar activities.

The WBA sent several members to the inaugural National Conference of Citizenship in Philadelphia in 1946, beginning a decades long association with the group, which was chartered by Congress to foster the spirit of cooperation that bound United States citizens during the war.

Prominent speakers addressed the Association in the post-war years, including such women members of the House of Representatives as Mrs. Chase Going Woodhouse of Connecticut (1946), Margaret Chase Smith of Maine (1948) and Helen Gahagan Douglas of California (1948). Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone and Associate Justices Rutledge and Burton and their wives attended the 1945 annual banquet. Attorney General Tom C. Clark was present in 1948. First Lady

Equal Rights Amendment, she prepared much of the early literature in its favor and often testified before Congress on the legal basis for women's equality.

Active in the WBA, she was President in 1925-26, and served as President of the National Association of Women Lawyers in 1934-35.

Prior to Matthews' appointment to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in 1949, one D.C. judge was quoted as having said that "Mrs. Matthews would be a good judge, but there was just one thing wrong; she's a woman." With the help of India Edwards of the Democratic national headquarters, Matthews became the first woman Federal trial judge in 1949. At the time, the only other woman Federal judge was Florence Allen of the Sixth Circuit. Matthews presided over the Paul Robeson passport case, the Black Muslim religious service case, and the James Hoffa conspiracy trial, among others. Matthews always hired women clerks, because, as she noted in a 1985 article, she "wanted to show [her] confidence in women."

The day before Matthews took senior status in 1968, Senator Stennis of Mississippi spoke in tribute to her on the Senate floor, describing her appointment to the bench "an important milestone, not only in the legal profession and the judiciary but also in the growth and change in attitudes of a great Nation." Stennis also pointed out that Matthews had become a Federal judge "because of her outstanding ability, judicial temperament, and record as a practicing attorney in the District of Columbia," rather than because of her sex.

Matthews took senior status in 1968 and sat by designation on the U.S. Court of Appeals until 1977. She died in April, 1988.

Bess Truman accepted the WBA's invitation for the February 2, 1949 reception for women members of Congress.

The Fifties

The WBA's activism showed that some women had more choices than were portrayed in the television sitcoms of the 1950's. The WBA continued to support scholarships for women law students, to participate in the annual Judicial and Citizenship Conferences, and to cooperate with numerous other bar associations. It also held a number of joint meetings with the Women's Medical Society of the District of Columbia featuring programs of interest to both groups. The International Committee participated in international conferences and programs and sponsored speakers on a variety of international issues. A number of members received endorsements for positions on the Municipal Court, the United States Tax Court, and other courts. The WBA celebrated the tenth anniversary of the appointment of Judge Burnita Shelton Matthews to the United States District Court with a reception in 1959.

Upon the recommendation of the Legislation Committee, the Association voted to support the establishment of a family division in the Municipal Court. The WBA also commented on the District of Columbia's adoption law and legislation to reform the administration of estates, and a WBA report helped abolish dower and curtesy in the District in 1957. In addition, the WBA's support for the Legal Aid Bureau led its Director to write in 1956 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."

In February 1954, the Association began its enduring commitment to welcoming new citizens of the United States with a reception at the U.S. Courthouse following the Naturalization Ceremony on the second Tuesday of the month. Members of the judiciary, local organizations, local bar associations, and patriotic and civic groups were invited. Due to the overwhelming response of the new citizens, the WBA's reception became a monthly event, with many other local organizations serving as co-sponsors. In 1955, the Sertoma Club presented its American Way Award to the WBA for its "friendship and service to new citizens." The elegant silver tea and coffee sets used at the receptions date from 1956 and continue in use today. In February 1959, the WBA celebrated the fifth anniversary of the reception; speakers at the ceremony included Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton, Senator Estes Kefauver, and Columnist Drew Pearson, and WRC radio interviewed the chair of the WBA's Naturalization Committee.

Another longstanding WBA tradition of fostering good citizenship began in 1954 with a pilot program in three junior high schools in the District. Ninth graders who received straight A's in citizenship (a formal subject) received certificates; the boy and girl who demonstrated outstanding progress during the three years of junior high school received a pin. The success of the program in encouraging students led to its expansion to all junior and senior high schools in the city.

In 1950, 6,271 women lawyers and judges in the United States (3.5 percent) were women. According to a 1954 survey by the Women's Bureau of the department of Labor, the 747 women employed as attorneys and judges in the federal government comprised 7 percent of all federally employed lawyers and judges. The women's median annual salary was \$6,142. Throughout the decade, however, the number of women lawyers and judges decreased to 4,954 or 2.4 percent in 1960. WBA membership likewise fell from its high in the late 40's, to 340

members in 1956. The WBA apparently reflected some of the changes in society at large as women stayed home in record numbers during this prosperous decade.

1960-1966

As American activism flowered in the sixties, so did the legislative activities in which the WBA took part. A contemporary history of the WBA noted that "the House and Senate District Committees routinely request the opinions of the Association on legislation they consider of interest to it."

In 1964, the WBA membership returned to its beginnings by unanimously voting to endorse the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Born in the fight for universal women's suffrage, the WBA had supported the amendment since its first introduction in Congress. At the time of the 1964 endorsement, however, only seven states had passed resolutions asking Congress to approve the ERA. The next year, the WBA Committee on the Status of Women persuaded the District of Columbia Commissioners to prohibit sex discrimination in the Fair Employment Practices regulations which at that time covered only race, color, religion, and national origin.

The WBA also fought to remove barriers to women serving on state court juries. Member Marguerite Rawalt, who also was President of the District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs, presented citations to Congresswomen 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."

Through several sessions of Congress the WBA supported bills that would modernize the District of Columbia's laws relating to divorce, legal separation, and annulment of marriages. Congress passed such a law in the wake of WBA President Elizabeth Guhring's testimony in 1965. The

MARGUERITE RAWALT

First recipient of the WBA's Woman Lawyer of the Year Award, Marguerite Rawalt was a tireless fighter for women's rights, a career government attorney, and an active WBA member for 57 years.

Rawalt had crossed the frontier in a covered wagon, lived in two sparsely-settled territories and three states, experienced an early failed marriage and was working as an office manager in Texas when former governor and employer Pat Neff sent her a telegram in 1928, "Rawalt, here's your chance. Come to Washington as my secretary, attend first-rate law school at night." She did.

Rawalt received the LL.B. degree from George Washington University and was admitted to practice in the District of Columbia in 1932. She earned the LL.M. from GWU in 1936 and later received honorary degrees from two colleges.

She spent her career with the Internal Revenue Service, but that was only a part of her real work. She was a founder of many organizations that serve women, including the National Organization for Women, the N.O.W. Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Women's Equity Action League, and ERAmerica. Rawalt also was N.O.W.'s first General Counsel.

Rawalt devoted herself to the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and received a standing ovation from the Senate Judiciary Committee when she testified in its favor in 1970. Named by President Kennedy to the first U.S. Commission on the Status of Women, Rawalt later helped organize the D.C. Commission on the Status of Women. Her biographer believed that "Rawalt built important bridges between traditional women's organizations and the newer organizations of the 1960s and 70s" and helped overcome the protectionism that had kept women at the bottom of the wage scale.

One of Rawalt's great causes was the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, of which she was founder and president. The NFBPWC named its library for Rawalt in appreciation for her efforts.

Association also endorsed legislation adding judges to the juvenile court (1961) and providing more equitable retirement benefits for certain judges (1964). Beginning in 1963, the WBA's Committee on the Equal Status of Women, chaired by Louise O'Neil, conducted an in-depth investigation and study on the status of women in the District. Almost twenty women's organizations and clubs participated in the WBA-organized conference of women's organizations in 1966 and successfully urged the creation of a District Commission on the Status of Women. WBA members O'Neil and Marguerite Rawalt were appointed to the Commission in early 1967.

The WBA sent a letter of concern to President Lyndon Johnson in 1965, decrying the lack of appointments of women judges in the District of Columbia. In early 1966, President Johnson appointed the first African-American woman to a federal judgeship, Constance Baker Motley of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The WBA's support for women judges did not flag. In August 1960, the WBA's president co-hosted with Pearle Mesta a lawn party at American University in honor of the women judges of the United States. Several receptions for those newly appointed followed, along with a 1965 tea for those attending the National Conference of Juvenile Judges. The annual receptions for all members of the judiciary continued; at the 1966 event, the WBA honored the 22 living past presidents of the Association, with 14 of them in attendance.

Other WBA programs featured speakers such as Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D. HI), who urged women attorneys to support poverty law programs, members of the judiciary in the District, the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court, and the District Attorney for the District of Columbia. Women lawyers of other nations attended a WBA reception held during the 1965 Washington World Conference on World Peace Through Law. The Association also hosted speakers on a wide range of non-legal topics, including the formation of the Peace Corps, the U.S. space program, the U-2 incident, and how to become a docent at an art gallery!

Ongoing service programs included the citizenship awards in the District's public schools, credited by the Superintendent of Schools with "stimulat[ing] respect and discipline in our school system." The WBA's August 1960 reception for naturalized citizens featured Associate Justice William Brennan, Chief Justice Earl Warren, and members of the British bench and bar who were in town attending the American Bar Association convention. As one thankful honoree noted during this period, the WBA's reception "was a perfect way to end one of the most memorable events in my life."

Another highly touted WBA service activity was the Canine Corps of the District of Columbia Police Department. The Association raised some \$2,600 to send two police officers to Scotland Yard for training to establish a canine corps. The first corps of six police dogs prowled the streets in April 1960. Four years later there was a clear decrease in the crime rate in areas patrolled by canine corps members. By 1967, there were 100 officer-dog teams in service.

The WBA had now grown old enough to celebrate its history. In May 1961, the Association contributed \$1,000 for the memorial to Ellen Spenser Mussey at

Rawalt was the first woman national president of the Federal Bar Association (1933-34) and held the same office in the National Association of Women Lawyers. Rawalt's contributions to the WBA include two stints on the Board of Directors (1947-50 and 1977-80) and one as a director of the WBA Foundation (1981). As the WBA Newsletter noted upon Rawalt's death in 1989, "generations of WBA presidents have appreciated her counsel [and] keen wit."

the Washington College of Law (American University). Three years later, the WBA presented portraits of the school's and the Association's co-founders, Mussey and Emma Gillett, to be hung in the new law school building.

In 1965, the WBA presented to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia a bronze bust of Belva A. Lockwood, the first woman to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Judge Burnita Shelton Matthews *accepted the bust for the court*. Lockwood, an active suffragist, also was the first woman in the United States to receive votes in a presidential election (as the candidate of the Equal Rights Party in 1884 and 1888). She was also the first woman to practice before the Court of Claims and the first woman admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Considered the author of the equal pay for equal work principle in the federal government, Lockwood remained an active lawyer well into her eighties, and died in 1917, three years before women's suffrage was won. A panel discussion on women's roles in the District of Columbia judiciary followed the presentation ceremony.

The Association began the tradition of its "Woman Lawyer of the Year Award" in 1964 by honoring Marguerite Rawalt, founder of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and former member of the WBA Board of Directors. The Honorable June Green received the award in 1965; she had been WBA President in 1954-56. The 1966 honoree was Elizabeth Bunten, assistant pre-trial examiner in the District.

Third Quarter Century, 1967-1992

The Late Sixties

The WBA blossomed as it entered its third quarter century, though the backdrop included such events as the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy and an expanding war in Southeast Asia. The Association continued to endorse qualified women attorneys for appointment to the local and federal courts. President Johnson appointed the WBA's 1965 Woman Lawyer of the Year, former WBA President June L. Green, to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. She succeeded Burnita Shelton Matthews, who retired to Senior status and was honored as Woman Lawyer of the Year in 1968. Judge Catherine B. Kelly joined the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in 1967 and was honored as Woman Lawyer of the Year in 1969. Former WBA President Joyce Hens Green (1960-62) became the first woman appointed to the Domestic Relations Branch of the local Court of General Sessions.

WBA member Maurine Abernathy nonetheless correctly observed in her Women Lawyers Journal article (Spring 1969), that the United States lagged behind other nations in selecting women to serve on its highest courts; no woman had yet been named to the Supreme Court, the Court of Claims, or the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals. The WBA endorsed Congresswoman Martha W. Griffiths (D. MI) for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1969, but it would be 12 more years before a woman was seated.

Coordinated activities with other bar associations and women's professional organizations continued in the late sixties. Joint meetings with the Women's Medical Society resumed in 1967; the groups heard an expert on the role of forensic medicine in solving crimes. On the international scene, several WBA members attended the 1969 Conference of the Inter-American Bar Association in Rio de Janeiro.

The WBA also joined hands with the D.C. Women's Commission for Crime Prevention by helping to draft legislation and educate the public on the law.

However, the WBA refused to endorse a 1968 bill before Congress to establish a District of Columbia Superior Court of Criminal Jurisdiction to prosecute local crime. At the time, the District was the only jurisdiction in which common-law crime was tried in a federal court. Fearing confusion and no change in the docket backlog, the Association formally opposed the court reorganization bill.

The WBA celebrated its fiftieth birthday with a gala at the Mayflower Hotel on May 18, 1967. Two hundred fourteen members and guests honored Una Rita Quenstedt as Woman Lawyer of the Year and were treated to a musical premiere of the WBA's own "Bar Maids," who turned show tunes of the day into ditties on the lives of women lawyers in the District.

The WBA joined the National Association of Women Lawyers in a three day celebration in 1969 marking one hundred years since Belle A. Mansfield of Mount Pleasant, Iowa became the first woman admitted to practice law before any court in the United States. The celebration included a White House reception and the admission of 38 women to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. The WBA introduced in 1969 a series of continuing legal education seminars led mainly by its members. During the following years, topics included practice before federal regulatory agencies, family law, civil trial practice, private versus government law practice, criminal defense, real estate law and transactions, wills and probate, and practice in the new District of Columbia Superior Court.

In honor of his "long years of faithful attendance" at its annual judicial receptions, the WBA bestowed on Chief Justice Earl Warren an honorary membership in 1969. The March 1969 WBA newsletter celebrated member Elizabeth Reed's 15 years as hostess of the naturalization receptions, stating, "through her dedication nearly ten thousand new citizens have known the warmth of our great country through the warmth of Elizabeth Reed's smiling presence." And the Association was the first to throw a party in the reconstructed Dolley Madison House, just converted into the Federal Judicial Center.

The Seventies

WBA President Lee Berger Anderson began the decade with a call to action to end the pervasive discrimination against women in the legal profession. Between 1960 and 1970, the percentage of women lawyers nationwide had doubled, from 2.4 percent to 4.8 percent. Although there were 13,051 women lawyers and judges, only one woman judge out of 100 sat on the United States Courts of Appeals; there was no woman Supreme Court justice; there were 51 women law professors out of 2,500, who worked in only 38 of the 134 accredited law schools; and women lawyers earned far less than men with similar credentials. Anderson attended the National Association of Women Lawyers convention in February 1970, which passed a resolution addressed to the deans of law schools and directors of placement calling on them to abolish discrimination against women in admission, scholarships, and job placement.

The District of Columbia Superior Court opened in 1971, replacing the former Court of General Sessions. Five of the 44 judges on the new court were women; this was the largest female representation in the judiciary of the District to date. Julia Cooper Mack joined the ranks of women in the local courts when President Ford appointed her to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in 1975. Later in the decade, WBA members joined the judiciary in record numbers. Margaret Haywood became Chief of the Probate Division of the Superior Court, Joyce Hens Green became Chief of the Family Division of the Superior Court.

and was later appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and Harriet Taylor took a seat on the Superior Court. The Association was particularly delighted when Patricia Wald was named to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

In late 1975, the Association commended to President Ford three women candidates for a Supreme Court vacancy: Judges June L. Green of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Shirley Hufstедler of the Ninth Circuit, and Cornelia Kennedy of the Sixth Circuit. Again, the time had not yet come.

Over the course of the decade, the Women's Legal Defense Fund was formed through the efforts of 35 women lawyers and law students who perceived the need for an organization devoted to securing equal rights for women through litigation, education, information, and counseling. Several WBA members were co-founders. During "International Women's Year" in 1975, seminars in Washington and throughout the world focused on women's issues and needs. The armed services observed the year by abandoning their policy of discharging pregnant women. And pursuant to a 1976 court order, one of every two new bailiffs hired for the D.C. Superior Court was to be a woman, to remedy the systematic denial of employment opportunities in the past.

WBA member Marguerite Rawalt received a standing ovation for her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1970 in support of the Equal Rights Amendment; Committee members lauded her statement as a complete and effective legal brief. When Congress passed the Amendment in 1972 (49 years after its first introduction), the WBA worked for ratification by communicating with members of Congress, writing letters, and lobbying at local levels. The WBA Newsletter kept members informed of developments in the various states, especially the machinations aimed at preventing a vote in Virginia where many members resided. The Legislative Committee also studied proposed and pending legislation on bail reform, drug addiction, no-fault insurance, and sex discrimination, making recommendations for WBA positions on the respective issues.

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 Women's Bar Associations of Maryland and Virginia, and the National Association of Women Lawyers. Touring the world during the summer of 1970, 22 adventuresome WBA and National Association of Women Lawyers members studied legal systems in London, Moscow, St. Petersburg, New Delhi, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Osaka. To help members obtain high level government jobs in the executive and judicial branches, the WBA joined over 50 major organizations in the Coalition for Women's Appointments, staffed by the National Women's Political Caucus.

The Association celebrated its 60th year in 1977 with a cocktail buffet at the Library of Congress attended by members of the Supreme Court and the judiciary and high level women members of the administration. In 1979, the WBA marked the 25th anniversary of its monthly receptions for new citizens after the naturalization ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse. That year also marked the 10th anniversary of the District of Columbia Women's Commission for Crime Prevention, in which the WBA was active. In 1976, member M. Pearl McCall celebrated her 100th birthday. She was the first woman appointed Assistant United States Attorney in the District and practiced law until she was in her nineties.

In celebration of Law Day in May 1979, the WBA co-sponsored a Community Law Fair at Judiciary Square. The Association staffed a booth to field the public's questions, and members also participated in a lawyers' arcade of booths covering legal specialty areas. Wine and cheese receptions honored women newly admitted to the District of Columbia Bar. Patricia Roberts Harris was the speaker at a 1970 program addressing crime in the District and suggesting ways to reduce recidivism in offenders. Other program topics included the new American Bar Association Code of Professional Responsibility, the administration of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and tax reform.

In mid-decade, the WBA spawned a new Placement Committee to assist members in career advancement. At the close of the decade, it assembled a task force to assess the Association's purposes and its effectiveness. The task force recommended forming special interest sections, developing placement and referral services, establishing networks, updating and revising the membership directory, and increasing visibility for the WBA through lobbying efforts as well as additional increased interaction with other professional women's groups.

Several WBA members received prestigious awards and appointments. The Washington Bar Association elected Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt its first woman president for the 1974-75 term; in 1976 she was the WBA's Woman Lawyer of the Year. Other recipients of the Lawyer of the Year Award were Judge Margaret Haywood and D.C. Commission on Women member Louise O'Neil in 1970. Member Betty Southard Murphy became the first woman Chair of the National Labor Relations Board. Former WBA President Lee Berger Anderson became President of the National Association of Women Lawyers in 1976. Two members appeared on a local television program titled "Women and the Law." Bettina Lawton became the first law student member of the WBA in 1978; she rose to the presidency eight years later.

1980-1985

The number of women in law school and the legal profession exploded in the early eighties. At the decade's beginning, 67,639 women were lawyers or judges; this represented 13.6 percent of the profession, compared to 4.8 percent in 1970. By 1986, 111,000, or 18 percent, were women. This influx of women and the WBA's new dynamism led to a corresponding growth in the organization's membership: from 500 in 1979, to 850 in 1980, 1,200 in 1981, and 1,700 in 1986.

Sandra Day O'Connor of Arizona became the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981. The decade opened with WBA member Helen Nies appointed as the first woman on the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals (now the Federal Circuit). Also in 1980, member Rosalyn Bell joined the Montgomery County Circuit Court and Iraline Barnes took a seat on the D.C. Superior Court. Norma Holloway Johnson, an Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court, joined the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Joint recipients of the 1980 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award were Judges Helen Nies and Edna Parker, who had recently been appointed to the United States Tax Court. Members Judith Rogers and Nan Huhn were appointed respectively to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court in 1983. Also that year, Judge Catherine B. Kelley of the Superior Court "retired" to private practice after more than 25 years on the bench. In 1984, Colleen Kollar-Kotelly and Susan Winfield joined the Superior Court.

The WBA joined with other professional associations to host a reception for the participants in the second annual conference of the National Association of Women Judges.

WBA leaders attended a March 1980 champagne reception at the Georgetown home of Governor and Pamela Harriman to honor the women members of the United States Court of Appeals: Patricia Wald of the D.C. Circuit, Amalya Kearse of the Second Circuit, Dolores Sloviter of the Third Circuit, Phyllis Kravitch and Carolyn Randall of the Fifth Circuit, Cornelia Kennedy of the Sixth Circuit, Betty Fletcher and Mary Schroeder of the Ninth Circuit, and Stephanie Seymour of the Tenth Circuit. Secretary of Education Shirley Hufstедler, a former Ninth Circuit judge, delivered the keynote address. The number of women on the Court of Appeals continued to grow in the 1980's.

The annual WBA receptions in honor of the judiciary continued. At the 1983 outdoor reception, Chief Judge Spottswood Robinson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit joked that he had issued a writ earlier in the day to keep predicted thunderstorms at bay. It worked; the deluge came during clean-up, after the guests had departed.

The WBA adopted a resolution in 1983 endorsing amendments to the 1964 Civil Rights Act to prohibit sex discrimination in private clubs that derive a substantial portion of their income from members who write off club charges as tax deductible business expenses. The six-decade fight for enactment of the ERA ended when the time for ratification expired in 1982, a few states short of the total needed. The WBA voted in 1984 to endorse legislation to overturn the decision in *Grove City College v. Bell*, in which the Supreme Court had limited the effectiveness of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in prohibiting sex discrimination in schools receiving federal aid.

In 1981, the WBA was instrumental in forming the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, which is an affiliate of the American Bar Association. Joint programs with the local women doctors and dentists groups continued, as did programs in cooperation with the D.C. Bar Association, Washington Bar Association, Women in Information Processing, the Young Lawyers Section of the Bar Association of D.C., the Harvard Law Women, the Radcliffe Club of Washington, the National Association of Women Judges, the ABA's Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities, and the National Association of Women Business Owners. The WBA continued its cooperation with the Coalition for Women's Appointments to aid members in obtaining executive appointments in government.

The Association's activities burgeoned. The WBA and Georgetown University Law Students co-sponsored a 1981 symposium on women and economic issues in the law. The WBA held a two-day conference in 1981 entitled, "The Emerging Self-Image of the Professional Woman" to afford participants opportunities to examine their goals, attitudes and priorities through theatre, speakers, and workshops. The Second Annual WBA Symposium, in 1982, "Womenpower and the Law," featured a play about suffragist Susan B. Anthony, a panel of distinguished women sharing their experiences and techniques for success, and workshops for developing personal and professional skills. The Greenbrier Hotel was the site in 1982 for the WBA's first weekend outing, featuring workshops on leadership techniques, career development, and stress management.

Monthly events planned by the Program Committee drew members and guests to hear speakers and exchange ideas. The first woman president of the

D.C. Bar, WBA member Marna Tucker, suggested ways to advance through bar association activities. Noted attorney Irving Younger entertained the WBA on the subject of introducing scientific matter into evidence. Marguerite Rawalt and Judge Catherine B. Kelley spoke on women lawyers in the District and the history of the WBA. Rawalt discussed the founding of two early women lawyer groups, the National Association of Women Lawyers (1899), and Kappa Beta Pi Legal Sorority at Chicago Kent College of Law (1908).

Washington Post columnist Judy Mann addressed the working women's impact on the "unreconstructed attitudes" of the past about women. Emily Couric, author of *Women Lawyers: Perspectives on Success*, dissected society's attitudes toward women as professionals. Nancy Dickerson, author and former network correspondent, shared her views on the press role in the invasion of Granada and the women's movement.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor spoke in 1983 on a topic she chose: how to combine a successful career with family life in 147 easy steps. A "sequencer" who devoted several years to raising children, O'Connor gave advice on reentering the profession. At another program, "superwomen" Brooksley Born and Jodie Bernstein, both partners in large law firms, and Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Rita Davidson gave their own strategies for balancing career and family.

Focusing on government, the WBA sponsored panels of congresswomen (Geraldine Ferraro, Patricia Schroeder) and women commissioners of federal agencies. Programs on issues of social concern included Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg's talk on the Constitutional status of human rights here and abroad. Sarah Weddington, who had argued *Roe v. Wade* before the Supreme Court in 1973, gave a perspective on abortion rights ten years later. NOW president Ellie Smeal honestly assessed the prospects for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and Mormon radical Sonia Johnson revealed her ideas on the women's movement.

The WBA's Placement Newsletter of the 1970's was reborn as the monthly Career Opportunities Newsletter in 1980, containing job listings and articles on job searches, resumes, interviewing, alternative careers and similar subjects. The Career Opportunities Committee, the largest of the Association's committees in the early 1980's, began a part-time job bank to aid members in job searches. The Committee held well-attended monthly evening programs and sponsored regular practice and procedure breakfasts at which WBA members spoke on their areas of expertise.

The WBA's self-examination at the end of the 1970's also led to the organization of forums for members to meet informally with other members who share similar practices, concerns, and life issues. The original forums centered around litigation, labor and employment law, administrative law, consumer law, family law, tax law, public interest law, law school faculty, working parents, and new lawyers. Over the decade, some forums merged, others disbanded, and still more were created as new forums for communications law, health law, international law, and senior attorneys (10 or more years in practice). The Health Law Forum published *Who's Who in Health Care Law*, a compendium of more than 300 lawyers in the metropolitan area.

Practicing the non-discrimination that it so strongly promoted, the WBA voted in 1980 to admit all members of the bar regardless of gender. Since that time, nearly all presidents of the unified District of Columbia Bar Association — both male and female — have been WBA members.

The WBA also expanded its service to the community during this period. It formed the WBA Foundation in 1980, which received tax exempt status in 1981,

to fund various WBA projects and causes in the city. Projects included annual holiday benefits for the House of Ruth, a shelter for homeless and battered women in the District. In 1982, a summer mayoral candidates forum gave members the opportunity to quiz candidates on their positions on issues of interest to lawyers and women.

Awards and recognition for the WBA grew. The Association was favorably cited as an example of the "new old girls network" in a January 1980 People Magazine interview with Jane Adams, a Seattle journalist and author of a book, *Women on Top*. Several WBA members were featured in the August 6, 1984 *Legal Times* article, "Parenthood's Impact on Career Weighed." Brooksley Born, a co-founder of the Women's Legal Defense Fund, long-time supporter and member of the WBA, and partner at Arnold and Porter, was the 1981 Woman Lawyer of the Year. Florence King followed in 1982, and Gladys Kessler, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court's Family Division in 1983. Judge Patricia Wald of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit received the award in 1984 from her law school roommate, WBA member Jodie Bernstein.

The WBA's nominee, Judge Margaret Haywood of the D.C. Superior Court, received an award at the 1980 Community Human Rights luncheon for her work in furthering human rights. Judge Haywood also received that year the Medallion of Merit given by the Washington Bar Association in honor of Charles Hamilton Houston, a civil rights lawyer and one of the Association's founders.

The 170,000 member National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs renamed its library the Marguerite Rawalt National Resource Center. At the time, Rawalt was a member of the WBA Board.

Patricia Gurne received a WBA citation for her significant contributions to the organization. WBA membership nearly doubled during Gurne's presidency in the late 1970's, and she is credited with the establishment of forums and the WBA Foundation, and served on its board. As a WBA committee chair, officer, and member of the board, Gurne has worked tirelessly to promote the cause of women in the profession.

1986-1989

The explosive growth of women in the profession and new members of the WBA levelled off in the late 1980's. There were 116,421 women lawyers in 1988, representing 16.1 percent of the total; at the end of the decade, WBA members numbered about 1,800.

Women continued to be appointed to the local bench, with Evelyn Queen, Mildred Edwards, and Cheryl Long joining the D.C. Superior Court. Member Judith Rogers became Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals in 1988. The WBA assisted at the tenth annual meeting of the National Association of Women Judges in 1989, the same year that former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry proclaimed October 2, 1989 "Women's Bar Association Day."

The WBA's support for legislative reversal of the Grove City College decision bore fruit when Congress passed the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985 and ensured that educational institutions receiving federal funds could not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of their programs. Another WBA endorsed act, the Federal Equitable Pay Practices Act, was passed in 1985.

Initiating a cause that would last through the next decade in 1986, the WBA endorsed the Parental and Medical Leave Act, a bill to provide unpaid leave and a guaranteed job-upon-return to employees of organizations of a certain size

who need time off to care for children or family members. The WBA also resolved to support the reintroduced Equal Rights Amendment, amendments to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and federal legislation to outlaw discrimination on the basis of pregnancy. Locally, the Legislation and Public Issues Committee worked for passage by the D.C. City Council of progressive legislation of interest to women.

The WBA co-sponsored or participated in programs with a host of other professional organizations. Together with the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations and an ABA section, the WBA presented an all day program, "Law and the Lawmakers: Advancing or Retarding Societal Change?" in July 1985. Chief Justice Rose Bird of the California Supreme Court gave the keynote address. Speakers at workshop sessions included the General Counsel of the National Organization of Women, local and federal judges, and prominent attorneys. Also in 1985, the WBA, the Small Business Administration, and the National Association of Women Business Owners co-sponsored a four part seminar covering a broad range of legal issues for anyone in business or contemplating starting one. Yet another program that year saluted the women of the 99th Congress, including Congresswomen Lindy Boggs, Barbara Vucanovitch, Nancy Johnson, and Jan Meyers. Lynn Cutler, Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee, spoke on becoming politically active as a way to advance one's career.

In 1986, Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D. CO) addressed WBA members on legislative developments affecting women, including the Family and Medical Leave Act, which she co-sponsored. The WBA and the Attorney General Ed Meese honored senior women attorneys at the Department of Justice at a reception.

A day long 1987 WBA conference, "Stepping into Leadership — The Agenda for the Next Decade," brought together women achievers in communications, corporations, and the legal community to strategize on advancing women. Also in that year, a program and a newsletter issue were devoted to problems of chemical dependency for women in the legal profession.

Justice Harry Blackmun held the audience spellbound at the 1988 annual meeting when he answered questions from the attendees on *Roe v. Wade* and subsequent cases. Women lawyers, doctors, and dentists heard researcher and National Institutes of Health official Anthony Fauci on the AIDS crisis. Judith Lichtman of the Women's Legal Defense Fund decried the "mommy track" in corporate and law firm life, with two powerful women attorneys, Cory Amron and Caroline Lamm, joining her.

A highlight of the decade's programs was a panel presentation co-sponsored by the WBA and the area's law schools in 1989: Fathers and Daughters in the Law. The panelists were Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justice Harry Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court and their daughters Janet Rehnquist and Sally Blackmun, Senator Bob Graham of Florida and his daughter Gwendolyn Logan, former Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr. and his daughter Lovida H. Coleman, Jr., and former Commissioner of Internal Revenue Sheldon S. Cohen and his daughter Laura Cohen. The moderator, Judge Joyce Hens Green, facilitated a lively interaction among the panelists; after a question concerning whether Janet Rehnquist routinely read her father's opinions, Justice Blackmun quipped, "Well, I have to." The large audience showed its appreciation for a look at the familial side of the law.

Judge Kenneth Starr of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, who

was at the time Solicitor General-designate, gave a thinking person's guide to the First Amendment at the 1989 annual meeting. Another program that year featured a roundtable discussion of leave and flexible work schedule policies with moderator Ellen Kingsley, a local television investigative reporter, and a distinguished panel of lawyers in various practice areas. A subcommittee of the Legislative Issues Committee would later produce written guidelines on the subject.

The WBA also enlarged its service orientation during these years. A co-sponsor of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, the WBA was proud to support the training of area lawyers in advocacy techniques related to housing and other problems the homeless face. In the late eighties, the WBA holiday party benefited Project Northstar, a tutorial program for homeless children. The WBA and Foundation sponsored successful theatre night benefits to raise money, with the House of Ruth a frequent beneficiary. Art auctions also raised funds for social causes.

The Presidents of the WBA, Washington Bar Association, Bar Association of D.C., the Hispanic Bar Association, and the District of Columbia Bar joined with representatives of the U.S. Department of Justice and the District Board of Education to form Washington Lawyers Against Drugs to promote drug awareness for students in the D.C. Public Schools. WBA member Mary Terrell co-chaired the working committee and launched the program at Taft and Francis Junior High Schools in early 1987 with assemblies, questionnaires, and follow-up visits.

With all of this, there was still time for celebrations. Marna Tucker, first woman president of the unified D.C. Bar Association and long time supporter of the WBA, was honored as Woman Lawyer of the Year in 1985. The next year's honoree was Jean R. Bower, Director of the Council for Child Abuse and Neglect in the District. In 1987, Betty Southard Murphy, who was the first woman Chair of the National Labor Relations Board and is a prominent attorney in private practice, received the award at the WBA's 70th anniversary celebration at the Rayburn House Office Building. Patricia Bailey, former Commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission, was the 1988 honoree. At the decade's end, the WBA honored Judith Lichtman, President of the Women's Legal Defense Fund.

WBA members received other awards as well. President Reagan gave Alexia Morrison the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executive Service in December 1985 for her work as Chief of the Grand Jury and Felony Trial Sections at the U.S. Attorney's Office and as Chief Litigation Counsel at the SEC. In 1986, the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations gave its public service award to WBA member Francine Pinto for directing the series of seminars, "The Law is Your Business: Legal Fundamentals for the Small Business Owner." Judith Areen became the Dean of Georgetown Law School in 1989. Marguerite Rawalt, a longtime member and one of the most honored women in the WBA, died at year's end.

1990-1992

By 1990, women training to be lawyers were approaching parity with men: they comprised 40.8 percent of the 132,433 law students in the United States, and September 1991's entering law school class was 42.6 percent women.

Member Mary Ellen Abrecht was seated on the D.C. Superior Court in 1990, along with Kaye Christian, Linda Turner Hamilton, Ellen Segal Huvelle, Zinora Mitchell-Rankin, Patricia Wynn, and Joan Zeldon. Helen Nies became Chief Judge

of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in 1990, and Karen LeCraft Henderson was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Given the increasing presence of minority and women jurists, it was not surprising that the D.C. Court of Appeals and Superior Court formed a gender bias task force and a racial and ethnic bias task force to review jury instructions and court rules for language bias and to promote equal opportunity in court employment.

Efforts continued to enact the Family and Medical Leave Act. President Bush vetoed it in 1990 and Congress sustained the veto. The WBA supports the bill reintroduced in 1991. In the District, the Family and Medical Leave Act passed the City Council in 1990 and the WBA hosted a program to explain its broad impact. The Legislative Issues Committee sponsored a number of breakfast meetings with members of the D.C. City Council to discuss issues of mutual concern. The WBA was also part of a coalition supporting the federal Freedom of Choice Act that would guarantee the right to abortion even if *Roe v. Wade* were overturned, and joined a campaign to support the American Bar Association's reproductive rights resolution. Both actions were in keeping with the membership's vote in 1989 to take steps to protect women's right to choose.

The WBA's programs over the last few years have included a 1990 panel presentation, "So You Want to Be a Judge", with five jurists giving advice on structuring careers to lead to the judiciary. Together with the Greater Washington Area Chapter of the Women's Division of the National Bar Association [GWAC], the WBA sponsored a program on interviewing skills featuring four prominent women attorneys. Later that year, the two groups co-sponsored a panel on pregnancy and privacy at the D.C. Annual Bar Convention. One popular program was "How to Work a Room," with tips from successful practitioners. At the annual meeting, linguist and best-selling author Deborah Tannen (*You Just Don't Understand! Women and Men in Conversation*) had the audience nodding in agreement as she outlined the fundamental differences in how and why men and women talk.

The next year, the WBA gave a program on emerging international business and legal opportunities for women with Professor Herman Schwartz of the Washington College of Law (American University) as the dinner speaker. At the joint meeting with women doctors and dentists, Congressman Steny Hoyer (D. MD) and Dr. Mary Zalar, co-founder of Child Care Romania, talked about children's rights as a cornerstone of human rights. The WBA, Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and GWAC presented a program on the glass ceiling relating to the retention and promotion of women and minorities. The glass ceiling in the federal government was the topic of the speaker at the annual meeting, Constance Berry Newman, Director of the Office of Personnel Management. A popular program featured advancing in the federal government with suggestions from career attorneys as well as political appointees. Lawyers, the media, and the First Amendment was the subject of a program co-sponsored with the Federal Communications Bar Association and the American Newswomen's Club. The first annual women partners dinner took place in 1991, at which members met informally for conversation with prominent women attorneys in town.

Eleanor Holmes Norton, the Congressional Delegate from the District of Columbia, gave the keynote address at a program co-sponsored by the WBA and the National Association of Women Business Owners on law and business for the entrepreneur. Partners at major firms and reporters for the *Washington Post* and ABC News participated in a program on "Getting the Recognition You Deserve", a primer for lawyers who, in the course of their work, may have con-

tact with the media. Three women Superior Court judges gave a view of litigators from the bench, and several prominent lawyers told how to further your career by working in political campaigns.

The WBA began 1992 with a well attended program sponsored by the Lawyers At Home Forum on time off from the law — strategies from successful *sequencers*. Launched in 1990, the forum is one of the WBA's fastest growing. Judge Patricia Wald of the U.S. Court of Appeals told members how she reentered law practice after 10 years devoted to raising 5 children. Carol Bruce shared how to work part time, even as a litigator, and Jane Genster of NBC suggested teaching one law course as a means to continue to work professionally while devoting most time to family. Surgeon General Antonia Novello spoke to the joint women lawyers/doctors/dentists meeting on a variety of current health issues. At the D.C. Bar Winter Convention, the WBA and the GWAC together addressed sexual harassment in the workplace. A panel discussion on the "Voices of Women on Television" featured actress Sharon Gless and producer Barney Rosenzweig of the "Trials of Rosie O'Neill", American Film Institute Director Jean Firstenberg, Democratic National Committee Vice Chair Lynn Cutler, President Harriet Woods of the National Women's Political Caucus, and President Ellie Smeal of the Fund for the Feminist Majority, who strategized on ways to keep women's views and voices in front of the nation through the media. In the spring, the WBA hosted a reception honoring corporate counsel and a tea honoring the pioneer lawyers in the association.

Service activities continued apace. Members brought baby items to a 1990 "Boarder Baby Benefit" reception to help the infants abandoned at area hospitals. The children of Project Northstar, the tutorial project for homeless children in the District, again enjoyed the WBA's holiday party/benefit. In 1991, the Community Projects Committee sponsored an outing at Wolf Trap for the teen mothers of St. Ann's Infants and Maternity Home, with one WBA member teamed with each teen. The WBA also co-sponsored the Lawyers Have Heart run to benefit the American Heart Association; the WBA's team raised \$1,500 in pledges.

The WBA Foundation's 1990 theater night benefitted the House of Ruth. The Foundation's 1991 art auction helped to expand the dining facilities at Sarah's Circle, an organization providing housing and comprehensive social services for senior residents of the Adams-Morgan neighborhood. WBA members joined residents of Sarah's Circle at lunch at the facility.

The WBA Foundation co-sponsored with the D.C. Commission for Women a public policy forum to develop an agenda for women's issues in 1990-91, and a Women's Law Center all-day conference on "Fetal Protection: Whose Job Is It?" The Foundation also joined with the Women's Law Center to co-sponsor a day long conference on the role of race and gender bias in the judicial process.

With funding from the WBA Foundation, the Citizenship Committee sponsored the first annual writing contest in 1991 for junior and senior public high school students around the theme "I Have a Dream" in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Winner, Tommy Brewer II, of Roper Junior High School, read his moving essay at the 1991 annual dinner and at one of the monthly naturalization ceremonies at the U.S. Courthouse.

The WBA's groundbreaking *Guidelines on Family and Medical Leave and Alternative Work Schedules*, partially funded by the Foundation, appeared in 1991. The *Guidelines* were an outgrowth of two surveys of part-time work and leave policies in the District's legal community and a WBA community roundtable on

the subject. Developed over four years by a subcommittee of the WBA's Legislative Issues Committee, the *Guidelines* suggest policies that give lawyers the ability to attend to compelling personal needs while maintaining the loyalty, integrity, and standards demanded by the profession. The *Guidelines* provide that a minimum 16 weeks of paid medical or family leave should be available in a 24 month period, and outline a myriad of flexible work schedules and compensation schemes.

Chief Judge Judith Rogers of the D.C. Court of Appeals received the "Woman Lawyer of the Year" award in 1990. In her remarks, Judge Rogers urged the WBA to continue the battle against discrimination, and lauded the organization for being in the forefront of efforts to advance and protect the interests of women. In 1991, Sara-Ann Determan, who was then President of the D.C. Bar Association, was the honoree. Member Belva Newsome was nominated to the D.C. Public Service Commission in 1990 and the next year Jamie Gorelick was voted President-Elect of the D.C. Bar Association and Delissa Ridgway was elected Secretary.

The WBA ended its 75th anniversary year in May 1992 with a "Celebration of Women in the Law" sponsored by the WBA Foundation. The keynote address was delivered by the Honorable Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman nominated by a major political party for Vice President of the United States. At the Celebration, the WBA honored several distinguished women lawyers of national prominence, including Elizabeth Hanford Dole, President, American Red Cross; Elaine R. Jones, Deputy Director/Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.; the Honorable Patricia Schroeder, U.S. Representative, Colorado; and the Honorable Patricia Wald, Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. (See individual biographies). D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly proclaimed May 5, 1992 as "Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia Day".

The significant achievements of these distinguished honorees and the explosive growth in the number of women practicing law in the United States demonstrate that the face of the legal profession has changed dramatically over the 75 years of the WBA's existence. Women are no longer an anomaly on the bench, and their numbers are growing in senior government service, in corporate boardrooms, and in law firm partnerships. Throughout its history, the WBA has worked towards the goals of its founders: to promote the advancement of women in the legal profession and to improve the status of women in society. As a result of these efforts, we have come far indeed. But there is much yet to be accomplished. As the WBA celebrates its 75th anniversary, we must rededicate ourselves to breaking the "glass ceiling" and to creating an environment in which all attorneys — men as well as women — can lead balanced lives.



Marie Easby-Smith, who later entered a religious order, was WBA President in 1924-25, and was honored at 1966 judicial reception.



The WBA's own "Bar Maids" entertain at the Fiftieth Anniversary Party in 1967. WBA Past-President, Elizabeth Guhring, is at the podium.



WBA members (left to right) Minnie Cheseldine, Elizabeth Guhring, Joyce Capps, Jo Garrison, and Helen Dolan at D.C. Bar Convention in 1967.



June 1983 Judicial Reception (left to right) Natalia Combs, D.C. Superior Court Judge Geoffrey Alprin, WBA Past-President Patricia Gurne, William Taylor, and D.C. Superior Court Judge Harriet Taylor.



At June 1983 Judicial Reception, WBA President Jane Golden greets D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge H. Carl Moultrie I while Bar Association of D.C. President, James B. Lynn looks on.



Judge June L. Green presents the Woman Lawyer of the Year Award to Betty Southard Murphy at Seventieth Anniversary Celebration, 1987.



WBA President Martha Saenz (third from right) and outgoing President Bettina Lawton (second from right) at Seventieth Anniversary Celebration, 1987.



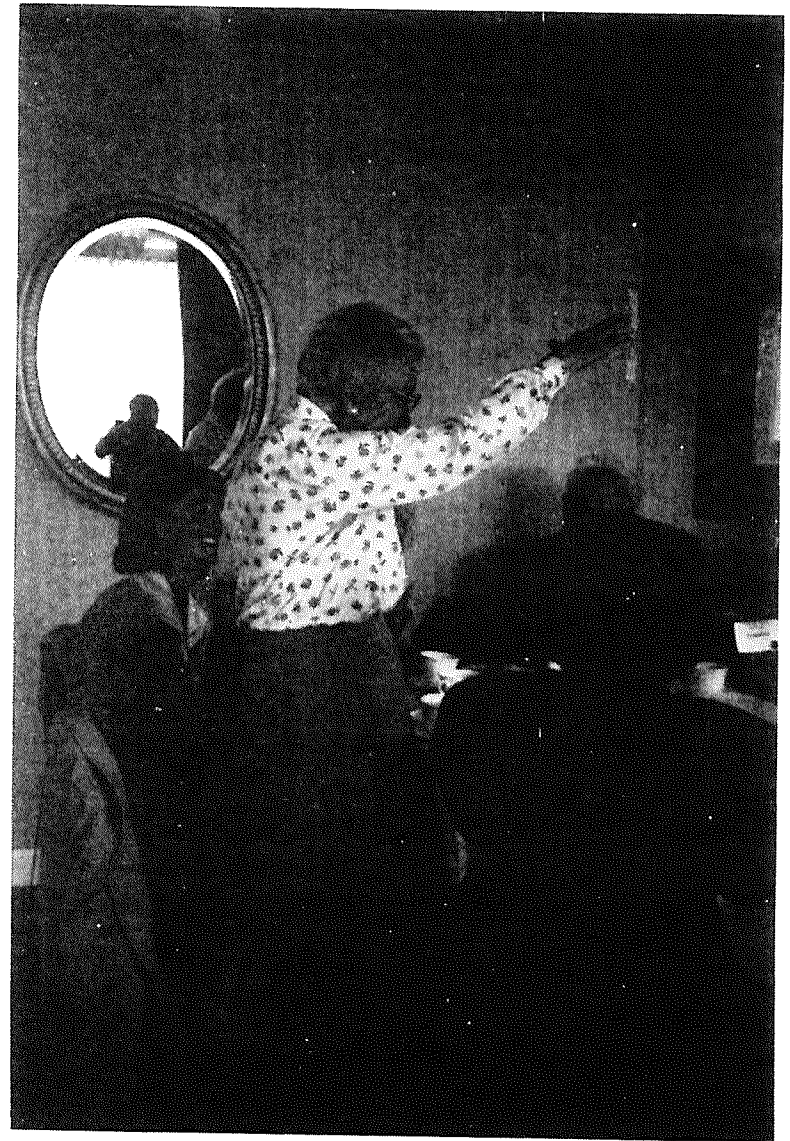
At a 1991 reception following Naturalization Ceremony, DAR and American Legion Auxiliary members join WBA co-chairs Carolyn Killea (third from right) and Jody Marten (right).



Jody Marten, co-chair of Immigration and Naturalization Committee, congratulates Essay winner Tommy Brewer II after speech at October 1991 Naturalization Ceremony.



1992 Voices of Women on Television panelist Sharon Gless (third from left) with WBA officer from left, Despina Tahmin, Loretta Garcia, Delissa Ridgway, Kathleen Gunning and Laura Novack.



One of the WBA's oldest living members: Mary-Agnes Brown-Groover, WBA President in 1942, greets the crowd at 1992 Pioneers Tea.

THE WBA 75TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

This glorious celebration did not happen in a vacuum. Due to the dedication and the very hard work of a greatly talented group of women, *the 75th Anniversary of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia* has not passed unnoticed.

As Chair of the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee, I truly appreciate the wonderful efforts of these women. We spent two years in the planning, and have emerged with an event which will be remembered. Planning an event like this takes a lot of time, a lot of energy and a lot of patience. With the goal of celebration before us, we tackled our jobs all with good humor and high spirit. My hat is off to my committee. Please join me in thanking them:

Jane Belford, Denise Brown, Janet Cooper, Carol Cowgill, Katherine Donohoe, Kathy Ellis, Loretta Garcia, Ilene Gotts, Kathy Gunning, Cecelia Higgins, Lisa Ridgway, Ada Rousso, Gwen Simmons, Barbara Solomon, and Gloria Sulton.

To my committee, for the hard work and unflagging support, for the shoulders generously supplied during times of need, I thank you jointly, I thank you severally, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you again.

SUSAN E. COLMAN



NOTES