

THE LAW STUDENT'S HELPER.

Vol. 1, Number 5, p. 102 -103, May 1893.

Can Women Practice Law?

Alabama.—We are informed that there is no statute or other provision prohibiting women from practicing law. No woman has been admitted to practice in this State, and there has been no agitation of the subject

Arizona.—There is one woman practicing law in Arizona Territory. This is Miss Sarah Herring, of Tombstone.

Arkansas.—Women are not admitted. The statute contains the word "male," which, until the legislature sees fit to strike it out, will prevent there being any female lawyers in this State.

California.—Women are admitted. There are three or four practicing: Mrs. Clara Foltz, Mrs. Laura de Norce Gordon, Mrs. Scipio Craig, Mrs. Young.

Colorado.—Women are admitted. Two only so far have been admitted, Mrs. Mary S. Thomas and Mrs. Josephine Luther, both of Denver.

Connecticut.—No woman has ever been admitted.

Delaware.—There are no women members of the bar in Delaware, though there is thought to be no law prohibiting them.

District of Columbia.—Women are admitted. The only women yet admitted are Belva A. Lockwood, Marilla M. Ricker and Eliza Dun Chambers.

Florida.—There are two women members of the bar of the circuit courts of Florida.

Georgia.—Women are not admitted.

Idaho—New Supreme Court rules have only lately gone into effect, by which the court say they would be authorized to admit women to practice. The statute however reads, "any white male citizen, or white male person, resident of this State, * * * * is entitled to admission, &c."

Illinois.—Women are admitted. About a dozen are now practicing.

Indiana.—Women are not admitted. One tried a short time ago in Greene county, but was refused. The constitution seems to prohibit it.

Iowa.—Women are admitted. Probably half a dozen are practicing.

Kansas.—Women are admitted. Only two, we believe, have been admitted to the Supreme Court, namely: Mrs. J. M. Kellogg of Emporia, and Mrs. Ella W. Brown of Holton.

Kentucky.—No instance of a woman having applied. It is probable there is nothing to prevent admission. The clerk of the Supreme Court says: "Our women generally seem to be satisfied to act in their proper sphere."

Maine.—Women are not admitted. No agitation of the subject.

Maryland.—Women are not admitted. The word "male" is used in the statute. There has been some agitation of the subject, and it is probable that the next legislature of Maryland will amend the law.

Massachusetts.—Women are admitted under an act of the legislature passed some twelve or fifteen years ago. Five have been admitted in Suffolk county. One is now dead. One was admitted in Middlesex county. The number in the entire State, perhaps, does not exceed ten.

Michigan.—Women are admitted. Among them Elizabeth Eaglesfield who practiced for some time in Grand Rapids, and Mary Foster at Ann Arbor.

Minnesota.—Women are admitted. It is believed that no woman has ever applied, but one or more are in the graduating class of the University Law Department this year, and will be admitted to practice upon their diplomas.

Mississippi.—Women are not admitted.

Missouri.—There are no women practicing in this State, and there is no agitation of the subject.

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Montana —Women are admitted under an act approved February 13, 1889. Miss Ella L. Knowles of Helena, is the only woman admitted.

Nebraska.—Women are admitted. The following are practicing before the Supreme Court: Addie M. Billings, Geneva; Ada M. Bittenbender, Lincoln; Alice A. Minick, Lincoln; Fannie O'Linn, Chadron; Nellie M. Richardson, Gering; Zara A. Wilson, Lincoln; Mary B. Bryan, Lincoln; Winona S. Sawyer, Lincoln.

Nevada.—The last legislature passed a law admitting women to practice. The first applicant is before the court for examination April 25th.

New Hampshire.—No woman has yet been admitted to the bar in this State. A few years ago a woman, who was a member of the bar in another State, applied for admission. The case was heard by the Supreme Court, and her petition was rejected. We do not know on what grounds.

New Jersey.—No women are practicing, and no applications have been made, and there is no agitation of the subject.

New Mexico —One woman has so far been admitted, namely: Mrs. Pettijohn, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

North Carolina.—Women are admitted. The only one that has ever applied, has been Miss Tabitha A. Holton, of Yadkin county. She was admitted in 1878, and died, we understand, soon after.

North Dakota.—No woman is practicing in North Dakota, and there is no agitation of the subject. The statute declares that "the power to admit *persons* to practice, &c." The matter has never been brought to the attention of the courts of this State.

Ohio.—Women are admitted. Several women are now practicing successfully in this State.

Oregon.—Women are admitted. Mrs. Mary A. Leonard is the only woman who has availed herself of the privilege.

Pennsylvania.—Women are not admitted. We understand that one applied in Philadelphia recently, and was refused admission.

Rhode Island.—None have been admitted, and none have ever applied.

South Carolina.—Women are not admitted, and no woman has ever applied.

South Dakota.—No woman has been admitted, but women may be admitted under the terms of the new law, which becomes operative in June next, the language of the law being "No person shall be refused a license under this act on account of sex."

Tennessee.—Women have never been admitted in this State. No agitation of the subject at present.

Texas.—No women are known to be practicing in Texas, and we know of none having been admitted.

Utah.—Women are admitted. Mrs. Emma R. Lee was admitted about a year ago, and is practicing law in the office of Sutherland & Howat, Mr. Sutherland of that firm being the well known author of "Sutherland on Damages." It is believed that two women were admitted to the bar of the first district court, at Provo, some years ago.

Vermont.—No application was ever made by a woman. There is thought to be nothing in the law to prevent their admission.

Virginia.—Women are not admitted. No agitation of the subject.

Washington.—Women admitted. Mary A. Leonard was admitted to practice, March 11, 1885. Is now thought to be practicing in Massachusetts. She is the only woman who has ever applied.

West Virginia.—No woman has been admitted. The code provides: "Any person desiring to obtain a license to practice law for the courts of this State must," etc. All of the pronouns used in the chapter are masculine. No agitation of the subject.

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Wisconsin.—Women are admitted to practice. The following have been admitted to the Supreme Court: Lavinia Goodell, June 18, 1879; Kate Kane, December 13, 1881; Terrie M. Sumner, February 6, 1885; Belle Case LaFollette, June 24, 1885; Norma Lawrence, June 17, 1891; Kate Pier, June 17, 1891; Kate H. Pier, June 17, 1891; Caroline Hamilton Pier, June 17, 1891; Harriet Hamilton Pier, June 17, 1891.

WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Belva A. Lockwood, Washington, D.C., March 3, 1879.
Laura D. Gordon, California, February 2, 1885.
Ada H. Bittenbender, Lincoln, Neb., October 15, 1888.
Carrie B. Kilgore, Philadelphia, Pa., January 8, 1890.
Clara S. Foltz, San Diego, Cal., March 4, 1890.
Lelia H. Sawtelle, Boston, Mass., April 8, 1890.
Emma M. Gillett, Washington, April 8, 1890.
Kate Kane, Chicago, May 19, 1890.
Marilla M. Ricker, Washington, May 11, 1891.
Myra Bradwell, Chicago, March 28, 1892.