

Central States

MINNESOTA - 1878

Martha Angle Dorsett

Martha Dorsett received her law degree from Iowa College of Law. When she and her husband, who had also graduated with a degree in law, moved to Minneapolis and applied for admission to the bar, her husband's application was quickly approved. The judge who reviewed Martha's application said she lacked only one statutory qualification: she was female. The judge continued, saying that "the work which the wives and mothers of our land reform, and the part they are to take in training and educating the young, and which none other can do so well, forbids that they shall bestow that time and labor, so essential in attaining to the eminence to which the true lawyer should ever aspire."

Dorsett finally was admitted to the bar in 1878 and practiced with her husband for 10 years. She and her husband were frustrated by the special interest politics in Minnesota and both stopped practicing law in the late 1880's. Dorsett developed an interest in the suffrage and prohibition movements.

WISCONSIN - 1874 - Lavinia Goodell

Although Lavinia Goodell was admitted to the Circuit Court of Rock County, Wisconsin, the Supreme Court of the state refused her admission. This decision, made by a Chief Justice Edward Ryan, illuminated the view held by many male lawyers in the late 19th century. After the state legislature passed a law allowing women to practice in Wisconsin, C.J. Ryan dissented from the court's decision to admit Goodell. He said, "The law of nature destines and qualifies the female sex for the bearing and nurturing of the children of our race and for the custody of the homes of the world and their maintenance in love and honor. And all lifelong callings of women, inconsistent with the radical and sacred duties of their sex, as is the profession of the law, are departures from the order of nature; and when voluntary, treason against it."

Ryan said that he wanted to protect her gender from "all the nastiness of the world which finds its way into courts of justice; all the unclean issues, all the collateral questions, of sodomy incest, rape, seduction fornication, adultery, pregnancy, bastardy, legitimacy, prostitution, lascivious cohabitation, abortion, infanticide, obscene publication, libel and slander of sex, impotence, divorce—and all the nameless indecencies." Despite Ryan's castigations, fellow female lawyers respected Goodell as an able and hard working lawyer. She died in 1880.

IOWA - 1869 - Belle Mansfield



Belle Mansfield, at the age of 23, became the first officially recognized lawyer in the United States. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan College, she joined her brother's law firm and began an apprenticeship in law. The following year she formally applied for the Iowa bar examination, despite statutory provisions limiting admission to "white males." Mansfield was

permitted to take the examination, passed and was formally admitted to the bar. Mansfield never practiced law, preferring instead to teach at Iowa Wesleyan. She was one of the founders of the Iowa Women's Suffrage Society and a popular lecturer for women's rights.

MISSOURI - 1870

Lemma Barkaloo

Lemma Barkaloo was first female law student as well as the first woman to try a case in court. After being rejected by both Columbia and Harvard, she enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis and after her examination, was admitted as an attorney to the Supreme Court of Missouri. She never finished law school, deciding to begin a practice instead. However, Barkaloo died of typhoid fever on a few months later.

ILLINOIS - 1872

Alta M. Hulett



While Myra Bradwell's case was on appeal to the United States Supreme Court, Alta Hulett applied for admission to the Illinois bar. She was denied. Hulett decided to take her case to the legislature and drafted a bill providing that no person be discriminated against in any occupation, except the military, on account of sex. With Bradwell's assistance, Hulett succeeded in getting her bill passed and became the first woman lawyer in Illinois.

MICHIGAN - 1871

Sarah Kilgore

Sarah Kilgore was the second woman in the United States to receive her law degree, having graduated from University of Michigan, Kilgore



became the third woman lawyer in the United States. Kilgore practiced law with her husband together in Michigan. After withdrawing from the profession for a short

INDIANA - 1875

Elizabeth Eaglesfield

Elizabeth Eaglesfield graduated from University of Michigan's School of Law, and was admitted to the bar in Indiana under a law that provided admittance to "every person of good moral character, being a voter." She practiced in both Terre Haute and Indianapolis, but eventually moved back to Michigan to practice in Grand Rapids.

OHIO - 1873

Nettie Cronise Lutes

Nettie Cronise was admitted to the bar in Ohio in April, 1873, and her sister Florence a few months later. Nettie soon married N.B. Lutes, an attorney who had passed the bar at the same time as she. Nettie and her sister had a practice together until 1880, when Nettie set up a practice with her husband. By the late 1880s, Nettie's husband was totally deaf, and she carried on the bulk of their practice by herself. Mr. Lutes praised his wife and her sister at the time, writing, "They have won their standing at the bar solely upon their merits as lawyers, in everyday practice, and the fact that the are women seems to have been almost lost sight of, so far as their practice is concerned; and this, I think is as is should be." Nettie Lutes also home schooled her three daughters while working full time at her practice.

Mountain States

MONTANA - 1890 - Ella Knowles Haskell

Along with her work as a lawyer, Ella Haskell was active in Montana politics, at one point standing for election as attorney general of Montana. She lost by only a few votes. Soon afterward, she married her Republican opponent and was appointed assistant attorney general. Haskell specialized in real estate, closing several large mining deals in the early 1900's. She was also respected as a mining engineer, and often enjoyed "donning a heavy rubber coat and boots and [being] lowered down into a mine to inspect it. She strongly advocated women's suffrage.

WYOMING - 1899

Grace Raymond Hebard

Passing the Wyoming state bar was only one of Hebard's many accomplishments. Hebard attended Iowa State University, majoring in civil engineering. While her enrollment in these all male classes was discouraged, she began working in the United States Surveyor's Office in Cheyenne a month after graduation. In 1891, Hebard joined the board of trustees at University of Wyoming, and according to her fellow trustees, practically usurped the duties of the president — hiring and firing faculty, setting policies, and supervising the physical structure of the university. Hebard also led a dynamic teaching career, instructing students in everything from international law to children's literature, serving as university librarian and as head of the department of political economy. She was also state officer for the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Wyoming state tennis champion (both singles and doubles.) She declared, "Hard work is the only formula for achievement."

COLORADO - 1891

Mary S. Thomas

Mary Thomas and her husband applied for the bar at the same time in 1891. Both were certified as mentally and physically fit. He was admitted two days later, but Mary Thomas was denied, and she had to petition the bar. She was finally admitted six months later, but it took six years for the Colorado legislature to pass a law allowing women to become lawyers.

NEW MEXICO - 1917

Katherine Burns Mabry



A teacher in Clovis, New Mexico, Katherine Burns Mabry studied law on the side,

interested in New Mexico's process of becoming a state. When she married future governor of New Mexico, Thomas J. Mabry, and he passed the bar, she was inspired to continue her legal studies. Katherine Mabry was admitted to the bar before the New Mexico Supreme Court in 1917. According to her daughter, it was "never Katherine's plan to practice law - she enjoyed the challenge of studying for and passing the bar." A reserved person, Mabry was not a suffragette. She said she preferred to leave the "fighting and voting to men." Toward the end of her life, Mabry suffered from poor health and two broken hips, which confined her to a wheelchair. Her husband served as governor for two terms, beginning in 1946. During this time Katherine Mabry wrote a column for state newspapers titled "New Mexico Notes from a Wheelchair."

NORTH DAKOTA - 1905

Helen Hamilton

Hamilton graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1905. She was the only woman in the senior class and was also the class president. She was known at the time as the "Law School's Pride." She practiced in Grand Forks, North Dakota for 43 years and died in 1949.

SOUTH DAKOTA - 1911 - Blanche Coleman

Blanche Coleman was the first woman to be admitted to the state bar in South Dakota. When Coleman was only 10 years old, a fire destroyed her family's home. However, she still made it to school on time that morning; she didn't want to mar her record of perfect attendance and punctuality.

When Blanche Coleman graduated from high school, a newly elected congressman, William Parker took her to Washington to be his secretary.

However she soon returned

home, liking the Black Hills of South Dakota better than the big city.

She began to study law in the local attorney's office of Chambers Kellar, and at 27 years old, without ever going to college or law school, passed the South Dakota Bar examination. She continued to work for Kellar, assisting him in water rights and labor litigation of the largest gold mines in the country, the Homestake Mine. One attorney was known to have said of her, "We all envied [Chambers Kellar] having a top-notch legal expert doing his homework backstage - Blanche Coleman. She was especially good in probate and handled all of the business for Kellar in probate court. When she pushed back her glasses on her forehead and got that look in her sharp eyes, you knew she was solving a knotty legal problem."

NEBRASKA - 1881 - Ada

Matilde Cole Bittenbender



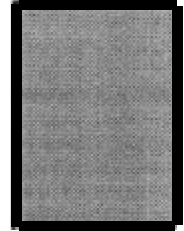
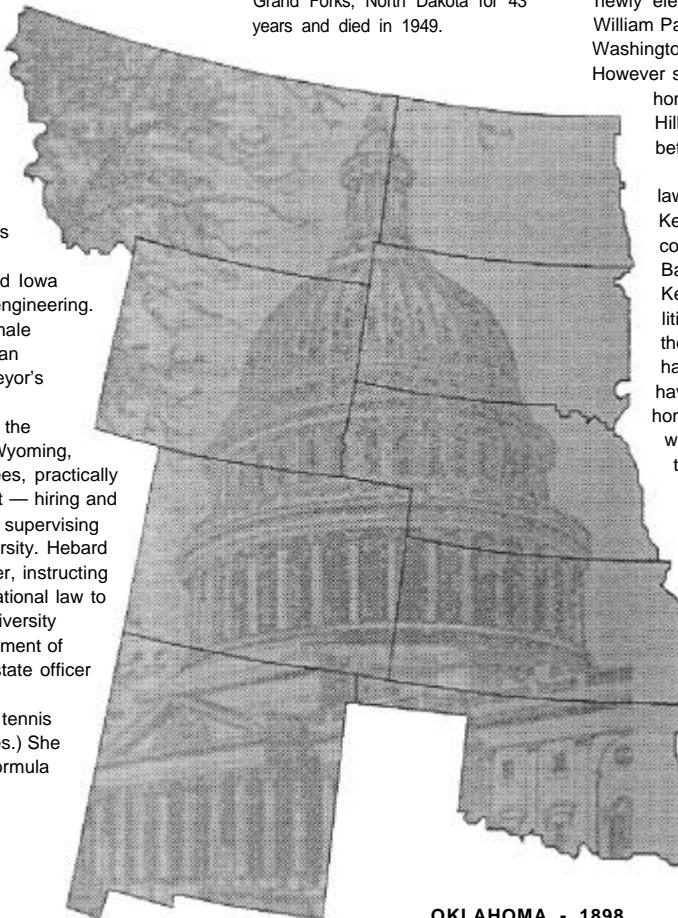
Ada Bittenbender studied law under her husband's supervision and was admitted to the bar in 1882. Together they opened a legal partnership, and while many women in partnerships

with their husbands took care of office duties while their husbands went to court, Ada Bittenbender had an active court practice. She became a leader for the Women's Christian Temperance Union and was named its national attorney. She became the third woman admitted to the bar of the US Supreme Court.

KANSAS - 1881

J.M. Kellogg

J.M. Kellogg studied law in her husband's office in Emporia, Kansas and was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court in 1881. She and her husband formed a law practice together. When Mr. Kellogg was chosen as Attorney General for Kansas, she was appointed as chief clerk, assistant to the Attorney General.



Atlantic States

VERMONT - 1914 - Ellen M. M. Hoar



Ellen Hoar was inspired as a child by her father, Richard Hoar, an established attorney. She studied the Columbia Law Review and the Vermont Statutes. Her hunger for learning extended beyond law. She was a talented pianist, organist, and actress and participated in several Vermont musical productions. She was also an avid sports woman and in 1909 led her high school women's basketball team to win the state championship. Ellen Hoar graduated from University of Maine Law School in 1914. She went on to work in her father's practice, and helped him solve the infamous Parker-Long murder case, where a 'woman of ill-repute had been strangled.' Long, the woman's killer, was sentenced to life imprisonment. Hoar practiced law for ten years, eventually giving up law when her father died. She devoted herself to community affairs, including the Red Cross and the Legion Auxiliary.

NEW YORK - 1886 - Kate Stoneman

Kate Stoneman received her law degree from Union University in New York. Although she passed her admission to the bar, when she applied to the Supreme Court, she was refused, because no precedent had been set for women to be admitted. A bill was soon passed in the New York legislature, and Stoneman was admitted to the bar.

PENNSYLVANIA - 1886

Carrie Burnham Kilgore



Carrie Kilgore began fighting for admission to the bar in Philadelphia in 1872. She was refused several times and tried to sue the Board of Examiners to get the legislature to pass a law admitting women. She attempted admission in several different courts, ending up in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, where she was finally admitted in 1888. She worked in her husband's firm when she first began practicing. When he died, all his former clients requested that she take up all of his current cases. Kilgore was twice appointed Master by the court system and acted as the solicitor for several corporations.

WEST VIRGINIA - 1896

Agnes Westbrook Morrison

Agnes Westbrook Morrison graduated from the West Virginia University College of Law, its first woman graduate. She passed the bar in 1896 and practiced law in Wheeling, West Virginia with her husband. She was an organizer of women's clubs and civic and religious organizations.

MARYLAND - 1902

Etta Haynie Madox

After attending Peabody Conservatory of Music and becoming an accomplished mezzo soprano, Etta Madox entered Baltimore Law School and earned her degree in 1901. Because she was prohibited from practicing, she pushed for and succeeded in helping pass a bill that open the practice of law in Maryland to women. She soon passed the bar, and as a lawyer Madox founded the Maryland Suffrage Association.

NORTH CAROLINA - 1878 Tabitha A. Holton

Tabitha Holton grew up without a mother and spent her childhood with only the example of three brothers. Their father instructed both his boys and his daughter in the law as they grew up. and when Tabitha Holton took the bar in 1878, her gender did not prevent her from becoming a lawyer. She practiced law with her brother in Dobson, North Carolina, until she died in 1886.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - 1890 -

Marilla M. Ricker

Marilla Ricker was first admitted to the District of Columbia bar in 1882 after studying in a law office for four years. There she became a successful trial lawyer. Known as "the prisoner's friend, she specialized in defending criminals. When she returned to her home in Dover, New Hampshire, she applied to the bar and was admitted before the Supreme Court.



MAINE - 1872

Clara H. Nash

Clara Nash studied for three years in her husband's office, and after her admission to the state bar by the Supreme Court of Maine in 1872, they practiced together in Portland, Maine. Nash later moved to Boston and practiced in Massachusetts.

MASSACHUSETTS -

1882 - Lelia Josephine Robinson

Lelia Robinson entered Boston University's law school in the 1878 and completed the regular three year course with honors. She ranked fourth in the class of more than 30 people. After graduating, she applied for admission to the state bar but was denied. Robinson spent the next year campaigning to remove the state's restrictions for admission to the bar. When she was finally admitted in 1882, she became a successful trial lawyer, trying cases before mixed juries with both men and women. She also wrote about and corresponded with her fellow women lawyers.



CONNECTICUT - 1882 - Mary Hall

Mary Hall's desire to become a lawyer was kindled when she traveled to Hartford for her first women's suffrage convention at the age of 38. There she heard activist John Hooker explain the restrictive property rights of married women. Hall's enthusiasm influenced her brother Ezra to allow her to study law in his office, and when he died, Hall went to work for John Hooker in his law office. Mary passed her bar exam, and the Connecticut Supreme Court upheld her right to be an attorney. She spent much of her time handling wills and property matters for women. Hall died in 1927.



RHODE ISLAND - 1920 Ada Louis Sawyer

Born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1892, Ada Louis Sawyer studied law in the office of Percy Gardner, where she worked as a stenographer. She was also the president of the Rhode Island State Federation of Women's clubs. She fought against the lobby for gambling and liquor interests and was offered a post as assistant district attorney but declined because it took time away from her practice.

DELAWARE - 1923

Sybil Ward

Sybil Ward attended Wheaton College in Massachusetts, graduating in 1894. She went to University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia for law school, class of 1923. She worked in Wilmington in her husband's firm.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - 1872

Charlotte E. Ray

Charlotte Ray also has the distinction of being the first African American woman lawyer admitted to a state bar. She was admitted to Howard Law School by applying as "C.E. Ray." There was some commotion when Howard realized she was a woman, but she was allowed to continue her courses. Ray graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Despite Ray's intelligence and legal prowess, however, no client would retain her due to the racism and sexism of the time.



NEW JERSEY - 1892 - Mary Philbrook

Mary Philbrook grew interested in law when she worked as a secretary in two different law offices. When Philbrook applied for the bar in 1894 and was refused solely on the basis of her gender, she joined the crusaders in the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association to lobby the New Jersey legislature for a law specifically enabling women to be admitted to the bar. When admitted in 1895, Philbrook set up her practice in Jersey City but soon moved to Newark. There she organized a juvenile court system and worked in the women's reform movement. Her aid gave her public attention, and from this she built up a large and prosperous practice. Philbrook went for a brief time in 1919 to Washington, where she participated in some of the militant demonstrations of the National Women's Party. She grew too radical for many of her co-feminists, and her demand for equal working conditions made her less popular. She lost in her bid of counsel of the city of Newark. In the 1940s (at the age of 75) Philbrook renewed her campaign of an equal rights amendment to the New Jersey Constitution, again organizing a lobby for it.



VIRGINIA - 1892 - Belva Lockwood

Belva Lockwood was also the first woman admitted to the federal bar. She graduated from National University Law School in 1873 and was successful at practicing law, earning as much as \$300 monthly - an enormous sum for a lawyer to be making in the last decades of the 19th century. The first woman lawyer to argue a case before the Supreme Court, Lockwood obtained a \$5 million settlement for the Cherokee nation after having filled massive claims on behalf of the nation against the U.S. government

She was also a passionate suffragist. She once said, "I never stopped fighting. My cause was the case of thousands of women."

States of The South

TENNESSEE - 1907

Marian S. Griffin

Marian Griffin first worked as a stenographer, but she became interested in legal work as she watched the lawyers that she worked for. In 1900, she was allowed to practice in the Circuit Court in Tennessee, but the Supreme Court refused to admit her. Eventually the state legislature passed an act allowing women to be admitted to the bar.

Griffin's first case involved a runaway train car that killed a young calf; she was the prosecutor for the farmer against the railroad company. She won the case, and when it was appealed, she won again in Circuit Court. The farmer was paid \$50 for damages for his dead calf.

Griffin was also a member of the House of Representatives from 1923 to 1925. She practiced in Memphis until her retirement in 1949.

KENTUCKY - 1892

Sophonisba Breckinridge

Sophonisba Breckinridge was born in 1866 to a distinguished Kentucky family in Lexington. She tried to practice in Lexington, but she had very few clients. Later, she went to University of Chicago and earned a law degree and doctorate in political science. She served as dean and director of research at the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, helping to orchestrate that school's merger with the University of Chicago.

She was president of the American Association of Schools of Social Work.

SOUTH CAROLINA - 1918

James Perry

Originally from Greenville, South Carolina, Miss James Perry went to California to earn her law degree. Perry practiced in California until South Carolina passed a law in 1918 permitting women to pass the bar. The bill had been strenuously opposed in the South Carolina legislature. One assemblyman had thought that it "was unjust to the men that women should enter into competition with them." He believed that the chances of his two sons, who were studying to become lawyers, would be significantly lessened by having women in the profession.

Perry worked as a corporation counselor, going from clerk to partner at a South Carolina firm. The Spartanburg Herald-Journal, the local newspaper, reported that when she was introduced to the bar, everyone present at the meeting "extended to her the glad hand of fellowship by rising and applauding."

ARKANSAS - 1918

Sarah Shields Jobe

Sarah Jobe was admitted to the bar Jan. 28, 1918. In her first lawsuit, the opposing council was T.C. Jobe, whom she married immediately afterward. He was then elected to the U.S. senate, and the two moved to Washington together. She did not continue her practice.

GEORGIA - 1916

Betty Reynolds Cobb

Betty Cobb, along with another woman, Mary C. Johnson, did not gain admission to the Georgia bar until 1916. Most other states already had already admitted more than 50 women. At the time she said she perceived a deep hostility against women lawyers in Georgia and to the women's movement in general. "I do not think our section of the country is ready, quite yet to make 'easy sailing' for a woman lawyer." Cobb, however, described her office practice as "pleasant and reasonably remunerative."

ALABAMA - 1907

Luelle Lamar Allen

Luelle Allen passed the bar on June 6, 1907. She was from Goodwater county, south of Birmingham ,Alabama.

LOUISIANA - 1898

Betty Runnells

Betty Runnells graduated from Tulane University in Louisiana on June 1, 1898 with a law degree and was admitted to the bar to practice law in Louisiana.

FLORIDA - 1898

Louise R. Pinnell

Louise Pinnell practiced law with her father - also a judge - and her brother for three years. She then became a member of the Florida East Coast Railway and Flagler System law department. Pinnell represented Florida in the National Association of Women Lawyers, organized in 1899, and served as State Vice President of that organization from 1938 to 1939.

MISSISSIPPI - 1914

Lucy H. Greaves

The advent of World War I freed up many women and blacks from long-established social pressure. Lucy Greaves, a woman from Gulfport, Mississippi, was one of the women to benefit from this freedom; she passed the bar in 1914.

TEXAS - 1910

Hortense Sparks Malsch Ward

Hortense Ward began her law career as a court stenographer after she and her first husband divorced in 1906. Sharing an office with a firm of lawyers, she began to study law

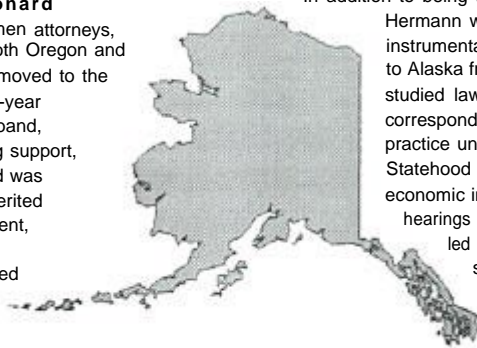
by correspondence courses. In 1909, she remarried to a Houston lawyer, William Henry Ward, and soon afterward to took and passed the Texas bar, and together they built up a practice, Ward and Ward. Hortense Ward spent most of her time briefing and consulting, never appearing in court. She wrote several articles on the need for married women's property law, and successfully lobbied for a bill that was passed in the Texas legislature. She was involved in politics and was a passionate women's suffragist. In 1925, in Johnson v. Darr, (which involved a fraternal order known as the Woodmen of the World) all of the justices in the Supreme Court of Texas disqualified themselves as members of the order. The governor of Texas appointed a special supreme court with Ward as the Chief Justice. For a short time in 1925 Ward was an Acting Judge of the of Houston. She died in 1944.



Pacific States

WASHINGTON - 1884 - Mary A. Leonard

Probably one of the most notorious pioneer women attorneys, Mary Leonard was the first women lawyer in both Oregon and Washington. She was a Swiss immigrant who moved to the Northwest territory after the Civil War. Her two-year marriage ended in a bitter divorce. Her ex-husband, who refused to honor a court order for providing support, was found dead from a gunshot wound. Leonard was charged but acquitted of murder. She then inherited David Leonard's estate, became financially solvent, and decided to study law. She passed the Washington bar in 1884, then subsequently moved to Portland, Oregon, where she practiced for about a year, then retired due to bad health.



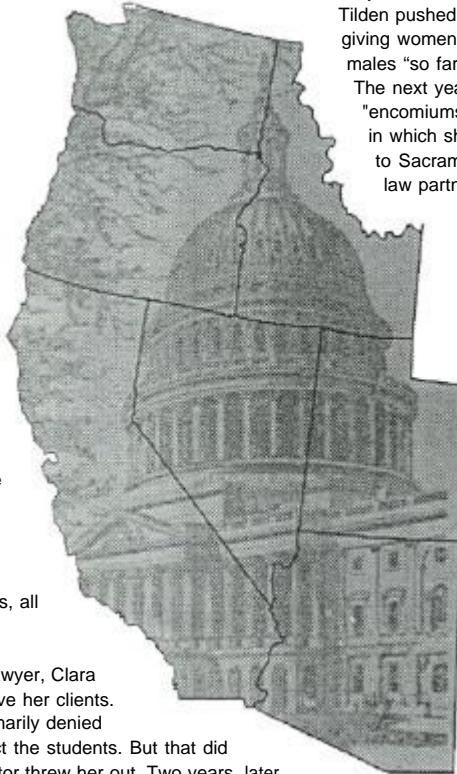
ALASKA - 1934 Mildred Robinson Hermann

In addition to being the first woman lawyer in the state of Alaska, Mildred Hermann was a writer and a radio commentator and was instrumental in the movement for Alaska statehood. She immigrated to Alaska from Indiana in 1913 and taught school until 1920. She studied law with a judge in Juneau, and took courses by correspondence. After passing the bar in 1934, she had a private practice until 1942. Hermann served as the secretary of the Alaska Statehood commission, preparing a definitive analysis of the economic impact of statehood. When she testified in the U.S. senate hearings on Alaskan statehood, her pleasant disposition and poise led one senator to say she was the best witness he had ever seen. In her later life, Hermann wrote articles for the *Anchorage Times* about the state legislature.

IDAHO - 1895 - Helen S. Young

Originally from the town of Osburn in Northern Idaho, Helen Young began practicing law in 1885. She took and passed the state bar in 1895. (Idaho did not become a state until 1890.)

OREGON - 1885



NEVADA - 1893

Laura Tilden Ray Wilson

Born in California, Laura Tilden was the first woman lawyer in Nevada to pass the bar. At the age of 21, Tilden pushed the Nevada legislature to pass a law giving women the same rights and privileges as males "so far as becoming attorneys is concerned." The next year she passed the bar and received "encomiums from the entire bench for the manner in which she presented herself." She soon moved to Sacramento, California and was her father's law partner in his office. Tilden worked as a local suffrage leader and as a public notary. She also practiced in Denver, Colorado.



CALIFORNIA - 1849-1934

Clara Shortridge Foltz

Daughter of an Indiana lawyer who campaigned for Abraham Lincoln, Clara Shortridge Foltz began her path to a legal career at age fifteen as a school teacher in Illinois. Soon thereafter, she eloped with a Pennsylvania Dutchman named Jeremiah Foltz and bore five children with him. In 1874, she and her family moved to San Jose, California. However, shortly after moving to California, she and Jeremiah divorced.

To support her family, Clara lectured on topics including suffrage and equal rights for women. Her lecturing was so popular and she became so active in the community that she actually helped establish San Jose's first paid fire department. However, as the daughter of a lawyer, Clara's interests turned to law. In order to fulfill her goal to practice law, Clara applied for apprenticeships with countless lawyers, all male of course. All but C.C. Stephens met her job requests with condescension and comments that a woman's place is in the home.

After gaining much experience and a reputation as a solid trial lawyer, Clara decided that she should receive formal training in order to better serve her clients. Accordingly, Clara applied for law school at Hastings. She was summarily denied admission on grounds that the rustling of her petticoats would distract the students. But that did not stop Clara. In fact, she attended classes at Hastings until the janitor threw her out. Two years later, after Clara has already been admitted to the California bar, the California Supreme Court, in *Foltz v. Hoge*, held that Hastings could not deny admission based upon gender. Clara had won, but she did not receive a degree from Hastings until 1990 when Hastings conferred an honorary degree upon her.

UTAH - 1872

Phoebe W. Couzins

Along with Lemma Barkaloo, Phoebe Couzins attended Washington University in St Louis and was its first woman graduate. She was admitted to the practice in the courts of Missouri, Kansas and Utah, as well as the federal courts. For a time, Couzins also served as United States Marshal, completing her father's unfinished term. She was a passionate suffragist and stood with Susan B. Anthony in Philadelphia to present the Declaration of Women's Rights. Couzins, herself white, was also an outspoken advocate of equal rights for African Americans.



HAWAII - 1888

Alameda Eliza Hitchcock

Born in 1863, Alameda Eliza Hitchcock graduated from University of Michigan's School of Law in 1887. She returned to Hawaii and joined her father's practice in Oahu. The firm served many rural clients and she would often ride more than 200 miles to meet them and argue cases. Hitchcock was also one of the starting members in the Equity Club, a legal association founded in 1886 by women lawyers at University of Michigan to help support the small number of women lawyers across America and to develop a sense of professional community.



Note: Several sources list Sarah Herring Sorin as the first woman lawyer in Arizona. (SLS)

ARIZONA - 1903

Vivian Hopson

Born in Massachusetts, Vivian Hopson soon moved out West, where she passed the bar in 1898 in the state of Washington. She moved south to Arizona, where she continued her law practice in Phoenix. She enrolled in the Bar Association there in 1903.

Note: Several sources list Sarah Herring Sorin as the first woman lawyer in Arizona. (SLS)

Table 1 First woman lawyer and judge in each state*

State	First woman lawyer	Date	First woman judge	Date	Court
Alabama	Luelle L. Allen	1907	Virginia H. Mayfield	1923	domestic relations
Alaska	Mildred Herman	1950	Mary A. Miller	1967	district court
Arizona	Beatrice Hopson; Vivian Hopson	1903	Lorna E. Lockwood	1950	superior court
Arkansas	Sarah Jobe	1918	Ruth F. Hale	1947	chancery court
California	Clara S. Foltz	1878	Georgia Bullock	1931	general jurisdiction
Colorado	Mary S. Thomas	1891	Irene S. Ingham	1938	district court
Connecticut	Mary Hall	1882	Margaret Driscoll	1960	juvenile court
Delaware	Sybil Ward; Evangelyn Barsky	1923	Roxanna Arsht	1971	family court
District of Columbia	Charlotte E. Ray	1872	Marilla Ricker	1884	U.S. commissioner
Florida	Louise R. Pinnell	1898	Edith Atkinson	1924	circuit court
Georgia	Mary C. Johnson	1916	Stella Akins	1957	municipal court
Hawaii	Almeda E. Hitchcock	1888	Carrick H. Buck**	1934	district court
Idaho	Helen L. Young	1895	not available	-	-
Illinois	Adah H. Kepley	1870	Catherine McCulloch	1907	justice of peace
Indiana	Elizabeth Eaglesfield	1875	V. Sue Shields	1964	superior court
Iowa	Arabelle Mansfield	1869	Lynn E. Brady	1973	municipal court
Kansas	J. M. Kellogg	1881	Grace Miles	1930	probate court
Kentucky	Ruby J. Gordon	1912	Ellen B. Ewing	1974	juvenile court
Louisiana	Betty Runnels	1898	Anna J. V. Levy	1940	juvenile court
Maine	Clara H. Nash	1872	Harriet P. Henry	1973	district court
Maryland	Etta H. Madox	1902	Helen E. Brown	1951	city housing court
Massachusetts	Lelia J. Robinson	1882	Emma F. Scofield Sadie Shulman	1930	district court municipal court
Michigan	Sarah Kilgore	1871	Lila N. Neuenfelt	1941	general jurisdiction
Minnesota	Martha Dorsett	1877	M. Eleanor Nolan	1940	municipal court
Mississippi	Mrs. L. H. Greaves	1914	Lenore L. Prather	1971	chancery court
Missouri	L. M. Barkaloo	1870	Frances Hopkins	1915	temporary probate
Montana	Ella J. Knowles	1890	Diana Barz	1978	district court
Nebraska	Ada M. C. Bittenbender	1881	Elizabeth D. Pitman	1971	municipal court
Nevada	Felice Cohn	1902	Matilda Pollard	1946	justice of peace
New Hampshire	Marrilla M. Ricker	1890	Idella Jeness	1935	municipal court
New Jersey	Mary Philbrook	1895	Aldona E. Appleton	1927	juvenile and domestic relations
New Mexico	Catherine Mabry	1917	Mary C. Walters	1971	district court
New York	Kate Stoneman	1886	Rosalie Whitney	1935	domestic relations
North Carolina	Tabitha A. Holton	1878	Susie Sharp	1949	superior court
North Dakota	Helen Hamilton	1905	Ann C. Mahoney	1979	county court
Ohio	Nettie C. Lutes	1873	Florence E. Allen	1921	common pleas
Oklahoma	Laura Lykins	1898	not available	-	-
Oregon	Mary A. Leonard	1886	Jean C. Lewis	1954	circuit court
Pennsylvania	Carrie Kilgore	1883	Carrie Kilgore	1886	master in chancery
Rhode Island	Ada L. Sawyer	1920	Florence K. Murray	1956	superior court
South Carolina	Claudia J. Sullivan	1918	Louise B. Taylor	1944	magistrate court
South Dakota	Nellie A. Douglass	1893	Mildred Ramynke	1974	circuit court
Tennessee	Marion S. Griffin	1907	Camille Kelley	1921	juvenile court
Texas	Hortense Ward	1910	Sarah T. Hughes	1935	district court
Utah	Phoebe W. Couzens	1872	Rova B. Bocone	1935	city court
Vermont	Ellen M. M. Hoar	1911	not available	1928	probate court
Virginia	Belva Lockwood	1844	not available	1942	county court
Washington	Mary A. Leonard	1895	Beck Whithead	1914	justice court
West Virginia	Agnes J. Morrison	1896	Elizabeth O. Hallanan	1959	juvenile court
Wisconsin	Elsie B. Botensek	1875	Olga Bennett	1970	county court
Wyoming	Miss Heberd	1899	Esther Morris**	1870	justice of peace

*Information for this table was obtained from a search of the literature, state bar associations, state court administrators and other local authorities. The author welcomes corrections and additional information.

**Territorial judge