$50,000 to endow the Dean’s Chair, and contributions of $1,000 and over will be accepted with the proviso that the fund shall be available only for a woman dean or professor. Strange as it may seem, wealthy women and public-spirited, broad-minded men are constantly endowing institutions and constantly giving large sums to educational institutions that shut out women altogether or admit her under certain limitations as students and in inferior positions as instructors. The Alumni of the College now number over two hundred and they ask the interest and assistance of women lawyers and their friends in a publicity campaign in aid of this fund. A woman attorney can better than any one inform public-spirited men and women who are trustees in their own right of wealth, of the value of legal education for women. The story of the Washington College of Law is not confined to the class room, for it radiates an influence felt not only in Washington but in the larger world beyond.

Correspondence on this subject and contributions have been made by the Honorary Dean, Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, 1317 New York Avenue; the President of the Washington College of Law Alumni Association, Miss Nina I. Thomas, Union Trust Building; and the Chairman of the Endowment Fund Committee, Mrs. Margaret H. Worrell, The Indian Office, all of Washington, D.C. The first law school in the entire world to be established “primarily” for women entered upon its twentieth year on October 1, 1915. The history of this institution is unique and is a direct refutation of the theory of some of the older colleges that men and women should not study law in the same class room, under the same faculty.

A woman’s law class was formed on February 1, 1896, with three students and Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey and Miss Emma M. Gillett as instructors. From this class developed the Washington College of Law, which was incorporated in April, 1908, as an institution of learning “and primarily the college aims to provide such a legal education for women as will enable them to practice the legal profession”—to quote from the formal certificate of incorporation. Within the past six years the opportunities offered by this institution have made a strong appeal to men, with the result that the classes now consist of about equal numbers of men and women. Men are admitted to all the law schools in Washington and elsewhere, but the striking feature of the Washington College of Law is that it considers first the woman student, who is shut out from other law schools. While the faculty is composed of both men and women, the chief executive officer, the Dean, has always been a woman.

Both Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, who was Dean until 1913, and is now Honorary Dean, and Miss Emma M. Gillett, the present Dean, are deeply impressed with the belief that a knowledge of the law is necessary to give women a wider vision and to enable them to grasp opportunities for service hitherto unseen and undiscovered by them. That this is true is shown by the fact that one of the most conservativewomen’s colleges of the East has just added a course in law, and that Harvard University has this year opened an annex law school for women. It is also shown by the fact that the Washington College of Law has progressed and prospered beyond the hope of those who founded it, and from three students the enrollment has increased to one hundred and forty-eight students, the total (excluding specials) in 1914-15. It is now one of the recognized, established professional schools of the National Capital.

Organized and at all times controlled by broad-minded, public-spirited men and women, it has made steady progress. Financial profit to benefit any individuals is not allowed by the statute under which the college is organized, and financial profit other than for the development of the college as an institution of learning has no place in its ideals and conduct. The low tuition has thus far sufficed for all operating and the maintenance of the faculty. The excellence of the instruction, thanks largely to the whole-hearted interest of the faculty in the welfare of the college.

Meantime, graduates and friends have contributed to start an endowment fund, safe-guarded by statute against use for other purposes, and carefully invested in securities, amounts to $2,750.50. It is planned to raise a fund of $50,000 to endow the Dean’s Chair, and contributions of $1,000 and over will be accepted with the proviso that the fund shall be available only for a woman dean or professor. Strange as it may seem, wealthy women and public-spirited, broad-minded men are constantly endowing institutions and constantly giving large sums to educational institutions that shut out women altogether or admit her under certain limitations as students and in inferior positions as instructors. The Alumni of the College now number over two hundred and they ask the interest and assistance of women lawyers and their friends in a publicity campaign in aid of this fund. A woman attorney can better than any one inform public-spirited men and women who are trustees in their own right of wealth, of the value of legal education for women. The story of the Washington College of Law is not confined to the class room, for it radiates an influence felt not only in Washington but in the larger world beyond.

Correspondence on this subject and contributions have been made by the Honorary Dean, Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, 1317 New York Avenue; the President of the Washington College of Law Alumni Association, Miss Nina I. Thomas, Union Trust Building; and the Chairman of the Endowment Fund Committee, Mrs. Margaret H. Worrell, The Indian Office, all of Washington, D.C.