

THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW.

ELLEN SPENCER MUSSEY,
Member of the Bar of the District of
Columbia.

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; the striking feature of the Washington College of Law is that it considers first the woman student, who is shut out from the 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 conservative women'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 its founder and from three students the enrollment has increased to one hundred and forty-eight students, the total (including 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 expenses and the maintenance of 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 with the object of insuring the stability of the college. At present the endowment fund, safe-guarded by statute against use for other purposes, and carefully invested in securities, amounts to \$2,750.

It is planned to first 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 are solicited 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.

WOMEN IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

MARION WESTON COTTLE,

Member of the Bar in New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine.

To Gladys F. Fox, our Vice-President for Colorado, we are indebted for the following:

Miss Margaret Reed, of Boulder, Colo., recently passed the bar examinations with a high average and is making a great success in the office of her father, who is a leading lawyer of Boulder and a professor in the Law School of the State University.

Mrs. Frances Howard, of Victor, Colo., has been court reporter for a number of years, and also practiced law in Boulder before her marriage.

Miss Ellen Witter, of Denver, is a land attorney.

The Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs intends to see to it that a measure is initiated at the next election to do away with capital punishment.

Miss Lydia B. Conley, of Kansas City, Mo., has the honor of being the first woman of Indian descent to be admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court. Solicitor-General Davis made the motion for Miss Conley's admission.

Miss Catherine M. Dolan, of Boston, who studied law evenings while she taught school during the day, has accepted a position in the office of Attorney-General Burrell at the Massachusetts State House.

A notable addition to the St. Louis bar is Mrs. Alma H. J. Hubbell, who formerly played leading parts with the late Richard Mansfield. Judge D. P. Dyer, of the United States District Court, complimented Mrs. Hubbell on her attainments, and expressed his pleasure at the admission of women to the bar. He declared himself as a champion of equal suffrage.

Miss A. Florence Yerger, who is so successfully practicing law in Philadelphia, has won a suit brought against her by a

man who sought to avoid his obligations under a contract relating to the transfer of real estate.

Miss Alice Greenacre, of Chicago, created a most favorable impression during the trial of a case in Joliet, Ill., where she appeared as counsel for the defense. She is said to possess the alert forcefulness of her father, L. T. Greenacre, who is one of the leading lawyers of Cook County. Miss Greenacre's manner of conducting a case has "created a new spirit in the court room."

Miss Marion G. Richardson, a Minneapolis attorney, recently won a victory for a woman client, where suit was brought to recover damages for the loss of valuable wearing apparel.

The ability to conduct a case in court, which is being displayed by women lawyers in all parts of the country, is sometimes equalled in eloquence, if not in technical efficiency, by women who have had no legal training. A notable instance of this occurred when Mrs. Caroline N. Payson, of Brookline, Mass., appeared in her own defense in a suit brought against her by a tenant. The case was heard at the equity session of the Superior Court in Boston. Not only did Mrs. Payson plead her own cause, but she cross-examined the plaintiff's witnesses, and "displayed a remarkable knowledge of court procedure."

ARIZONA'S EIGHT-HOUR LAW FOR WOMEN.

MARY A. WUPPERMAN,

Member of the Bar of Arizona.

There has been but few prosecutions for the violation of the eight-hour law for women, in some instances the women are too timid to raise a protest fearing they will be discharged and thus lose their means of livelihood; however, there are some employers who apparently have forgotten that the old saying:

Man's work is from sun to sun,

Woman's work is never done,

has been amended by the Legislature of the State of Arizona, to read as follows:

Section 717. No female shall be employed or be permitted to work in any mercantile establishment, confectionery store, bakery, laundry, hotel restaurant, or telephone or telegraph office or exchange, in this State, more than eight hours during any one day or more than fifty-six hours during any one week; provided, that at least one hour for meals be allowed each female during her working period, but no part of such hour for meals shall be included as a part of the permitted working period; provided, further, that the said eight-hour period of work shall be performed within a period of twelve hours, the period of twelve hours during which such labor must be performed not to be applicable to railroad restaurants or eating houses located upon railroad rights of way and operated by or under contract with any railroad company; and provided, further, that in any such mercantile establishment, confectionery store, or bakery, where females are employed for six days only in any one week, two additional hours (making a total period of ten hours) may be added to said permitted period of daily labor on one of said six working days, but in all cases the permitted period of daily

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