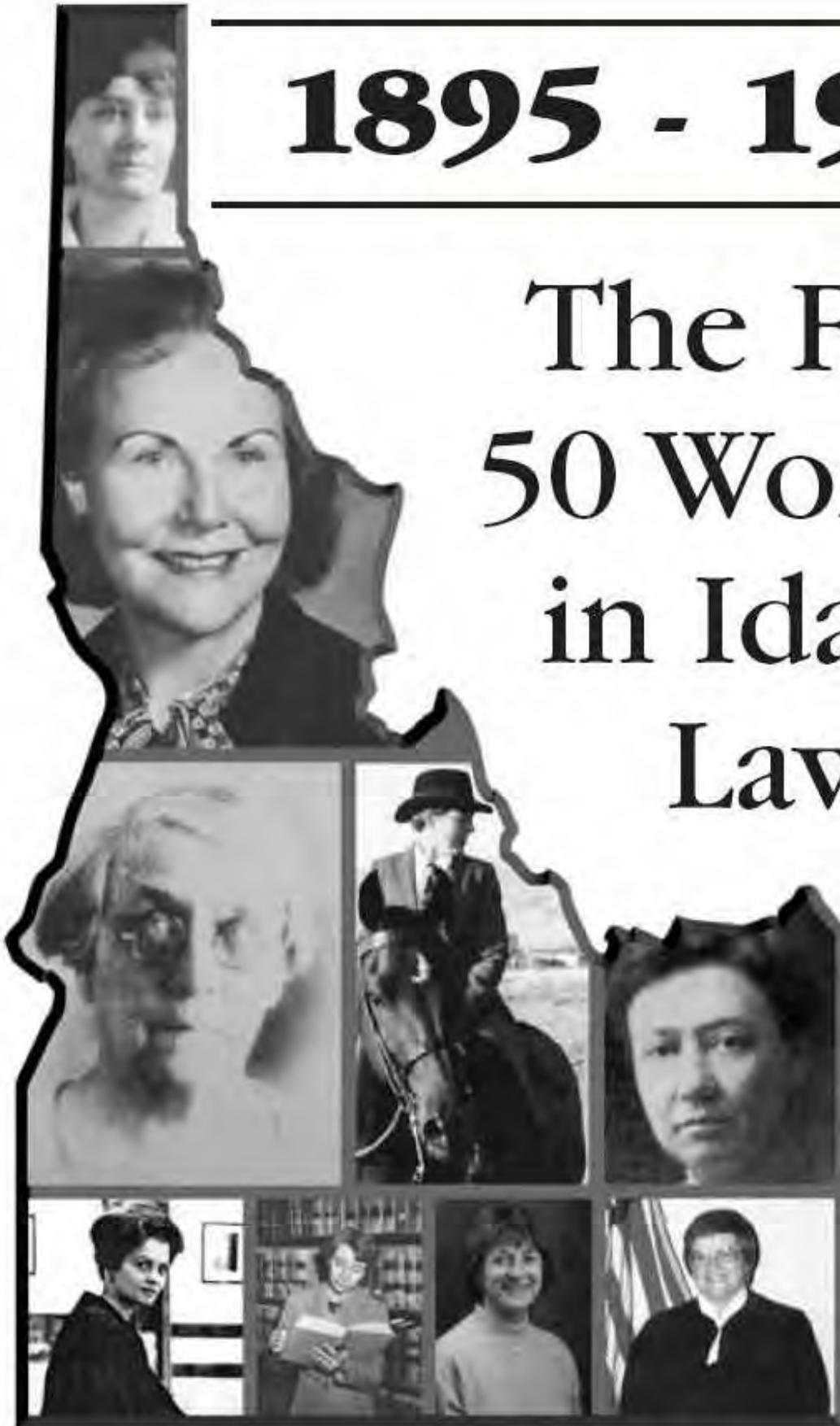


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# 1895 - 1975

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## The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

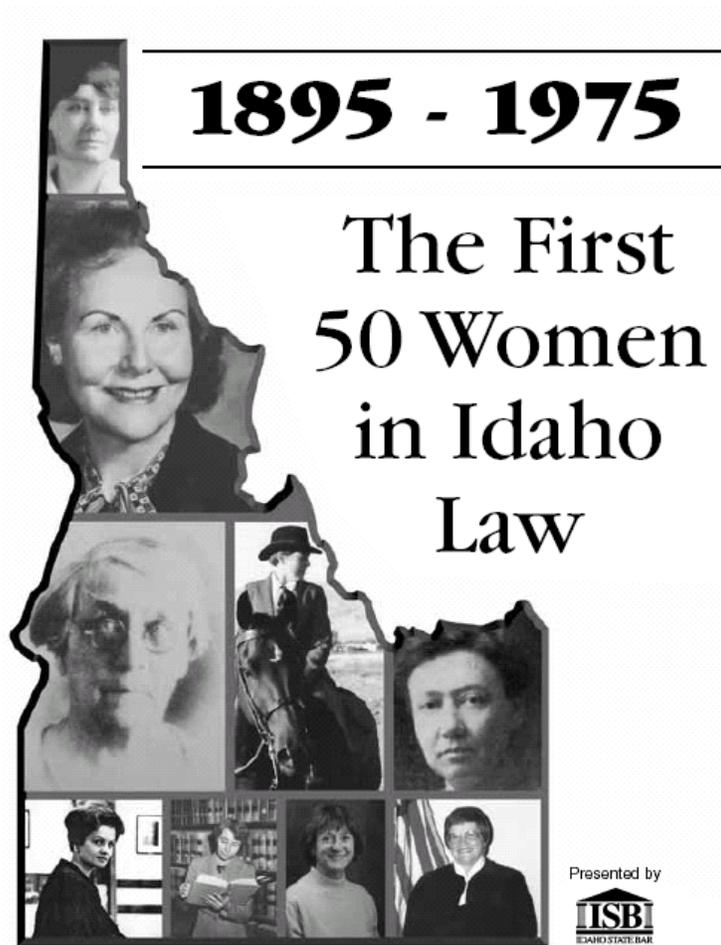


Presented by



Cover designed by Dave Heneise © 2005.

Women shown on cover from top to bottom and left to right: M. Pearl McCall, Edith Miller Klein, Kate Nevile Feltham, Karen Orndorff Vehlow, Margaret Beall Connell, Zoe Ann Warberg Shaub, Maxine Whitney, Darla Sanders Williamson, and Linda Jean Cook.



By Debora K. Kristensen  
2005

## Acknowledgements

Gathering the personal and professional biographies of Idaho's first 50 women admitted to the Bar has been a passion of mine for the past year which would not have been possible without the unselfish help and cooperation of many people. Although I am sure to miss someone (and for that I apologize in advance), I would like to thank and acknowledge the following people and organizations that have helped make this "First 50" project a reality: Justice Robert E. Bakes, Jeanne Barker, Michele Bartlett, Cameron Burke, Carl Burke, University of Idaho College of Law Dean Don Burnett, Laura Burri, Joan Cartan-Hansen, Liz Clark, Paula Coburn, Donna Dimino, Allyn Dingel, Stephanie Ebright, Ellen Scott Elliott, Dick Fields, Leslie Goddard, Michael Greenlee, John Hasko, Dave Heneise, Susan Heneise, Kendra Hooper, Idaho Women Lawyers, Inc., Justice Byron Johnson, Jacquelyn Jurkins, Rinda Just, Judge Karen L. Lansing, Monique Lillard, Fred Lyon, Emily Mac Master, Phyllis Martin, Kelly Greene McConnell, Jack Miller, Diane Minnich, Deb Nelson, Kaye O'Riordan, E. W. Pike, Dan Popkey, John Rosholt, Rita Ryan, Angela Sasser, Rhea Schroeder, John M. Sharp, Judge Randy Smith, Annette Strauser, Roger Swanstrom, Glenda Talbutt, Patti Tobias, Justice Linda Copple Trout, Susan Troyano, Nicol Tyler, Dana Weatherby, Hon. B. Lynn Winmill, Melissa Wintrow, the staff at the Elmore County Historical Society, the Idaho State Historical Museum, the Utah State Historical Society, the historical archives and special collections division of George Washington University, Grinnell College, the University of Utah, the University of Washington and Washington College of Law, the reference librarians at the Boise Public Library, Caldwell Public Library, the Ingham County (Michigan) Genealogical Society, the Mary Baker Eddy Library, Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Library, New York Public Library, the Washington State Archives, Pierce County (Washington) Public Library and Okanogan County (Washington) Auditor and County Clerk, the National Archives and Record Administration in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., and, finally, to the each of the "First 50" honorees and their family members who have unselfishly shared their stories of adversity, hope and inspiration for future generations of Idahoans.

Deb Kristensen  
Boise, Idaho  
February 2005

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## Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this collection of "life stories" of Idaho's first 50 women admitted to the Bar. Much of the information has come from the honorees themselves, or their family members, while other information has been gathered by researching historical archives and materials. All information that has been collected is accurately reproduced herein, but the ultimate accuracy of such information cannot be fully confirmed (since many of the honorees are deceased).

## Introduction

In the early 1900s, Bertha Stull Green (No. 2), a young mother and lawyer in Mountain Home, searched for childcare at a time when women rarely worked outside the home, let alone in the courtroom. Fifty years later, Mary Smith Oldham (No. 10), a new mother and lawyer in Rexburg, set up a bassinet in her office in an effort to balance work and motherhood, while Alberta Morton Phillips (No. 14) juggled clients around a long lunch break (her six children had differing lunch hours) and paid three childcare providers in order to maintain her practice in Pocatello. Other women, such as Adelyne Martha Burrus Champers (No. 9), gave up successful law practices while their children were young and in school, before returning to practice after the children were raised. Their stories are unique and similar at the same time – all were dedicated mothers and lawyers at a time when being both was neither common nor easy.

Today, women make up approximately 23% of the membership of the Idaho Bar and 12% of its judiciary. But, despite significant progress, women attorneys face many of the same challenges as the earliest women practitioners. The quest to balance personal and professional responsibilities has long been pursued by women (and men) lawyers. In 1890, Lelia Robinson, one of the earliest women to practice in the United States, noted that even with the struggle for society to accept women in the legal profession “[t]he great problem is that of the married woman” given the demands of raising children, nurturing a home and being a good partner. Mary A. Greene, a Boston lawyer in the late 1800s, was even more direct: “Nothing would please me better than to devote myself to the practice just as a man does. But I cannot for two reasons. First, the want of physical strength, second, household duties which cannot be delegated to anyone else.” To that end, a study of the earliest women lawyers – their struggles and their successes – is instructive for today’s practitioners.

In July 2002, I was elected as a Commissioner of the Idaho State Bar. Given the notoriety of some contemporary women lawyers in Idaho, including Justice Linda Copple Trout, Justice Cathy Silak, Judge Karen Lansing, and former Idaho United States Attorney Betty Richardson (to name a few), I was surprised to learn that I was only the third woman in the history of the Idaho State Bar to be elected to the Commission (Kaye O’Riordan was first, Jean Uranga second). I realized that I knew relatively little about the “early” women lawyers in Idaho and the role women have played in the Idaho Bar. This ignorance was understandable, I soon learned, because no one had ever gathered information about who the earliest women lawyers in Idaho were, let alone what they did in their professional and personal lives. Out of this ignorance was born *The First 50 Women in Idaho Law* project (“First 50 Women”), an idea inspired by a similar project undertaken by the Utah State Bar to honor the first 100 women admitted in Utah. Little did I know, however, how this idea would grow to become a passion of mine for a year.

Initially, my goal was to identify the first 100 women of the Idaho bar. With the gracious help of former Idaho Supreme Court Justice Byron Johnson and the Idaho State Bar’s Executive Director, Diane Minnich, over the course of three weeks of looking through the original rolls of attorneys in the vault of the Idaho Supreme Court, the records of the Idaho State Bar and those at the Idaho State Historical Society, I learned that 50 women were admitted between 1895 and 1975. The fact that it took 80 years to have 50 women admitted in Idaho was astounding and compelled me to pursue this project with more vigor. But, fearing that I was headed to hosting an event to honor my “contemporaries” along with the “pioneering” women of the Idaho bar, I decided to limit the endeavor to the First 50 women admitted in Idaho (actually 53 since five women were admitted on the same day in September 1975).

My next task was more daunting. I decided to collect the personal and professional biographies of each woman, together with a picture, to chronicle their lives and accomplishments. At the time, the only information I had for most of these women was their name (often a maiden name), a date of admission and place where they lived when they were admitted. Some of the First 50 women's names were well known (*e.g.*, Edith Miller Klein (No. 17)), but most were obscure. Thus began a yearlong odyssey of research and interviews. Thankfully, my efforts (and the efforts of numerous volunteers) paid off and I was able to contact most of the First 50 Women and/or their family members to bring you this collection of their life stories.

Finding these women, their families and their life stories was inspiring, but an exercise in patience and persistence. And, surprisingly, an opportunity to reach out and receive help from many unexpected sources. Somehow, the search for information about the earliest women lawyers in Idaho was a topic that resonated. For example, during my research on Bertha Rado Muckey (No. 8), I was unable to find out much of anything other than her admission date and the fact that she had moved to Wyoming. On a chance, I e-mailed a website that listed Wyoming cemeteries for help in locating Muckey and explained my efforts on the First 50 Women project. To my surprise, Phyllis Martin, an amateur family historian from Scottsbluff, Nebraska, e-mailed me, offering her help. Phyllis spent part of her summer vacation last year doing just that, traveling to Wyoming to research the Muckey family. While there, Phyllis was able to locate Muckey's obituary, land and business records, and much of her family's history, including the fact that her father had operated cheese factories for almost 42 years (including one outside of Twin Falls). Phyllis did not stop there, however, she also located a woman who had lived next door to the Muckey's in the 1940s and interviewed her for a first-hand account of Muckey and her life. After collecting all of this information, Phyllis summarized her findings in an e-mail to me. Phyllis, like many of those listed in the acknowledgments, was not paid, but helped with this project because of a curiosity to uncover a piece of Idaho history and sympathy and respect for these pioneering women.

In this book you will find stories of triumph over great odds. For instance, Rei Kihara Osaki (No. 16) was the first Japanese-American to graduate from the University of Idaho College of Law and be admitted to the Idaho Bar. She did all this, amazingly, during World War II while the rest of her family was interned at Wyoming's Heart Mount Relocation Camp. And, Cassandra Lee Furr Dunn (No. 46), the first Native American woman admitted to the Bar in Idaho, overcame tremendous personal adversity, and invidious sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace, to become the first woman to serve as Chief Legal Counsel for the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region IV under President Nixon. You will also find stories of perseverance in the fight for equality, including the story of Helen L. Young (No. 1). Young was the first woman admitted in Idaho in 1895 at a time when membership to the Bar was restricted to "white males." Not only did she break the gender barrier in the Bar, she helped secure the right of women to vote in Idaho well before the rest of the nation passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. And, mostly, you will find stories of women making a difference in their community by simply doing their job and doing it well. Indeed, a common thread running through each of the life stories of the First 50 Women is their unwavering commitment to be a lawyer and make a difference in their community.

For those who have not taken Idaho history (or it's been awhile) the stories of each of the First 50 women, collectively, tell the story of the history of the state. From the labor problems in the mines of north Idaho in the late 1800s, to the growth of southern Idaho communities, through the Depression, World Wars and internment camps, to the growing importance of water in the state and the

tremendous social changes in the 1960s and early 1970s, the First 50 Women have shaped Idaho legally and socially. And, in so doing, they pushed open the door of opportunity for all.

My hope is that this book will serve two purposes. First, that an important piece of Idaho history will be preserved. Second, that the First 50 Women will inspire both men and women to achieve their potential, even in the face of great odds. Role models may be difficult to find these days, but this book should highlight many deserving candidates.

Deb Kristensen  
Boise, Idaho  
February 2005

“It is inconceivable that we [women] will damage the legal profession. Some people say that we are grand and noble in our own sphere, but that outside of it we are misfits; but if we are what the testimony shows us to be and the legal profession is what it is believed to be, it should be only a short time till we are as numerous in the various professions as are the men.”

Comments of Mary Jensen Smith Oldham (No. 10) upon her admission to the Idaho State Bar on July 25, 1935.

“For both men and women, the first step in getting power is to become visible to others – and then to put on an impressive show. The acquisition of power requires that one aspire to power, that one believe power is possible. As women then achieve power and exercise it well, the barriers fall. That’s why I’m optimistic. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be even more women out there doing things – and we’ll all be better off for it.”

Comments of United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor in *The Majesty of the Law* 200-01 (2004).

“I am glad because today there are very talented, qualified women to go into the law and everything else. I like to think when I came along it let other women know it could be done.”

Comments of Beverly B. Bistline (No. 26) on her acceptance of the Idaho State Bar’s 2004 Professionalism Award as reported in the *Idaho State Journal* (November 19, 2004).

## Idaho's "First 50 Women"

1. **Helen Louise Nichols Young**, admitted October 26, 1895
2. **Bertha Stull Green**, December 8, 1904
3. **Della M. Gregory Thomas**, December 24, 1907
4. **Margaret Beall Connell**, December 16, 1911
5. **Kate E. Nevile Feltham**, September 22, 1914
6. **M. Pearl McCall**, December 17, 1919
7. **Pearl Tyer**, February 1, 1922
8. **Bertha Rado Muckey**, December 15, 1924
9. **Adelyne Martha Burrus Champers**, April 11, 1927
10. **Mary Jensen Smith Oldham**, July 25, 1935
11. **Gladys E. DeCamp Dennis**, January 30, 1939
12. **Clara Louise Keefer Blackbird**, February 12, 1940
13. **Mary Elizabeth Schmitt**, July 27, 1940
14. **Alberta Morton Phillips**, August 15, 1941
15. **Bernice Bacharach**, September 22, 1942
16. **Rei Kihara Osaki**, September 15, 1943
17. **Edith Miller Klein**, January 7, 1947
18. **Mary Henrietta McGlone**, August 2, 1947
19. **Mary Lois Brueck Edwards**, January 2, 1948
20. **Maxine Dorothy Whitney**, May 24, 1948
21. **Kathryn Claire Justus Drong Ahrens**, June 3, 1949
22. **Fay Lee Berger Anderson Ryland**, June 9, 1949
23. **Ruby Youngblood Brown**, June 29, 1949
24. **Jeanne Sibyl Briggs Pollett**, September 13, 1952
25. **Ina Mae Wheeler Hanford**, September 13, 1952
26. **Beverly Barbara Bistline**, April 11, 1955
27. **Alice Dorothea Dwinell Hubbard Johnson**, October 24, 1955
28. **Edith Schmitt Anderson**, October 31, 1955
29. **Mary Durham Adams**, May 16, 1958
30. **Zoe Ann Warberg Shaub**, May 9, 1960
31. **Virginia Riley Renwick**, April 13, 1965
32. **Patricia L. McDermott**, August 19, 1966
33. **Nancy Louise Grubb Simpson**, September 27, 1967
34. **Maureen Margaret Jones Warren Meehl**, September 27, 1967
35. **Janice Elizabeth Oliver Hamilton**, October 4, 1967
36. **Beverly J. Stiburek Elder**, September 27, 1968
37. **Susan Maria Flandro**, September 27, 1968
38. **Judith Holcombe**, September 27, 1968
39. **Linda Roberson Palmer Judd**, October 6, 1970
40. **Darla Sanders Williamson**, October 6, 1972
41. **Susan Dahl Bagwell**, July 17, 1973
42. **Linda Jean Cook**, November 1, 1973
43. **Lucinda Weiss**, November 1, 1973
44. **Sandra Lee Younghans**, April 19, 1974
45. **Myrna Anne Itzen Stahman**, October 3, 1974
46. **Cassandra Lee Furr Dunn**, October 11, 1974
47. **Ursula Irmgard Kettlewell Spilger**, October 11, 1974
48. **Kristie Kunau Stafford**, October 11, 1974
49. **Deborah Ann Bail**, April 11, 1975
50. **Josephine Pickford Beeman**, September 30, 1975
51. **Rita Therese Reusch**, September 30, 1975
52. **Karen Jean Orndorff Vehlow**, September 30, 1975
53. **Jean Rynd Uranga**, September 30, 1975

# 1

## HELEN LOUISE NICHOLS YOUNG

October 26, 1895

(1862 – 1951)

**Helen Louise Nichols Young**, sometimes called “Nellie Young,” was born in 1862 in Lansing, Michigan to Sarah A. Nichols. Three years later her brother, Ashel William Nichols, was born. Sometime thereafter her father either died or parents divorced. Her mother married Daniel E. Waldron on March 9, 1870, in Ingham County, Michigan. Waldron, an attorney and then resident of Elko, Nevada, decided to move the family west. According to the 1880 census, the Waldron family lived in San Francisco, California, where Waldron practiced law in an office on Bush Street. A short time later, the family moved again to north Idaho where the economy was booming from the mining industry. There, in the small town of Osburn, Waldron began practicing law. Young began studying law in her father’s office as early as 1885.

Young met Orville R. Young, a miner living in Osburn, and married him on June 29, 1887, in Blaine, Idaho. She began teaching in the public schools of Shoshone County the following year.

Young’s first reported brush with Idaho’s legal system began in 1892, when a collection action was brought against her husband. After the bank prevailed against Orville, it sought to collect on its judgment by attaching and ultimately selling Young’s separate property, two lode-mining claims known as the “Coeur d’Alene Nellie” and the “Emma” situated in the Evolution mining district in Shoshone County. Young hired prominent north Idaho attorney Weldon Brinton (“W.B.”) Heyburn, chair of the standing committee on the judiciary at Idaho’s

Constitutional Convention in 1889 and later United States Senator, to represent her in a quiet title action challenging the sale. Heyburn argued that the bank’s attachment and sale were improper, as the claims had been deeded as a gift to Young and were, therefore, her separate property “free from the control of her husband.” Two and a half years after the sale, in February 1895, Young prevailed in her quiet title action before the Idaho Supreme Court. *See Young v. First Nat’l Bank of Hailey*, 4 Idaho 323 (1895).

Eight months later two of the most prominent north Idaho attorneys at the time – Heyburn and W. W. Woods (also a delegate to the Idaho State Constitutional Convention in 1889 and, later, one of Idaho’s first district court judges) – sponsored Young in her application for admission to the Idaho Supreme Court attesting that “the applicant possesses the requisite qualification to entitle her to be admitted to practice.” (Woods knew Young through his wife, an active suffragist and early officer in Idaho’s statewide woman’s suffrage movement.) Specifically, Heyburn and Woods explained that “the applicant has been engaged in the study of the law for a period of more than two years at Osburn . . . under the general direction of Daniel E. Waldron, Father of the applicant and an Attorney at Law of good standing.” Heyburn and Woods then recited a litany of legal sources that Young had purportedly studied, including Sharswood’s *Blackstone’s Commentaries* and *Stephen on Pleadings*.

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## *The First 50 Women in Idaho Law*

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At the time of Young's application, Idaho statutes limited the admission of attorneys in Idaho to "white males." Nonetheless, on October 26, 1895, the Idaho Supreme Court, comprised of Chief Justice John T. Morgan, himself a member of the Constitutional Convention, Justice Isaac N. Sullivan and Justice Joseph W. Huston, convened in Lewiston "In the matter of the examination and admission of Helen L. Young as an Attorney and Counselor of this Court:"

The above named applicant having made application for an examination in due form to test her legal qualification as to learning and ability as a prerequisite to admission to practice as an attorney and counselor in the Courts of this State, and having passed such examination to the satisfaction of the Court, and produced satisfactory testimonials that she is a woman of good moral character,

Now, therefore it is ordered that Helen L. Young be and she is hereby admitted to practice as an Attorney and Counselor in all the Courts of this State.

Whereupon the Clerk, by direction of the Court, administered to said applicant the required attorney's oath, and caused her to sign the Roll of Attorneys.

*See Application of Kaufmann*, 69 Idaho 297, 305, 206 P.2d 528, 532 (1949). Thus, Helen L. Young became the state's first woman admitted to the Bar on October 26, 1895. Notably, Young was granted admission to the bar before she was given the right to vote in Idaho, although that would soon change.

The national movement for women to gain the right to vote was in full swing by the mid 1890s, and Idaho was no exception. In 1893,

Idaho women organized their first suffrage group and secured support from Populists, Republicans, Democrats and the Boise newspaper, *The Idaho Daily Statesman*. In 1895, the National American Woman Suffrage Association ("NAWSA") held its national convention and began work on securing a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage by winning the vote in individual states. Given Idaho women's early work in this area, Idaho was one of the earliest states targeted for NAWSA's campaign.

In the spring of 1896, two of NAWSA's national organizers, Laura M. Johns of Kansas and Emma Smith DeVoe of Illinois, came to Idaho to direct the state's campaign. Given Young's relative notoriety as a woman lawyer, Johns recruited her to "take charge of north Idaho."

On July 1-3, 1896, a statewide convention of suffragists was held in Boise and officers were elected. Young and Kate E. N. Feltham (a future Idaho woman lawyer and no. 4 on this list) were elected as vice-presidents and, as noted in *The History of Woman Suffrage*, "Thus organized, the association conducted the final campaign." A few months later, in November 1896, the Woman's Suffrage amendment to the Idaho Constitution, Art. 6, § 2 was adopted, making Idaho only the fourth state to grant women the right to vote (interestingly, the vote was challenged and upheld by a unanimous Idaho Supreme Court made up of the same three men who previously admitted Young to the bar). It was another three years, however, before a law was passed to remove the statutory restriction for admissions to the Idaho bar with respect to color and sex, thereby opening the door to future women of the Idaho bar.

Although she had been admitted to practice law in Idaho, it appears that Young continued to work as a teacher. In 1900, Young was teaching school in Shoshone County while her husband, Orville, served on the school board

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## *The First 50 Women in Idaho Law*

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of trustees for the same district. In September 1900, Orville and another school board member, James Lyle, approved a contract with Young whereby she would teach school for \$70 per month. The third school board member, Anderson W. Nuckols, protested this arrangement because of Orville's financial interest in his wife's employment and earnings. The case was dismissed in district court.

At the same time, Young decided to venture into politics and ran for County Superintendent of Public Instruction for Shoshone County in 1900 as a Democrat. Apparently, Young's choice of political affiliation "aroused the antagonism of all [her] friends." (The mines of north Idaho in the late 1890s were the scene of great labor struggles between union and non-union workers, resulting in the destruction of several mines and the imposition of martial law. Democrats were associated with the "labor ticket.") One of Young's campaign stops in Mullan, Idaho, was reported in the November 3, 1900, edition of *The Mullan Mirror*:

[t]he chairman introduc[ed] Miss Helen L. Young, a trim little lady, who in a few well chosen phrases pleaded as only a woman can plead for suffrage of her sex and liberal support on the ticket for the office of superintendent of schools. With gentlemanly instinct she was well received and retired wreathed in smiles dawned from a new hope.

The election was remarkably close, with Young receiving 2,619 votes and her Republican opponent, Prof. Charles Vance, 2,610 votes. Given the closeness of the election, Young's election was contested although she ultimately prevailed.

Meanwhile, Nuckols' appealed the dismissal of his challenge to Young's employment contact to the Idaho Supreme Court and, in

1902, Chief Justice Ralph P. Quarles authored the Court's decision in *Nuckols v. Lyle*, 8 Idaho 589 (1902). The question on appeal was whether Orville was "pecuniarily interested in the contract" of employment made on behalf of his wife, Young. The Court answered: "We think he was. Under the laws of this state the earning of the wife constitute a part of the community property. The husband has the control and management of the community property, and he may use it and is part owner in it, and hence is pecuniarily interested in it. The said contract was . . . null and void."

That same year, Young ran for County Superintendent of Public Instruction again. This time she faced two opponents, Republican Mary O. Nickersham, and "People's Party" candidate Johanna Grills, and lost to the Republican by a little more than 300 votes.

About this same time, Young was introduced to, and began studying, Christian Science. She first registered with The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts on June 10, 1902, while living in Wallace. In 1903, Helen and Orville appear to have separated without having had any children. Orville continued to work as a miner and lived as a "boarder" in Wallace. Helen moved to New York City to continue her study of Christian Science.

Based on her extensive study of religious texts, Young compiled a book of scriptures entitled *Scriptural Healing: Arranged from the Bible*, which was published in 1907. Indeed, Young became a prolific writer for Christian Science, having several articles appear in the *Christian Science Journal*, a monthly publication, and the *Christian Science Sentinel*, a weekly publication, from the period 1908 through 1916.

By September 1906, Young had been engaged in the study of Christian Science long enough

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## *The First 50 Women in Idaho Law*

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to qualify as a “practitioner.” A practitioner is someone who has had systematic teaching in Christian Science (called Primary Class Instruction) and, for a modest fee, is employed to use that training to “practice purely spiritual healing.” Young worked as a Christian Science practitioner in Manhattan from 1906 until October 1915. She then moved, in November 1915, to Butte, Montana, and continued her work as a practitioner with Christian Science.

Young returned to New York City in 1918 and continued to work as a Christian Scientist practitioner at 33 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. In 1922, she moved to the Hotel Spencer Arms at 69<sup>th</sup> and Broadway.

According to passport records, Young left from New York harbor on a tour of Europe, Asia and the Middle East on October 16,

1924 aboard the *President Polk*. On her passport application, Young indicated that she intended to return to the United States within 6 months. These records, however, appear to contain several inaccuracies, including listing her as seven years younger than her actual age and as marrying Orville in 1890 and being widowed in 1909. In contrast, the census records show that Orville was alive and living in Shoshone County until his death in 1924 when he was buried in the Nine Mile Cemetery in Wallace, Idaho. Census records also list Orville as divorced as of 1910. Whatever their marital status, Young began her worldwide tour just a few months after Orville’s death in June 1924.

Young returned to New York City after her worldwide tour where she lived and worked as a practitioner at 50 Central Park West from 1935 until her death in April 1951.

# 2

## BERTHA STULL GREEN

December 8, 1904

(1875 – 1933)

**Bertha Stull Green** was born in Illinois in 1875 to Morris C. and Maria (Huntoon) Stull. Her father was a judge, and the family lived in Nebraska on a farm and then in Lincoln. Green graduated from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1893. While in college, Green represented the University of Nebraska on Inter-State debates for two consecutive years and was the valedictorian of her college class. After college, Green attended the University of Nebraska and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1899. A professor at the law school said hers was the most brilliant mind he had ever had in his class. On June 15, 1899, Green became the 22<sup>nd</sup> woman admitted to the Nebraska bar.

In 1904, Green married fellow attorney Leslie Brooks Green in Lincoln. Shortly thereafter, the couple moved to Mountain Home, Idaho, and Green was admitted as the second woman to practice law in Idaho on December 8, 1904. Green practiced law with her husband in the firm of “Green & Green” in Mountain Home. Green may have been lured to Mountain Home because a relative, Homer Stull, had settled in Mountain Home and made a name for himself as a prominent attorney and delegate from Elmore County to the 1889 Idaho State Constitutional Convention.

Green had three children: Marion, Walter and Arthur. When her children were young and she had an active law practice, including the need to appear in court, Green needed a babysitter. Years later, it was told that Green instructed her babysitter, Mrs. Reed, “do not

hold or rock the baby.” Green explained that she did not spoil her children and did not want anyone else to spoil them for her (much to the consternation of Mrs. Reed).



Green made an impact on the Mountain Home community almost immediately upon her arrival, often being described as an “enthusiastic club woman.” There were three women’s clubs in Mountain Home in the early 1900s and Green belonged to all of them, including the Mother’s Club. Having a trained legal mind and great desire to interest women in the laws which governed them and their children, Green’s club interests were always legislative. To that end, in 1909 she compiled a booklet entitled “Laws of Idaho, Concerning Women and Children.” The booklet was distributed to women’s clubs throughout Idaho and used as a reference book for years. Green was also a member of the Civic Club of Mountain Home (formerly the Entre Nous Club and Sub Rosa Club) and one of the earliest presidents of the Idaho Federation of Women’s Clubs.

Green served as chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Idaho State Federation of Women’s Clubs almost continuously for fifteen years. As such, Green was one of the best-known women in Idaho public life. During this time she actively lobbied the Idaho legislature on various bills, including child labor laws, the “Nine Hour Day” for

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## *The First 50 Women in Idaho Law*

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working women bill (a compromise measure with advocates of an eight-hour law), community property laws (including a bill to require a woman's signature before a husband could sell community property) and "the Lazy Husband" bill. Green was also instrumental in passing a bill for the Children's Home Finding and Aid Society of Idaho, which established the Children's Home in Boise in 1908 on land donated by pioneering Boise teacher Cynthia Mann. Green also served for four years as a member of the Legislative Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, as a member of the Daughters of Veterans, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and was active in the Progressive (Republican) Party of Mountain Home. In fact, in one campaign she was the Republican candidate for prosecuting attorney against her husband, the Democratic candidate (her husband won the election). On top of all this, Green found time to earn the distinction of being the first woman in Mountain Home to hold the position of School Trustee.

In 1923, Green was a delegate, as the Idaho State President of the Federation of Women's Clubs, to the National Federation of Women's Clubs convention in Los Angeles. Perhaps liking what she saw in California, Green and her family decided to move there in the 1920s. Green's children Arthur and Marion eventually moved to New York; Walter was killed in an auto accident when he was returning to college after a vacation.

In addition to being quite intelligent and active in her community, Green was described by a neighbor as "one of the most beautiful women I have known," explaining:

She was tall and slender and very feminine, a woman who could wear flowers in her hair with great charm. And quite often she did wear them so with evening attire, for she was very feminine.

On December 15, 1933, at the age of 58, Green died in Van Nuys, California.

# 3

## DELLA M. GREGORY THOMAS

December 24, 1907

(1878 – 1967)

**Della M. Gregory Thomas** was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1878 to A.T. and Mary C. (Bradley) Gregory. Thomas, originally a teacher, made her way to Washington state where she met Harvey A. Thomas, a native of Spokane, who was then working as farmer in Riverside, Washington.

On February 19, 1903, she and Harvey were married and together they eventually practiced law in Riverside, although the Washington State Bar does not have any record of her being admitted in Washington. On February 11, 1905, the Thomases had their first child, a daughter named Lenore Catherine. Although they reportedly had a “profitable practice” in Riverside, the Thomases decided that they “wanted a larger field.” So, in December 1907 they moved to Shoshone, Idaho, to practice law.

On December 24, 1907, Thomas was admitted as the third woman to practice law in Idaho. The December 27, 1907, *Shoshone Journal* reported the unusual event in an article entitled “A New Law Firm: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Open Office in Shoshone:”

Thomas & Thomas is the name of a new law firm that has just located in Shoshone. It is somewhat different from the ordinary law firm, for it is

composed of Harvey A. Thomas and his wife, Della M. Thomas. Both have passed the required examination and are thoroughly qualified.

The paper went on to report that the Thomases “have secured offices over the Baugh drug store [in Shoshone] and will probably also open an office in Gooding.”

The Thomas family seemed to settle into life in Idaho and, in 1909, Della gave birth to her second child, a son named Wilbur. However, the family did not remain long in Idaho. According to the 1910 census, the Thomas family moved to Texas City, Texas, shortly after Wilbur’s birth. Harvey was employed as an attorney for Texas City and Della was listed as an attorney, but no employer was given. According to the records of the Texas State Bar, Della was never admitted in Texas.

According to the 1920 census, the Thomas family moved once again, this time to New York City. Harvey was listed as an attorney, but Della was no longer identified as an attorney. Ironically, the first woman admitted in Idaho, Helen L. Young, was also living in Manhattan in 1920. Although Thomas’ precise date of death is unknown, Social Security records suggest that she survived until 1967.

# 4

## MARGARET BEALL CONNELL

December 16, 1911

(1872 – unknown)

**Margaret Beall Connell** was born in 1872 in Lancaster, Ohio, and moved to Utah after finishing high school. She attended Chicago University through an extension course and then studied for one year at the University of Berlin. Returning to Utah, Connell served as deputy clerk in the United States Courts, spent several years reading the law, and then completed the law course at the University of Utah, with a supplementary special course in brief making.

Connell has the distinction of being the fourth woman admitted to a state bar twice. She was admitted as the fourth woman to the Utah Bar in 1908, after passing an examination

before the Utah Supreme Court. And, three years later, on December 16, 1911, Connell was admitted to the Idaho Bar in Boise as its fourth woman.



Connell continued her practice and eventually ended up practicing in Los Angeles, California. Connell was an active member of the several literary and historical clubs, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

# 5

## KATE E. NEVILE FELTHAM

September 22, 1914

(1859 – 1936)

**Kate E. Nevile Feltham** was born on December 20, 1859, in Adams, New York. Her father was born in England and her mother was born in Georgia. After graduating high school, Feltham was a teacher in Ackley, Iowa. In 1893, she moved to Nampa, Idaho. On September 21, 1893, she married Lot L. Feltham, an attorney born in New York in 1858. Lot Feltham served as city attorney for Caldwell from 1893 to 1895. During this time, Kate Feltham taught English at the College of Idaho in Caldwell and became active in the women's suffrage movement.

Being active in the Caldwell community, Feltham was chosen to serve as the president of the Caldwell branch of the Idaho Equal Suffrage Association. In that capacity, she attended a statewide meeting of women's suffragists in Boise on November 20, 1895. Feltham was named to the advisory board of the statewide movement and by way of telegram from Susan B. Anthony was told to "Educate the rank and file of voters through political party newspapers and meetings." She, and others, did that just that and by May of 1896 their efforts had caught the attention of the National American Women Suffrage Association and its leaders, including Laura M. Johns of Kansas and Emma Smith DeVoe of Illinois. A convention was called in Boise on July 1-3, 1896, at which time officers were elected. Feltham and Helen L. Young, Idaho's only woman attorney at the time, were chosen as vice-presidents. As noted in *The History of Woman Suffrage*, "Thus organized, the association conducted the final campaign."

The campaign was successful when, in November 1896, the Woman's Suffrage amendment to the Idaho Constitution, Art. 6, § 2 was adopted.



Having gained some notoriety for her work in the suffrage movement, in 1898, while working as a clerk in a Caldwell election, Feltham received "about 9 [write-in] votes for city engineer." Lina Gipson described Feltham at the 1914 dedication for the Carnegie Library Building in Caldwell as "a woman of public spirit and executive ability." Feltham founded the first free public reading room in Caldwell and was the founding president of the Progress Club, a forerunner of the Future Club in Caldwell.

By 1910, Feltham and her husband were living in the Weiser area and she was listed by the 1910 census as a "fruit farmer." During this time Feltham was doing more than farming, however, she was also preparing for a career in law by training at the law office of her husband. At the time, law-office study or "reading for the law" was an alternative form of legal education allowed by the Idaho State Bar, although a candidate for admission needed to produce "strong testimony" as to their capabilities and character before the Idaho Supreme Court. In 1914, Feltham did just that, being admitted to the bar in Idaho on September 22, 1914, as its fifth woman.

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Feltham practiced law in Weiser for thirty years and shared an office with her husband (whom she later divorced) at 32 Commercial Street. In 1926, Feltham was elected to serve as prosecuting attorney for Washington County, the first woman to hold a prosecuting attorney position in Idaho.

On her death on August 28, 1936, the Weiser newspaper paid her tribute:

Gifted with a mind of unusual power  
and with determined will and pioneer

spirit she entered upon the study of law, and was admitted to the bar at time when this was considered exclusively a field for the activity of men. She won her place in the legal profession . . . Many incidents are reported of her spirit of fairness and of kindness, particularly in dealing with girls who had run afoul of the law.

# 6

## M. PEARL McCALL

December 17, 1919

(1885 – 1977)

**Mazellah Pearl McCall** was born on April 12, 1876 in Greenville, Kentucky to Ridley Williams and Ophelia Anna (Reynolds) McCall. Pearl and her siblings, John Reynolds, Sallie Elizabeth (McKellar), Myrtle (died at an early age) and Mary Amanthus (“Molly”), grew up on a farm near Fairfield, Illinois. Her father served in the Civil War along with other Fairfield families, including the Borah family (whose decedent, Sen. William Borah, would later lead McCall to Idaho).

McCall graduated from Haywood College and attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music where she studied piano. The Conservatory was established in 1867 and catered to “well-bred young women,” offering courses in music, as well as social graces, languages and posture. From 1900-01, McCall attended Wilson College, a small, private, Presbyterian (USA) affiliated college in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, established for the education of women in 1869. Thereafter, McCall moved to Grafton, North Dakota to teach school and piano.

While in Grafton, McCall met and began dating Robert Lindsay McKellar, the Superintendent of the local flour mill. About this same time, McCall’s sister, Elizabeth, decided to visit McCall or to live with her and teach school in Grafton. Apparently, Elizabeth and McKellar immediately hit it off and were married in September 1907. In 1910, the McKellars were transferred to Harlowton, Montana to work at the flour mill there. While they were able to convince McCall’s brother John, and his wife, Edith, to

join them in Montana and acquire a large tract of land under a late enacted homestead act, McCall did not elect to join them. Instead, she continued her education for a brief period at the University of Seattle in Washington, and then taught school in Idaho for a period of time.

From 1910-12, McCall attended Washington University in St. Louis. Thereafter, she moved to Washington, D.C. and began working on Capitol Hill where, it is believed, she became reacquainted with her family friend, William Borah, now a U.S. Senator from Idaho. McCall was active in the women’s suffrage movement and marched on Washington in support of that cause. During this time, McCall also attended Strayer Business School and George Washington University.

In 1915, McCall began pursuing a law degree at Washington College of Law (“WCL”) in Washington, D.C. (now the law school of the American University). Founded by two early women lawyer pioneers, Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma Gillett, in 1896 as the Woman’s Law Class, and transformed into a degree granting institution in 1898, WCL was the first law school established by and for women in the United States. As such, the school attracted many of the country’s earliest woman lawyers. After receiving her law degree in 1918, McCall was admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on June 29, 1918.

McCall continued her legal education at WCL, receiving her L.L.M. in 1919. Shortly

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thereafter, McCall ventured west to Idaho at the request of Senator Borah, himself a women's rights supporter. It is believed that Sen. Borah mentored McCall in her professional efforts. McCall may have also been interested in returning to Idaho because her aunt, Mary E. Reynolds, a pioneering woman doctor in Weiser, gave her family ties to Idaho. McCall was admitted to practice law in Idaho in Boise on December 17, 1919 and, thereby became the sixth woman admitted to practice in Idaho.

By 1921, McCall had returned to Washington, D.C. and was appointed the first woman Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. She was responsible for handling cases involving women and girls as plaintiffs and defendants and for postal law and food and drug act violations. McCall played a key role in bringing about the Diploma Mills Bill, requiring registration and strict standards to be met by organizations conferring degrees.

On January 24, 1924, McCall was admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court, thereby becoming the first Idaho woman attorney admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. McCall served as an Assistant United States Attorney until 1934, at which time she began an "active" private practice. Contemporaneous reports from the *Washington Post* indicate that McCall was involved in numerous high-profile cases, including murder trials, throughout her tenure at the United States Attorney's office. McCall retired in 1963, but remained active in a number of organizations until she was incapacitated by a fall in 1970.

Throughout her career, McCall was very active in Washington, D.C. affairs, serving as president of the first women's bar association in the United States, the Women's District of Columbia Bar Association, from 1925-27 and again in 1932, as a member of the Washington Criminal Justice Association, the General

Council of the American Bar Association, the Women's City Club, the League of Republican Women, the Republican National Committee's speakers bureau, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Phi Delta Delta (a national legal fraternity that promoted a higher standard of professional ethics and culture among women in law schools and in the legal profession), the Order of the Eastern Star, and a founding member of the National Antiweapon Association and the Bureau of Rehabilitation (an organization for the relief of prisoners and their families associated with the Community Chest).

M. Pearl McCall, who never married or had children, died at the age of 100 on January 23, 1977 at the Marsalle Nursing Home in Washington, D.C. She is buried in the Maple Hill Cemetery, Fairfield, Illinois.

# 7

## PEARL TYER February 1, 1922 (1878 – 1966)

**Pearl Tyer** was born in July 1878 in Adel, Iowa to John M. and Addie J. Tyer. Pearl was the youngest of three children. Her sister, Nellie, was born in 1869, and her brother H. Wilbert (“Bert”), was born in 1871. Tyer attended grammar school in Iowa and worked part-time in her father’s feed and seed business in the town of Perry.

Tyer attended Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, beginning in 1895 where she double majored in Greek and Latin. When she was just a few credits shy of graduation in 1899, however, Tyer was forced to leave school for health reasons and was not allowed to participate in Grinnell’s commencement exercises that year.

After she recovered her health, in 1900 Tyer and her mother decided to move west to Ogden, Utah, where her brother Bert was living and working as an attorney (Tyer’s father had previously passed away). Tyer worked in Bert’s office and soon became interested in studying law. Her family says that she likely took up the law in an effort to stay close to her brother and to pursue an occupation where she could help people. A few years later, Bert moved to Boise, Idaho, and began a practice there. Tyer and her mother, again, decided to follow Bert, moving to Boise around 1908.

Tyer and her mother lived at 1023 Washington Street (on the site now occupied by the downtown Boise YMCA) for more than 50 years. Her home was originally used

as a boarding house, a tradition Tyer continued when she took in women attending the local Link’s School of Business and girls attending Boise High School, which was directly across the street.



Although Tyer remained interested in studying the law, and continued to do so in her brother’s Boise office, she worked as a journalist in Boise for a number of years, at both *The Idaho Daily Statesman* and the *Boise Capitol News*. In so doing, she covered a number of high-profile events, including the trial of Harry Orchard in March 1908, the man who confessed to the 1905 killing of Idaho Governor Frank Steunenberg by a bomb attached to the front gate at his home. After Orchard was convicted and incarcerated in the Old Penitentiary in Boise in the 1930s, Tyer did a follow-up article on Orchard that appeared in the *Statesman*.

Tyer was active in the Boise community throughout her life. For example, she was influential in starting the YWCA in Boise in 1942. She was also a charter member of the Business and Professional Women’s Club and a life-long member of the First Church of Christ Scientist. Given her work in the press and being active in the community, Tyer knew a number of high profile individuals, including Cynthia Mann (for whom an elementary

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school in Boise is named). Mann, like Tyler, was an “enthusiastic club woman” in Boise and active in her community and the two became close friends. In fact, when Mann died unexpectedly in 1920 from the “Spanish Flu” she remembered Tyler’s friendship with the bequeath of a large bureau that she had received from Governor Buhn, a territorial governor of Idaho, in recognition of the work she did to help Idaho become a state in 1890 (the Tyler family has since donated this item to the Idaho State Historical Society).

By the early 1920s, Tyler had studied the law for a number of years in her brother’s office and was ready to take the bar. She applied, and was successful, being admitted as the seventh woman to practice law in Idaho on February 1, 1922. Instead of going into practice, however, she served as a law librarian at the State Law Library in Boise (then located in the Capitol Building) for many years. Family members recall that she also maintained a small office in downtown Boise, but do not recall her engaging in any significant private practice work. Indeed, she is described as a shy, soft-spoken woman who, for that reason, did not seek trial work. Family members also recall that Tyler was given assignments, from time to time, by the state to collect all the laws applicable to one department (*e.g.*, all laws related to health and

welfare were collected in one place for the department of health and welfare). This work involved hours of collecting laws in the library, as well as tracking new laws as they were made. Nonetheless, Tyler loved the work and excelled at it.

Tyler continued her writing throughout her life, including writing for educational magazines and children’s poems. Although she never married or had children, Tyler remain committed to her family – particularly her sister Nellie’s family which had also settled in Boise. She loved to drive fast and once owned a “Stanley Steamer” purported to be the fastest car of its time. Tyler stopped driving, however, once Boise starting installing streetlights. According to her family, Tyler did not want a “mechanical device” to control her movements.

In 1949, Tyler decided to attend her 50-year reunion at Grinnell, even though she never officially “graduated” from the school. In recognition of the many years of service she provided to the Boise community – both professionally and through her community work – Grinnell presented her with her college diploma in 1949.

Tyler died on January 8, 1966, in Boise at the age of 87.

# 8

## BERTHA RADO MUCKEY

December 15, 1924

(1898 – 1945)

**Bertha Rado Muckey** was born on January 10, 1898, in Watauga Valley, Tennessee to David Chapfield Muckey and Ella (Frasier) Muckey. She was an only child and described as her mother's pride and joy for whom she could do no wrong. Muckey's father owned and operated cheese factories for 42 years in New York, Idaho and Wyoming.

By the early 1920s, the Muckey's were living in Idaho and operating a cheese factory outside of Twin Falls. Muckey was admitted to practice law in Idaho on December 15, 1924. She maintained her active Idaho license until 1934, whereupon she moved to Mountain View, Wyoming. Although the records of the Wyoming State Bar indicate that she was never admitted to practice there, her obituary definitively states that she did practice law in Wyoming.

It appears that Muckey's move from Idaho to Wyoming corresponded with her family's cheese manufacturing business. Her father opened a cheese factory in Mountain View in the early 1930s and by 1939-40 had relocated the business to Urie (3 miles north of Mountain View), where he operated the Urie Cheese Factory.

Edna Wall, a neighbor of the Muckey's when they moved back to Mountain View, describes Muckey as a spirited woman who loved to dress up and attend costume parties. The Muckey family, Wall says, "were very nice people." So nice, in fact, that Wall says her dog ran away to live with them.

Muckey never married or had children, and died following a long illness on December 19, 1945, in Detroit, Michigan.

# 9

## ADELYNE MARTHA BURRUS CHAMPERS

April 11, 1927  
(1904 – 1992)

**Adelyne Martha Burrus Champers** was born on January 4, 1904 in Pocatello, Idaho to Fletcher Ready Burrus and Emma (Day) Burrus. Adelyne's father had a real estate, insurance and abstracting business in Pocatello. Adelyne's mother was a housewife, who took care of Adelyne and her four siblings, Susie, Ophelia, Fletcher Jr., and Mary Emma.

After growing up in Pocatello and graduating from Pocatello High School in 1921, Burrus attended the University of Washington from 1921-26. She was active on the varsity debate team, and was a member of the Kappa Delta sorority, Delta Phi (women's national honorary forensic), and Phi Delta Delta (women's honorary law). She graduated with honors in 1926 with a Bachelor of Laws degree. Immediately thereafter, on June 24, 1926 she was admitted to the Washington State Bar.

While enrolled in law school, Burrus met a fellow law student named Jesse E. Champers, a self-made man who would eventually earn four separate degrees (forestry, math/physics, civil engineering, and law). Jesse, born in Ohio, left home at the age of 14 to work on the railroad, eventually bringing him to Seattle and the University of Washington.

Burrus returned to her family in Pocatello after graduation and applied to sit for the Idaho bar exam. When asked to describe "the various reasons for your desire to adopt the practice of law as a profession" by the Idaho

State Bar, Burrus replied: "At the time of entering college I selected law believing that with close application it offered an opportunity for mutual development and an honorable avocation in life, the



possibility of rendering service to others and receiving a fair remuneration." One letter of recommendation to the Idaho State Bar said: "she stands unusually high as a good clean ambitious girl who is admired and respected by all who know her." With this, Burrus was admitted to practice in Idaho on April 11, 1927.

Burrus practiced in Pocatello with Drew W. ("D.W.") Standrod (a former candidate for Governor of Idaho) and handled a variety of cases, including a high profile probate of the will of Judge J.W. Fisher. According to news reports of the trial,

Adelaide Burrus, young woman lawyer, matched wits with Attorney Petersen, as she presented evidence in support of the will. She was assisted by D.W. Standrod. Miss Burrus won a favorable decision before Probate Judge William A. Hyde, who held that the will was valid.

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This case eventually made its way to the Idaho Supreme Court, where the decision was affirmed. *Estate of Fisher*, 47 Idaho 668 (1929). In so doing, Burrus became the first woman to argue a case before the Idaho Supreme Court (and she won).

On July 17, 1929, Champers married Jesse in Pocatello and the family moved to Washington State to begin their married life. Together they had two children, a daughter, E. Lucinda Champers (Latimer) born in 1936 and a son, Jesse Champers, Jr. born in 1942. Champers did not work outside the home while her children were young and in school.

Champers' youngest sister, Mary Burrus, followed in her footsteps and received a law degree from the University of Washington and went on to become a prominent Washington lawyer herself. In fact, Mary was the attorney responsible for condemning the land upon which the Seattle airport is now

located and also taught law at the University of Washington. Although Champers did not hold a full-time job outside the home for many years, she did work from time to time in her sister Mary's law office.

In 1959, when her youngest child was a senior in high school, Burrus went back to work as a lawyer in the Inheritance Tax Division for the State of Washington in Olympia, a position she held for many years. Meanwhile, her husband was involved in many engineering projects in western Washington, including the construction of the I-5 corridor from Everett to Roanoke, the Rainbow Bridge in LaConner, and many roads and highways on the Olympic peninsula.

Champers died on June 1, 1992, in San Juan County, Washington at the age of 88.

# 10

## MARY JENSEN SMITH OLDHAM

July 25, 1935

(1912 – 2002)

**Mary Jensen Smith Oldham** was born on November 19, 1912, in Mendon, Utah, the second of six children born to Clement Van Noy Smith and Sibyl (Jensen) Smith. She grew up in Sunnydell, Idaho and attended school in Rexburg. As an eight-year-old girl, Oldham sat in on a trial in Rexburg and immediately decided to become a lawyer.

Oldham attended the University of Idaho, although her schooling was interrupted when she came home to support her family through the Depression. Nonetheless, she kept her hand in the law by working as a legal secretary at several local firms. Oldham studied an approved course of law under the guidance of C. J. Taylor (later an Idaho Supreme Court Justice), and eventually graduated from the University of Idaho in 1935. Shortly thereafter, she was admitted as the tenth woman to practice law in Idaho on July 25, 1935 at the age of 21.

*The Idaho Daily Statesman* announced Oldham's admission with a story entitled "Pretty Mary Smith Becomes Member of Idaho State Bar":

Mary Smith, winsome lass from Rexburg, Thursday took the oath as a member of the state bar, before Justice Raymond L. Givens . . . The members and attaches of the court . . . kept their minds on the details of the ceremony with a certain degree of difficulty. But in spite of the extremely attractive appearance of the new member all the forms were complied with.

Miss Smith, however, is a pronounced feminist, and she told interviewers that she saw no reason why her admission should be treated any differently from that of men.



When asked to comment on the impact of women being admitted to the bar, Oldham responded:

It is inconceivable that we will damage the legal profession. Some people say that we are grand and noble in our own sphere, but that outside of it we are misfits; but if we are what the testimony shows us to be and the legal profession is what it is believed to be, it should be only a short time till we are as numerous in the various professions as are the men.

After being admitted, Oldham returned to Rexburg and worked with other lawyers until she joined the practice of famed southeastern Idaho attorney W. Lloyd Adams. Initially, Oldham did legal work and all the secretarial work for both of them. Oldham later reminisced that working with Adams was a pleasure and a challenge, for he was a brilliant, highly driven man with lots of energy. Oldham watched, learned and often sought advice from him.

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In 1939, Oldham became the second Idaho woman to be admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court (M. Pearl McCall was the first in 1924).

A young woman lawyer in Rexburg in the 1930s and 1940s attracted a lot of attention and Oldham's first clients came to her "mainly out of curiosity." Her practice was a general one, although she did a lot of family law over the years. Women would come to her because they felt more comfortable talking with another woman. Men, too, sought her legal counsel in family law matters. In fact, Oldham recalled that one of her most unusual cases was the representation of a husband in a divorce:

Usually it's the women that have this problem . . . A man came in, he was all bruised and bleeding, and he wanted to get a divorce because his wife had beaten him up. He said, "I even crawled under the bed, and she reached under and pulled me out" . . . I went ahead and got him a divorce, and got him a restraining order against his wife so that she would leave him alone -- she couldn't follow him and beat him up!

Oldham also did a lot of trial work, which was quite unusual for a woman lawyer at the time. Oldham recalled her first murder trial, which took place after World War II. She helped represent a young Japanese American veteran who had been at the front of the battle lines in Italy. He and his father shared the same bed at home after he came home from the war. The young man was suffering from battle fatigue, and had severe nightmares about his war experiences. One night he reached over in his sleep and killed his father. Oldham defended him successfully, using the relatively new insanity defense. She had several psychologists testify as to her client's state of mind and the young man was

eventually sent to the mental hospital in Blackfoot.

Marriage and family came into Oldham's life after she was well established in her law practice. She married Volney Oldham, who sold insurance and owned the Park Lanes Bowling Alley in Rexburg, on July 29, 1949, in Butte, Montana and immediately became the mother of two pre-teen children (L.B. Oldham and Mary Lee Sellers). The couple had two daughters (Francie Murphy and Nancy Atwood). Oldham carried on her legal work, under her maiden name of Smith, after the children were born, setting up a bassinet in her office. Later, her mother cared for Oldham's children at home. Oldham remembers no negative reaction from the community towards her working and raising a family; clients and other lawyers often enjoyed seeing the baby when they did business at her office.

During her sixty plus years of active practice Oldham served as Rexburg City Attorney for forty years, as Sugar City Attorney for thirty-six years and as legal counsel for the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District for decades. Her work for the Irrigation District caused her to become involved in lobbying in Washington, D.C. for the Teton Dam and, after it was built, to be very active in dealing with the many issues that arose when the dam failed in 1976. Oldham was active in the Idaho State Bar and was always willing to help out on disciplinary matters; although she refused to grade bar exams because she "would have given them all As." Oldham enjoyed attending the Bar's annual meetings, and often "pal'd around" with Mary Schmitt (number 13 on this list) of Gooding. Senior Idaho Falls attorney Ed Pike, who practiced with her in the upper Snake River Valley, remembers Mary as "a true lady and a very able practitioner."

Oldham's legal career marked many "firsts" for women lawyers in Idaho. In 1935,

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Oldham became the first woman to address the Idaho State Bar at its annual meeting (she spoke on the need for penal reform). And, in 1945, Oldham became the first woman attorney to serve as a judge in Idaho when she was elected as Justice of the Peace for Madison County, after running on both the Republican and Democratic tickets (Margaret Giesler, a non-attorney, was the first woman to serve as a judge in Idaho, serving as probate judge for Camas County in 1939.) As Justice of the Peace, Oldham was asked to administer the oath of office to Idaho Governor Arnold Williams in 1945. Given her many accomplishments, Oldham was asked by two different governors to be appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court, but declined each time.

Some of Oldham's other accomplishments include: Idaho director of the National Association of Women Lawyers; chairperson of the Republican Women's Organization; Soroptimist Woman of the Year in 1977; Rexburg Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award in 1980; Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997; Idaho State Bar's "Professionalism

Award" for the Seventh District in 1996; inductee into the Idaho Water Users Association Hall of Fame in 1990; member of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club; listed in Who's Who of America's Outstanding Women; one of the "gems" of Idaho in a University of Idaho beauty contest; and officer and member of the Rexburg Civic Club and Soroptimist Club. Oldham was a life-long member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints and a great benefactor of annual scholarships at Ricks College (now BYU-Idaho).

Oldham died on January 26, 2002, survived by her two daughters, a stepson, stepdaughter, sixteen grandchildren and twenty-six great-grandchildren.

In 2002, the Idaho State Bar posthumously awarded Oldham with its highest honor, the Distinguished Lawyer award, which is presented to attorneys "who have distinguished the profession through exemplary conduct and many years of dedicated service to the profession and to Idaho citizens." In so doing, Oldham achieved yet another "first" by becoming the first Idaho woman to receive this honor.

# 11

## GLADYS E. DeCAMP DENNIS

January 30, 1939

(1906 – 1983)

**Gladys E. DeCamp Dennis** was born on August 21, 1906 in St. Anthony, Idaho to Charles H. and Ida Caroline (Rosenfield) DeCamp. She had an older brother, Merle. Dennis' father was a farmer and the family lived in St. Anthony until 1917, when they moved to Idaho Falls.

Dennis attended high school in Long Beach, California from 1920-21, in St. Anthony from 1921-22, and in Idaho Falls from 1922-24, when she graduated from Idaho Falls High School. A year later, on June 1, 1925, she married Obed Harrison Dennis in Idaho Falls, who was later admitted to practice law in Idaho on July 14, 1928. Together, the couple had at least one child.

Dennis worked as a bookkeeper at Mountain States Implement Company in Idaho Falls from September 1928 to December 1929. Beginning on January 1, 1931, Dennis went to work in her husband's law office and credit bureau, first, as a stenographer and later, studying for the law under her husband's supervision.

After eight years of working and studying in her husband's law office, on January 20, 1939, Dennis was admitted as the eleventh woman to practice law in Idaho. She practiced with her husband in the Idaho Falls firm of Dennis & Dennis until 1946.

Dennis died on January 3, 1983 in San Leandro, California.

# 12

## CLARA LOUISE KEEFER BLACKBIRD

February 12, 1940

(1895 – 1974)

**Clara Louise Keefer Blackbird** (known as “Louise”) was born on December 6, 1895, in Idaho Falls to Eldora V. and William Walker Keefer. Her father moved to Eagle Rock (later Idaho Falls) in 1880 from Omaha as a contractor for the Utah and Northern railroad and became one of Idaho Falls’ pioneer residents, helping to literally build the town. For instance, in 1890, the Village Board hired W. W. Keefer to build masonry piers alongside of the Taylor Bridge for a steel bridge replacement (the steel bridge was in place until 1907 when it was dismantled and taken to Woodville for use there, but the abutments are still visible today) and in 1895 he was awarded the first contract for sidewalk, street and alley crossings. Clara had three brothers, Fred, Frank and Clyde, and two sisters, Ruby and Irene. Fred had a cabin on a small island in the Snake River in the middle of Idaho Falls, which is now known as “Keefer Island.” Today, the Bonneville Museum has a display called “Fred Keefer’s room” which contains a number of artifacts from his estate.

Blackbird attended school in Idaho Falls, graduating from Idaho Falls High School in 1914. After high school, Blackbird took business courses at Gem State Business College in Idaho Falls from 1915-16, and then worked for a year at the L.O. Naylor Company, an automobile company. Thereafter, Blackbird moved to Salt Lake City, Utah and worked for Utah Power & Light Company for about nine months, before returning to Idaho Falls to work at the Sims Company.

Like many of the early women attorneys in Idaho, Blackbird did not attend law school. Instead, she studied law while working as a secretary for Idaho Falls attorney Otto E. McCutcheon, long time counsel for irrigation interests in the area. She began work in McCutcheon’s office in 1921 as a stenographer and immediately became assistant secretary and treasurer of the Progressive Irrigation District in Bonneville County, a long time client of McCutcheon’s. In 1926, she asked McCutcheon about studying the law under his direction, but did not begin until 1933.



On February 12, 1940, Blackbird’s studies paid off and she was admitted as the twelfth woman to practice law in Idaho. She practiced out of her office in the Salisbury Building in downtown Idaho Falls, several doors down from senior Idaho Falls attorney Ed Pike, who reports:

Louise had a restrictive practice, mostly dealing with divorces, adoption, children and family law, and she referred a number of cases and clients to me, as long as she continued to practice. She would take the time to write me a factual summary, and her idea of the legal area involved to assist me in my endeavor of representing people she sent to me.

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All of this was of great help to me as a practicing attorney.

Like Mary Smith Oldham (no. 10 on this list), Blackbird married relatively late in life at the age of 59. In March 1954, Blackbird married Jack Blackbird.

Blackbird was active in the Idaho Falls community, serving as a member the Soroptimist Club, Lily Rebekah Lodge No. 33 (a sisterhood established in 1897 to support

youth in the community), the American Legion Auxiliary, where, in 1934, it was reported that she “has for four years served as district secretary,” and as one of the founders of the Idaho Falls Humane Society. Blackbird was also active in the First Baptist Church in Idaho Falls, working as its church clerk for many years.

Blackbird died on December 23, 1974, in Idaho Falls at the age of 79.

# 13

## MARY ELIZABETH SCHMITT

July 27, 1940

(1914 – 1984)

**Mary Elizabeth Schmitt** was born on February 18, 1914, in Madison, Nebraska, to Julius and Katie Schmitt. Her father was in the real estate business and her mother was a housewife. Schmitt moved to Gooding, Idaho, with her parents in 1916. She attended school there, graduating from Gooding High School in 1931. After high school she attended Gooding College, and worked as a stenographer in the Gooding law firm of Bissell & Bird from October 1931 to September 1934. During her work in this law firm, Schmitt became interested in the practice of law and “decided it was the thing for her.”

To pursue her goal of becoming a lawyer, Schmitt transferred to the University of Idaho and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1938. She was then admitted to the University of Idaho College of Law and, after spending one summer in 1939 at Colorado University, graduated in 1940 with a Bachelor of Laws degree. On July 27, 1940, Schmitt was admitted in Idaho.

Schmitt began her legal career practicing in Rexburg, and was successful, among other things, in sending “three burglars to prison.” After eight months, however, she moved to Boise to be a law clerk for Idaho Supreme Court Justice Raymond L. Givens, thereby becoming the first woman law clerk at the Idaho Supreme Court. Thereafter, she moved to Canyon County and worked as an associate in the firm of Dunlap & Dunlap. Her boss, former Idaho Supreme Court Justice S. Ben Dunlap, allayed any doubts about Schmitt’s legal ability in an article announcing her

joining the firm: “she can handle lots of cases I don’t have time to do. In fact, I don’t know what I’d do without her.” Later she opened her own law office in Nampa. Schmitt practiced law for 11 years in Nampa and Caldwell, serving as Canyon County deputy prosecutor for 5½ years. She also served for one year as president of the Seventh Judicial District Bar Association.



In 1956, Schmitt returned to Gooding. She was court reporter for Judge D.H. Sutphen and Judge Charles Scoggin for a total of 18 years, before retiring. After “retiring,” however, Schmitt opened a law office with Judge Scoggin under the name of Scoggin & Schmitt. Boise attorney Dick Fields recalls, “there wasn’t much about the practical ins and outs of litigation which [Schmitt] didn’t know.” Given that she was the “nearest thing that Judge Scoggin had to a law clerk,” Fields observed, “one who listened to Mary Schmitt did much better in Judge Scoggins’ court (as well as other courts) than those who didn’t. She was a delightful individual whose door was always open.”

Schmitt was a member of the American Bar Association, the Idaho Bar Association, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Daughters of the Nile (an international fraternal organization founded in 1913 for women who are related by birth or marriage to Shriners),

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and the United Methodist Church of Gooding. She was also active in community affairs, serving on the City of Gooding Public Library Board, the board of directors for the Gooding Chamber of Commerce, the Gooding County Senior Citizens Board and

the board of trustees for the United Methodist Church at Gooding. She was also a trustee from Crippled Children and Adults Association of Gooding County.

Schmitt died on March 10, 1984, in Twin Falls.

# 14

## ALBERTA MORTON PHILLIPS

August 15, 1941

(1916 – 1997)

**Alberta Morton Phillips** was born on February 12, 1916 in Moscow, Idaho. Her elementary education took place in a one-room rural schoolhouse in Cornwall and Blaine, Idaho, and graduated from Moscow High School as Valedictorian in 1933. From the age of 10 until she graduated from college, she served as the church organist in Blaine.

After high school, Phillips attended the University of Idaho where male friends and professors praised her for her analytical mind and encouraged her to consider entering law school. Phillips laughed when she remembered that part of her interest in the law came from a rebellion against being pigeonholed as a future teacher, as many other bright women of her time had been.

Phillips worked her way through college, completing two years of undergraduate work in political science. Initially, she thought about pursuing a career in theology, but decided, instead, to attend the University of Idaho College of Law. She began law school in the fall of 1935, but was unable to finish her first semester due to illness. By the spring of 1936 when she had recovered, Phillips was restless and applied to Kinman Business School, a secretarial school in Spokane, Washington, with the plan of working her way through law school as a secretary. After graduating from Kinman, Phillips worked until 1938 in Spokane for the Wallace Brothers Studebaker dealership, making approximately \$60 per month.

Phillips reapplied to and was accepted to begin law school at the University of Idaho in

the fall of 1938, the only woman in her eleven-person law school class. She worked as a cook's helper on local farms during summer harvests and received a stipend as a library assistant during the school year – a job made possible through the National Youth Administration. Phillips also saved money by living with her brothers in an apartment off campus, the only woman allowed to do so by the Dean of Women, Permeal French. Her parents would bring foodstuffs in from the farm to keep them going. Despite her hectic schedule, Phillips kept her standing as the top student in her law school class.



On her first day of classes at the law school, Phillips received what she described as a “real raspberry.” She had been told by two older male classmates that she was in the wrong department, and should be over in the Home Economics Department, rather than the law school, learning things that would make her a good wife for someone. But, she did not let the teasing daunt her, and joked that when the two students later became secretary of the Idaho State Bar and a law professor she “forgave them” for it. Phillips worked hard in law school and received the William E. Borah Award from Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity for having the highest scholastic average of her law school class, although at the time she

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was ineligible for membership because she was a woman.

In 1941, Phillips became the second woman to graduate from the University of Idaho College of Law (Mary Shelton was the first woman in 1923, although she was never admitted to the Idaho bar). Later that same day, she and George Phillips were married. They moved to Pocatello and studied for the bar exam.

On August 15, 1941, Phillips was admitted to practice as the fourteenth woman in Idaho. Both she and her husband were offered jobs by A.J. Priest, an Idaho law school alumnus and partner in the Wall Street law firm of Reed & Priest in New York City. They accepted the offer and moved to New York, but Alberta decided not to work and started raising a family.

Not long after their first child was born, the United States entered World War II and George Phillips was called to serve in the armed forces. The family returned to Idaho and Alberta and her baby daughter lived with her parents on their farm while George was shipped to the Pacific.

Attendance at Idaho's law school dropped to a low of eight in 1944, the smallest number since the First World War. The school also lost most of its faculty, with only one person, Dean William Brockelbank, keeping the doors open until 1945. Brockelbank asked local members of the Idaho State bar to serve as faculty during the shortage of law professors. It was then that Phillips received what she described as a "panic call" from Brockelbank, asking her to help fill a teaching position at the University of Idaho College of Law. The only proviso of the teaching offer – as dictated by the President of the University Harrison Dale – was that Phillips could not teach criminal law, because it would be improper for a woman to address male students about rape cases. She, therefore, was

asked to teach contracts. Though it was hard to leave her year-old daughter with her mother, Phillips grew to love teaching and especially enjoyed working with the faculty. In so doing, she became the first woman to teach law at the University of Idaho.

Though Dean Brockelbank asked her to continue teaching, Phillips left the College of Law once her husband returned from the war and resumed her family and professional life in Pocatello, where she gave birth to five more children. She and her husband rented a couple of rooms in a building and soon fellow lawyer Lou Racine started a practice next door. Finding child care was nearly impossible, so Phillips chose to work at home and at night after the children were in bed, writing up wills and contracts. When her sixth child was two years old, Phillips went back to work full time. It was not easy; her six children (three boys and three girls) came home for lunch because the school would not feed students who lived close by. Phillips constantly had to juggle her clients around a long lunch break (her children had differing lunch hours) and often had to pay triple childcare. After Phillips and her husband divorced in 1970 her schedule became even more difficult to juggle, but the children pitched in and became more self-sufficient.

Phillips concentrated her practice in the areas of probate and real estate law, which kept her free from the demanding schedule of trial work. Because of family demands, Phillips rarely attended state Bar meetings until 1968, when she became president of the Sixth District Bar Association. She had served as the association's secretary for two years, and declined when they asked her to serve in that capacity again. She joked to the nominating committee that there was no opportunity to move up in the organization. The committee took her comments seriously and Phillips was asked to run for president a year later. Phillips was the first woman president of the Pocatello Estate Planning Council and was

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active in the PTA and the American Association of University Women, which, in 1993, named her their “Woman of Distinction.” She was especially proud to be a member of the AAUW Book Club.

Phillips never hesitated to speak out on issues important to her. She joked about the fact that she became well known at both the state and local bar meetings for speaking out against gender specific language used to describe lawyers (as males) in speeches and written material of the state Bar and in proposed legislation. Phillips said no one paid much attention to the issue until the 1980s, as women joined the Bar in greater numbers and became more active in the organization. Phillips said she lived by words provided to her by her mother when she left for Pocatello after the war – “go and don’t look back.”

During the Vietnam War era, Phillips was active in anti-war activities in Idaho, including draft counseling and non-violent protests. Returning to her early interests in theology and religion, she spent many years working

for the peace and justice activities of the United Church of Christ.

Phillips retired from the active practice of law on January 1, 1986. At the time of her retirement, Phillips was an associate with the firm now known as Service, Gasser & Kerl in Pocatello.

After retiring, Phillips remained active in civic and human-rights causes, including membership in the PEO Sisterhood, first chair of the Peacemaking Committee of the First Presbyterian Church in Pocatello, and serving on the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, its budget, publication, building and executive committees. Study and discussion of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights was a favorite activity.

In 1990, Phillips moved to Utah to be closer to her family. She passed away at her home in Layton, Utah, on April 14, 1997 at the age of 81. Her tombstone in Moscow, Idaho, carries the words from the New Testament, “Blessed are the Peacemakers.”

# 15

## BERNICE BACHARACH September 22, 1942

**Bernice Bacharach** was born in Cheney, Washington, on November 29, 1918, as the sixth of seven children of Selig “Sam” Bacharach and Florence Smith Bacharach. The family moved to Lewiston, Idaho and Bernice attended school there, graduating from Lewiston High School in 1936.

In the fall of 1936 Bacharach entered the University of Idaho majoring in law. She was always interested in economics and political science, and was also a fine athlete who played basketball and tennis. In 1939, she entered law school at Idaho. And, in 1942, she became the third woman to graduate with a law degree from the University of Idaho College of Law.

On September 22, 1942, Bacharach was admitted as the fifteenth woman to practice law in Idaho and immediately went to work as a clerk for Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Edwin Holden. When her clerkship ended in 1943, Bacharach decided to return to Washington and took a position as the Deputy Supervisor of the Inheritance Tax Division of the Washington State Tax Commission in Olympia. Her admission to the Washington State Bar, however, was and is unique. Bacharach took the Washington bar exam twice, passing both times. Her first testing was ruled invalid because she had not been a resident of Washington for the requisite six months. She is the only person to pass the Washington bar exam twice, finally being admitted on August 15, 1944.

In 1945, Bacharach moved to Wenatchee, Washington, to serve as the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Chelan County with

a starting salary of \$187.50 per month. In this position she developed her skills as a trial lawyer and began a private law practice in Wenatchee that continued for nearly forty years. For most of those years she was the only woman lawyer within a one hundred mile radius. In 1949, Bacharach left the prosecutor’s office for full-time private practice. She did a lot of criminal defense work and was known as a great cross-examiner. In fact, she claims that she won more cases on cross than on direct. In her view lawyers today over prepare for trial. She would speak extemporaneously. Bacharach’s major clients included fruit companies and other business people in the Wenatchee area.



Bacharach was sought after as legal counsel and handled the full array of private law practice matters including, real estate, wills and probate, contracts, family law, civil litigation, and criminal practice. Even so, she always maintained a portion of her law practice as pro bono. Near the end of her career Bacharach served as defense counsel in one of the most famous criminal cases ever tried in Wenatchee, the *State of Washington v. James E. Eyre*. Eyre was the treasurer of a prominent Christian church founded by a charismatic preacher named Larry Titus. Titus’ church, Bethesda Christian Center, ran into serious financial difficulties involving millions of dollars. At Titus’ urging, Eyre was charged with 12 counts of theft and one count of unlawful issuance of a check in connection

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with misappropriation of church funds. In a jury trial that lasted several weeks and involved dozens of witnesses, including Titus and Eyre, Bacharach succeeded in convincing the jury to acquit Eyre of all charges.

Bacharach has served her profession and her community in a variety of capacities including as President of the Chelan-Douglas Counties Bar Association and as a Director of the Salvation Army Board. She was active with Catholic Charities and the American Association of University Women. While she never had any children of her own, she often served as a foster parent to children in distressed circumstances. In recognition of her contributions to our legal system, the University of Idaho College of Law presented Bacharach with its Award of Legal Merit in 1997.

In addition to her successful law practice, Bacharach also operated her own commercial fruit orchard and was a successful investor in real estate and other property. She has been an active outdoorswoman all her adult life who hunted, fished and played golf and she was also a competitive bridge player. For many years Bacharach has kept lake front property on Lake Chelan. Several times she raced her Chris-Craft runabout in the hundred-mile boat race from the town of Lake Chelan to the town of Stehekin and back again, finishing first or second in the race on at least five occasions. Bacharach also loves to travel. She has visited Mexico, Germany, Belgium, England, Russia, Austria, Turkey, the Balkans, Ukraine, Japan, China, and the Philippines among others.

Despite hip and knee injuries and a serious bout with Crohn's disease, Bacharach has lived on her own into her mid-eighties and continues to oversee her investments and real properties. Her friend and former University of Idaho law dean, Jack Miller, had the following remarks to offer concerning Bacharach:

Bernice has a clear sighted and fearless intelligence that is apparent in all aspects of her life. I think it is the key to her remarkable success as a lawyer. More than anyone I have ever known, she knows how to face facts and address any situation in a competent realistic manner. She is an eminently practical person who enjoys helping others but who also understands that the best things in life are those things one achieves for oneself. Bernice is a person of the soil. She enjoys working in the earth with her own hands rather than merely supervising others. She planted, watered, pruned, and harvested her pear orchard herself. She built the deck on her Lake Chelan cabin. She always has an array of tools on hand to rival that of a professional builder. She likes building things, seeing things grow, and making things happen.

Bacharach currently lives in Wenatchee, Washington and holds the distinction of the most senior surviving Idaho woman attorney.

# 16

## REI KIHARA OSAKI September 15, 1943

**Rei Kihara Osaki** was born on December 16, 1918 in Wapeta, Washington. The daughter of parents who emigrated from Japan, Osaki grew up on her family's farm in Harrah, Washington on the Yakima Indian Reservation. Her father was a farmer, and her mother a homemaker. Being educated people themselves, they placed great importance on education for their children. "Education," said Osaki, "was talked of matter-of-factly. Some people questioned the value of an education, saying 'Why get an education when you'll only end up working in a fruit stand?' My family believed there was value in education for itself."

When she entered first grade in Washington, Osaki knew only one word of English: elephant. But she quickly learned, speaking English at school and Japanese at home. From an early age, said Osaki, "I wanted to do good, to change things." Initially, she planned to become a medical doctor but switched to law when her mother, who had worked as a nurse in Japan, advised her that medical care was "hard work." "My family was unusual, now that I think about it," said Osaki. "It was not common for women in Japan to train for professional work, but my mother was a nurse, and my aunt was a teacher."

In 1936, Osaki began college at Washington State University and studied political science in preparation for law school. She eventually earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science 1940. Given how quiet Osaki was in class, never raising her hand to speak, one of her college professors suggested that she might be more comfortable at a small law

school. As such, Osaki decided to apply to the University of Idaho College of Law. By attending college, Osaki escaped relocation during WWII because she was outside the internment area. Osaki said that while she was spared the "real fear, the anguish" her family experienced in being relocated from the family's farm in Washington to Wyoming's Heart Mountain Relocation Camp, she did feel guilty and offered to leave school. Her father refused, saying "You're the only free person in the family. Take all my savings and finish law school." Osaki did just that and in 1943 became the fourth woman graduate from the University of Idaho College of Law and its first Japanese-American graduate.

Osaki recalls riding the bus from Moscow to Lewiston to take the bar exam in the Nez Perce County Courthouse. Osaki passed the bar exam and was admitted on September 15, 1943 as Idaho's sixteenth woman attorney, and the first Japanese-American woman admitted to the Idaho bar.

After graduation, Osaki "had no home to return to" so she headed east and accepted a position with a real estate office in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. She was there when her father and brother were released from Heart Mountain. Her family had lost more than their freedom during the process of relocation, the family farm was gone. To help



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her father start over, Osaki not only returned what remained of his savings to him but also bought him a used tractor. Later, Osaki moved to Chicago to work as a lawyer for the Office of Price Administration. There she appeared in federal district court and the U.S. Court of Appeal - a position she held for nearly three years.

After marrying, Osaki settled with her husband in Pasadena, California, and, she says, “pursuing law was no longer my

interest.” Instead, she set her “roots down by getting involved in various community activities, especially partisan politics.” Osaki also devoted herself to her family and is the mother of three sons; she also has seven grandchildren.

Osaki currently resides with her family in Pasadena and says, “I am old enough to reflect on many societal and technological changes over 61 years [since my bar admission] and their effect on our culture.”

# 17

## EDITH MILLER KLEIN

January 7, 1947

(1915 – 1998)

**Edith Miller Klein** was born on August 4, 1915 in Wallace, Idaho. Her father, Fred Miller, was a German immigrant who came to Chicago as a meat cutter and eventually found his way to Moscow, Idaho. Klein's mother, Edith (Gallup) Miller, grew up in Orofino with an aunt because her mother had died and later moved to Moscow to help her father run a boarding house. While working at this boarding house, Klein's mother met Fred Miller, a man 20 years her senior, and they married (much to the consternation of her mother's family). Klein's parents had a house in Moscow and also had a meat shop and house in Kellogg, so the young Klein and her brother split their time between these two areas. Klein's mother never worked outside the home, but was an accomplished pianist and the family was very involved in the neighborhood orchestra.

Both of Klein's parents were strong advocates of a university education. Although they didn't have an advanced education themselves, Klein's parents encouraged her to get a college degree. As such, Klein enrolled in nearby University of Idaho. While there, Klein stayed very busy: she lived at home, but took 20 credits a semester, worked four part-time jobs, was a "Hell Diver" with the swimming team and also played on the soccer and basketball teams. She graduated college in just 3 years with a degree in business administration in 1935 at the age of 19. Klein believed business administration was a good background for a future career in law, but, at the time, she was very shy and afraid to attend law school because there were little or no

women in those classes. Instead, Klein went to Washington State University where she was offered a teaching fellowship. Klein taught business and worked on her master's degree at WSU.



After her teaching fellowship ended, Klein returned to Moscow and worked as a secretary at Psychiana, a mail-order religion owned by Dr. Robinson. She also taught one year of high school in Grangeville. Klein then moved to Pocatello and worked for the State Employment Service. While in Pocatello, Klein first became politically active. Klein then moved to Weiser to teach in a vocational school.

By this time, World War II had started. In 1943, Klein decided to sell her car and move to Washington, D.C. where she went to work for the Labor Department and later the War Department. While in D.C., Klein began attending law school at George Washington University at night and worked during the day. Law school was difficult for Klein because her job took a great deal of time and travel, but school officials were very cooperative. While other Washington law schools, such as Georgetown, did not admit women, GWU did admit women and, therefore, attracted them in large numbers. In fact, Klein recalls that her law school class was comprised of somewhere between a quarter to a third of women. Klein graduated with a law degree

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from GWU in 1946 and took and passed the D.C. bar, reflecting that World War II opened up many more opportunities for women than existed prior to the war.

After law school, Klein returned to Idaho. When she arrived in Boise, it was a sleepy town of about 30,000 where housing and automobiles for sale were practically non-existent at the end of the war. Luckily, some friends had an extra bedroom and another friend sold her a vintage Plymouth. Klein took and passed the Idaho Bar and was admitted as the seventeenth woman to practice law in Idaho on January 7, 1947.

Klein reported that she never felt that she was treated poorly in court because she was a woman, but she did experience discrimination outside of the courtroom. In 1947, some law firms would not hire women. For example, Klein applied for, but did not receive, a position with Langroise & Sullivan when she moved to Boise. Undeterred, Klein approached Eugene H. Anderson and Darwin W. Thomas for a job and was hired. The arrangement, however, was that she would receive the same salary as the office secretary, do her own stenographic work for all cases and would receive an additional “finder’s fee” of one-third of the fee for cases she brought to the office. That arrangement, recalled Klein, gave her a “foot in the door.” Klein soon developed a solid practice of her own, which included being appointed a part-time Boise city judge (a first in Boise). There were other women attorneys in the state at the time – including Mary Smith Oldham and Mary Schmitt – but none practiced in Boise. Thus, she had no role model for court apparel. At that time, most women would not go out on the streets of Boise without wearing hats and gloves. So Klein decided the best thing to do would be to wear suits as the men did (with skirts instead of pants), but not to wear short-sleeve dresses, hats or gloves. Others followed her lead.

Given her interest in politics, Klein decided to run for office and, in 1948, first ran for the Idaho Legislature. At the time, Idaho had had a few women legislators (Helen Miller and Marguerite Campbell), but a female legislator from Boise was a novelty. During her first term in office from 1949-50, Klein met Louise Shaddock, the first administrative assistant to the governor. Louise introduced Klein to Sandor (“Sandy”) S. Klein, a journalist with United Press International. Sandy was often around the statehouse during the session, seated in the press area in the balcony above the House chambers, while Edith was on the House floor. During one such session, Boise attorney Carl Burke recalls, Sandy stood up in the House balcony and was recognized by the Speaker of the House, at which time he asked Edith to stand as well. Sandy proposed from the balcony of the House chamber, and Edith accepted; in 1949 they were married.

In 1953, the Kleins moved to Washington, D.C. Sandy worked for Senator Dworshak and Edith earned her L.L.M. in tax from George Washington University in 1954. Thereafter, Klein worked for the Federal Communications Commission licensing television stations and, after two years, moved to New York where, after being admitted to the New York bar, she worked for the United States Housing Administration.

In 1957, Klein returned to Idaho and joined the firm of Langroise & Sullivan in Boise (now Holland & Hart) and Sandy became the managing and executive editor of *The Idaho Statesman*. Klein once again pursued politics, but, after being defeated three times, was hired as an attorney for the House of Representatives to draft legislation. Klein said that this job was very difficult, requiring long hours using primitive equipment. Nonetheless, she found the work fascinating.

In 1964, Klein successfully ran for the House of Representatives and served there until 1968 when she was elected to the Idaho Senate.

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Klein served in the Idaho Senate until 1982 for a total of 20 years in the Idaho State Legislature, including 14 years in the Idaho Senate where she was often the only woman. During each of these 20 years, she held committee chairmanships, particularly on the Judiciary Committee in both the House and Senate. Klein was responsible for authoring and sponsoring landmark legislation resulting in major improvements in laws relating to children and women's rights, including equal pay, minimum wage, community property laws, divorce, domestic violence, education laws and passage of the Uniform Probate Code in 1971. Sixth District Court Judge Randy Smith, the former Chair of the Idaho Republican Party, described Klein as,

a formidable legislator and tough competitor. She was not afraid of a fight; she knew how to organize for a battle and get her legislation passed or other legislation stopped. However, she was foremost a lady; never doing anything that would cause other than the most respect for her.

In 1965, Governor Robert E. Smylie created the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women by executive order, which was patterned after the Federal Commission on

the Status of Women first formed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Smylie appointed Klein as its inaugural chair, a position she held through 1971. Klein recalled that the 1960s were a time of change as women found an increasing role in society and, with that, greater rights. The Commission worked on legislation to improve the rights of women and their families. In 1970, the Commission was renamed and created as a statutory commission under state government. Klein considered her work on the Commission to be "cutting edge."

Klein served actively on a number of cultural and philanthropic boards in Boise, including service as the first chairman of the Idaho Governor's Commission of Women's Programs and president and member of the boards of Boise Philharmonic Association, Opera Idaho and Boise Music Week. She was honored as the Greater Boise Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year, the Boise Altrusa Club Woman of the Year and, in September 1998, was inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame. Klein was honored with a 50-year service award during the 1998 Idaho State Bar annual meeting.

Klein died on December 31, 1998, in Boise at the age of 83.

# 18

## MARY HENRIETTA McGLONE

August 2, 1947

(1909 – 1966)

**Mary Henrietta McGlone** was born in Pocatello on August 24, 1909, to Patrick H. and Margaret Ann McGlone. She is described as being “from a pioneer family of Pocatello” - her father was a blacksmith and her mother a housewife. McGlone had two sisters, Julia V. McGlone and Catherine F. (McGlone) Arps. McGlone grew up and went to school in Pocatello, graduating from St. Joseph’s High School in 1927. Thereafter, she attended Business College in Pocatello from September 1927 to March 1928.

McGlone worked at Kraft Cheese Company in Pocatello as a clerk from 1933-34, but then decided to move to Washington, D.C., and work for the United States Department of Agriculture as a Comptometer operator (an early version of a calculator that had many rows of keys that could perform high speed addition and multiplication). She stayed in Washington, D.C. for two years, and then moved to Colorado to take a semester’s worth of classes at the Denver Stenotype School. After completing her classes, McGlone returned to Pocatello where she went to work as a secretary in the law firm of Jones, Pomeroy & Jones for “seven hours per day for six days each week” beginning in May 1937.

After working in the law firm of Jones, Pomeroy & Jones, McGlone became interested in pursuing a career in law. She began studying the law an “average of two hours per day” in preparation for the bar. Because she didn’t have a college degree, McGlone was required to take and pass an examination “with respect to her equivalency of general college education.” After doing so, she sat for and passed the Idaho Bar and was admitted as the eighteenth woman to practice law in Idaho on August 2, 1947. Although the records of McGlone’s activities thereafter are incomplete, it is believed that she continued working in the office of Jones, Pomeroy & Jones to help relieve the “terrific load in the office” mentioned by Ralph H. Jones in McGlone’s bar application materials.

In 1953, McGlone moved to San Francisco to join her sister Catherine and her husband who lived there. McGlone became active as a member of the St. Thomas More Catholic Church and a charter member of the Soroptimist Club in San Francisco. She was also a member of the American Bar Association. In 1963, she allowed her Idaho license to go inactive.

McGlone, who never married, died at the age of 57 in San Francisco on December 3, 1966.

# 19

## MARY LOIS BRUECK EDWARDS

January 2, 1948

(1910 – 1998)

**Mary Lois Brueck Edwards** was born on March 16, 1910, in Ida Grove, Iowa, to Louis Albert Brueck and Mary (Saar) Brueck. As a young child, Edwards lived in Butte Creek and Westfield, Iowa, before settling in Highmore, South Dakota, in 1915. It is in Highmore that Edwards received her early education, graduating from Highmore High School in 1926. She then attended Watertown Commercial College in Watertown, South Dakota for a year before transferring to South Dakota State College in 1928. Edwards studied journalism part-time for five years at South Dakota State College until 1932, although she never received her undergraduate degree.

In 1932, Edwards and her family moved to Boise. She then lived in Caldwell and Weiser for a few months in 1933, before moving back to Boise. On July 8, 1934, Edwards married James W. Edwards in Boise, whom she later divorced without having had any children. Despite the divorce, Edwards elected to retain her married name.

Edwards worked as a legal secretary in Boise from 1935 to 1940 with J. L. Eberle and Judge J. H. Richards. From 1940 to 1943, she was self-employed as a public stenographer with the Hotel Boise. After these experiences, and having saved some money, Edwards decided to pursue a career in law and applied to law school. As she would later describe things, Edwards decided to go to law school “To get on the other side of the desk!”

During World War II, Edwards attended the University of Utah Law School and received

her law degree in 1946. During this time she worked as a legal secretary for the Salt Lake City firm of Rich, Rich & Strong from 1945-46, and at the University of Utah School of Law in the law library in 1946. After graduating, Edwards worked in the President’s office at the University of Utah during 1946 while she was studying for the Utah bar.



After unsuccessfully sitting for the Utah bar, Edwards moved back to Boise and went to work as a law clerk for Eugene Anderson and Darwin Thomas in 1947 (the same office that Edith Miller Klein worked in at the time). Thereafter, she applied to take the Idaho Bar and her application was supported by character references given by James H. Hawley and Eugene H. Anderson. Edwards passed the Idaho Bar and was admitted on January 2, 1948.

An article in the January 12, 1948 edition of *The Idaho Daily Statesman* entitled “City Boasts Second Woman Lawyer” announced the news of Edwards’ passing of the Bar:

Boise now has two woman lawyers. One, of course, is City Magistrate Edith Miller, who was admitted to the bar a year ago. The other, a chic, businesslike young woman named Mrs. Mary Brueck Edwards, took her oath Jan. 2 and thus became the

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nineteenth woman to be admitted to the Idaho bar.

The article continues by reporting that Edwards had been employed as a law clerk in the firm of Anderson & Thomas and,

Now that she has acquired her official status she receives clients and is looking forward to her first appearance in court. Because she is interested in everything and everybody, she does not plan to specialize in any one phase of the law, but prefers to have a diversified practice where she will run up against all kinds of problems.

In addition to her professional work, Edwards spent much of her time helping others, especially those less fortunate. Edwards served as an advocate for the disabled, checking on their living conditions and “if they were being treated fairly by the system.” By the mid-1950s she was doing a lot of “her own brand of public defending” through her pro bono representation of clients in need. She also worked with community organizations such as “Indoor Sports,” an organization that worked with disabled people (since she wasn’t disabled herself, Edwards was affectionately referred to as a “good sport”). It was during her involvement with Indoor Sports that she met a recently disabled young man, Robert T. Poole. Poole was a divorced father of a two-year-old girl named Susan Poole (Cardwell), whom he was raising alone. In 1955, Edwards married Poole and immediately became a mother by adopting Susan. According to Susan, Edwards “took to motherhood like a duck to water.”

Edwards did not work while she was married to Poole and the family moved often since Poole was involved in “heavy construction.” At the time of their marriage, Poole lived in Boise since he worked for Morrison-Knudsen. But, the family moved to Branson, Missouri,

for the Table Rock Dam project, to the St. Lawrence Seaway, to Niagara Falls for the Niagara Falls Power Project, to Chesapeake, Virginia, and a power project at Pine Island, Florida, in the early 1960s. In each of these places, Edwards learned as much as she could about the area and went out of her way to help people, particularly the elderly and disadvantaged. For example, when Edwards lived on the St. Lawrence Seaway she looked after and fed several senior citizens, and when she lived in Niagara Falls she befriended an elderly Italian man, Mr. Talarico, who was 102 when she met him. Edwards visited Mr. Talarico each week to make sure he had enough food and was taken care of until he was placed in a nursing home at the age of 108. Even then, however, Edwards made the monthly trek to the nursing home to check on Mr. Talarico.

Edwards separated from Poole in 1964 and returned to Boise, where she continued her work for the elderly and disadvantaged. She also returned to legal work in Boise, working for the Idaho Legislature to review proposed legislation and later in private practice.

Former Idaho Attorney General David Leroy recalls working with Edwards in the early 1970s.

Even a quarter century after her admission to the Bar, Boise attorney Mary Edwards inadvertently signaled how difficult it had been to get proper respect and deference as a female in this profession. As a young Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Ada County in the 1970s, I had a few minor criminal cases in which she represented the Defendants. I thought it quite odd that when she phoned me, always she would say “This is Mary Edwards, Attorney.” When I called her, she would answer, “Mary Edwards, Attorney.” I now understand, with the perspective of

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history, that what I believed then to be a ‘personal oddity,’ was in fact a necessary defense mechanism to avoid being treated as and assumed to be the secretary in some male’s law office! She was a fine lawyer, well serving her clients.

Edwards was described as a kindhearted person, especially when it came to animals. If she found an animal in need of shelter, Edwards would often take it home with her. Given those interests, she was active in the Idaho Humane Society and championed animal rights. Her daughter, Susan, describes Edwards’ career as follows:

When you look at the life of Mary Brueck Edwards as an attorney, you

might say there was not much spectacular. She didn’t litigate any memorable lawsuits that can be examined now as having set precedent. She didn’t propose any earth shattering legislation. But, she made a difference in so many lives, especially mine. She was exceptionally kind to all those people who had no one to look out for them. She was exceptionally kind to animals. So she lived a life that really mattered. She did make a difference.

Edwards died in Boise on April 24, 1998, at the age of 88.

# 20

## MAXINE DOROTHY WHITNEY

May 24, 1948

(1900 – 1990)

**Maxine Dorothy Whitney** was born on December 7, 1900, in Wyanet, Illinois, to Monroe Gesner Whitney and Blanche (Olds) Whitney. She moved to Coeur d’Alene with her parents and younger brother, Merrill, in 1906 to seek new opportunities promised in the West and, in particular, the booming mining economy of north Idaho. In 1908, her parents built the house that Whitney lived in all of her life. Her father had pursued many endeavors, but settled on being a lawyer and, later, served as a probate judge in Coeur d’Alene.

Whitney always excelled in school. After graduating from Coeur d’Alene High School in 1918, she briefly attended Whitney College of Commerce, a business college started by her father, before teaching for two years in Coeur d’Alene from 1918-20. Whitney then pursued a college degree, attending Oberlin College in Ohio from 1920-22 and then took a year off to teach in Coeur d’Alene before returning to Oberlin to earn her A.B. degree in history in 1924. After graduating, Whitney returned to teach in Coeur d’Alene from 1924-28. She pursued a master’s degree in economics during the summer of 1925 at the University of Oregon and the summer of 1929 at U.C. Berkeley, before attending Stanford University full-time from 1929-30 to earn her M.A. in economics. Thereafter, she returned to teach school at Coeur d’Alene High School from 1930-36.

Whitney excelled in Pitman Shorthand. Given her father’s founding of the local business school, Whitney decided to teach at, and manage the operations of, Whitney

College of Commerce from 1936-43. As such, many in the community claimed that “Maxine taught them business.”



From 1942 to 1945, Whitney was the court reporter for the Eighth Judicial District. After working in the courts for three years, Whitney decided to attend law school. She attended the University of Idaho College of Law from 1945 to 1948, working part-time in the law library until, at the age of 47, she graduated. Whitney immediately sat for, and passed, the Idaho Bar, being admitted as the state’s twentieth woman on May 24, 1948.

Whitney practiced law in Coeur d’Alene, specializing in probate and estate planning. When her father became sick in 1953 and was forced to step down after a long career as a probate judge, Whitney was asked to serve out the remainder of his term. Whitney did so, and was elected on her own merit for a succeeding term. She served as probate judge in Coeur d’Alene from 1953 to 1958. In 1958, Whitney reentered private law practice in Coeur d’Alene, retiring twenty years later in 1978.

Linda Palmer Judd (No. 39 on this list), who began her practice in Post Falls in 1970, recalls “Miss Maxine” vividly, reminiscing: “there were not many female role models in the practice of law in the early 70s in North

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Idaho. However, for me, one woman stands out: Ms. Maxine Whitney.” Judd says Whitney,

had been a respected, well-liked and admired probate judge for many years prior to taking up private practice. She knew the intricacies of the law in which she practiced, she was diligent, caring, compassionate, smart, tough, elegant, stylish, a woman of strength and virtue and, above all, professional. I never heard her whine or bemoan her circumstances as a woman lawyer,

but I know she faced some powerful barriers at times . . . Ms. Whitney was never too busy to talk to me or to gently point out a legal issue I had overlooked, but, most of all, she helped me by just being the exceptional lawyer she was.

Whitney remained active in the Coeur d’Alene community even after her retirement. She was president of the Soroptimist Club in Coeur d’Alene and loved music and theater.

Whitney died in Coeur d’Alene on March 30, 1990.

# 21

## KATHRYN CLAIRE JUSTUS DRONG AHRENS

June 3, 1949  
(1913 – 1994)

**Kathryn Claire Justus Drong Ahrens** (known as “Claire”) was born on November 8, 1913 in Lead Hill, Arkansas, to James Oce and Ina Pearl Justus. Her father was a bookkeeper and her mother was a teacher.

Ahrens lived and went to school in Arkansas until 1922, when her family moved to Seattle, Washington. The family stayed in Washington until 1927, when they briefly returned to Arkansas, before Ahrens returned to Seattle to attend Broadway High School from 1928-1932. Upon graduation, Ahrens went to work as a saleswoman at the Bon Marche in downtown Seattle.

On June 17, 1939, Ahrens married Frank Joseph Drong in Colfax, Washington and together they had a daughter, Jane Drong (Gallucci). The couple moved to Pullman, Washington, where Ahrens worked as a saleswoman for retailer Wymax Cox until 1938.

In 1939, the family moved to Moscow, Idaho. Ahrens attended the University of Idaho from 1940-42, and earned her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1945. During her last year of law school, Ahrens’ husband was sent to Seattle to do “war work on the coast temporarily.” Thus, when Ahrens graduated law school, she applied for the Idaho Bar but did not immediately sit for it. Instead, she chose to

move to Seattle to join her husband and go to work as a law clerk for a woman attorney, Bernice Johnson. In 1946, she applied for admission to the Washington bar, but did not pass, as she later described it, because she “did not apply Washington law specifically.”



By 1947, with the war ended, Ahrens and her husband were ready to return to Idaho and moved to Lewiston. Ahrens’ husband started the Credit Adjustment Company, a credit rating bureau and collection agency, in Lewiston, and Ahrens worked in his office. On June 3, 1949, Ahrens was admitted as the twenty-first woman to practice law in Idaho. She practiced law in Lewiston from 1949 to 1962 and upon the death of her husband, Ahrens took over management of his credit bureaus.

Years later, Ahrens married Frederick J. Ahrens. In 1989, Ahrens retired and moved to Eatonville, Washington, where most of her family lived.

Ahrens died at the age of 80 on February 22, 1994, in Eatonville, Washington.

# 22

## FAY LEE BERGER ANDERSON RYLAND

June 9, 1949

**Fay Lee Berger Anderson Ryland** (known as “Lee Anderson”) was born on February 22, 1912 in Holden, West Virginia. She graduated from Catlettsburg High School in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, in 1928.

In 1929, Anderson moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to work in the office of the president of Britling Cafeteria Company. In July 1931 she returned to Kentucky to work in her father’s garage business doing the bookkeeping and office work. In April 1933, Anderson moved to Washington, D.C., and began work at the Home Owner’s Loan Corporation (a government agency) as a secretary in the legal department. Thereafter, in 1934, she transferred to the Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corporation (a government agency) where she also worked as a secretary in the legal department through May 1942.

During her legal secretary work in Washington, D.C., Anderson became interested in pursuing a career in law. As a result, she enrolled in National University in Washington, D.C., in 1935 and earned her bachelor of laws degree in 1939. A brief biography in the 1939 National University yearbook says,

Lee comes from Kentucky, but that doesn’t make her a mountaineer. At the moment she is working as a secretary in the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, but expects to pursue the law upon completion of her legal education.

Phi Delta Delta claims her as one of its own.

Anderson continued her studies at National University, earning a LL.M. in 1941.

(In 1954, National University merged with George Washington University forming what became the National Law Center at The George Washington University.) Upon graduation, she was admitted to practice in the District of Columbia in 1939 – first to the D.C. District Court on November 14, 1939, and then to the D.C. Court of Appeals on December 15, 1939.



In May 1942, Anderson began work as an attorney at Office of the Solicitor, Wage Determination and Wage Adjustment Branch, U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. In this position, Anderson handled wage predeterminations for government departments, investigated wage claims in various jurisdictions, prepared reports to the Wage Adjustment Board and reviewed wage determinations and prepared decisions recommending reversal or affirmance by the Assistant Solicitor. After a year in this position, Anderson transferred to the U.S. Department of Justice as an attorney in its Criminal Division where she supervised work of U.S. Attorneys throughout the country in enforcing federal criminal statutes.

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While working at the Department of Justice, Anderson met Donald Brown Anderson, an Idaho attorney from Weiser. Donald had graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1927, practiced in Caldwell, was Canyon County prosecutor for six years and a probate judge for four years before joining the FBI in 1941. He was serving as special assistant to the United States Attorney General in Washington, D.C., when he met Anderson. They married on April 17, 1946. Anderson continued to work at the Department of Justice after her marriage. She was admitted to the United States Supreme Court on June 16, 1947, and the U.S. Court of Claims on April 4, 1948. By August 1948, however, the couple decided to move to Caldwell, Idaho so that Donald could rejoin his law practice. As such, Anderson sat for the Idaho Bar and was admitted as the twenty-second woman to practice law in Idaho on June 9, 1949.

In 1951, Anderson's husband was elected as District Court Judge for the Seventh Judicial District in Caldwell, a position he retained until 1954 when he was elected Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court. During this time, however, the couple appears to have divorced, as Donald Anderson remarried Lois Nichols of Boise on September 2, 1955. Unfortunately, Donald Anderson died tragically only a year later as the result of an

apparent suicide while serving as a Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court.

Anderson returned to Washington, D.C. and reentered a successful practice coupled with significant involvement in the community and bar events. In the 1970s, for example, she became very involved in the National Association of Women Lawyers ("NAWL"). In 1973, Anderson served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Women Lawyers Journal*, the quarterly magazine of NAWL. In 1975, she became President-Elect of the NAWL and, in that capacity, was invited by United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger and the ABA to attend a National Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, on the Causes of Popular Dissatisfaction with the Administration of Justice (an event honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roscoe Pound's address to the ABA on the same subject).

Anderson married William Hooker Ryland, Sr., a retired supply officer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration during this time, although he passed away in 1988. Anderson remained active in the community and was a generous supporter of various institutions, including her alma mater George Washington University.

As of 2000, Anderson was living in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

# 23

## RUBY YOUNGBLOOD BROWN

June 29, 1949

(1911 – 1997)

**Ruby Youngblood Brown** was born on May 29, 1911 in Green Forest, Arkansas to Elvis M. and Annie E. Graham Youngblood. She grew up in Arkansas and graduated from Green Forest High School in 1929. Brown briefly attended college in Tulsa, Oklahoma from 1930-31, but did not receive a degree. In 1933, she moved to Denver, Colorado and while there met Travis Leroy Brown. On December 8, 1936, she and Brown were married and immediately moved to Pocatello, Idaho.

In October 1938, Brown went to work as a stenographer, office manager and law clerk for Pocatello attorney O. R. Baum. She held this position for ten years, during which time she became interested in studying the law. According to affidavit of Mr. Baum submitted in support of Brown's bar application:

That owing to the amount of interest that [Brown] took in the work [at Baum's office] it soon became very apparent that her adaptability to this type of work was of the highest and by that reason many matters that would generally be handled by a young lawyer in one's office was given to her for consideration; that thereafter and in the year 1940 she advised your affiant that she desired to apply herself to the study of law to the end that she might be admitted.

Given her interest, Mr. Baum began acting as Brown's mentor in the study of the law in 1940. Brown described her usual course of study as: "from eight to nine o'clock in the

morning is spent in study, and from seven to ten o'clock in the evening is spent in study work on courses mapped out by O.R. Baum, and then the next day we go over the work I studied the night before and then an outline is given for the next day's study." In addition, for six months in the winter of 1942-43, Brown attended the Walter H. Anderson School of Law, established by local Pocatello attorneys Walter H. Anderson and W. H. Witty.



By late 1942, Brown was ready to sit for the bar exam and the state Bar agreed, but in 1943 her husband entered the armed forces and was required to move. Brown joined her husband, but didn't let the move affect her study the law. While her husband was stationed at Camp White near Medford, Oregon, she worked for attorney Frank P. Farrell in Medford, and when her husband was transferred to Camp Adair near Albany, Oregon, she worked for attorney Edward E. Sox in Albany. Moreover, Brown returned to Pocatello every few months to do Mr. Baum's office accounting work. When Brown's husband was sent overseas in March 1944, Brown returned to Pocatello and worked in Mr. Baum's office on a permanent basis.

In January 1949, Brown was again ready to sit for the Idaho Bar. On June 29, 1949, Brown was admitted as the twenty-third woman to practice law in Idaho. Brown continued to

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work in Mr. Baum's office and later practiced law out of her home in Pocatello.

Brown enjoyed flower gardening and was a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She remained married to Travis until his death in 1974.

Brown died at the age of 86 in Pocatello on June 15, 1997.

# 24

## JEANNE SIBYL GRIGGS POLLETT

September 13, 1952

(1920 – 1991)

**Jeanne Sibyl Griggs Pollett** was born on June 14, 1920 in Oakland, California to George and Sibyl Griggs. George was a machinist and Sibyl was a housewife, and Jeanne was their only child. Highly motivated and very intelligent, Pollett was a member of the Mensa Society, the organization of individuals with intelligence quotients in the top two percent of the general population. She graduated from Nampa High School in 1937 and earned an English degree from the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho in 1941.

After college, Pollett went to work as a newspaper reporter for the *Idaho Free Press* in Nampa and then, in 1942 at the age of 21, she was a wire editor for the *Caldwell News Tribune*.

On January 15, 1943, Pollett married newsman Dencel Vance Pollett in Reno, Nevada. Dencel was in the Air Force stationed outside Sacramento, California, so Pollett moved to Sacramento with her husband. She immediately found work as a news reporter for the *Sacramento Morning Union*, eventually working her way up to the position of chief statehouse reporter. After the War, the couple returned to Idaho and Pollett went to work for St. Alphonsus Hospital as the public relations director.

In 1949, Pollett decided to become an attorney and attended the University of Idaho College of Law. When she graduated in 1952, Pollett was awarded the William E. Borah Award from Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity for having the highest scholastic average in her law school class. After law school, Pollett took and passed the Idaho Bar and on September 13, 1952, she was admitted, the

same day as Ina Mae Wheeler (No. 25 on this list).

After her graduation, Pollett stayed in the Moscow area because her husband attended the University of Idaho.



On May 14, 1962, Pollett began working as a law clerk for United States District Court Judge Fred Taylor in Boise, a position she held until July 5, 1963. Shortly thereafter the Polletts decided to return to California, although they kept their home in Boise and returned often.

In January 1966, Pollett was admitted to the California State Bar. From 1973-75, she worked as a law clerk with the Second District California Court of Appeals in Los Angeles. She retired from the practice of law in 1975. In addition to her law work, Pollett wrote many articles published in various publications, including *Ford Times* and *Gourmet* magazine.

After retiring from the practice of law, Pollett turned her hand to “jokesmithing” and largely as a hobby wrote “gags” for two eastern syndicates which furnished jokes to TV and nightclub comics and to newspaper comic writers. She remained a resident of both Boise and Hollywood, spending the summers in Boise.

Pollett died at the age of 71 on July 16, 1991, in West Hollywood, California.

# 25

## INA MAE WHEELER HANFORD

September 13, 1952

**Ina Mae Wheeler Hanford** was born on May 29, 1928, in a farmhouse north of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Hanford's parents, Perley and Eva Wheeler, moved to Bonners Ferry in 1921, after having met on the prairies in Montana where her mother's parents had relocated from Wisconsin and her father's parents from Maine. Her father enlisted in the United States Army during World War I and was stationed with the Spruce Division in Seaside, Oregon, where her parents were married in 1918. Hanford was the third of six girls and one boy in the Wheeler family. Hanford describes her life growing up on the farm as,

pretty simple – centered around school, Sunday services (non-denominational) and family life. We were all expected to help with household chores. In the summer we had a huge garden and our small herd of cows was sent out daily to feed on the open range. We had no electricity until REA came through in about 1937.

Hanford attended a small two-room school in Bonners Ferry through the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, but moved to Northside Grade School for 8<sup>th</sup> grade when the district boundaries were changed. Hanford recalls this was the year of Pearl Harbor and her teacher left to join the Navy almost immediately. Bonners Ferry High School was, and is, the only high school in Boundary County. Although bus service was in place by the time Hanford attended high school, her older sisters weren't so lucky. Hanford recalls that they "had to room and board in town" in order to go to school.

Hanford graduated as Valedictorian of her high school class in 1946. She had always thought that she would become a school teacher as her older sister



had (whom she idolized), but in the spring of her senior year Hanford worked as a secretary for a local attorney. While working in that law office, Hanford was encouraged to pursue the study of law and repeatedly told that she had the ability to become a lawyer.

Although Hanford did not have the money to attend college after high school, she did enroll a year later, in the fall of 1947, at Idaho State College where she entered as a pre-law student. At the time, you could earn a Bachelor of Laws degree with two years of pre-law study and three years of law school. After completing two years at Idaho State College, Hanford transferred to the University of Idaho College of Law in the fall of 1949. Hanford recalls that there were three women students in her law school class and all were "well accepted by the men in the law school."

Three years at law school passed "rather uneventfully" and Hanford graduated in 1952. By that time, however, her plans of going into private practice at her former employer's law office had fallen through, so she returned to her parents' home in Bonners Ferry to help them on the farm and study for the bar exam scheduled for August 1952. In mid-July, however, she got an unexpected call from

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Glenn Bandelin, an attorney in Sandpoint, who asked her if she would be interested in clerking for U.S. District Court Judge Chase A. Clark (Dean Stimson at the University of Idaho College of Law had recommended Hanford for the position). Hanford jumped at the chance, and after an interview with Glenn in Sandpoint, was hired by Judge Clark.

Hanford moved to Boise and began working for Judge Clark on July 26, 1952. His chambers and courtroom were on the second floor of the old Federal Building/United States Post Office at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Bannock. Shortly thereafter, Hanford sat for the Idaho bar exam and was admitted on September 13, 1952, the same day as her classmate Jeanne S. Pollett (No. 24 on this list).

Hanford was Judge Clark's second law clerk, while Boise attorney Carl Burke was his first from 1950-51. At that time, Judge Clark was the only Federal District Judge in Idaho and twice a year he and his clerk (Hanford) traveled to Pocatello, Moscow, and Coeur d'Alene for court sessions. Hanford describes her time clerking with Judge Clark as exciting and challenging, exposing her to some of the "outstanding legal minds" of Idaho.

In 1955, Judge Fred Taylor was appointed to fill the second judgeship created after President Eisenhower's election. This split the work in Idaho and so with time available, both judges were assigned to help out in other jurisdictions. Over the years, in addition to traveling throughout Idaho, Hanford joined Judge Clark in court in Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas and cities in South Carolina and Virginia. Hanford recalls that probably some of her more interesting assignments were traveling to Hawaii and Alaska after those states were admitted to the union to assist in the transition from territorial courts to federal courts.

While the usual tenure for a federal law clerk is one or two years, Judge Clark told Hanford that as long as she wanted to stay in her position he was not interested in training a new law clerk. Hanford enjoyed the work and travel, she was still single, she was accepted by her peers, and made a good living. She recalls, "most of the women practicing had difficulty making a good living," so Hanford decided to stay with Judge Clark – a position she held for 12 years. Along the way, of course, she was offered various jobs, including a position in a Boise firm as a legal researcher and the possibility of becoming local counsel for the Small Business Association, but none of the offers appealed to her.

Former Idaho Supreme Court Justice Robert E. Bakes recalls,

Judge Clark relied upon [Hanford] extensively in deciding his cases and writing his opinions, and if Ina Mae thought your case had merit, you usually won. She was part of the reason why Judge Clark was such a successful judge. Not to take anything away from him, but with his practice experience, his political insights, and her legal analysis, they made a good team.

In April 1964, Hanford went to work for the newly appointed United States District Court Judge Raymond McNichols because Judge Clark had stepped down in his active role and assumed the status of Senior Judge. Shortly thereafter Hanford married William Hanford, and by the end of September 1964, the newlyweds had decided to move to Portland, Oregon. Since she no longer lived in Idaho, Hanford allowed her Idaho license to go inactive and thus began "an new era" in her life.

Hanford lived in Portland from 1964-74 and stayed home to raise her two children; Mark, born in 1967, and Jill, born in 1970. In 1974,

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the Hanford family decided to return to Boise, at which time Carl Burke worked hard to have the SBA offer Hanford a job. Hanford respectfully declined the offer and, instead, became very involved in the community, including church activities, volunteering and with the PTA as an officer at the local, district and state levels.

Eventually, after her husband had taken over a dealership for material handling equipment, Hanford joined her husband's business and became officer manager at Hanford Industrial Sales in Garden City. The business also became the Contract Station for the U.S. Postal Service in Garden City, which helped to supplement the family's income and provide more contact with the residents of the

area. After her husband's death in 1984, his business partner came in to help run the business. He supervised the sales and service department and Hanford supervised the office and parts department and the Post Office. She worked in this business and as the Garden City postmistress until she sold the business and retired in 1999.

In her retirement, Hanford has traveled extensively throughout the world, including Europe, Africa, Egypt, Israel, Canada and the Inland Passage in Alaska and looks forward to more trips in the future. Hanford resides in Boise.

# 26

## BEVERLY BARBARA BISTLINE

April 11, 1955

**Beverly Barbara Bistline** was born on August 28, 1922, in Coeur d'Alene into a prominent legal and political family of Idaho. Her father, Francis Marion ("F.M.") Bistline, later a lawyer and politician in Pocatello, served for several terms in the Idaho House of Representatives in the 1940s, including one term as Speaker of the House from 1941-43. Her mother, Ann (Glindeman) Bistline, was from Coeur d'Alene and college-educated, although she never worked outside the home.

Bistline's parents met at the University of Idaho and married in Coeur d'Alene, her mother's hometown. F. M. went to law school at Northwestern and, after graduation, the Bistlines moved to Boise where F. M. completed a one-year clerkship with Justice Robert N. Dunn of the Idaho Supreme Court in Boise. It was during this year that Ann was sent to her mother's home in Coeur d'Alene to give birth to the couple's only child, Beverly. After F. M.'s clerkship was completed in 1923, the young Bistline family returned to Pocatello.

The story of how the Bistline family ended up in Pocatello is one of fate. As Bistline describes things, her grandfather's family lived in Ransom, Kansas, in the mid to late 1800s. Her grandfather's older brother, Joseph (whom Bistline calls "Uncle Joe"), was adventurous and had been reading about the great opportunities in the mines of Butte, Montana. So, in 1888, he hopped on a train and headed west. As the train rolled through Ogden, Utah, however, he developed an intense toothache. And, by the time his train got to Pocatello, Uncle Joe was forced to leave the train and look for a dentist. Uncle

Joe eventually found a dentist and was so impressed with the town and the people of Pocatello that he never got back on the train. Instead, he opened a grocery store in town and prospered. Hearing of his older brother's success in Idaho, Bistline's grandfather moved with his family, including Bistline's father, to Pocatello in 1903. And the family has been an integral part of the Pocatello community ever since. Indeed, both Uncle Joe and Bistline's grandfather, J. M., alternatively served as mayor of Pocatello and Bannock County Commissioner. This call to politics and public service was a trait passed to Bistline's father and herself.



Bistline attended Pocatello public schools, graduating from Pocatello High School in 1939. From 1939 to 1942, she attended the University of Idaho, Southern Branch in Pocatello and was very involved in drama. At the end of her two years, she transferred to the University of Idaho and graduated in 1943 with a liberal arts degree. Upon graduating, Bistline returned to Pocatello just in time to witness the beginning of World War II. Bistline decided to join the Navy WAVES ("Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services"), a program created in 1942 that established the Women's Reserve as a branch of the Naval Reserve.

In December 1944, Bistline was called up and sent to New York's Hunter College for six weeks of basic training, followed by more

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training at yeomen's school in Cedar Falls, Iowa. At the end of her training, Bistline was assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C., where, as she puts it, she saw "lots of gold braid." In fact, she worked across the hall from Admiral Nimitz for a year and half. By 1946, Bistline's tour was complete but she and her friends decided to sign on for an additional year, this time serving in the Navy's NATS ("Naval Air Transport Service"). She was assigned to Moffett Field, south of San Francisco. From there she flew Douglas DC5s (which, Bistline is quick to point out, were not jets) to and from Honolulu, Hawaii working as a flight attendant. After completing this "plush" assignment, Bistline decided to return to Pocatello in May 1947. Although her service in the Navy was unusual for women at the time, Bistline recalls that her parents and family were always "very supportive."

Upon her return to Pocatello, Bistline went to work for her father's bus company, which shuttled people between the city center and the Army's air base (now the site of Pocatello's airport). Being a military veteran, she was welcomed on the base and had "lots of fun." It is during this time that she met and married Arland Robert Spaulding. They were married in 1948 but divorced shortly thereafter, in 1949, after realizing that the marriage was "not meant to be."

By then, Bistline was ready for a change and given all the "GI credits" she had available, decided to go to law school. After all, as she describes it, there were "more lawyers than anything" in her family, including her father, long-time Pocatello attorney R. Donald Bistline, her cousin, and her more famous cousin, Stephen Bistline, who served as Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court from 1976 to 1994. Bistline applied to and was accepted at the University of Utah. Asked why she did not go to the University of Idaho College of Idaho, she merely replies that she "had already seen Moscow."

Bistline began her law school career at the University of Utah in the fall of 1951 with a class of 75 people, four of whom were women. By the time she graduated, however, in 1954, only two women remained. After graduation, Bistline returned to Pocatello and "played like a lawyer" in her father's office.

On April 11, 1955, Bistline was admitted as the twenty-sixth woman to practice law in Idaho. But, she was restless. So when her aunt moved to Los Angeles and she realized that she had three semesters worth of "GI credits" left, Bistline decided to move to southern California and attend the University of Southern California where she took tax courses. Although she was never admitted in California, Bistline worked in a small firm in Los Angeles for the next five years. Then, in 1959, when her aunt was transferred to San Francisco, she decided to join her in her move. For the next 10 years, Bistline worked in San Francisco at Long & Levit as an office manager, and had "the most fun" going to the theater and opera and just exploring all parts of the Bay Area.

In December 1968, Bistline decided to come home for the holidays, but while visiting her parents in Pocatello fell ill with the Hong Kong flu. Thus, she was forced to stay in Pocatello longer than expected until she recovered. During her period of convalescence, her father was involved in defending a person accused of murder in Blackfoot. Each day her father asked her to join him in driving to Blackfoot to observe the trial, but she refused. Then, on the day of President Nixon's inauguration in January 1969, she finally felt well enough to join her father. After making the treacherous journey from Pocatello to Blackfoot in January, Bistline recalls sitting in the back of the courtroom and watching her father. At some point during the trial, she recalls, Judge Beebe leaned over the bench and asked her father if would like to sit down. Then, suddenly, her father collapsed and died of a heart attack. It

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was shortly thereafter that Bistline realized that she “had no alternative,” she had to return to Pocatello and take over her father’s practice – a move she has never regretted.

Bistline recalls that she was “always interested in politics,” having seen many members of her family run for public office. She first ran for office in 1972, but lost by a just a few votes. In 1974, she was elected as a Democrat to the Idaho House of Representatives representing District 33 (Pocatello). During her term she served on two prestigious committees, House Appropriations and Judiciary and Rules and Administration – thanks in great part due to her good friend Patricia McDermott (a fellow woman attorney and legislator from Pocatello, and No. 32 on this list), who was the minority leader in the House. Bistline’s primary interests as a legislator were in land-use planning, education, including kindergarten and higher education, and developmental disabilities in the health and welfare field. Bistline loved her time in the legislature and says that she “learned so much during those two years.”

Bistline has long been active in her community as a member of the United Church of Christ, the Soroptimist Club, P.E.O. Sisterhood, Idaho State University

Foundation, American Bar Association, Idaho State Bar Association, and the Sixth District Bar Association. But, she may be best known for her generous philanthropic pursuits, endowing numerous scholarships at Idaho State University and making substantial contributions to ISU to build a performing arts center, which includes “The Bistline Theater.” The center opened in 2004 and houses ISU’s drama department – much to Bistline’s pleasure given her long standing interest in drama – and the Pocatello symphony, among others. In addition, Bistline has supported numerous community organizations in and around Pocatello, including the Portneuf River Greenway project. Bistline has been recognized for her generous support of the community, including receiving the 2002 “Idaho Statesman of the Year” award from the Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honor society, and was the 2003 recipient of the Pocatello Mayor’s Awards for the Arts.

In 2004, the Idaho State Bar awarded Bistline with its Professionalism Award, which is given to an attorney who “has engaged in extraordinary activity in his or her community, in the state, or in the profession, which reflects the highest standards of professionalism.”

# 27

## ALICE DOROTHEA DWINELL HUBBARD JOHNSON

October 24, 1955

(1917 – 1967)

**Alice Dorothea Dwinell Hubbard Johnson** was born on February 12, 1917, in Sibley, Iowa to L.A. and Hazel W. Dwinell. Her father was an attorney, eventually serving as an assistant Attorney General for the state of Washington in Seattle. After attending grade school in Sibley, Johnson and her family moved to Longview, Washington, in 1928. She graduated from high school in 1933, and then attended the University of Washington from 1934-39, when she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in liberal arts and languages.

On December 8, 1939, Johnson married Wayne N. Hubbard in Seattle. Although the couple later divorced, they had one child. In June 1940, the family moved to Alaska. Johnson worked in various law offices doing secretarial work beginning in 1944. In 1947, Johnson moved to San Francisco for two years, before returning to Idaho in 1949.

After working in law offices for a number of years, Johnson decided to go to law school. In 1952, Johnson enrolled at the University of Washington. Three years later, she graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree. During this time, she met and married Charles W. Johnson in Boise, Idaho, on July 13, 1954. Johnson moved to Boise and was admitted to practice law in Idaho on October 24, 1955.

In 1960, Johnson moved to Hendersonville, Tennessee and, therefore, let her Idaho license expire. A year later, in 1961, she moved to Sturgis, Michigan. In 1962, she moved to Colonial Heights, Virginia. Her precise reasons for moving, however, are not known.

Johnson died in September 1967 in Erie, Pennsylvania.

# 28

## EDITH SCHMITT ANDERSON

October 31, 1955

(1900 – 1989)

**Edith Schmit Anderson** was born on October 13, 1900, about 15 miles outside Pueblo, Colorado, to Anthony S. and Frances Belle (Prose) Schmit. Her father worked as a carpenter and was active in the Carpenters Union Labor Organization and her mother was a housewife. Anderson had a brother, Victor, who worked for Mountain Bell Telephone. In 1906, the family moved to Idaho Falls and Anderson attended school there. In 1912, she moved to Pocatello, graduating from Pocatello High School in 1917.

Anderson attended Idaho State College in Pocatello from 1917-18, and then went to work for Citizen's Bank and Trust Company in Pocatello in various positions including, bank clerk, bookkeeper and secretary, until 1924. On July 30, 1925, she married Carl Albert Anderson, a carpenter, in Preston. Together they had one daughter, Ellen Anderson (Wahlgren), after which Anderson chose to stay home to raise her daughter.

In 1945, Anderson returned to the workforce as a secretary in the Pocatello law firm of Merrill & Merrill until 1953. Thereafter, she went to work for O. R. Baum and one the of the few practicing women attorneys in Idaho, Ruby Y. Brown, in Pocatello as a law clerk.

In 1950, at the age of 50, Anderson returned to Idaho State College and graduated in 1951.

Beginning in 1951 and continuing through 1955, Anderson engaged in law office study to prepare for the Bar under the tutelage of attorney Wesley Merrill. Her studies paid off, and on October 31, 1955,



Anderson was admitted to practice in Idaho as the state's twenty-eighth woman attorney. Anderson's husband, daughter and future son-in-law were all present for her swearing in and report that "[e]ach of us felt a swelling of pride that she had accomplished this without going to law school." Anderson had her own private practice in Pocatello, specializing in estate and probate work, until her retirement in 1982.

Anderson enjoyed reading and studying the French language and riding her horse around the foothills of Pocatello. In fact, her daughter describes her as "an environmental steward long before so much emphasis was placed on the environment." Anderson was also an active member of the Congregational Church in Pocatello.

Anderson died on March 22, 1989, at her home in Pocatello at the age of 88.

# 29

## MARY DURHAM ADAMS

May 16, 1958

**Mary Durham Adams** was born on August 18, 1923 in Hartshorne, Oklahoma to Grace Ross Durham, a schoolteacher, and Frank S. Durham, who was in the coal mining business. The family moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where Adams and a younger brother attended grade school through high school.

From 1940-41, Adams attended H. Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans, a small liberal arts and sciences college created in 1886 as the first degree-granting college for women to be founded within a university (Tulane) in America. From 1941-42, she attended the University of Arkansas, where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. Adams says,

When I was a teenager I decided that I wanted to be a lawyer. I believe it was because it would be a challenge, unusual for a woman, and a respectable profession. I could help other people, and it was attainable. But my plans were changed by the events of World War II, love, marriage and children.

In 1943, Adams married Capt. Maurice D. Adams, later a Lieutenant Colonel, who was stationed at Camp Chaffee near Fort Smith and serving with the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. Together they had three sons. When Maurice was transferred to Camp Campbell prior to going overseas, they lived in Clarksville, Tennessee, and Adams took classes at Austin Peay College. After the war, the young couple lived in Fort Smith and then moved to Idaho

Falls where Maurice was employed with an Atomic Energy Commission contractor.



When her youngest son was a toddler, Adams started thinking about the law again. Regular law school attendance was not a possibility, so she studied law by correspondence (LL.B., LaSalle Extension University) and spent four years studying law as a law clerk for Boyd R. Thomas, a practicing attorney in Idaho Falls at the time and later district court judge. Her studies proved successful as she passed the Idaho Bar and was admitted on May 16, 1958. She would later also become a member of the Arkansas state bar and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Adams had a private practice in Idaho Falls and served as a deputy prosecuting attorney under Eugene Bush. In 1960, she was elected as a Magistrate Judge for Bonneville County and served in that capacity for several terms until 1968. Her husband Maurice died in 1967 after a lengthy illness. In 1968 Adams lost a bid for the Republican congressional nominee by fewer than 900 votes. She says that she “deeply appreciated the many friends and supporters during those times.”

Adams was very involved in the Idaho Falls community. She served as Chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Trinity Methodist Church, on the Governor’s Committee on the Status of Women, as Co-

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Chair of the Idaho Lawyers for Nixon campaign and helped establish the Harbor House at Idaho Falls. For these and many other contributions to her community, Adams received a special award by the Idaho State PTA for services to children, and in 1974 was listed in the Who's Who of American Women.

In 1975, Adams moved to New York City where she was employed with a Fortune 500 Company. She said she was lucky, "They needed a lawyer and a WOMAN!" Adams completed her undergraduate degree in business economics at Hunter College of City University of New York by attending night school. And, she says, she "LOVED New York."

In 1980, Adams returned to Fort Smith to be with her ailing mother. For a while she served as a bank trust officer and on advisory boards of the Bonneville House and Heritage Foundations, and on her church finance

committee. She now spends time with church and social activities, plays bridge and visits with friends and children. Reflecting on her life, Adams says:

It took a long time and was a struggle for me to become a lawyer. But, I enjoyed the challenge and work as a lawyer. I am grateful for my husband's and children's support and help. I believe family should always come first and have tried to balance family responsibilities with personal goals. I am most proud of our sons: Maurice, graduate of USMA, West Point and MBA, Stanford; Donald, BS, Idaho State and M. Div., Garrett Theological Seminary; and Douglas, BS, Washington and Lee. All have families of their own and are in private business. I have had a mixture of joy and sorrow and had and have a great life.

# 30

## ZOE ANN WARBERG SHAUB

May 9, 1960

**Zoe Ann Warberg Shaub** was born on March 1, 1934, in Twin Falls, one of two twins born to George and Ethel Warberg. Shaub and her sister were the second set of twins for the Warbergs, born only 21 months apart. Both of her parents were originally from Oregon, with her father's family moving to Twin Falls in 1905 to work in the coal storage and transfer business. Indeed, for many years the "Warberg Brothers" operated a coal storage and transfer business in Twin Falls. Shaub's mother was a speech, drama and English teacher for many years, first at Filer High School and later, in the early 1950s, at Twin Falls High School.

Shaub's journey into law began in an unusual way. While she was in high school, Shaub babysat for Graden Smith, a local attorney. One day, after Smith had picked up Shaub, he was lamenting that he had lost his secretary. Shaub responded that she knew how to type and was taking shorthand in school. With that, Smith hired Shaub as a legal secretary to work in his office after school and on Saturdays. When she was a senior, Shaub increased her work in Smith's law office to a half-day everyday. Then, after her graduation from Twin Falls High School in 1952, she went to work full-time in Smith's law office. That's when she decided to pursue a career in law. She seemed particularly well qualified for such a career, given that she was the 1952 Idaho State Champion of the American Legion's High School Oratorical Contest.

Being one of four children born relatively close together, Shaub knew that she had to do something "because my education was going to cost a lot." Her answer came in an unusual way. In 1952, the shy 5-foot-5-inch, blue-

eyed, brunette schoolgirl entered the first ever Miss Twin Falls competition in order to win scholarship money for her education. To her amazement, she won the title and later competed, and then won the 1952 Miss Idaho competition. As Miss



Idaho, Shaub went on to compete in the 1952 Miss America pageant where she was awarded a talent scholarship based on her three-minute talk on the need for qualified voters to "exercise your duty and privilege" (coached, of course, by her mother). The talk was so moving that, within hours after the news service shared the story of the unusual contest message with the nation, the chairman of both the Republican and Democratic parties had sent for copies. The pageant office mimeographed more copies, too, filling requests that poured in for weeks.

Shaub used the money she won at the local, state and national pageants to attend the College of Idaho in Caldwell (now Albertson College of Idaho) from 1952-54, where she majored in political science. The money Shaub won at the state level was earmarked to be used in Idaho. Therefore, after she had successfully used that money at the College of Idaho, Shaub transferred to Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, a school she had always wanted to attend given her family's connection to the place and institution (her parents met while attending Linfield). Shaub graduated from Linfield in 1956 with a degree in business. She then applied to two law schools given their strong academic

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reputations: Stanford and Michigan. Shaub decided upon Stanford because it was in the West and she wanted to stay in the West.

In 1956, Shaub entered her first year at the Stanford University School of Law with a class of 300 students (nine of whom were women). Once the Miss America Pageant heard of Shaub's entrance into law school, they unexpectedly sent her another scholarship; much to Shaub's surprise and delight. When asked if she received lots of attention in law school given her participation in the Miss America contest, Shaub indicated that she received the most attention from her classmates based on her "awesome notes" that she took as a result of being a legal secretary for many years.

Each summer after law school, Shaub returned to Twin Falls and clerked in the Terry, Robertson & Daly firm. In 1959, Shaub was one of five women to graduate from Stanford law school. She immediately took and passed the California bar (in January 1960) and was considering staying in California until she received a plea to return to Twin Falls from her then brother-in-law, Bob Rayborn, who's law office was looking for help.

On May 9, 1960, Shaub was admitted as the thirtieth woman to practice law in Idaho. Immediately thereafter she joined the firm of Rayborn, Rayborn & Webb in Twin Falls and had a general practice. After just one year, Shaub decided to run for probate judge and in 1960 was successful in defeating the incumbent judge. At 26, Shaub was the youngest, female judge in the nation at the time. She served as probate judge for Twin Falls for four terms, from 1960 through her "retirement" from the bench to have her first child in 1967. During this time she "mostly" handled juvenile matters. Shaub recalls going to judicial conferences and paling around with Mary Durham Adams (No. 29 on this list), as

she was the only other woman judge at the time.

In 1962, Shaub married Dr. Roy Shaub and, as Twin Falls attorney John Rosholt says, "broke a lot of hearts." Shaub had met Roy, an internal medicine doctor, in Sun Valley skiing. He appeared before her in court to testify at a sanity hearing shortly thereafter and that night, Shaub recalls, "he called and asked me out." Together they have three children and five grandchildren.

Shaub retired from the bench in 1967 to raise her three children. Never one to sit for long, Shaub got so involved in her children's activities that she ended up running the Snake River Swim Association in which they competed. Shaub has also remained active with the Miss America organization. For several years she served as legal representative to the Western states. Ever since her return to Idaho after law school, Shaub has worked with the Twin Falls Lions Club, recruiting Miss Twin Falls candidates and from 1997 to 2002 was the head of the Miss Magic Valley pageant.

Shaub has long been involved in the community, most recently helping to gather information about the Twin Falls centennial celebration, including putting together a comprehensive history book entitled "Gifts of Heritage." Shaub explains that she always intended to go back to the full-time practice of law after her children were grown, but by the time that happened her husband was nearing retirement and "things had changed so much" that she decided against it. Even so, throughout the time Shaub stayed home to raise her children, she handled a number of smaller matters for her friends out of her home.

Shaub lives in Twin Falls with her husband Roy and enjoys playing with her grandchildren.

# 31

## VIRGINIA RILEY RENWICK

August 13, 1965

(1927 – 1987)

**Virginia Riley Renwick** was born on May 27, 1927, in Portland, Oregon. She attended grade school and high school in St. Helens, Oregon. From 1945-46, she attended Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, and Portland State College from 1947-1951. Renwick obtained her Bachelor of Laws degree from Northwestern College of Law in Portland, Oregon, in 1956 while working in the firm of Keane & Hessler in Portland as a legal secretary. Renwick passed the Oregon bar on October 21, 1964, and joined the firm of Keane & Hessler as an associate.

On April 13, 1965, Renwick was admitted in Idaho and went to work at Elam, Burke, Jeppesen & Evans (now Elam & Burke) in Boise as its first woman attorney. In 1970, she returned to Portland and allowed her Idaho licenses to expire. Renwick opened an office with Gladys M. Everett and Helen F. Althaus, in Tigard that specialized in family law.

According to *Serving Justice: A History of the Oregon State Bar 1890-2000*, recently published by Gordon B. Dodds and Cathy Croghan Alzner, Renwick became very active in the Multnomah Bar Association (“MBA”), a traditionally male-run organization. In 1972, the same year as the Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress, the women of the Oregon State Bar planned to nominate Renwick for the office of third vice-president in the MBA:

Wendell Gray nominated Renwick from the floor and she easily won the position. According to tradition,

Renwick would work her way up and in three years she would become MBA president.

Renwick did move up to second vice president, but in 1974 the year she was expected to be elected president the MBA executive committee changed the election procedure. Instead of using “town meeting annual banquet style,” the committee changed to a mail ballot and under this new system, Renwick did not win. While they were unable to prove it, many women believed this change was a deliberate effort to keep a female from becoming president.



*Id.* at 174.

In addition to her activities with the MBA, Renwick was active in the Oregon State Bar’s Family Law Section, authoring the *Change of Name* chapter in the CLE text on “Family Law.” She was honored by Two Thousand Women of Achievement for distinguished achievement in 1972, was included in *Who’s Who of American Women*, and was a member of Soroptimist and the Washington County Forum.

Renwick died on March 24, 1987 in Portland, Oregon at the age of 59 after a battle with breast cancer.

# 32

## PATRICIA L. McDERMOTT

August 19, 1966

**Patricia L. McDermott** was born on February 19, 1938 in Washington, D.C. to Peter A. and Emily (Wolfe) McDermott. Her father was born in Ireland and, after coming to the United States attended the University of Idaho and, later, law school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Her parents married in December 1936, while her father was in law school. When McDermott was born, her father was in his final year of law school and her mother worked as a nurse. Upon her father's graduation from law school, in August 1938, the family moved to Pocatello. A few years later, McDermott's brother, Peter McDermott, Jr., was born.

McDermott grew up and went to school in Pocatello, graduating from Pocatello High School in 1954, a year early because she skipped her junior year. While in high school, McDermott worked in her father's law office and learned that she loved the law and decided to pursue it as her profession.

McDermott started her college studies at Idaho State University, primarily because it was close to home. However, her studies took her to Creighton and the University of Idaho, before returning to Idaho State to graduate with a degree in political science in 1958. Immediately thereafter, McDermott began law school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. During law school, she worked for Senator Frank Church, the Office of the Solicitor and the United Planning Organization, a group created by the District of Columbia's Crime & Control Act to battle the "war on poverty." McDermott finished law school in just over two years,

graduating early in 1961. She immediately sat for and passed the Washington, D.C. bar. Thereafter, McDermott also earned a Masters in labor law from Georgetown



University and went to work for the Secretary of Labor in Washington, D.C.

In late 1965 or early 1966, McDermott's father, a long-time practicing attorney in Pocatello and deputy prosecutor for a number of years, got sick and McDermott returned to Pocatello. Since she and her father always had a good relationship, McDermott decided to join his office and together they opened the firm of McDermott & McDermott. She was admitted in Idaho on August 19, 1966, and handled all types of matters and frequently found herself in court.

In 1968, McDermott's brother, Peter, graduated law school at the University of Idaho and joined the family's practice in Pocatello. (Peter Jr. later went on to become a Sixth District Court judge in Pocatello, where he serves today.) It was during this time that McDermott married Richard Bieber, whom the local newspapers were quick to note was a Republican.

McDermott is perhaps best known for her public service as a Democratic legislator from Pocatello for many years from 1969 through 1991 in the House, and for one term beginning in 1991 in the Senate. While in the

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House she served on the State Affairs, Judiciary, Rules & Administration, Ways and Means, Local Government and House Printing and Legislative Council Committees. She was the first woman in the Idaho Legislature to serve in a leadership position when she was named Minority Leader in the House of Representatives in 1975, and again in 1977. In this leadership position she worked with many people, including Beverly Bistline (No. 26).

McDermott's call to public service was likely influenced by her mother's involvement in the Democratic Party in Idaho. From 1960-62, McDermott's mother, Emily, served as the vice-chair of the Idaho State Democratic Party and as state registration chair of the Democratic Part in 1960. Emily's service and influence in politics continued for many years, including her being appointed by Governor Cecil Andrus as the first woman to the State Personnel Commission.

McDermott has long been active in the Pocatello community, serving on the Alumni Board of Directors of Idaho State University,

as an instructor in Communications law at Idaho State University, and as a member of the Pocatello Bicentennial Commission. She has also been affiliated with St. Anthony's Council of Catholic Women Business and Professional Women's Club, Alpha Omicron Pi, Mortar Board, the League of Women Voters and on the Idaho Commission on the Status of Women (which was later renamed by the Legislature as the Commission on Women's Programs). For all her activities, McDermott was listed in *Outstanding Young Women in America* and *Who's Who of American Women*.

She has served on a number of Bar committees, including the Bar Examination committee.

In 1989, McDermott was given a Service Award by the Idaho State Bar for her many years of service in the Idaho Legislature and on behalf of the Sixth District Bar Association.

McDermott lives in Pocatello and continues to practice at the firm of McDermott & Zollinger.

# 33

## NANCY LOUISE GRUBB SIMPSON September 27, 1967

**Nancy Louise Grubb Simpson** was born on February 17, 1945, in Annapolis, Maryland. Her father, Clarence Arthur Grubb, was a civil engineer in the U.S. Navy, and her mother, Myrtle Clarice (Hanson) Grubb, was a homemaker. Both of her parents were originally from Idaho. As a young child, she moved many times as her father transferred from one military base to another. As a result, Simpson attended elementary school in Lafayette, California, San Mateo, California, Falls Church, Virginia, Boise, Idaho, Guam, M.I., and Whitehouse, Florida; junior high school in Jacksonville, Florida, and Lemon Grove, California; and high school in Spring Valley, California. She graduated from Mt. Miguel High School in 1961, a year ahead of schedule at the age of 16.

After high school Simpson attended the University of Hawaii for a year. The following summer of 1962 found her working as a typist for the Department of Defense (Navy) in Washington, D.C., and, during that time, she decided to return to Idaho and transfer to the University of Idaho. She did just that in 1962 and began studying social science. Simpson excelled academically at UI, making the dean's list repeatedly, and also became very active in student affairs, including Delta Sigma Rho (an honorary society for debate), Pi Gamma Mu (honorary society for social science majors), a member

and treasurer of Pi Beta Phi fraternity, and a member of the Social Area of the Activities Council for student government.



As she did in high school, Simpson graduated *cum laude* from college in 1964 after just three years. She immediately began her law studies at the University of Idaho College of Law. While in law school, on February 7, 1965, she married Torlof Peter Nelson, but divorced him only a year later. Simpson continued her study of law, working for a lawyer in California during the summer of 1966 and as an assistant in the law library during her third year. Simpson graduated with her law degree from UI in 1967 and moved to her parents' home in Los Altos, California.

On September 27, 1967, Simpson was admitted to practice in Idaho and went to work for the federal government in California. Shortly thereafter, on January 9, 1969, Simpson was admitted to practice in California and moved to Larkspur, California, resigning her active license in Idaho the following year. In 2001, Simpson resigned her active license in California and moved to La Conner, Washington.

# 34

## MAUREEN MARGARET JONES

### WARREN MEEHL

September 27, 1967

(1932 – 1971)

**Maureen Margaret Jones Warren Meehl** was born on December 11, 1932, in Boise, Idaho the daughter of Helen and Thomas J. Jones, Jr. Her father, T.J., was a well-known attorney in Boise and her mother, Helen, raised her family after working outside the home immediately after college. Meehl had two brothers, T.J. (III) and Jerry. Both of her brothers received their law degrees, although only T.J. practiced and worked with his father in Boise.

Meehl attended St. Theresa's Academy in Boise for elementary school, North Junior High and Boise High School, from which she graduated in 1951. During her last year of high school, she also attended classes at Boise Junior College (later Boise State University), but did not receive a degree from the school. Her brother, T.J., describes his sister as very bright and energetic and as someone who "pursued everything to its limits." "She was vivacious" he says, "she made friends with everyone." Meehl was always active and athletic and pursued her love of skiing with vigor beginning in high school, eventually becoming a Junior National Ski Champion and traveling throughout the West for ski races.

In 1951, Meehl began college at the University of Idaho where she studied history. Following her interests in athletics, Meehl was a "Hell Diver" with the swim team (following in the footsteps of Edith Miller Klein, No. 17 on this list) and skied whenever she could. On March 10, 1953, she married Richard

Eddy Warren in Colfax, Washington. In September 1953, she left UI to study history at the University of California at Berkeley for a semester until January 1954. The couple then moved

to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where Richard served in the Army until the end of 1954. Thereafter, the couple returned to the University of Idaho in 1955 and Meehl graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1956.

After college graduation, Meehl returned to Boise where she worked as a history teacher at Boise High School and Richard worked as an engineer. After just a few years, however, the couple moved to Utah because Richard was offered a better job. Together the couple had four children, three boys and a girl.

By the early 1960s, Meehl's marriage to Richard was in trouble and she returned to Boise and her family to raise her four young children. Once again, Meehl taught history in the Boise Public Schools. After her divorce became final in 1963, Meehl's father, recognizing his daughter's intelligence and drive, strongly encouraged her to go to law school. So, in the tradition of her father (T.J. Jones, Jr.), her brother (T.J. Jones, III), and her uncle (Felix Jones - attorney and judge), Meehl decided to become a lawyer. The fact



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that she was a woman didn't deter her given her parents' support and encouragement.

From 1964 to 1967, Meehl attended the University of Idaho College of Law, spending one summer in 1966 at the University of Denver. On September 27, 1967, Meehl was admitted to practice law in Idaho. Immediately thereafter, she returned to Boise and began her legal career in her father and brother's firm doing general practice work. It was during this time that Meehl met fellow attorney Daniel Meehl. Shortly thereafter, Meehl moved to Twin Falls (where Dan was) and began working as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Twin Falls County.

In 1969, she married Dan (now a retired Fifth District Judge) and he adopted her four

children giving each of them his name. Meehl continued to pursue her interests with vigor in Twin Falls, including skiing. After a hard day of skiing with her young children in 1971, however, she unexpectedly passed away of a heart attack. Dan, a widow and father of four young children after just two years of marriage, raised the children to become successful adults. Mark and Bob currently work in business in Portland, John works in acquisitions at Albertson's in Boise, and Helen works for the county in Twin Falls. T.J. says that Maureen would be proud of each of her children and, in particular, of the love and devotion that Dan showed each of the kids over the years.

# 35

## JANICE ELIZABETH OLIVER HAMILTON

October 4, 1967

**Janice Elizabeth Oliver Hamilton** was born on March 23, 1919 in East Lansing, Michigan, to William L. Oliver and Alice S. Oliver Hunter. Her father was a pastor, and her mother a homemaker. Hamilton grew up in Lansing during the depression. In order to help her large family, Hamilton decided to add to the family coffers by making use of the connections she had established by selling Girl Scout candy to the workers in the shops in her neighborhood. She found a store where she could buy candy bars in bulk and then sell them at a profit, though still cheaper than the machines, and always with a smile and some chatter. Occasionally, Hamilton used her profits to buy supplies so her mother could make some candy to sell for even more money.

Hamilton graduated from Central High School in Lansing in 1936. Thereafter, she went to work in F. N. Arbaugh Co., a department store in Lansing, and beginning in March 1937 in the printing department at Michigan State University. Hamilton attended Michigan State from September 1938 to March 1939 and while there, met fellow student Clarence J. ("C. J.") Hamilton. On August 25, 1940, they were married in Lansing. Immediately thereafter, in September 1940, the couple moved to Wallace, Idaho to maintain the family interests in the Lincoln mines.

Before long the Hamiltons decided to further their education and applied to the University of Idaho. In 1941, Janice enrolled in the Home Economics program, while C. J.

entered the College of Law. In 1942, however, C. J. was called to active duty. Janice, pregnant with their first child, stayed on at the University of Idaho and completed her first



year of college. She then returned to Michigan and worked at Abrahms, an aerial tool and die factory, making bomb sights, and attended Michigan State from March to June 1943. Hamilton also made at least three train trips to Idaho in order to see to the Lincoln mines and oversee various agreements with the Sunshine Mining Company.

When C. J. returned from active duty in 1945, the family briefly lived with him in San Antonio, Texas, before returning to the University of Idaho where C. J. re-entered law school. C. J. earned his Juris Doctor degree three years later in 1948. At the time, Janice was pregnant with their second child, and worked at a photo developing and printing company. After C. J. graduated from law school, the family moved to Coeur d'Alene where C. J. was the prosecuting attorney for Kootenai County in 1949-50.

In 1950, C. J. was called back into the Army during the Korean Conflict and the Hamiltons moved to Augusta, Georgia. In March 1952, the family returned to Coeur d'Alene again and C. J. began a career in private practice.

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Although she continued to work at various jobs, including selling Fuller Brush and Community silver, Hamilton was primarily a homemaker during this time.

By the late 1950s, Hamilton decided it was time to go back to school. She enrolled in North Idaho Junior College from September 1959 through June 1960, and the University of Idaho beginning in September 1960. For the next year she attended classes at the University of Idaho and took several correspondence courses, earning enough credits to graduate with a degree in Business Administration in 1961.

Although Hamilton attend law school at the University of Idaho College of Law from February through June 1966, she applied for the Bar under the apprenticeship program that many of the early women lawyers had taken advantage of. In preparation for this route, Hamilton studied in her husband's law office and under his tutelage. On October 4, 1967, Hamilton was admitted to the Idaho Bar and holds the distinction as the last person admitted in Idaho through the apprenticeship licensing program. Hamilton joined her husband's practice in Coeur d'Alene and for many years they operated the law partnership of Hamilton & Hamilton, until the office closed in 1992.

Juggling family responsibilities with community service was always a priority for Hamilton. Starting in 1973, she agreed to pursue leadership in the Daughters of the Nile. Supporting their work for the Shriner's

Hospital assumed most of her energies at the time. She remains active as Past Honored Queen and former national officer in that organization. Hamilton has been a member and leader at various levels of Ladies of Kiwanis and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to donating freely of her time, Janice and C. J. have been generous in donating their money to worthy causes. In 1996, the Hamiltons donated \$25,000 to North Idaho College to create a scholarship fund in memory of their late son, Jack. And, in 1998, the Hamiltons established the *C. J. and Janice Hamilton Law School Scholarship Endowment* at the University of Idaho with an initial gift of \$50,000 of U.S. Bank stock. This endowment awards funds to law students based on need.

Hamilton reports that studying law was actually a family-oriented goal, in that by joining C. J.'s practice she hoped to free him up to pursue traveling, which they did extensively through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Their travels have taken them to all seven continents, including cruises to the North Pole and Antarctica.

The Hamiltons live in Coeur d'Alene. Together they raised three children: William, a career Army officer, was a pilot and concluded his military career in 1996; Jill Jurvelin, lives in Coeur d'Alene with her husband and family; and Jack (deceased). They have three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

# 36

## BEVERLY J. STIBUREK ELDER September 27, 1968

**Beverly J. Stiburek Elder** was born on October 16, 1932 in Nampa, Idaho, to Mary Irene (Yorgason) and Charles Stiburek. A few years later, the Stiburek family moved to Cascade and opened the first bakery in the area and operated it until the late 1960s. Elder went to grade school and high school in Cascade. She recalls that she first decided to pursue a career in law after taking a class her sophomore year in high school entitled “Occupations.” The class required students to explore different career opportunities, and Elder was most excited about the legal profession.

Elder studied political science at BYU, graduating with Bachelor of Science degree in 1955. While at BYU, one of her political science professors made sure that Elder knew what type of graduate school options were open to her. Specifically, Elder was told that George Washington University had a law school program which allowed students to work during the day and attend classes at night. Elder followed this advice, and went to law school at George Washington University at night from 1956-1961 while working at the Department of Interior in the appeals unit doing research and paralegal work.

Immediately after graduating from law school in the fall of 1961, Elder married Frank Elder, a ranger with the U.S. Forest Service. Instead of going to work as a lawyer, Elder went to work for Senator Henry Dworshak for approximately four years as one of his “front office girls.” Her duties included acting as a receptionist, answering invitations to events, and public relations for visitors to Washington.

In the late 1960s, the Forest Service transferred Frank Elder to Idaho. He was stationed mostly at outstations,



and the family would “live in the woods” during the summer and in town during the winter. While living in Council, Elder took and passed the Idaho Bar and was admitted to practice law in Idaho on September 27, 1968.

While in Council, she was asked to run for Adams County Prosecuting Attorney. Elder ran as a write-in candidate against Carl H. Swanstrom. As Carl’s son, Roger, later described it, Swanstrom “had a ‘forty-some year streak’ going as Prosecutor” starting in 1924 as Prosecuting Attorney of Adams County. Elder’s campaign employed an ingenious method of mailing self-sticking slips of paper bearing her name to all Adams County voters. “This helped a great deal,” she said, “because the voters didn’t have to write my name on the ballot, they could simply place the sticker on it.” In the end, the campaign strategy worked and Elder won the election by 270 votes, making her the only woman prosecutor in Idaho at the time, a feat noted in the March 20, 1969, edition of *The Idaho Daily Statesman*. Elder held the prosecutor’s position for four years, until her husband was transferred to Salmon. When they moved to Salmon, Elder did not practice for six years.

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In 1978, the Elder family moved to Ogden, Utah, where Elder worked for recovery services (a child support collection agency) for three years. They were then transferred back to Salmon where she practiced law with James C. Herndon (now Seventh Judicial District Court Judge). Elder explains that it was kind of an unusual set up at the time because there were about 4-5 attorneys in town and they all “took turns” being prosecuting attorney. She said that during one election, the gentleman elected as prosecuting attorney wanted to be magistrate judge, and the magistrate judge was retiring, so the county commissioners appointed him as magistrate and asked Herndon if he wanted to be appointed prosecutor. Herndon agreed, but only if Elder would be appointed as his deputy. The commissioners agreed to the arrangement, and Elder’s area of practice was juvenile cases and child support for four years. As Elder explains things, Herndon did all the trial work and she did all the research because she “really didn’t enjoy courtroom work.”

In 1988, Elder’s husband was transferred back to Ogden, Utah and Elder allowed her Idaho license to go inactive. At the time she looked into working for a law firm, but was told that firms could hire students for minimal salary given the close proximity of two law schools. Elder went to work, instead, for the Internal Revenue Service for four years, a job she was not particularly fond of. It was around this time that her husband was nearing retirement age so she decided to “drop out” of the legal profession. She went to work, instead, for Utah Tailoring for eight years in their retail department. Elder says her “first love” is sewing.

Elder resides in Ogden, Utah and is the proud mother of two daughters (one is an artist and one is a schoolteacher) and one granddaughter. Elder is a long time member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

# 37

## SUSAN MARIA FLANDRO September 27, 1968

**Susan Maria Flandro** was born on December 6, 1940, in Salt Lake City, Utah. She grew up in Pocatello, Idaho, and graduated from Pocatello High School in 1959. Thereafter, she attended the University of Utah. In 1963, Flandro graduated with a major in political science and a minor in English. For the next two years, Flandro taught both junior high and high school students.

While growing up, Flandro never considered becoming a lawyer. Instead, her career goal was to become either a teacher or a nurse. There were no attorneys in her family, but Flandro dated a law student while she was in college. The two would discuss issues of law, which she found very interesting. Despite her new interest in the law, Flandro did not believe that she could go to law school, so instead, she continued towards pursuing a career in teaching.

Flandro wanted to go to graduate school, but did not want to pursue a graduate degree in teaching. Flandro's family knew the dean of the law school at the University of Utah, who encouraged her to apply. Flandro's mother was supportive of her application, but her father was concerned that it would affect her chances of getting married. After scoring well on the LSAT, Flandro was accepted into the law school at the University of Utah where, she reports, she enjoyed herself immensely.

Out of 150 students in her first year class, only three were women. One of her female classmates was number one in her class at law school; nonetheless, she could not get a job in private practice after graduation. As a result,

the woman ended up becoming a professor at the University of Utah Law School and had a successful career there. Unfortunately, the other female classmate dropped out of law school. Flandro graduated in 1968 and took and passed the Utah bar.



Shortly after graduation, Flandro moved to Boise and took the Idaho Bar. She was admitted in Idaho on September 27, 1968 and worked in the Attorney General's office from 1968 until 1969. In so doing, Flandro became the first woman to serve as an Assistant (now referred to as "Deputy") Attorney General in Idaho.

In 1969, Flandro decided to pursue her dream of working for Legal Aid. Idaho did not have any Legal Aid services, so Flandro traveled to California in hopes of finding employment. She started in Santa Barbara and worked her way down the coast applying with Legal Aid agencies. At each agency, however, she was told that although the hiring attorney would be interested in her application, there would be other attorneys in the office who would have difficulty with a woman working there. Flandro ended up in the Los Angeles area, where she performed research for various attorneys.

In 1970, Flandro went to work for the Internal Revenue Service in Los Angeles where she did estate tax auditing. She worked

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in that position from 1970 until 1976. She was admitted in California, her third state bar, on August 1, 1975.

In 1976, Flandro moved back to Pocatello to start her own private practice and opened the firm under the name of S. M. Flandro. Although her specialty was estate tax work, she also handled family law cases, including divorce and cases involving battered women.

In 1979, Flandro had the opportunity to get into real estate syndication in Anaheim, California. She moved to Anaheim and soon after began working with a company called Perry Development where she was hired as

corporate counsel. Perry Development developed real estate properties such as medical offices, commercial facilities and sports facilities. Flandro worked for Perry Development from 1979 until 2000. Over the course of time, she became a vice president and chief financial officer. Flandro truly enjoyed her career there and handled large loans and corporate development projects. But, after 15 years with Perry Development, Flandro decided to move to Sun Valley, Idaho, and retire.

Flandro lives in Sun Valley and enjoys skiing in her free time.

# 38

## JUDITH HOLCOMBE September 27, 1968

**Judith Holcombe** was born in Kansas in 1942 to Joseph and Jean Holcombe. She has one sister and two brothers. Her father was in the Navy and stationed in the Pacific during World War II. Thereafter, the family moved every 2-3 years, eventually settling in southern California. Holcombe graduated in 1960 from James Monroe High School in Sepulveda, California.

After high school, Holcombe attended the University of California at Los Angeles, transferred to U. C. Berkeley for a while, and later return to UCLA where she graduated with a degree in political science in 1965. During her undergraduate studies, Holcombe took a course on Constitutional Law and became idealistic about the law. She applied to and was accepted at UCLA's School of Law and began there in 1965. After two years, however, Holcombe decided to transfer to the University of Idaho College of Law to join her first husband, who had received an assistant professorship at the University. Thus, Holcombe completed her third year of law school in Moscow and graduated in 1968. On September 27, 1968, Holcombe was admitted to practice law in Idaho.

Holcombe's first job after graduating law school was as a staff attorney for Lewis-Clark Legal Services in Lewiston. She later became its director and was referred to as "Lewiston's leading lady lawyer" – an "easy distinction," she says, "since there was only one [woman lawyer] practicing [in Lewiston]." During her work she was exposed to the newly created Idaho Human Rights Commission and was recruited to apply for a position with that entity. In 1972, Holcombe joined the Idaho Attorney General's office (Tony Park was the

Attorney General). She was assigned to work as the first director of the Idaho Human Rights Commission and as a statewide ombudsman for the Department of Aging.



In 1974, Holcombe became an Assistant General Counsel of Boise Cascade Corporation, the first woman to serve in that position. John Clute, General Counsel at the time (and later dean of the law school at Gonzaga), hired Holcombe to handle employment, transportation, aviation, real estate and general corporate work. In 1985, Holcombe decided to leave corporate practice and joined the firm now known as Givens Pursley – becoming its first woman partner. She stayed at Givens Pursley until 1996, when she decided to become a solo practitioner. In 2003, she declared herself to be a "recovered attorney not yet ready for the retirement world." She maintains an active license, although she no longer engages in general practice.

Holcombe currently lives in Boise with her husband, fellow Idaho attorney Richard Weston, where, she reports, "I am now launched in the avocation which I hope will occupy the next thirty or so years of my life – as an artist." In fact, her work has appeared on the cover of the Idaho State Bar's monthly magazine, *The Advocate* (September 2004) and she often shows her pieces (mainly watercolor and oils) throughout Boise.

# 39

## LINDA ROBERSON PALMER JUDD

October 6, 1970

**Linda Roberson Palmer Judd** was born in 1939, the oldest of four siblings, on a farm near Morrison, Oklahoma. Her father, John Roberson, was a farmer, millwright and contractor whose work took him to various areas of the United States during Judd's schooling. Her mother, Mabel Roberson, worked in the home. Judd graduated high school as valedictorian in 1957 in Grandview, Idaho.

After high school, in 1957, Judd married a young airman, Dean Palmer, who was killed near Stanley, Idaho, in November 1958 as a result of a hunting accident. Judd and Dean's son, Richard, was born in March 1959. Judd and Richard lived with her family, consisting of her parents, two brothers and one sister, in a small town near Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In 1962, when Richard was almost three years old, Judd began her freshman year at Oklahoma State University. Judd's family lovingly watched over Richard during the day while Judd was at school at Oklahoma State.

Judd attended Oklahoma State University from January 1962 to May 1964, being elected to the honors program in 1963 and 1964. She majored in Political Science. Judd's work and receipt of survivor benefits from the government as a result of Dean's death allowed her to continue school with the goal of attending law school. After her father's work took him back to the area of Mountain Home, Idaho, Judd and Richard moved to Moscow, Idaho, in 1965. Richard started first grade in Moscow and Judd transferred her Oklahoma State University credits to the University of Idaho where she earned her

B.A. under a combined Letters and Science and Law program in 1968, after taking a year off from school to return to work at Mountain Home Air Force Base when her father died in 1966.



After her widowed mother took an office job at Elmore Memorial Hospital in Mountain Home in 1967, Judd and Richard returned to Moscow, Idaho, where she entered law school at the University of Idaho in 1967 - one of only two women in her first year law school class. Judd was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies at the University of Idaho in 1968. She also received a commendation for her moot court presentation from the International Academy of Trial Lawyers while in law school.

Judd graduated law school in 1970. She was admitted to the practice of law in Idaho on October 6, 1970, before the Idaho Supreme Court sitting for fall term in the Kootenai County Courthouse in Coeur d'Alene.

Judd met James F. Judd in law school; he was a second year law student when she entered law school. They became steadfast friends after overcoming some initial rivalry and antagonism; they married the summer after Judd graduated from law school. Judd and Richard moved to Post Falls with Jim and sometime later all three decided it would be a good idea to legally acknowledge by adoption

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the family bond and father-son relationship between Richard and Jim.

Judd began her practice of law in the fall of 1970 in Post Falls, Idaho, with her husband, Jim, in the Judd & Judd law office, where she was a general practitioner. Together they practiced law for many years, until 1987 when Jim was elected to the position of district court judge with chambers in Coeur d'Alene. Judd continued her active law practice in Post Falls.

In addition to maintaining a full caseload, Judd served the state and her community in several capacities. From 1978 through 1993 she served as one of three Commissioners of the Idaho Uniform State Laws Commission, a position she was appointed to by Governor Evans and later reappointed to by Governor Andrus. As a Commissioner, she served as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws from 1987 to 1989 and she served on drafting committees for the conference, including the Uniform Notarial Act (1978-1983), the Uniform Marital Property Act (1979-1983), the Power of Attorney Statutory Form Act (1985-1987), and the Uniform Victims of Crime Act (1990-1992). Governor Andrus appointed Judd to the Idaho Job Training Council in 1989 and she served as its Chair from 1991 to 1993. Judd also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Post Falls Library from 1986-

1993, and as President of the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce in 1985.

Judd has also been active with the Bar in Idaho. She was a member of the Board of Governors of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association from 1978-1979 and in 1991-1992, and was a contributing writer to both the first (1985) and second (1989) editions of the *Idaho Appellate Handbook*, writing the chapter entitled "Taking the Appeal and Settling the Appellate Record in the State System." In addition, Judd has volunteered her time and efforts with the Idaho Law Foundation, currently serving as Secretary of its Board of Directors.

In 1993, the Idaho State Bar awarded Judd with its Professionalism Award for the First Judicial District, which is given to an attorney who "has engaged in extraordinary activity in his or her community, in the state, or in the profession, which reflects the highest standards of professionalism." She was the first woman to receive this award.

In 2001, the Judds moved to Boise after Jim took senior status as a district court judge. Judd opened the Judd Law Office in Boise and continues to do volunteer work today. On reflection of her career and life, Judd notes: "The opportunities that have been available to me would have been unattainable without the love, support and encouragement of my partner and husband, Jim Judd, our son, Richard, and our extended families."

# 40

## DARLA SANDERS WILLIAMSON October 6, 1972

**Darla Sanders Williamson** was born to Boyce and Ruby Sanders in Monterey Park, California. She lived in Monterey Park for a mere two weeks before moving onward to Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon and finally to Idaho where she has remained ever since. While in Oregon, Williamson attended college at the Good Samaritan School of Nursing and Willamette University where she received her Bachelor's degree in 1968. After graduating from college, Williamson moved to Sun Valley, Idaho, where she worked as a waitress and spent time perfecting her downhill technique.

While she enjoyed the powder and slopes of Sun Valley, Williamson decided to continue her education. Although most working women at that time found themselves as either teachers or nurses, Williamson realized other opportunities awaited her. She decided to pursue one – law – and entered the University of Idaho College of Law in 1969. The grossly disproportionate number of men to women in the legal profession soon became evident as Williamson found herself one of only two women in her law school class.

Williamson graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1972 and was admitted to practice in Idaho on October 6, 1972. Williamson immediately moved to Valley County, Idaho, and worked in private practice until 1979. Despite her hard work, Williamson soon found that women lawyers were often not taken seriously as competent legal professionals. One day, while working in her office, a gentleman came in seeking legal advice. After realizing that Williamson was

not the secretary but the attorney, the gentleman quickly left the office stating that he would not obtain legal counsel from a woman!

These types of experiences did not deter Williamson. To the contrary, Williamson ran for and was elected to the position of Valley County Prosecutor from 1975 until 1977. In 1979, she became a Fourth District Magistrate Judge and in January 2001, Governor Dirk Kempthorne appointed her to the position of District Judge for the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Idaho. In October 2001, Williamson's fellow fourth district judges elected her to the position of Administrative Judge where she still serves today.



Williamson is married to Max Williamson, who she married during Christmas break of her final year at law school. Max has a Masters in Business and worked for the McCall Donnelly School District before retiring in July of 2001. She and Max have two sons, Zak and Isaac. Zak has a Masters in Aerospace Engineering and presently works in Boulder, Colorado. Isaac is in his fifth year at the University of Idaho pursuing dual business degrees.

In addition to her busy work schedule, Williamson maintains an active lifestyle. She walks two miles to and from work each day, is a YMCA member and enjoys golfing and hiking. In 1982, she obtained a private pilot's

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license. She and Max own a Cessna 172 that they fly back and forth to their house in McCall. Not lacking a sense of adventure, the couple bought a fixer-upper home in the North End of Boise in July 2001 and have been working on it and living in it ever since — even in the middle of winter with no roof. Although the house was taken down to the

two by fours, it is almost completed, with an additional second story and gourmet kitchen.

When asked what she likes most about being a judge, Williamson says that she enjoys the involvement in public service and helping people from a neutral standpoint. And, she says, she would recommend her life to anyone.

# 41

## SUSAN DAHL BAGWELL

July 17, 1973

**Susan Dahl Bagwell** was born on September 22, 1944 in Altoona, Pennsylvania. She attended Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan, from 1969-1972.

On July 17, 1973, Bagwell was admitted to practice law in Idaho while living in Moscow. Two years later, in 1975, Bagwell returned to

Michigan and, therefore, resigned her active license in Idaho.

Bagwell currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

# 42

## LINDA JEAN COOK November 1, 1973

**Linda Jean Cook** was born in Idaho Falls and grew up in a farming family in Ririe, Idaho. After graduating from high school in Ririe, Cook attended Ricks College and obtained a B.S. in sociology and a M.S. in social psychology from BYU. She then accepted a teaching position at a college in Walla Walla, Washington, where some of her classes were in the maximum-security men's prison. Cook was the first woman employee "inside the wall" of the prison in its hundred years of operation.

After two years at the prison, Cook moved to Monterrey, Mexico to teach English and work part-time at the United States Consulate in that city. While living in Mexico, she wanted a career change and decided to go back to school and was accepted at the University of Idaho College of Law beginning in 1970. (At the time, women students were so rare that there was no rest room for women law students.)

There were five women law students at the University of Idaho in the class of 1973, but only four graduated. Two took the Idaho Bar. Cook and Lucinda Weiss (No. 43 on this list) sat for the Idaho Bar and on November 1, 1973, were admitted. The other two women law graduates – Dolores Cooper and JoAnn Henderson (now a member of the faculty at the University of Idaho College of Law) – took and passed the Washington bar that same year.

After graduation, Cook returned to Idaho Falls and worked as both as a prosecutor and in a general law practice which included some criminal defense. In January of 1976, she was appointed to the position of Magistrate Judge for Bonneville County. Since that

appointment, Cook has been re-elected every four years. As such, Cook currently ranks fourth in seniority in Idaho's judiciary.



Aside from her duties on the bench, Cook has been professionally involved in civic affairs. In 1993, she was appointed to the Idaho Traffic Safety Commission, which reviews and awards grants for safety projects including bicycle helmets and equipment for rural paramedic units. In 1995, she became a member of the Idaho Supreme Court's Fairness and Equality Committee, which addresses issues of bias such as race and gender in the courts and legal system. In 1995, she was appointed by Governor Phil Batt to the Governor's Task Force for Children at Risk and was subsequently reappointed by Governor Kempthorne. She continues to serve in these positions. Cook previously has been involved in local organizations including H.E.L.P., Inc. a child abuse agency, the Domestic Violence Intervention Center, and on the board of directors of the Bonneville Historical Society.

Cook is interested in history and enjoys traveling to historic sites, including battlefields of the Civil War and the Nez Perce War and following historical trails across America. She also has traveled abroad, especially in England, Scotland, Bosnia and Poland. Cook enjoys reading about places and cultures, and then traveling to these places for a first-hand experience.

# 43

## LUCINDA WEISS November 1, 1973

**Lucinda Weiss** was born in 1950 in Akron, Ohio. She attended school in Akron and graduated in 1967 from Old Trail School. Thereafter, Weiss attended The College of Wooster, in Wooster, Ohio, where she originally studied chemistry.

Around this same time Weiss' parents both became public school teachers and applied for summer study fellowships across the country. Weiss' father received a Masters fellowship for three summers (1968-70) at the University of Idaho. Since major race riots were expected to erupt in Weiss' hometown of Akron during the summer of 1969, her parents insisted that she join them in Moscow for the summer. After finishing her sophomore year at Wooster, Weiss joined her parents in Moscow and enrolled in summer school at the UI to keep herself occupied.

During the summer of 1969, Weiss interviewed at the College of Law "for practice." Interestingly, Weiss asked Dean Menard whether the law school encouraged women to apply, and he answered "no." When pressed by Weiss why not, "words failed him." Also during that summer, Weiss "met and fell in love with an undergrad" and transferred to the University of Idaho in July. She reversed that transfer in August, however, once she learned that she had enough credits to be senior at Wooster, but would only be junior at the University of Idaho. Weiss returned for her third and final year at Wooster, changing her course of study from chemistry to political science and French culture. She took a political science course on civil liberties and, after taking a second course

on Constitutional law from the same lawyer-professor, "loved it enough to switch majors."



Given that the Kent State killings happened only "45 miles up the road" in the spring of 1970, Weiss decided that law sounded like a good way to get into "the system" and change things for the better. As Weiss describes things, "my radical bent needed a more conservative outlet than protest marches (and getting beaten up or arrested)." Weiss applied to one law school, the University of Idaho, and got in. Shortly thereafter, she and her boyfriend at the University of Idaho broke up. Weiss says, "I was stuck, and it has been one of the luckier things that ever happened to me."

In 1970, Weiss began her studies at the University of Idaho College of Law. Weiss excelled academically in law school and served on the *Idaho Law Review*. In 1972, she became the first woman at the University of Idaho to participate in Boise Cascade's law internship program – intentionally or not, setting her on a corporate career path.

Weiss graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1973, and was admitted to practice law in Idaho on November 1, 1973. Her first job as a lawyer was with the small general practice firm of Bandelin & Featherstone (later Bandelin & Associates) in Sandpoint. Then, in 1974, at the age of 24,

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Weiss was elected prosecuting attorney for Bonner County – making her one of the youngest prosecutors in the nation and only one of three women elected to such a position nationwide that year.

Weiss recalls that one particularly “unusual first” for her was to be defense counsel in the first jury trial in North Idaho with women counsel charring opposing sides. Sandra Youngmans (No. 44 on this list) was plaintiff’s counsel. As such, the local press dubbed the case as the “Cindy and Sandy show.”

In 1976, while Weiss was serving as Bonner County’s prosecuting attorney, she made a trip home to Akron to visit her ailing father. That trip proved to be a pivotal moment in her career. During the visit, Weiss had lunch with a family friend and after what seemed like an informal chatting session over sandwiches, learned that her lunch was actually an interview for a position as a lawyer at The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. To her surprise, Weiss got a phone call a few days later asking her to come in for a second interview. Weiss’ response, “I did not even know I had the first one.”

Weiss joined the Law Department of Goodyear in 1976, making her the first woman attorney in the tire industry. That began a more than 25-year career in law and management at the world-renowned tire company, which now conducts business in more than 60 countries and on six continents. Weiss has served in several legal assignments at Goodyear, as well as becoming Director of Real Estate in 1991. Returning to the Law Department in 1996, Weiss heads Goodyear’s ethics program. In that role, she has led the effort to “globalize” the ethics program and expand it into sectors of Goodyear covered by

collective bargaining agreements. Her main practice areas are global trade practices and Goodyear’s aviation products business.

Outside of her regular work, Weiss has a passion for the professional and educational development of others. She co-founded and was the first president of the Women’s Initiatives in Leadership, Goodyear’s mentoring and leadership development group. Weiss was also a four-year member of the University of Idaho’s College of Law inaugural Law Advisory Council, a group of law professionals dedicated to investigating how UI’s law program should progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Weiss is also an active civic volunteer and community leader for many organizations. She has served as a trustee of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Junior League of Akron, Summit County Historical Society, Old Trail School and the P.W. Litchfield Awards Association, and has held various offices in each of these and many other organizations. Weiss was appointed by Summit County, Ohio, to the Board of the Akron-Canton Regional Airport Authority, where she is in her third term as an airport trustee. Akron Canton is the fastest growing airport in the United States.

On her birthday in 2003, the University of Idaho presented Weiss with its Silver & Gold Award, which recognizes graduates with distinguished records of achievement and service in their specialized area of endeavor, thus bringing honor and recognition to the University. In 2004, she was inducted into the Executive Order of Ohio Commodores by Governor Taft, in recognition of contributions to the economic development of the state of Ohio.

# 44

## SANDRA LEE YOUNGHANS

April 19, 1974

**Sandra Lee Younghans** was born on March 3, 1943, in St. Paul, Minnesota. When she was in high school, Younghans' parents moved to Colorado and she graduated from high school. Younghans married young, had a daughter and began college at the University of Colorado in 1965. Before her graduation from college in 1969, however, she unexpectedly found herself going through a divorce. She recalls feeling very vulnerable and frightened, and the experience of the divorce made her aware that she didn't have many rights and was easily "pushed around." Determined to find a measure of safety and financial security for the future, Younghans looked to the law.

In the late 1960s, women were encouraged to enter two professions – teaching and nursing. But, Younghans recalls, there were a few women doing other things, including the law, and that was enough for her to think "it was possible" to become a lawyer. Determined but a little frightened, Younghans entered the University of Denver School of Law in 1969. Her first year class was comprised approximately 2-3% women. Younghans studied diligently, and in 1972 graduated with her Juris Doctor. Thereafter, she took and passed the Colorado bar in 1973.

After earning her law degree Younghans was looking to move someplace new and to "get back to nature" (recalling this was the early 1970s). She considered Oregon, but settled on north Idaho for its majestic natural beauty. On April 19, 1974, Younghans was admitted to practice in Idaho and went to work for Nixon, Nixon, Lyons & Bell in Bonners Ferry. She recalls her early experience at the

firm as "sink or swim" and was very thankful that the firm had good legal secretaries to help her through some difficult times. She litigated both criminal and civil matters for the firm – because "no one else liked doing trial work"— and eventually found herself doing more and more family law matters.



While in Bonners Ferry, Younghans began developing clients and a solid practice, but missed her daughter who had remained in Colorado with her ex-husband. Unwilling to be apart from her daughter any longer, Younghans decided to move back to Colorado in 1975 and resigned her active license in Idaho in September 1975. Upon returning to Colorado, Younghans opened her own practice, Wollrab & Younghans, P.C., in Boulder, Colorado, from 1975-1981, and later became a partner in the firm of Grant, McHendire, Haines & Crouse in Denver. In all, she was in private practice in Colorado for 25 years specializing in personal injury and family law.

Since retiring from the active practice of law in 1997, Younghans has been involved in numerous non-profit organizations. She is the past president of Women's Choice and is currently on the Ethics Board of Hospice of Boulder County. Younghans has served on the board of Boulder Valley Women's Health Center, Help Out Inc., The Interdisciplinary Board of Attorneys and Mental Health Experts for Boulder County, and Leadership

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Boulder. Most of her time is currently spent working with Friendship Bridge, a loan program for women and children in Guatemala. In 2004, Younghans received the Boulder Resource Center award for Women Who Make a Difference.

When asked about her work with Friendship Bridge, Younghans explains:

I have worked for the rights of women and children throughout my law career. Friendship Bridge gives me the opportunity to retire from my job and go further into my life's work. I am so privileged to work with an

organization that does international work for women in such a personal manner.

Younghans has also been very active in her community, serving as president of the Downtown Denver Residents and she was active in the development of downtown Denver.

Younghans is married with one grown daughter and currently lives in Boulder, Colorado.

# 45

## MYRNA ANNE ITZEN STAHPMAN

October 3, 1974

**Myrna Anne Itzen Stahman** was born in Wheaton, Minnesota, where her parents were grain farmers. She was the fifth of six children. Stahman attended Hamline University and graduated from the University of Minnesota, Morris, earning a B.A. with distinction. In 1967, she married Robert Stahman. She and Bob served in the Peace Corp in Liberia, West Africa, from 1968-70.

Upon her return to the United States, Stahman enrolled at the University of Idaho College of Law. After graduating from law school in 1974, both she and Bob joined the Army. Stahman served in the Judge Advocate Generals Corps, Third Armored Division in Frankfurt, Germany and was one of the first 25 female Army JAGC attorneys. While in Germany, Stahman's daughter Kayla was born. Kayla, following her mother's example, is now a graduate of Stanford Law School and is practicing law in Washington, D.C. A son, Jeff, was born after the Stahman family moved to Boise. Jeff, a graduate of Kansas State University, interned in golf course management in New Zealand, sharing his mother's interests in distant people and places.

In 1977, Stahman moved to Boise and went to work at the Idaho Attorney General's Office, starting in the Consumer Protection Division. In 1981, Stahman transferred to the Criminal Division Appellate Unit of the Idaho Attorney General's Office, a position she held for 24 years until her retirement in November 2004. During the course of her long career at the Attorney General's Office she received published appellate opinions in 580 cases and hundreds more unpublished opinions. Over

that same time frame, she taught numerous classes at the bi-annual Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys meetings and at the annual



judicial education meetings for district and magistrate judges.

In 1996, Stahman enjoyed a special assignment in Washington, D.C. as a Supreme Court Fellow with the National Association of Attorneys General. During her fellowship she had the opportunity to attend all United States Supreme Court arguments and assisted states attorneys preparing for oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Shortly after her return to Idaho she wrote an amicus curie brief on a case of interest to the development of criminal law in Idaho.

Stahman is an accomplished knitter, specializing in lacy shawls. She is frequently invited to teach knitting classes all around the United States and has also spent time in New Zealand and Australia working with wool growers and knitters. Stahman not only knits shawls, but she also designs patterns. In 2000, she published *Stahman's Shawls and Scarves: Lace Faroese-Shaped Shawls From the Neck Down and Seaman's Scarves*, a collection of her original designs. Her second book, *Variations on a Theme* will likely be published in 2005.

Stahman is a long-time advocate for young people and for women in the Boise

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community. She has been active in the Girl Scouts and in school literacy programs; she has gathered contributions for the Women's and Children's Alliance, and lent her hand to those attempting to improve services to victims of domestic violence throughout the state. She is an active member of the Zonta Club, an international service organization focused on improving the status of women worldwide. Several years ago Stahman designed a dressing wire kit for knitters, which has been manufactured and sold nationwide by the Boise Zonta Club ever since, with proceeds funding several international service projects, including a scholarship at the Lester B. Pearson World College. Stahman's ingenuity did not stop there, however. Approximately a year ago, she developed a service project in which the Boise Zonta Club purchased looms in New Zealand and had them shipped to Chrissiemeer, South Africa. There, a skilled and dedicated spinner/knitter/weaver teaches native South Africans to spin, weave, and knit; skills they use to support their families.

In addition to all the accomplishments summarized above, Stahman is a steadfast friend to many people. Her unwavering

support has helped a lot of individuals through the hard times of their lives.

Reflecting on Stahman's life and career, former Idaho Supreme Court Justice Robert Bakes says:

Myrna Stahman was a product of the 1970s. She was one of those dedicated idealists who committed themselves to public service. She served several years in the Peace Corps in Africa, and then came to Boise where she was Assistant Attorney General handling criminal appeals before the Supreme Court. She handled dozens of criminal cases before the Supreme Court, and was a strong law and order advocate for the prosecution. As a result she often disagreed with, and engaged in spirited arguments with Justice Bistline, who was an advocate for the rights of the criminal defendant. To her credit, Myrna stood her ground and was not intimidated by questions from the Justices.

Stahman retired from the practice of law on November 1, 2004 and lives in Boise.

# 46

## CASSANDRA LEE FURR DUNN

October 11, 1974

**Cassandra Lee Furr Dunn** was born on June 26, 1932 in Pinehurst, North Carolina, one of thirteen children in her family. As Dunn describes it, “I was the only one [in my family] who got past the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Neither parent could read or write and we lived in a shack on the side of a mountain when I was growing up. I remembered what it was like to be dirt poor.” Dunn’s mother was “full” Cherokee and her father was half Shoshone and Dutch, making her “three-quarters” Native American.

Dunn recalls that her childhood was marked with abuse from her alcoholic father. Desperate to leave the “strange people” she called her family, in 1947, at the age of 15, she hitchhiked her way to Washington, D.C. Along the way, Dunn met a truck driver whom she later married. Dunn worked during the day and took classes at night to complete her high school education. On January 1, 1951, Dunn gave birth to her daughter, Kelly Dunn and, on the same day, her husband abandoned her.

Determined to make a better life for her daughter, Dunn sought education wherever she could, including “sneaking” college classes at George Washington University because she did not have the money to pay for them. Unfortunately, she was thrown out of those classes more than once, with the last time being the most memorable. Dunn recalls that she was sitting in class at GWU when two men came to “escort” her to leave, and one asked her “what the hell makes you think YOU can go to school?” At that moment, at the age of 20, Dunn decided that she was “sick and tired of being treated like a third-

class citizen” and had to find a way “to do something” – that something, she would later learn, would be to become a lawyer.

Dunn left Washington, D.C. with her young daughter for Los Angeles in 1952. Having no money, she hitchhiked her way across the country, working at various “car hops” to pay her way. Once she made it to Los Angeles, she decided to move north to San Francisco, but when she got to Fresno she fell ill and had to stay. In 1954, she met and married her second husband and together they had a son, Edmund. Unfortunately, Edmund developed polio shortly before the Salk vaccine was discovered, leaving him severely handicapped. More bad luck fell upon Dunn when she discovered that her husband was a child molester, causing her to leave him immediately and raise her two young children alone. Dunn took in sewing at night to meet the medical bills.

Although she was extremely busy raising her children and working three jobs (secretary, car hop and cosmetic salesperson), Dunn’s desire “to do something” had not waned. After flirting with the idea of going to medical school, but getting absolutely no help, Dunn decided that she wanted to become a lawyer. She knew, however, that she needed a college education to get into a law school. Fortunately, California was one of the few states that offered a college equivalency test to fulfill this requirement for graduate studies.



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Dunn took the test and received a “95.2%” – an outstanding score that she modestly discounts today. With that score, Dunn applied to and was accepted at Humphrey’s College of Law in Fresno, California, in 1959 (the same year she learned her husband had formally divorced her). For four years, Dunn worked at numerous jobs during the day (and at night when she didn’t have class), attended law school at night and raised her children as a single parent. She graduated from law school in 1963, and on January 6, 1964, was admitted to the California State Bar.

Dunn recalls that she could not get a legal job after law school. Although qualified, employers would say that they couldn’t hire her because the secretaries in the office or their wives would “get upset.” So, Dunn opened a one-room office next to the Fresno County courthouse and sat in courtrooms waiting to be assigned cases as a public defender for \$25 per case. After “beating the socks off” the district attorney for almost nine months, the Fresno County District Attorney offered her a job with a salary of \$620 per month. Dunn was wary of the offer, mostly because of the thirteen men in the office who had never treated her well, but she saw this as an opportunity. Her wariness proved well founded.

In August 1964, Dunn went to work as the first woman attorney for the Fresno County District Attorney’s office, handling all types of criminal prosecutions. While she was successful in court, she was treated very badly by her fellow attorneys, investigators, law enforcement personnel and even the (female) secretaries. Sexual harassment and discrimination was the norm: she was propositioned and pinched by lawyers and judges alike. Dunn recalls a judge informing her that he was cutting a statutory probate fee on a case she was handling, but not her male co-counsel’s fees, because “he had a family to feed.” At the time, of course, Dunn was a

single mother of two small children, one of whom was handicapped with special needs.

By 1966, Dunn had had enough of the District Attorney’s office and left to open her own private practice where she handled criminal defense work and an increasing amount of civil work. Dunn’s luck seems to have turned the corner during this time, as she met and married Don Kendall, a real estate developer, in 1968. They were married, until his death, for 25 happy years. Also during this time, Dunn was contacted by Native American groups to represent them in various, high-profile demonstration matters throughout the state, including the Native American occupation of a PG&E facility in Shasta County. In so doing, Dunn became a leading Native American attorney in California, attracting national attention. So much so, that in 1971 the White House called (actually John Ehrlichman) and offered her a job at the Environmental Protection Agency. Initially, she didn’t believe the call and hung up on Ehrlichman saying, “sure, this is the Queen of England.” But, after the mix-up was resolved, Dunn accepted the offer.

In 1971, Dunn went to work in San Francisco as Chief Legal Counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV (the first woman to hold that position) under President Nixon. In her position at the EPA, Dunn was responsible for setting up hearing procedures throughout the west (Region IV), including trips to Idaho. After one such trip, Dunn decided to move to Idaho where she worked in Boise (for the EPA) and rented a house in Boise. Her husband stayed in Fresno, flying back and forth in his own plane. As Dunn describes it, he understood that she was “kind of a nomad” and liked to move from place to place. On October 11, 1974, Dunn was admitted to practice in Idaho. While in Idaho, Dunn worked on setting up procedures for hearings on environmental issues associated with the

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Snake River, and also recalls issues dealing with potato and sugar beet processors.

In 1975 Dunn decided to move to Santa Fe, New Mexico – another place she had visited during her EPA travels – and, therefore, resigned her active Idaho license. She passed the New Mexico bar exam in 1975. “There were no women lawyers in New Mexico” when she arrived, Dunn recalls. And, a year later, there were even less women attorneys in New Mexico as Dunn decided to move back to California. Upon her return to California, Dunn left the EPA and started a private practice in Fresno. She received the Bronze Medal for Commendable Service for her work at the EPA. Dunn remained in private practice in Fresno until her retirement, and along the way also became a real estate broker and investor.

Having come a long way from the days of sneaking into college classes, Dunn has lectured at numerous universities in the West and Hawaii and taught American Indian Law

at California State University in Fresno. She has also lectured at Hastings College of Law, Stanford University, American Waterworks Association, the National Association of Shopping Center Developers and “so many it is hard to even remember most of them.” Dunn has participated in a myriad of professional activities, including sitting as Judge of the Juvenile Court in Fresno County, California, writing law columns in newspapers, and serving on California State Attorney General task forces.

Dunn currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but true to her self-described “nomad” ways, is planning to relocate to a “house on the hill” in San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico within the year, which, she says, will be her “last stop.” She is currently writing a book chronicling some of the struggles she faced personally and professionally throughout her life entitled *Laughing Through the Tears*. Dunn hopes that, “perhaps it [the book] may be of inspiration to those many young women lawyers to come.”

# 47

## URSULA IRMGARD KETTLEWELL SPILGER

October 11, 1974

**Ursula Irmgard Kettlewell Spilger** was born on October 26, 1940 in Germany. In 1953, when she was 13, her family immigrated to the United States because her father, a German scientist, was invited by the U.S. government to work in the space program. Spilger attended the University of California at Berkeley and graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in German and Humanities. In the following year she received her teaching credential from Berkeley.

When her husband, Richard Kettlewell, took a job at Boise Cascade in 1968, Spilger settled in Boise. Soon she became involved in Ada County politics and met several lawyers. During that time she also took a Business Law class at Boise State University that she found fascinating. That interest grew through many discussions with her political lawyer friends about topics covered in the Business Law class. Another exposure to the legal practice happened in 1969, when her father died unexpectedly and she worked with a lawyer handling his estate.

Spilger decided to go to law school in 1971 with the encouragement of an informal group of women friends who assembled to study the feminist movement. Because she was living in Boise at the time, she applied to the University of Idaho. Recently divorced and with two small children, ages 3 and 6, Spilger began her studies at the University of Idaho College of Law, one of about 12 women in her class.

After her first year, Spilger clerked for the summer at the Boise law firm of Eberle Berlin. Ted Eberle hired her as a clerk after having worked with her on a project before law school.



Spilger graduated law school in 1974. She immediately sat for the Idaho Bar and on October 11, 1974, Spilger was admitted as the 47<sup>th</sup> woman in Idaho. After graduation, she went to work at the Idaho Attorney General's office working as a Deputy Attorney General in natural resources division. Focusing primarily on natural resource litigation, Spilger traveled throughout the state. But, she recalls, that not once during the five years that she did this work all over Idaho did she see another woman lawyer in court – not as opposing counsel, not as third-party counsel and certainly not as a judge.

Being a Democrat, Spilger says that she was lucky to survive the transition from a Democrat to Republican Attorney General, but was not so lucky when the second Republican Attorney General was elected. She left the Attorney General's office in March 1979 to teach business law at BSU. While there, Spilger took business classes and eventually earned an MBA.

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In 1988, after remarrying, Spilger moved to Houston, Texas, with her husband and decided to go back to law school for her advanced degrees. She graduated from the University of Houston-Downtown with a double LL.M. in International Economic Law and Environmental Law in 1991.

Spilger began teaching full-time at the University of Houston-Downtown in 1990, and continues to teach there today. In 1998, Spilger began serving as the director of the UHD-Model United Nations program. She also regularly teaches International Law and

German law at a German University in Mosbach, the Berufs Akademi Mosbach. In fact, Spilger will miss the Bar's tribute to the First 50 Women admitted in Idaho on March 10, 2005, because she will be teaching in Germany for most of the month of March 2005.

In addition to her career successes, Spilger is also an accomplished athlete having regularly participated in triathlons and marathons.

# 48

## KRISTIE KUNAU STAFFORD

October 11, 1974

**Kristie Kunau Stafford** was born in Burley, Idaho, in 1949 into a ranching and farming family. She has three brothers and one sister. Stafford grew up and went to school in Burley, graduating from high school in 1967. She says, “I did all the normal kids things growing up, but I was a ‘cowboy’ from the day I got my first pony until the last time I got on a horse in 1992.” She describes her childhood on the family ranch and farm as “hard work, but fun.”

Stafford began college immediately after high school at the University of Colorado in Boulder studying journalism, but eventually changed her major to political science. After two and a half years there, she decided to transfer to the University of Idaho in 1969 (a “much more peaceful and congenial place”). Stafford spent a semester on World Campus Afloat (now Semester at Sea), seeing Asia and Africa and experiencing the world.

In 1971, during the second semester of her senior year, several of Stafford’s friends persuaded her that she should join them in law school. She took the LSAT and applied, and was accepted at the University of Idaho College of Law.

Stafford married Ken Stafford in the summer of 1971 and the two started law school at the University of Idaho together (one of two married couples in the law school, Bob and Myrna Stahman (No. 45 on this list) being the other). After a year, however, Ken decided to pursue economics and left the law school for graduate work in economics. Stafford remained at the law school as one of only nine

women in her class of 120 and one of its youngest members.

Stafford graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1974 and immediately sat for the Idaho Bar exam. She was admitted to practice on October 11, 1974.



Stafford decided to practice in Moscow because her husband had been offered a job in information technology at the University of Idaho. In January 1975 she opened her own practice, sharing an office with Lloyd Martinson, a well-respected attorney in Moscow. Martinson acted as Stafford’s mentor for many years, and was always willing to share his files, forms and knowledge. In the fall of 1974, the law school hired Stafford to teach one section of first-year legal writing, an experience Stafford now describes as “excruciating . . . for both my students and myself.”

In November 1974, Stafford was appointed the Latah County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, a part-time job she held for over eleven years. In early 1986, she retired from the prosecutor’s office to spend all of her time in private practice.

In 1989, Stafford and her husband moved to Maryland, where Ken became a vice-president at the University of Maryland. Stafford was hired by the U.S. Justice Department as an “attorney-advisor” for the U.S. Parole

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Commission. She spent four “wonderful years” there, defending the government in habeas corpus, mandamus and damages actions, and generally keeping criminals who belonged there in prison. Stafford says that two high points in her Parole Commission career were being the lead attorney on the “Tylenol poison” case, and arguing a special parole case before the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals (which she won).

After her term at the Parole Commission expired, she found herself as the University of Maryland System “Director of Special Gifts” and in-house counsel for the University of Maryland Foundation – “a whole new world.” As Director of Special Gifts, Stafford was responsible for the location, acquisition, management and taking care of all legal issues involved in real property and other non-monetary gifts for the System and the various institutions. She also provided legal advice to the Foundation, and assisted the individual institutions (12 of them at that time) in acquiring gifts. Stafford established some basic rules for property gifts (like mortgaged property is not acceptable), taught classes on property law, gifts and planned giving to the fundraisers at the institutions, and worked with potential donors.

Stafford was required to become a Maryland attorney and, therefore, “had the privilege of taking the Maryland Bar for practicing attorneys.” She passed and then waived into the District of Columbia Bar – “which was much easier.”

Stafford says that she and Ken,

Had some great times in Maryland. We lived between Washington and Baltimore, and we took advantage of everything there was to do, see and participate in from Pennsylvania to southern Virginia – sight-seeing, museums, events, including President Clinton’s first inauguration,

Gettysburg Civil War enactments, and community events and shows. We saw great works of art, history galore, met some of the politicians we only see on television, and generally, had a wonderful time for almost ten years.

In 1999, the Staffords moved to Denver when Ken was named Vice Chancellor for Technology for the University of Denver. In so doing, Stafford was required to take another exam — the professional responsibility test that she had managed to avoid until then. Again, she passed and became an active member in four different Bar associations, all with different rules and requirements for CLEs.

After some searching and “excellent luck,” Stafford was hired as general counsel for a dot.com start-up, which “was lots of fun for about six months, until we ran out of money.” She then had the “dubious pleasure” of closing the company and handling all of the creditor and employee lawsuits for the next year.

Stafford then found herself as general counsel for a group of private corporations, all owned by two people. She currently operates between 12 and 14 companies that include everything from escrow services to scientific research, which keeps her very busy.

Reflecting on her more than thirty years of practice, Stafford says:

I have had what can only be termed a very eclectic career, but I’ve had many opportunities to do many different things within the law profession, and I have seldom, if ever, been bored in any of the various careers I have had.

Stafford and her husband currently live in Colorado where they enjoy all that the outdoors have to offer. They spend their summers off-roading in their Jeep, looking at

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gorgeous scenery, taking pictures, and occasionally having an adventure. Stafford reports that she has “walked within two feet of a mountain goat, watched big-horn sheep

bang heads, and taken thousands of pictures of mountains, wild flowers, trees, and animals. My only regret is that I have yet to see a bear.”

# 49

## DEBORAH ANN BAIL

April 11, 1975

**Deborah Ann Bail** was born in 1949 in Wichita, Kansas. Although her family moved a few times, she was mostly raised in Wichita. Bail's father was an engineer and her mother was trained as an archeologist.

Growing up, Bail was torn between studying medicine and law. Her family was very supportive of her and never believed that there was anything a woman could not or should not do. In fact, her family was very supportive of a woman seeking higher education. Her father's sisters were heads of college English departments and one of her relatives, Margaret Brent, was the first woman in the United States to perform legal services. (She represented the Royal Governors of Maryland and Virginia in the 1600s.) Yet another of Bail's ancestors was George Washington's lawyer and Thomas Jefferson's law partner. So, law may have been her destiny.

Just as Bail was graduating high school, her father got a job in Hawaii. It was in Hawaii that Bail held one of her more unusual summer jobs: she worked in a pineapple cannery in Honolulu.

Bail attended the University of Hawaii from 1967-69 and then Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971. Immediately thereafter, she enrolled in Northwestern School of Law in Portland, Oregon, from which she graduated in 1974. After law school Bail took and passed the Oregon bar, thinking that she would live and practice there (although she also had an offer to practice in Hawaii).

In 1974, Bail received a two-year Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship, the first graduate of

Northwestern to do so. This competitive, nationwide fellowship sought to foster the

creative use of the law to aid the poor by helping attorneys work for a year or two in a legal services office. The fellowship brought Bail to Boise, but too late to take the summer Idaho Bar. She took the Bar the next spring and on April 11, 1975, Bail was admitted to practice law in Idaho. Bail recalls that when she came to Boise, she was "the first new woman [lawyer] in a while" and when she went to the law library to check out a book, Idaho State Law Librarian Laura Pershing informed her "only lawyers could check out books."



While working under her fellowship, Bail represented disadvantaged clients in all areas, including consumer programs, family relationships, contracts, government housing and charitable organizations, and had both trial and appellate experience. Also during this time, Bail worked to establish Emergency Housing Services, the first shelter for homeless/battered women and their children in Idaho. Given all this, Bail was awarded a rare third year of fellowship. When her fellowship was complete, Bail was offered a position with the United States Attorney's office and went to work, instead, to develop legal services for the elderly in Idaho. She set up various programs and conducted the first

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comprehensive study of the utilization of legal services by the elderly Idaho. The project was a joint project with the Office of Aging and Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc., and required that Bail participate in a wide range of activities including the preparation of funding applications, training of lay advocates, and seminars on legal rights of the elderly. The following year, Bail decided that administrative work was not that challenging and went back to her “first love, trial work.”

Beginning in 1978, Bail began work as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Idaho where she prosecuted federal crimes and represented the United States in civil matters arising in Idaho before the Idaho state and federal courts and criminal appeals to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In so doing, she gained a tremendous amount of trial experience and respect from her colleagues.

In the early 1980s, Bail became interested in becoming a judge and applied for an open position through the Judicial Council. Although Alan Schwartzman ultimately filled that position, Bail had made the “final cut” of names given to the Governor. When the next judicial position became open two years later, Bail was better known by the Judicial Council and familiar with the selection process. On February 23, 1983, Governor John V. Evans called to inform Bail that he had selected her to be Idaho’s first woman district court judge. Two months later, on April 18, 1983, Bail took the oath of office. Justice Bakes recalls that when Governor Evans swore her in, he pointed out that she was appropriately named after one of the women judges in the Old Testament.

Bail has held the position of Fourth Judicial District Court Judge continuously from 1983 to the present. During her long tenure on the state’s busiest bench, Bail has handled numerous complex and criminal cases, including the recent (albeit long-lasting) high

profile and complex constitutional challenge to public school funding that has involved several trips back and forth to the Idaho State Supreme Court and the Idaho Legislature’s attempt to resolve the lawsuit through legislation. Bail has been active in cutting the wait for trial after the filing of a civil case, and has substantially reduced delay in criminal proceedings. She has developed the statewide trial court’s procedures for handling child witnesses and has been an active supporter of victim’s rights. In addition to her duties on the trial court bench, Bail has served as a pro tem judge with the Idaho Supreme Court and the Idaho Court of Appeals.

Bail’s professional associations are many. In addition to being a member of the Oregon, Idaho, Ninth Circuit and United States Supreme Court bars, Bail is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and served as Secretary Treasurer for District 13 in 1987. She is a 1983 graduate of the National Judicial College, General Jurisdiction, served as a Faculty Advisor in 1987 to the National Judicial College, and is member of the American Judicature Society and the American Inns of Court. In addition, Bail has served on a number of court committees, including the Idaho Supreme Court’s Judicial Fairness Committee, the Judicial Education Committee, the Criminal Jury Instructions Committee and the Gender Fairness Task Force. She is the former Chair of the Idaho Law Foundation’s Law Related Education Committee, and is currently serving on the Idaho Civil Rules Committee. Bail also lectures for the Idaho New Judges’ Training Program and the Fifth Judicial District on handling child witnesses. She served as Secretary of the Idaho District Judge’s Association in 1995, and as its President from 1996-1997.

Bail has been involved with a similarly long list of community activities, including establishing Emergency Housing Services, Inc., a shelter for battered and homeless

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women and children, and giving numerous seminars for lay people on legal issues, and she served on church and civic boards. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, the first woman member of the Rotary Club of Boise, a Member of the St. Luke's CARES Advisory Board, PAD, Law Related Education Advisor for Idaho, and a volunteer overnight host at the St. Michael's Pocket Shelter for homeless families.

In May 1986, the Idaho March of Dimes honored Bail for her outstanding community service by giving her the "White Rose Award."

Bail is the proud mother of one daughter, Elizabeth Ruth Basanti Bail, and describes herself as an "avid golfer and soccer mom."

# 50

## JOSEPHINE PICKFORD BEEMAN September 30, 1975

**Josephine Pickford Beeman** was born in 1947, a fifth generation native to Fresno, California, one of four daughters and has an identical twin. Beeman and her twin sister were co-*valedictorians* of their high school graduating class in 1965.

Beeman excelled in school, receiving her undergraduate degree in biology from Stanford University in 1969 and her Masters degree in biology from the University of Oregon in 1970. Then, while working on her doctorate in biology, she felt that she needed to get out of the laboratory to get the type of job she had always been drawn to – one with greater opportunities to shape broad policies. Beeman decided to go to law school, receiving her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon in 1975. Notably, Beeman entered law school in the fall of 1972, just a few months after the Watergate scandal became public, making for a memorable first-year constitutional law class. The politics of the time also made for a memorable wedding date – the day after President Richard Nixon resigned – to her first husband Kelly Beeman.

Beeman came to Idaho immediately after graduating from law school with her husband. Only eight women took the Idaho Bar examination with her in 1975, and Beeman was admitted with four of them on September 30, 1975. Although Beeman says she never really found it difficult to practice at a time when few women chose law as a career, she does recall an early hearing in Salmon, Idaho,

where she appeared with a male expert witness, and the judge assumed they were there to be married.

In her thirty years of practice, Beeman has successfully integrated her



science background into her legal practice by specializing in water law. After a short stint at Boise Cascade, Beeman became the first attorney at the Idaho Department of Water Resources in 1976, where she worked for fourteen years. She went into private practice in 1990 and eventually formed her own law firm in Boise in 1997. Her present law firm, Beeman and Associates, takes on some of the most demanding water rights adjudications. Her professional work includes a United States Supreme Court case affecting title to 11 million acres of land in the West and numerous appellate cases on water law in Idaho. Blending her technical background with her legal expertise, Beeman is, as former Idaho Supreme Court Justice Robert Bakes describes her, “an accomplished water lawyer.”

Beeman is married to Michael Gilmore, also an attorney, and has four wonderful daughters, Kimberly, Katherine, Hillary and Laura. Kimberly’s college graduation in 2001 marked the fifth generation of women college graduates in Beeman’s family.

# 51

## RITA THERESE REUSCH September 30, 1975

**Rita Therese Reusch** was born in 1948 in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul. She attended Macalester College in St. Paul and the University of Minnesota, from which she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1972. Reusch knew by her sophomore year of college that she was very interested in the way law worked and wanted to go to law school. She moved to Idaho to attend the University of Idaho College of Law, where she graduated first in her class in 1975.

On September 30, 1975, she was admitted to practice law in Idaho. Immediately thereafter, Reusch clerked two years for Justice Robert E. Bakes at the Idaho Supreme Court. Justice Bakes says, “Rita was an extremely talented young woman with a keen analytical mind and a penchant for legal research.” After her clerkship, Reusch attended the University of Washington School of Librarianship and, in 1978, received a Masters in Law Librarianship. She since has held many prominent positions as law librarian and professor at the University of Idaho College of Law, the University of North Dakota School of Law, and most recently at the University of Utah College of

Law. Reusch has taught a variety of subjects, including legal writing, legal research, and intellectual property.

Reusch is an active and well-respected member of her profession. She has served on professional committees for the American Association of Libraries, the Association of American Law Schools, the American Bar Association, and the Research Libraries Group, among many others. Reusch is a frequent speaker and has authored several publications on the topics of legal research and law library management.

Reusch and her husband, Jesse Trentadue, married the night before law school graduation. They are celebrating their thirtieth wedding anniversary in 2005. Their daughter Anna is a second year law student at the University of San Francisco and their son Jesse is a senior at Carlton College in Minnesota.

Reusch lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.



# 52

## KAREN JEAN ORNDORFF VEHLOW September 30, 1975

**Karen Jean Orndorff Vehlow** was born on December 6, 1948, in Chicago, Illinois, the youngest of three children to Harvey and Dorothy Orndorff. During her childhood, Vehlow's father was a successful investment banker and stockbroker. At the age of six, Vehlow and her family moved to a "farm" in Barrington, Illinois, where her mother operated a dog boarding business, along with a Christmas and nursery tree farm. Attending public schools in Palatine, Illinois, Vehlow participated in student council, band, tutoring services, and a myriad of clubs, graduating from high school in 1967. Horses have always been important to Vehlow and her involvement and interest in them continues to this day.

Vehlow completed her undergraduate studies in humanities and pre-law at Michigan State University, and proceeded directly to Wayne State University School of Law in Detroit, Michigan. Despite the immediate path chosen, Vehlow did not plan on becoming a lawyer, she simply wanted to "get educated." The first year class at Wayne State consisted of ten women out of approximately 220 students, but being in the minority did not deter Vehlow from her pursuit of an advanced degree. Rejecting the typical clerking and research assistant positions, she instead taught swimming and was employed as a lifeguard during law school. Upon graduating from Wayne State in 1973, Vehlow worked for two years with Wayne County (Detroit) Legal Services representing and assisting those in extreme poverty.

At the encouragement of her brother, Owen Orndorff, an attorney for Boise Cascade,

Vehlow moved to Boise.

On September 30, 1975, Vehlow was admitted to practice law in Idaho and began a position as the first female Ada County Deputy Prosecutor.

At that time Vehlow recalls that there were only twelve female attorneys in all of Idaho, and thus her employment with Ada County caused quite a stir and even made the front page of the *Idaho Statesman*. Two short years later, with a well-rounded background of poverty, civil, and criminal law, Vehlow prevailed over thirteen male competitors in 1977 to be appointed as the first female magistrate in Ada County at the age of twenty-seven.

Not long after her initial appointment and re-election, Vehlow became embroiled in the infamous *The Idaho Statesman* case beginning in 1980. The case received national attention after Vehlow held a *Statesman* reporter in contempt and placed her in jail for failing to reveal the location of a non-custodial mother who had absconded with her child in a hotly contested child custody case. Amid death threats and surrounded by bodyguards, Vehlow was labeled the "Hanging Judge." She never backed down, continued to assess the daily \$500 fine (essentially paying her magistrate salary for a year) and eventually was able to return the child to the safety of her father.

Vehlow stepped down from the bench in April 1981 choosing instead to partner with



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## *The First 50 Women in Idaho Law*

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her husband, John C. Vehlow – now also an Ada County magistrate – in private practice and in raising their son, Eric. Throughout this period, which lasted until 2001, Vehlow taught at Boise State University, Northwest Nazarene University, and Albertson College of Idaho, all the while enjoying long vacations, a “heck of a lot more creativity,” enhanced calendar control and an absence of life-threatening stress. In fact, mother actually taught son in several classes at NNU, followed by Eric’s enrollment as a first year at the University of Idaho College of Law. Eric

is deployed in Iraq with the Idaho National Guard as a law clerk with the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Vehlow returned as a senior judge in 1990 and she currently presides over juvenile cases in Ada County two days a week, child protective cases in Ada County one day a week, small claims cases two afternoons a month in Canyon County, and occasionally fills in for vacationing judges. This schedule suits Vehlow and allows her sufficient time to “work” her 90-acre farm, care for her horses, and read books.

# 53

## JEAN RYND URANGA September 30, 1975

**Jean Rynd Uranga** was born on September 30, 1949, in West Point, New York. Her father, John Rynd, was a Navy physician stationed at West Point and her mother, Gloria, a homemaker. Uranga has two sisters and a brother. When she was two years old, Uranga's father was transferred to the Navy's facility in Bremerton, Washington. Thus, Uranga grew up and went to school in Bremerton, graduating from East High School in 1967.

Although most of her girlfriends did not go to college, Uranga wanted to attend college and was encouraged by her family to do so. In the late 1960s, women who wanted to attend college were encouraged to become teachers or nurses. In 1967, Uranga attended Olympic Junior College in Bremerton, Washington, and after two years, transferred to Western Washington State College in Bellingham, Washington. Her major area of study was Sociology-Anthropology and her minor area was elementary education. Uranga graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor's degree in education from Western Washington State College in 1971, having earned spots on both the President's and Dean's lists. Thereafter, she decided to stay an extra year doing post-graduate work at Western Washington State College and worked at the library.

While at Western Washington State College, Uranga dated a man who was taking the LSAT exam. And, as she explains things, decided to take the exam herself on a dare to see how she would do relative to her boyfriend. Although the two later broke off their relationship, Uranga scored well on the LSAT and decided to apply to law schools.

In 1972, Uranga began law school at Willamette University, College of Law in Salem, Oregon as one of about ten women in her class of 125. On the first day of class, Uranga met



Louis Uranga, a man she would later marry during spring break of their third year of law school. Uranga was very active in law school, participating in the Moot Court Board, Phi Delta Phi, as the second-year class Secretary-Treasurer, on the Willamette Legal Aid Steering Committee, and Student Bar Association Budget Committee. She was also academically successful, receiving a Trustees' scholarship and the Multnomah County Bar Auxiliary scholarship. Uranga graduated law school in 1975 and decided to move to Boise because, Uranga says laughingly now, "That's the only place Louie wanted to live."

Uranga was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on her twenty-sixth birthday, September 30, 1975. She immediately began work as a Deputy Attorney General in the Consumer Protection/Business Regulation Division of the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Idaho, giving her a wide range of experience in consumer protection actions, drafting proposed legislation, dealing with the press and giving speeches to community groups on the Idaho Consumer Protection Act and other consumer related laws, and working on antitrust investigations. Uranga also represented the Idaho State Board of Medicine in administrative, disciplinary and

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## *The First 50 Women in Idaho Law*

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other legal matters. She was also given the opportunity to work on a couple of “special” projects, such as researching and writing an article entitled “Idaho and the Oregon Consumer Protection Act: Administrative Powers of the Attorney General” and the *Idaho Open Meeting Law Manual* (used and distributed by the Idaho Attorney General).

After five years with the Attorney General’s office, Uranga decided to leave the office in July 1980 and start her own practice with her husband in Boise. Their firm, Uranga & Uranga, is active today and handles a variety of general practice matters, with an emphasis in domestic relations, mediation and administrative law. In 1993, Uranga received mediation training from both the state and federal courts. She has acted as a Hearing Officer in almost 400 cases for various state and local administrative agencies in both contested cases and administrative rule proceedings, and has mediated over 550 cases.

Uranga has always been very active in the Bar. In 1977, she began volunteering with the Bar to assist in Bar Exam grading, an activity she helped with for 13 years. Uranga also assisted numerous Bar activities over the years, including the Boise Bar’s CLE programs (1981-1983), as a member of the Boise Bar Association, the Guardian Ad Litem Committee, the Bar Group Insurance Committee, the Bar Disciplinary Committee (1983-1986), and the Fee Dispute Panel (1996-2000). In 1987, Uranga received the Service Award from the Idaho State Bar.

Uranga served as a Commissioner from the Fourth Judicial District on the Idaho State Bar’s Board of Commissioners (the governing body of the Idaho State Bar) from 1990 to 1993. As such, she became the second woman to hold title of President of the Idaho State Bar in 1992 (Kaye O’Riordan, in 1988, was the first woman to hold this title). Years later, in 2001, Uranga succeeded to the Presidency of the Idaho Law Foundation, making her the first woman to hold both titles of President of the Idaho State Bar and President of the Idaho Law Foundation.

Given her many years of service to the community and the bar, in 2003, the Idaho State Bar awarded Uranga with its Professionalism Award, which is given to an attorney who “has engaged in extraordinary activity in his or her community, in the state, or in the profession, which reflects the highest standards of professionalism.”

Uranga continues to work and live in Boise with her husband and is the proud mother of two children. Her daughter, Maite, is currently in her second year of law school at Lewis & Clark in Portland, after graduating from Notre Dame and serving two years in the Peace Corps in Africa. Her son, Mark, is a graduate of Dartmouth College and is currently finishing his third year of medical school at the University of Washington.

## *Epilogue: The Second 50 Women in Idaho Law*

As I researched the life histories of each of the previous “First 50 Women” I realized that many of the Idaho woman lawyers that I considered prominent in today’s Bar were not included in this group despite having well-established practices and reputations in the Idaho Bar. For example, Idaho Supreme Court Justice Linda Copple Trout, Idaho Court of Appeals Judge Karen Lansing, the first President of the Idaho State Bar, Kaye O’Riordan, Idaho Human Rights Commission Executive Director Leslie Goddard, and private practice attorneys Susan Graham and Mary Hobson, to name just a few, were not among the “First 50 Women.” Yet, these women seemed to be some of the most “senior” (not old, just experienced in relative terms) women members of the Idaho Bar. This begged the question: where did these women fall in the overall ranking of women admitted to the Idaho Bar?

The answer to this question provides an interesting epilogue to the story of Idaho’s “First 50 Women.” While it took 80 years to admit 50 women to the Idaho Bar, it only took two and one-half years to admit an additional 50 women. These statistics undoubtedly reflect the tremendous social change that society went through in the 1970s as more and more women went to law school and entered the legal profession. And, as demonstrated by the chart that follows, this influx of women into the profession has continued steadily so that today women comprise nearly 23% of the members of Idaho’s Bar.

With the influx of women into the legal profession, barriers to women achieving power and success within the profession have fallen. As United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor has observed, “the acquisition of power requires that one aspire to power, that one believe power is possible. As women then achieve power and exercise it well, the barriers fall.” In other words, seeing people succeed encourages others to try and, ultimately, succeed themselves. Undeniably, both the “First 50 Women” and the “Second 50 Women” have helped many of today’s young women lawyers in Idaho succeed.

The “Second 50 Women” in Idaho law, together with their dates of admission, are listed below:

54. Nancy Kathleen (“Kit”) Furey	4-12-76
55. Susan D. Powell Mauk	4-12-76
56. Melissa Borr Parrish McCue	4-12-76
57. Kathryn Marie Brook Gerhardt	9-24-76
58. Carolyn Justh	9-24-76
59. Merrily Kay Munther	9-24-76
60. Susan Roy	9-24-76
61. Ellen Spano	9-24-76
62. Kathryn Anne Sticklen	9-24-76
63. Reanna K. Sweeney	9-24-76
64. Jeanette Alice Dewoody	4-11-77
65. Patricia Ann Flanagan	4-11-77
66. Elizabeth Irene Johnson	4-11-77
67. Mary Ann Johnson	4-11-77
68. Barbara Jean Miller	4-11-77
69. Andrea E. Thrasher	4-11-77
70. Kristena K. Beito	9-23-77
71. Virginia Rae Riddle DeMeyer	9-23-77
72. Susan Moore Graham	9-23-77
73. Kathleen Hardcastle	9-23-77
74. Mary Stiles Hobson	9-23-77
75. Susan Mather	9-23-77
76. Shawna Ryan	9-23-77
77. Marilyn Fern Brennan Schwam	9-23-77
78. Linda Copple Trout	9-23-77
79. Mary Susan Wells	9-23-77
80. Patricia Gay Young	9-23-77
81. Pamela Kay Merrell	11-9-77

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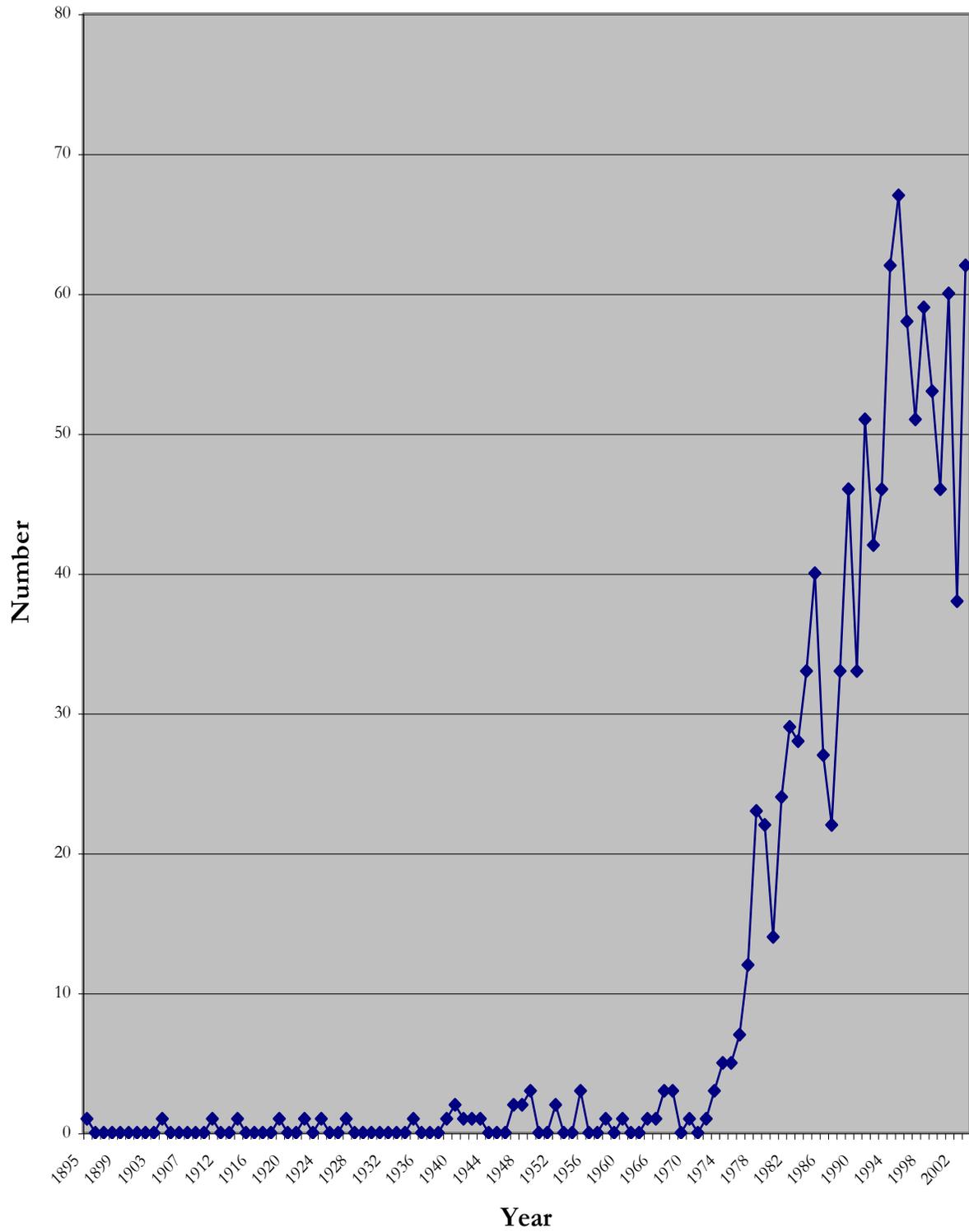
*The First 50 Women in Idaho Law*

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82. Aliza Deborah Bethlahmy	4-13-78	95. Claire L. Dwyer	9-22-78
83. Janey Lynn Cutforth	4-13-78	96. Deanna Sue Solomon Flammia	9-22-78
84. Linda Holdeman Edwards	4-13-78	97. Patricia R. Gallagher	9-22-78
85. Donna King Pike	4-13-78	98. Mary Dugan Gibson-Glass	9-22-78
86. Susan Diane Miner	4-13-78	99. Leslie Leigh Ruth Goddard	9-22-78
87. Amy R. Richter	4-13-78	100. Jeanne T. Goodenough	9-22-78
88. Faith Marsha Mickaela Therrian	4-13-78	101. Debra Ann Heise	9-22-78
89. Margaret (Peg) Petrillo White	4-13-78	102. Deborah Allen Neher Kristal	9-22-78
90. Janet Christine Wygle	4-13-78	103. Karen Lynn Lansing	9-22-78
91. Susan Virginia Campbell	9-22-78	104. Cindy Joy Larsen	9-22-78
92. Debrha Jo. Carnahan	9-22-78	105. Kaye Louise O'Riordan	9-22-78
93. Susan Kay Chaloupka	9-22-78	106. Cynthia S. Rutter	9-22-78
94. Glenna Mae Christensen	9-22-78	107. Susan Deborah Thomas	9-22-78

# Women Admitted in Idaho



## MILESTONES FOR WOMEN IN IDAHO LAW

- 1890 Idaho admitted as 43rd state
- 1895 Helen Louise Young admitted as first women lawyer in Idaho
- 1896 Women's suffrage amendment to Idaho Constitution adopted granting women the right to vote
- 1898 First women (non-lawyers) elected to the Idaho House of Representatives (Clara Campbell of Boise, Hattie Noble of Idaho City and Mary A. Wright of Rathdrum)
- 1905 Bertha Stull Green is first Idaho woman lawyer to lobby the Idaho Legislature
- 1906 Ola Johnesse is first woman clerk of the Idaho Supreme Court
- 1918 Laura Starcher is first woman mayor in United States (Parma, Idaho)
- 1920 Idaho ratifies the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote
- 1921 M. Pearl McCall is first woman Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia
- 1923 Mary Shelton is first woman to graduate from University of Idaho College of Law (although she does not sit for the Idaho Bar)
- 1924 M. Pearl McCall is first Idaho woman lawyer admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court
- 1926 Kate E. Nevile Feltham is first woman elected as a county prosecutor in Idaho (Washington County)
- 1929 Adelyne Martha Burrus Champers is first woman to argue (and win) a case before the Idaho Supreme Court (*Estate of Fisher*, 47 Idaho 668 (1929)).
- 1933 Myrtle Enking of Gooding is first woman state treasurer in Idaho (second in United States)
- 1935 Margaret Bognet Pike is first woman appointed to Idaho Senate
- 1939 Margaret Geisler is first woman (non-lawyer) to serve as a judge in Idaho (probate judge for Camas County)
- 1939 Margaret Olsen is first woman elected to Idaho Senate

- 1941 Alberta Morton Phillips is first woman to receive the William E. Borah Award from the Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity at the University of Idaho College of Law for having the highest scholastic average in her law school class
- 1941 Alberta Morton Phillips is first woman graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law to be admitted to practice in Idaho (second woman graduate overall)
- 1941 Mary Elizabeth Schmitt is first Idaho woman lawyer to clerk with the Idaho Supreme Court (Justice Raymond L. Givens)
- 1943 Alberta Morton Phillips is first woman to teach at the University of Idaho College of Law
- 1943 Rei Kihara Osaki is first Japanese-American woman to graduate from the University of Idaho College of Law and become member of Idaho bar
- 1945 Mary Smith Oldham is first woman lawyer to serve as a judge in Idaho (Justice of the Peace for Madison County)
- 1948 Edith Miller Klein is first woman lawyer elected to Idaho Legislature
- 1953 Gracie Bowers Pfof elected as first woman from Idaho to serve in U.S. Congress (House of Representatives)
- 1967 Janice O. Hamilton is last woman admitted to bar under bar's apprenticeship program (*i.e.*, without requirement of attending law school)
- 1968 Susan Flandro is the first woman Deputy Idaho Attorney General
- 1975 50th woman admitted to the bar in Idaho
- 1979 100th woman admitted to the bar in Idaho
- 1983 Deborah Bail is appointed first woman district court judge in Idaho (Ada County)
- 1986 Kaye O'Riordan is elected as the first woman to serve on Idaho State Bar's Board of Commissioners (representing the Fourth Judicial District)
- 1986 Merrily Munther is the first woman President of the Idaho Law Foundation
- 1986 Ida Leggett is first African-American woman admitted to the bar in Idaho
- 1988 Kaye O'Riordan is the first woman President of the Idaho State Bar
- 1990 Cathy Silak is appointed first woman appellate court judge in Idaho (Idaho Court of Appeals)
- 1991 Marsha Smith is appointed first woman Commissioner of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission

- 1991 Betty H. Richardson is appointed first woman Commissioner of the Idaho Industrial Commission
- 1992 Ida Leggett is first African-American appointed to the bench in Idaho (Lewiston)
- 1992 Susan Graham is first woman President of the Idaho Trial Lawyers
- 1992 Linda Copple Trout is first woman Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court
- 1992 500th woman admitted to bar in Idaho
- 1993 Betty H. Richardson is first woman United States Attorney for Idaho
- 1993 Linda Copple Trout is first woman Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court
- 1993 Linda Palmer Judd is first woman awarded the Idaho State Bar's Professionalism Award
- 2001 1,000th woman admitted to the bar in Idaho
- 2003 Mary Smith Oldham is first woman awarded the Distinguished Lawyer award, the Idaho State Bar's highest honor
- 2005 Idaho State Bar recognizes the "First 50 Women" admitted to the bar in Idaho

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