

THE MARYLAND BAR

J C U R N A L

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Judge Rita C. Davidson



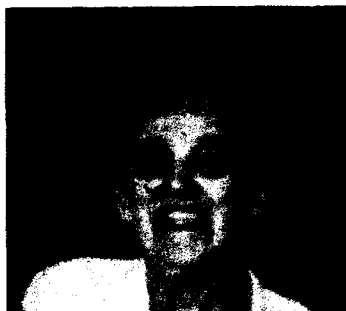
Women in the Law

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P R O F

Compiled by Katharine Thurlow

First Woman to Attend Law School



SARAH ROSENBERG BURKE

Sarah Rosenberg Burke was refused admittance to the University of Maryland School of Law in 1917 because of the lack of toilet facilities for women. In 1920, however, she was one of the first women to enter the law school when ar-

rangements had been made for "the ladies" to use the toilet facilities at the hospital across the street. In 1927, along with Jeanette Wolman, Henrietta Stonestreet, Ida Kloze, Adelaide Lindenberg, Goldie Miller and Helen Sherry, Mrs. Burke was a founding member of the Women Lawyer's Association of Maryland, later to become the Women's Bar Association of Maryland.

First Woman Appointed to the United States District Court



SHIRLEY B. JONES

The Honorable Shirley B. Jones, a 1946 University of Baltimore Law School graduate, was the first woman to serve as an Assistant Attorney General of Maryland (1958); the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Bench of Balti-

more City (1961); and the first woman to serve as a judge in Maryland's federal district court (1979). Judge Jones retired from the bench in 1982.

First Woman Admitted to the Bar Association of Baltimore City



JEANETTE ROSNER WOLMAN

Jeanette Rosner Wolman, a 1924 graduate of the University of Maryland Law School, was a founding member of the Women Lawyers' Association of Maryland, which later became the Women's Bar Association of Maryland.

This organization was established in 1927 to provide some

of the advantages enjoyed by male attorneys but denied to women by their exclusion from the established bar associations. Wolman's dedication to the WBA did not dissuade her from the goal of integrating the bar associations. Finally, in 1957, she became the first woman admitted to the Bar Association of Baltimore City. In 1965, Wolman was appointed by the governor to be the first chair of the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women. Wolman was inducted into the Baltimore Women's Hall of Fame in 1985 by the Baltimore City Commission for Women, and in March 1986, she was inducted into the state's Women's Hall of Fame by the Maryland Commission on Women.

First Black Woman to Practice Law



JUANITA JACKSON MITCHELL

Juanita Jackson Mitchell attended law school to help her mother, who was president of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP. A 1950 graduate of the University of Maryland Law School, Mitchell served as counsel in suits that eliminated

racial segregation in Maryland's public schools, beaches and swimming pools. One of the most notable suits was one which prohibited Baltimore City police from searching private homes with improper warrants based on anonymous tips. Mitchell was inducted into the city's Hall of Fame by the Baltimore Commission for Women and, over the years, has received many other awards and commendations, including an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Morgan State University.

Only Woman on Maryland Appellate Bench



ROSALYN B. BELL

The Honorable Rosalyn B. Bell is the only woman on the Maryland appellate bench today. A graduate of National University Law School (now merged with George Washington University), she was admitted to the Maryland bar in 1951.

In 1978, she was the first woman to be appointed to the Montgomery County District Court, and in 1980, was elevated to the Montgomery County Circuit Court bench. Judge Bell was appointed to serve as an associate judge of the Court of Special Appeals in 1983. An active member of many bar associations, she served as the President of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland in 1983-85.

I L E S

First Woman Appellate Judge



**RITA CHARMATZ
DAVIDSON**

The Honorable Rita Charmatz Davidson received her law degree from Yale Law School in 1951. Admitted to the Washington, D.C. bar in 1952 and the Maryland bar eleven years later, she was the first woman in Maryland to hold a Cabinet-

level position as the state's Secretary of Employment and Social Services in 1970. Judge Davidson was the first woman to be appointed to the Court of Special Appeals in 1972 and, in 1979, became the first and only woman to be elevated to the Court of Appeals of Maryland.

First Black Woman on the Maryland Bench



MABEL H. HUBBARD

The Honorable Mabel H. Hubbard is a 1975 graduate of the University of Maryland Law School. She is the first black woman appointed to serve as a Master in Baltimore City (1978); the first black District Court of Maryland (1981); and the

first black woman appointed to serve on the Circuit court for Baltimore City (1985). Currently, Judge Hubbard remains not only the first but also the only black woman judge in Maryland.

First Woman Admitted to MSBA



ROSE ZETZER

Rose Zetzer was a 1925 graduate of the University of Maryland Law School who attempted to join the MSBA for almost twenty years. The MSBA was the only state bar association in the county which did not admit women after 1944.

Two years later, in 1946, it rewarded attorney Zetzer for her persistence by making her the first woman to be admitted into the Maryland State Bar Association. In 1940, Zetzer and attorney Anna Carton formed Baltimore's and Maryland's first law firm restricted to female lawyers.

First Woman Admitted to the Maryland Bar

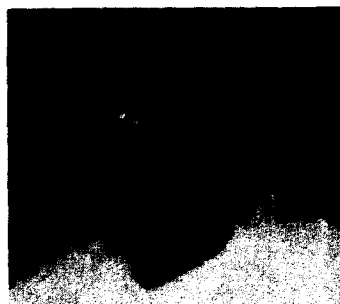


ETTA H. MADDOX

Etta H. Maddox's initial request to take the Maryland Bar Examination was denied by the Maryland Court of Appeals in 1901. Maddox, a 41-year old law school graduate, claimed that the right to practice law was a natural right inherent-

ly possessed by everyone without regard to sex. She also argued that the bar admission law's reference to "male citizens" included female citizens, under the rule of statutory construction which provided that the masculine includes all genders except where such construction would be absurd or unreasonable. However, the Court of Appeals held that the idea of women attorneys fits the exception rather than the rule. The court invited the General Assembly to pass a specific statute if it believed that women should be attorneys. In 1902, the legislature accepted the invitation and passed a law which opened the profession of law to women in Maryland.

First Woman Circuit Court Judge



**KATHRYN LAWLOR
SHOOK DUFOUR**

The Honorable Kathryn Lawlor Shook DuFour received her law degree at the Washington College of Law of American University in 1936. She became a member of the Maryland Bar in 1942 after several years of private practice in Washington, D.C. Before her appointment to the Montgomery County Circuit Court in 1955, she was a member of the Montgomery County Council and served as a legislator for two sessions of the Maryland General Assembly. Judge Shook DuFour lost reelection to the legislature in 1954 by only 33 votes. She was then appointed to the Circuit Court by Governor McKeldin, where she served—eventually becoming Chief Judge in 1967—until her retirement in 1971. After Sandra Day O'Connor's appointment in 1981, the Supreme Court Justice sent Judge Shook DuFour a letter saying, "You have helped pave the way all the way from Maryland."

Katharine Thurlow is a partner in the law firm of Thurlow & Nolan, P.A., and is currently Editor of the Newsletter of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland.