

A MESSAGE from the President



Dear Fellow Georgia Lawyers and Guests,

On behalf of the State Bar of Georgia and our more than 48,000 members, it is my privilege to welcome you to the Bar Center for this commemorative event, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first woman licensed to practice law in Georgia.

This occasion provides an opportunity to celebrate the decision by the Supreme Court of Georgia in 1916 to permit females to practice law, and also the tremendous growth in the number of women in the profession over the past century. In more recent years, great women lawyers have filled seats on our state's highest courts and in the top leadership posts in our professional organizations—including three of my predecessors in this office: Linda Klein, Robin Frazer Clark and Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker.

We express our deep appreciation to the sponsoring law firms and organizations for your support in making this evening's outstanding program possible and also salute the Women in the Profession Committee of the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division for its sustained commitment to ensure the continued progress of women attorneys.

To our YLD leaders, committee members and everyone responsible for organizing this celebration, I want you to know that your colleagues across this great state admire and appreciate the work you are doing in service to the legal profession, the public and the justice system.

We wish you much success for this evening's program and for all of your activities throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. O'Connor".

Patrick T. O'Connor
President, State Bar of Georgia

A MESSAGE from the YLD President



Dear Fellow Lawyers,

It is an incredible honor and privilege to serve as the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division president during the 100th year celebration of women practicing law in Georgia. I am so appreciative that you are here to celebrate this special occasion with the YLD Women in the Profession Committee as we reflect on and commemorate the accomplishments, achievements and leadership of women jurists.

A woman's right to practice law in our state was just the first step in integrating women into our profession. Since that time, women have increasingly achieved leadership positions and roles within our judiciary and at the State Bar of Georgia. Over the past 70 years, the Georgia YLD has had 10 women presidents, and the 11th and 12th are in line to take the reigns over the next two years. Additionally, women have been accepted and enrolled in our law schools in greater numbers than ever before. My University of Georgia Law School class (2007) was the first class where the number of women outnumbered that of men.

Due to the tremendous progress of women in the profession over the past 100 years, it is sometimes easy to overlook and minimize the strides made by our predecessors which ensured that our legal profession and judiciary have been represented with the best women in the state. Yet in spite of these efforts, women still remain under represented in some areas of our profession and there is still work to be done.

We are here today to commemorate those who came before us and worked tirelessly to carve a path to ensure that women would have a prominent place in our profession and judicial system. We are here to celebrate the progress that has been made and the impact of women lawyers in today's society. And we are also here to inspire women in our profession to continue to take initiatives and leadership roles in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer C. Mock".

Jennifer C. Mock
President, Young Lawyers Division, State Bar of Georgia

A MESSAGE from the Chair



Dear Attendees,

It has been my pleasure to serve as the committee chair of the Young Lawyers Division Women in the Profession Committee during the 2015-16 Bar year and now during the 2016-17 Bar year. Throughout 2016, we have been celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first woman licensed to practice law in Georgia. In 1916 Minnie Anderson Hale, later Minnie Hale Daniel, and many others won the right to practice law with An Act to Permit Females to Practice Law, otherwise known as the “Portia Bill.” On Aug. 24, 2016, the Women in the Profession Committee opened the temporary exhibit at the State Bar of Georgia.

This temporary exhibit has been made possible through the support of generous sponsors, Georgia law schools and various archive locations all over the state. Take a step back through time to learn about some of Georgia’s most prominent women lawyers and a few you may not have heard of. The journey includes physical items, reproductions of photographs and news articles, movie clips and audio clips. Although the exhibit is self-guided, we also have on hand women’s history experts, Atlanta history experts and Georgia legal history experts to provide context to the time period and answer any questions you may have. These special guides are wearing pink name tags.

While some items will only be available to view tonight, the exhibit will remain open in the gallery through the month of September, and I encourage you to bring your lawyer peers, your children and any others who may enjoy learning about Georgia’s women lawyers.

I hope you enjoy the exhibit as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morgan Clemons".

Morgan Clemons
Chair, Women in the Profession Committee
Young Lawyers Division, State Bar of Georgia

PROGRAM Schedule

RECEPTION AND EXHIBIT VIEWING

WELCOME AND OCCASION

Morgan Clemons, Chair, Women in the Profession Committee, Aldridge Pite LLP, Atlanta
Linley Jones, Women Lawyers Champion Premier Sponsor, The Linley Jones Firm P.C., Atlanta

REMARKS

Jennifer C. Mock, Young Lawyers Division President, State Bar of Georgia, The Mock Law Firm, Statesboro
Patrick T. O'Connor, President, State Bar of Georgia, Oliver Maner LLP, Savannah

DRAMATIC READING

Hon. T. Jackson Bedford, Fulton County Superior Court, Atlanta
Michael Caldwell, Delong Caldwell Bridgers Fitzpatrick & Benjamin LLC, Atlanta
Terrence Lee Croft, CroftADR, Atlanta
Hon. Christopher J. McFadden, Court of Appeals of Georgia, Atlanta
Kevin Weimer, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta

COMMEMORATIVE FILM

Escher Media

PANEL DISCUSSION

Erica Mason, Moderator, Partner, Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP, Atlanta
Virginia "Ginger" Arnold, Alumni Director, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School & Solo Practitioner
Hon. Dorothy Toth Beasley, Senior Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia, Atlanta
Seth Kirschenbaum, Davis Zipperman Kirschenbaum & Lotito, LLP, Atlanta
Melanie Slaton, Partner, Hall Booth Smith PC, Columbus

PORTIA BILL BATTLE ROYAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Morgan Clemons

*Sponsored by: ArtLite • The Commerce Club • DVF • Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys • Georgia Association for Women Lawyers • Kate Spade New York •
Porsche • PeachDish • Tiffany & Co. • Young Lawyers Division*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1893 Georgia Bar Association Annual Meeting

1

In 1893, Hon. L.E. Bleckley, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, addressed the Georgia Bar Association at its annual meeting in Rome, Georgia. The paper he read was entitled: "The Future of Woman at the Georgia Bar." This is the original bound volume of this meeting that includes Bleckley's address. In the address Bleckley states:

"When a native Georgia Woman with legal proclivities and aspirations appears, if she ever should, I think it would be wise for her, if not already married, to marry a lawyer; and I think it would be wise for some young lawyer to marry her, and for the two to study and practice on the principle of both doing the loading and letting him do the shooting."

"To render any court a court of reason, it has to represent both in quantity and quality of mental power, not a part of humanity, but the whole of it; and humanity is neither male nor female, but both. . . Let all the judges be married men, and let their wives preside with them in all cases not unfit for ears polite. . . The best laws and the best administration of law will ultimately be found where woman is allowed a proper, though for a long time it may be far from an equal, part in shaping laws and aiding in applying them to actual cases."

Pictured: L.E. Bleckley (1827-1907) Circa 1895



Minnie Anderson Hale (B)

The Road to Practice

- (A) The Road to Practice as licensed attorneys in the state of Georgia was long and hard for women. The “Portia Bill,” as it was known, garnered a lot of attention but was defeated many times.
- (B) Pictured here, Minnie Anderson Hale was refused the right to become a member of the Bar. She appealed her case to the Supreme Court of Georgia in 1916 but was also denied admittance to practice.
- (C) There were men who supported a woman’s right to practice law, including then-Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives John Holder. In fact, the only individuals that could have passed the law were men representing a constituency of other men; women in Georgia were not allowed to vote at this time, and there were no women in the Georgia Legislature.
- (D) *The Atlanta Journal* regularly ran articles related to admitting women to the practice of law. In this article, Minnie Anderson Hale receives early attention while still a student at Atlanta Law School.
- (E) Whether women should be permitted to be licensed as lawyers drew opponents and supporters. The battle could be described as chivalry vs. justice.
- (F) “Woman Is Again Seeking Admission to Georgia Bar; Mrs. Hale Files An Appeal”
- (G) Minnie Anderson Hale writes a note addressed to the legislators of Georgia.

1916 Bar Session: June 1-3, 1916

3

Whether to permit women to become licensed to practice law was hotly contested at the 33rd annual session of the Georgia Bar Association at the 1916 meeting held at Tybee Island, Georgia.

Supporters of the legislation opined about women lawyers that, “If they can perform a service, and do it well, they should be allowed to perform it, if they wish. . . Why come before this body, and say that women should stay at home, and glorify the home, when we know that they are compelled by force of circumstances every day to do service of the kind that we are doing, and the work that we are doing, and without the same remuneration?” However, supporters of the legislation received criticism:

“Is it not true that most of those who are advocating this resolution are either hen-pecked husbands or bachelors who have a grouch against the sex?”

It was argued that “you are introducing women into a class of work that. . . confronts them with the shame and crime and villainy of humanity, I do not believe in the admission of women to the bar.”

The resolution was put to a vote: 29 voted in favor of supporting the admission of women to the Bar, and 45 voted against it.

4

June 14, 1916 *Ex Parte Hale*, 89 S.E. 216, 145 Ga. 350 (Ga. 1916)

Minnie Anderson Hale applied for admission to the Bar, which was denied. She appealed the Superior Court of Fulton County’s adverse judgment to the Supreme Court of Georgia. The Supreme Court of Georgia affirmed the Fulton Superior Court, stating:

“When the statutes of this state are properly construed, a woman by reason of her sex is ineligible to become a member of the bar in this state.”

Hear Excerpts on the History of Women Lawyers in Georgia

5



Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein, Supreme Court of Georgia, "Women and the Law: We've Come a Long Way. . . Maybe," March 9, 2011. Edith House Lectures, University of Georgia.

First Women Law Students at Georgia Schools

6

- (A) Pictured: Eleonore Raoul was the first woman admitted to Emory University, enrolling in the School of Law in 1917. She was the first woman to graduate Emory University's School of Law in 1920.
- (B) Pictured: Miss Sarah Irene Brown, Mrs. Lucine Milan Dalton, Miss Ann Kimsey and Mrs. Holbrook were the first women to graduate John Marshall Law School June 4, 1938. Miss Kimsey delivered the valedictory address.
- (C) Pictured: Sharon Mackenzie and Diana McDonald-Burks, now Diana McDonald, were the first women to graduate from Georgia State University College of Law in 1984.
- (D) Pictured: Mrs. W.E. Jackson, birth name Kathryn Pierce, was the first woman to graduate from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in 1919.
- (E) Pictured: Edith Elizabeth House, from Winder, Georgia, was co-valedictorian of the University of Georgia School of Law's Class of 1925, making her the first woman to graduate from the institution.

Legislation and the Courts

- (A) On p. 79 of the Supreme Court Clerk of Court Civil Case Docket Book is handwritten the names of those who filed briefs, including Mrs. M.A. Hale. Mrs. Hale is noted as being *in propria persona* (acting as her own attorney) despite not being licensed to practice as an attorney. The case is noted as, Refusal of Admission to the Bar, and the \$10 costs paid by Minnie Hale.
- (B) On p. 412 of the Supreme Court Clerk of Court Minute Book it was noted that several women, including Minnie Anderson Hale, be admitted to the Bar and licensed as members of the Bar on Aug. 21, 1916.
- (C) In this Aug. 20, 1916, *The Atlanta Constitution* article, Gov. Harris signs An Act to Permit Females to Practice Law. Harris is most remembered, however, for other accomplishments as a statesman and governor, namely, Harris heavily campaigned as a legislator for the founding of a technological college, which eventually became Georgia Tech, as well as mandatory education for children, and signed Prohibition into law while governor.
- (D) Six Women Lawyers Receive Bar Certificates

Readie Ashurst (2nd from left) and Tommie Parrish (Boling) (2nd from right) each served as president of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers from 1949-50 and 1952-54, respectively. Readie Ashurst and Lucile Cotton (3rd from left) were among the first Atlanta women admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The following order was passed:

W. S. Collins, Mrs. Clara L. Bovard, Mrs. Beatrice Castleton, and Mrs. M. A. Hale having each presented a properly certified application and having taken and subscribed in open court the oath required by law: It is ordered that they each be admitted and licensed as a member of the bar of this court.

The court adjourned until tomorrow.

Supreme Court Clerk of Court Minute Book (B)

8

Original Bound Volume

This is an original bound volume of the 1916 laws, including An Act to Permit Females to Practice Law.

Seeking Redress: Power Dressing for Women Lawyer

9

- (A) "Women Lawyers Given the Right to Wear Hats in Court by Judge's Ruling"
- (B) The Importance of a Woman's Image in the Workplace
- (C) Professional Women's Wear in the 100 years of Georgia Women Lawyers
- (D) Advertisement from the February 1985 *Georgia State Bar Journal*
- (E) 1982 *The Atlanta Constitution*: "The Verdict is Unanimous." A professional woman's physical appearance, whether related to hair, clothes or makeup is often assessed and commented on, sometimes causing her legal skills and overall competence to be viewed as an afterthought.
- (F) 1995 *The Atlanta Journal* and *The Atlanta Constitution*: "And No Scoop Necks Please"

Bella Abzug:

"Women have been trained to speak softly and carry a lipstick. Those days are over."

"When I first became a lawyer, only 2% of the bar was women. People would always think I was a secretary. In those days, professional women in the business world wore hats. So I started wearing hats."

"I began wearing hats as a young lawyer because it helped me to establish my professional identity. Before that, whenever I was at a meeting, someone would ask me to get coffee."

*Lawyer, congresswoman and activist
(b.1920-d.1998)*

An excerpt from "Clio in the Classroom: A Guide for Teaching U.S. Women's History," edited by Carol Berkin, Margaret S. Crocco, Barbara Winslow

While fashion may have been a frivolous pastime for the leisured woman with money to spend, for the nineteenth-century woman lawyer, it was a serious matter that embodied the debate over woman's place in the legal profession and in society at large. Before a woman lawyer left her home each day, she had to carefully select an outfit that would convey at once seriousness and softness, professionalism and femininity. With this in mind, women lawyers who went to court typically chose a simple black suit or dress, usually accented with jewelry or lace. Its simplicity and color mirrored the suits of men and revealed women's professional

identification with their male colleagues. The extra adornments conveyed the message that these women, while lawyers, were still ladies.

Women lawyers faced a more perplexing fashion dilemma when it came to their hats. A hat was part of the proper attire for any nineteenth-century lady who ventured forth in public. But male lawyers removed their hats whenever they entered a courtroom. Here was the dilemma for the woman lawyer of the day: Social etiquette required that she wear a hat in public; professional etiquette demanded that she remove her hat when she entered the courtroom.

“I feel women attorneys should wear whatever they wish,” says one misguided female judge in New York.

That's easy for her to say since she wears a black robe every day and never has to concern herself with how people react to her in various different outfits . . . You're not concerned with being fashionable, you're concerned with being effective.

Excerpted from “The Importance of a Woman’s Image in the Workplace,” by Michael Christian.

Hear excerpts on women’s attire in the context of the legal profession over the decades

10



What constitutes professional attire for women has often been a topic of debate and criticism and a source of contention.

Hear excerpts from Kelly Caffarelli, former president of The Home Depot Foundation and president of Caffarelli Consulting. “Long Pants or Short Skirts: Fitting In, Fighting Back or Finding Your Own Way,” April 5, 2015. Edith House Lectures, University of Georgia.

Studies have shown that what people wear can affect their mood and confidence levels. Many women feel poised, confident and ready to take on the legal challenge of the day by first ensuring that they are adequately prepared to represent clients but also by demonstrating presence and power in their appearance.

Hear prominent female attorneys answer the question: **Is your power suit pants or a skirt?**

Women Lawyers Professional Wear

Clothing items A-E below are on loan from the Atlanta History Center.

(A) Black cloche, c. 1920s

Woman's black hat with silk leaf pattern

The most popular style of hat in the 1920s, cloche hats were a part of women's everyday work wear.

(B) Three-piece walking suit, c. 1912-1916

Woman's walking suit of navy blue silk faille

Maker: Bourniche. Paris, France

Work wear for professional women generally consisted of two- or three-piece suits with hemlines just above the ankle, white shirt or dickey, and lace-up or button ankle boots. This is a high-end piece purchased in Paris that belonged to a wealthy Atlanta woman. Throughout this decade, women's clothing progressed to a more natural body shape. Though still under a long corset, women preferred natural lines and more ease of movement.

(C) Double-breasted two-piece suit, c. 1939

Woman's double-breasted suit of red, black & gray plaid

Purchased at J. Wanamaker's, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Women's suits reflected a return to the defined waist, getting away from the looser silhouette of the 1920s. Suits often featured padded, wide shoulders and straight or fluted skirts. A sort of uniform for the female attorney began to emerge, especially in the courtroom. Women wore conservative suits with hemlines just below the knee, button down shirts, small bowties and hosiery with low-heeled pumps. This etiquette lasted into the early 1970s.

(D) Gray two-piece wool flannel suit, c. 1950s

Once again, women's suits followed the popular silhouette of the period. Suits featured pencil skirts and cinched waists. Workplace formality and conservatism was expected.

(E) Patterned two-piece cotton suit, c. 1960s

Purchased at Rich's Specialty Shop

Though the 1960s embraced more radical styles including bold colors, geometric patterns and shorter hemlines, the courtroom or client meetings still required conservatism. This piece could probably be worn in the office. It was not until the early 1980s that women dared to wear pants or dresses in the courtroom. Even today, female attorneys are encouraged to wear a skirt to appear before some more strict judges.

(F) Motion to compel attorney to wear appropriate attire, filed Oct. 18, 1995.

12

Women Lawyers in Georgia

- (A) Minnie Anderson Hale is admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia on July 25, 1917, as an “Esquireess.” The usual term used, Esquire, is crossed out. Further, in the second paragraph, “she is authorized to appear” as an attorney. The “s” in “she,” which appears to have been handwritten could have been done by Miss Hale or at the insistence of Miss Hale, who had previously been described as a “Plucky Little Woman” by *The Atlanta Journal* and *The Atlanta Constitution*.*
- (B) Stella Akin, who is credited by some as the first woman to be admitted to the Georgia Bar, gives an address at the 40th Annual Session of the Georgia Bar Association held at Tybee Island in 1923, entitled: Woman’s Participation in Public Life. She ends her address by stating that:

“I don’t think that public life has in any degree lessened woman’s place at home. The woman of today has the background of a glorious heritage, and with this, has become strong of body and trained of mind, keen and wholesome in her thinking, womanly in every attribute, gentle, kindly always understanding, with an eye trained to see the problems, and a mind trained to work them through to the end—not a superwoman, not a woman trained only to do big things, but a woman trained to do the common things of life uncommonly well.”

- (C) Minnie Hale Daniel, previously Minnie Anderson Hale, was the first president of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers from 1928-29.*

(D) The Lamar School of Law (Emory) degree awarded to Ellyne Strickland in 1924 indicates that the school has “accordingly admitted **her** to that degree with all rights, privileges, and immunities thereto appertaining.” If you look closely on the degree, it can be seen that the “her” is handwritten. Strickland was the second woman to graduate from the bachelor of laws program at Emory University. She practiced law with the firm Alston, Alston, Foster and Moise. Notably, R.C. Alston, one of the firm’s partners, introduced the resolution to adopt the equal admittance of women to the practice of law at the 1916 Bar meeting, a resolution that failed. (Emphasis added.)*

(E) The November 1925 Court of Appeals of Georgia admittance of Miss Ellyne Strickland indicates that Miss Strickland, “produced satisfactory evidence of good private and professional character” and showed that “**she** is otherwise qualified to become a member of the bar of this court.” (Emphasis added.) If viewed up close, one is able to see that the “s” in “she” is handwritten, which reflects how uncommon it was for women to be admitted such that the certificate’s default, “he” had to be revised by adding an “s.” Further, the certificate is signed by Clerk Logan Bleckley Jr., the first Clerk of Court to the Court of Appeals of Georgia and the son of Hon. Logan Edwin Bleckley, the Supreme Court of Georgia justice who addressed members of the Bar in 1893 on “The Future of Woman at the Georgia Bar,” but died in 1907 before a woman was successfully admitted to the Bar, and to the Court.*

(F) Viola Ross Napier is the only woman pictured in the 1940 Macon, Georgia Bench and Bar. Ms. Napier was the first female attorney to argue a case before the Court of Appeals of Georgia and the Supreme Court of Georgia.

(G) September 1977 issue of *YLS Newsletter* article: “Sex Discrimination Perceived by Female Job Applicants”

(H) August 1979 *YLS Newsletter* article: “Committee Outlines Award Winning Activities”

(I) Donna G. Barwick became the first woman president of the Young Lawyers Division, formerly the Younger Lawyers Section.

* These exhibits are replicas.

1946-1968: Women in Practice

- (A) Invitation to women lawyers from the wives of males lawyers (GAWL)
- (B) 1946 *The Atlanta Constitution*: “Women Lawyers to Meet”
- (C) 1952 GAWL scrapbook clipping: “Male Lawyers Divided on Jury Duty for Women.” Women were eventually permitted to serve on juries by 1953. Randolph Thrower (b.1913-d.2014), a prominent Atlanta attorney, is quoted in the article as being opposed to having women serve on juries. Thrower later chaired the State Bar of Georgia’s Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee, now known as the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession. The committee’s purpose is to facilitate, analyze and present for consideration initiatives and programs that increase participation, retention and representation of diverse attorneys in the legal profession in Georgia that accurately reflects the makeup of our state. The Randolph W. Thrower Lifetime Achievement Award is named in his honor and awarded each year at the Commitment to Equality Awards Ceremony.
- (D) 1961 *The Atlanta Constitution*: “It’s a One-Woman Crusade to Interest Gals in Law”
- (E) 1962 GAWL scrapbook clipping: “Legal Aid Society Has a New General Counsel: Ms. Nancy Cheves Has Found Being a Woman Doesn’t Hamper Climb Up Legal Ladder”
- (F) 1962 GAWL scrapbook clipping: “The Prosecutor is a Lady”

Calling all Women Lawyers.....Tuesday at 12:30

Wives of Atlanta lawyers are planning a most delightful Dutch treat luncheon on Tuesday, November 15th, at 12:30 in the Empire Room of the Biltmore Hotel at which time the wives of the Judges of the Federal Court, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals will be guests of honor. We want every single one of you Women Lawyers to attend for the occasion will not be complete without you are there. We have within the hour received the roster of the Women Lawyers in Georgia and we are attempting to reach every single one by card. Do get your check for \$2.50 (this will be your reservation) in the mail to me by midnight on Sunday. It is our hope to place the Women Lawyers at a special table and give them a special recognition. We do not want to take up money at the door for we understand there will be receiving line.

Mrs. Robt. H. Jones, Gen. Chm. 81 Peachtree Circle, NE

Invitation to women lawyers (A)

Women Lawyers To Meet
The Atlanta Constitution (1946-1984); Dec 30, 1946;
 pg. 12

Women Lawyers To Meet

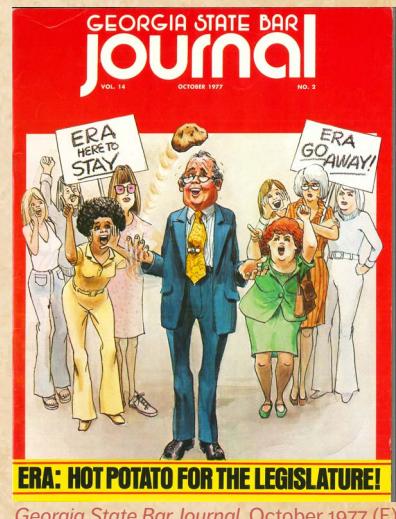
The Georgia Association of Women Lawyers holds a luncheon meeting at the Ellen Rice Tea Room at 1 p. m. on Friday. Miss Juliet Downing, Second Vice President and Social Chairman, requests that any woman lawyer who desires to join the group will please do so any Friday.

1946 *The Atlanta Constitution* (B)

1968-1994: Women in Practice

- (A) "Law Club Bars Women Members"
- (B) 1968 GAWL scrapbook clipping: "All Women Law Firm in Town Prepares for Court"
- (C) 1968 *The Atlanta Constitution*: "One of the Toughest Trials: Entering the Legal Profession":

"Some firms say their secretarial staffs are antagonistic toward women bosses and may even quit or refuse to work for them." Other arguments made against hiring women attorneys included that "lawyers must travel and [] a man and a woman could not, within the limits of propriety, travel out of town for several days."
- (D) 1971 *The Atlanta Constitution*: "It Took Two Years to Find a Job"
- (E) *Georgia State Bar Journal*: "ERA: Hot Potato for the Legislature"
- (F) 1978 *The Atlanta Constitution*: "If President Carter Had His Way"
- (G) 1980 *The Atlanta Constitution*: "Equality Under the Law." Women lawyers speak of many male lawyers' attitudes, especially the older ones, as falling into two camps: resentful of women encroaching on an all-male preserve or fatterly, in a gentlemanly way, to the point of being patronizing. Neither attitude fosters the kind of development women need to become competitive, top-notch associates for whom partnership is assured.
- (H) 1989 *The Atlanta Journal* and *The Atlanta Constitution*: "Panel to Investigate Gender Bias"
- (I) 1994 *The Atlanta Journal* and *The Atlanta Constitution*: "Special Report: The State of Women in the 90s in Georgia Court System"
- (J) AJC photo collection: Margie Pitts Hames in her office, Atlanta, Georgia, circa 1980s



Georgia State Bar Journal, October 1977 (E)

Woman Employee of Legal Aid Society Describes How Their System Works and Gets Results

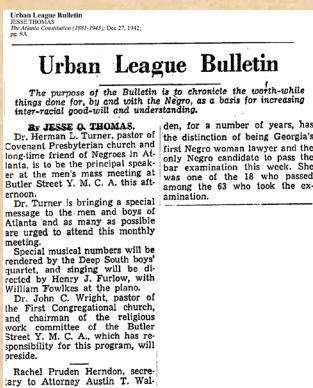
15



WSBN51275, WSB Newsfilm collection,
reel WSBN1379, Walter J. Brown Media
Archives and Peabody Awards Collection,
The University of Georgia Libraries,
Athens, Georgia.

16 Many Milestones

- (A) 1921 *The Atlanta Constitution*: “Rome Woman Lawyer First to Practice in Federal Court”
- (B) 1942 *The Atlanta Constitution*: “Urban League Bulletin”
- (C) 1954 GAWL scrapbook clipping: “First Woman Heads Jury in Fulton Trial”
- (D) 1978 *The Atlanta Constitution*: “The ‘Iron Rose’ of Justice”
- (E) 1984 *The Atlanta Constitution*: “Private law firms liable for bias”
- (F) 1991 *YLS Newsletter*: “First Woman D.A. Appointed in Georgia”
- (G) 1997 *Georgia Bar Journal*: “President Klein Sets Goals for the Year.” Linda Klein becomes the first woman president of the State Bar of Georgia.



1942 *The Atlanta Constitution*:
Urban League Bulletin (B)

Rachel Pruden Herndon, secretary to Attorney Austin T. Walden, for a number of years, has the distinction of being Georgia's first Negro woman lawyer and the only Negro candidate to pass the bar examination this week. She was one of the 18 who passed among the 63 who took the examination.

Hear Excerpts from Oral History Interview of Mamie Booth Kimball



Atlanta lawyer and businesswoman (b.1904-d.1994). Clip 1 of 1 on:

- Going to law school and starting her own practice
- Women working
- Women on juries
- Murder trial
- Women lawyers

18

Georgia Association for Women Lawyers' Corner

Founded in 1928, the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL) proudly serves the diverse interests of women lawyers in Georgia. GAWL has been pioneering for women lawyers for more than 85 years, enhancing the welfare and development of women lawyers and supporting their interests. GAWL's founders include Minnie Hale Daniel (president, 1928-29), the first woman to graduate from law school in Georgia, and Betty Reynolds Cobb (president 1929-30), the first woman to pass Georgia's bar examination.

GAWL is a statewide bar organization that plays a key role in the advancement of women lawyers' interests throughout Georgia. GAWL has a strong, bipartisan voice on issues such as judicial nomination process, legislative affairs, work-life balance issues, and on the education, training and sponsorship of women lawyers to take their rightful place as leaders in Georgia.

- (A) A card from 1938 inviting members of the organization to a banquet to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its founding.
- (B) Program book from GAWL 1963 Annual Banquet
- (C) Georgia Bar Association Annual Meeting 1961 photo with two female attorneys
- (D) GAWL scrapbook clipping: "Georgia Chief Justice Addresses Portias—Chief Justice Richard B. Russell of the Supreme Court of Georgia," as he addressed the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers at their dinner here.
- (E) Georgia Bar Association Annual Meeting 1962 photo with three female attorneys

19

Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys' Corner

The Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA) was founded in 1981 by a group of African-American women who sought to form a voluntary bar organization that would 1) focus on women's and children's issues, 2) increase black female representation in the judiciary and in public offices, and 3) take a proactive stance on political issues. Today, GABWA has an active membership of women and men who strive each day to fulfill the organization's mission: to nurture, support and galvanize the power of black women attorneys, advocate for women and children, and empower our communities. GABWA is open to all persons, regardless of race or sex.

- (A) 1971 *AJC* photo collection Judge R. Pruden Herndon: Rachel Herndon was the first African-American woman admitted to practice in Georgia in December 1942. She was a member of the Gate City Bar Association, an organization for African-American lawyers. African-American women lawyers were small in number, and it was not until almost 40 years later that GABWA was founded.
- (B) *Georgia Bar Journal*, August 2014 issue: "Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker becomes the first African-American president of the Georgia Bar." Perkins-Hooker is an active member of GABWA.
- (C) "Law Firm's First Black Female Partner Not Annoyed by Role as 'Milestone'"
Karol Mason became the first female African-American partner at Alston & Bird, a prominent law firm based in Atlanta, in 1990. At that time, GABWA had 250 members. Its membership has more than tripled since that time.
- (D) Pictured, Denise Majette, Mary Lee Davis, Divida Gude, Judge Johnny Mason and Carla Ford. GABWA holds a meeting in a member's home. When GABWA was founded in 1981 by Justice Leah Ward Sears, Judge Barbara Harris and Judge Bensonetta Tipton Lane, there were few African-American women lawyers in Georgia, and members would often meet in each other's homes. Now, with more than 800 members, GABWA still traditionally holds some events, including its annual Blue Jeans Brunch, in the homes of past presidents, and retains this informal sisterhood.
- (E) Susan Pease Langford, GABWA past president, and GABWA members Judge Patsy Porter, Judge Julie M.T. Walker, Linda Poindexter and Pamela Cole Henderson at the 1991 Glitter Gala. To date, the GABWA Foundation, the charitable arm of GABWA, has contributed \$570,000 to the community through its civic programs and support of other community organizations.



Georgia Bar Journal, August 2014 (B)

- (F) GABWA Glitter Ball, 1991 program and invitation
- (G) Avarita L. Hanson, Judge Linda Warren Hunter, Judge Patsy Porter and Henrietta Turnquest
- (H) Patsy Porter: President's Message November 1991 issue, re: Anita Hill
- (I) 2009 scrapbook. During this year, Sonja Natasha Brown was president and executed a theme for the year of "Living Our Legacy, Honoring Our Past, and Shaping Our Future."
- (J) Various GABWA newsletters

(A) "Two Portias from Georgia Only Women on Staff at Internal Revenue Bureau"

Women seeking to be lawyers were often called "Portias" in reference to the heroine in William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," who disguises herself as a male lawyer. The New England School of Law was known as the Portia Law School, a women-only law school, until 1969.*

(B) Pictured here in 1948, the original 10 members of the Gate City Bar Association included the first black woman admitted to practice in Georgia, Rachel Pruden Herndon.

(C) August 1977 issue of the *Georgia State Bar Journal*:

Five Judges Get Together between Meetings: (l-r) Dorothy Beasley, Judge, State Court of Fulton County; Effie Mahan, Administrative Law Judge, State Board of Workmen's Compensation; Phyllis Kravitch, Judge, Superior Court of Chatham County; Romae Powell, Judge, Juvenile Court of Fulton County; Dorothy Robinson, Judge, State Court of Cobb County

Dorothy Beasley went on to become the first woman appointed to the Court of Appeals of Georgia. In 1992, at Beasley's suggestion, the motto engraved on the marble wall behind the bench was revised to read: "Upon the integrity, wisdom and independence of the judiciary depend the sacred rights of free men **and women**." (Emphasis added.) Beasley was president of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers from 1975-76.

In 1979, Kravitch went on to become the first woman judge on the Fifth Circuit and the first woman to be appointed as a federal judge in the Southeast.

Romae Powell left a long-lasting legacy on the lives of the young people she impacted while serving as a judge. The Honorable Romae Turner Powell Judicial Service Award, given by the Atlanta Bar Association's Judicial Section, is named in her honor as well as the Judge Romae T. Powell Juvenile Justice Center, located on Pryor Street in Atlanta.

Both Effie Mahan and Dorothy Robinson served as presidents of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers from 1972-73 and from 1973-74, respectively.

(D) Oct. 30, 1972, letter from Margie Pitts Hames to president of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL), the Hon. Effie Mahan.

Hames was a civil rights and labor attorney who argued the companion case to *Roe v. Wade*, *Doe v. Bolton*, before the U.S. Supreme Court. She was president of GAWL from 1968-69. In the letter to Mahan, Hames encourages GAWL to take an official position on the Equal Right Amendment. Georgia is one of 15 states

that has not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. However, GAWL has continued to keep its members informed about legislation, including, most recently, HB 827 (Rape Kit Testing), HR 746 (The Strong Families Resolution) and SB 242 (Family Care Act).*

(E) Jan. 7, 1982, letter from Margie Pitts Hames to Kice Stone, chairman of the Family Law Section, asking that more women and minorities be included as speakers for events.

Today, the State Bar of Georgia's Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession manages the Speakers Clearinghouse in order to promote equal participation of minorities and women in the legal profession.*

Women seeking to be lawyers were often called “Portias” in reference to the heroine in William Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice,” who disguises herself as a male lawyer. The New England School of Law was known as the Portia Law School, a women-only law school, until 1969.

* These exhibits are replicas.

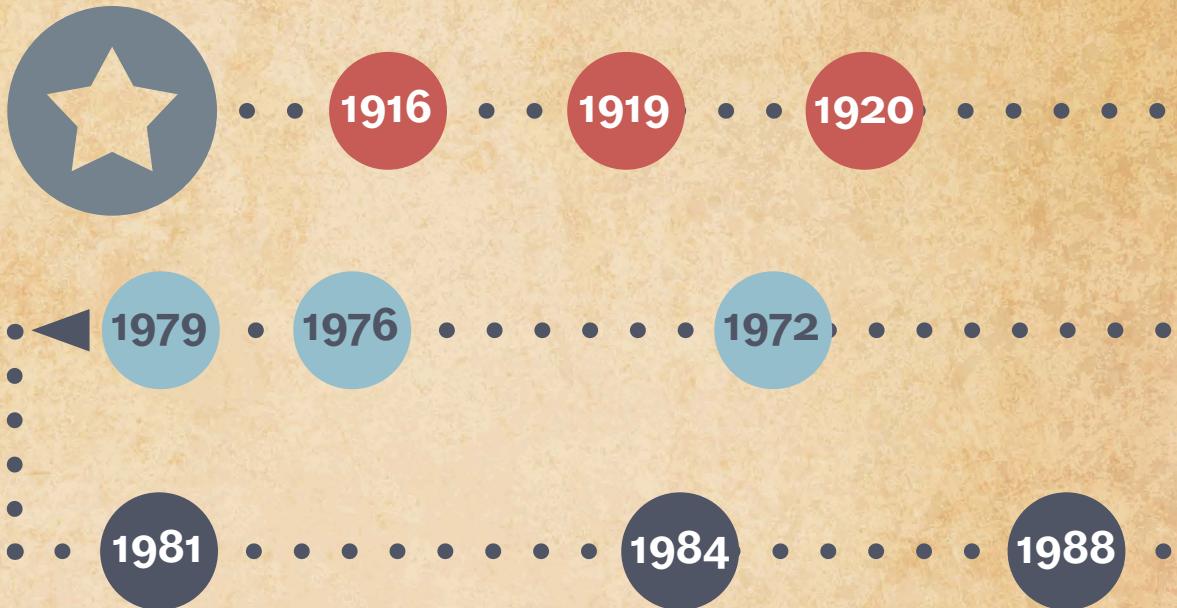
21 First 99 Women

The State Bar of Georgia did not immediately begin keeping records of those licensed to practice law. Therefore, the names of the women admitted to practice between 1916 and 1921 are not available. However, of the State Bar's available records, the first woman recorded to practice law was Elsie H. Griner, who became a member on Dec. 22, 1922. Listed are the first 99 women licensed to practice law according to the State Bar's available records. Among those listed, most are deceased, with the exception of Hon. Phyllis Kravitch, Lillie McGill, Hon. Effie Mahan, Jean Allen and Valeria Watts, all of whom were admitted during the 1940s and have taken Emeritus status.

1. **Elsie H. Griner:** *Dec. 23, 1922*
2. **Elizabeth P. Gornto:** *Sept. 4, 1923*
3. **Daisy Stubbs:** *June 1, 1924*
4. **Laris Hancock Burkhalter:** *June 6, 1925*
5. **Florence Lightfoot Breen:** *June 9, 1927*
6. **Irma V. Nunes:** *July 1, 1928*
7. **Isabel M. Holwell:** *July 25, 1928*
8. **Gladys Brooks Knight:** *Sept. 1, 1928*
9. **Ethel P. Lilley:** *June 7, 1929*
10. **Frances M. Wallace:** *Jan. 1, 1930*
11. **Margaret W. Overby:** *June 1, 1930*
12. **Margaret Acree:** *June 1, 1930*
13. **Mildred L. Kingloff:** *June 12, 1930*
14. **Gladys Tingle Medlock:** *June 12, 1930*
15. **Adele M. Fleetwood:** *July 1, 1930*
16. **Gladys N. Davis:** *Jan. 2, 1932*
17. **Pauline Mitcham Lamar:** *Jan. 4, 1932*
18. **Elizabeth Brown:** *July 11, 1932*
19. **Gertrude Harris:** *July 16, 1932*
20. **Rosebud H. McCormick:** *July 25, 1932*
21. **Clara E. Smith:** *Dec. 1, 1932*
22. **Readie P. Ashurst:** *Jan. 2, 1933*
23. **Aretha Miller Smith:** *Dec. 22, 1933*
24. **Evelyn Sisk Fabian:** *Jan. 1, 1934*
25. **Tabitha S. Quillian:** *Jan. 2, 1934*
26. **Ruth Carol Burns:** *June 1, 1934*
27. **Courtney Carswell:** *June 7, 1934*
28. **Lucille S. Cotton:** *June 10, 1934*
29. **Hattie L. Goodhue:** *Jan. 1, 1935*
30. **Mary Rogers Brady:** *Jan. 7, 1935*
31. **Callie Kennedy Gardner:** *June 1, 1935*
32. **Margaret C. Leech:** *June 5, 1935*
33. **Martha M. Warren:** *June 10, 1935*
34. **Lula G. Whitman:** *July 24, 1935*
35. **Dolly Lee Butler:** *Dec. 23, 1935*
36. **Tommie Parrish Boling:** *Jan. 1, 1936*
37. **Courtney Latham:** *Jan. 1, 1936*
38. **Julia Adams Smith:** *July 4, 1936*
39. **Victoria Wilbanks:** *July 16, 1936*
40. **Frances Y. Read:** *July 1, 1939*
41. **Mary Clark Creech:** *July 18, 1939*
42. **Ruth McLauchlin Echols:** *July 21, 1939*
43. **Wanda S. McGowan:** *July 26, 1939*
44. **Helen Winn Huff:** *Aug. 3, 1939*
45. **Margaret H. Fairleigh:** *Feb. 1, 1940*
46. **Vonner L. Fudge:** *Feb. 6, 1940*
47. **Irene G. Nichols:** *July 12, 1940*
48. **Alta Christena Petersen:** *Dec. 31, 1940*
49. **Alma Foster Elliott:** *Jan. 1, 1941*
50. **Ruth Davis:** *Jan. 2, 1941*

first 99

51. **Rufe Edwards McCombs:** *June 1, 1941*
52. **Sylvia S. Ellison:** *July 1, 1941*
53. **Mary Mann Smith:** *July 1, 1941*
54. **Florence H. Dendy:** *Jan. 1, 1942*
55. **Virginia R. Wassick:** *May 29, 1942*
56. **Edna E. McIntosh:** *June 1, 1942*
57. **Estelle T. Shields:** *June 1, 1942*
58. **Anthia Mulkey:** *July 20, 1942*
59. **Maud Saunders:** *Dec. 24, 1942*
60. **R. Pruden Herndon:** *Jan. 1, 1943*
61. **Margaret Hopkins:** *Jan. 16, 1943*
62. **Ruby G. Jackson:** *April 19, 1943*
63. **Carolyn M. West:** *July 28, 1943*
64. **Constance M. West:** *July 28, 1943*
65. **Margaret H. Donald:** *Jan. 2, 1944*
66. **Phyllis Kravitch:** *Jan. 7, 1944*
67. **Mary Calhoun Henley:** *July 14, 1944*
68. **Nellie K. Williams:** *Dec. 1, 1944*
69. **Emma Rabb Ruff:** *Dec. 28, 1944*
70. **Mabel A. Derr:** *Jan. 1, 1945*
71. **Emma Andre Monroe:** *Jan. 1, 1945*
72. **Alfredda Scobey:** *Jan. 1, 1945*
73. **Ollie Mae Stowe:** *Jan. 2, 1945*
74. **Juliet Dowling:** *Jan. 2, 1945*
75. **Grace H. Barnes:** *June 1, 1945*
76. **Doris G. Lukin:** *July 1, 1945*
77. **Mary Dozier Pallotta:** *July 1, 1945*
78. **Lillie H. McGill:** *July 20, 1945*
79. **Ruby S. Poole:** *Jan. 1, 1946*
80. **Mildred McClelland:** *Jan. 1, 1946*
81. **Mildred W. Rosser:** *Jan. 1, 1946*
82. **Beulah G. Leiter:** *Jan. 1, 1946*
83. **Myrtle T. Ness:** *Jan. 2, 1946*
84. **Margaret C. Franklin:** *Jan. 2, 1946*
85. **Sara L. Hitchcock:** *Jan. 4, 1946*
86. **Mary E. Wright:** *Jan. 4, 1946*
87. **Effie A. Mahan:** *June 1, 1946*
88. **Irene Dell Lea:** *July 1, 1946*
89. **Virginia A. Bips:** *July 23, 1946*
90. **Lou Jean Pinson:** *Jan. 1, 1947*
91. **Jean C. Allen:** *Jan. 1, 1947*
92. **Mary A. McCravey:** *Jan. 1, 1947*
93. **Ruby K. Peterson:** *Jan. 1, 1947*
94. **Grace W. Thomas:** *Jan. 1, 1947*
95. **Eleanor I. Whittle:** *Jan. 6, 1947*
96. **Inez M. Davis:** *Jan. 8, 1947*
97. **Ruth Bryan Dugas:** *July 13, 1947*
98. **Mary M. Walker:** *Aug. 13, 1947*
99. **Valeria W. Watts:** *Jan. 1, 1948*



1916 Women admitted to the Georgia Bar.

1919 Mrs. W.E. Jackson, birth name Kathryn Pierce, was the first woman to graduate from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in 1919.

1920 Eleonore Raoul is the first woman to graduate from Emory University's School of Law.

1922 Viola Ross Napier is the first female attorney to argue a case before the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

1925 Edith Elizabeth House was a member of the University of Georgia School of Law's Class of 1925, the first class to graduate women.

1928 Georgia Association for Women Lawyers founded.

1938 Miss Sarah Irene Brown, Mrs. Lucine Milan Dalton, Miss Ann Kimsey and Mrs. Holbrook were the first women to graduate from John Marshall Law School on June 4, 1938.

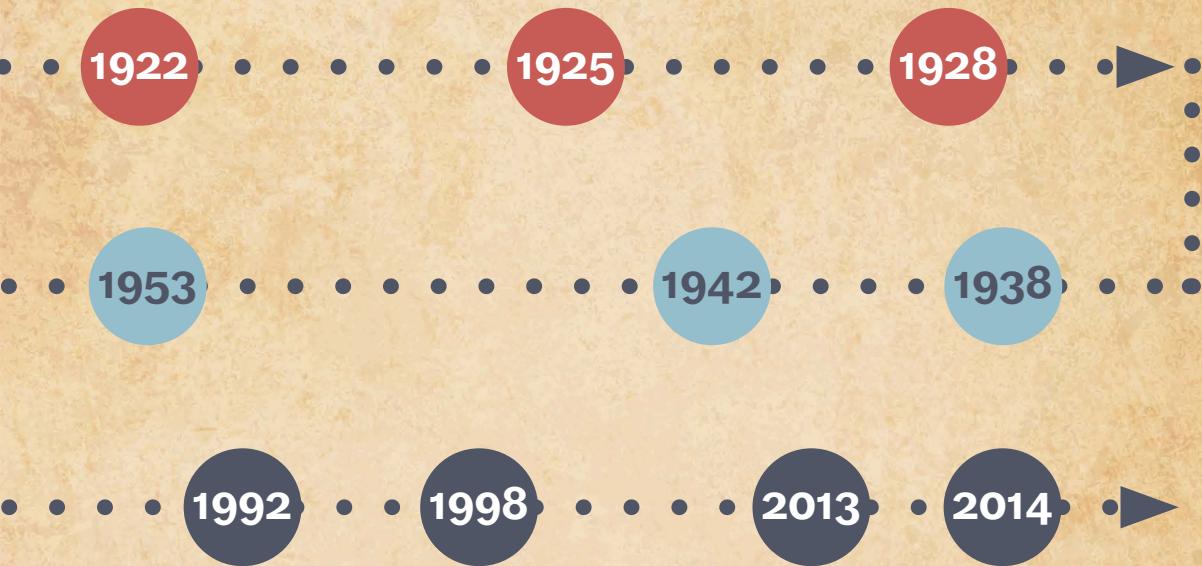
1942 First black woman attorney, Rachel Pruden Herndon, licensed to practice law in Georgia.

1953 Gov. Gene Talmedge signs into law a bill allowing women to serve on juries.

1972 Judge Dorothy A. Robinson became the first woman appointed to a court of record when she was appointed to the State Court of Cobb County by Gov. Jimmy Carter.

1976 Phyllis Kravitch was elected the first woman Superior Court judge in Georgia.

1979 Phyllis Kravitch was the first woman judge on the Fifth Circuit and the first woman to be appointed a federal judge in the Southeast.



1981 Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys founded.

1981 First woman district attorney in Georgia, Cheryl Fisher Custer, appointed by Gov. Zell Miller.

1984 Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley became the first woman to serve on the Court of Appeals of Georgia upon her appointment in 1984.

1984 Sharon Mackenzie and Diana McDonald-Burks, now Diana McDonald, were the first women to graduate from Georgia State University College of Law in 1984.

1984 *Hishon v. King & Spalding*, 467 U.S. 69, decided. The U.S. Supreme Court held that Atlanta attorney Elizabeth Hishon's complaint, that an Atlanta law firm discriminated against her on the basis of her sex when it failed to invite her to become a partner, stated a claim that could be brought under Title VII.

1988 Donna Barwick becomes first woman Younger Lawyers Section president.

1992 Leah Ward Sears becomes first woman on Supreme Court of Georgia.

1998 Linda Klein becomes first woman State Bar of Georgia president.

2013 Carla Wong McMillian becomes the first Asian Pacific-American state appellate judge ever to be appointed in the Southeast.

2014 Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker becomes first African-American woman State Bar of Georgia president.

Permissions

Listed below is each item in this exhibit and the source which granted permission for its use.

Bound Volume: 1893: L.E. Bleckley The Future of Woman at the Georgia Bar, The State Bar of Georgia.

Women Lawyers Lose Out Again, The Atlanta Constitution (1881-1945)—Atlanta, Ga., Aug 3, 1911, Page 5.

Picture of Minnie Anderson Hale, Georgia Division of Archives and History—Manuscripts: AC 91-003M.

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Eleonore Raoul, Permissions from Emory University School of Law.

Miss Sarah Irene Brown, Mrs. Lucine Milan Dalton, Miss Ann Kimsey and Mrs. Holbrook, Permissions from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School.

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Supreme Court of Georgia Docket Book, Georgia Division of Archives and History—Manuscripts: AC 91-003M.

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The Original 10 members of the Gate City Bar Association, State Bar of Georgia, Georgia Bar Journal.

Five Judges Get Together between Meetings: (l-r) Dorothy Beasley, Judge, State Court of Fulton County; Effie Mahan, Administrative Law Judge, State Board of Workmen's Compensation; Phyllis Kravitch, Judge, Superior Court of Chatham County; Romae Powell, Judge, Juvenile Court of Fulton County; Dorothy Robinson, Judge, State Court of Cobb County, State Bar of Georgia, August 1977 issue of Georgia State Bar Journal, Vol. 14, No. 1.

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Invitation to women lawyers from the wives of males lawyers (GAWL), Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Scrapbook Collection.

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Card from 1938 inviting members of the organization to a banquet to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its founding, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Scrapbook Collection.

Program Book from GAWL 1963 Annual Banquet, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Scrapbook Collection.

Georgia Bar Association Annual Meeting 1961 photo with two female attorneys, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Scrapbook Collection.

GAWL scrapbook clipping: Georgia Chief Justice Addresses Portias—Chief Justice Richard B. Russell of the Supreme Court of Georgia, as he addressed the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers at their dinner here, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Scrapbook Collection.

Georgia Bar Association Annual Meeting 1962 photo with three female attorneys, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Scrapbook Collection.

Picture of L.E. Bleckley (1827-1907) circa 1895, Atlanta History Center.

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