

Emphasis on women lawyers' femininity

News reports in both Chicago Legal News and The Woman's Journal typically emphasized women lawyers' femininity, almost as if to say that even though these women have chosen such an offbeat, masculine profession, they're still all female. Examples (chronologically, CLN, then WJ):

\* "Loew & Loew, Counselors at Law,' is the sign on an office door in one of the down-town buildings of New York. The firm is composed of father and daughter, and is doing a good business, no small share of which is attended to by the pretty brunette junior partner. Though a clever lawyer, Rosalie Loew has nothing of the mannish girl about her, being, in fact, rather extreme in the opposite direction."

CLN, 8/31/1895, at 267, col. 3.

\* CLN quoting itself from 29 CLN 78 regarding admission of first black woman to the bar in Illinois: "We are glad to welcome Miss [Ida] Platt as the first colored woman ever admitted to the Illinois bar, and are pleased to be able to say that she is a woman of very decided ability, being an excellent shorthand reporter, proficient in German, French and music, and agreeable in manner; . . ."

CLN, 9/11/1897, at 25, col. 3.

\* At Central College in Nashville, a black college where Lutie Lytle studied law: "There were any number of young men studying beside her, but she held her own with them all. Though she studied hard, she did not shut herself out from the enjoyment of the society of her fellow students. She was a member of the college glee club, and at the numerous musical entertainments given by the students she was invariably relied upon to accompany on the piano."

CLN, 9/18/1897, at 32, col. 2, quoting 9/11/1897 Courier-Journal [of Nashville?].

\* Mrs. Alice Parker Lesser, denied admission to the Massachusetts bar, "meekly retired to await the decision of the court."

CLN, 12/10/1898, at 137, col. 1-2.

\* Judge Kohlsaot of Illinois Probate Court on Mary M. Bartelme, a probate lawyer: "She is now the little mother to more than two hundred boys and girls, many of them larger than she is, and she governs them better than most parents would. . . . She provides homes, adjusts family feuds, advises the wayward, directs the inexperienced, carries flowers and comforts to the sick, soothes the last hours of the dying and is sometimes the only mourner at the funeral."

CLN, 3/4/1899, at 234, col. 1-2.

\* Marion E. Garmory, admitted to Illinois bar: "In addition to being bright and intelligent Miss Garmory has a refined and ladylike manner; retiring but sunny disposition, and withal a very attractive personality."

CLN, 3/12/1898, at 238, col. 2-3.

\* Mrs. Anna M. Mullin of Chicago: "[T]his quiet, unassuming woman is a living refutation of the old fallacy that a woman loses her womanliness by entering man's sphere (so called) . . ."

CLN, 6/2/1900, at 345, col. 1.

\* Victoria A. Desalliod of Chicago: "graduated from the Chicago College of Law in 1897 and was admitted to the Illinois bar June 16, 1897. . . . since her graduation has been engaged with the well-known law firm of Shope, Mathis & Barrett. . . . [T]he junior member is Elmer E. Barrett, secretary of the law college from which she graduated, and for whom she has acted as private secretary and assistant for some time.

"Miss Desalliod is especially to be commended because of the neat and methodical manner in which she prepares her papers and transacts business."

CLN, 6/2/1900, at 345, col. 2.

\* Ruth Dick Hall of Chicago: "Miss Hall is pleasing in manner . . ."

CLN, 6/16/1900, at 361, col. 3.

\* quoting La Ligue, publication of the Woman's Rights Association of Belgium: "A very interesting little book has just been published by Judge James. B. Bradwell. It contains the portraits of twenty-seven women lawyers of Chicago.

It is very interesting to study the faces of these women lawyers. Certainly no physiognomist could deduce from them any general characteristics of the women who have adopted the study of law. No type of any kind is revealed. All these women have interesting faces, animated by a quick intelligence, but their features, the shape of their heads, their styles of dress, in a word, their whole outward aspects, are most diverse."

CLN, 11/17/1900, at 107, col. 4.

\* Susan Cecilia O'Neill of Waterbury, Conn., first woman attorney to appear before the Supreme Court of Errors of Connecticut: "Miss O'Neill has a charming personality, and was becomingly gowned in gray. Her voice is clear and full, in tone, her manner quiet and cultured yet with animation."

CLN, 6/8/1901, at 355, col. 3.

\* from article by Catharine Waugh McCulloch, reprinted from WJ: "The renowned University of Bologna in Italy in the time of its greatest prosperity, when the number of its pupils reached 10,000, was so liberal as to even employ women lecturers in law. One of these, Novella, who lectured in the fourteenth century, was said to have been so beautiful that she was obliged to deliver her lectures from behind a curtain, in order that the attention of the students might not be distracted."

CLN, 9/14/1901, at 29, col. 4.

\* quoting London Law Journal article on Gray's Inn Debating Society: Debate topic was: "'That the time has arrived when women should be admitted into the legal profession.' Mr. Rentoul, K.C., M.P., who opposed the resolution in an amusing speech, urged that a handsome lady barrister would exercise an unfair influence upon juries."

CLN, 10/12/1901, at 63, col. 4.

\* Isabella Quinlan of Galesburg, Ill.: "She is the wife of James Quinlan, and has two children--a son, aged twenty-four years, and a charming daughter of seventeen summers. . . . She has a pleasing personality . . ."

CLN, 10/26/1901, at 77, col. 2-3.

\* quoting from ABA report of James Dewitt Andrews' remarks: "Mrs. Myra Bradwell . . . her business career coupled with her domestic career is one of the finest illustrations of the fact that a woman may engage very actively and successfully in business, and that business connected with the law, and lose nothing of the tenderness of women or nothing of the respect and admiration of her husband, because there never was a sweeter couple than Mr. and Mrs. Bradwell.

"Mrs. McCullough, I think, must be taken as an illustration that a woman may practice law side by side with her husband and yet never lose anything of dignity or purity or of the respect of those who are acquainted with her, or the admiration and affection of her husband. . . . She has been a successful practitioner, and yet, as I consider that she is the mother of a family, and that the duties of her employment were interrupted by the higher duties of motherhood, I believe that if I were to choose her career, with the knowledge of what I have known, I should have preferred that when she became the wife of Mr. McCullough she had ceased to practice law."

CLN, 3/1/1902, at 220, col. 2-3.

\* Mme. Dieulafoye in Paris: "An unusual privilege obtained by Mme. Dieulafoye as a reward for her discovery of the ruins of the Temple of Darius, . . . was that she should evermore have the right to wear male attire. .

Her appearance is masculine, save for the slight bang which falls over her forehead and her rosy cheeks and feminine cast of countenance."

CLN, 3/22/1902, at 245, col. 3. (titled "Paris Woman Lawyer".)

\* Mrs. Edith W. Locke, first woman admitted to the Texas bar: "She does not allow her professional work, as an attorney, to interfere with her care of the interesting twins, of which she is the mother."

CLN, 5/24/1902, at 317, col. 4.

\* quoting Mrs. Theodore Sutro, in Success: "Why Women Study Law.--The study of law is to a woman a means of culture, . . . teaching her to see unsuspected and beautiful relation and harmony in the most alien phases of mental, spiritual and material life. . . . seldom a conscious reason for undertaking her work. However, I believe that a blind intuition of all this is at the back of the impulse to know jurisprudence."

CLN, 10/18/1902, at 77, col. 4.

\* address by Prof. Isaac Franklin Russell at October 20, 1902, opening of the women's law class at NYU, reprinted from the Law Register: "The clerical force of a law office is generally composed of women in large part. Similarly, places in the public civil service . . . are stations where women may advantageously be placed. For such functions, not merely clerical, but often confidential, woman has the highest qualifications in her great conscientiousness, her neat habits and constant devotion and regularity. Her presence, too, radiates refining power through all her surroundings, and if it does not always sanctify the room where she sits, it at least insures a dignity and gravity of demeanor on the part of her male associates that must always enhance the efficiency of the office as a whole."

CLN, 11/15/1902, at 110, col. 1-2.

\* Ellen Gertrude Roberts of Chicago: "This shrewd and successful lawyer is one of the most feminine looking of women, dainty and modest."

CLN, 11/19/1904, at 111, col. 3.

-----

\* Miss Helena Barkaloo of St. Louis: ". . . notwithstanding her youth and her sex, immediately commanded respect by her abilities, industry, acquirements, and womanliness of manner."

WJ, 10/1/1870, at 308, col. 2.

\* Major Lucien Eaton, in whose office Miss Helena Barkaloo studied law: "He testified to finding her a true woman; modest and retiring, carefully shunning all unnecessary publicity, and avoiding all display."

WJ, 10/1/1870, at 308, col. 3.

\* Regarding trial in which Miss Alta Hulett represented a washerwoman against a butcher: "The room was crowded with men, and there was scarcely a disinterested man in the audience who did not rejoice in the verdict, not only because of its justice, but because of the spunky, determined and successful fight made by the young lady in black, with the fine intellectual face and the flashing eyes. . . . Perhaps none but married men should be eligible as jurors hereafter, for when lady lawyers become numerous, susceptible young men may be biased by their presence', and in cases of damages--such as breach of promise--the amount would be very apt to correspond to the attractiveness of the array of ladies employed to prosecute the tyrant man.

"By the way, would it not be a good idea for the Justices to make way for the millennium, and keep their courts tidy and clean for ladies to practice in them? Now they are nothing but rooted spittoons."

WJ, 7/12/1873, at 217, col. 3 (quoting Chicago Tribune).

\* H. Clay Neville of Ozark, Mo., on "Woman Needed in the Courts": "The honored champions of the bar, offensive with the fumes of whiskey and tobacco, . . . shamelessly address the court with ribald jests, to which judge and jury often respond with hillarious [sic] applause. ¶ What is the cause of the difference between the conduct of these men in the court room and in the parlor? Can it be attributed to any other cause than the absence of Woman? Woman has carried refinement wherever she has been admitted into the public life of society."

WJ, 10/10/1874, at 326, col. 4.

\* Miss M. Fredrika Perry, of Chicago: "Of accomplished tastes and pleasing presence, she is certain to produce a most favorable impression wherever she goes."

WJ, 12/8/1877, at 385, col. 5.

\* Mrs. Ellen S. Forbes Tolman, of Lawrence, Mass.: "She is a very frail, slender, delicate woman, who has maintained her husband and three children when they could not care for themselves."

WJ, 10/16/1887, at 330, col. 3.

\* Miss Elizabeth L. Kenney, of Los Angeles: "Miss Kenney is quite tall, and elegantly proportioned; of the intellectual blonde type; clear-browed and firm-lipped; well-poised, gracious, full of strength and dignity. . . Her lovely mother . . . is to be congratulated on the attainments of her superb daughter."

WJ, 1/8/1898, at 16, col. 3.

\* "The office of Public Guardian of Cook County, held by Miss Mary Bartelme, a member of a prosperous Chicago law firm, is one that frequently calls for equalities essentially maternal. . . . [T]he public guardian becomes the chief friend and counsellor, the mother, to a considerable extent, of the child in charge."

WJ, 2/5/1898, at 48, col. 3.

\* Miss Marion Garmory of Rockford, Ill.: "Miss Garmory is one of the brightest as well as one of the most modest young women in Rockford, and, moreover, is a very pretty girl, with many admirers."

WJ, 3/12/1889, at 1, col. 3. (quoting Chicago Times-Herald.)

\* Mrs. Ella Knowles Haskell, assistant attorney-general of Montana: quoting Lowell, Mass., Mail: "The reporter was much surprised at Mrs. Haskell's appearance. . . . naturally expected to meet a lofty, stern specimen of the new woman. Imagine his surprise to find an individual of the most gentle type, with an appearance of submissiveness that bordered on timidity. Mrs. Haskell is mild, gentle and womanly, though full of courage and energy."

WJ, 3/12/1898, at 1, col. 3.

\* re: reunion tea of the Women's Law Class at NYU: "The rooms were decorated in violet, the University color, and the social atmosphere was so roseate, and the 'small talk' so enjoyable, that it was difficult to believe that Blackstone's Commentaries were as familiar to the women present as were the tales of Mother Goose."

WJ, 11/26/1898, at 381, col. 3.

\* quoting the Boston Herald on Miss Elizabeth M. Taylor of Boston: "She is young, smiling, and does not wear glasses. Yet she . . . is a full-fledged member of the Suffolk bar."

WJ, 1/20/1900, at 24, col. 3.

\* Miss Rosalie Loew writing in Success: "[T]o succeed in [court work] a woman must have a forceful character and a personality which is strong and yet not too masculine."

WJ, 6/30/1900, at 208, col. 3.