

Women Lawyer's Journal

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a school-girl she intended to be a doctor, but a tall, broad-shouldered, handsome Irishman, the late T. F. Kelley, attorney, changed her mind. She quit medical school at the end of her second year and married him. After her two sons became grown, she studied law in her husband's office.

No one knows her age.

"I couldn't even tell you myself without stopping to figure it up," she declares with a smile. "My husband never knew my age. My children don't know it. I always told them, 'Mother is ageless, she is neither young nor old.' Age is just a state of mind."

The judge is in great demand as a speaker, not only in the South, but all over the country. Because of her court work, she has had to turn down many financially tempting lecture engagements. Her daily program usually starts at seven a. m. and lasts till midnight.

She gets stacks and stacks of mail-letters and cards from former wards all over the world. And nothing gives her

greater satisfaction than to read them and write encouraging answers.

A few days after she went on the bench, ten years ago, the editor of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Bulletin asked her to write a little article about the court. In the article, which she dashed off very hurriedly, was this paragraph:

"My concept of a juvenile court is a strong arm to supplement home care and training, to supply it where it does not exist, and a place where parents may go for counsel concerning the life problem of their child. It is the arm of protection that holds the child thought in correct channels until it is strong enough to stand alone, and the protection of right training that heals the bruised concept of life."

The definition has been quoted widely. And after ten years the judge has not changed her idea about it. To her it is still just a strong arm upon which unfortunate children may lean.

"And it's the sweetest, most satisfying work in the world."

TABLE OF WOMEN JURORS

Laura M. Berrien acting as counsel for the National Association of Women Lawyers as Amicus Curias, in the case of Welosky, vs. the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prepared a most interesting table. This draft showing the status of women jurors in the United States is reproduced elsewhere. While the Association was not successful in its appeal, we are to be congratulated in having in our ranks, members like Miss Berrien who are willing to do the arduous work of legal research and briefing in behalf of their sisters.

In States where women are on the jury, even the most conservative members of the bench agree that they have raised the entire status of jury service. The type of woman willing to accept jury service, as a whole, is much higher than men accepting the same positions.

MICHIGAN AFFILIATES

As we go to press, word comes from our Corresponding Secretary, Lillian D. Rock that the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan have become affiliated with the National. We are happy to wel-

come this group of women attorneys into the parent organization. Michigan has always been well represented in the National Association and the affiliation of this group as a whole is a logical move.



Henrietta D. Stonestreet, vice president from Maryland and now attending the International Peace Conference at Geneva, Switzerland.



Judge Florence E. Allen of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Judge Florence Allen

By Percilla Lawyer Randolph, vice president of the Southern California Council

The Southern California Council of The National Association of Women Lawyers had the very great pleasure of having Justice Florence Ellenwood Allen of the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio as their guest, at a dinner given by them in her honor at the Alexandria Hotel in Los Angeles, California, on December 26, 1931. Judge Allen is a National Officer of the Association.

It was my great pleasure to meet her at the train on her arrival from San Diego, where she had been visiting her father, Mr. C. E. Allen of San Diego, who is very ill, and I returned her to her train some few hours later, as she was returning to Columbus, Ohio, which is her home, and to her duties on the Supreme Court Bench of that State.

She is the only woman to sit in a Court of last resort anywhere in the world. "I know that neither I nor any

other woman would have received an appointment to fill this position. Only by a direct vote of the people, can a woman reach the Supreme Bench. In Ohio, where we have a non-partisan system, I believe that a higher type of judiciary is secured by the elective system than by the appointative method. Too frequently judges are embarrassed by the demands of party leaders," stated Judge Allen.

Judge Allen was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1920 by the greatest vote ever given any judicial candidate of that Court, leading the entire judicial ticket of ten Candidates. She was elected to the Supreme Court of Ohio in 1922, and re-elected in 1928 by a 352,000 majority. Twice she was elected by the entire State of Ohio, of 88 Counties. She now sits ten months of the year at Columbus, Ohio; hears

cases and writes briefs during regular session. She has two months vacation out of the year, depending on the congestion of the calendar.

Judge Allen studied law from 1909-1910 at Chicago University Law School, and also studied law at New York University Law School from 1911-1913, graduating from that University in 1913, and was admitted to the Ohio Bar in -- 1914. She was in the active practice of the law in Cleveland, Ohio for five years, and was appointed assistant County Prosecutor of Cuyahoga County in 1919. Judge Allen stated at that time she had had quite a general practice, all Civil; that her first client was a man; that she



had had but one criminal case prior to her appointment as Assistant Prosecutor.

Before woman received the franchise, when she handled the grand jury a janitor said to her, "this room is a lot cleaner since we have had a woman prosecutor." During that time she was presented a pair of white gloves by the Clerk of the Grand Jury and as he presented them to her he said, "I don't think much of women lawyers or women prosecutors" and then he added, "But may your shadow never grow less."

Judge Allen spent very little money on her election campaigns, the women took care of her, and obtained the signers on her petitions. Before she was elected to the Bench the first time, she said, "I will think it is terrible if I am elected, and terrible if I am not, that every way it is terrible."

Judge Allen is a granddaughter of Jacob Tuckerman who for over fifty years taught in Ohio, being principal of Grand River Institute, Austinburg,

Ashtabula County, principal of New Lyme Institute, South New Lyme, Ashtabula County and President of Farmers College, Cincinnati. Her father, Clarence Emir Allen, is a graduate of Western Reserve College, Hudson, Ohio, former principal of Western Reserve Academy and a former teacher in Western Reserve College. Her mother was one of the first students enrolled at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

The Judge stated that when she was elected to the Common Pleas Court, the powers that be attempted to place her in the Domestic Relations Court, but she said "I told them I didn't see why I

should sit on the Domestic Relations Bench, when I am an old maid, and there are many fathers on the Bench." Yet she is very feminine, in fact she might stand for the Eternal Mother.

She stated she did not care so much what women had done for suffrage, as what suffrage had done for women, and she made reference to the recognition which women now received as against her status prior to suffrage having been granted to her.

Prior to studying law she attended New Lyme Institute in Ashtabula County and graduated from the College for Women, Western Reserve University in 1904. For two years after leaving college she studied music in Berlin, where she was Musical Correspondent for the Musical Courier and the Continental Times. For three years she taught in an exclusive preparatory school. At the time she was working for her degree of Master of Arts in political science, and constitutional law,

and conducting the musical column of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. While studying law she lectured on music and current political history for the New York Board of Education and before Women's Clubs in New York and Philadelphia. She is a member of the Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, Cleveland, Ohio. As she looks out at you from deep set eyes you recognize there are back of them generations of birth, breeding and education.

As she talked of these women going from store to store to secure signers for her petitions, there came into her voice a lilting cadence of affection, and she said "I could not fail them." The old Western Reserve in Ohio where Judge Allen was educated in her younger days is very familiar to me, and as she talked she became to me symbolical of Ohio. It seemed to me that no other State in the Union could have produced just such a woman. Ohio, stable, reliable, substantial, maternal, with her sons of soil and liberty, and her daughters of home and fireside; in the main educated, and with time for strong lasting friendships.

She is poised, and at peace with herself; thinks clearly, speaks passionately, and you are impressed with her sincerity and tenacity of purpose. You realize that she will work with an organization, but she will never be used by it, nor will it be able to control her. Kipling's lines might be changed to read, "She can walk with Kings yet not loose the common touch." As she talks she closes her mouth with a peculiar lovable quirk and you know, without your saving a word, she understands you, and because of that understanding, and even in suite of that understanding, she loves you and will serve you. You feel instantly she is not considering you in the light of what you can do for her, but what she can do for you. Yet you realize that she will be capable of meteing out Justice, whether that justice be in favor of the individual or the State.

Judge Allen has said, "While I believe that capital punishment is a confession by society that it does not know what to do with the criminal, still if either a man or woman were properly convicted under our present laws, I should have no hesitation about imposing the death sentence." The mantle of Justice has indeed fallen upon able, willing and reliable shoulders.

WOMENS BAR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ENTERTAINS VICE PRESIDENT

The annual banquet of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia was held on January 27th at the Willard Hotel. The Vice President of the United States, Honorable Charles Curtis, was the guest of honor and speaker. Hon. Gail Laughlin of the Maine Legislature made an inspiring address, as did Olive Stott Gabriel of New York, president of the National Association of Women Lawyers. Miss M. Pearl McCall, assistant United States Attorney, and president of the association, presided. Miss Laura Berrin acted as toastmistress.

Miss Helen Brown, president of the Women's Bar Association of Baltimore and a large group of its members came from Baltimore to attend the banquet. The addressee were broadcast over Station WJSV.

Others present were: Justice Peyton Gordon and Justice F. Dickenson Letts of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, Hon. Charles P. Sisson, Assistant Attorney General; Hon. Mary T. Norton, member of Congress from New Jersey, chairman of the House District Committee (first woman to be chairman of a Congressional committee); Hon. Hatton W. Summers, chairman House Judiciary Committee; Mrs. Ellis A. Yost, vice chairman, Republican National Committee; Gov. Nellie Taylor Ross, vice chairman, Democratic National Committee; Grace Hays Riley, dean of the Washington College of Law; Dr. Ellen Spencer Mussey, first president of the Women's Bar Association; Rebekah S. Greathouse, Assistant United States Attorney.

The first public gathering of public function of women members of the District Bar was the dinner given on March 13, 1917, at the New Arlington Hotel in honor of four men who were advocates of women's suffrage. These four men had the courage of their convictions and each and every one of them carried a banner up Pennsylvania Avenue in the historic suffrage parade on March 3, 1913. It was at this dinner that plans were made to perfect an organization to be known as the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. This organization which began a membership of thirty-one women, now has a membership of approximately two hundred.