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The Women of Fordham Law

Cynthia Worham

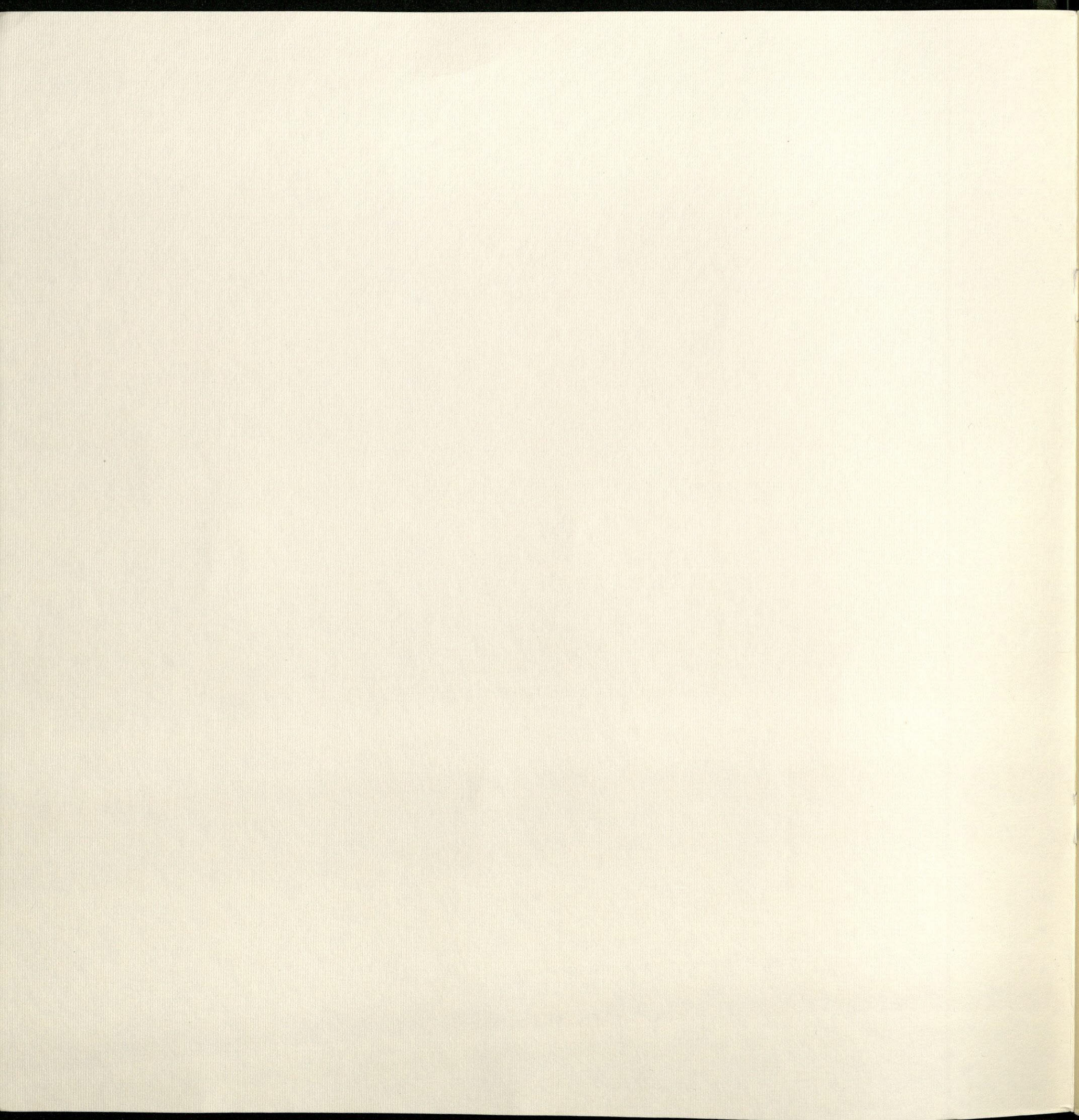
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75
YEARS

YEARS



Women made up about a third of my class when I became a student at Fordham Law School in 1976. We were a typically diverse group, some of us heading into a second career, others into a first career after the children had grown, others, like myself, just looking for a real career after bouncing around for a while after college.

It took only two or three law school classes for me to know for sure that I would fail. How could I possibly keep up with the brilliant young men who readily raised their hands to talk and who always sounded so smart? How could I pass as intelligent when called on by professors who dazzled me with their command of the material, and their style? It almost escaped my attention at first that one of those professors was a woman — Sheila Birnbaum, then the only woman on the Fordham Law faculty.

I did not fully understand at the time how important it was for me to have that one woman professor. But when my grades came in, and I had done well, I knew that it was Professor Birnbaum who had helped me to do it. She has continued to provide me with the special encouragement and confidence that I needed, just as today's 14 women law professors are doing for their students, and as our eight senior women administrators, our alumnae and our students do for each other.

In the following pages you will meet some of the 2,700 members of a very select club — some famous, some powerful, some modestly situated and relatively unknown. The women of Fordham Law are school teachers and social workers and shelter organizers and public service lawyers as well as federal and state judges, law firm partners and corporate counsels and executives. For the past year, I have been privileged to get to know many of them through my work on the steering committee overseeing the 75th anniversary of the admission of women to our law school. My only regret is that we are not able to introduce all of Fordham's law women to one another and to you. I know you would be as proud as I am of the extraordinary personal diversity and the broad spectrum of professional achievement embraced within our numbers.

Our celebration this year is of women, but also of Fordham Law School itself. I speak not as Associate Dean, nor as a Professor, not even as an alumna, but simply as a woman of my time when I express gratitude for the courage, fairness and great good sense that brought Fordham Law to admit women at a time when to do so was still very much a daring act. I am gratified that we have more than honored Fordham's gesture of confidence in its own future and in ours. —*Georgene M. Vairo, Class of 1979, Associate Dean and Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law*



1643

In Baltimore, Englishwoman Margaret Brent is granted the right to supervise the estate of the dying Lord Calvert, representing the first time in the brief history of the American colonies that a woman assumed court-related responsibilities. Brent is later — and repeatedly — denied the right to address the Colonial legislature.

1795

Successfully defending a Massachusetts land claim, Lucy Terry Prince becomes the first woman and the first African American to address the U.S. Supreme Court.

1885

An amendment to the New York State constitution allows the admission of women to the practice of law. Shortly thereafter, a Columbia University trustee sums up prevailing reaction with the vow that “No woman shall degrade herself by practicing law in New York if I can save her.”

THE PARAMOUNT
DESTINY AND MISSION
OF WOMEN ARE TO
FULFILL THE NOBLE AND
BENIGN OFFICES OF WIFE
AND MOTHER. THIS IS THE
LAW OF THE CREATOR.

*From an 1873 ruling by the
Illinois Supreme Court, denying
Myra Bradwell's appeal for
admission to the Illinois Bar.*

Virtually from its founding in 1905, the Law School at Fordham University flourished under the attentions of a succession of extraordinary legal scholars whose imaginations were fired by the chance to build for their sons a law school from the ground up. They made it from the outset an adventurous, intellectually progressive institution: From the day it opened, Fordham Law required a three-year course of study, rather than the two-year course then mandated by the New York State Bar. As early as 1909, Fordham became the first law school outside the Ivy League to adopt Harvard's revolutionary “case method” of legal instruction; in 1907, it was the first law school after Harvard to offer a course in jurisprudence.

In 1912, after considerable debate among the faculty, Fordham Law

added an evening division program that became the immediate success its partisans had predicted. The practice of law was then still guided by what Abraham Lincoln, among others, promoted as the “poor boy” rule — the notion that every citizen possessed an inherent right to practice law — and night study was throughout the academic world a popular way to accommodate those great numbers of working people who wanted training in the law. While some of the Fordham faculty feared that evening classes would dilute the quality of the school's student population, the new division had no such impact on Fordham's parity with far more established institutions.

Of 600 mid-term applicants to the New York State Bar in 1913, the year that Fordham organized its first moot court, only 11 percent passed the qualifying exam; among Fordham applicants, the pass rate was 88 percent. In 1914, Fordham published its first law review, a mark of serious academic intent, and enrollment exceeded 500 for the first time. In anticipation of sustained growth, the school moved in 1915 to quarters

within the Woolworth Building that would be able to accommodate as many as 800 students. Like its 28th floor vista from what was then the tallest building in the world, the future of Fordham Law had no apparent limits.

World War I abruptly ended the enrollment boom at Fordham, as at law schools all over the United States. With passage of the Selective Service Act, law school attendance fell by nearly half over a single semester in 1917. This was a more serious matter at Fordham than at most institutions. The University had become dependent upon the income from its Law School, in particular to subsidize the chronically ailing Fordham medical school. Founded with the Law School in 1905 — twin markers of the ambitious path the University set for itself early in the 20th century — the medical school had captured the passionate support of the University administration in a way that the Law School, which from the beginning functioned in many respects as a school apart, had not; keeping the medical school open was a top priority for the faculty and administration.

1890

The federal census shows 135 women lawyers and law students in the United States. In an unsigned letter to the editor of the *Boston Globe*, one of these women notes that "Newspapers publish and republish little floating items about women lawyers along with those of the latest sea serpent, the popular idea seeming to be that one is as about as real as the other."

1892

A decision in her favor by the U.S. Supreme Court grants Myra Bradwell admission to the Illinois Bar, retroactive to the date of her first petition in 1869.

1918

With the number of female attorneys, jurists and law students in the United States exceeding 700, the American Bar Association opens its membership to women for the first time.

✱

Among the desperate measures considered in 1918 was expanding Law School enrollment through the admission of women, a move already undertaken by several institutions: New York University, for one, had begun to admit women to its law school in 1892. But whereas NYU was founded as coeducational, Fordham University had been a profoundly all-male school from its 1841 origins as a wood-cabin seminary in an elm grove up the Hudson. The presence of females on the Fordham campus would be as sudden and shattering a departure from tradition as at any of America's elite schools — Yale, Harvard, Princeton — none of which admitted women. Nonetheless, the suggestion to do so was made at a May 1918 Law School faculty meeting by Fordham's president, the Reverend Joseph A. Mulry, S.J.; even he

felt compelled to back off quickly, "owing to objections raised against [the idea.]"

✱

For reasons unknown, but likely no more interesting than the rule of simple economics, Rev. Mulry had a change of heart over the summer. During a faculty meeting on the following September 12, according to the minutes, "The Rev. Rector authorized the matriculation of women and ordered the

insertion of this fact to be put in the newspapers." On September 22, the Law School's customary start-of-term ad in *The New York Times* announced "courses open to women." During the week remaining before classes convened, eight women signed up to study alongside 312 men. No one may have even noticed that Yale Law admitted women during the same week.

■

The sprinkling of women shown in the Class of 1926 Law School photograph would represent the highest female-to-male ratio until well into the 1960s.





The Law School was intended to be Fordham's first entry into Manhattan, in tacit acknowledgement that the annexation of its Westchester County campus into the Borough of the Bronx in 1889 had transformed the once-rural institution into a city school. Rooms and offices were leased from the Jesuit College of St. Francis Xavier on West 16th Street, but in the boom-time educational climate of New York in the gilded age, St. Francis reclaimed the space at the last minute to make way for its own burgeoning enrollment. Unable to find space elsewhere, the Law School opened at Rose Hill in a single room on a floor of the Science Building otherwise given over to the new medical college. ■

When only eight students enrolled that first year, it was evident that the Law School might not survive in a location so distant from the New York City courts. The following year, 42 students signed up for classes in additional quarters at (coincidentally) 42 Broadway, the first stop that would relocate the Law School three more times in the next nine years. ■ Somehow, enrollment was not affected by all the moving around. The Law School that stood at 100 students during 1908, its first year of residence at 29 Vesey Street, was more than 300 strong when it moved to 140 Nassau Street in 1911, and grew to an enrollment of 500 by the time it moved to the Woolworth Building in 1915. ■

The Woolworth Building in lower Manhattan, circa 1918

1920

As the 19th Amendment grants women the right to vote, New York attorney Beatrice Doerschuk undertakes a pioneering study of attitudes and ambitions among 297 women lawyers in the United States. Included among the study's recommendations is a proposal that special domestic relations courts be established under the direction of female jurists.

1921

A Carnegie Foundation survey of the legal profession recommends sweeping changes in the way it educates its practitioners. In response to the study, which it commissioned, the ABA requires two years of pre-law college study as a condition of membership. At Fordham, the medical college, with little ceremony, closes its doors for good.

1927

Columbia University admits women for the first time to its school of law; 27 will enroll that first year, of which two will actually graduate in 1929.

Of Fordham's pioneering women octet, only two actually graduated from the Law School, by name Patricia A. O'Connell and Mildred L. O'Connor. That three-quarters of the women entrants did not survive through graduation was not especially remarkable; two-thirds of the men didn't make it either. Well into this century, the study of law required no more than a high school education — or "equivalent," which covered a lot of ground — and many who set out to become lawyers lacked the basic academic capability necessary to do so. In general, however, women came to law school better prepared than their male counterparts. A study of law graduates at NYU during the 1920s shows that 25 to 40 percent of women students had finished a full four-year course of pre-law college study, as compared with 7 to 20 percent among the men.



A third woman, Ella Ralston, a transfer after her first year from NYU, finished at the top of the evening division of Fordham Law's

119-member Class of 1921. According to federal census figures, she was one of 1,739 women of the law — students, lawyers and jurists — in the United States by then, just less than 1 percent of the male total. Ralston became the first Fordham-educated woman attorney to be admitted to the New York Bar (by 1921, women were eligible for membership in the bar of every state). She also joined the New York County Bar Association, founded in 1908 as a professional association for those numerous members of the legal profession who were for one reason or another (including gender, race, religion, ethnicity or class), excluded from the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.



Like most attorneys of her era, women and otherwise, Ralston became a general practitioner, a neighborhood lawyer who helped people with everyday tax and property matters. Corporate law firms were nowhere near the force in the profession that they are today, but among those that did exist, women employees were not welcome above a clerical level. There were a handful of women in

the judiciary by 1921, including Annette Abbott Adams, appointed by Woodrow Wilson as the first female federal judge, but most young women entering the law were unlikely to encounter anyone like what would today be called a "role model."



"You have to understand that I never saw a woman lawyer until I was nearly finished law school," remembers Grace Corcoran Kennedy, a Philadelphia attorney who entered Fordham Law 20 years after the School's first trio of women graduates. Even 20 years after that, first-year student Geraldine Ferraro's sole encounter with a woman of the law was Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* — a lady of the court who had to pass as a male in order to have her voice heard. Ferraro came from a family of lawyers, so at least her interest in the profession was not taken as frankly aberrant. The Hon. Lucille Polk Buell remembers her family as being clearly

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GOODLOOKING, SHE OUGHT
TO BE DEAD...

Letter to the editor of
the New York Sun, 1914

1928

Female law school enrollment in New York City declines further, to 513. The State of New York for the first time requires a single year of pre-law college study for admission to its bar. The following year, a second year will be added to the requirement, bringing the New York State Bar in compliance with ABA guidelines — and up to the level established by Fordham Law a full four years earlier.

unsettled by the ardor of her schoolgirl desire for a career in law. "It seemed like such an unimaginable thing," says the distinguished jurist, scholar and teacher, first in the Law School Class of 1947, and in 1972 the first woman appointed to the Law School faculty, "and not at all ladylike. Law was absolutely no place for a woman. My mother would try and change the subject whenever I'd bring it up." Sums up Corcoran Kennedy: "To have a career in law back then, a woman had to have the hide of an elephant."



A certain strength of purpose was often evident among Fordham's earliest women graduates. Surely Fanny Holtzmann, who graduated from the evening division in 1922, knew no fear when she took on Louis B. Mayer on behalf of the Russian royal family, which claimed it had been libeled in the MGM film *Rasputin*. Holtzmann's eventual victory in that celebrated case not only advanced the horizons of First-Amendment law, it established the gifted, driving attorney as a pioneer of American entertainment law, a

1929

With the number of women studying law in New York City falling below 500 for the first time since 1918, less than 5 percent of the city's law students are women.

field in which she enjoyed a long and extraordinarily colorful career.



Nor did Ruth Whitehead show any absence of courage when she protested to no less than *The New York Times* that a prize to which she was entitled as the academic leader of the Fordham Law Class of 1924 was withdrawn at the last minute because she was discovered by the donor to be of African descent. In 1925, Whitehead became the first black woman admitted to both the New York and North Carolina Bars, and, as Ruth Whitehead Whaley, embarked upon a distinguished career as an attorney, advocate and public servant. Active nationally on behalf of welfare reform, among other issues, Whitehead Whaley served on the New York City Board of Estimate from 1951 until 1973, and on the City Council during the 1940s. ■

An indifferent student from a Jewish quarter of Brooklyn, Fanny Holtzmann went to work as a law-office secretary in 1918 and lasted barely a week. While less than dazzled by her clerical skills — she had none — her employer recognized a keen intelligence and vibrant sense of life, and suggested that she really ought to go to law school herself. In 1919, she did just that, choosing Fordham because its evening division classes would allow her to work during the day. ■

Holtzmann talked her way into a day job with a two-person law firm 20 flights downstairs from Fordham Law in the Woolworth Building. The firm's attorneys were themselves recent law school graduates, and had come to be well known within the New York City theatrical community as an easy touch for actors seeking free legal advice. Still unable to type, Fanny concentrated on expanding this sideline into a paying enterprise, and by the time of her graduation from Fordham in 1922 she had established the firm as indispensable to such notables as Clifton Webb (on whose behalf she averted IRS action), Fred Astaire (whose first screen contract she negotiated) and Trevor Howard (for whom she got Immigration Service clearance to work in this country). By the time

Holtzmann successfully defended surviving members of the Romanov family against MGM's allegedly slanderous cinematic depiction of them, Noel Coward would ask, "How famous do you have to be to get on Fanny's List?" The answer: Very famous, indeed. ■

Fanny Holtzmann's father had been influential in New York City Jewish circles, through which she met Benjamin Cardozo (who sponsored her admission to the New York State Bar) and Felix Frankfurter. The influence of such powerful people helped guide her into a second phase of her career in the late 1930s — as a tireless volunteer on behalf of Jewish refugees from the Nazi regime. At the conclusion of World War II, she became special counsel for the Chinese

delegation to the first organizational conferences of the United Nations, and in 1947 helped deliver the crucial Chinese vote in favor of the U.N.'s partition of Israel. Fanny became not just a show-biz legend, but a highly regarded member of the international community.

Alger Hiss introduced her to Adlai Stevenson; Dwight Eisenhower was a friend with whom she shared Sunday-painting tips. ■

The pace of her life never ebbed, nor did the list of her accomplishments cease to grow. It was Fanny Holtzmann who convinced

the end of one of her marriages; who became so proficient at late-blooming hobbies of painting and sculpture that the collectors of her work included Shaw, Eisenhower, Vivian Leigh, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and noted art book publisher and international art patron Henry Abrams. ■

At her death in 1975, Fanny Holtzmann was still a woman of such extraordinary style that a *New York Times* obituary quoted Noel Coward's assessment of her as "incomparable." The word "indescribable" might have applied equally well, as Moss Hart once noted. "It is a sore temptation to set down...a life-sized portrait of Fanny Holtzmann," wrote the celebrated playwright, "but for one thing Fanny is a little larger than life, and for that reason

quite unbelievable...Suffice it to say that Fanny is a small, delicate, mouse-like creature given to wearing floppy hats in the spring and creating a first impression of wistful helplessness. Helpless indeed! Fanny is about as helpless as the Bethlehem Steel Company..." ■



Fanny Holtzmann in her Manhattan law office during the late 1920s

George Bernard Shaw to allow his *Pygmalion* to be musicalized as *My Fair Lady*; who pushed Gertrude Lawrence into her great triumph in *The King and I*; who established Las Vegas as the divorce capital of the world by dispatching Doris Duke into residency there at

1930

The U.S. Census shows 3,385 American women in law, representing roughly 2.5 percent of the profession.

1931

Gladys Towles Root becomes America's first female celebrity criminal lawyer by successfully defending a Filipino gardener against a California statute forbidding his marriage to a Caucasian woman. Known for the flamboyance of her dress and manner, Root appears before the U.S. Supreme Court sporting a 190-carat topaz pin and a cape of white monkey fur.

302 Broadway,
for thirty years the home
of Fordham Law School



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KNOWLEDGE."

*From an editorial in the
Kansas City Star, 1925*

Throughout the 1930s, female enrollment in American law schools declined to the point at which the post-suffrage surge of women into the profession seemed to have been only

the passing fad some of its detractors had smugly suggested. Seven women received degrees with the Fordham Law Class of 1930, fewer than at any time since that pioneering Class of 1921; for the balance of the decade, the number of women graduates in any given year would not rise above a dozen. In all of the United States, there were just 411 women law graduates in 1930, roughly 5 percent of the number of male law graduates; 10 years earlier, the proportion of women to men was nearly three times as high.



The caliber of the women students, however, remained sufficiently impressive for them to

make their mark regardless of the scarcity of their numbers. Mildred Fischer was Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review in 1936, and she and her classmate Elizabeth Duffy shared top academic honors at graduation that year. Sadie Baris,* who had come to Fordham with a full four-year degree from Hunter College, was not far from the top of her 150-member class in 1932. Of the 10 women who got Fordham Law degrees that year, six managed to graduate with honors.



It came as something of a surprise to Baris, therefore, when she set off into the job market and discovered every door closed. "The Depression gave law firms still another excuse for not hiring us," she recalled for Karen Berger Morello's book, *The Invisible Bar* (Random House, 1986). "At every single interview I was asked how I could possibly expect to be considered when there were men out there with families to support. It was bad enough I wasn't going to get a job with any of those law firms — on top of it they insisted on making me feel guilty, too." Baris ended up taking a clerking job for \$5 a week, and being grateful to get it. "As a condition

of getting hired, I had to promise that I would never look into the top drawer of the senior partner's desk. I never did find out what he had in there."



More recently, Baris recalled that her continued search for a more appropriate position eventually took her to the office of Frances Perkins, the first woman Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor. When Perkins, too, offered the now familiar plea that she could not in all conscience employ a woman when there were family men out of work, Baris "gave up and went home to Queens and went into business on my own. It was a very lucky thing, as it turned out," she says now, "because I'm 84 years old and still in practice, and there isn't a law firm in the country where I'd be able to say that."



Baris, now Mrs. Turak and a widow, devoted 10 years exclusively to the establishment of a

1932

Fordham records its first known practice of Ladies' Day, the law school tradition in which some professors set aside a single class to call upon the women students, who are then left in silence for the remainder of the term.

1934

Fordham Law's evening session is expanded to a four-year program.

1936

Fordham Law is admitted to the American Association of Law Schools and receives certification from the ABA.

varied civil-law practice, delaying even marriage until she felt she could spare the time from her work. Still a resident of Queens, she is the mother of a daughter who decided at an early age "not to go into law because all the time she was growing up the phone was always ringing for me around dinnertime, and she hated that. When she was old enough to begin thinking about a career, law was still difficult territory for women — it is now, even today. But, you know, I never felt anything but great warmth and support from the men in my class at school. There was never the slightest sense of competing for places or grades. It was the Depression; we all helped each other out. One of my closest friends was an Italian boy who had several sisters at home, and who showed me how to pull on a sweater without mussing my hair, how to ride an escalator — important things." ■

Sadie Baris Turak, graduate of Fordham Law's Class of 1932, recalls being told by the female Secretary of Labor that her employment in the legal profession would deny the rights of a bread-winning husband and father.



KELLY CAMPBELL

1937

Women are admitted to the New York City Bar Association. Helen L. Buttenwieser breaks the New York Legal Aid Society's long-standing tradition of refusing to assign women attorneys to any court proceeding involving sex crimes.

1938

Fordham Law graduate Fortune Veccharellio is crowned Queen of the Lady Lawyers by the Queens County Women's Bar Association, founded three years earlier because women were not eligible for membership in the regular County Bar Association, which also did not elect a royal court.

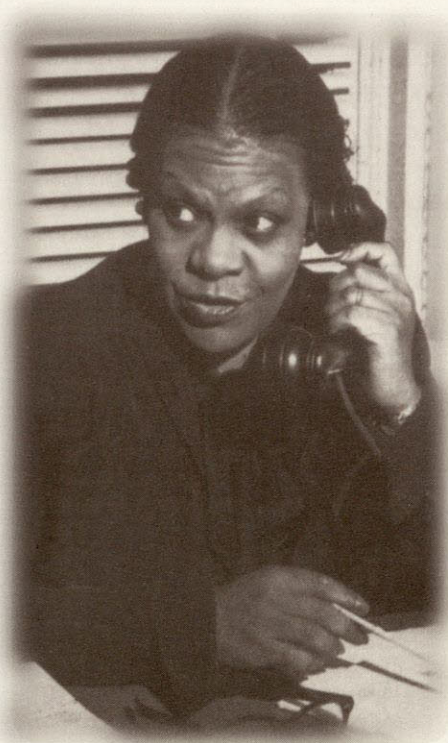
1939

New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia's Deputy Commissioner of Licenses, attorney Dorothy Kenyan, declines to ban burlesque in the City, arguing that to do so would eliminate "the only beauty in the lives of icemen and messenger boys."

New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey first distinguished himself in law and politics with his successful prosecution of New York mob boss Charles "Lucky" Luciano for running a prostitution ring uncovered by 1932 Fordham graduate Eunice Hunton Carter. ■

An African American of impeccable academic credentials, Carter earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Smith College. William C. Dodge, New York County District Attorney, hired her soon after law school, making her the first black woman Assistant District Attorney in the State of New York. ■

Her assignment was at the lowest end of the criminal-prosecution pecking order, representing the City in case after case of street prostitution. Carter quickly noted and became intrigued by the fact that a high percentage of the young women she prosecuted were represented by the same attorney, told basically the same story to the judge, and were bailed out of jail by the same bondsman. When she reported these



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Eunice Carter as a public prosecutor in the 1930s

observations to her boss, Dodge dismissed them as coincidence. Carter, though, was not dissuaded. A short time later Dewey was appointed special prosecutor for an investigation of New York City corruption, and she took to him her suspicions that prostitution was among the numerous felonious enterprises that had been taken over by organized crime. ■

Dewey hired Carter at once, making her one of the "twenty against the underworld," as his staff of young, aggressive associates was known. It was Dewey's plan for them to attack the underworld through a crackdown on loansharking operations, but Carter pressed for an investigation of a possible prostitution syndicate. Dewey agreed, and during the course of one week in the spring of 1936 dispatched a force of 160 City policemen to arrest prostitutes in all five boroughs. ■

Carter personally grilled hundreds of young women, emerging finally with hard evidence of a \$12 million prostitution ring controlled by four mob families under Luciano's supervision. ■

The investigation resulted in the City's first successful prosecution of organized crime, and Dewey was rewarded with the discredited Dodge's job as New York County District Attorney. Among his first acts was the appointment of Eunice Hunton Carter as his chief of special investigations. ■

1942

Catherine Noyes Lee is named a partner at Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, 18 years after joining the firm as the first female law associate on Wall Street.



When the United States formally entered World War II in 1941, law school attendance at Fordham dropped 14 percent overnight. By 1943, the Law School had contracted to a size unseen since 1908: 66 full-time students, 180 part-timers, and a faculty of four. Once again, as before the first world war, Fordham considered closing down its Law School until the men came back from combat. This time there was no suggestion that tuition from women

students would likely make up any of the shortfall. The decline in women enrollment already evident in the 1930s grew more pronounced in the decade that followed. In fact, Fordham graduated more women in the 18 years between 1921 and 1939 than it would for the 25 years after that.



"My mother went to school with far more girls than I did," says Ellin Mulholland, a 1955 graduate whose mother, Natalie McCarthy, graduated from Fordham Law in 1927. "There were eight or 10 in her class at the beginning, I think, and never more than two in mine — with a third transferring in at the end of the last year. I don't know what happened," says Mulholland, for 30 years a partner at Manhattan's Herzfeld & Rubin. "It just wasn't a time, I guess, when women were that aware of the options available to them."



There was a reason for that, suggests Grace Corcoran Kennedy, one of four women graduates of the Class of 1940, now a Philadelphia attorney whose back-

1943

Fordham Law moves to 302 Broadway, which will remain its home for more than 20 years. A Chicago newspaper identifies Elizabeth Doogan, newly appointed head of the legal department at US Life Insurance, as the highest-ranking female attorney in American business.

ground includes accomplishments in the worlds of corporate, academic and public-service law. "I was born and raised in Albany, which is all politics, it's all I ever knew, and so from the earliest I can remember I was going to be a lawyer. In 1937, when I was getting ready to graduate from the College of St. Rose, I went over to get an application for the Albany Law School. The dean of admissions handed me an application, but told me that there wasn't any point in filling it out, because, he said, 'We don't have any women in the Law School and we don't want any women in the law school. And besides,' he said, 'the Law School doesn't have a ladies room.'" (As recently as 1961, the Law School at Notre Dame University turned down Margaret Hill, now Broadway producer Peggy Rosenkranz and a 1964 graduate of Fordham Law, for similar reasons of plumbing. It should be noted that Class of 1994 Fordham Law graduate Carol Zabar, of New York City's prominent food-retailing family, has contributed in excess of \$100,000 specifically for the construction of women's rooms in the Fordham Law Library.)

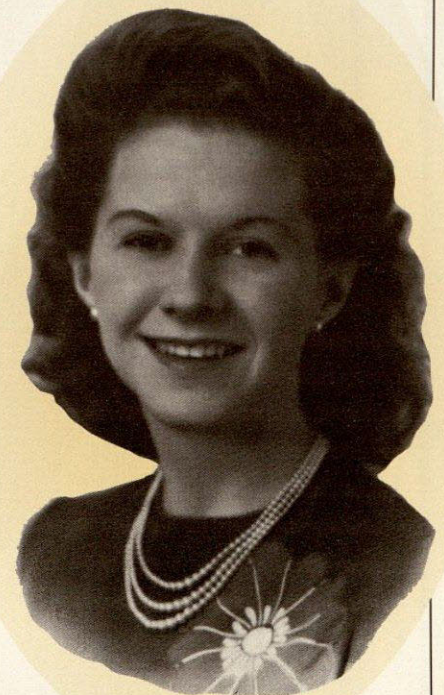
1944

Fordham Law makes available accelerated programs of study for existing students, in order to clear the way for an anticipated deluge of new enrollments at the end of World War II.



Corcoran Kennedy recalls being "more surprised than angry" at the dean's remarks, "especially since I had several friends who had been accepted by Albany

Grace Corcoran Kennedy, below, in a photograph taken around the time of her 1940 graduation from Fordham Law. Above left is her sister, Mary Jane, a 1942 graduate.



1946

Fordham begins requiring four years of undergraduate study as a prerequisite for admission to the Law School.

1948

In order to appoint Celia Goetz as the first female prosecutor of the Nuremberg war crimes trial, the chief prosecutor signs a waiver of disability — the disability being Goetz's gender.

1949

Women's groups pressure President Truman to name NYU graduate Florence Ellinwood Allen as the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court. Truman decides against doing so because, "The Justices don't want a woman. They couldn't sit around with their robes off and their feet up and discuss the problems."

WOMEN HAVE MADE A PLACE FOR THEMSELVES IN THE LAW [BUT]...OPPORTUNITIES STILL ARE LIMITED, AND THE FACULTY IS WELL AWARE THAT MANY ABLE MEN ARE TURNED AWAY FROM OUR DOORS EVERY YEAR. IT IS OUR EXPECTATION THAT WE WILL ADMIT ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF UNUSUALLY QUALIFIED WOMEN STUDENTS, FOR THE PRESENT, AT LEAST.

Dean Erwin Griswold, in his 1949 announcement that Harvard Law would admit female students the following year

Law, and my grades were better than any of them. But I gulped and said, 'Well, all right, then, where can I go?' 'No place,' he said, at least no place that he'd ever heard of. And that was that. Luckily, the speaker at my graduation from St. Rose was [longtime Fordham professor] John Blake, who said that he couldn't understand why his law school didn't get more women, so off I headed for New York. But they wouldn't tell you; they really wouldn't — men, many of them. After I'd already started at Fordham, I remember going back to Albany Law and to the dean of admissions and I remember saying to him, 'Well, why? Why didn't you tell me? What are you so afraid of?' So he told me. He said, 'The law will change if women are let in.' And he was right, of course."

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Corcoran Kennedy includes among her professional credentials 12 years spent as a

senior attorney for the Sun Oil Co. — never *the* senior attorney, she points out, even though she organized the department and supervised its growth from two attorneys to more than 80 before her retirement 10 years ago. Her own experiences have left her deeply sensitized to all forms of gender discrimination; what she hasn't known firsthand she has learned from her sister, Cleveland attorney Mary Jane Sims, one of six *cum laude* graduates of the Fordham Law Class of 1942, who not long ago lost a protracted job-discrimination suit against the Veteran's Administration. (Mrs. Sims was represented by her son, a California attorney.)

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"Things happen today that you can recognize and deal with," says Corcoran Kennedy. "Back then it was more subtle. I remember sitting in torts class and thinking, 'Gee, how come whenever there's an accident it's always the woman's fault?' I remember at my first job, clerking for a Wall Street firm for \$30 a week and being turned down for tax work, even though my undergraduate degree was in economics, because 'Women couldn't do taxes.' Well, what

about litigation? And they said, 'No, women can't do litigation.' So I ended up in administrative law, which turned out fine, because it was a new field, and growing, and the men hadn't staked their claim on it yet. I had worked at this same firm all the way through law school, and I knew all the partners by their first names, and I thought, 'Well, these are men of good will; why would they mislead me?' If they tell me that women can't do tax work, then women can't do tax work. Well, it wasn't long before I found out that all the young men they were hiring, recent Ivy League graduates whom I trained, were making 30 to 50 percent more money than I was. The '40s were a time of innocence, but boy, that certainly was the end of mine." ■

Gloria Crowley Markuson, of the Class of 1946, is almost certainly the most published author in the world. ■

A Westchester County attorney and resident, Crowley Markuson has authored more than 200 volumes of the Matthew Bender legal-treatise series, including all 22 volumes on surrogate law, 20 on real property, 18 on New York civil practice — “and so on,” as she says. “Even I can’t keep track of them all.” ■

She entered into her association with Matthew Bender by accident in 1947, after a fruitless search for a suitable job produced no offers above the level of clerk or secretary. She went to work temporarily as a part-time title examiner, discovered a market for her services, and in a few short months opened a small practice of her own. Bender, as it happened, needed someone to prepare its volume on title examination. “Someone put us together, and I guess we made a good match,” she says, with characteristic understatement. ■

As Gloria Crowley, the gently reared daughter of a Wall Street banker, she was one of three women in her Fordham class — the first class to enter at the new building at 302 Broadway. “I remember that the subway down there was considered dangerous, even then, and a group of the men used to walk me to the train every night. They were very protective, almost brotherly. On VJ Day in 1945, everything was pandemonium at the Law School; you can’t imagine the excitement, the crowds. Some of the boys asked me if I wanted to go out and have a beer with them, to celebrate, and I said

no, thank you, my mother didn’t allow me to drink beer. And so a group of them took me to Schrafft’s and bought me a big soda or a sundae. That was my night out with the boys, to celebrate the end of the War. Some of them are still my friends.” ■

Crowley Markuson’s memories of the all-male Fordham faculty are not so universally sanguine. She recalls in particular a spring day in 1944. “They were remodeling the outside of the building,” she says, “and it was very warm that year, so the windows were open. The noise of the jackhammers was terrible; sometimes you really couldn’t hear at all. One day I was asked a question by a professor, and I replied with the correct answer. But he didn’t hear me, because of all the noise, and he assumed that I

hadn’t answered, couldn’t answer, and he said that I was stupid.” ■

Gloria Crowley had graduated from high school at 15, and in this spring of 1944 was just beginning a grueling stretch of accelerated study that she’d undertaken at the dean’s request, “to make room for the men who were coming back from the war — he was very clear about that.” Until that minute in her life, no one had ever challenged her intelligence. “I was furious,” she remembers. “I was so mad my face must have been all scrunched up and the professor said, ‘Miss Crowley, are you planning to cry?’ ‘No, Professor,’ I said, ‘I am simply waiting for you to recover from your emotional upset so that I can repeat the correct answer.’ He turned purple, I remember. He really did.” ■

Class of 1946 Fordham Law graduate Gloria Crowley Markuson includes among her published writings no fewer than 200 volumes of the Matthew Bender legal treatise series.



GANNETT WESTCHESTER NEWSPAPERS

No one in Fordham's history has ever evidenced more energy or a steelier will than Frances Berko, whose father graduated from Fordham in the momentous year of 1918, and who herself received a law degree from the school in 1944 — near the top of her class at only 21 years of age and physically challenged by a lifetime of cerebral palsy. ■

After Berko received her undergraduate degree from Hunter College, an offhand remark by a colleague of her father's diverted her from the social work career she planned. "You know, Frances has a legal mind," said the family friend, dismissed by Berko as "stating that I could think logically and therefore was atypical of my gender." Nonetheless, Berko set off to get an education in the law. ■

She immediately excelled at Fordham. Her first-year grades brought her a bid from the Law Review, which she accepted despite the expressed concern of one of her professors that her reliance on a wheelchair might somehow limit her abilities. In her senior year, Berko served as associate editor of the Law Review, managed honors grades, worked

with disabled children twice a week, attended to the rigorous demands of her own physical therapy — all the while commuting to 302 Broadway from the Bronx. ■

In the three dozen years after her Law School graduation, Berko picked up advanced degrees in vocational rehabilita-



Frances Berko portrait by artist Frank Peterson

tion, speech therapy and special education, helped found United Cerebral Palsy, and contributed to the drafting of legislation benefitting handicapped people in New York State and elsewhere. She taught children and adults with profound and multiple

disabilities, devised and administered special programs for them, and became one of America's most admired spokespersons for the civil rights of the disabled. ■

In 1980, Governor Hugh Carey named Berko New York State's Advocate for the Disabled, a position to which Governor Mario Cuomo has continued to reappoint her ever since. In that capacity, she supervises a staff of 22, administers a budget of \$1.25 million and serves as a principal policy advisor to the governor and legislature. ■

Among the countless honors and citations Frances Berko has received during her long and distinguished career is the Fordham Law Alumni Medal of Achievement, presented in March 1991, and the unveiling in 1993 of the portrait of her that now hangs in the Law School Moot Court Room. (She was the first woman Fordham Law graduate so honored.) "I see it but I don't believe it," she was quoted as saying at the time of the unveiling. "I don't deserve it. All I did was what I was taught to do: Do my own thing." Fordham University will award Berko an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at commencement this year. ■

1950

The last holdout against coeducation among major law schools, Harvard admits women for the first time. Federal census figures show that women account for 3.5 percent of the U.S. legal profession, a decline from the 5.5 percent they had represented 10 years before. Of 1,239 law faculty members in the United States, five are women.

1955

Fordham Law School marks its fiftieth anniversary with no formal acknowledgement of its women students; a Lexagram article includes a 17-word mention of the arrival of women, misstating the first year as 1919.

1957

British sociologist Erwin Smigel publishes his landmark study, *The Wall Street Lawyer*, which assesses discrimination against women within the profession to be particularly acute in large law firms. "This researcher came across only one woman partner practicing in New York City branches of the large law firms," Smigel reports.

The defining event for Fordham Law during the decade of the '50s was the death of Dean Ignatius Wilkinson in 1953, 30 years after he took over administration of the school. Wilkinson had kept the institution intact through an extraordinarily volatile period — when he became dean, there were slightly more than 300 students; by 1924 there were nearly five times that number — but in some respects the Law School that survived him was in stasis. Fordham's once precedent-setting curriculum had changed little since the late 1930s. The Law Library remained severely limited at a scant 30,000 volumes. Enrollment hovered around 700, roughly half what it had been in 1924.

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Wilkinson's eventual successor, William Hughes Mulligan, took office in 1956 with a profound personal sense of mission bred of his own history with Fordham. A 1942 graduate of the Law School (a classmate of the younger Corcoran sister, and a close friend to both), Mulligan was the first Law School Dean who was also its

product. The changes he undertook were immediate and sweeping, including the implementation of a tightened selective-admissions program, introduction of numerical grades and class rankings, the inauguration of aggressive placement efforts within major New York City law firms, and an unabashed willingness to take advantage of the fact that Fordham graduates were demonstrably coming into their own in the corporate law firms of Wall Street, LaSalle Street and Connecticut Avenue.

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With the more visionary members of the University's central administration, Mulligan shared the dream of a built-to-order Manhattan campus that would eventually house the Law School. In this goal, he was significantly aided by one of the women who had studied before him at Fordham Law. In 1956, the University received a pledge of \$1.3 million, at that time the largest donation in its history, from a family foundation headed by 1931 Law School graduate Philomena Marciano. Fordham President Lawrence J. McGinley, S.J., credited the bequest as the stimulus that

ultimately brought to life the dream of a Lincoln Center campus.

✱

Things were much quieter among the handful of women actually present on the Fordham Law campus during the 1950s. The school would graduate no more than two dozen women during the entire decade. Among these, however, are some of the most distinguished names on its alumni roster, including Irene K. Duffy, who, 20 years after her graduation in 1957, would become one of New York State's first woman Family Court judges. Noreen McNamara, a 1951 graduate, became that year one of the first woman associates hired by Millbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. McNamara, in whose memory a distinguished Fordham Law lecture series is named, was a woman of numerous accomplishments in many walks of life. ("Next to her, I feel like a dropout," said California Judge Marilyn Hall Patel, Fordham Law '63, after delivering the McNamara Lecture in 1990.) Before her untimely death in 1984, McNamara raised six children, played championship golf, cultivated a prize-winning gar-

den, and became one of the most sought-after tax attorneys in the top-bracket environs of Fairfield County, Connecticut. Ellin Mullolland of the Class of 1955 was one of the first two women to serve on the American Board of Trial Advocates. And a Queens school teacher who started at Fordham Law in 1957 became the first woman in American history to run on a major-party Presidential ticket. ■

The late Noreen McNamara, after whom a distinguished Law School lecture series is named, was an extraordinary woman of varied achievement — a 1951 graduate of the Law School.



By virtue of her nomination as Walter Mondale's running mate on the Democratic national ticket in 1984, Geraldine Ferraro is arguably the most famous graduate that Fordham Law School has ever produced. ■

But comparatively little is known about her time as a Fordham night student during the late '50s — one of two women in her class — nor of the years immediately thereafter, when she encountered a professional world that was less than welcoming. Now the managing partner of Keck, Mahin, Cate & Koether, and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Ferraro shared the following recollections in 1990: ■

"When I was in the last part of my senior year, I went through five interviews at a major Wall Street firm. The job paid \$19,000, and after five years teaching I was making \$5,000, so I really wanted that job. At the fifth interview, I had a

Vice Presidential Candidate Geraldine Ferraro, Class of 1960, on the campaign trail in 1984.

partner who, after the interview, said to me, 'You're wonderful, you're terrific, but we're not hiring any women this year.' I was so outraged. I got up and said, 'After keeping me here waiting half an hour, you've just told me what my mother tells me every night — how wonderful I am.' And then I walked out. I will never forget what I was wearing that day — I can still describe the exact outfit. I can still describe the whole day. ■

"After that, I also had five interviews at the New York D.A.'s office. At that time they had only one woman, and she had been hired 15 or 16 years before. I mean, it was crazy — they really weren't hiring women anywhere. So, after these five interviews with Mr. Hogan, they called me from his office and told me that I got the job. The only thing is, they wanted me to start right away. I told them I couldn't start until September because I had plans to go to Europe. What I didn't tell them was that I was getting married that summer

and the trip to Europe was my honeymoon. In fact, I had not worn my engagement ring to the interviews, which I guess was a little sneaky — because I was a Catholic woman getting married and they would know that I'd probably start having babies. In those days, you had to make a three-year commitment

before they'd hire you, and I was afraid they wouldn't give me the job if they knew. ■

"So I called Hogan and I said I just want you to know that the reason I'm not going to be able to start until September is because I'm going to Europe, and the reason I'm going to Europe is that I'm going on my honeymoon.' A few days later they called back and said, 'Thanks, but no thanks.' I did not get the job. ■

"There were a bunch of us from Fordham who couldn't get jobs for one reason or another. Part of it probably was that Fordham did not have the reputation then that it does today. Those big firms were closed to a lot of people then. I don't know how Mort Meyer's marks were, but I should think that if he had tried to look for a job down on Wall Street then, it would have been hard for him too, as a Jew who went to night school. So what we did, Mort and some others, was set up a firm called Meyer, Ferraro, Moore and Cannon — we got the order by pulling names out of a hat. We all kept our regular jobs. Mort was in insurance somewhere, and I was teaching. We couldn't afford to hire a secretary. I did the typing: I was the only one, I think, who knew how to type. We did not have money for offices, but we had a great name, great cards. ■

"We did that for a couple of years, until I had my daughter, and then I bowed out. It wasn't until my youngest was in school full time, in 1974, when I was 38, that I actually went to work for real." ■



1960

Census figures show that the proportion of women in the legal profession was unchanged in the 10 years of the 1950s; women still make up fewer than 4 percent of all law school admissions. At Fordham, there are three women in the entering class.

1961

Forty years after the first graduation of women at Fordham Law School, the graduating class of 1961 brings to 500 the number of women who have taken degrees from Fordham Law.

1965

A study of the New York legal profession puts at three the number of women partners in major City law firms.

Even the most casual observer could have detected a sense of moment at the Fordham Law School from the start of the 1960s, an era that began with the election of a dynamic young U.S. president and a palpable sense of hope. Fordham's sea change began in 1961, with the relocation of the Law School from 302 Broadway to its much anticipated new uptown home, at what would eventually become Lincoln Center. Within the Fordham community, the new Law School quarters, and the consolidation in 1969 of all Manhattan-based colleges and programs at Lincoln Center, marked a break with the past that was too much for some of the institution's old guard. Among those faculty and staff to leave with the move uptown was Law School registrar Mary Long, a fixture at all four incarnations of the Law School since she joined the staff in 1928.



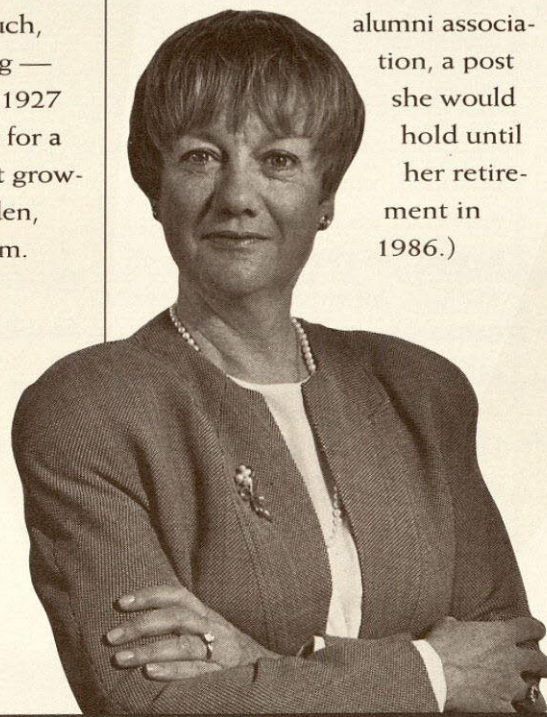
For nearly 40 years, it was widely said that Mary Long "ran" the Law School, and although this was not at all the sort of thing she would have said — it would likely have

sounded a trifle patronizing to her no-nonsense ears — there was at least an element of truth to it. Certainly, she had seen too many students and faculty come and go to be daunted by titles, moods or passing fancies. Even deans came and went during her long tenure, and the last of them for whom she worked remained "Billy Mulligan" as he'd been as a student trying too late to change his class schedule. The present dean, Class of 1961 graduate John Feerick, credits Mary Long with serving as the Law School's unofficial placement office during much of her time there. It was Mary Long — who was always referred to as such, never as Mary or Miss Long — who sent him down to see 1927 graduate William Meagher for a summer job at his small but growing Wall Street firm, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.



In the absence of any women on the faculty, Mary Long served an especially strong role as mentor to many of Fordham's women students. Among them was Lucille Buell, who vividly recalls strolling into the

registrar's office in 1944 only to make tentative inquiries and ending up being hustled off into John Blake's torts lecture, where she was greeted by one of the professor's most characteristically baleful greetings: "Young woman," he asked, "what are you doing in my class?" Later, Buell confided what had happened to Mary Long, who told her, "Oh, don't let that bother you. You'll need courage to become a lawyer. Now, by the way, do you have any money?" (Professor Blake's daughter, Frances, a 1945 Fordham Law graduate, would in 1966 become executive director of its alumni association, a post she would hold until her retirement in 1986.)



I AM LOATHE TO ABANDON THE LAW, BUT MY PHYSICIAN WARNS ME AGAINST TRYING CASES IN COURT.

Mary Padelford, the title character in Charles Moore's 1886 short story, "The Woman Lawyer," shortly after harsh words by her male opposing counsel cause her to faint dead away before the bench.

Patricia Hynes of the Class of 1966 is the first woman name partner in a major American law firm.

1966

New York Domestic Court is reorganized and renamed Family Court, thereby providing a forum for hearing child abuse and other domestic violence cases.

1967

Harvard Law officially puts a stop to the practice of Ladies' Day.

✱

Among women law students of the 1960s, the principal concern was the lack of challenging employment opportunities after graduation. Patricia Hynes of the Class of 1966 was one of the lucky few to find a job just a year after getting her degree — as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. With the Vietnam War draining off many young men who might otherwise have been practicing in the office, Hynes found herself being given some of the courtroom work that she had hoped since childhood to do. She quickly made a name for herself as a tough and thorough litigator whose blue-collar Queens background gave her a particular feel for practicing law in the city.

✱

By the end of the 1960s, Hynes had moved from the civil to the criminal division, and in 1971 was made chief of the U.S. Attorney's consumer fraud unit. She left the office in 1982 as Executive Assistant Attorney General, the highest position ever held by a woman in that office until President Clinton named her colleague, Mary Jo White,

United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York in 1993. In 1983, Hynes joined an 83-attorney private firm specializing in complex securities and commercial litigation, and in 1993 was made a name partner — the first woman name partner in any major American law firm — of what is now Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach.

✱

This year, Hynes chairs the 75th anniversary celebration of women at the Fordham School of Law, a role she relishes as much as she did the trial advocacy classes she taught nights from 1978 to 1983. "Those of us who are products of the '60s have a very special insight into the way things have changed," she says, "and an appreciation for the way things haven't." In 1968, a member of the U.S. Attorney's office invited her to serve as cheerleader for an office softball game; that, she says, would not happen today. But a man seeking to advance his career at the expense of a woman in his office — oh, absolutely. "It's a competitive environment," she says. "The fact is, the men aren't that nice to each other." ■

Even if you never end up using it in any conventional sense, says theatrical producer Peggy Rosenkranz, "a law degree is never a bad thing to have." ■

Rosenkranz, Class of 1964, whose most recent hits include David Mamet's controversial *Oleanna* and the prize-winning *Marvin's Room*, is one of two women producers educated, in turn, by Fordham Law in the 1960s — the other being Liz McCann, Class of 1966, whose most recent New York production is Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize winning *Three Tall Women*. ■

With McCann in the night division and Rosenkranz studying during the day, the two never met at Fordham, and indeed it was not until the 1980s that the two discovered their common backgrounds. "The theatrical world is a little flaky," says Rosenkranz, "and so whenever I meet someone I tell them right away that I'm a lawyer, so they know I've got my head on straight, and when I said this to Liz, she said, 'Oh really, so am I.' Then I said Fordham, and she said Fordham, and, well, the world is every bit as small as they say." ■

Rosenkranz graduated first, as Margaret Hill, a member of the Law Review editorial board, and winner of a coveted clerkship with Judge Kenneth B. Keating of the New York State Court of Appeals. She practiced entertainment law at Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst, corporate law at Gulf & Western, and served as assistant counsel to the Commission of Reap-

portionment of the New York State Legislature, before retiring to volunteer and part-time projects while she raised two children. In the late 1980s, she was serving on the board of a theatre company in Southampton when a volunteer was solicited to supervise the next production. "I said, 'I'll do it, I'll be the producer,'" remembers Rosenkranz. "Now what is it that I have to do?" ■

"I found out that I liked all the things a producer had to do, so I did another play in Southampton, and then another, and then I found a play I just loved, *The Raft of the Medusa*, a very powerful work dealing with AIDS, that I wanted to produce in New York. Well, the first thing you hear when you want to produce a play is that you've got to get an option, and that's enough to throw most people. But I'm a lawyer. I figured I can do that. ■

"That's the thing about a law degree," says Rosenkranz, currently represented on Broadway with the Steppenwolf Theatre production of *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, which opened on May 1. "It gives you incredible confidence. I'm very new at this business, and yet when I'm in a meeting with other producers who are a lot more experienced and a lot more knowledgeable about the theatrical end of things than I am, I generally end up running the meeting — set-

ting the agenda and so forth, which comes from the kind of logic you learn in law. You sure don't learn it in theatre." ■

A New York native and a graduate of Manhattanville College, McCann got a master's in English at Columbia in the early 1960s and then drifted for a while around the fringes of the Broad-

the only 12 jobs around. So I started networking, which law school certainly teaches you, and before I knew it I met Jimmy Nederlander, who was going to a meeting with Jerome Robbins and I got to go along. Jimmy had always wanted to be a lawyer himself, and he was very impressed that I had done it in my thirties, and at night, so he offered me a job

that he described in pretty vague terms. The next thing I knew there's an article in the paper saying 'Nederlander enters production: Liz McCann in charge.' We hadn't even talked about production — I thought we were running a chain of theatres." ■

First for the Nederlander Organization, then in a highly successful partnership with Nellie Nugent (they produced *The Elephant Man*, *Amadeus* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, among other hits of the 1980s) and now as an independent known for sometimes risky but uniformly worthwhile production tastes (the



Theatrical producers Peggy Rosenkranz, left, and Liz McCann

way community, where she met a couple of women theatrical attorneys and decided to follow their example by enrolling at Fordham Law. Her notion of a career in entertainment law scarcely lasted six months after she got her degree in 1966. "It was such a small world," she says now. "You had 12 people practicing entertainment law and they weren't going anywhere because they had

Vanessa Redgrave revival of *Orpheus Descending*, for example, was hers), McCann is a walking advertisement for the kind of confidence her colleague Peggy Rosenkranz believes that law training provides. "After a play is a hit it's hard to describe why you thought it would work," McCann says. "But the first step has to be that you like it yourself, and that you can trust your own instincts." ■

1970

Statutes in 44 states require court action for a woman to retain her name after marriage.

1972

The ACLU files suit in Ohio court to strike down a state statute automatically granting preference to a male heir in the selection of an executor of an estate — even in cases where the male heir is certifiably incompetent.

1973

Army Sergeant Doris Frontiero wins her suit against the U.S. Department of Defense, requiring that her husband and children receive the same medical benefits provided to the dependents of a male serviceman of the same rank.

WOMEN'S
RIGHTS HAVE
BEEN BROUGHT TO
THE BAR OF MASCU-
LINE KNOWLEDGE
AND MANLY CHIVALRY.
THE RESULT IS THAT
WOMEN HAVE SUFFERED, AND THROUGH
WOMEN ALL HUMANITY
HAVE SUFFERED...

Detroit attorney Martha Strickland, circa 1891, as quoted in Karen Morello's The Invisible Bar

Women became a major presence throughout Fordham University for the first time during the 1970s, most dramatically after the merger with Thomas More College brought undergraduate women to the campus in 1974. Less conspicuous but of no less far-reaching consequence was the addition after 1972 of women to the faculty of the School of Law.

✱

Lucille Polk Buell from the class of 1947 was the pioneer. Hired in 1972 to teach legal writing, she arrived during a time of sustained tumult that left her emotionally drained — "It was very difficult not to just say, 'Well, goodbye' at the end of every day" — but nonetheless satisfied; she might still be at Fordham, she says, had she not been drawn away to begin a distinguished judicial career. Appointed first as a Westchester County Family Court Judge, she left that post in

1978 when she was elected the first woman justice of the New York State Supreme Court. Also in 1972, Fordham hired NYU graduate Sheila Birnbaum to teach torts and New York practice. In 1977, Birnbaum would become the Law School's first tenured woman professor; now a partner at Skadden, Arps, she heads up that firm's products-liability department. Still on the faculty is Fordham Law's second tenured woman, Professor Maria Marcus, who came to Fordham in 1978.

✱

The women of Fordham Law assumed a greater presence on and off the campus in the 1970s. Within the student body, female enrollment increased to 255 by 1975, 24 percent of the total. As more and more of these young lawyers passed into the professional world, however, the extent of institutionalized limitations against them became fully clear for the first time — as did their own unique capacity to bring about change. The 1970s was a time of milestone litigation in the struggle for women's rights, most of it championed by women themselves. Among the most tireless and creative, and ultimately the most successful, of

these legal activists was 1963 Fordham graduate Marilyn Hall Patel, who would make history in the '80s by becoming the first woman judge in the 129-year history of the U.S. District Court of Northern California, but who spent the 1970s in the behind-scenes activity on which the eventual advancement of countless women depended.

✱

She did not set out to be a trailblazer. Following her graduation from the evening division of Fordham Law, Marilyn Hall went to work handling insurance defense cases for the small private firm at which she'd worked her way through law school. By the early '70s, she had married and was living in San Francisco, raising her two sons, working a part-time schedule in defense cases that involved her increasingly in the lives of women whose livelihoods were being negatively affected by their gender. "Although you'd get an occasional judge who thought that begrudgingly he had to comply with the law, the courts were still not particularly receptive to employment discrimination cases," she recalls. "Also, that kind of litigation is costly — not

Jimmy Carter, who appointed more women to federal judgeships than all of his predecessors combined, unabashedly applied the full weight of his office to the cause of minority representation at the highest level of professional and government service. ■

Among his landmark appointments was that of attorney Patricia Roberts Harris as the first African American woman to serve in a federal cabinet post, initially as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, later as Secretary of Health and Welfare. At her Senate confirmation hearing in 1977, Harris was questioned closely about her willingness to be responsive to the needs of the socially disenfranchised — as William Proxmire put it, “to listen to those who are less articulate and less likely to be knocking on your door with outstanding credentials.” With ele-

gant simplicity, Harris replied, “Senator, I am one of them...If my life has any meaning at all, it is [to demonstrate] that those who start as outcasts may end up being part of the system.” ■

The late 1970s was similarly a time of affirmative action on the part of many

institutions to bring ethnic and racial minorities more fully into the legal system. At Fordham Law, which from its earliest history had been open proudly to black students, aggressive recruitment and financial assistance programs brought a new multicultural look to the Law School campus, and produced some of the institutions most accomplished lawyers. ■

Among them, 1979 graduate **Janice McKenzie Cole** was sworn in this year



Janice McKenzie Cole, Class of 1979, at her swearing-in as United States Attorney.

as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina — coincidentally, the part of that state where pioneering black attorney **Ruth Whitehead Whaley**, Fordham Law '24, once lived and practiced. McKenzie Cole, who had been a New York City police officer before entering law school, is

the first African American woman to serve as a chief prosecutor in any of the 93 federal districts. ■

From McKenzie Cole's Law School 1979 Class, the Hon. **Cira Martinez** is Fordham's first Hispanic woman graduate, and in 1992 became the first Hispanic woman appointed to a seat on the Bronx Family Court. Active on the Family Court Screening and Oversight Committee, and involved in community projects ranging from the South Side Mission to God's Love We Deliver, Martinez now serves as a Brooklyn Family Court Judge. ■

Among those minority women accomplished in the private sector, **Sylvia Fung Chin**, Fordham Law '77, specializes in corporate and commercial financing transactions for the New York office of White & Case, where she is a partner. The current president of the Asian

American Bar Association — the first woman to hold that post — Sylvia Fung Chin has been instrumental in establishing Stitching to Promote Women's World Banking, a training agency and resource for women interested in establishing small businesses worldwide. ■

RALEIGH REPORTER DISPATCH

1976

The Ford Administration Justice Department brings about a change in federal tax law that allows widows to claim their late husbands' property as their own, thereby reducing the burden of inheritance taxes.

1977

Riding on the momentum of the state legislature's passage of the milestone Battered Spouse Bill, Queens Assistant District Attorney Geraldine Ferraro creates the Special Victims Bureau to handle all cases involving violence against women, children and the elderly.

1979

For the first and only time in its history, Fordham Law's Moot Court team wins the National Moot Court Competition; team members include Michelle Daly and Georgene Vairo.

body could afford it. Nor do you necessarily want to put employers on edge by bringing legal action against them. We decided that a

preventive approach was the better thing." With two women associates, Patel founded Advocates for Women, which provided a range of practical, job-related services, including basic guidance in career-planning and resume-preparation, while also undertaking to familiarize employers and unions with the potential of women in what were then non-traditional jobs.

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Not long after, Patel helped found the Legal Defense Fund of the National Organization for Women,

which adopted a similarly non-confrontational approach to its work, not always with ringing success. "The California Judicial Education Research Project — it is commonly referred to in California as Judge's College — was already underway as probably the preeminent program of its kind in the country. I remember I wrote to them and suggested that, based on my observations of cases I'd handled, some education of judges in regard to sex-role stereotyping would be appropriate, and that we at the Legal Defense Fund would like to offer our services. I wish I'd saved the letter I got back; it really put me in my place. Anyone should know that judges talk only to judges, or to God, and that lowly lawyers, particularly women lawyers, were in no position to tell them what to do.

✱

"Several year later, I became a State Court judge and of course went through Judge's College myself. About three years into my tenure, they started something called the Mid-Career Judges' Program, which was to deal with sensitivity training in areas such as racial stereotyping, working with minorities, and so forth, and I sug-

gested including a program on sexual stereotyping and bias attitudes toward women, how they affect judicial decision-making. And they agreed — because in my position as a judge I could get a hearing. Now it's mandatory for judges in California to go through these sessions on gender-bias. There's a similar program in New Jersey, which was started by a woman, and in New York, [as well as] several other states, programs dealing with bias against women as lawyers or litigants or witnesses, women employees — in general, how women are treated throughout the judicial system. And none of this would have happened if there were not women on the bench." ■

Judge Marilyn Hall Patel, left, was an early leader in the effort to make the law more responsive to women.



The 14 women on Fordham Law's present faculty represent varied backgrounds and areas of accomplishment, yet share a common commitment to advancing the role of women at all levels of the law. ■

Seated, front, from

left to right: Associate Professor **Deborah W. Denno**, who received both her law degree and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, is a leading authority on rape law; Associate Clinical Professor **Jacqueline M. Nolan-Haley**, who has developed a mediation program that employs Fordham Law students in the resolution of disputes in small claims court; Associate Dean and Professor **Georgene M. Vairo**, a 1979 Fordham Law graduate and a member of the faculty since 1982, chairperson of the Dalkon Shield Claimants Trust, the \$2.5 billion fund for 200,000 women injured by the IUD; Professor **Mary C. Daly**, a 1972 graduate of Fordham Law and a member

of the faculty since 1983, Director of the Stein Institute on Law and Ethics. ■

Standing, left to right: Associate Professor **Helen Hadjiyannakis Bender**, Class of 1978, a member of the faculty since 1979, active in homelessness issues; Associate Professor **Marc M. Arkin**, holder of a law degree and a Ph.D. from Yale University, director of the Noreen McNamara Lecture Series; **Rachel Vorspan**, Associate Clinical Professor and Director of Legal Writing, a Harvard Law graduate and Fulbright Scholar; Professor **Maria L. Marcus**, a Yale Law graduate, a member of the Fordham faculty since 1978 and its senior tenured woman, coach of

since 1977; Associate Professor **Jill E. Fisch**, a Yale Law graduate, one of a very few women professors teaching in the area of corporate law. ■

Associate Professor **Tracy E. Higgins**, a 1990 graduate of Harvard Law, teaches feminist jurisprudence and oversees the battered women student project; Associate Professor **Deborah A. Batts**, a Harvard Law graduate active on various committees of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, including Lesbians and Gay Men in the Profession; Associate Clinical Professor **Beth G. Schwartz**, on the Fordham faculty since 1987, supervises students working with battered women. ■



KELLY CAMPBELL

Fordham Law's moot court program; Professor **Janet R. Tracy**, a Harvard Law graduate, is Director of the Law Library; Associate Professor **Gail D. Hollister**, a 1970 graduate of Fordham Law and a member of the faculty

1981

In New Jersey, Marie Garibaldi becomes the first woman justice of the State Supreme Court, eventually to be joined by 1974 Fordham Law graduate Amy Chambers.

1982

An article in *Judicature* magazine reports that women judges tend to be younger, more liberal, less interested in politics and less wealthy than their male counterparts, but on average possess a higher level of scholarship and academic talent.

1983

Judith Kaye becomes the first female judge of the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest judicial body.

YES, WE ARE STRONG. BUT NO, WE ARE NOT ASHAMED OF OUR TEARS. AND IF WE LOSE THAT QUALITY OF COMPASSION, WE WILL LOSE OUR BEST CHANCE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

California Treasurer
Kathleen Brown, from the
podium of the Democratic
National Convention,
New York, 1992

The appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981 signaled the start of a decade during which women would begin to achieve the rewards of recognition for their 350-year investment in the American legal system. At Fordham Law, the enrollment of women reached and then exceeded 25 percent of the total by the the mid-1980s, building to the point at which in 1990 women would actually outnumber male students. During the '80s, women achieved representation in every major firm in New York City. Fully 40 percent of the city's municipal judgeships will be held by women by the end of the decade. Women will have assumed positions of power in numerous bar associations, including the Westchester County Bar, where the installation of 1946 graduate Gloria Crowley Markuson in 1989 featured an address by her old friend, Sandra Day O'Connor.



Yet there remained serious limitations on the professional advancement of women, particularly in the private sector. A survey of the

careers of big-firm attorneys from the 1974 class at Harvard Law revealed that 10 years later barely a quarter of the women graduates had made partner, versus more than half of the men. The percentage of female partners among the top firms rose one percent from 1982 to 1988, the year in which an ABA study committee on women in the profession — chaired by Hillary Rodham Clinton — noted that women 10 years out of school were paid on average 40 percent less than men. Acknowledging the widespread prevalence of "overt and subtle bias" against women in law, the ABA report counseled against any "sense of complacency that the sheer numbers of women entering the profession will eliminate barriers to advancement."



Among the many and varied factors involved in this gender discrimination, the ABA report acknowledged the pervasiveness of the notion that women lawyers, as women, will eventually choose to have children, and that their maternal responsibilities will ultimately detract from their work. Whereas for generations female attorneys had sought to point out that many of their number do not

have children — and that, in any case, the supposition is inherently discriminatory — the '80s saw something of a tactical change. "I think we became more realistic," says Marian Blank Horn, since 1986 a U.S. Court of Claims Judge, "more honest. Yes, many of us will have children, and that certainly will have an impact on our professional lives. So let's deal with that."



Following her graduation from Fordham Law in 1969, Blank Horn spent time in private practice and at the office of the Bronx District Attorney, where she encountered what she describes as her "worst nightmare" when her boss told her she could not continue to litigate after she became pregnant because "he said it was unseemly in the courtroom." She moved shortly thereafter to Washington, DC with her attorney husband and the first of their three daughters; for most of the 1970s she concentrated on motherhood, while maintaining her legal skills through volunteer work. "Now, I think, well, maybe we emphasize litigation to far too great an extent anyway. I think maybe there was a very good reason why for many

1985

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct admonishes a district court judge for various "inappropriate" remarks to women attorneys, including speculation on their appearance in bikinis.

1986

Random House publishes Karen Berger Morello's *The Invisible Bar: The Women Lawyer in America, 1638 to the Present*, the first and to date only book of its kind. Now out of print, Morello's research eventually will prove an indispensable resource for a survey of the history of women at Fordham Law.

1989

An article in the *Stanford Law Review* indicates that, while women make up 20 percent of the law school teaching population, they account for only 10 percent of all tenured professors and 6 percent of all deans.

The history of women on the bench dates to the appointment in 1870 of Esther McQuigg Morris as justice of the peace in the frontier mining town of South Pass City, Wyoming. A milliner at the time of her appointment, Morris had been trained as a lawyer—she'd been instrumental in drafting the Women's Suffrage Bill of 1869, which made her state the first in the nation to grant women the right to vote—but was unable to find steady work in that field after moving west

from Ohio during the Civil War. ■

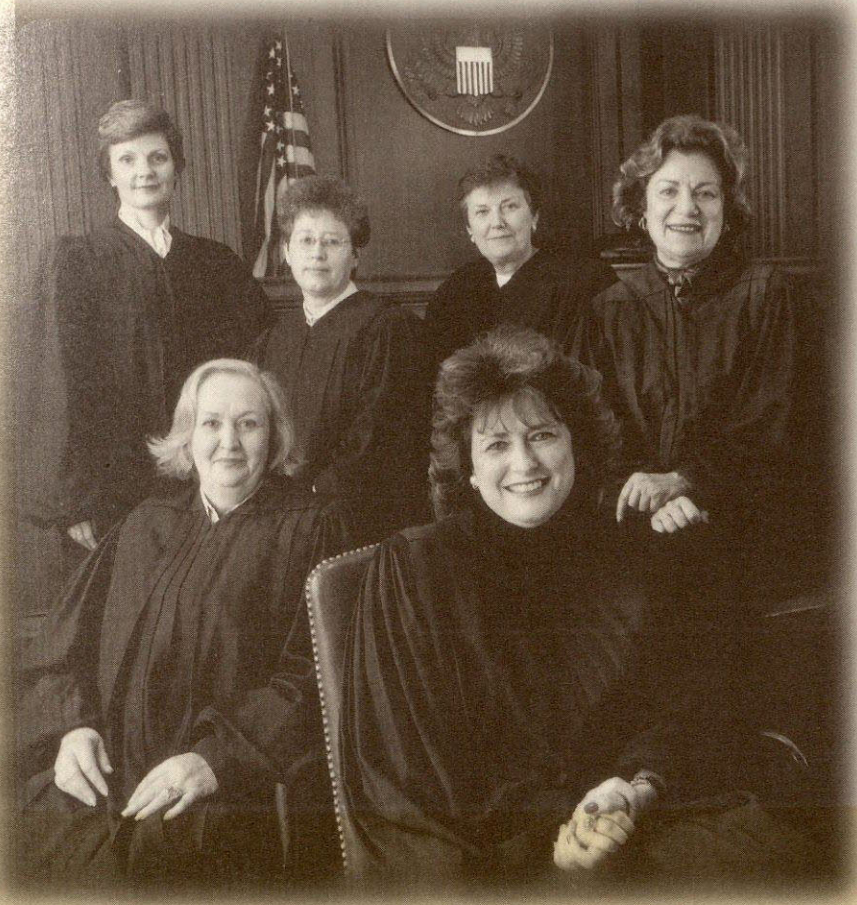
The residents of South Pass were by no means uniformly accepting of Justice Morris; among those who argued against a woman on the bench was her husband, John, who made such a fuss about the matter in her honor's own courtroom that she fined him for contempt and then sent him to jail when he refused to pay. According to Karen Morello in *The Invisible Bar*, Judge Morris would quiet arguing attorneys with the straightforward admonition, "Behave yourselves, boys." ■

Florence Buel was the first woman graduate of Fordham Law to serve as a Family Court Judge (appointed in 1973) and as a State Supreme Court Justice (1982 to 1988). ■

Among the Fordham Law women in the judiciary today, clockwise from left rear: **Loretta A. Preska**, Class of 1973,

Judge of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, since 1992. **Cira Martinez**, a 1979 Fordham Law graduate, is a Judge of the Family Court of the City of New York, based now in Brooklyn after a period in the Bronx. **Irene K. Duffy**, a 1957 graduate of Fordham Law, has been a New York City Family Court Judge since 1977, and is currently Acting State Supreme Court Justice for Criminal Jury Trials. **Renee R. Roth**, Class of 1969, has been Surrogate in New York County since 1983, and an adjunct professor at Fordham Law since 1980. **Sherry Klein Heitler**, Class of 1976, is a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York. **Jacqueline Winter Silberman**, 1972, is Chief Administrative Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York. ■

Among other Fordham Law women on the bench: **Anita Florio**, 1963, a New York State Supreme Court Justice recently appointed to the Appellate Division. **Tina Lesser Brozman**, Class of 1976, Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court; New York Civil Court Judge **Eileen Bransten**, Class of 1979; and New York State Family Court Judges **Marion McNulty**, Class of 1975, and **Rita Gentile Bolstad**, Class of 1957. ■



Kathleen Brown's rousing speech before the Democratic National Convention in 1992 brought men and women alike to their feet with her exhortative tribute to the strengths and potentials of women in public life. ■ "If Anita Hill told us anything — other than the truth — it is that one woman can make a difference," said the California State Treasurer, now a candidate to follow her father (Edmund Sr./Pat) and her brother (Edmund Jr./Jerry) into the governorship. "And if we don't always win the battle, we still won't give up the fight." ■ A 1985 graduate of Fordham Law, Brown has been repeatedly and publicly generous in her praise of the Law

School as formative of her professional character and sense of social responsibility. "I was thrilled by the education I got there," she told *The New York Times* last year. "What impressed me most was the institution's emphasis on ethical values in the pursuit of the profession, the notion that the only thing you have in the law is your reputation for integrity." ■ Brown entered Fordham at age 38, midway

through raising a family with husband Van Gordon Sauter, then president of CBS News, now president of Fox Television (and as such the boss of programming vice president Karen Barnes, a 1973 graduate of Fordham Law). Including her pre-Fordham involvement in school board in California, her public life has been marked by impassioned advocacy and profound — perhaps genetic — political skill. ■ Among her memories of Fordham, where she won the Mulligan Moot Court Championship during her first year, Brown includes an old Quaker saying conveyed to her by Professor Edward McGonagle: "Be present where you are." As an individual of developing national stature, Kathleen Brown is very much here. ■



Kathleen Brown addressing the 1992 Democratic convention.

AP PHOTOS

years trusts and estates were considered the field to be in if you were a woman — not only because it was stimulating and challenging, but because it had regular hours. There's nothing wrong with choosing a field of practice because it is compatible with your personal schedule.

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"I think the '80s taught us that you can have it all — that phrase — but not all at one time," observes 1975 Fordham Law graduate Patricia Ferrari, since 1985 a partner at Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin, Krim & Ballon. "There are those firms that will make room for a woman with a family, and those who will not," says the mother of five, one of whom is an attorney (as is her husband). "The firm you've chosen as the best for your career may be the worst in terms of your personal satisfaction. Will you have to say no to some opportunities? Sure. When I started law school I had four children ages two to seven. When I graduated I was offered a summer associate's position that I wanted very, very much, but there was no question of taking it, I needed that time to collapse with my family. Then I went to work part time for several years, at a firm where I was very happy, but when it was time to go full time I had to leave, because by then they all thought of me as a mother-slash-lawyer and I needed to change the order. You learn to balance."

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While acknowledging it as "a lot easier to juggle family and a law career in government or academia

than in private-practice work," Mary Daly, who has experience juggling all three, believes that the clear-eyed '80s showed women lawyers that they would have to make concessions no matter where their careers took them. "I'm not sure you ever achieve a real balance," she says. "One side of your life will always predominate over the other and the fact is that, for a woman, it's usually the family that wins." A faculty member since 1983 at Fordham Law, from which she graduated in 1972, Daly counsels that, "There are times when you will leave early and come in late. There are times when you will short-change your career, according to the male standards that are out there. But that's the point — they are male standards. I think female standards should allow us to accept and be proud that we have chosen to have responsibilities outside the workplace."

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Indeed, says the Hon. Marilyn Hall Patel, it might even improve the law: "I think somebody who's a whole person, really, is a much better lawyer. I worry about some of these men who don't have a family, or may have a family that they never see because they're so busy accumulating billable hours. I wonder if they're not too one-dimensional to be really good at their work." ■

As early as the 1920s, Philadelphia attorney Julianne Edward was complaining in a letter to the editor of a city newspaper that "the men of my profession seem willing to allow me to practice law — so long as it will not take money from their pockets. The sick, the elderly, the indigent: these are my clientele, and I am not ashamed to help them, but what of the day when my bills come due?" ■

It was not until the 1980s that women attorneys became substantially represented at the high-salaried end of the profession. Since then, though equity with their male counterparts still remains a distant goal — the ABA's 1988 gender study estimated women's salaries at 40 percent below men's — significant inroads have been made by women as corporate counsels or as partners in the most prestigious corporate firms. ■

The women of Fordham Law are to be found in both. Among those prominent in the former category are **Maureen Scannell Bateman** of the Class of 1968,

senior vice president and general counsel of U.S. Trust Company of New York; **Mary McDonald**, 1969, senior vice president and general counsel of Merck & Co.; **Elizabeth Clancy**, 1970, senior vice president and general counsel of the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange; **Betty Santangelo**, 1974, first vice president and general counsel of Merrill Lynch; **Anne Vitale**, a 1981 graduate, now senior vice president and associate general counsel of Republic National Bank; **Judith McDonald**, Class of 1975, associate first vice president at Prudential Bache. ■

Julia Vahey Shea, also 1975, now vice president of Morgan Guaranty Trust; **Jeanne Cullinan Ray**, 1967, vice president and assistant general counsel of TIAA-CREF; **Nancy Crossman**, Class of 1976, first vice president and general counsel of Royse Securities; **Melinda Socol-Herbst** from the Class of 1977, vice president and senior counsel at Dean Witter Reynolds; **Patricia Jehle**, a 1980 graduate, now senior managing director of Bear, Stearns & Co.; **Louise Firestone**, Class of 1985,

vice president and counsel of Credit Suisse; and **Margaret Reilly** of the Class of 1987, director of legal and business affairs for the Arts & Entertainment Network. ■

In corporate law firms, Fordham women are represented by a group of accomplished attorneys including 1975 graduate **Irene Sullivan**, a partner at Skadden, Arps; **Patricia Farren**, 1973, first woman partner at Cahill Gordon & Reindel; **Susan Buckley**, 1977, also a partner at Cahill Gordon & Reindel; **Maureen Driscoll Donovan**, Class of 1966, a partner at White & Case; **Barbara Guibord**, Class of 1976, a partner at Chicago's Winston & Strawn. ■

Ellen Martin, a 1977 graduate, a partner at Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler; **Beverly F. Chase**, also of the Class of 1977, a partner at Davis Polk & Wardwell; **Winifred Morio**, Class of 1949, a partner at Putney, Twombly, Hall & Hirsion; **Barbara Wrubel**, Class of 1981, a partner at Skadden, Arps; and **Susan S. Webster**, Class of 1984, now a partner at Cravath Swaine & Moore. ■

The Law School became the first Fordham school to move to the Lincoln Center campus in 1961. Today, the Law School occupies the original building and a semicircular wing and atrium.



I THINK WE HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO ACHIEVE MORE...WHETHER WE ARE WORKING TO ERADICATE GENDER BIAS IN CHILD-CUSTODY DECISIONS, OR TO ENSURE THAT THE POOR HAVE LAWYERS. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE' IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. MY HOPE IS THAT WHEN HISTORIANS ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THIS EARLY WAVE OF SUCCESSFUL WOMEN ENTERING ALL CORNERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION, THEY WILL NOT FIND US WANTING.

Appellate Judge Gladys Kessler, in District Lawyer magazine, 1983

This decade's chapter of the history of women at Fordham Law is being written as you read this, by the 779 young women who have thus far graduated from the school in the 1990s, by the 179 who will graduate this May, and by the 435 now enrolled who will graduate through the end of the 20th century.



Women now comprise 45 percent of the student body, a quarter of the faculty; the Law School atrium and sidewalks are lined with banners commemorating 75 years of their predecessors' rich achievements and numerous contributions. Certainly women have changed law at Fordham. A larger question, however, remains. In the 50-odd years since Grace Corcoran first heard a man express concern that women would somehow force changes in the philosophy and practice of American law, the question remains: Have they really?



In some respects, clearly so. As Judge Marilyn Hall Patel points out, the presence of women at the

bar and on the bench has expanded and refined case law to include issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse, capital crimes and civil injustices specifically directed toward women. And in countless subtler ways, women have extended the vision of their male colleagues. "On the average case, on *New York Telephone vs. Con Edison*, gender doesn't make a bit of difference," notes the Hon. Jacqueline Winter Silberman, a 1972 Fordham graduate who in 1989 was appointed Chief Administrative Judge of the Civil Court of New York — the first woman to hold that position. "I wouldn't decide a case any differently than my male colleagues, and even if for some reason I were tempted to do so I have five men on the appeals bench above me who would have a thing or two to say about it. But I certainly think that women have educated the male judiciary on a variety of issues — matrimonial matters, for example, the value of domestic services."



Further, Judge Marilyn Hall Patel believes that women have been instrumental in expanding the role of non-litigatory mediation within

1991

Women make up 42.5 percent of all first-year students in American law schools, 24 percent of the total law-school teaching population, and nearly 25 percent of the entire legal profession.

1992

In the aftermath of the Clarence L. Thomas hearings, women candidates are elected in unprecedented numbers to all levels of the nation's legislative bodies. A *National Law Journal* study finds that 89 percent of all partners in the nation's largest law firms are male — and 97.6 percent are white.

the judicial repertoire, in the form of alternative dispute resolution programs that are gaining acceptance in federal and state courts. "It used to be that everybody was in the litigation mode," she says. "You took a case and you went to court; that's what lawyers did. Arbitration was sort of a sissy's way of dealing with things."



Further still, some women even maintain that their increasing numbers within the law have improved ethical standards within the profession, by bringing to it the heightened sense of justice and fair conduct that is common among those who have prevailed beyond discrimination. Kathleen Brown, for one, speculates that the strong female presence at Fordham Law during the mid-1980s was the reason for the institution's emphasis on ethics. And Judge Patel, herself a leading ethicist, points out with some pride that it is a woman who has been charged to establish the California State Bar Court, a self-review organization to police ethical violations within the legal profession.



"I think it inevitably advances eth-

ical treatment when you add another point of view to any discussion," says Ellin Mulholland. "In that sense, I believe that women have certainly advanced the ethical foundation of the law. And I'm terribly proud of that, as I am of the options to which Fordham has exposed generations of women — generations in my own family. My niece Ellin graduates this May, the third of our women at Fordham Law, and nothing gives me greater satisfaction than the expanded range of opportunities she will now have because of all of us who went before."



A bedrock axiom of American life holds that greater opportunity brings greater duty, and in this respect the women of Fordham Law have performed at an exemplary level. In this 75th year of their history at Fordham, they have been notably generous to the institution that nurtured them — through their participation as mentors to first-year women in a program administered by Fordham Law Women, the campus student association, and by their financial contributions to a variety of programs, including the recently established Women's Scholar-

ship Fund. Seeded by a \$50,000 endowment by Peggy Rosenkranz, Class of 1964, and a \$17,500 pledge by Anne Vitale of the Class of 1981, the Fund offers encouragement and support specifically for women students. With other



members of her accomplished family (including sister Joan Scannell, a 1974 graduate of Fordham Law), 1968 graduate Maureen Scannell Bateman, now senior vice president and general counsel at United States Trust Company, has pledged \$50,000 for a general-fund scholarship honoring her father, Daniel T. Scannell, a member of Fordham Law Class of 1940.



Since its inception in 1990, Fordham Law School's Master of Laws (LL.M.) programs in Banking, Corporate and Finance Law and in International Business and Trade Law have proven to be very popular with women students. Nearly half of the graduates have been women, representing 27 countries, including the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Israel, Russia, Colombia, Venezuela, and India. Pictured here is the LL.M. Class of 1993.

With a history of advocacy and commitment dating back to her participation in the 1965 Freedom March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, 1970 Fordham Law graduate Karen Burstein provides an extraordinary example of service to the public good. ■

In 1972, after two years as a Legal Services attorney, Burstein became the first woman elected to the New York State Senate from Long Island, as well as the first Nassau County Democrat ever elected to that body. During three successive terms, she was known as a passionate supporter of women's rights, and included among her achievements sponsorship of the milestone Battered Spouse legislation in 1977.



The following year, after being named to the State Public Service Commission, Burstein was also appointed co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence, a position she held until the task force was dissolved in 1989, at which time Burstein became chair of the advisory committee to Governor Cuomo's Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. ■

In 1981, Burstein added the environment to the list of her public concerns, with publication of *Power and the Environment*, a study of an electrical transmission line and its impact on suburban Long Island. Among her other writings are a two-volume report on day care in New York State, and articles on consumer issues and on the rights of the elderly. ■

In 1983, Burstein was appointed President of the New York State Civil Service Commission, during which term she chaired the Temporary State Commission on Workers' Compensation and Disability Benefits, which orchestrated the first restructuring of that system in 70 years. In 1987, she served as Mayor Edward Koch's Auditor General, and three years later Mayor David Dinkins appointed her a Judge of the New York State Family Court. She resigned from the bench this spring to seek the Democratic party nomination for New York State Attorney General. Earlier this year, Karen Burstein was named to receive the Law School's 1994 Louis J. Lefkowitz Award for public service. ■

Karen Burstein has been active in numerous areas of public service.

1993

President Bill Clinton names Janet Reno of Florida the first woman Attorney General in U.S. history; a year later, Ms. Reno will be the keynote speaker at a dinner honoring 75 years of women at Fordham Law. In the same year, the President nominates Ruth Bader Ginsberg to be the second woman Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

1994

Fordham Law School graduates 179 women at commencement exercises in late May. Three of five journal editors and the Editor-in-Chief of the Moot Court Board are women.

Contributions can be made in different currencies, of course, and Fordham Law's women have enhanced the institution's stature through their work in numerous areas of the larger community. Miriam Buhl of the Class of 1992 is executive director of a Westchester County shelter and care program for senior citizens and the emotionally disabled, while Susan Coyne, Class of 1981, is a social worker at the Youth Residence Center in Manhattan.

Catherine Cronin Harris, 1971, is vice president of the Center for Public Resources, and her classmate Barbara Berger Opatowsky is president of the Better Business Bureau. Christine DeVita, 1980, is president of the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund; Caroline Katz, 1978, serves as director of immigrant services and special projects for the United Jewish Appeal; Dorothy Coyle, 1941, is general counsel for Catholic Charities. Joan Carty, 1985, is executive

director of Bridgeport Neighborhood Fund, and Janet Irizarry, 1973, teaches at P.S. 50 in East Harlem. In government service as well, Fordham women are engaged in a wide range of activities: 1959 graduate Agatha Vorsange is New



York City's regional counsel for the Internal Revenue Service, for example, while Marjorie Cadogan, 1985, is general counsel to the City's Department of Parks and Recreation.



"I used to think it was a little intimidating, the fact that there seemed to be no limits to my options as a woman law school graduate in 1994," says Ellin Regis, a member of the most recent graduating class, niece of

1955 graduate Ellin Mulholland and granddaughter of 1927 graduate Natalie McCarthy. "But I've come to see the endless horizon as a friendly landscape, where all women of good will can find the right circumstances for their own growth. I feel so fortunate in so many ways, not the least of which that I am in a unique position to see not only the future but, through the women in my family, the past. I

know firsthand how long the journey has been, and how far there is to go. And I know that the law I will practice will be more enlightened, more humane, more just, for the existence of the women of Fordham Law." ■

Ellin Mulholland, Class of 1955, and her niece Ellin Regis, Class of 1994, are respectively the second and third generation of women in their family to have attended Fordham Law. Their mother/grandmother Natalie McCarthy graduated from the Class of 1927.



The preceding story of the women of Fordham Law School is inspiring. It is filled with great accomplishment and contributions in every area of American life. I appreciate so much the work of our Associate Dean, Georgene Vairo, and her 75th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Patricia Hynes, in making possible the telling of this story. It is a story of many firsts, of many climbs from adversity, and of Fordham at its very, very best. I consider myself fortunate to know and to have known more than 1,000 of the women graduates of the Law School and many other women who serve the School on its faculty and on its administrative and support staffs. The women of Fordham, as the story reveals, are exceptional in their talents, contributions, and dedication. My admiration for them is second to no one. Perhaps their quality is best expressed by my late assistant, Marta Hrycyn, who served selflessly the Fordham Law School community from 1985 to 1994. She was the point person for many with the administration of the School, handling everyone with great patience, kindness, care, friendliness and ability. Her death on April 24 leaves a tremendous void, but like so many other Fordham women, Marta also leaves a legacy that makes us better and stronger as a School. Our future is bright because of the women of Fordham Law School. Our debt to the Jesuits who opened the doors to them is one we can never repay and therefore must from time to time celebrate. —*John D. Feerick, Class of 1964, Dean, Fordham School of Law*





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ST CLAIR X. HERTEL • ANNA S. LEVY • FANNY E. HOLTZMANN • TESSIE SEGEL • MARILYN STRADELLA • ANNETTE SWEENEY • THERESA E. DICROCIO • CAROLYN TERWILLIGER • BESSIE KESSLER • CHRISTY LATTARULO • EVELYN MAYE • ELSIE FITCH • JUDITH C. ADAMSKE • MARGARET D. HICKEY • REGINA A. KELLY • REBECCA S. KRIONHART • MARY E. RYAN • MILDRED OTS • FRANCIS RONNENBERG • MOLLIE L. PENNETTO • MARION C. SOMERS • MAHNA S. EWIG • TERESA HAMMER • VIOLET A. ALLEN • MARION K. MCCRATH • BETTY MACY • AGNES S. GILLIGAN • MARJORIE G. ZAHN • SUSAN C. MARIANO • ROSALIND LONDON • MARGARET SPAGNA • MARIE L. FINN • DOROTHY A. BROOKS • DEBORAH J. FISHERMAN • OLGA JAREMA • MARGARET O. CAHILL • LORETTA M. CARLOS • ELLEN S. LEWELLYN • MARIE MARRO • HELEN K. FLYNN • LOUISE GRAF • ELIZABETH M. MICHELS • V. MARY KELLEHER • HELEN M. THEOPHIL • LOTTIE STILLERMAN • ELLEN QUINLAN • VICTORIA A. GILES • EMMA C. LAWRENCE • EDWINA J. MCCGRATHY • ANN O'MALLEY • ISABEL PEREZ • CATHERINE M. HALLEY • SADIJE BARIS TURAK • BURNETT C. 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