

THE WOMEN'S ADVOCATE

A CATALYST FOR 2014 – 2015



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Spring has arrived in full force, and among all the usual things to look forward to – longer days, warmer weather, and Texas wildflowers – I have the special privilege of hearing from our Section's membership about some of the outstanding work of attorneys throughout our State. Each year, we ask you to send us your nominations for the Sarah T. Hughes award, recognizing an attorney who has helped advance other women in the practice of law, and for the Louise B. Raggio award, given to honor the work of those who are addressing the needs of women in the community. Last year, your response was overwhelming, and I found myself at once humbled and grateful to be practicing among such an inspiring group of attorneys. The accomplishments of the women members of our State bar are truly extraordinary, and reflect their dedication and commitment to the profession. I look forward to learning more about the women who you see making a difference, and I hope you will join us this year when we present these awards on June 19th, at the State Bar's Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

The Annual Meeting will also include a CLE program hosted by our Section: *Status Report on Sticky Floors and Glass Ceilings*. Our Chair-Elect, Chelsie Garza, has put together a fantastic panel of judges and practitioners to discuss the importance of including women in client interactions and on the trial team. We look forward to hearing their insights, which will inform not only our own professional practices, but the ongoing conversation about unconscious bias and its impact on women. On that topic, we are also partnering with several other Sections in sponsoring this year's Diversity Forum on June 18th, which will include a conference on addressing bias in firms, meetings, and the courtroom, as well as a discussion on how to adapt diversity initiatives from "Big Law" and government programs for success in mid-size firms. And don't forget to stop by our Section's reception on Thursday evening for some good food, drink, and conversation! We are so pleased to announce that the Bexar County Women's Bar Association will be co-hosting the reception this year, and we look forward to catching up with all of our San Antonio colleagues.

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MARKETING TIPS FOR WOMEN ATTORNEYS

By Chelsie K. Garza

Major clients value and seek out diversity in the outside counsel they retain. Additionally, more women are hiring attorneys since a high percentage of both general counsels and senior executives are women; and more women than men are starting businesses. As such, more firms are making efforts towards hiring and retaining women. Despite all this, the bottom line is: results are rewarded. If you deliver business results for clients, you will earn your clients' ongoing business, loyalty, and referrals. And law firms reward rainmakers.

So, women attorneys need to step up their marketing efforts. Relationships, word-of-mouth, and social media remain the best forms of marketing and business development. Below are several tips to help you in these arenas.

1) Surround yourself with trusted colleagues and cross promote

Women attorneys should pull together their network of professionals as they build their business. This team can include colleagues, clients, professional allies and rainmakers in other professions. If your potential referring lawyer or client needs a lawyer in another area of practice, you should be able to provide the name of a trusted colleague in your network. Not only will that potential referring attorney be reminded that you put them in touch with the family lawyer who won custody of their kids, but also, your colleague will return the favor. Leverage the wisdom and advice of your network based on their experience and success.

Additionally, the roles of those in your network include support, fellowship, skill development, and cross promotion. By teaming up with colleagues, women can reduce the time commitment they face in marketing, combine their collective networks and blend talents/interests.

2) Actively listen to your clients and be nice

Marketing and selling are not based on telling people how great you are. People hire lawyers with whom they feel comfortable and someone they feel they can trust. Put the entire focus on the client, their harm, the solution you offer and results they can achieve. Ask your clients and prospective clients what problems they are facing, listen to what they have to say, and communicate with them how you can help. Clients want you to bring them ideas and be proactive in letting them know how you can serve their needs.

Women have the advantage here as we tend to be better listeners and good communicators. The best women rainmakers are the best client diagnosticians, listeners and relationship stewards. Moreover, current clients are your best sales representatives. Feeling heard builds a bond between people that will not be forgotten, and satisfied clients are more than willing to share.

3) Pick the right niche and focus your business development on serving these clients

Focus. Specialize. You cannot be all things to all clients. Establish what makes you different and where you excel. Market and sell to clients whom you believe will benefit from those services. Don't waste time marketing that isn't focused on landing your ideal clients.

Skip the general networking events with few potential clients or bar events with only other attorneys attending. Attend events directed at your niche market. Research which associations, trade, industry, or civic groups your ideal clients attend. For example, if you believe you can relate to and sell to other female executives, join female executive networking organizations. And if you are targeting women who are looking to start their own business, gather into your network colleagues with corporate and tax and estate planning expertise who can also assist these women as they venture out on their own.

4) See the marketing and selling possibilities in EVERYTHING you are doing already

No one needs to tell a hard working female attorney that they face acute pressures in balancing work and rest of life

demands. See and seize the marketing possibilities in participating in organizations and even social activities. Find a comfortable way to let people know what you do and the clients you serve.

Give up those activities that may be utilizing too much of your time without a return on your investment. For example, you may have to forego involvement with a charitable organization to serve on the board of your local Chamber of Commerce. As we strive to find a work-life balance, we need to prioritize our time.

5) Create a social media strategy and get found online

Creating a social media and online marketing plan is key in the current digital market. Today, 78% of executive-level buyers go online to search for outside legal professionals, and 67% of C-level decision-makers use the Internet as their primary source of business information.

As a result, help with search engine optimization is worth paying for and establishing good online marketing habits is key.

Begin by setting Google Alerts for your name, firm name and topics relevant to your practice. This will aid you staying abreast on what is being said about you online. Write blog posts or well-researched articles that can be published online and shared across social media channels. Connect online with lawyers that you network with or meet at conferences and grab lunch with those individuals. Strive to speak annually to an audience on a topic where you're an expert. After your speech, publish the slides or video recording of your presentation online.

Measuring the effectiveness of your social media networking efforts can be somewhat akin to measuring the effectiveness of your networking at a cocktail party. Are people interested in what you have to say – are they re-sharing your articles, tweets, and updates? Are people engaging you in conversation – are they contacting you after reading something you published? If you are not getting the desired feedback, it may be time to change course. You may not be publishing engaging content or you could be targeting the wrong audience.

Also, joining lawyer network websites is an online option that can be utilized to help lawyers build their client base and their online brand. Avvo offers a search engine optimized profile that can be built at no cost to the user. Findlaw from Thomson Reuters offers a variety of services to lawyers, as well as offering potential clients a way to search for attorneys. Lawdingo is a site that allows consumers to browse its network of lawyers or ask questions. LawZam is a relatively new site and was the first to offer videoconferencing for initial consultations. These are only a few of the websites available to connect attorneys and potential clients. It is worth investigating which of these is right for you.

Above all, ASK FOR BUSINESS!

REQUEST FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Women and the Law Section is seeking nominations for the **Sarah T. Hughes Women Lawyers of Achievement Award** and the **Louise B. Raggio Award** (formerly known as the Ma'at Justice Award). These prestigious awards will be presented at the [State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting](#) in San Antonio on June 19, 2015, during our section's annual meeting.

The **Sarah T. Hughes Women Lawyers of Achievement Award** recognizes women who have achieved excellence in their fields while paving the way for other women lawyers to be successful.

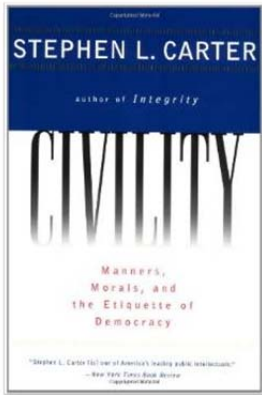
The **Louise B. Raggio Award** is for contributions of a lawyer or of an association of lawyers toward the furtherance of justice in our society.

You can find more information on these awards and past recipients on the [Women and the Law Section website](#).

If you know of someone deserving of either of these awards, please email [Ronnie G. Harrison](#) and include at least the following: (1) the nominee's name; (2) the nominee's contact information; (3) a brief description of why the nominee should receive the award; and (4) any other information that you believe would be helpful to the council in making its decision.

Nominations close on May 5, 2015.

Civility: Manners, Morals, and the Etiquette of Democracy,
(1998).



I happened upon Mr. Carter’s *Civility* in a list by 30 distinguished lawyers of 30 books every lawyer should read (I believe from an ABA Journal in a past year). *Civility* was described therein as illustrating well the sacrifices we, as Americans, should make to live well together in one society, over and above the law. As one who is constantly frustrated by the rudeness with which I am confronted every day in “polite” society, I was intrigued. In addition, Mr. Carter is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Yale (having taught there since 1982, according to Yale’s webpage) and is a well-regarded and distinguished jurist, so I thought his book might touch on issues that I deal with in both professional and personal settings.

The book is—to put it lightly—ambitious and philosophically engaging. So much so that a full treatment of Mr. Carter’s thesis is beyond the scope of this review—it would take far more space than I have. The basic idea that Mr. Carter proposes is that we are in the midst of a crisis of civility—which he defines as “the sum of the many sacrifices we are called to make for the sake of living together.” He believes, rightly or wrongly, that the advances of the modern era have allowed us the freedom to ignore our fellow man in our day-to-day activities, and that is working to our benefit (in some ways) but also to our detriment (in moral ways, which he believes more important). For example—most of us today travel *most of the time* by personal automobile, rather than by train or carriage or public transit, on which we are forced to share our space and time with others. In the past in those “group” modes of transportation, citizens were forced to abide by some basic interactive rules—manners—in order to make the transportation bearable for all. In other words, you did not listen to your radio loudly on the train or shout at your fellow passengers because to do so would have implied that they had the same rights to do so to you—rendering the ride uncomfortable to all. However, in your car, you may feel free to engage in road rage or to blast music at levels which rattle the windows of your vehicle, those nearby, and wake toddlers—because it is *your vehicle*; it is not a shared resource. As a result, a key part of your daily life is disengaged from considerations of impact on others. You are not forced to be civil, and so you may not be. And everyone suffers.

Another example which Carter only touches on lightly—because the book was written in 1998 (before Google, which is astonishing to think about)—is the similar but far more widespread impact of the Internet. His point on the Internet is also simple—in the past, in order to garner information outside your sphere of knowledge, you were forced to call upon other people; either at a library, by telephone call, or by—gasp—actually talking to someone else who might know. These interactions required a certain level of politeness in interaction (else you not gain that which you’d sought in the first place). Today, we simply Google it, requiring no wait time or, more importantly, no civility in interaction—after all, your laptop doesn’t care if you say ‘please’ and ‘thank you.’ As a result, we spend another great chunk of our time every day failing to practice something which, in the past, would have been essential to gaining information. His argument is that these types of changes (as well as many others) are a large part of the reason that we all constantly complain these days about customer service; that we have trouble with bullying; that you experience road rage in the first place. You no longer have to take your fellow citizen into consideration in your day to day life, and so you don’t. And he, likewise, fails to consider you.

Perhaps this seems a minor point—rudeness isn’t that big a deal, is it?—but Carter makes the point that a functioning democracy requires a civil polity; if you care not about your fellow citizen, then why gather together as a nation in the first place? Why vote for the common good as opposed to voting for yourself?

The final portion of Carter's book is devoted to ways in which he believes we may recover the civility we have lost. A big part of this—in his view—is recovery of lost religious traditions (whatever that may be; Carter himself is a Christian, but emphasizes Judaism, Islam, and other religious ideals as well). Readers may have a bit more trouble with this part of the book, depending on their views of same, but his overall point is that only in believing that we must answer to a higher moral code are we able to force ourselves to ignore the temptation to just put ourselves first, every time. Wherever that moral code is derived from, that is his best answer to the loss of civility.

Overall, this was a book I thought one could read multiple times and glean new thoughts and ideas for discussion each time. It was dense but I had no trouble getting through it—Carter is a very accessible writer, but an analytical one, and so the book was engaging and thought-provoking throughout. As an (about to be) new mother, it also gave me much food for thought on things to work on with my child and ways to encourage him to stay on the kinder and more considerate side of the spectrum with regard to his fellow man; it also made me (re) consider some of the ways I've conducted myself in practice and, especially, in the car ☺ I highly recommend it.

NAWL's Women's Initiatives Leadership Boot Camp

May 1, 2015

**The Historic Thayer Hotel
West Point, New York**

*The Women and the Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is pleased to be a co-sponsor of NAWL's Women's Initiatives Leadership Boot Camp on May 1, 2015, at the Historic Thayer Hotel in West Point, New York. We have arranged a special 10 percent discount for our members. To register, please visit the [site](#) and use the code **WIWLSSBT2015** to get the discount.*

Designed to explore a more strategic approach to crafting and implementing women's initiatives, this program also directly supports the NAWL Challenge to increase the percentage of women equity partners and chief legal officers to at least 30 percent.

In 2012, the NAWL Foundation released the first-ever National Survey of Women's Initiatives: The Strategy, Structure And Scope of Women's Initiatives in Law Firms, which provided benchmark data about the types of activities that women's affinity groups in law firms undertake, the funding, oversight, and expectations for such groups; and the factors that enhance or impede the success of women's initiatives. NAWL's Leadership Boot Camp will utilize the survey by combining hands-on learning with insights and guidance to help develop women's affinity groups' leaders and help them select high-impact activities to maximize their women's initiative's influence and to yield better business outcomes.

This unique and intimate program held at the Historic Thayer Hotel in West Point, New York is specifically designed for current and future leaders of corporate and law firm women's affinity groups. You can find complete program information [here](#).

SMART WOMEN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES FIRST: THE IMPORTANCE OF ROUTINE MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

By Carolyn F. Moore



Women often serve as their family's main caregiver. Although caring for young children may come immediately to mind, many mothers continue to provide care for their children long after high school and college, while other women find themselves acting as caregivers for their elderly parents or in-laws. Women also handle the majority of the housework, food preparation, and other management of American households. In addition to these responsibilities, women often assist their spouses' professional endeavors, all while maintaining their own careers. With so much on their plates, it is no surprise that some women feel they do not have time for routine health exams. Smart women somehow find time to take care of themselves by scheduling and keeping appointments with a primary care physician and other medical professionals. These women know they must be healthy in order to do all they have to do as caregivers for everyone else.

Routine medical exams serve the same purpose as putting on your own oxygen mask before assisting anyone else: both improve the likelihood that you will be physically able to help others when needed. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), regular health exams and tests can help find problems early, when the chances for treatment and cure are better, or even before a problem starts and may still be prevented.¹ The benefit of annual exams far outweighs the inconvenience of the appointments, and smart women make time for them in their busy schedules.

So, exactly what do these smart women do? First, they find doctors they trust and make their annual checkups a priority. At the appointments, smart women listen to their doctors and give honest answers to the doctors' questions. If a doctor does not mention something that has been bothering these women, they bring it up and insist on getting the doctor's opinion and advice. These women also have a yearly examination by an obstetrician/gynecologist, followed by a mammogram and bone density examination, if recommended by a doctor. The women who have a chronic medical condition find a specialist to help them manage that chronic condition. These women have at least two or three doctors from whom they receive regular treatment.

Are you among the smart women who are caring for everyone in their lives by putting their own health first? If not, you can join them at any time by scheduling and attending your medical appointments on a yearly basis. Whether you see doctors often or not at all, here are some words of wisdom and other information from David B. Agus, M.D., who in 2014 wrote, *A Short Guide to a Long Life*:

- Heart disease, cancer, and stroke account for more than 50% of all deaths every year.
- About half of us are living with a chronic condition.
- Mobilize your medical data and give a friend the password. (This information will be important at any medical appointment, including an emergency room visit.)
- Maintain a healthy weight. To determine what that means for you, look at http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/educational/lose_wt/BMI/bmicalc.htm (National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute) for information on body mass index.
- Maintain eating habits that work for you.
- Get an annual flu shot – it can help to prevent heart attacks and strokes and reduce the risk of death from any illness. Remember, influenza kills 45,000 Americans each year.
- Learn what killed your relatives.

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/family/checkup/>

WOMEN'S HEALTH

- Consider DNA testing – you can get genetic risk profiles for more than 40 conditions.
- Find out if you need vaccinations for whooping cough, shingles, and certain pneumonias.
- Find out how often you need to have screenings/examinations for breasts, blood pressure, cholesterol, teeth, eyes, skin, diabetes, bowels, and osteoporosis.

Making and keeping medical appointments may not be easy and convenient, but it is important.

*CONGRATULATIONS
TO WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION MEMBER
KRISTEN CASTANEDA
WHO IS JOINING
ALEXANDER DUBOSE JEFFERSON & TOWNSEND
AS A PARTNER IN THE DALLAS OFFICE*



Texas Women Rainmakers Conference
All day CLE and Networking event 8/28/2015
Cost \$50 per person
Location: St. Regis Hotel, Houston, Texas

www.texaswomenrainmakers.com for more information
or contact Chelsie Garza at cgarza@chelsiegarzalaw.com

**Don't forget to renew your membership
in the Women and the Law Section!**



A CONVERSATION WITH DR. LOIS LEE PRESTAGE WOODS

Dr. Lois Lee Prestage Woods earned a law degree from Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1951, making her the institution's first African-American woman graduate. She later became the first African-American woman appointed to the American Arbitration Association of Texas.¹ On March 8, 2001, Ellen Grimes interviewed Dr. Woods about her experiences, and excerpts from that interview appear below. The interview was done as a project of the Women in the Profession Committee and videotaped in the dean's office at Texas Southern University.

What prompted you to go to law school in the first place?

I think I was influenced a lot by the lawyers in my church. I grew up in Antioch Missionary Baptist Church on Clay Street. That's the oldest Baptist Negro church in Houston.

There were some lawyers in your church?

Male lawyers, no female. I used to do a lot of reciting in that church. I grew up in that church as a child. In the Baptist churches, we always have programs where the children speak. I guess because I was tall and had a loud voice, they used to call me Portia.² It was instilled in me. I would say, "Where are all of the lady lawyers?" No lady lawyers here. And so I decided that I was going to become a lady lawyer. I guess that's how I really got influenced.

You had never seen a lady lawyer at that time?

I had never seen one in my life.

How did you know how to go about applying for law school?

I went to undergraduate at Texas Southern. And, of course, I knew the story about how the law school was established, and we were very pleased to have been accepted when they relocated on this campus,³ and we enrolled. There were two other ladies who enrolled with me. They were Leona Darcy, who worked in the library at that time, and Elena Davis.

Did Leona Darcy and Elena Davis ever graduate?

No. They are still living, however, and I always like to mention their names to the students because they sat with me for a few weeks.

Did you have to take an entrance exam?

We took a very small entrance exam, and we had to be sponsored by a law firm. It was sort of casual because the law school had already been established, and they were working out of UT in Austin and then came to this campus.

What year was it that you started?

They established the law school in 1947, and we came in 1948.

Did you graduate in about three years?

That's exactly right.

Did you know what kind of law you wanted to practice at that time?

Yes. I think I always did. I used to work for a union and I was very interested in the labor laws and family law, too, but especially the labor laws. But I had a professor, I don't know what you'd call it now, but we called it decedent's estate when they taught us. And he wanted me to get interested in decedent's estate because I am one of the original Houstonians here and knew about a lot of land that used to be owned by black folks and their descendants, and they just let it go. And it's still hanging around here.

When you were in law school were there any female faculty? Did you have any professors who were female?

We had a female librarian. That was it.

Did you have any particular trouble being a female in the law school at that time surrounded by men, faculty and students?

We felt like we had a very close relationship with our faculty. And the young men who were students sort of took me on as their sister. And we had one professor, however, who used to say to me every morning, "Are you still here?" I

¹ Gaining Ground, 77 Tex. B.J. 244, 244 (2014)

² This is likely a reference to the heroine of William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

³ According to Texas Southern University's website:

The history of the law school can be traced back to a 1946 lawsuit, *Sweatt v. Painter*, brought by Herman M. Sweatt, which sought equal protection for racial minorities under the U.S. Constitution. The Texas Constitution mandated separate but equal facilities for whites and blacks in accordance with the infamous precedent set in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Mr. Sweatt was refused admission to the University of Texas School of Law because he was black. In order to pre-empt the possibility of Mr. Sweatt obtaining a successful court order, the legislature passed Texas State Senate Bill 140, which established a university to offer courses of higher learning in law, pharmacy, dentistry, journalism, education, arts and sciences, literature, medicine, and other professional courses. It opened in 1946 as the "Texas State University for Negroes," and later changed its name to Texas Southern University in 1951. During its first academic year, the law school was housed in Austin, Texas, and was subsequently transferred to the new university campus in Houston.

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW, <http://www.tsulaw.edu/review/history.html> (last visited Apr. 16, 2015).

would look around and say, “Where am I going?” And that was a course in bills and notes, and Bill Harrison was his name. He would say, “You know, tears don’t move me. I don’t care who cries, you’ve got to pass my course, or else.” And so I just dreaded going to his class. But we had to go. The fellas would say to me sometimes, “Don’t cry, don’t cry.” I’d say, “I’m not crying” [while wiping away tears]. And that was when I was alone for two years.

How long did the other two female classmates stay?

Mrs. Darcy stayed about a semester, and Mrs. Davis stayed for about the first year.

Do you know why they dropped out?

Mrs. Darcy had small children at that time and her husband, and she was trying to look out for them and handle work, too. We had more work and more assignments than we’d ever dreamed of in our whole lives. And they used to say to us, “the law is a jealous mistress” because there is so much. Mrs. Davis was a young married lady, too, and I think that was pressure on her.

Were you married at that time?

No, but I married while I was in law school.

Did you marry a law student?

No, you would’ve thought he was; he hung around every day and all day. He was in photography and journalism.

The male law students encouraged you?

That’s right. They always said, “Don’t give up.” And I had a few partners and we had some study partners. And, of course, I kind of feel like I had the advantage over them because I also worked in the library. After classes, they would scoot going somewhere to get a cold one or something, and I’d stay in the library.

During that time, *Sweatt v. Painter* decided by the Supreme Court in 1950 said that the State of Texas had to admit Heman Sweatt.⁴ Do you as a law student remember when that decision came out? What was your reaction when the Supreme Court decided that case?

I finished in 1951, so we were here. We wanted Heman Sweatt to come here, and we also wanted the school to be named after Heman Sweatt. But that was, of course, not our decision. But we always felt Heman Sweatt did not get maybe the honor that he deserved. He went through many problems during those ten years that he tried to get through school. Finally, he did get in. We were surrounded by friends, and there was pressure on us, and we felt he was just by himself totally alone sitting in the basement, so we knew he had pressure.

What did you do after you graduated?

I went to work for a union, and they were very, very encouraging to me. And I learned a lot about labor law and contracts. They used to have me attend their grievance meetings, and that’s how I got involved with the arbitration association.

Was it difficult getting that first job? Were you hired as a lawyer?

No, I was hired just as a student, although I had finished law school. And this was just a local union. My role was that of secretary, I guess you’d say chief bottle washer, whatever, and to work with them. I did a lot of explaining to them about the labor law and the terms that were used because these were just working men, laymen. And they were primarily Hispanics and blacks.

How long did you stay in that job?

I think I stayed with them—it was very difficult for me to leave them, too—I stayed with them for about two years. And HISD began to call me, and call me. It tore my heart out to leave the union then. But I finally did, and that’s when I went into the field of education teaching in HISD.

Did you eventually go back for further education?

Yes, I got a master’s in curricular writing, history and political science from Syracuse University.

Since then, you’ve been in education? And you’re a professor right now at the University of Houston?

No, I’m not a professor, I’m just an instructor. That’s a long story. . . . I tell everybody I wouldn’t give anything for the experience.

You think it was a good education?

It was wonderful. We kept up with all of the cases that were going on then, and we were here long before we had *Brown v. Board of Education*, and I’ve had an opportunity to meet Sarah Weddington, who was the attorney for *Roe v. Wade*, and it was just nice. And then of course it gave me what I feel like was a shield to protect myself a lot: knowledge of the law. And then I was able always to impart a lot of this to the students when I taught on a secondary level in high school.

So you still bring your knowledge of the law into your classroom?

Oh yes. We are never without the law.

What did you think of Thurgood Marshall back in the late ‘40s early ‘50s?

That was a different time in Houston. Anytime anyone was brave enough to stand out and speak and say a word against what we’d call maybe the establishment that was a hero. And so we were all very proud of Thurgood Marshall. We felt like he must be some smart man standing up against the Supreme Court and everybody else. He’s great. We thought he

⁴ See *supra* note 3.

was some kind of hero.

Did you ever have a heroine who was a woman in the law?

Yes, Judge Juanita Stout from Pennsylvania or New York. The first woman judge in the country. I wrote a paper on her. Judge Stout and her husband both taught here in Houston. She would come into the law school while we were there and review her notes so she could take the bar. And she wanted me—I was still a student in law school—to assume her classes. But the administration did not allow it because I had not graduated. She fussed with them, but they still wouldn't do it. She said, "She knows enough to teach that course." I thought I was going to get it, but I didn't. Whenever she would return to Houston, she would always say, "Where is that girl? Where is Lois?" That's how I came to meet Judge Stout . . . [S]he taught business law out here on this campus.

Was Judge Stout a visiting professor then?

I think she was only here for a period of time with her husband. She started working here since he was working here. But later on she went all the way to the top. Judge William Hasty became the first African American federal district court judge in Philadelphia, and she worked for him. She took me on like my mentor. We would sit down and talk; she would tell me a lot of her experiences and would encourage me also. I was the only little girl in this law school.

When you were in law school and just getting out, you never saw a female lawyer in the courtroom or, other than Judge Stout, on the bench or even on television?

On television, perhaps, but very few. Not like today. I listen to Judge Judy when she comes on at night. We had no role models like that. None whatsoever.

You mentioned earlier that you met Sarah Weddington, who argued the *Roe v. Wade* decision. How did you come to meet her?

I met her at the law school banquet the year the law school made me the outstanding alumni.

Did you ever know or hear of Constance Baker Motley, who became the first African American federal district court judge for the Southern District of New York and who was the only female on the famous *Brown v. Board of Education* legal team? How did you come to know her?

Yes, [I came to know of her] through the news, TV and radio. She was so active in the political action front. Her name was just upon us. We all knew her, and it seemed like it was going to be way up there.

Did you feel you had to be better than your male counterparts to pass here at the law school?

I felt that there was a little pressure on me because this was a different time, and ladies went into the fields of music, homemaking, and teaching. When we three came, this was just a shock: three females in law school. Our professor used to say to us, "The eyes of the world are on you."

Did anybody ever say you shouldn't be here because you're taking the place of a man?

I think Dr. Harrison felt that way. He would say to me, "Are you still here?" And then he'd say, "Watch your music" or something like that. I'd say, "I don't like music." The day that I think he really tested me, we had about twenty briefs, and we were down to my last one. He was getting irritated, and I was getting scared. Finally, he would call on me again for the next brief, and I looked back at one of my little friends, and he indicated there was one minute left. So I had one minute left and one brief left. When he called on me for that brief, I just took my time, stretched back, and I gave it to him. He was so disgusted I think with me. So the bell did ring, and the class jumped up and scattered, and then I stayed in the room. They came back for me. They said, "We're going to coffee. Aren't you coming?" I said, "No." They said, "Dr. Harrison wants you to come, too. He wants you to have some coffee." I said, "I cannot eat with that man. That man was trying to put me out of this law school today." But I wasn't budging. I was the last woman left. The interesting part about it was, we only had one exam a year then, but Calvin Brice and myself made the highest scores in his class.



Please join us at the Annual Meeting for the following events:

| Event | Date | Time |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Diversity Forum | Thursday, June 18 | 9:00 am – 11:45 am |
| Reception Co-Hosted by the Bexar County Women's Bar Association | Thursday, June 18 | 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm |
| CLE: <i>Status Report on Sticky Floors and Glass Ceilings</i> | Friday, June 19 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm |