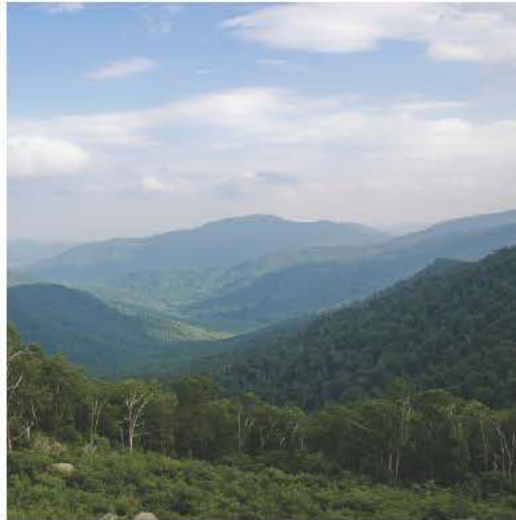




VWAA and Support for the 23rd Circuit

VWAA representatives helped don Judge Ware's and Judge Rogers' robes during their investiture ceremonies

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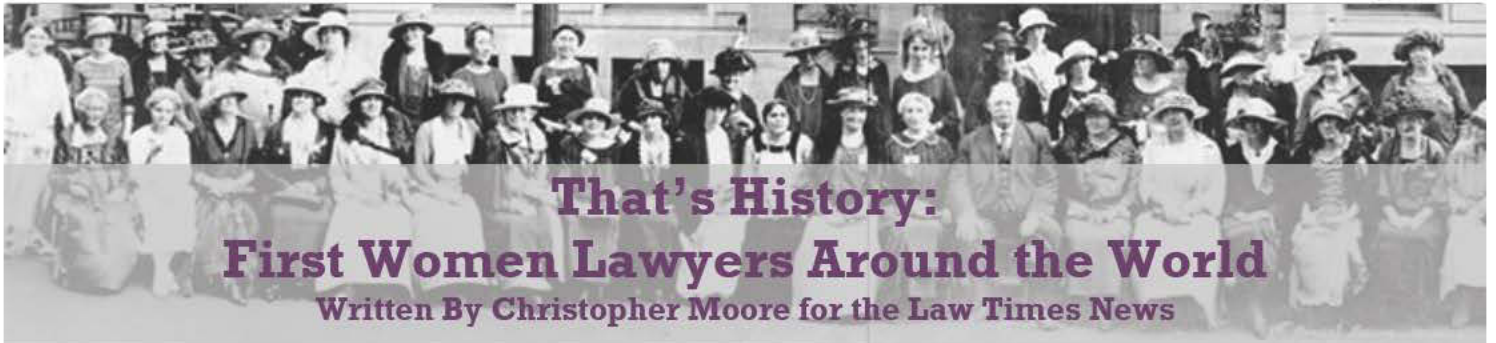
VWAA Mission

- To advance the interest of women attorneys in Virginia;
- To encourage their mutual improvement and social interaction;
- And to promote the interests of women under the law.

VWAA and Support for the 23rd Circuit

On November 21, 2014, Rachel Thompson, Vice President of our chapter, joined with the Roanoke Bar Association and the Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association in presenting Judge Onzlee Ware his robe at his investiture ceremony. Judge Ware represented Roanoke in the House of Delegates for 10 years before retiring last November. He became the first black juvenile court judge for the 23rd Judicial District.

Later on December 29, 2014, Jennifer Dean, President of our chapter, joined with the other bar groups to present Judge Frank Rogers' robe at his investiture ceremony. Judge Rogers practiced as a Roanoke County attorney and served as a partner at Mundy Rogers & Associates before assuming the bench. Both ceremonies were marked by the attendance of the entire 23rd Judicial Circuit, as well as state representatives and locally-based congressmen. VWAA is proud to welcome both to the bench!



That's History: First Women Lawyers Around the World

Written By Christopher Moore for the Law Times News

Clara Brett Martin, called to the Ontario bar in 1897, was the first woman lawyer in Canada. But where does she stand among early women lawyers around the world? She was at the center of a trend, according to Mary Jane Mossman of Osgoode Hall Law School, who takes an international perspective in her new book, *The First Women Lawyers*. Other firsts according to the book:

United States: Arabella (Babb) Mansfield was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1869. The western states of the U.S. accepted some of the very earliest women lawyers, often with little formal record-keeping, while bar associations and law schools of the eastern states kept women out longer.

Britain: No women formally became English barristers or solicitors until 1921-22. But Eliza Orme had all the credentials except the formal call and effectively practiced law from 1875.

France: Jeanne Chauvin was fully qualified by 1890, but was prevented from taking the avocat's oath until 1900.

New Zealand: Ethel Benjamin was called to the bar in 1897 but was largely isolated by her colleagues

despite her acknowledged skills.

India: Cornelia Sorabji, a Parsee, defended a murder charge in the Indian courts in 1896, but was denied full legal credentials on a variety of technicalities all her life.

Italy: Lydia Poet had the qualifications by 1883 and practiced law from 1885. But Italian women were denied formal access to the profession until after the First World War.

Looking back from the early 21st century, it's striking how closely clustered these dates for the pioneer women lawyers now seem. The half century from 1870 to 1920, less than one lifetime, saw women's first access to legal careers practically everywhere in the developed world. A tide was turning.

Mossman's investigations underline the hazards of personality, class, and jurisdiction that determined precise dates at which particular women broke through the barriers in each of these countries.

Mossman is cautious about simple interpretations of the emergence of the first women lawyers, preferring shifting "kaleidoscopes" of meaning.

But she suggests two key themes. First, women's access to the legal profession bore a tangled but undoubted relationship to the campaign for woman suffrage and citizenship. Some saw gaining the vote as a prelude to opening the professions. Some believed opening up the professions would lead to woman suffrage. Some favored a strategy of demanding one but not the other. But the two movements clearly ran in tandem.

Second, the cause of women lawyers was not only about women. In the 19th century, the nature of professions was in flux. Professions had long been defined as the exclusive prerogative of gentlemen. Their slow reinvention into something determined by learned skills, objective testing, and certified credentials affected men as much as women - but the redefinition helped create small spaces that the first women lawyers claimed for themselves.

By the late 19th century, universities, judges, legislatures, and lawyers were all taking a hand in defining who should be lawyers - and all could become either pathways or barriers to the ambitions of women.



Get to Know Brooke Rosen, Esq.

Brooke Rosen is a Partner in Gentry Locke's General Commercial practice group, handling a broad range of commercial matters including mergers and acquisitions and employee benefits matters. Brooke also works with entities applying for tax-exempt status and assists in ongoing tax exempt compliance matters. Brooke was recognized as a *Virginia Rising Star* in Business Law & Corporate Transactions by *Virginia Super Lawyers*.

Q: What made you decide to practice law in the Roanoke region?

A: My husband Court and I moved to Roanoke from the Washington, DC area to be close to my family. I grew up in the country on Claytor Lake in Pulaski County and, after many years of urban living, we both knew we needed to be in a place with less traffic and more woods. While we picked the region for family purposes, I can't imagine a more suiting place for me to practice law. I do business and estate planning law, and Roanoke is the perfect blend for me – we have plenty of complex business issues to handle generated by local entrepreneurs but also a very supportive professional community.

Q: What is the most challenging aspect of your practice?

A: Staying on top of the constant changes in the law! I have access to a lot of great resources at Gentry Locke but keeping up with them is time-consuming and challenging in a busy practice. I love to read and learn, though, so this challenge is also one of

the most rewarding aspects of my practice.

Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of your practice?

A: I'm a people person and thrive on personal connections. That is probably why the most rewarding part for me is the satisfaction that comes from solving our clients problems. Many of my clients are sophisticated business folks, so by the time a problem or project hits my desk, it is likely to be a complicated issue. I enjoy getting creative, diving into the financials and mapping out a solution or path to closing.

Q: If you were to write a book, what would the title be and what would it about be?

A: At this stage in my life, I suspect I would name the book Bluesuit Mom after one of my favorite blogs right now. I'm constantly straddling the professional world and my life at home with a full time working spouse and young kids. These two worlds don't always easily coexist but I'm having a lot of fun and love my

network of similarly-situated friends and colleagues showing me how to navigate the hurdles of both.

Q: What is one of the bravest things you have ever done?

A: If you ask anyone in my family, especially my thrill-seeking younger brother, I'm a rule follower and typically live my life within the very well defined road. So my bravest moment may not wow anyone but I'm so proud I took the plunge.

While in college in Nashville, TN in 2000, I learned that the Gore Presidential campaign needed folks to do "advance work" all over the country. I remember where I was (in the Cleveland airport) when I called my dad to tell him I had decided to take the summer and a semester off and travel alone to meet up with a team of volunteers in a different city every week. Looking back, I am shocked I did this. It led to so many great things for me after college and into law school and wonderful lifelong relationships.

We will be featuring a Q&A with different members of our local chapter in each monthly newsletter. If you are interested in being featured, please contact Jennifer Dean at jennifer@poarchlaw.com.



+ Event Schedule 2015

February

Thursday, February 5th
Noon Luncheon at 202 Market

April

Wednesday, April 16th
Noon CLE Luncheon at Schaal's

March

Wednesday, March 4th
Noon Luncheon at Blue Apron

May

Thursday, May 7th
Annual Elections at Carlos

SAVE THE DATES

Bench Bar Dinner in Celebration of Women and Minorities

January 27th at the Jepson Alumni Center in Richmond

The dinner will honor all newly appointment and elevated women and minority judges

W&L Law WLSO Symposium

March 27th at W&L Law in Lexington

The symposium will honor 40 years of W&L Law Women and will include two panels