

Supporting and Celebrating Women in the Law

by Mark K. Vincent



Mark K. Vincent is a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Utah.

A few years ago, the Utah State Bar celebrated “Women Trailblazers in the Law” at an event identifying Utah’s first 100 women lawyers. Georgianna Snow Carleton was Utah’s first female lawyer, admitted to the Utah Bar in 1872. She was 30 years old, and before her admission she’d studied the law for three years with her father, Zerubbabel Snow, who was the attorney general of the Utah Territory and later a territorial Utah Supreme Court judge. To be admitted, a committee appointed by the chief judge of the Territorial Supreme Court examined Carleton and approved her application for admission. She went on to serve as the territorial librarian before moving out of state and entering politics in Wyoming and California.¹

It took 95 years until the 50th woman was admitted to the practice law in Utah in 1967, but only nine more years for the 100th woman to be admitted in 1976.² Without doing the research, I suspect that other states in the union have similar patterns in admitting women into the practice of law.

I began law school in 1984; my law class—if I recall correctly—was approximately 55 percent male and 45 percent female, which was considered very progressive at the time. I took a moment while writing this message to check on this year’s entering law class demographics for my alma mater. I am proud to report

that the Pepperdine University School of Law Class of 2018 is 53 percent female, has a median GPA of 3.60, and has a median LSAT score of 159.

Over the past 30 years, I’ve seen an increase in the number of female prosecutors entering my office. They bring a unique and positive perspective to the law that previously was missing. I am also proud that many of my former female colleagues have gone on to successfully serve as state and federal judges.

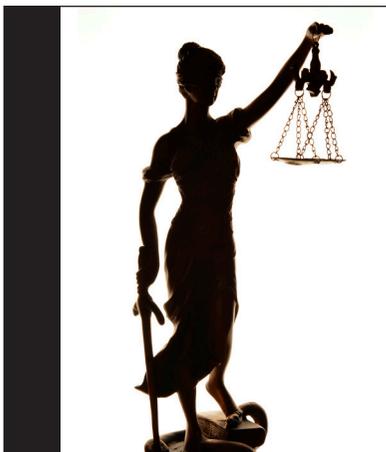
As we celebrate the accomplishments of women in the law in this issue of *The Federal Lawyer*, I’m pleased that the Federal Bar Association continues to be a leader in supporting women in the practice of law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark K. Vincent".

Endnotes

¹See <http://utahwomenlawyers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Women-Trailblazers-in-the-Law-Booklet.pdf>.

²*Id.*



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