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## Women and the Law: A Century of Achievement

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## WOMEN AND THE LAW: A CENTURY OF ACHIEVEMENT

1995 is a very significant year for the State of West Virginia and for the West Virginia College of Law, because it marks three anniversaries of enormous importance to women. First, 1995 marks the centennial anniversary of the graduation of the first woman from the West Virginia University College of Law.<sup>1</sup> Second, 1995 commemorates the centennial anniversary of the election of a woman to a state legislature.<sup>2</sup> Third, 1995 celebrates the seventy-fifth anniversary of women's suffrage.<sup>3</sup>

This centennial occasion provides an ideal opportunity to feature the role that women have played in the development of the legal profession in West Virginia and this nation generally. This is an opportunity to recognize and to celebrate the achievements of women in influencing societal development, particularly in the application of law to women's issues and the family. The essays that follow are centered on the theme of empowering women and highlight the role that women have played in the development of the law. Two of these essays, one from England and another from Australia, reflect similar issues of women on a global level.

*Mary Beth Nolan*  
Editor-in-Chief

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1. Agnes Westbrook Morrison was the first woman graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law, graduating in 1895.

2. Frances Klock, Clara Cressingham, and Carrie Holly were elected to the Colorado General Assembly in 1894, and took office 1895. Telephone Interview with Bonnie L. Brown, former West Virginia Legislator (Mar. 29, 1995).

3. U.S. CONST. amend XIX (providing that no one may be denied the right to vote on account of sex). The passage of the nineteenth amendment in 1920 ended a century of struggle for women's suffrage in the United States.

