Women in the Law

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WOMEN IN THE LAW.—Since receiving the franchise women are coming into the profession of law to a somewhat greater extent, and now they are eligible to do so in practically all the states of the Union.

There is no apparent discrimination against women in this regard in the laws of Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont and West Virginia.

In a number of states the privilege has been extended many years by special legislation enacted on the subject. A reference is given to such enactments in the following:

Arkansas: Women admitted since 1917, permission incorporated in Statute of 1921, Section 596.

California: Article XX, Sec. 18, Constitution of California: "No person shall, on account of sex, be disqualified from entering upon or pursuing any lawful business, vocation or profession."

Colorado: In re Thomas, 16 Colo. 441, 1891. "Every word importing the masculine gender only, may extend and be applied to females as well as males."

Connecticut: Section 5461, Revised Statutes of 1918. This statute provides for admission to the practice and does not discriminate on account of sex.

District of Columbia: Women admitted since 1879.
Georgia: In 1916 women were admitted to practice. See page 76 of Georgia Acts. This became part of the Section 4932, Civil Code, 1910, which is an amendment to Park's Annotated Georgia Code, page 472.

Illinois: Section 3, Chapter 48, Hard's Revised Statutes, Page 1413. "That no person shall be precluded or debarred from any occupation, profession or employment (except military) on account of sex."

Indiana: In re Leach, 134 Indiana 665; also 34 Northeastern 641

Iowa: Section 7032, Code of Iowa. No discrimination against women.


Maine: Section 25, Revised Statutes, page 84. "No person shall be denied of license to practice as an attorney-at-law on account of sex."

Massachusetts: Chapter 165, section 41, Revised Laws, 1902.

Maryland: Article 10, Section 4 of Bagby's Annotated Code of Maryland. "Women shall be permitted to practice law in this state upon the same terms, conditions and requirements and to the same extent as provided in this article with reference to men."

Montana: Section 6381 to 6385, inclusive, of the 1907 Revised Codes amended in 1915, provides "Any citizen who has bona fided his or her intention to become a citizen. . . . ."

Nevada: Section 499, Revised Laws of Nevada, as amended in 1907. "Under this Act females shall have the same rights and privileges as males."

New Hampshire: Chapter 113, Section 2 of the Public Statutes of New Hampshire.

New Jersey: No discrimination against women. They may be licensed upon complying with the requirements.

New Mexico: Laws 1909, Section 338 et seq., New Mexico Statutes, 1915, provides for "his or her" qualification.

New York: Eligible since 1886, Section 467, Judiciary Laws, Section 56, Code of Civil Procedure of Laws of 1886, Chapter 428, section 56. "The race or sex of such persons shall constitute no cause for refusing such person admission to practice. . . . ."

Ohio: Section 1699, General Code. "No person shall be ex-
cluded from acting as an attorney-at-law, and practicing in the courts of this state on account of sex.”

Oregon: Law passed in 1885, Section 1035 Hill’s Code, Section 1045 of Bellinger & Cotton’s Codes, now known as Section 1079, Oregon Laws. “Hereafter women shall be admitted to practice law as attorneys, in the courts of this state, upon the same terms and conditions as men.”

Pennsylvania: Women admitted since December 17th, 1883. In re Gilgore, 14th Weekly Notes of Cases, 466.

South Dakota: Chapter 21, Section 1, Session Laws, 1893. “And no person shall be refused a license under this Act, upon account of sex.”

Texas, Article 5502, General Laws, page 63. “The masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter.”

Utah: Title 7, Section 316, Compiled Laws of Utah. “Any citizen of the United States, or person who has bona fide declared his or her intention to become a citizen, etc.”

Virginia: Section 3408, Laws of Virginia. “All male and female persons who have heretofore obtained, or all male and female persons who may hereafter obtain a license, etc.”

Washington: Section 7, Acts of the Legislature of 1895 (Session Laws, 1895, page 180) “No person shall be excluded from acting as an attorney at law and practicing in all the courts of this state on account of sex.”

Wisconsin: Section 2586 (5), Wisconsin Statutes, “No person shall be denied admission or license to practice as attorney in any court on account of sex.”

Wyoming: Article 6, Section 1, of the Constitution. “The rights of citizens of the State of Wyoming to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. Both male and female citizens of this state shall equally enjoy all civil, political and religious rights and privileges.”