

Famous Firsts by American Women in Law

- 1869** Arabella Mansfield is granted admission to practice law in Iowa, making her the first woman lawyer.
- 1872** Victoria Claflin Woodhull becomes the first woman presidential candidate in the United States when she is nominated by the National Radical Reformers.
- 1879** Belva Ann Lockwood becomes the first woman admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1887** Susanna Medora Salter becomes the first woman elected mayor of an American town, in Argonia, Kansas.
- 1916** Jeannette Rankin, of Montana, is the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 1925** Nellie Tayloe Ross becomes the first woman to serve as governor of a state, in Wyoming.
- 1932** Hattie Wyatt Caraway, of Arkansas, becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.
- 1933** Frances Perkins is appointed secretary of labor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, making her the first woman member of a presidential cabinet.
- 1965** Patsy Takemoto Mink, of Hawaii, is the first Asian-American woman elected to Congress. She served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 24 years.
- 1981** Sandra Day O'Connor is appointed by President Reagan to the Supreme Court, making her its first woman justice.
- 1984** Geraldine Ferraro is the first woman to run for vice-president on a major party ticket.
- 1993** Janet Reno becomes the first woman U.S. attorney general.
- 1997** Madeleine Albright is sworn in as U.S. secretary of state. She is the first woman in this position as well as the highest-ranking woman in the United States government.
- 2000** Hillary Clinton is elected to the U.S. Senate, becoming the first First Lady ever elected to national office.
- 2007** Nancy Pelosi becomes the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 2008** Sarah Palin, governor of Alaska, becomes the first woman to run for vice president on the Republican ticket.
- 2013** To be announced...

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