

LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

March 2017: **Women's History Month**

Thirty years ago, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution designating the month of March 1987 as Women's History Month. Since then, Congress has passed additional resolutions and Presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month to celebrate the important and vital role of women in our country's history.

Here at the Firm, **Harriet Miers** became the first woman to lead one of our predecessor firms when she was elected Firm President in 1986. Currently, there are three women on Locke Lord's Executive Committee, including Firm Chair **Jerry Clements**. The Firm's Board of Directors has 10 female members, including Co-Chair **Cynthia Bast**. In addition, several women lead Practice Groups, Sections and Firm Committees, and women serve as Office Managing Partners in five Firm offices (Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.). Of the 12 lawyers elected to the Partnership as of January 1, 2017, half are women.

Locke Lord celebrates this Women's History Month by honoring female trailblazers in business. These women overcame substantial odds to be pioneers and leaders in their respective industries.



Maggie Lena Walker (1864–1934) Maggie Lena Walker was the first female bank president of any race to charter a bank in the United States. As a leader, she achieved successes with the vision to make tangible improvements in the way of life for African Americans and women.



Norma Yaeger (1930-) In 1962, Norma Yaeger graduated as the first female stockbroker and fought to be included with her graduating class on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, where women were not allowed.



Kate Mullany (1845-1906) In 1864, Kate Mullany formed the first all-female labor union to represent the interests of female laundresses working in dangerous conditions and with low pay. At 23 years old she led a successful six-day strike for better working conditions and an increase in pay.



Arabella Mansfield (1846–1911) In 1869, Arabella Mansfield became the first woman to be admitted to a state bar (Iowa) in the United States. Even though Iowa had a state law restricting the bar exam to males, Arabella had taken the exam and earned high scores. Shortly after Arabella's court challenge, Iowa amended its licensing statute and became the first state to accept women and minorities into its bar.



Anna Bissell (1846–1934) In 1889, Anna Bissell became the CEO of Bissell sweeper company, which made her the first ever woman CEO in American history. By 1899, she created the largest organization of its kind by taking the company into the international market. She was also one of the first to provide her employees with pension plans and worker's compensation.

Did You Know?

- According to the Department of Labor, women's participation in the U.S. labor force has climbed steadily since World War II, from 32.7 percent in 1948 to 56.8 percent in 2016. The range of occupations women workers hold has also expanded, with women making notable gains in professional and managerial occupations.
- Arriving in the colonies in 1638, Margaret Brent was the first woman lawyer in America. In 1991, the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession established the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award to celebrate women in the legal profession. Morristown Partner and ABA Immediate Past President **Paulette Brown** received this award in 2011.
- In 2016, women represented more than one in three lawyers in the United States compared to fewer than 1 in 10 lawyers in 1974.

The heart of Locke Lord lies within our people and the many different experiences and perspectives we share. We recognize, embrace and celebrate our differences and believe we can only provide our clients with the best possible representation if we reflect the diversity of the clients and communities we serve.

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