

LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

March 2019: **Women's History Month**

TRAILBLAZERS IN THE LAW

Throughout history, women have made extraordinary contributions and the field of law is no exception. This month at Locke Lord, we want to honor those women who were "first," providing an opportunity for other women to be their best authentic selves.



Margaret Brent

A woman of courage and independence, Brent was the first woman in the English North American colonies to appear before a court of the common law. Importantly, she was also the first woman to request the right to vote and, in fact, demanded two votes: one for herself as an individual and one as the attorney for Lord Calvert and Lord Baltimore.



The Honorable Mrs. Justice "Bobbi" Cheema-Grubb

In 2015, Mrs. Justice Cheema-Grubb broke down barriers for women across the UK, by becoming the first Asian woman appointed to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice of England and Wales. She was made a Dame by Queen Elizabeth II in 2016. She has famously stated "respond to evil with good."



Stacy Leeds

Leeds, a Cherokee, is the first American-Indian woman to serve as dean of a law school (University of Arkansas). Having served on seven tribal courts, including as chief justice on the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court and as a commissioner of the Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform, Leeds states, "We are fighting the battle of external legitimacy."



Charlotte Ray

In 1872, Charlotte E. Ray became the first female African-American lawyer in the United States. She's also one of the first women to be admitted to the D.C. Bar. Charlotte Ray is the first woman to be granted permission to argue cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in the capital. When she applied to law school, she applied as "C.E. Ray" to conceal the fact that she was a woman.



Justice Sonya Sotomayor

Justice Sotomayor in 2009 became the first Hispanic and Latina Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Upon her appointment to the federal bench by President George H. W. Bush, she became the youngest judge in the Southern District and the first Hispanic federal judge in New York State. Her statement "Whether born from experience or inherent physiological or cultural differences our gender and national origins may and will make a difference in our judging" should resonate with us all.

These are mere snippets describing the incredible lives of five phenomenal women. There are many more from whom we can learn. All are encouraged to dig a little deeper into their lives to learn more about the wide-ranging impact they have had because of their courage and because they dared to be great.

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.

Locke
Lord^{LLP}

Practical Wisdom, Trusted Advice.

www.lockelord.com

Atlanta | Austin | Boston | Chicago | Cincinnati | Dallas | Hartford | Hong Kong | Houston | London | Los Angeles
Miami | New Orleans | New York | Princeton | Providence | San Francisco | Stamford | Washington DC | West Palm Beach