

Lawyers: A Timeline

- 1869** Iowa is the first state to admit a woman to the bar: Arabella Mansfield.
- 1872** Charlotte E. Ray, Howard University law school graduate, becomes the first African-American woman admitted to a state bar.
- 1873** *Bradwell v. Illinois*, 83 U.S. 130 (1873): The Supreme Court rules that a state has the right to exclude a married woman from practicing law.
- 1879** Belva Lockwood is the first woman lawyer admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1880** The first woman argues a case before the Supreme Court (Belva Lockwood).
- 1981** Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman nominated for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1993** Ruth Bader Ginsburg is nominated for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1995** Roberta Ramo is elected the first woman president of the American Bar Association.
- 2000** The number of women entering law school is 49.4 percent, up from 10 percent of first year law students in 1970.
- 2001** Women comprise 30 percent of lawyers and judges combined in America.