

# The “Firsts”

A Reflection on the Formidable  
First Female Jurists of Colorado’s Judiciary

BY TERRY FOX AND CASSANDRA GARDNER-WONG

In April 1891, Mary Sternberg Thomas applied to the Colorado bar alongside her husband.<sup>1</sup> While her husband was immediately added to the roll of attorneys, her own application languished, even though she had submitted every piece of required documentation.<sup>2</sup> She then petitioned the Colorado Supreme Court to determine her right to practice law in the state.<sup>3</sup> In its September 1891 opinion, the Court granted her petition, stating, “We have no disposition to postpone falling into line with the supreme court of the United States and other enlightened tribunals throughout the country, that have finally, voluntarily, or in obedience to statutory injunction, discarded the criterion of sex, and opened the door of the profession to women as well as men.”<sup>4</sup> With this decision, Thomas became the first woman admitted to the Colorado bar, and Colorado became the 25th state to admit women to the practice of law.<sup>5</sup>

But progress for women in the Colorado bar and judiciary moved slowly. Indeed, it would be another century before a woman would assume the highly esteemed role of chief justice of the very court that—recognizing Thomas’s tenacity—had opened its doors to her.<sup>6</sup>

After celebrating Women’s History Month earlier this year, we became motivated to document the accomplishments of Colorado’s pioneering female jurists. While it took us some months to complete this project, we felt it was a fitting way to recognize the advancement and equality of women in our society. And now we’re excited to share our research with you. So, please join us in celebrating Colorado’s “firsts”—the trailblazing female jurists who paved the way for a generation of women to come.<sup>7</sup>

## The “Firsts” in the Election Era

Several women held Colorado judgeships in the early 20th century, but they were mainly positions that did not require admittance to the bar, such as justice of the peace or county judge.<sup>8</sup> The first such woman appears to be Ida L. Gregory, who served as an assistant judge on the Denver Juvenile Court beginning in 1903.<sup>9</sup> Judge Gregory was first hired by Benjamin Barr Lindsey, judge of the Denver Juvenile Court, as a probation officer.<sup>10</sup> A few years later, Judge Gregory became a referee, and later an assistant judge on the court, all while serving as the court clerk.<sup>11</sup> Through Judge Lindsey’s efforts, Colorado became the first state to pass legislation authorizing female judges.<sup>12</sup>

In 1911, Lydia B. Tague became the first female county court judge on record after assuming her husband’s role as Eagle County judge upon his death.<sup>13</sup> Though Judge Tague had no formal legal training, voters elected her to the position in 1912 and again for two more terms.<sup>14</sup> According to a February 24, 1911, issue of the *Eagle Valley Enterprise*, “No other county in the state can boast of a woman as county judge and we should all be proud of this record. Mrs. Tague thoroughly understands the duties of the office and will make an excellent official.”<sup>15</sup> During her tenure on the bench, Judge Tague developed a reputation for being an “ardent enforcer” of Prohibition-era laws.<sup>16</sup> A couple decades later, Helen Hurlburt was appointed as a county judge by the Ouray Board of County Commissioners in similar fashion after the incumbent county judge became ill and could not complete his term.<sup>17</sup>

Irena Ingham McGarry was the first female district court judge in Colorado.<sup>18</sup> She received



Lydia B. Tague, Eagle County judge, first female county court judge on record in Colorado.

a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado and was one of two women in her 1924 graduating class at the University of Denver College of Law.<sup>19</sup> In 1938, Judge Ingham McGarry was appointed to fill a vacancy left by the death of a district court judge in the 4th Judicial District. In his letter of appointment, Governor Teller Ammons remarked, “So far as I can ascertain, you are the first lady to occupy such a position in the state of Colorado. It gives me pleasure to have the opportunity to appoint a lady of your character and qualifications.”<sup>20</sup> But ever cognizant of a woman’s slim chances of being elected to a district court judgeship, Judge Ingham McGarry chose not to run for reelection at the end of her term.<sup>21</sup> Over 30 years would pass before another woman was appointed as a Colorado district court judge, and 50 years would pass before a woman was again appointed in the 4th Judicial District.<sup>22</sup>

In the meantime, women throughout the state followed the way paved by Judge Tague to county court judgeship. In the 1940s, Gladys C. Triplett of Douglas County<sup>23</sup> and Marie S. Holloway of Garfield County<sup>24</sup> assumed roles as county court judges. The 1950s saw the addition of Margaret Tekavee of Teller County,<sup>25</sup>

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Anna Patten of Montezuma County,<sup>26</sup> Flora M. McNamara of Jackson County,<sup>27</sup> Martha A. Nelson of Mineral County,<sup>28</sup> May Norman of Rio Blanco County,<sup>29</sup> and Helen D. Hicks of Dolores County<sup>30</sup> to the county court bench. While some women in this era found success running for their judicial positions, it was more common for a woman to be appointed to fill a vacancy created by the death or illness of the preceding male judge (often, her husband).

### The “Firsts” in the Merit Selection Era

In 1966, elections for judicial officers were replaced by the merit selection system, in which judicial nominating committees submit nominees to the governor for appointment.<sup>31</sup> It was during this era that Zita Weinshienk became the first female Denver County Court judge, and later the first female Denver District Court judge.<sup>32</sup> Judge Weinshienk graduated from Harvard Law School in the late 1950s at a time when women accounted for only 3.5% of the Colorado bar.<sup>33</sup> Judge Weinshienk presided over one of the first televised trials in the 1960s, and the representation of a woman on the bench inspired a generation of female lawyers after her.<sup>34</sup> President Jimmy Carter later appointed Judge Weinshienk to the federal bench, where she served from 1979 to 2011.<sup>35</sup> Judge Weinshienk’s family described her as determined, and her colleagues knew her as a fair judge who “ran a tight ship.”<sup>36</sup>

The 1960s saw even more women assuming the role of county court judge: Frances G. Richards of Archuleta County,<sup>37</sup> Mary Thurman of San Miguel County,<sup>38</sup> Maurine M. Hallock of Adams County,<sup>39</sup> Thelma S. Finley of Saguache County,<sup>40</sup> Bertha L. Green of San Juan County,<sup>41</sup> Mary P. Johnston of Pitkin County,<sup>42</sup> and Frances H. Schalow of Fremont County.<sup>43</sup>

### Colorado Court of Appeals and Supreme Court “Firsts”

In 1974, Aurel Kelly became the first female judge on the Colorado Court of Appeals. Judge Kelly attended Whitman College and Columbia Law School.<sup>44</sup> After working in various positions in the private and public sectors while raising her family, Judge Kelly accepted a full-time position in the Colorado Attorney General’s Office in



Left: Flora M. McNamara, Jackson County judge.

Top: Jean Dubofsky, first female Colorado Supreme Court Justice.

1968.<sup>45</sup> In July 1974, Judge Kelly was appointed to the court of appeals bench, along with three male judges, when the court expanded from six judges to ten.<sup>46</sup> During her tenure, Judge Kelly developed a reputation as an extraordinary writer, authoring concise and direct opinions that were used as training material for law clerks.<sup>47</sup> In 1988, Judge Kelly became the first female chief judge of the court of appeals.<sup>48</sup> In that role, Judge Kelly prioritized the importance of efficient and expeditious justice across all levels of the judicial department.<sup>49</sup>

The Colorado Supreme Court did not see its first female justice, Jean E. Dubofsky, until 1979.<sup>50</sup> Justice Dubofsky received a bachelor’s degree at Stanford University and a law degree at Harvard Law School.<sup>51</sup> She graduated from Harvard in 1967 at a time when women comprised less than 5% of the student body.<sup>52</sup> Justice Dubofsky spent her early legal career working in several legal aid offices.<sup>53</sup> During that time, she litigated cases involving the ability of women to receive a credit card in their own name and the ability of girls to play organized baseball in Denver parks.<sup>54</sup> Justice Dubofsky became Colorado’s deputy attorney general in 1975 and remained in that role until her 1979 judicial appointment.<sup>55</sup> After her tenure on the Supreme Court bench, Justice Dubofsky returned to private practice and served as lead counsel in the landmark case *Romer v. Evans*, 517 U.S. 620 (1996).<sup>56</sup>

In the same year as Justice Dubofsky’s appointment, Stephanie Seymour became the first woman appointed to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.<sup>57</sup>

Mary Mullarkey was the second woman appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court and its first female chief justice. Chief Justice Mullarkey attended St. Norbert College and Harvard Law School.<sup>58</sup> She would go on to lead the attorney general’s appellate section before becoming the state’s solicitor general.<sup>59</sup> In 1987, Governor Roy Romer appointed her as a justice on the Colorado Supreme Court.<sup>60</sup> Chief Justice Mullarkey remarked that “1987 was a significant year for women on the Supreme Court” because it was the same year that the next two women who would become Supreme Court justices, Rebecca Love Kourlis and Nancy E. Rice, were appointed as district court judges in the 14th and 2nd Judicial Districts, respectively.<sup>61</sup> Chief Justice Mullarkey was selected by her colleagues to serve as the chief justice of the Supreme Court in 1998, a role she held for 12 years.<sup>62</sup> Chief Justice Mullarkey accomplished the following during her tenure: creating a public information officer position, providing a path for advance notice to the parties of an opinion’s release, revamping CRCP 16.1 and the attorney discipline process, creating courthouse self-help centers, reducing the time that parental termination cases languished in the court system, and creating the Colorado Office of the Child’s Representative.<sup>63</sup> She was also instrumental in getting the Ralph Carr building built.

The 1970s was also a significant decade for female jurists throughout the rest of the state.

During that decade, two women took their place as the first female district court judges in their districts: Dorothy Binder of the 17th Judicial District<sup>64</sup> and Joyce Steinhardt of the 18th Judicial District.<sup>65</sup> In the county courts, Susan I. Broyles of Conejos County,<sup>66</sup> Marsha B. Yeager of Boulder County,<sup>67</sup> Marilyn C. Martin of El Paso County,<sup>68</sup> Joann K. Neal of Moffat County,<sup>69</sup> Linda D. Donnelly of Morgan County,<sup>70</sup> and Donna Marie Kirby of Elbert County<sup>71</sup> became the first female county judges on record. Notably, in 1978, the Colorado Women's Bar Association was founded, providing the first professional association for female jurists and attorneys in the state.<sup>72</sup>

### First Female Chief Judges in the District Courts

A chief judge is the administrative head of all district and county courts within a judicial district.<sup>73</sup> In 1987, Joyce Steinhardt of the 18th Judicial District<sup>74</sup> and Grace Merlo of the 22nd Judicial District<sup>75</sup> became the first two female chief judges in Colorado.

Chief Judge Steinhardt attended law school later in life, after devoting 12 years to raising her children.<sup>76</sup> She spent the next 10 years of her career practicing family law, teaching family law courses, and authoring several articles about juvenile law and a government pamphlet on the legal status of stay-at-home mothers.<sup>77</sup> Chief Judge Steinhardt opened the door for many others by becoming the first female district court judge, and later, the first female chief judge in the 18th Judicial District.<sup>78</sup> She was honored by her peers as a leader in family law, "elevat[ing] the standards of practice for both the Bench and the Bar" at a time when many judges avoided taking domestic relations dockets.<sup>79</sup> The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers honored her in 1995 with the Distinguished Jurist Award for her achievements in the field of family law.<sup>80</sup>

Chief Judge Merlo was one of two women in her law school class at San Francisco Law School.<sup>81</sup> After a brief stint in New York City, Chief Judge Merlo became the first female deputy public defender in San Bernadino County, California.<sup>82</sup> After marrying a resident of Cortez, Colorado, and then moving to Colorado, Chief

Judge Merlo became the first female public defender in Montezuma County.<sup>83</sup> She later opened a law practice with her husband: Merlo and Merlo.<sup>84</sup> Chief Judge Merlo was appointed in 1987, replacing her predecessor as the only district court judge (and, necessarily, the chief judge) of the 22nd Judicial District.<sup>85</sup>

### Other Notable Female Jurists of the 1980s

In the 1980s, four more women assumed the status of district court judge: Patti O'Rourke of the 10th Judicial District,<sup>86</sup> Ruthanne Polidori of the 1st Judicial District,<sup>87</sup> Rebecca Kourlis of the 14th Judicial District,<sup>88</sup> and Roxanne Bailin of the 20th Judicial District.<sup>89</sup> Judge Bailin would later become chief judge in that district.<sup>90</sup>

The following women became the first female county court judges on record in their respective counties: Jewell K. Smith of Summit County,<sup>91</sup> Linda T. Palmieri of Jefferson County,<sup>92</sup> Patricia A. Hall of La Plata County,<sup>93</sup> Marguerite T. Langstaff of Arapahoe County,<sup>94</sup> JoAnna L. Lathrop of Crowley County,<sup>95</sup> Adele K. Anderson of Pueblo County,<sup>96</sup> and Pattie P. Swift of Costilla County.<sup>97</sup> While several women were both the first female district court judge and the first female chief judge in their respective districts, Judge Swift appears to be the only "triple-threat" on record: a first female county court judge, district court judge, and chief judge in the judicial district.<sup>98</sup>

### Female Jurists of the 1990s

The 1990s saw Judge Bailin, Connie Peterson of the 2nd Judicial District, and Rebecca Kourlis of the 14th Judicial District assume chief judge positions in the district courts. Judge Kourlis would later become a Colorado Supreme Court justice.

Connie Peterson was the first female chief judge of the Denver District Court.<sup>99</sup> Before attending law school, Chief Judge Peterson was a high school teacher.<sup>100</sup> She received her law degree from the University of Colorado and spent the next 10 years gaining experience as a public defender, district attorney, assistant attorney general, and litigator in private practice.<sup>101</sup> Chief Judge Peterson was appointed as a district court judge in 1985 and

was known by attorneys and colleagues alike to be competent and conscientious.<sup>102</sup> After retiring from the bench, Chief Judge Peterson established herself as an esteemed mediator and arbitrator.<sup>103</sup>

Justice Kourlis received her undergraduate and law degrees from Stanford University.<sup>104</sup> She practiced law in Craig, Colorado, for nine years before being appointed to the 14th Judicial District bench.<sup>105</sup> Within four years of becoming a district court judge, Justice Kourlis was named chief judge of her judicial district. During her time on the district court bench, Justice Kourlis developed a reputation for being fair, patient, and hardworking.<sup>106</sup> In addition to several court wide initiatives, she developed a Gender and Justice Committee aimed at promoting fairness toward women in the court system.<sup>107</sup> In 1995, Justice Kourlis became the third woman to sit on the Colorado Supreme Court. Justice Mullarkey remarked, "Not only did I enjoy the companionship of having another woman on the Court, but she was a terrific colleague—smart, hard-working, and full of ideas. We found that we shared a passion for improving the state court system."<sup>108</sup> Kourlis served on the court for 11 years before resigning to found the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver.<sup>109</sup>

Also in the 1990s, Amanda D. Bailey of the 21st Judicial District<sup>110</sup> and Julie G. Marshall of the 11th Judicial District<sup>111</sup> became district court judges. C. Jean Stewart became the presiding judge of Denver Probate Court, a position she held for 16 years.<sup>112</sup> County courts saw the addition of four more women to the bench: Catherine M. Heckel of Logan County,<sup>113</sup> Carol M. Haller of Weld County,<sup>114</sup> Christine A. Carney of Larimer County,<sup>115</sup> and Bette R. Nickell of Montrose County.<sup>116</sup>

### 21st Century "Firsts"

While no women assumed the role of first chief judge in the 2000s, many women took their place as the first female district court judges on record, according to sources available at the time of this article's publication, in their respective districts. Including Judge Swift, those women are Jolene C. Blair of the 8th





Susan J. Blanco, first female chief judge of the 8th Judicial District.

Judicial District,<sup>117</sup> Leslie J. Gerbracht of the 3rd Judicial District,<sup>118</sup> Denise K. Lynch of the 9th Judicial District,<sup>119</sup> Karen A. Romeo of the 5th Judicial District,<sup>120</sup> and Julie C. Hoskins of the 19th Judicial District.<sup>121</sup> In the county courts, Sandra K. Honath of Delta County,<sup>122</sup> Mary C. Hoak of Grand County,<sup>123</sup> Ellen Haskins-Trujillo of Huerfano County,<sup>124</sup> Amy E. Bockman of Broomfield County,<sup>125</sup> Rachel J. Olguin-Fresquez of Clear Creek County,<sup>126</sup> Gretchen B. Larson of Mesa County,<sup>127</sup> and Sara M. Wagers-Johnson of Yuma County<sup>128</sup> joined the bench.

The 2010s was a powerful decade for female leadership in Colorado. In addition to Judge Swift and Judge Gerbracht,<sup>129</sup> Deborah Eylar of the 10th Judicial District<sup>130</sup> and Emily Anderson of the 17th Judicial District<sup>131</sup> became chief judges. Since 2020, Judge Hoskins has become chief judge of the 19th Judicial District<sup>132</sup> and Susan J. Blanco has become the first female chief judge of the 8th Judicial District.<sup>133</sup>

District court additions in the last 15 years include Mary E. Deganhart of the 7th Judicial District,<sup>134</sup> Suzanne F. Carlson of the 6th Judicial District,<sup>135</sup> Tarryn L. Johnson of the 15th Judicial District,<sup>136</sup> and Stephanie M.G. Gagliano of the 13th Judicial District.<sup>137</sup> County court additions include Debra M. Gunkel of Baca County,<sup>138</sup> Kimbra L. Killin of Phillips County,<sup>139</sup> Tawna

J. Holmstedt of Sedgwick County,<sup>140</sup> Barbara A. Zollars of Rio Grande County,<sup>141</sup> Amanda Hunter of Custer County,<sup>142</sup> Kelly S. Hansen of Washington County,<sup>143</sup> Ashley M. Burgemeister of Gunnison County,<sup>144</sup> Diana C. Bull of Chaffee County,<sup>145</sup> Deni E. Eiring of Cheyenne County,<sup>146</sup> and Erin M. Rowe Wilson of Routt County.<sup>147</sup>

In February 2024, Erin L. Sokol became the 4th Judicial District's first female chief judge.<sup>148</sup> Chief Judge Sokol attended the University of Michigan for her undergraduate studies and Georgetown University Law Center for law school.<sup>149</sup> Before her appointment to the district court bench, Chief Judge Sokol worked in private practice in Washington DC and Colorado Springs.<sup>150</sup> She was appointed to the district court in 2017.<sup>151</sup> Chief Judge Sokol has been described as having "an exceedingly high level of diligence and self-reflection," and she spends her free time volunteering inside and outside the legal community.<sup>152</sup>

Chief Judge Sokol is the most recent "first," but she certainly will not be the last. As of the writing of this article, we could find no sources indicating that a woman has ever served on the bench in 11 Colorado counties and one judicial

district. Nine judicial districts await the first woman to serve as chief judge.<sup>153</sup>

## Conclusion

Each of these women bravely took a risk, set a high bar, or paved a bumpy road in the hope that others might have a smoother ride. Just like Judge Weinschien's televised trial inspired a generation of female lawyers to see themselves in a black robe administering justice, so have all these first women jurists removed obstacles for women who came after them. This trend is demonstrated by the recent matriculation of female law students in Colorado and across the nation in numbers that match, and often exceed, their male counterparts. While we limited our scope for purposes of this article to the first female judges, justices, and chief judges across Colorado, we hope that this article inspires further research into the first Colorado jurists who hold other identities.

Leading is a tremendous responsibility and requires one to make difficult decisions that do not always garner praise. It takes a special person to want to go where no woman has gone before. May we continue to empower them to do so. **CL**



**Judge Terry Fox** has served on the Colorado Court of Appeals for 13 years and is now the most senior woman on that court. When she's not writing judicial opinions, she serves on the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board, the Executive Committee of Our Courts Colorado, the Colorado Judicial Conference Planning Committee, the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Language Access, and the Supreme Court's Character and Fitness Committee. **Cassie Gardner-Wong** is an appellate law clerk to Judge Terry Fox. She received her JD from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she was an editor for the *Denver Law Review* and worked as a teaching assistant. The authors thank Samantha Lillehoff at the Colorado Supreme Court Library for her research assistance.

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## NOTES


1. Erickson et al., "Six of the Greatest: Mary Sternberg Thomas," 23 *Colo. Law.* 1493, 1493 (July 1994).
2. Erickson, *Early Justice and the Formation of the Colorado Bar* 120 (CBA-CLE 2008).
3. Erickson, *supra* note 1 at 1493.
4. *In re Thomas*, 27 P. 707, 708 (Colo. 1891).
5. Celeste, "A Brief Herstory of Colorado Women Trailblazers in the Law," 32 *Colo. Law.* 29, 29 (Dec. 2003).
6. Mullarkey, "A Brief History of Women on the Colorado Supreme Court," 41 *Colo. Law.* 27, 31 (Oct. 2012).
7. This article does not comprehensively include justices of the peace, referees, magistrates, or any other judicial position apart from county court judge, district court judge, chief judge, court of appeals judge, and Supreme Court justice. Regarding the first women to hold district and county judgeships, records are decentralized and incomplete; thus, this article lists the first female district

and county judges whose appointments are supported by records available to date and included in citations herein. The water courts established by the Water Right Determination and Administration Act of 1969 are outside this article's scope.

8. Erickson, *supra* note 2 at 134-35.
9. Mullarkey, *supra* note 6 at 27.
10. See Erickson, *supra* note 2 at 134.
11. *Id.*
12. *Id.*
13. *Id.* at 135; Celeste, *supra* note 5 at 29.
14. Erickson, *supra* note 2 at 135.
15. Heicher, "Eagle County's Tee-Totaling Judge," *Vail Daily* (Oct. 11, 2018), <https://www.vaildaily.com/news/eagle-countys-tee-totaling-judge>.
16. *Id.*
17. "News of Our Neighbors," *Steamboat Pilot* 3 (Mar. 22, 1935) (stating that Judge Hurlburt had been appointed to the bench by the Ouray county commissioners).
18. Coleman and Thompson, "Six of the Greatest: Irena Ingham McGarry," 30 *Colo. Law.* 11, 21 (July 2001).
19. *Id.*; Celeste, *supra* note 5 at 29.
20. Coleman and Thompson, *supra* note 18 at 22.
21. *Id.*
22. *Id.*; Mullarkey, *supra* note 6 at 27.
23. "Commissioners Appoint Mrs. Gladys C. Triplett as County Judge," *Record-J. of Douglas Cnty.* 1 (June 20, 1941). See also Scheuber+Darden Architects, "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey: 208 N. Lewis St." 4 (2017), <https://www.crgov.com/DocumentCenter/View/17634/208-N-Lewis-St?bidId=>.
24. Glenwood Springs Historic Preservation Commission, "City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado: Historically Landmarked and Significant Places" 15 (2015), <https://www.cogs.us/DocumentCenter/View/454/Landmark-booklet-2015-?bidId=>.
25. Liebman, *Shark Tales: True (and Amazing) Stories From America's Lawyers* 114 (Simon & Schuster 2000); Celeste and Anderson, "Six of the Greatest: Margaret T. Tekavee," 32 *Colo. Law.* 11, 15-18 (July 2003); 1961 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory 3021 (1961).
26. County Officers, 1956 *Colo. Sess. Laws* 14, 15; "Ray W. Patten," Ertel Funeral Home, <https://www.ertelfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Ray-W-Patten?obId=2125933>.

27. Office of Colorado Secretary of State George J. Baker, "Abstract of Votes Cast" 30 (1958).
28. County Officers, 1957 *Colo. Sess. Laws* 14, 15; "Martha A. Nelson," Find a Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59725985/martha-a-nelson#source> (showing photographs of what may be Judge Nelson's grave with a plaque stating that she was "Mineral County's only female county judge from 1900 to 2000").
29. "News of Neighboring Communities," *Craig Empire-Courier* 15 (Apr. 10, 1958); "News of Neighboring Communities," *Craig Empire-Courier* 3 (Dec. 27, 1962).
30. County Officers, 1959 *Colo. Sess. Laws* 14, 15.
31. Mullarkey, *supra* note 6 at 27; *Colo. Const.* art. VI, § 24.
32. Bradbury, "Pioneering Colorado Judge, Zita Weinschienk, Dies at 89," *Den. Post* (Oct. 13, 2022), <https://www.denverpost.com/2022/10/13/zita-weinschienk-dies-colorado-judge-woman-pioneering>; Celeste, *supra* note 5 at 29, 30.
33. Celeste, *supra* note 5 at 29, 30.
34. Mullarkey, *supra* note 6 at 32 n.8; American Bar Association Senior Lawyers Division, "Women Trailblazers in the Law: Oral History of Zita Leeson Weinschienk" 17-18 (2009).
35. Bradbury, *supra* note 32.
36. *Id.*
37. Office of Colorado Secretary of State George J. Baker, "Abstract of Votes Cast" 34 (1960).
38. *Id.*
39. "County Readies Court Reform Change Jan. 12," *Westminster J.* 3 (Dec. 24, 1964).
40. County Officers, 1965 *Colo. Sess. Laws* 15, 24.
41. Office of Colorado Secretary of State Byron A. Anderson, "Abstract of Votes Cast" 18 (1964).
42. County Officers, 1969 *Colo. Sess. Laws* 14, 20.
43. Office of Colorado Secretary of State Byron A. Anderson, "Abstract of Votes Cast" 13 (1968).
44. Smith, "Outstanding Lawyers in Colorado History: Aurel M. Kelly," 41 *Colo. Law.* 43, 43 (July 2012).
45. *Id.* at 44.
46. *Id.*
47. *Id.*
48. Mullarkey, *supra* note 6 at 27 n.12.
49. Smith, *supra* note 44 at 45.
50. Mullarkey, *supra* note 6 at 28 n.14.
51. *Id.*
52. *Id.*
53. *Id.*
54. *Id.*
55. *Id.*
56. "Jean Dubofsky," Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, <https://www.cogreatwomen.org/project/jean-dubofsky>. In *Romer v. Evans*, 517 U.S. 620, 624 (1996), the US Supreme Court held that Amendment 2 of the Colorado Constitution, which prohibited legislative, executive, and

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- judicial action at the state and local level designed to protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination, violated the Equal Protection Clause.
57. Celeste, *supra* note 5 at 29, 30.
58. Mullarkey, *supra* note 6 at 29.
59. *Id.*
60. *Id.*
61. *Id.*; Celeste, *supra* note 5 at 29, 31.
62. Mullarkey, *supra* note 6 at 31.
63. *Id.* at 32.
64. "Dorothy Binder: 1923-2017," Legacy.com, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/denverpost/name/dorothy-binder-obituary?id=14177782> (published by *The Denver Post* on May 14, 2017).
65. Associated Press, "Woman to Sit in District Court," *Douglas Cnty. News-Press* 2 (Sept. 20, 1979).
66. Office of Colorado Secretary of State Byron A. Anderson, "Abstract of Votes Cast" 12 (1972).
67. "East High to Honor Its 2018 Hall of Fame Inductees Saturday," *Bakersfield Californian* (Feb. 6, 2018), [https://www.bakersfield.com/entertainment/east-high-to-honor-its-hall-of-fame-inductees-saturday/article\\_1e0721e8-0bb8-11e8-823e-1ba91361d3c1.html](https://www.bakersfield.com/entertainment/east-high-to-honor-its-hall-of-fame-inductees-saturday/article_1e0721e8-0bb8-11e8-823e-1ba91361d3c1.html).
68. "Marilyn Martin Obituary," Legacy.com, <https://obits.gazette.com/us/obituaries/gazette/name/marilyn-martin-obituary?id=23705663> (published by *The Gazette* on Aug. 10, 2008); Office of Colorado Secretary of State Mary Estill Buchanan, "Abstract of Votes Cast" 12 (1976).
69. "New Assistant Judge Appointed," *Empire-Courier* at 1 (June 15, 1977).
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