



# A Tradition of *Progress*

DANIELS

Arizona's judicial history echoes the pioneering spirit of the first American settlers to break ground in her fertile soil. Though barely a century old, it is an epic story of individuals blazing a trail through seemingly insurmountable obstacles, all in the pursuit of one unifying goal...a better life not only for themselves, or their families, but for *all* Arizonans.

LOCKWOOD

TANG

Join us in a celebration of the lives of seven prominent members of Arizona's judiciary. Learn about the impact their careers have had on not only Arizona's government, but that of the entire nation. The Committee on Judicial Education and Training (COJET) and the Education Services Division offer a look into the lives of Hons. Hayzel B. Daniels, Lorna Lockwood, Thomas Tang, Valdemar Cordova, William Rehnquist, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Francis X. Gordon., in a compelling video series produced and directed by Hon. Wendy Morton.

CORDOVA

REHNQUIST

The series is available online in the Video Center of the Education Services Division's section of the [azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov) website. Simply go to [www.azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov) and enter the words "Video Center" in the search field in the upper right-hand corner. The link will take you to the Division's Video Center, where you'll find links to view these videos online.

O'CONNOR

GORDON

**A Tradition of Progress  
A History of Excellence**

# A History of *Excellence*

## Arizona Legends of the Law: Lorna Lockwood



*"In our system, students may not be regarded as closed circuit recipients of only that which the state chooses to communicate. They may not be confined to the expression of those sentiments that are officially approved."* --From Justice Lorna Lockwood's Supreme Court opinions.

Lawyer, legislator, Superior Court judge, state Supreme Court chief justice ... these are ten words that capulate the career of Lorna E. Lockwood (1903-1977).

Add to that, assistant attorney general for Arizona, juvenile court judge and district price attorney for the wartime Office of Price Administration, and one begins to appreciate the breadth of that career.

Born March 24, 1903, in Douglas, a small southeastern Arizona town on the Mexican border, Miss Lockwood was the daughter of Daisy Maude Lincoln and attorney Alfred Collins Lockwood. The family moved to Tombstone in 1913, and Miss Lockwood graduated from Tombstone High School in 1920.

In an age when few women continued their education beyond high school, Miss Lockwood not only graduated from the University of Arizona in Tucson (in 1923), but also from the College of Law (in 1925). She was the only woman among 13 law students in her class and was elected president of the Student Bar Association.

*"I decided when I was a very little girl that I wanted to be a lawyer,"* Miss Lockwood once said. *"I can't say positively when, but the idea was in the back of my mind."*

She had dreamed of practicing law with her father, but by the time she was admitted to the State Bar, her father had been elected to the Arizona Supreme Court. He served from 1925 to 1942 and was chief justice three times.

Miss Lockwood followed in her father's footsteps right up to the very desk he had used as a member of the state Supreme Court. She was elected to the post in 1960 and chose to occupy her father's old office and work at the desk that had been his. She served as vice chief justice once and chief justice twice. In so doing, she became the first woman chief justice in Arizona and in U.S. history.

But to backtrack a bit, Miss Lockwood's rise to prominence began just a few years after she left college. She was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 1939 and served three terms. Her fellow legislators chose her as vice president, and later chairman, of the powerful House Judiciary Committee. Between her second and third terms in the Legislature, Miss Lockwood spent a year (1943) as assistant to U.S. Rep. John R. Murdock in Washington, D.C. She was Arizona assistant attorney general from 1949 to 1950 and Maricopa County Superior Court judge from 1950 to 1961.

During that time on the lower court, she served 3-1/2 years as a juvenile court judge and became well known in the field of delinquency control. Interspersed in her legal and public service careers were years of dedicated work in many civic and professional organizations. She was elected state president and western regional director of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; president of the Soroptomist Club of Phoenix; and president of the Arizona Judges Association. She also served on the Governor's Commission on Status of Women. She believed in private juvenile aid agencies and was active in the Big Sisters and Big Brothers of Arizona.

Her career, her public service and her dedication to youth did not go unnoticed. In 1962 she was named Phoenix Professional Woman of the Year; in 1965 she received the Southern Pacific Coast Region of Hadassah Humanitarian Award; in 1971 she was named Builder of a Greater Arizona; and in 1974 she was given the Phoenix Woman of the Year award. When she died Sept. 23, 1977, at Phoenix's Good Samaritan Hospital, Chief Justice James Duke Cameron eulogized her as *"a good judge and a tough judge when she had to be."*

--This article is taken from the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Record Web site section on "Arizona Women's Hall of Fame."

## Lorna E. Lockwood

As she started to park her car at the Arizona State Capitol building one day in 1960, redheaded Lorna Lockwood was sternly waved away. "This space is reserved for a Supreme Court Justice," huffed the guard. Miss Justice Lockwood finally persuaded the doubter that she was in the right space. Now, four years after her election to Arizona's highest bench, Lorna Lockwood has risen again. Her Honor's four brethren have unanimously elected her the first woman state Chief Justice in U.S. history.

Chief Justice Lockwood's achievement is roughly akin to a woman taking over as coach of the Cleveland Browns.

Of the nation's 8,748 judges, only 300 are women. Though the first U.S. woman lawyer was licensed in 1869, the not undying male reaction was summed up by Wisconsin's Chief Justice in 1875, when he flatly rejected a woman applicant in his state: "It would be shocking to man's reverence for womanhood that women should be permitted to mix professionally in all the nastiness of the world which finds its way into courts of justice."

Pioneering Gal. That attitude persists, but the barriers are crumbling. It was, after all, a woman federal judge, Sarah T. Hughes of Dallas, who swore in President Johnson 99 minutes after President Kennedy's death. "The sooner we get to consider women as individuals rather than as women, the better it will be," says Judge Hughes. "All women are not alike, just as all men are not alike."

Of the 412 federal judgeships, only three are now actively held by women, including the peppery Mrs. Hughes. But the precedent was set back in 1928 when Calvin Coolidge appointed the late Genevieve R. Cline to the U.S. Customs Court in New York. Later came the doughty suffragette, Florence E. Allen, now 80, whom F.D.R. promoted from the Ohio Supreme Court to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1934. Now retired, Miss Allen eventually became chief judge of the U.S. Sixth Circuit, the highest federal judgeship ever attained by a woman.

Community Builder. There are at present 17 vacancies on the federal bench, and there is talk that President Johnson is shopping for qualified women. Possible candidates include the two women (besides Arizona's Lorna Lockwood) now sitting on state Supreme Courts—North Carolina's Justice Susie Sharp and Hawaii's Justice Rhoda V. Lewis. Indeed, the opportunity for choice enlarges each year. Denver, for example, recently acquired its first woman judge of any kind—Zita Weinshienk, 31, a lawyer's bright young wife who got her own law degree at Harvard in 1958. Already a municipal judge, seasoned in traffic cases, she was upped to county judge last week.

Chicago takes particular pride in Cook County Judge Edith S. Sampson, 63, a strong-faced woman with an acid tongue for lawyers and infinite compassion for underdogs. A trained social worker, Judge Sampson got her master of laws degree at Loyola University, spent seven years as assistant corporation counsel of Chicago, and was twice appointed a U.S. delegate to the U.N. General Assembly. In 1962 she became the nation's first elected Negro woman judge (four others now serve elsewhere); last fall she won a full six-year term at \$26,500 a year.

Patience & Powder Rooms. Arizona's new Chief Justice Lorna Lockwood, great-niece of Abraham Lincoln, decided to emulate her lawyer father at the age of ten, in order "to sit on a bench and aid destitute families." Raised in Tombstone, she graduated from the University of Arizona Law School in 1925—the year her father rose to the State Supreme Court, where he set his daughter's future goal by serving as Chief Justice for nearly 18 years.

To reach the same peak, Daughter Lorna served three terms in the state legislature, was an assistant state attorney general, and in 1950 was elected as a county judge in Phoenix. In 1957 she swallowed hard and performed "the most distasteful" duty of her career—sentencing a wife murderer to death in the gas chamber. "May God have mercy on your soul," said she, bowing her head. "Thank you, judge," said he.

Chief Justice Lockwood's brethren have now elected her on merit to a job that involves supervision of the state's entire judicial system. "Her most enduring quality," says one, "is patience, patience and patience. She will listen to both sides of every question. Furthermore, she has overcome the emotional reaction common to many women. She has all the qualities that make a great judge."

Some Arizonans are already looking forward to a day when the country's only woman Chief Justice will rise even higher—to the U.S. Supreme Court. In theory, nothing prevents that millennium, but the odds against the appointment of a woman Justice seem overwhelmingly high. At the very least, the court would need some remodeling. The present robing room is directly connected to a men's room. As one Justice darkly muses: "Why, we'd have to build a Justices' ladies' room."

From *Her Honor Takes the Bench*, Time Magazine, Friday, Jan. 29, 1965

