

Charline (Hinkle) McGuire



Charline (Hinkle) McGuire was born in Muncie, Indiana September 21, 1891. She was the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Sheehan) Hinkle. She graduated from St. Lawrence school and went to work as a secretary in the law firm of Leffler, Ball and Needham. While working as a secretary she gained a great knowledge of the law. On February 28, 1914, she invaded a field so long dominated by men when she was admitted to the bar making her the first woman in Indiana to be accepted to the bar. She practiced law for a few years, then quit working for about nine years. During this time, she married Milton R McGuire on April 25, 1917. They became parents of three children: Rita (McGuire) Becker, John Robert, and Richard Joseph.

In 1926, she re-entered her profession as an attorney, and in 1932, made history again when she became the first woman to preside as a judge in the local court--except for the justice and peace court.

Charlene started her own law practice before World War I and continued practicing law for a total of 58 years. During that time, she continued to make history when her daughter, Rita, joined her making McGuire and McGuire the only mother and daughter law team in the United States. She was also the first to be admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court

She was a member of the following: National Association of Women Lawyers, Indiana State Association of Women Lawyers, Indiana State Bar Association, Muncie Bar Association, 4th District Director of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Chairman of Legal Education Committee for the National Association of Women Lawyers, Chairman of the Legal Aid Committee for the State Association of Women Lawyers, and Catholic Ladies of Columbia. She was also a past National Secretary of the National Association of Women Lawyers.

Speaking on the subject of "women in places of responsibility", Mrs. McGuire pointed out the fact that women have invaded thirty-six of 572 occupations listed in the sense. She was quoted as saying, "women's place nowadays seems to be wherever she pleases to have it."



Charlene died on November 16, 1972, and was buried at Elm Ridge Memorial Park Muncie, Indiana.

Rita and Charline McGuire