

## The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

### JEANNE SIBYL GRIGGS POLLETT

September 13, 1952  
(1920 – 1991)



**Jeanne Sibyl Griggs Pollett** was born on June 14, 1920 in Oakland, California to George and Sibyl Griggs. George was a machinist and Sibyl was a housewife, and Jeanne was their only child. Highly motivated and very intelligent, Pollett was a member of the Mensa Society, the organization of individuals with intelligence quotients in the top two percent of the general population. She graduated from Nampa High School in 1937 and earned an English degree from the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho in 1941.

After college, Pollett went to work as a newspaper reporter for the *Idaho Free Press* in Nampa and then, in 1942 at the age of 21; she was a wire editor for the *Caldwell News Tribune*.

On January 15, 1943, Pollett married newsman Dencel Vance Pollett in Reno, Nevada. Dencel was in the Air Force stationed outside Sacramento, California, so Pollett moved to Sacramento with her husband. She immediately found work as a news reporter for the *Sacramento Morning Union*, eventually working her way up to the position of chief statehouse reporter. After the War, the couple returned to Idaho and Pollett went to work for St. Alphonsus Hospital as the public relations director.

In 1949, Pollett decided to become an attorney and attended the University of Idaho College of Law. When she graduated in 1952, Pollett was awarded the William E. Borah Award from Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity for having the highest scholastic average in her law school class. After law school, Pollett took and passed the Idaho Bar and on September 13, 1952, she was admitted, the same day as Ina Mae Wheeler (No. 25 on this list).

After her graduation, Pollett stayed in the Moscow area because her husband attended the University of Idaho.

On May 14, 1962, Pollett began working as a law clerk for United States District Court Judge Fred Taylor in Boise, a position she held until July 5, 1963. Shortly thereafter the Polletts decided to return to California, although they kept their home in Boise and returned often.

In January 1966, Pollett was admitted to the California State Bar. From 1973-75, she worked as a law clerk with the Second District California Court of Appeals in Los Angeles. She retired from the practice of law in 1975. In addition to her law work, Pollett wrote many articles published in various publications, including *Ford Times* and *Gourmet* magazine.

After retiring from the practice of law, Pollett turned her hand to “jokesmithing” and largely as a hobby wrote “gags” for two eastern syndicates which furnished jokes to TV and nightclub

comics and to newspaper comic writers. She remained a resident of both Boise and Hollywood, spending the summers in Boise.

Pollett died at the age of 71 on July 16, 1991, in West Hollywood, California.