

## The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

### SUSAN MARIA FLANDRO

September 27, 1968



**Susan Maria Flandro** was born on December 6, 1940, in Salt Lake City, Utah. She grew up in Pocatello, Idaho, and graduated from Pocatello High School in 1959. Thereafter, she attended the University of Utah. In 1963, Flandro graduated with a major in political science and a minor in English. For the next two years, Flandro taught both junior high and high school students.

While growing up, Flandro never considered becoming a lawyer. Instead, her career goal was to become either a teacher or a nurse. There were no attorneys in her family, but Flandro dated a law student while she was in college. The two would discuss issues of law, which she found very interesting. Despite her new interest in the law, Flandro did not believe that she could go to law school, so instead, she continued towards pursuing a career in teaching.

Flandro wanted to go to graduate school, but did not want to pursue a graduate degree in teaching. Flandro's family knew the dean of the law school at the University of Utah, who encouraged her to apply. Flandro's mother was supportive of her application, but her father was concerned that it would affect her chances of getting married. After scoring well on the LSAT, Flandro was accepted into the law school at the University of Utah where, she reports, she enjoyed herself immensely.

Out of 150 students in her first year class, only three were women. One of her female classmates was number one in her class at law school; nonetheless, she could not get a job in private practice after graduation. As a result, the woman ended up becoming a professor at the University of Utah Law School and had a successful career there. Unfortunately, the other female classmate dropped out of law school. Flandro graduated in 1968 and took and passed the Utah bar.

Shortly after graduation, Flandro moved to Boise and took the Idaho Bar. She was admitted in Idaho on September 27, 1968 and worked in the Attorney General's office from 1968 until 1969. In so doing, Flandro became the first woman to serve as an Assistant (now referred to as "Deputy") Attorney General in Idaho.

In 1969, Flandro decided to pursue her dream of working for Legal Aid. Idaho did not have any Legal Aid services, so Flandro traveled to California in hopes of finding employment. She started in Santa Barbara and worked her way down the coast applying with Legal Aid agencies. At each agency, however, she was told that although the hiring attorney would be interested in her application, there would be other attorneys in the office who would have difficulty with a woman working there. Flandro ended up in the Los Angeles area, where she performed research for various attorneys.

In 1970, Flandro went to work for the Internal Revenue Service in Los Angeles where she did estate tax auditing. She worked in that position from 1970 until 1976. She was admitted in California, her third state bar, on August 1, 1975.

In 1976, Flandro moved back to Pocatello to start her own private practice and opened the firm under the name of S. M. Flandro. Although her specialty was estate tax work, she also handled family law cases, including divorce and cases involving battered women.

In 1979, Flandro had the opportunity to get into real estate syndication in Anaheim, California. She moved to Anaheim and soon after began working with a company called Perry Development where she was hired as corporate counsel. Perry Development developed real estate properties such as medical offices, commercial facilities and sports facilities. Flandro worked for Perry Development from 1979 until 2000. Over the course of time, she became a vice president and chief financial officer. Flandro truly enjoyed her career there and handled large loans and corporate development projects. But, after 15 years with Perry Development, Flandro decided to move to Sun Valley, Idaho, and retire.

Flandro lives in Sun Valley and enjoys skiing in her free time.