

The Meaning of Women's History Month and Progression of Women Attorneys

What does Women's History Month mean to you?

Sidney Washington: Women's History Month is a time to reflect on the contributions that women have made throughout society and history, and in this situation, the legal field. It's an opportunity to amplify our voices, share our stories, acknowledge how far we come, advocate for ourselves to recognize how much further we still need to go in terms of equality opportunities and how I celebrate it. I do a little bit of self-care, but I also have conversations like these. go to events that uplift and honor women's experiences. I read books written by women and their memoirs and really reflect on different contributions that women have made to society.

Have you seen progress in the legal field regarding gender diversity, and what changes would you like to see in the future?

Gwen Roy Harrison: I think there has been a lot of progression since I at least have come up as an attorney. There's certainly a lot more female judges that I see and interact with in DC and Maryland and Virginia. I thank the folks who are being selected prejudicial nominations. There's certainly a lot of improvement in terms of diverse categories of folks who are being selective, which is great. I also think that a lot more women are going to law school these days, but unfortunately in private law firms, the folks who are often at the top aren't reflecting the high number of women who are graduating from law schools. So I'm super passionate about how can we get more highly competent, highly educated women in managerial positions or positions of power, particularly within private law firms to advance those missions and set an example for other women that it's possible.

Candace Dellacona: So I definitely think that in the last 23 or so years there has been progress for women in the legal industry. While I still think that it's male dominated, I think that there is more room at the table and there's a perception that we are just as confident as our male counterparts. In terms of what I want to see in the future, I think it's just more equality. I think it's really important to be an advocate for the people who come after you just in the same way that people were advocates for me. I think that many women take for granted the equality that most of us enjoy in many states, but it is something that our predecessors had to fight for, and we need to continue to fight to make sure that we have the same opportunities that we should not rest our laurels.