

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE5689

Kinsella, Marie Patricia Germaine

(1920 - 2010)

Born 18 August, 1920, Waverley New South Wales Australia

Died 6 May, 2010, Canberra Australian Capital Territory Australia

Occupation Barrister, Judge's associate, Lawyer, Public servant

Summary

Marie Sexton (nee Kinsella) co-drafted the constitution of the Women Lawyers' Association of New South Wales and was the organisation's first honorary secretary. The eldest of five children of Edward Parnell (Ted) Kinsella and his Belgian wife, Marie Louise Josephine Graff, the then Kinsella matriculated from Fort Street Girls' High School and went on to earn three qualifications from the University of Sydney: a Bachelor of Arts in 1943; a Diploma in Education in 1944; and a Bachelor of Laws in 1949. (It was during a year-long stint as teaching assistant at Inverell High School in northern New South Wales that Kinsella decided that teaching was not for her, had her last day on 29 January 1945 and thence turned her sights to the study of law). She began working as an associate to her father, then Mr Justice Kinsella of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales. On 18 January 1950, Mr Justice Kinsella was elevated to the Supreme Court of New South Wales; Kinsella became clerk associate to her father and clerk of arraigns. Although admitted to the New South Wales Bar on 11 February 1949, Kinsella did not practise at the Bar. She later worked in the Department of Territories, Sydney, and the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra, producing the respected Annotated Constitution. Kinsella retired in 1980.

Published resources

Thesis

A History of Women in the Legal Profession in New South Wales, O'Brien, Joan M., 1986,
<https://womenlawyersnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/History-of-Women-in-Legal-Profession.pdf>

Newspaper Article

A pioneer of the legal profession, Sexton, Elisabeth, 2010,
<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/obituaries/a-pioneer-of-the-legal-profession-20100523-w3tr>

Site Exhibition

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers>

Author Details

Marina Loane

Created 25 May 2016

Last modified 31 October 2016