

# DUAL PERSONALITY OF WOMAN JUDGE BLENDS COURT AUSTERITY WITH GRACIOUSNESS OF HOME

### Miss Florence Allen Is Answer to Criticism That Politics Abrades Inherent Feminine Traits

### FIRST WOMAN STATE COURT JURIST IN U. S.

### Elected Because the People Believed in Sincerity of High Purposes Shown in Campaign

What will be the effect upon the administration of justice of newly enfranchised woman's invasion of the higher courts of America?

Will she tear away the veil which has blinded the eyes of the goddess through the centuries?

Or will the ponderous wheels of the legal machinery grind on into the future without perceptible change in the mechanism?

Perhaps the answer to these questions will be found in the future actions of Miss Florence Allen, who takes office January 1 as a member of the Ohio Supreme Court, the first woman in America to occupy such a position.

In the race for political distinction Miss Allen holds two other "firsts." She became the first Common Pleas Judge in the county when elected to that position two years ago in Cuyahoga County, O. She was the first person running independently of party connections to win a place on the Ohio Supreme Court.

Ohio's new Supreme Court Judge seems a living answer to the criticism that politics and office-holding will detract from the inherent finer characteristics of a woman.

### Determination Is One of Her Characteristics

Possessing a faculty almost to the point of a dual personality, she has handled her court cases with a grim determination not exceeded by her male competitors. At work or during professional hours she is restless, brief to the point and gruff to the extent that makes her almost unrecognizable when a few hours later she throws off her official duties.

Interviewed, she answers questions quickly but in detail, at the same time keeping up separate conversations with as many as three or four persons besides the interviewer.

If, as has been true since she started in Columbus, she is particularly busy, she seems, at times, to forget entirely the interviewer in the interest of other conversations, but invariably comes back to the subject under discussion, with an air of having never wandered into new fields of thought.

But find her alone, the rush of a hard day's work over, and she is again the woman, discussing trivialities in a manner entirely foreign to the Judge of a few hours before and bringing up topics of conversation which would have sounded strangely incongruous to her other self.

Judge Allen is a Democrat, a party Democrat she calls herself, but she ran for Supreme Court Judge and was elected by a substantial majority as a non-partisan candidate, just as she was elected Judge of Cuyahoga County.

"The Constitution provides for a non-partisan judiciary," was her declaration, "and I feel that strict adherence to that Constitution prohibits either party from having judicial candidates. My candidacy was a fight to establish the non-partisanship of the Supreme Court and I feel my election has placed the stamp of public approval upon the idea."

"Besides," she added, thereby seemingly giving place for the instant to her feminine self, "I could not have won the Democratic nomination."

### Angered at Activity of Political Bosses

"No, I am not saying that to get votes. I am not beginning my next campaign yet. I sincerely believe the courts should be out of politics, and when I see the way some political bosses attempt to interfere with, and even try to dictate, the appointments the judges are to make, it fairly makes my blood boil."

Then again, "Of course the Republicans are worse than the Democrats."

"Really, I do not say that because



Miss Florence Allen, the gracious homemaker



Miss Florence Allen, the austere jurist



I am a Democrat; but the Democratic leaders of Cuyahoga County have never interfered with me, even in the slightest degree. They have been absolutely square with me and I consider them real men. But I have seen Republican leaders even tell the Judges they had elected whom they must appoint as court bailiffs. It made me furious, I'll tell you. No political boss could tell me whom to appoint.

"Right in my own case is an example of why the courts should be out of politics. When a judge dies or resigns—and who can tell when I may do either?—the very bailiff of the court becomes the prey of political spoils-men. No matter how good a bailiff he may have been, he is kicked out because the politicians have demanded this job for some henchman as a condition to their recommendation of the new judge."

"You can bet your last dollar that I have taken care of my bailiff, for he is a good one," she added, with a slight sparkle in her eyes.

### Is a Suffragist, But Not Militant

Always a leader in the Ohio suffrage fight, Judge Allen maintains she never had much in common with the militant forces.

"I do not believe in being militant, for I do not think one gets much in that manner," she said. "I have always appealed to men's fairness and have found men both fair and chivalrous," she added, smiling.

"But I do believe in militant enforcement of the law," she declared, with some of her courtroom grimaces.

"We need nothing nowadays so much as respect for the law—real respect, real reverence for the moral and purpose of the law. We need to teach it to our children and in our schools. And the courts must protect human rights which exist, in all cases, even property cases."

"If the entrance of woman into the body politic will do nothing else than stimulate greater participation in government, it will be worth the while," she declared.

As early as 1912 and again in 1914 Miss Allen took active parts in Ohio suffrage campaigns. The year 1915 saw her in Massachusetts leading her sisters of that State to wage their campaign.

### Once Was Disturbed at Marion Meeting

"I had the pleasure of taking on Boston Common, in Faneuil Hall and at various places in many other cities, and I never experienced but one attempt to have the meeting broken up."

"Strongly enough, that was right here in my own State, at Marion, the home of President Harding."

"There was a political meeting on the courthouse steps and since the politicians had so considerably gathered

a crowd for us, some of the suffragettes concluded that, following the politicians' meeting was a good time for our assemblage.

"My speech was well under way when some hoodlums in the crowd began to boo and hiss; but I just appealed to the men in the crowd and the rowdies soon were hushed up."

Miss Allen never "became" a suffragette. Like Topsy, according to her own statement, she "just grew that way."

"My father was a lawyer and active in politics," she explained. "He was elected a member of Congress for several terms and I took a great interest in both his legal cases and his campaigns, so it was not natural for me to enter into the practice of law and to want to vote."

### Became Politician While a Schoolgirl

"Then, when I was just a little girl, I was sent to a private school. The

teacher there conceived the idea of a school senate and I was elected as the member from Florida.

"One day some one introduced a suffrage bill and I was for it. My twelve-year-old sister agreed with me, but my other sister, aged thirteen, had

opinions of her own on the subject. We had an awful time debating suffrage into her, but finally we succeeded and I have been driving home suffrage ever since."

Going back to the subject of non-partisan judicials, Judge Allen declared her campaign primarily was to establish that principle, and said even her defeat would not have been a great disappointment. "Of course, we like to win, but I believe the people of Ohio have begun to think about that proposition, and I believe there are but two ways to make the courts non-partisan," she said.

"Either we must make it non-partisan in fact as well as theory as a matter of law, or we must have so many independent campaigns with numerous voters that the politicians will grow to understand that a party endorsement is a handicap rather than an asset to the candidate for Judge. This is a highly expensive way to do it, however, for it takes an awful lot of money to carry on a campaign in the State."

Judge Allen observed for a few days any one, and it takes persistent questioning to get her started, but once going she talks the whole story, and when the story breaks stops talking and waits for her interviewer to start a new line.

When she left the Common Pleas bench a few days ago, the court bailiffs gave her a handsome leather traveling bag.

When she came to Columbus the following day, to be sworn in as Supreme Court Justice, she brought the bag along and was telling her friends about it.

"Just look at those beautiful ivory fittings," she said enthusiastically.

"That's the woman for you. She doesn't pay any attention to the utility of the bag, but is taken up with a bunch of ivory dowels on it," remarked one of her men friends.

"That's all right; those ivory fittings just set the case off," she answered, with an abashed smile.

Though always neat in her appearance, Miss Allen is never dressed in a manner that might be termed "stylish." Ordinarily her court attire is a dark colored, one-piece frock, simply fashioned, and her shoes are "common sense" affairs, broad-toed and equipped with rubber heels.

Attending social functions in her leisure, Miss Allen is never dainty since her arrival in Columbus, she presents a strange contrast to the well-colored, modishly dressed women about her, but such is her personality she never seems to suffer much from the contrast.

### Farm Life Her Idea of Real Happiness

Her lack of complete happiness, she told a "farm and home" photographer, "to live on a farm and have a grand piano, and a dog, and a garden, and to be free of all these social functions."

Her favorite prose author is Cervantes and her favorite poet Homer. Her favorite language is Susan L. Anthony and her particular aversion is Metempsychosis.

She has expressed approval of the statement of one writer who said she has the appearance of a woman who would not accept a man's love until she had a term of horses of color and a pillow slip, she was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, thirty-eight years ago.

A greater part of her adult life has been spent in the study of law, that study being a period of seven years, she had to earn most of the money for her education.

Two years she spent at Salt Lake College and the remainder of law degrees were received from Western Reserve University, Cleveland. Four years after being graduated from this university, she earned a master's degree in political science and constitutional law from the same school.

### Studied Law, Also Delved Into Music

She spent a year in the University of Chicago Law School and topped that off with two years at New York University following which she took her law examination.

During that time she spent two years in Berlin studying music. At no time did she attend school for more than two years at a stretch. What effect will this woman have upon the Ohio Supreme Court?

Her studies in the subject are not hope for great things, and believe they have an able representative in office. Lawyers throughout Ohio recognize her ability in the profession.

Members of the judiciary have expressed no fears as to her ability and calm judgment, and the bitterest anti-suffragist among them expresses a belief she will do her duties "at least as well as a man."

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Florence E. Allen, Ohio Supreme Court Judge-elect, as she appeared after sentencing William H. McGinnis, former Chief Justice of the Cleveland Municipal Court, to the Ohio State Penitentiary at Columbus following his conviction for perjury at the time Miss Allen was on the Common Pleas bench

