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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Women's Law Caucus at UM receives ABA student grant" (1976). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present.* 27052. https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/27052

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IMMEDIATELY

WOMEN'S LAW CAUCUS AT UM RECEIVES ABA STUDENT GRANT jonkel/ds/rb 3-26-76 state + cs +

MISSOULA--

The Women's Law Caucus, a branch of the Student Bar Association at the University of Montana in Missoula, has been awarded a \$150 grant by the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association to finance the Women's Law Caucus Counseling and Recruitment Program.

Diane Rotering, <u>Clancy</u>, a second-year law student at UM, who is project director, said the primary goal of the recruitment program is to encourage and promote increased enrollment of women in the University of Montana Law School.

Pamphlets featuring the UM Law School will be mailed to high school, junior colleges and universities within Montana. The material will include an explanation of what must be done to apply to law school, a list of the various loans and scholarships available to applicants, and a detailing of opportunities open to women attorneys.

There are currently 30 women students at the UM Law School out of a total enrollment of 214, and seven women will graduate from the Law School this year. There were eight women in the 1975 graduating class, two in the 1974 class and two in the 1973 class. In previous years there were 31 women graduates. The earliest UM women law graduates included Bernice Selfridge Forbes in 1915 and Edna Rankin McKinnon in 1918.

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The second aspect of the Counseling and Recruitment Program involves the Women in the Law Day, a program initiated last year by the UM Women's Law Caucus. This year Women in the Law Day will be celebrated on Saturday, May 8, at the University of Montana Law School. The caucus plans to conduct four panel discussions as part of Women in the Law Day activities--"The Woman in Law School"; "The Woman Attorney"; "Alternative and Traditional Practices for Attorneys," and "Recent Developments in the Law which Affect Women."

Women attorneys from throughout the state will participate in the panels.

The Women's Law Caucus plans to begin arrangements for the formation of a women attorneys' association in Montana. The Helena office of the State Bar Association of Montana lists current female membership of the Montana Bar at 48. Eleven of these members are not living in Montana, however, and eight list themselves as inactive.

Membership in the Women's Law Caucus is open to all student bar members.

Matching funds for the Counseling and Recruitment Program, including funds for Law Day activities, have been pledged by Dean Robert Sullivan of the UM Law School.

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