

Elizabeth Corynne Brazzell Arney

Elizabeth Corynne Brazzell Arney was only 21 when she passed the Tennessee Bar Exam in 1940. Upon her admission to practice in Davidson County she was believed to be the youngest woman to become a member of the Nashville Bar. Although she actively practiced law for less than 15 years, her legal knowledge, her belief in legal principals, and her personal pride in being a lawyer were an integral part of her character and a source of inspiration for others.

Corynne Arney was not only a lawyer but also the daughter of a lawyer, the wife of a lawyer and later, the mother of a lawyer. Therefore, it is not surprising that she took pride in the accomplishments of the Bar and offence at unfounded criticism of them. Throughout her life, she believed much of the important work in the world was the result of the persistent efforts of good lawyers or of good men and women who were lawyers. She never ceased to find joy in the fact that she was part of this group.

She was born on October 4, 1918, in Sumner County Tennessee, to Reuben Hale Brazzell and Stella Rebecca McGinnis Brazzell. She had one younger brother, Harry McGinnis Brazzell. Mrs. Arney grew up in Gallatin and Nashville and graduated from the East Nashville High School. Her father was a telegrapher who, in the thirties, became an active member and delegate to the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and became a lawyer in order to be able to advocate further for the interest of labor and trade organizations.

Inspired by her father, Mrs. Arney enrolled in the Y.M.C.A. Night Law School as a junior in high school. She was much younger than most of her fellow students but loved the study of law and excelled in it. Mrs. Arney graduated from what is now the Nashville School of Law in 1940. As a very young women lawyer in pre-World War II Nashville, it took over a year for Mrs. Arney to find a position with a law firm. However, when many of Nashville's young lawyers were called to serve after the terrible events of Pearl Harbor, she was offered a position with the law firm of Manier and Crouch. In 1947, Corynne Brazzell married Cloyd L. Arney, a reserve air force officer who was then a law student at Vanderbilt University. Her husband and father formed a firm and practiced together. She was never tempted to join them in their practice but preferred to maintain an independent career. During the Korean conflict, Colonel Arney was recalled to active military duty and while he served overseas, Mrs. Arney worked as an attorney for the Tennessee Department of Welfare and was later appointed executive director of the Board of Cosmetology by Governor Browning.

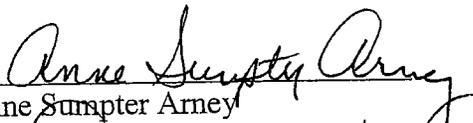
When her husband returned from overseas, Mrs. Arney retired from the practice of law and took up the more traditional career of a full time military officer's wife. She and her husband were married for 47 years and had one daughter, Anne. Mrs. Arney did not return to the practice of law and lived with her husband in the Washington D.C. area for over 30 years where she worked in the Discovery Room of the Smithsonian Institute and was an active member of the Andrews Air Force Base Officers' Wives Club. Although she enjoyed her life in Washington, many of Mrs. Arney's happiest memories were of her days in law school and as a young lawyer in Nashville.

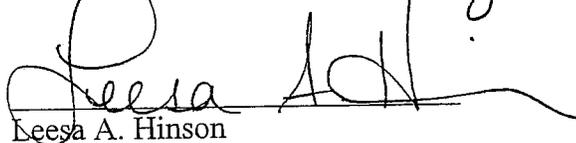
In 1978, Mrs. Arney retired with her husband to his home town of Livingston, Tennessee. She lived there until her death this past June. She loved her adopted home of Livingston but always considered herself a Nashvillian. She kept the road to Nashville busy and her husband often joked that when she got to heaven, she would find it a lot like Nashville.

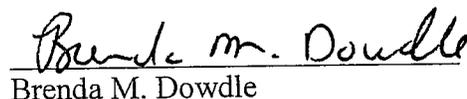
Mrs. Arney was extraordinarily well read, a gifted gardener, a member of Livingston Civic and Garden Club, and the Tuesday Bridge Club. She was a lifelong Democrat who was always flattered to be called a liberal. She was a courageous pioneering spirit who was surprised to be considered a mentor. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend who left her mark on women's legal history and a huge whole in her family and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Nashville Bar Association, that the many accomplishments and contributions of Elizabeth Corynne Brazzell Arney be recognized in the records of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, this ____ day of November, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,


Anne Sumpter Arney


Leesa A. Hinson


Brenda M. Dowdle