



Women and the Law: Leaders, Cases, and Documents (Non-Series)

By Ashlyn K. Kuersten

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Ashlyn K. Kuersten

A definitive overview of court decisions and legislative victories in the fight for gender equality in U.S. history.

- A–Z entries ranging from legislation such as Title IX, the Equal Pay Act, and the failed Equal Rights Amendment to pioneers such as Susan B. Anthony, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Betty Friedan
- An introductory chapter presenting key concepts and issues that pertain to women in U.S. law
- A table of cases that features more than 50 key judicial decisions
- Chronological coverage of the history of U.S. laws pertaining to gender
- An appendix of key original documents in the struggle for equality
- Photographs of many important pioneers of women's rights

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Editorial Review

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Describing the evolution of women's legal rights in the U.S. from the Revolutionary War to the present, this volume uses biographical sketches of key individuals, summaries of significant court cases and legislative victories, definitions of major concepts, and selected important documents.

A 19-page introduction and a chronology provide an overview of gender equality in the U.S. from colonial times forward. Around 200 entries are arranged alphabetically within broad categories ("Key Historical Concepts and Pioneers," "Constitutional Equality," "Education," "Family Law," "Reproductive Rights," "Violence against Women," and "Workplace Rights"). A comprehensive index, references and further reading lists at the end of each section, and *see also* tags at the end of most entries allow researchers to learn more about each topic. The "Table of Cases" directs readers to the published court texts, and a collection of 21 documents provides relevant declarations, speeches, constitutional amendments, and legislative acts verbatim.

A caveat: editing is sometimes weak. For example, Hillary Rodham Clinton is credited with making history in November 2000 "when she became the first lady ever to be elected as a U.S. senator." "First First Lady" would have been correct. The occasional errors, however, do not detract from the volume's usefulness.

Although other reference sources contain much of this information (*Handbook of American Women's History* [Sage, 2000], *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History* [Houghton, 1998], *Encyclopedia of Women's History in America* [Facts On File, 1996], *Women's Rights in the United States: A Documentary History* [Greenwood, 1994]), Kuersten's volume is more current and focuses on women in the legal and political arenas. It should prove useful in academic and large public libraries. *RBB*

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Review

"Because the volume collects a wide range of information, it is a valuable resource for libraries and researchers new to the field . . . Recommended. General readers and library collections serving lower-division undergraduates." - **Choice**

"[T]his work provides a wealth of information on an important topic, is well-organized, and contains well-written entries . . . it is a highly recommended purchase for public, high school, and undergraduate libraries." - **American Reference Books Annual**

"Kuersten's volume is more current and focuses on women in the legal and political arenas. It should prove useful in academic and large public libraries." - **Booklist**

"This well-written and well-researched book would be useful in high school and public libraries with a strong demand for the topic." - **VOYA**

"This is a well-written reference work on the history of and themes related to women and law in the United States. . . . An excellent choice for high school, public, and college libraries." - **Feminist Collections**

About the Author

Ashlyn K. Kuersten is associate professor of political science at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

Users Review

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Melissa Conner:

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