



New Judge

The Honourable Judge Mary Ellen Boyd

On 16 December, 1985, Mary Ellen Boyd took her seat on the Bench of the County Court of Vancouver. There she will no doubt continue to hold that professional respect which she so deservedly earned in her practice at the Bar.

Her Honour was born in Saskatoon. Her father, an obstetrician, appeared to know what he was doing, as he and Mrs. Boyd produced seven other healthy children. Shortly after her birth, the Boyd clan moved to Winnipeg, and subsequently to Edmonton, where Her Honour was raised from the age of three.

After obtaining a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Alberta in 1971, Her Honour moved to Vancouver, demonstrating that her judgment can indeed be depended upon. She took her law degree at the University of British Columbia in 1974, and became articled to Hamish Cameron, who happened to be on sabbatical at the time. When she was called to the Bar on May 20, 1975, Her Honour expressed an interest in practising as a conveyancing lawyer. As this aberration cannot be blamed upon the influence of her principal during the course of her articles, it remains inexplicable. Fortunately, the firm of Bull, Housser & Tupper did not then have a vacancy in its conveyancing department.

Consequently, following her call to the Bar, Her Honour carried on a mixed practice of civil litigation, as junior to "Bae" Wallace, Q.C. (as he then was), and matrimonial law, under the tutelage of J. B. Molson. In her third year of practice, Her Honour joined H. R. Bowering and Daniel Webster in the firm's growing insurance litigation practice. There she remained, building up an appreciative clientele and a thriving practice, until her recent elevation.

In Hospitals, law firms, Court House corridors, and among those who appreciate clear thinking and physical fitness, this appointment has no doubt invoked that sense of rightness which Browning equated with dew-pearled mornings, and the snail being on the thorn. Her former colleagues at Bull, Housser & Tupper, however, have been left feeling rather like one who, upon losing his hand to amputation, has been assured that that hand will be enshrined to serve science for the benefit of mankind as a whole. One is pleased for one's hand. One appreciates the benefit it will bring to mankind. But one had been rather attached to it, and would have enjoyed the use of it for a little longer.