

Hello,

Today is the centenary of the first woman solicitor admittance into our profession. Carrie Morrison made history when she was admitted on 18 December 1922 as the first woman solicitor in England and Wales.

Throughout this issue, we will be highlighting the amazing female trailblazers who paved the way for women in Law... Carrie Morrison who was shortly followed as solicitors by Maud Crofts, Mary Pickup and Mary Sykes.”

OnThisDay in 1922 Carrie Morrison became the first woman to qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales.

100 years since pioneering first woman solicitor

Made our History...



Carrie Morrison

On This Day In December 1922 Carrie Morrison became the first woman to be admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales. At the age of 34, and with a varied career behind her, Carrie set a high standard of determination and dedication to her profession for the women who came after her.

Law for her was not simply a way of making money. In the years immediately after qualification she spent much of her time working as a Poor Man's Lawyer in the East End of London.

Read more about Carrie below:

[Carrie Morrison](#) 🌟



Mary Elaine Sykes

Born in 1896 Mary Elaine Sykes was one of the first four women to pass the Law Society's Final Examinations in 1922.

She continued to practise well into her seventies and died in 1981. Perhaps the best tribute to her had come much earlier from one of her fellow councillors in 1945 when he said that "Alderman Sykes is one of the first four women to be admitted as a solicitor and we are very proud of that in Huddersfield."

Read more about Mary below:

[Mary Sykes](#) 🌟



Maud Crofts

When Maud Crofts was formally admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales on 11 January 1923 she realised an ambition for which she had been working for more than a decade.

Maud Isabel Crofts, (nee Ingram) was born in 1889, one of the twelve children of Middle Temple barrister, Thomas Lewis Ingram and his wife Victoria Skinner. Maud was a robust child who went on to study at Girton College, Cambridge where she obtained honours in both the History and Law Tripos and, having captained the Cambridge Women's Colleges

Six against Oxford for two years, was awarded a Tennis Blue. In an intellectually able family, where all her brothers studied at Cambridge University and one sister became a doctor, Maud was acknowledged as being "the bright one", believing that education was the only way that women could attain equality with men.

Read more about Maud below:

[Maud Crofts](#) 



Mary Elizabeth Pickup

Mary Elizabeth Pickup was born in 1881, the eldest daughter of Joseph McRoberts Snoddy and his wife Sarah Anne Truscott. Her family benefited from late Victorian prosperity and social mobility. Her labourer grandfather, John Hamilton Snoddy, moved his family from the unhealthy air and poverty of Limehouse in London's East End to Pembroke Dock, a small but thriving town in West Wales, where her father, determined to make the most of his opportunities, joined the Freemasons, passed examinations to qualify as an engine fitter and eventually became President of the local Pembrokeshire Permanent Building Society.

Read more about Mary below:

[Mary Pickup](#) 



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WOMEN SOLICITORS NETWORK

Trailblazing solicitors: the women who broke the barrier



Dana Denis-Smith

CEO of Obelisk Support and Law Society Council member for Women Lawyers

'Trailblazing Solicitors: the women who broke the barrier.'

It's been 100 years since the first women qualified as solicitors in England and Wales. To celebrate this milestone, Dana Denis-Smith looks back at where it all began – with the first women admitted to the roll. Dana explores who they were, their journey into the law and their achievements throughout their historic careers.

Check out this article, written by our very own Dana Denis-Smith, a now Law Society Council Member for Women Lawyers below:

[Trailblazing Solicitors !\[\]\(eafc244b53721dd1ec133f0772f70fc7_img.jpg\)](#)

'Celebrating 100 Years of Women Solicitors'

On Wednesday we attended 'Celebrating 100 Years of Women Solicitors' at The Law Society, hosted by Amandeep Khasriya

We heard 3 brilliant speeches from The Attorney General, The Rt Hon. Victoria Prentis KC MP, Dana Denis-Smith and President of The Law Society Lubna Shuja, talking about the challenges that women faced and are continuing to face today. As Lubna said, 'we can always do more, and we can always do better.' It was brilliant seeing so many incredible women in the room, having the chance to network - a huge thank you to Samantha McLeish for coordinating this event, it was amazing. ✨



Celebrating 100 years of women solicitors – the drive towards equality and diversity in law

(added on 13 December 2022)

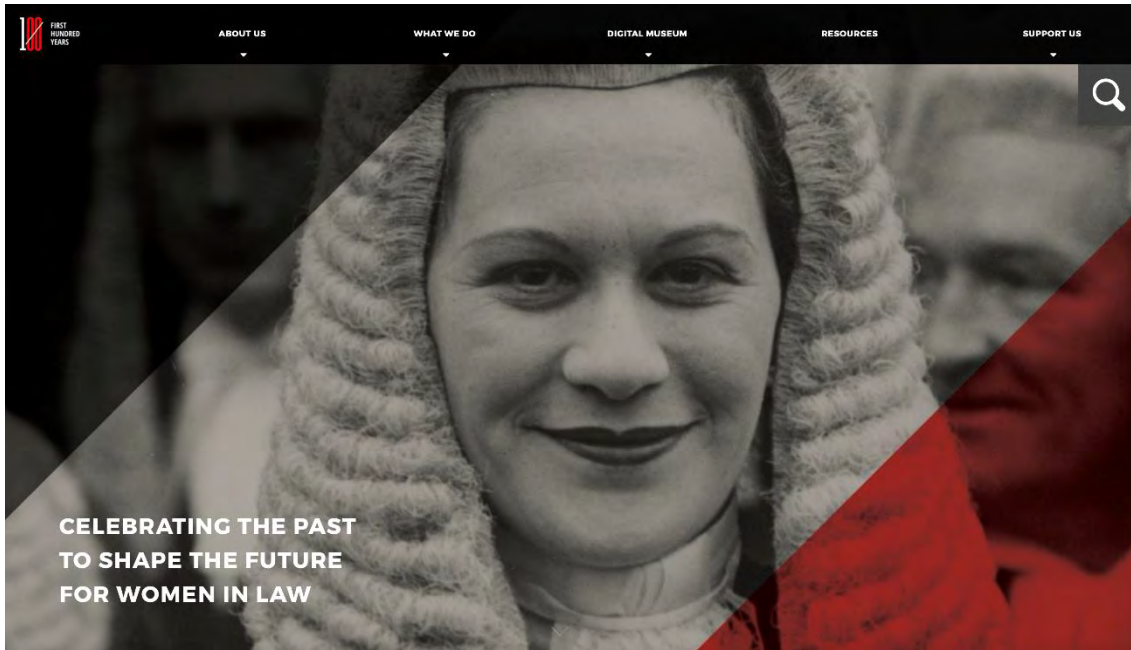
'Celebrating 100 years of women solicitors – the drive towards equality and diversity in law'

"December 2022 will mark the centenary of the first woman to be admitted to the Law Society as a solicitor. Carrie Morrison qualified on 18 December 1922, closely followed by Maud Crofts, Mary Pickup and Mary Sykes.

Since those early pioneers began their legal careers 100 years ago, incredible progress has been made with more women entering the legal profession than ever before. Women now outnumber men, making up 53% of practising solicitors."

Check out this article on Law Careers, written by Dana Denis-Smith below:

[The drive towards equality and diversity !\[\]\(2b376d1a92330ab09dad2665d2f89bf5_img.jpg\)](#)



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