

Nineteenth Annual Arabella Mansfield Award – Nomination Deadline July 30, 2020



Arabella “Belle” Babb Mansfield was the first woman lawyer formally admitted to the practice of law in the United States. She studied law in her brother’s law office for two years before she took and passed the Iowa bar examination on June 15, 1869. Her husband John Mansfield studied the law with Arabella and took and passed the bar examination on the same day. Arabella Mansfield was admitted to the Iowa bar despite the fact that the current governing Iowa statute required an applicant to the bar to be over the age of 21, white and male. The presiding judge interpreted the word “male” to be gender neutral and inclusive, paving the way for Mrs. Mansfield to take the bar examination and be admitted to the Iowa bar. The Iowa Code was soon amended to explicitly allow men and women of all races to be admitted to the Iowa bar.

Arabella Mansfield never actively practiced law, but worked in academia all her professional career, at Simpson College, Iowa Wesleyan College, and DePauw University. She was active in the women’s suffrage movement, chairing the first Iowa Women’s Suffrage Convention in 1870.

The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (I.O.W.A.) established the Arabella Mansfield Award in 2002 to recognize outstanding women lawyers in Iowa who promote and nurture women in the legal profession. Recipients are: Anuradha Vaitheswaran, Eliza Ovrom, Linda Neuman, Ruth Cooperrider, Linda McGuire, Paige Fiedler, Gail Klearman, Donna Paulsen, LuAnn White, Jeana Goosmann, Rosemary Shaw Sackett, Chris Luzzie, Ruth Klotz, Michelle “Miki” McGovern, Deborah Tharnish, Emily Gould Chafa, Celeste Bremer, Roxann Ryan.

The award will be presented at I.O.W.A.’s annual awards dinner, on August 18, 2020, in Des Moines.

Application Requirements: Submit the following materials, using the guidelines below:

- A. Nomination Form.
Please complete the form that follows.
- B. Nominee's Resume.
Please attach the nominee's resume or biographical information, describing her background and contributions.
- C. Reason for Nomination.
On a separate page, in a few concise paragraphs, please specifically answer the following question: How has the nominee promoted and nurtured women in the legal profession? In answering this question, please describe the accomplishments, contributions and/or initiatives of the nominee in the area of promoting and nurturing women in the legal profession, indicating the significance of her impact on women attorneys in Iowa, with examples.
- D. Availability to Receive Award.
Please indicate whether the nominee will be present to receive the award (i.e., no planned trips or other commitments) on **August 18, 2020 in Des Moines.**

Deadline and procedure: Nomination forms are due by July 30, 2020.

Nominations can be submitted electronically to emilychafa@msn.com or by regular U.S. postal mail to Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, Attn: Arabella Mansfield Award, P.O. Box 8268, Des Moines, IA 50301.

If you have questions, contact I.O.W.A. Annual Meeting Co-Chair, Emily Chafa at emilychafa@msn.com

RETURN NOMINATION FORM AND ATTACHMENTS BY JULY 30, 2020 TO:

Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys

Attn: Arabella Mansfield Award

P.O. Box 8268

Des Moines, IA 50301

Or via e-mail to: emilychafa@msn.com

Nineteenth Annual Arabella Mansfield Award Nomination Form

Please type or print clearly:

Name of Nominee	Title/Position	Firm/Organization
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Address	City	State	Zip
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Telephone (office)	Fax	E-mail
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Please indicate any categories that describe the nominee's present position or practice

Private practice Judiciary Prosecutor/public defender Government Academia

Legal author/writer Corporate/business sector Non-profit entity

Other (Please describe) _____

Please include the nominating person's name and information as listed below:

Your Name	Title/Position	Firm/Organization
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Address	City	State	Zip
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Telephone (office)	Fax	E-mail
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