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Review on Distinguished Women Lawyers: An Examination of their Historical Quest for Acknowledgment in India

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Abstract: The present essay examines the trajectory of women's representation in the legal profession in India. The significance of the Legal Practitioner's (Women) Act of 1923 lies in its role in facilitating the inclusion of women within the legal profession. Nevertheless, the Act encountered opposition. A significant number of women who possessed a law degree were prohibited from continuing their legal profession. In the year 1916, Regina Guha submitted her case to the jury with the intention of gaining admission into the legal profession. Likewise, Sudanshu Bala Hazra and Cornelia Sorabji encountered challenges in their pursuit of a career in the field.

The Allahabad High Court ultimately granted Cornelia Sorabji admission as a legal practitioner, so facilitating the inclusion of women in the field and contributing to the enactment of the Legal Practitioner's (Women) Act of 1923. However, it is necessary to consider whether the Act was sufficient to bring women into the legal profession. The underrepresentation of women in the legal profession across different courts and firms indicates that there is still a significant distance to cover before women are really acknowledged in this field. Nevertheless, it is imperative to acknowledge the significant contribution made by women who served as the primary catalyst for the emergence of women in this particular field.

Keywords: Cornelia Sorabji, Legal Profession, Legal Practitioner's (Women) Act, Regina Guha, Sudanshu Bala Hazra, Women Lawyers

