



Miriam Mattinen-Shearing – Class of 1952

From her childhood family farm in Michigan Hollow, to the halls of the Nevada Supreme Court, Miriam Mattinen-Shearing has been an exemplary leader and role model.

During an era of gender inequality, Miriam's career was unquestionably historic. Miriam achieved a degree in Philosophy from Cornell in 1958 and a degree from Boston College Law School in 1963. Miriam was admitted to the Nevada Bar in 1969, becoming the 50th woman in the state's history to achieve that distinction.

After a Las Vegas councilman told Miriam that women did not belong in the courtroom, she dispelled that myth categorically. Miriam became the first woman to serve as Las Vegas court judge, the first as a Nevada district judge, the first as a Juvenile Court judge and ultimately the first woman named Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, 1998-2004.

Among many honors, Miriam received the Nevada Board of Regents' Distinguished Nevadan Award, the highest recognition given by the Nevada System of Higher Education. She was the first woman to receive the Nevada Supreme Court's 2012 Legacy Justice Award. In 2005 Miriam received the National Association of Women Judges' President's Award.