



*Her Honor*  
Dorothea Donaldson '31  
*Judge of*  
*the State Court of Claims*

Dorothea Eleanor Donaldson '31, the first woman to be appointed judge of the State Court of Claims, (March '63) also holds licenses to teach from kindergarten through the high school grades. Her studies and experiences have been highly varied, yet consistently concentrated.

Lifelong resident of Westchester County, Dorothea was educated in the Yonkers public school system. At Hunter, she planned at first to take a pre-medical course. But prompted by an urge to teach, she registered at Teachers College, where she got her Masters Degree. For several years, she did teach.

Then, with a full-time program as science instructor in the New Rochelle High School during the day, she determined to study law at night. In 1936 she was admitted to the Bar, having obtained her law degree by attending the evening sessions of St. John's University School of Law in Brooklyn. That year, she became associated with Attorney J. Lester Albertson.

In 1944, she was designated a Referee for the Workmen's Compensation Board, and promoted in 1947 to Supervising Referee, the only woman to fill such a post. Appointed by Governor Dewey as Member of the Workmen's Compensation Board in 1950, she was reappointed in 1959 by Governor Rockefeller. She was Dean of the Disability Benefits School and of the Disability Benefits Institutes. In 1960, named Member of the Unemployment Insurance Board and designated by the Governor to preside as chairman, once again Dorothea Donaldson was the first woman (and first attorney) to be given this assignment.

In addition to an active legal career, Dorothea has

managed to include a wide range of other public services. She was active in community, educational and legal work with the Teachers Club of New Rochelle as Legislative Chairman and Legislative Representative, and President of the Club's Federal Credit Union. For seven years she was Treasurer of the New Rochelle Bar Association and Member of its Board of Directors. Mayor Church appointed her as a Member of the Mayor's Interracial Council (now known as Council for Unity). In the State organization of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, she has been legislation chairman, legislative representative and national security chairman.

The Golden Eaglet — highest award in Girl Scouting — and the Benjamin Potoker 1961 Memorial Brotherhood Award — given by the New York State Employees Brotherhood Committee — are among honors accorded her. A member of the New Rochelle, Westchester, New York State, American, Inter-American, and New York Women's Bar Associations, our Judge Donaldson is listed in Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in New York State, and Who's Who in the East.

Among her fellow-alumni in the Westchester Chapter of the Alumni Association and the Association of Neighbors and Friends of Hunter College, Dorothea's leadership has long been recognized.

#### FACULTY NOTE

Professor Ethel G. Berl '27, of the Department of Education of the College, has become a member of the Professional Advisory Board of the New York Clinic for Mental Health. Ethel Berl is second vice-president of our Alumni Association.