



STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

SYBIL MORRISON (née Gibbs) – First Female Barrister in New South Wales

Sybil Morrison was a PLC Sydney student from 1910 to 1912. She received her law degree from the University of Sydney in 1924 along with fellow pioneer and PLC ex-student Marie Byles.

She was admitted to the Sydney Bar in June 1924 and was active in women's issues during the 1920s. Sybil Morrison belonged to the National Council of Women and addressed a conference on women justices of the peace. She was a regular in the social pages and was frequently singled out by the media because of her status as the only woman at the Bar.



Senior Exam Class 1912, *Aurora Australis*
Sybil Gibbs is the first on the left in the back row

She took briefs in crime, divorce, bankruptcy and family maintenance (often briefed by Marie Byles), before going to England in 1930 and being admitted to the Middle Temple.

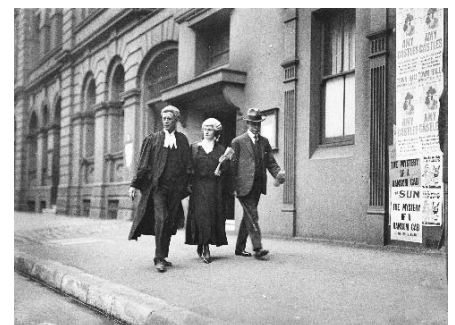
Sybil Morrison stopped actively practising at the Bar sometime in after 1930. She married a second time to architect Carlyle Greenwell in 1937. She was president of the Sydney University Law School Comforts Fund in WWII. She died in 1961.



The first female barrister of NSW
Credit: University of Sydney Archives



A classroom from the period Sybil Morrison (née Gibbs) was a student



Sybil Morrison, middle, 149 Phillip Street, c1924. Credit: PIC 15611/16067, National Library of Australia