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### Justice Jane Bolin

Jane Bolin the newly appointed justice of the Domestic Relations Court was born in 1908 in Poughkeepsie New York. She was one of three children, the others being both boys.

Her mother was Matilda Emery, and her father Gaius C. Bolin one of the outstanding lawyers of Poughkeepsie New York. He was for many years the president of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Miss Bolin who in private life is the wife of a very capable Washington attorney, Ralph E. Mizelle. She was one of the very few Negro women to attend the nationally famous Wellesley College and the Yale Law School.

Following her graduation from the Yale Law School in 1932 she was admitted to practise in New York. In her quiet unspectacular manner she functioned with the utmost efficiency. Such capableness could not go long unnoticed. Therefore, in 1937 she was named as Assistant Corporations Counsel and assigned to the Court of Domestic Relations.

The Domestic Relations Court of the City of New York is going into its eighth year of existence. Its accomplishments and its limitations should be viewed in the light of its youth. The purpose for which this court was created by merging the Children's Court, formerly an independent tribunal, with the Family Court of the

Magistrates' System, were to centralize under one jurisdiction problems relating to children and family life and to bring into the Family Court that socialized procedure which had for years been <sup>or</sup> recognized part of the Children's Court practised throughout the country.

As an Assistant Corporation Counsel Miss Bolin like all others is appointed and removed according to the pleasure of his honor the mayor. The salary varies from \$3500 to \$8500 per annum. The head of the department receives \$17,500 per year. These Counsels advise on all legal procedure, and documents.

The retirement of a justice in the Domestic Relations Court who had reached the age limit created an opening. Mayor LaGuardia noted for his fairness in appointing those best suited to fill a given job, appointed Jane Bolin. On July 22, 1939 Jane M. Bolin, became the first colored woman judge in the United States. The appointment is for ten years and the salary \$12,000 a year.

Justice Bolin is noted for her good taste in the selection of her clothes, and her general manner of conduct. She is a small light complexioned Negro woman wearing her hair in a severe straight bob. She states that she is not interested in any particular sport but is connected with many organizations. Some of which are the, Board of the New York Urban League, Vice President of the New York National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York County Lawyers Association, Harlem Lawyers Association and many other civic organizations.

Justice Bolin has no children, and wears the laurels of her newly acquired position with poise and dignity. She has been commended for the fairness of her decisions and her court manner while seated during court sessions.

Personal interview with Justice Bolin January 23, 1940, in the Domestic Relations Court, 327 Schermahorn St. Brooklyn New York