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## —IDA O. CRESKOFF

*By* SABATO MORAIS BENDINER

ON August 15, 1947, the Judges of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit unanimously appointed Ida Oranovich Creskoff as Clerk of the Court, to succeed the late William P. Rowland, Esq. To Mrs. Creskoff has fallen the honor of being the first woman to occupy the position of Clerk of a Circuit Court of Appeals in the United States.

In commenting on some references to Portia contained among the congratulatory messages which Mrs. Creskoff received upon her appointment, she said that, while she appreciated the greetings, she hopes that some day people will remember that Portia never was a lawyer. "Portia made a good pretense rather than a good defense in a difficult case," said Mrs. Creskoff, "but she never went through the agonies which are part of every lawyer's training." Mrs. Creskoff's career at the Bar has made it clear that, given the requisites of integrity, ability and application, there are no real limitations upon the successful practice of law by women. In her professional work, Mrs. Creskoff considers herself primarily a lawyer, not a "woman lawyer", thereby once baffling a reporter who tried to get her to confess that her primary purpose in studying law was to aid widows and orphans.

As a student at the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Creskoff, then Miss Ida Oranovich, had a brilliant scholastic career, and created a number of precedents. Although she was the second woman to become a member of the Order of the Coif, Pennsylvania Chapter, she was the first to serve as a legal assistant to a member of the faculty of the Law School, when she was working with Dr. Edwin R. Keedy, later Dean of the Law School, in the preparation of several legal works, including a case book on the Law of Agency, and a case book on the Administration of Criminal Law. Later, following her graduation, she was the first woman to act as legal assistant for the American Law Institute, serving under Dean William E. Mikell, in his capacity as Reporter for the American Law Institute's Model Code of Criminal Procedure. For several

years thereafter, Mrs. Creskoff was associated in the practice of law with the firm of Levinthal, Schofield & Kraus.

In 1931, she became Law Clerk to the late Hon. J. Whitaker Thompson, Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. At that time such appointments were made by the Attorney General of the United States and Mrs. Creskoff's appointment was another "first", as no woman had ever preceded her in this capacity, although many such appointments have since been made. Following Judge Thompson's death, Mrs. Creskoff became Law Clerk to the Hon. Albert B. Maris, Judge of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and she rendered brilliant service in Judge Maris' Court until her present appointment. During her service with Judge Maris, Mrs. Creskoff was of great assistance to him in his capacity as Chief Judge of the United States Emergency Court of Appeals, making several extended trips throughout the United States with the Emergency Court. Mrs. Creskoff's skill and ability were frequently called upon by the Judges of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in the promulgation of new Rules of Court, which have been widely commended for their directness and clarity of expression.

Mrs. Creskoff was President of the College Alumni of Temple University, and she is an active member of the Lawyers' Club of Philadelphia and of the Federal Bar Association.

A graduate of the Philadelphia public schools and of the College of Liberal Arts of Temple University, Mrs. Creskoff is, in private life, the wife of Benjamin Creskoff and the mother of Miriam Ann, now nine years old. Mrs. Creskoff will confess to having no hobbies except combating her husband's love of mathematics. After watching her mother's career (before and after Court hours), Miriam Ann's ambition is to become a ballerina, or almost anything except a lawyer; and Mrs. Creskoff's chief ambitions are, first, to make the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appeals the most efficient in the country, and, second, to see that her colleagues in the Women Lawyers Bar Association receive recognition based upon their efforts in the profession of law, rather than upon Portia's plea for mercy.