



SYBIL HOLMES: POLITICIAN

by Liv Klawiter

Did You Know? Since Sybil Holmes' election to the Senate in 1936, only 210 women have served in the Massachusetts legislature compared to over 20,000 men.

Born in West Bridgewater, MA, Sybil Holmes moved to Brookline where she became a lawyer specializing in contracts, automobile insurance, industrial accidents, and probate law. Holmes first began her political career as a Brookline town meeting member and helped review appropriations and articles on the annual town meeting warrant.

In 1919, Holmes was elected president of the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers and was appointed to the state Commission on Unemployment and Minimum Wage shortly after. In 1936, she became the first woman elected to the Massachusetts State Senate. Holmes served for two years as a representative of Brookline.

