



Virginia Dill McCarty

Plainfield, Indiana
(Dec 15, 1924 – May 26, 2006)

Sources:

- Miller, Holly, (5 June 1977), "Virginia Dill McCarty Awaits Presidential Nod for District Attorney Post", *Anderson Herald* (<http://www.newspapers.com/image/26590607/?terms=%22virginia%2Bdill%2Bmccarty%22&match=3>)
- Staff of the Indiana Magazine of History, (31 October 2011), "A Woman's Bid for the Highest Post." *Indiana Magazine of History* (<http://indianapublicmedia.org/momentofindianahistory/womans-bid-highest-post/>)
- Virginia Dill McCarty Obituary (<http://hosting-4995.tributes.com/show/Virginia-Dill-McCarty-89240887>)



Photo Courtesy: Landman Beatty

Virginia Dill McCarty championed women's rights for Indiana women throughout her life. At a time when women didn't go to law school, McCarty attended the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis and graduated first in her class. During her career in law and government, she served as Assistant Indiana Attorney General and Chief Counsel to the Marion County Prosecutor. These roles led to Senator Birch Bayh recommending for U.S. District Attorney for Indiana's southern district in 1977. She was later appointed to that position by President Jimmy Carter. By accepting the position, she became the first woman in the country to be

appointed to a full term as a U.S. Attorney, serving in that capacity for four years.

McCarty was also the first woman to be nominated by a major party for Judge in Marion County, and became the first woman to be nominated as the Democratic candidate for Attorney General of Indiana in 1976. Then, in 1984, she became the first woman to seek a major party nomination for Governor of Indiana when she ran in the Democratic primary but lost to the eventual nominee, Wayne Townsend, who then was defeated by incumbent, Governor Robert Orr.

McCarty continued to law at Landman and Beatty, an Indianapolis law firm, until her death at the age of eighty-one in 2006. Throughout her career, which she pursued while raising two children, McCarty remained committed to public service and to securing equality for women in all areas of society. A native of Plainfield, she loved Indiana and believed it was the best place in the country to live. She was a colleague, a mentor and a friend to many younger attorneys; and she set a high bar for those women who aspired to serve their community.