



## Press Release

### June 1, 2008

In its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue, *Legal Times* named former Pattishall, McAuliffe partner Helen Nies as one of the 30 Greatest Washington Lawyer Pioneers as "having made an indelible impact on the practice of law in Washington, D.C."

In 1961, Nies joined Pattishall, and in 1965 became the firm's first female partner. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to serve as the first woman on the U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals. When the Court's jurisdiction was moved to the newly created U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in 1982, President Reagan named her to serve as the first woman on the court. In 1990, she replaced Howard Markey to become the first woman Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit. Nies didn't shy from the challenge of replacing the visionary Judge Markey upon his retirement and had a lace collar added to her judicial robes to acknowledge her pioneering status for women. For many years she was the highest ranking woman jurist in America, second only to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

