



Local Women Of Leadership Past and Present



NATALIE COUCH **FIRST WOMAN TO VOTE** **& Practice Law** **in Rockland County** **11/24/1887 - 10/19/1956**

Natalie Couch, the first woman to vote and practice law in Rockland County, lived and held “court” in the distinctive five-peaked tower on South Broadway and Depew Avenue a marker erected by the Historical Society of Rockland County records the achievements of Natalie Couch. Natalie Couch graduated from Wellesley College in 1907 and was first in her class at Fordham Law School. When the issue of extending the right to vote to women first appeared on the ballot in Rockland County in 1915, the measure lost by 400 votes. The initiative passed two years later and in 1918 Miss Natalie Couch became the first woman to cast a legal vote in our county. It was just the beginning of an impressive resume of firsts. Natalie Couch was the first woman to Practice law in Rockland County, Vote in an election in Rockland County, Serve as Journal Clerk to the New York State Assembly, Win election as President of the Rockland County Bar Association, Win election as Vice-Chair of the Rockland County Republican Committee, Stand for election in a contest between two women (a national first) from 1942 to 1951, her law offices became temporary meeting place for the New York State Supreme Court and Town Hall for Orangetown, which is why this building is known by many as Couch Court.