

Former Utah Supreme Court Justice Speaks on Equality at the U



The Honorable Christine M. Durham (Photo credit: Julia Ritchey, KUER 90.1 FM)

By Katelyn Collett
March 12, 2019

Christine M. Durham, the first female appointed to the Utah Supreme Court, spoke at the sixth annual Aileen H. Clyde 20th Century Women's Legacy Archive hosted at the U's Marriott Library on March 7.

Before her talk, Durham told The Daily Utah Chronicle that she agreed to speak at the event because she considered Aileen Clyde a friend. In reference to Clyde, Durham said, "She has done an enormous amount of service for the court," and, "I always considered her a mentor and like a second mother."

After her introduction by Judge Carolyn B. McHugh of the tenth district court, Durham began her speech by thanking the foundation and saying that it is "beyond appropriate [that] this archive should be named after Aileen." Durham started with her experience on the "gender and justice task force" and said, "I was the person who knew most about gender and justice."

Durham wanted students in the audience to know, "It's hard to get in touch with the olden times because we experience the world as it is," but that it is important to learn those things. Near the beginning of her speech, she asked the women in the audience, "Who remembers a time when they couldn't get a loan or credit card by themselves?" Many women in attendance raised a hand.



Christine M. Durham Photo credit speaks at the sixth annual Aileen H. Clyde 20th Century Legacy Women's Archive Lecture on Mar 7, 2019 (Photo by Katelyn Collett | The Daily Utah Chronicle)

Even though Durham recognizes the progress of women's rights, she says there is some work that still needs to be done. She told the Chronicle, "I hope to remind today's students, especially women students, with all that has changed there are still enormous things to be done."

The Aileen H. Clyde 20th Century Women's Legacy Archive is focused on collecting historical records of women throughout history. Durham states that she was selected to speak at the event because of her "experience during the history." She offered observations of women's rights and opportunities as they are now and how it should look in the future.

Emilee Carr, a current BYU student, traveled from a different school just to hear Durham speak, stating that she was "interested in Utah culture and inspiring women." The majority of the students that were in attendance for Durham's visit came from a school other than the U. According to BYU student Beck Seamons, attendance at the event "fulfills an assignment for a class."

Durham spoke about the women's movement in the early days of the "second wave," a time during which she herself was fighting for her right to an education in law. She recounted a story about a friend of her husband that had worse grades and test scores than she did who was able to get into Harvard Law School, while she did not. Durham ended up getting her law degree at Duke University which she said was "better."

Her ultimate message was that "the torch is being passed from women of my generation to your generation, and it's very important to educate yourself about the future and the past."

k.collett@thedailyutahchronicle.com
@kate_lyn_noel

Leave a Comment

- Aileen H. Clyde 20th Century Woman's Legacy Archive, Beck Seamons, Christine M. Durham, Emilee Carr, gender equality, implicit bias, Marriott Library, Sexual assault, the university of utah, u of u, University of Utah, Utah Supreme Court, women

More in Campus

Grid of 6 campus-related articles with images and titles: Supreme Court Finds Race-Conscious Admissions Unconstitutional, U Student Reflects on Experiences of Mission Trip to Bosnia, Latine Students Recount Negative Experience with Campus Police During Protest, Abelarado Morell Provides Exactly What is Promised in His New Exhibit, Dining Services Offers Continuous Dining at Urban Bytes and PHC for Rest of Spring 2023 Semester, New Arab Student Association at the U Provides Inviting Community

More in Featured

Grid of 6 featured articles with images and titles: Critics vs. the Fans: How This Feud is Really on a Spectrum, 'The Bear' Season Two is Exquisite Storytelling, 'Past Lives': A Timeless and Instant Classic, Letter: Sexual Assault on College Campuses, Loken: Where Are the White First-Generation Scholars?, What's Inside 'Insidious: The Red Door'

More in News

Grid of 6 news articles with images and titles: 'Unpacking Settler Colonialism Amongst Native Hawaiians', SCOTUS Blocks Biden's Loan Forgiveness Plan, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is Home for this Komodo Dragon, U's Long COVID Clinic: Two Years and 1800 Patients In, Students for the Wasatch: Leading Student Advocacy Against Gondola B, Photo Series: 2023 Utah Pride Parade - A Colorful Celebration of Love and Acceptance

About the Contributor Katelyn Collett

Write for Us, Latest Stories (UDOT Moves Forward with Gondola B Plans in Little Cottonwood, A Swiftie Examines The Taylor Swift Obsession, Critics vs. the Fans: How This Feud is Really on a Spectrum, 'The Bear' Season Two is Exquisite Storytelling, 'Past Lives': A Timeless and Instant Classic)

@TheChrony social media post from July 12 regarding Utah Department of Transportation plans.

Print Issues

