



# EDITH I. SPIVACK

Edith graduated Barnard College in 1919 and Columbia Law School in 1922. Unfortunately – and common for the time – her first legal boss “discharged” her when she got married. Edith joined the Law Department in 1934 during Fiorello La Guardia’s mayoralty. She broke in by volunteering in Workers’ Compensation, all while sporting white gloves, a muff and high heels, as was the day’s custom. After 10 years, she transferred to the then-Real Estate Tax Division. She handled major office cases including *Walz v. Tax Commission*, a U.S. Supreme Court tax matter, and Penn

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**Edith I. Spivack (1910-2005)** Beloved and groundbreaking, Edith became one of New York City’s first female attorneys. She joined the Law Department in 1934 during Fiorello La Guardia’s mayoralty. She “officially” retired in 1995 but continued working weekly until 2004 at age 94. Colleagues remember her courtly manner, warmth, abundant love and spicy wit.

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Central Railroad’s bankruptcy (in which the company surprisingly made the check out to her directly, but “I was an honest woman”). In 1976, she became Executive Assistant Corporation Counsel. She “officially” retired in 1995 but continued working weekly until 2004 at age 94. Colleagues remember her courtly manner, warmth, abundant love and spicy wit. She brought down the house at her 2004 City Hall ceremony when she teased Mayor Michael Bloomberg that his mother only went to New York University, because she “couldn’t get into Barnard.” Her many honors include the office’s Edith I. Spivack Recognition Award. Edith’s spirit resonates with everyone she touched – and beyond.