



Lydia, 13, and Marilyn, 12, give their mother a kiss after she was sworn in at the Supreme Court yesterday.

Pat finds new arena for her fights

When Patricia O'Shane was a young girl she fought most of her battles with her fists.

But now Ms O'Shane, 34—she insists on the title—will fight in a more conventional manner — in the courts.

Yesterday she became Australia's first Aboriginal barrister.

There to see her admitted to the Bar by NSW Chief Justice Sir Laurence Street were her two daughters and proud father.

The family came from Cairns to see Ms O'Shane, of Fall St, Cremorne, sworn in.

Welcomed

Sir Laurence, congratulating the 98 new barristers and solicitors, made special mention of Ms O'Shane.

He said he welcomed her as the first Aboriginal to become a member of the NSW Bar.

After the ceremony Ms O'Shane said it was "tremendous" to be Australia's first Aboriginal barrister.

She said she decided to do law because of the injustices Aborigines faced in Australia.

"All my life I have been fighting against injustice and I will continue to do so," she said.

Telegraph 7th February 1976