

MARJORIE M. SHOSTAK

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First Vice-President, Foreign Trade Association of Southern California

MARJORIE M. SHOSTAK, one of the comparatively few attorneys in the United States who specialize in Customs law practice, devotes her efforts exclusively to the representation of importers in customs matters and other foreign trade problems related to the importation of merchandise into the United States. She is the only woman attorney in the private practice of Customs law who regularly attends circuit sessions of the United States Customs Court at ports of entry on the Pacific Coast, along the Mexican Border, in Texas, and at New Orleans.

A native of Nebraska, she received her B.A. degree in 1935 from the University of Nebraska, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She has been associated with the practice of Customs law since 1935, when she began work as law clerk in the office of the late Philip Stein, nationally known authority on Customs law (*World Trade Personality No. 36*). In 1946, she became a partner in the firm, the name of which was changed in 1955 to Stein and Shostak.

Miss Shostak is a member of the Bar of the State of California, the United States Customs Court, which has nation-wide jurisdiction over customs controversies of a civil nature, the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States. She is also admitted to practice before the Treasury Department and all field offices of the Bureau of Customs throughout the United States. Now first vice-president of the Foreign Trade Association of Southern California, Miss Shostak served as chairman of its Legislation Committee in 1955 and 1956; as secretary of the association in 1958; and as its second vice-president in 1959. She has been a director of the association since 1957, the first woman to serve on the board of that association in its 41-year history. An active member of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Miss Shostak serves on its World Trade Committee, and has acted as Chairman of its Import Legislation and Customs Committee since 1955. She is also a member of the West Coast Foreign Trade Group of the U. S. Department of Commerce; Los Angeles World Affairs Council; and the National Council of American Importers, Inc.

Miss Shostak took an active part in the civic campaign to obtain a new Custom House and Federal Office Building for Los Angeles. The campaign to obtain Congressional authorization for the building was initiated in 1944 by Philip Stein, then chairman of the Import Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Title to the expanded site has now been acquired, and it is expected that construction of the building, to cost \$38,000,000, may begin in 1961.

From 1946 to 1953, Miss Shostak and Mr. Stein instructed classes at the University of Southern California on United States Customs Administration and Procedure, the first course of its kind given at any university or college in the United States. Miss Shostak also collaborated with Mr. Stein in the preparation of text books on the subject, and a brochure on the United States Customs Court published in 1950.

