



Elreta Melton Alexander '45 (1919–1998)—a savvy trial lawyer, strategic litigator, and respected judge with theatrical flair—was a pioneer throughout her storied career. She was the first Black woman to graduate from Columbia Law School and the first Black woman in North Carolina to be licensed and practice as a lawyer, to argue before its Supreme Court, and to be elected a judge. Prior to attending college, Elreta graduated from James B. Dudley High School at age 15!!!