



Eliza "Lyda" Burton CONLEY

Eliza "Lyda" Burton Conley (ca. 1869-1946) was a member of the Wyandot Nation and is thought to be the first female lawyer of Indian descent in the United States. She pursued a law degree after her ancestors' burial grounds were threatened despite their protected status from an 1855 treaty. Lyda graduated from the Kansas City School of Law in 1902 and was admitted to the Missouri and Kansas bar associations. In 1910, after several years of fighting efforts to sell the cemetery land, Lyda became the first Native woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Though she lost that battle, more followed, and today the Huron Indian Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places.