

WILLIAM ALEXANDER MASSEY

Washoe County Bar's First President

William Alexander MASSEY served as Washoe County Bar's first president and was also a United States senator from Nevada.

He was born in Oakfield, Trumbull County, Ohio, October 7, 1856 and moved with his parents to Edgar County, Ill., in 1865. He attended the common schools, Union Christian College, Merom, Ind., and the Indiana Asbury (now De Pauw) University, Greencastle, Ind. It was there he studied law and was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1877 and commenced practice in Sullivan, Indiana.

He moved to San Diego, Calif., in 1886 and then on to Nevada in 1887, where he prospected and mined, subsequently taking up the practice of law in Elko, Nevada. He was a member of the Nevada State House of Representatives 1892-1894; a district attorney 1894-1896; and justice of the Nevada State Supreme Court 1896-1902. He later moved to



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Reno and resumed the practice of law. He was appointed as a Republican to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of George S. Nixon and served from July 1, 1912 to January 29, 1913, when a successor was elected. He then resumed the practice of law in Reno. He died on a train near Litchfield, Nevada on March 5, 1914 and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Reno.

Source:
Biographical
Directory of the
United States
Congress

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