



Yona Owens, seen here in 1973, was an Interior Communications Electrician (IC) in the Navy. IC was a rating that emphasized shipboard systems; however, in 1973 women were barred from shipboard billets. As the Navy refused to assign her to shipboard posts, Owens decided to volunteer with shipboard IC departments when she was off-duty. Sensing that her career would be limited without sea duty, Owens ultimately decided to work with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to file a class-action lawsuit against the Navy. *Owens v. Brown*, decided in July 1978, succeeded in opening shipboard billets to women.

*Image courtesy of James L. Leuci from the Yona Owens Collection.*