

The Daily Investor:

Are Women Accepted As Investigating Brokers?

By WILLIAM A. DOYLE

QUESTION: My daughter will be graduated from high school this year. In one of her classes she studied the stock market and investments. She is very interested in this field. Would you say that a girl could have a successful career in that business — perhaps even become a broker?

ANSWER: I would say that a girl can have a successful career in the brokerage business. Many women have already done so. Although the brokerage business (like many other businesses) is still pretty much a man's world, the ladies are breaking down more previously-closed doors all the time.

You'll find lots of women in the jobs most people think of when they use the word "broker." By this I mean registered representatives of

brokerage houses. Some women have gone on to become officers and partners of brokerage firms.

But there's one thing your daughter should not aspire to. No matter how successful she becomes, she really can't hope to become a member of the New York Stock Exchange. All members of the NYSE are men.

For at least five years now I have had a standing 25-cent bet with a reader who swears that the unwritten rule against female membership on the NYSE will fall. I'm not worried about losing that small wager.

The natural advice on curriculum is for your daughter to study business administration. Many colleges and universities offer that type of study. I suggest she check with her school's guidance counselor.