

Zu Recht wieder Anwalt, Juedische Rechtsanwaelte aus Berlin nach 1945
Hans Bergemann, Rechtsanwaltskammer Berlin (Hg.)
Hentrich & Hentrich

Lawyer Again as of Right, Jewish Lawyers from Berlin after 1945

Neumann, Hilde (born Rosenfeld, divorced Kirchheimer)

April 13, 1905 Berlin – Sept 11, 1959 Berlin

Daughter of the lawyer and left SPD politician Kurt Rosenfeld

Attended the Dorothee school in Berlin-Moabit and the First City High School

Studied law in Berlin, Freiburg and Bonn; member of the Marxist student group.

Joined the SPD (Socialist party of Germany) in 1925. There she was a speaker on Women's and Rights' questions.

Married Dr. Otto Kirchheimer in 1928.

Passed the bar in winter 1931/2. Starting June 1932 a lawyer at the KG (?), entered her father's legal office; defense lawyer in many political cases which were handled by Rote Hilfe (Red Help).

In 1933 she was forbidden to practice and emigrated to Paris.

Quote from an autobiographical statement apparently written in 1947:

"When my father, shortly after the Reichtagsbrand had to emigrate, I continued the work of his office. At that time, the work consisted almost entirely of the defense of the politically accused. About the middle of April some police officials warned me that I was about to be arrested because I was too active on behalf of these clients. So, on Easter 1933, I left for France for what I thought would be a short time. There I soon received an exclusion from the legal profession, first because of my connection with Red Help, and then again later for racial reasons. The searches of my house and office continued and I had to realize that I could not return."

1933-39 she worked at the International Red Help/MOPR in Paris (including in the defense committee for those charged in the Reichtags fire trials and in the International Jurists Union)

1935-36 spent a year in the Soviet Union studying its legal system.

1936 left the Socialist party for the Communist party.

December 1938 lost her German citizenship.

1940 was interned a month in the concentration camp Rieucros in southwest France.

1940 emigrated via USA to Mexico, together with her future second husband, Dr. Rudolf Neumann.

1941 divorced from Kirchheimer and married Neumann.

In Mexico she was active in the circles of the political exiles

Was a leader of the "Heinrich-Heine_Club"

Spring 1947 returned to Germany, East-Berlin, with her husband.

Joined the SED (Sozialistische Einheits Partei, socialist unity party)
Starting 1947 she had a variety of tasks in the build-up of the system of justice in the Soviet sector and later in the German Democratic Republic.

1949-50 President of the East Berlin I.G.

1950-53 magistrate director for Justice in Berlin

simultaneously leader of justice section of the central board of directors of the SED

taught at the party high school "Karl Marx" of the central committee of the SED

worked closely with Hilde Benjamin

1953-59 chief editor of the magazine New Justice

1958-59 central secretary of the Union of Democratic Jurists of Germany

1959 medical leave and died shortly thereafter.

Received the Order of Fatherland Accomplishment in bronze in 1958 and the "Banner of Work" in 1959.