

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Judge Ellen Bree Burns

Date 2000 November 15

Primary Maker Ellen Bree Burns

Description Oral history interview with Judge Ellen Bree Burns who was interviewed by Judge A. Susan Peck on November 15, 2000 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project.

Topics Discussed: - Early Background and Education : Ellen Bree Burns was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on December 13, 1923, and lived most of her life in Hamden, Connecticut. - Family: Her father worked in the State Labor Department as a Veterans' Employment representative. Her mother was a housewife who later worked as an inspector during World War II. - Early Education: Spring Glen Grammar School and Hamden High School, graduating from high school in 1941. - Family Lawyers: Her paternal grandfather, uncle, and brother were lawyers, and her father attended law school for a year before World War I. - College: She attended Albertus Magnus in New Haven, graduating in September 1944 with an English major. - Mary Goode Rogan. - Yale Law School Experience : Entered Yale Law School in the summer of 1945, and completed the three-year program in two years due to wartime acceleration. She graduated in 1947. - Women at Yale Law School: Yale Law School accepted women earlier than Harvard, which started in 1952. Approximately five or six women were in Burns' class. - Yale Library. - First Job: Her first job after law school was with the legislative commissioner's office in Connecticut, revising Connecticut statutes.

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She started in 1949 and found the work intriguing and exciting. - Law Firms and

Associations: She was invited to join Bill Gordon, a practicing lawyer in Hartford,

and later became a partner in Gordon, Muir and Hollis. She was a member of the

Federal Practice Committee and the Connecticut Bar Association. - Challenges

as a Woman in Law. - Marriage and Children: She married in 1955. She had three

children.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 49 Minutes