

# Basic Detail Report

## **Title Interview with Eunice S. Groark**

Date 2001 January 22

Primary Maker Eunice S. Groark

Description Oral history interview with Eunice S. Groark who was interviewed by

Judge Beverly J. Hodgson on January 22, 2001 for the Connecticut Bar

Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project.

Topic Discussed: - Childhood and Family: Born in Sharon, Connecticut. Lived on

a small farm until about age six. Her father was elected to the state legislature

from Salisbury in 1943. Her father became Chief of Staff to Ray Baldwin in 1944-

1945 when Baldwin took office. Moved to Hartford due to her father's political

involvement. Childhood exposure to politics. Republicans gathering at their

house and visiting the Capitol. - College: At Westover, she was president of the

Dramatic Club. At Bryn Mawr, she was president of a major government club and

was involved with issues related to the integration movement in the South.

Majored in political science and philosophy of religion at Bryn Mawr. - Post-

College Work Experience: After graduating from Bryn Mawr, she worked for the

Curtis Publishing Company in Philadelphia for about a year, doing statistical

abstracts. Moved to New York and worked for "The International Art Market," a

newsletter listing auction prices, handling business and circulation. The

newsletter was started by the Ochs family, who owned the New York Times. -

Law School: Decided to go to law school in the spring of 1962, took the LSATs at

NYU. Attended the University of Connecticut School of Law, with her father

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paying her tuition in exchange for her living at home. In her entering class at

UConn Law School, there were four women out of about 140 students. - Married

to Tom Groark at the end of her second year of law school in 1964. Worked at the

UConn Law School library, becoming the first woman to do so, mentored by

Shirley Bysiewicz (mother of Susan Bysiewicz). - Early Legal Career: Graduated

from law school and took the bar in 1965. Did not immediately open her own

practice, but did so in 1981. - Sadie Glantz and Ethel Donaghue. - Environmental:

Earned a master's degree at Michigan in environmental sciences. - Hartford

Politics and City Council: Her family considerations influenced her decision to

work locally in Hartford, starting in September 1967 at Day, Berry and Howard.

Began running for public office in 1981. Served on the Hartford City Council in

1981. - Republican Town Committee. - Run for Mayor: Ran for mayor in 1985

against Thirman Milner, the first black mayor in New England. - Corporation

Counsel and Later Political Engagements.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 42 Minutes, 7 Seconds