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Title Interview with Magistrate Katherine Y. Hutchinson

Date 2004 July 13

Primary Maker Katherine Y. Hutchinson

Description Oral history interview with Magistrate Katherine Y. Hutchinson who was interviewed by Judge Barbara M. Quinn on July 13, 2004 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topics Discussed: - Background: Katherine Yeomans Hutchinson was born on September 1, 1936, in Hartford, Connecticut and grew up in Andover. Her father was an attorney at Spellasy and Yeomans in Hartford and later became the Clerk of the Courts for Tolland County. - Early Interests and Education: Katherine developed an early interest in law, frequently accompanying her father to his office and court from around age six. She attended Windham High School. - College: She attended Skidmore College for two years, then transferred to the University of Connecticut to enter their combined program for law school. - Law School Experience: She attended the University of Connecticut Law School from 1957 until 1960, graduating in 1960. She was married at the end of her first year of law school. Initially, five women started in her law school class, but only two finished. She noted initial skepticism from some male classmates about women in law school. - Bar Exam: She took the Bar Exam in June 1960 and was sworn in around August 1960. She recalls almost being denied entry to the swearing-in room because she was a woman. - Early Career and Private Practice: After graduating in 1960, she took a part-time job at a one-man firm in Rockville with

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Edwin Lavitt. She became full-time three years later. She served as Town

Attorney for Andover for 24 years, which involved drafting ordinances and

handling condemnations, among other diverse legal areas. She generally

continued to do the same type of general practice work until leaving private

practice in 1984. - Impact of Technology: She is positive about it as technology

has made the legal practice more efficient.