

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Ellen B. Lubell

Date 2004 August 11

Primary Maker Ellen B. Lubell

Description Oral history interview with Ellen B. Lubell who was interviewed by

Judge Joseph M. Shortall on August 11, 2004 for the Connecticut Bar

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

Topic Discussion: - Personal Background: Ellen Bloom Lubell was born in

October 1947 in New York. Her father was a freelance writer who wrote "The

Trouble with Lawyers," and her mother was a trained therapist. Her current

husband is a lawyer. - Interest in Law: Ellen developed an interest in law after

deciding against teaching English or French. - Education: She attended public

school in Great Neck, NYU for undergraduate studies (1965-1969), and the

University of Connecticut Law School, choosing UConn due to her husband

working in New Haven and not getting into Yale. At NYU, she majored in English

and French. - Law School Experience: Ellen married the summer she graduated

college and went directly to law school. Her law school class had eight women

out of 150 students. She participated in the Legal Clinic in her last year. - Notable

Classmates: Anne Dranginis who is now an Appellate Court Judge. -

Discrimination and Sexism: She faced discouraging comments from male

classmates and professors during the Vietnam War, and sexist remarks from

professors regarding her marriage and domestic responsibilities. - U.S. invasion

of Cambodia, 1970. - Law School and Public Defender Role: Ellen passed the

Basic Detail Report

Connecticut Bar. She initially wanted to be a Public Defender. She started

working in New Haven in 1972 as an Assistant Public Defender, a position she

held for three years, and then in Danbury for eight years until 1981. She handled

various cases, including felonies, and encountered resistance from state

attorneys and court clerks. - Transition to Private Practice: In 1981, she left

public defender work and entered private practice in Westport, Connecticut. She

initially looked for criminal defense work but ended up in a high-end divorce

practice.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 37 Minutes