

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Eve W. Paul

Date 2007 September 12

Primary Maker Eve W. Paul

Description Oral history interview with Eve W. Paul who was interviewed by

Jeremy R. Paul on September 12, 2007 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's

History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topics Discussed:

- Background and Early Life: Eve Paul was born in New York City in 1930. Her mother was from Kiev, Russia, and her father from Leipzig, Germany. Her father established a fur business branch in New York in 1925, and they were fortunate to escape the Holocaust as a Jewish family. - Early Education: Eve attended New York City public schools. - Higher Education: She attended Cornell University and Columbia Law School. She started at Cornell in 1946. A Constitutional Law course with Professor Robert Cushman at Cornell influenced her decision to go to law school. She also worked on the Cornell Daily Sun, serving as editorial director and Associate Editor. - Law School: After one year at Cornell Law School, she transferred to Columbia Law School in 1952, where she was accepted onto the Law Review. Eve focused on business law courses rather than those specifically related to women, aiming to do the same work as men due to existing prejudice. - Early Career in Law : After graduating in 1952, Eve passed the Bar Exam on her first attempt. She faced significant difficulty finding her first job, being rejected by 25 law firms. She eventually secured a job at Hays, Wolf, Schwabacher, Sklar & Epstein through a friend. Her initial work involved

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preparing memos on tiny aspects of cases, with no clinical training in law school.

She then worked briefly for a securities lawyer, Bernard Cahn, before becoming

pregnant. - Gender Discrimination: Her employer found a pregnant woman

lawyer unacceptable, leading to her departure. - Move to Connecticut and

Independent Practice : Eve married in April 1952, just before graduating from

law school. In 1958, she and her family moved to Stamford, Connecticut. She

established her own law practice, renting space from friends Paul Shapero and

James Bingham, who later became judges in Connecticut. Her practice involved

wills, real estate closings, and matrimonial law. - Political and Legal

Involvements: She became involved in the North Stamford Democratic Club, ran

unsuccessfully for the State Legislature against Hilda Clark, and was appointed

to the Planning Board. - First Women's Bank of Connecticut : Eve Paul co-

founded the First Women's Bank of Connecticut in Greenwich with Lois Sontag

and other women. Research for establishing the bank revealed significant

difficulties women faced in obtaining loans, mortgages, or even charge

accounts. The bank operated for several years. - Return to New York and Work at

Legal Aid Society : In 1970, Eve and her family moved back to New York City

because her mother became ill, requiring Eve to be closer as an only child. Her

first job back in New York was with the Legal Aid Society's Children's Division,

representing juveniles charged with delinquency or PINS (Persons In Need of

Supervision). - Planned Parenthood and Reproductive Rights Advocacy: After

leaving Legal Aid, Eve was directed by the Columbia Placement Office to a job

opening related to Planned Parenthood. She joined a study commissioned by

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the Department of Health Education and Welfare researching birth control laws

in all fifty states. This work took place just before Roe v. Wade. After the study,

Harriet Pilpel, a senior partner at Greenbaum, Wolf & Ernst and general counsel

for Planned Parenthood, hired Eve to work at her law firm. Eve worked on

amicus briefs for Planned Parenthood related to Roe v. Wade. Around 1978, she

transitioned to working directly for Planned Parenthood full-time, initially as the

only lawyer on staff, building up a legal team. She handled corporate matters

like contracts and trademark issues. Eve was at Planned Parenthood for 25 years.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 3 Minutes