

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Marcia Smith

Date 2007 October 3

Primary Maker Marcia Smith

Description Oral history interview with Marcia Smith who was interviewed by Sharon Brais on October 3, 2007 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project.

- Early Life/Education:

Marcia Smith, born in 1931 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, discusses her early education, graduating from Bassick High School in 1949.

- College and Interests:

She recounts her love for history, studying it at UConn and the University of Pennsylvania.

- Post-Great Depression Era: Financial hardships for her and her family.

- Harvard Law School Experience: In 1953, she applied to various law schools. As a member of the fourth class of women admitted to Harvard Law,

she describes the lack of facilities for women and the pervasive discrimination from professors.

- Mentions: Civil Rights and Women's movements.

- Korean War Veterans: She notes the presence of Korean War veterans in her class, who were generally older and less arrogant than other male students.

- Bar Exam and Early Career in Public Service: Smith recounts preparing for the Bar Exam in New Haven with her cousin and other friends. She discusses the LSATs.

- Post-graduation: She sought opportunities with Cy Cone, a U.S. Attorney, and eventually joined the Legislative Commissioner's Office 1957 to 1959.

- Life After Marriage: Marcia Smith left her job when she married in 1959 and moved to Torrington.

- Social Norms: She reflects on the societal expectations for women

Basic Detail Report

to prioritize marriage and family over careers. - Community Involvement: She

was actively involved in various community organizations in Torrington,

including the League, Catholic Charities, and the Junior Republic Board.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 11 Minutes, 53 Seconds