

# Basic Detail Report

## **Title Interview with Brenda A. Eckert**

Date 2016 November 3

Primary Maker Brenda A. Eckert

Description Oral history interview with Brenda A. Eckert who was interviewed by Susan Peck on November 3, 2016 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topics Discussed: - Early Life: Brenda A. Eckert was born in Hartford, Connecticut on March 28, 1945, and grew up in Newington, Connecticut. Her parents were self-employed; her father ran a milk processing plant and her mother managed the business. - Teenage Years: As a teenager, Brenda Eckert volunteered as a candy striper at VNA hospital in Newington at age 16 and worked as a sales clerk at Casual Corner in West Hartford. She graduated from Newington High School. - College Education : She chose to attend Sarah Lawrence College for psychology and physiological psychology. She published an article on brain stimulation research in the Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence in 1967. - Law School Experience : Brenda decided to pursue law due to her enjoyment of arguments. She initially attended Columbia Law School in 1969 but found the environment difficult, especially during the Kent State riots. She left Columbia and transferred to UConn Law School. She graduated from UConn Law in 1973, ranking first in her class. - Early Career: In the early 1970s, during her job interviews, Brenda Eckert encountered discriminatory questions. She opted for a one-year federal clerkship with Judge Jon Newman in

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the U.S. District Court in Connecticut, beginning in September 1973. She was

Judge Newman's first female clerk and first UConn Law graduate clerk. -

Shipman & Goodwin: After her clerkship, Brenda joined the firm Shipman &

Goodwin. She was the only woman lawyer at the firm from 1974 until about

1978. She became a partner in 1979. - Diversity and Firm Culture Evolution:

Brenda Eckert observes Shipman & Goodwin's progress in diversity. The firm has

implemented flexible work schedules, maternity/paternity leave, and remote

work options for both men and women.

Dimensions Duration: 9 Minutes, 37 Seconds