

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Judge Wendy W. Susco

Date 2001 March 28

Description Oral history interview with Judge Wendy W. Susco who was interviewed by Anne M. Hamilton on March 28, 2001 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project.

Topics Discussed: - Early Life: Wendy Susco was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1944 and grew up in Cheshire. Her mother was a professional volunteer, and her father was an electrical engineer and Minority Selectman in Cheshire. - High School: She attended Cheshire High School. During summers, she worked selling things and participated in Girl Scouts and 4-H during the school year. She had an internship at the Peabody Museum in New Haven. - College: She attended Smith College, graduating in 1966. She chose Smith, an all-women's college, believing she would be taken more seriously as a student. She majored in Government and was active in political campaigns, including an Ed Brooke campaign for Senate. - Law School: She took her LSATs in the fall of her senior year and was accepted to the University of Connecticut. She worked for a lawyer in Springfield, Massachusetts before starting law school at night. She graduated from law school in 1971. Shirley Bysiewicz, the law librarian, was the only woman teaching at UConn at that time, and she taught Legal Writing. - First Job: After graduating, she took a job in the law department of Connecticut General Life Insurance Company in Hartford. She was the first woman lawyer hired by the corporation. Her work involved claims litigation, personnel

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department legal issues, and representing the corporation in discrimination

complaints. - Transition to Teaching Law: She started teaching law at the

University of Connecticut in 1974. She taught Civil Procedure, Administrative

Law, Insurance Law, and Fair Employment Practices. - Becoming a Judge: She

became a judge in 1982. Before becoming a judge, she was a law professor and a

member of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in Connecticut.

She also headed their Legislative Committee and dealt with members of the

Judiciary Committee.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 56 Minutes, 6 Seconds