

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Jeanette T. Carrozzella

Date 2007 October 10

Description Oral history interview with Jeanette T. Carrozzella who was interviewed by Helen Z. Pearl on October 10, 2007 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project.

Topics Discussed: - Background : Jeanette was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on November 30, 1930. Her parents, George and Ida Tortorice, were Italian immigrants; her father was a printer and her mother a dressmaker. - Education: Jeanette grew up in Hartford, attended Hartford Public High School, and graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts in 1952, majoring in Government and History. - Law Interest: She first applied to the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1952 but was intimidated due to the low number of women in law at the time. - Yale: She then attended Yale School of Nursing for one year but disliked it because she was not interested in biological sciences. - Law School (1953-1956): She reapplied and was accepted to the University of Connecticut School of Law and attended from 1953 to 1956, graduating in 1956. She was the only woman in her class - Bar Admission: Jeanette took the Bar Exam in 1956 and was admitted in New Haven at the Superior Court. She also took a Bar Review course. - Marriage and Early Career: After graduation, Jeanette married Jack Carrozzella, and they had four children. Upon returning to Wallingford, Connecticut, she encountered a law firm that would not accept a woman lawyer. In July 1959, she became the Clerk of the Wallingford Town

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Court. She served until January 1961 when Town Courts were abolished and

became part of the Circuit Court System. - Career Advancement: Her career

primarily involved court administration, advancing as courts merged from Town

to Circuit, then Common Pleas, and finally Superior Court. Her most significant

role was as supervisor of all Clerks in the State of Connecticut, where she

implemented legislation, notably the erasure law for criminal records. -

Experiences as a Woman in the Legal Profession: Jeanette graduated from law

school before the Women's Movement. She received attention and positive

impressions as a rare woman lawyer but acknowledged discrimination in firms.

She did not face issues with male attorneys or judges as she was not a

competitor.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 10 Minutes, 33 Seconds