

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima

Date 2016 October 26

Description Oral history interview with Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima who was interviewed by Kathryn Calibey on October 26, 2016 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project.

Topics Discussed: - Family and Childhood Background: Alexandra Davis

DiPentima was born and raised in Kent, Connecticut. Her father was an English

teacher and department chairman at Kent School. - Education: She attended

Kent School, a boarding prep school, from age 14 for four years. After Kent

School, she attended Princeton University, graduating in 1975. She chose

Princeton partly because her father had attended there. She majored in

intellectual history, focusing on the history of ideas in Europe. At Princeton in

1971, during the end of the Vietnam War, she became involved in music, joining

the co-ed Glee Club and an all-women acappella group. - Gap Year Experience:

After graduating from Princeton, she took a gap year. She moved to Baltimore,

Maryland, to live with her sister and worked with a professor at Johns Hopkins

University in field research and surveying patients inner-city Baltimore and

Columbia, Maryland - Marriage: During her gap year, she met her husband,

Anthony DiPentima, a practicing attorney in Hartford, through a softball league,

and they married a couple of years later. - Law School: She started law school in

the fall of 1976 at the University of Connecticut Law School. There were a

significant number of women in her class. - Current Involvement with Law

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School: As of 2012, she has been an adjunct professor at UConn School of Law,

co-teaching Connecticut Civil Procedure with Chief Justice Chase Rogers every

other year. - Law Students (Then vs. Now): She observes the size and technology

of current law school classes. - Bar Admission and Early Career: She became a

member of the Connecticut Bar in October 1979, after taking the bar exam in

July 1979. She was sworn in by Judge Norris O'Neill in the Litchfield Judicial

District Court. Her first job was with Connecticut Legal Services in Willimantic.

She was often handling cases primarily related to spousal abuse, contested

custody divorces, and housing.

Dimensions Duration: 8 Minutes, 59 Seconds