

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Patricia Froehlich

Date 2016 October 26

Description Oral history interview with Patricia Froehlich who was interviewed

by Stephen Conover on October 26, 2016 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's

History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topics Discussed:

- Early Background: Patricia parents' occupations - her father in construction

and her mother as a bank teller and loan officer. - High School: Her experience in

a small town on Eastern Long Island's north shore. Initially wanted to work as a

secretary after starting college. - Colleges: She attended Suffolk Community

College and later George Washington University in 1983. - Educational Journey:

Patricia elaborates on her motivation to become a prosecutor, stemming from a

fascination with criminal justice and psychology, and a desire to understand

both the perpetrators and the impact on victims. She transferred from George

Washington to the University of Florida. - Family Support: Her mother bought

her her first Black's Law Dictionary. - CT Law School: Patricia moved to

Connecticut and began law school at the University of Bridgeport in 1986,

graduating in 1989. - Law School Experience: Patricia, at age 29, was considered

an older student but found a supportive study group with other women at the

University of Bridgeport. She worked part-time doing title searches and legal

research. She gained practical experience through a summer temp agency job

and later by securing a summer position with Steve Conover's firm. - Transition

to Legal Profession: Patricia's work with Steve Conover's office in her third year

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was crucial in her development from a law student to an aspiring attorney. -

Early Prosecutorial Career and Professional Challenges: Patricia started an internship at the Danbury State's Attorney's office in December 1988. She gained significant courtroom experience, trying motor vehicle infraction cases as a law student. After the bar exam in December 1989, she began working as a paid per diem for the Danbury State's Attorney's office as an attorney. She then worked as a temporary Assistant Clerk in Waterbury Superior Court before returning to Steve Conover's firm in March 1990 as an independent contractor, becoming an Associate in May 1990. - State's Attorney Role and Community Involvement: In August 1990, the hiring freeze was lifted, and Patricia was appointed as a Deputy Assistant State's Attorney, sworn in on September 28, 1990. Her work included reviewing warrants and handling criminal dockets. In July 2001, she became the State's Attorney for Windham. She served in this role for fifteen years, retiring on August 1, 2016. She later became active in the Windham County Bar Association, chairing the Public Service Committee. Through this committee, she initiated a project providing backpacks with essential items for women and children in local shelters. - Evolution of Legal Practice and Technology's Impact: Patricia noted a shift in legal practice from more trials in the early stages of her career to more diversionary programs and negotiated dispositions in later years. Technology significantly influenced her work. Recorded interrogations also proved beneficial in criminal investigations.

Dimensions Duration: 9 Minutes, 13 Seconds