

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Sonja Goldstein

Date 2016 November 29

Description Oral history interview with Sonja Goldstein who was interviewed by Beverly J. Hodgson on November 29, 2016 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topic Discussed: - Background: Sonja, born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1926, discusses her early life, including the persecution of Jews in Germany, and her family's emigration to London in 1939, just before World War II. - Education in London and Migration to the US: Sonja Goldstein attended the London School of Economics studying International Relations. She met her husband, Joseph Goldstein, a G.I., at LSE. They moved to the United States in 1952. - Yale Law School: Sonja and Joseph Goldstein started law school at Yale from 1948 to 1952. She noted the Socratic Method used by professors and felt at home quickly despite being new to the U.S. She also did some volunteer work with the Legal Aid Society. - Early Legal Career: After law school, Sonja took a job with the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C. She later began working part-time for a former classmate, Arthur Sachs, in New Haven. - Work-Life Balance: At Arthur Sachs's law firm, Sonja specialized in estate planning, which allowed her the flexibility to manage her time and raise her four children. - Husband's Publications: Sonja Goldstein played a role in her husband Joseph Goldstein's famous books, "Beyond the Best Interests of the Child," "Before the Best Interests," and "In the Best Interests." She assisted with typing, editing, and research. She also

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mentioned her husband's involvement in founding New Haven Legal Assistance

in the 1960s - Experiences as a Woman Lawyer: Sonja recalls generally positive

reactions from clients.

Dimensions Duration: 8 Minutes, 51 Seconds