

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Bessye Bennett

Date 1999 October 4

Primary Maker Bessye Bennett

Description Oral history interview with Bessye Bennett who was interviewed by Alice A. Bruno on October 4, 1999 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topics discussed include:

- Personal life: grew up in Texas, moved to Baton Rouge, LA, then to Houston, TX, and later CT. Her father was a professor of economics and they moved due to his career. Her mother's path; a teacher, stay at home mom, university librarian, principal, and professor at Connecticut State College. Her husband; worked at an atomic power lab, now working for Connecticut Department of Revenue Services. The birth of her children.
- Education: Black community in southern colleges. Radcliffe College graduate cum laude at 19. Harvard University. UConn Law School.
- Career: First black woman to be admitted to the bar in Connecticut. 1954 Brown case. Her first jobs at the Museum of Comparative Zoology and advertising while attending Radcliff. League of Women Voters. Society for Savings. Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF). Partnership with Hyacinth Douglas Bailey. All Aboard, Inc.; she is a trustee. 1996 Crawford Association recognition. Elizabeth Dole.
- Segregation and Ku Klux Klan.
- Life in New England.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 46 Minutes, 59 Seconds