

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Dorothy Robinson

Date 2016 December 14

Primary Maker Dorothy K. Robinson

Description Oral history interview with Dorothy Robinson who was interviewed

by Cynthia Carr on December 14, 2016 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's

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

- Family Background: Dorothy's father was a neurosurgeon in New Haven. Her

mother, after raising her children, earned a PhD in History of Science from Yale

and became a research affiliate there. - Early Interest in Law: Dorothy first

considered law as a career in college, inspired by watching "Perry Mason" on TV.

- High School and Early Work Experience: Dorothy attended Day Prospect Hill

School. During high school summers, she worked as a lab technician at Yale

Medical School. - College: Dorothy attended Swarthmore College. She enrolled

in the Honors program for social sciences. - Inspiration for Law School:

Dorothy's interest in law developed from her social science studies and her

engagement with politics and social activism. Her college years were shaped by

events like the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, the civil rights

movement, and protests against the Vietnam War. - College Extracurricular

Activities: Dorothy was involved in student government at Swarthmore,

becoming president of the student council. She participated in a Privacy

Commission formed in 1970 and 1971, which developed guidelines for student

privacy that anticipated aspects of the Buckley Amendment (1974). - Law

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School: Dorothy entered Boalt Hall (now Berkeley Law School) in 1972. - Law

School Research and Mentors: During law school, Dorothy held several research

assistant positions. Her first summer job was with Professor Stephen Barnett,

working on a National Science Foundation study to develop a comprehensive

approach to privacy law. She also worked with Professor David Louisell, editing

and narrating summaries of Supreme Court decisions. - Gender Experience in

Law School: Dorothy did not feel that being a woman negatively impacted her

experience in law school. - Post-Law School Career: Dorothy worked as a law

clerk at Alameda County Legal Aid. - Bar Admissions: Dorothy is admitted to the

bar in California, New York, and Connecticut. - First Job at Hughes, Hubbard &

Reed: Following advice, Dorothy joined Hughes, Hubbard & Reed on Wall Street.

While at the firm, she undertook pro bono cases for the indigent population in

East Harlem and worked in the Tax Department. - Yale: After Hughes, Hubbard &

Reed, Dorothy joined Yale as a junior attorney in their newly established Office

of General Counsel. Dorothy was hired as Assistant General Counsel in 1978 and

promoted to Associate General Counsel six months later. - Role as In-House

Counsel at Yale: The Yale General Counsel's Office work differed significantly

from a law firm, covering a wide range of subjects. She became General Counsel

at Yale.

Dimensions Duration: 9 Minutes, 6 Seconds