

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Judge Margaret Driscoll

Date 1999 October 30

Primary Maker Margaret Driscoll

Description Oral history interview with Judge Margaret Driscoll who was interviewed by Judge Barbara M. Quinn on October 30, 1999 and November 8, 1999 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topics Discussed: - Early Life and Family: Her father worked in the clothing business, eventually ran stores in Bridgeport and New Britain. One sister became Director of the American Cancer Society. Another sister worked in television and radio but passed away at age 45 due to diabetes. - Education: Attended Madison School, Shelton Junior High, and Central High School. Graduated from Wellesley College in 1935. Yale Law School in 1935. Only four women in her class. Her law professor Harry Shulman. - Bar Admission and Early Career: Admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1938. Began practicing law in Bridgeport in 1938 with Arthur Weiss. Worked indexing attorney general reports before transitioning to private practice. - Political Activities: Active in Connecticut Democratic politics during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Ran for Congress in 1944. Advocated for entering World War II and made speeches to Connecticut Democrats. - Labor Advocacy: Became spokesperson and general counsel for the Connecticut State Labor Council (AFL-CIO) in 1945. Advocated for labor laws, unemployment compensation, and teachers' tenure. Continued labor advocacy until her judicial appointment in 1960. - Marriage and Family:

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Married on September 30, 1946. Son born in 1947. - Judicial Appointments:

Nominated to the Court of Common Pleas in 1959 but rejected. Appointed as

Connecticut's first woman juvenile court judge in 1960. - Juvenile Court Work

from 1960-1978: Advocated for visitation rights and proper care for children. -

National and Regional Leadership: President of the New England Council for

Juvenile Court Judges (1973-1976). President of the National Council of Juvenile

and Family Court Judges (1976-1977). - Reflections on Judicial System Changes:

Changes observed over her career. - Community Involvement: Promoted

housing for underprivileged families and proper school funding. - Statutory

Interpretation and Case Decisions