Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Lainie Wade

Date 2016 October 26

Primary Maker Lainie Wade

Description Oral history interview with Lainie Wade who was interviewed by Jim Wade on October 26, 2016 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topics Discussed: - Family Background : Lainie's father was a mechanical engineer and president of Dane Zerman Company in Philadelphia, and her mother was a librarian for the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia. Both attended Cornell. - Early Life: Lainie was born in Cohasset, Massachusetts, and grew up in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. - Undergraduate Education : Lainie attended Cornell, graduating in 1960 with a major in Government. - Decision to Pursue Law School: Her decision to go to law school was made during her senior year at Cornell, prompted by her father's suggestion to take the LSATs, which she passed. - Law School Experience at the University of Virginia: She started law school at the University of Virginia in 1960-1961, where her class of 250 students included only two women and two Black individuals. Lainie chose Virginia after being denied admission to the University of Pennsylvania. She was shocked by the prevalent segregation in Charlottesville, which had separate facilities for Black and white people in public places. There was only one shared women's bathroom in the law school, used by both students and secretaries. No female professors taught substantive law courses; Fanny Farmer, a lawyer, served as the librarian. Lainie Wade was the

only woman on the Law Review's academic side during her time there. - Bar Examinations and Initial Professional Challenges: Lainie Wade graduated in 1963 and passed the Virginia Bar Exam in Lynchburg, Virginia, after a two-week cram course. After marrying Jim Wade in 1963, she moved to San Diego for approximately four years due to his Navy service. During this period, she found it impossible to secure legal employment in San Diego or Philadelphia because law firms generally "didn't hire women". Her only job offer was as a law librarian at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. - Admission to the Connecticut Bar and Early Career in Connecticut: In 1966, Lainie Wade and her husband moved to Simsbury, Connecticut. She prepared for the Connecticut Bar exam by taking a cram course in Hartford, which occurred during the riots of 1968, the year Martin Luther King was killed. - Career at Travelers Insurance Company: Lainie Wade worked for Travelers Insurance Company for over 25 years. She was the first female officer at Travelers, and the Law Department grew significantly during her tenure. Her legal work primarily involved corporate and securities law, including private placements, bankruptcies, public offerings, and venture capital, focusing on the investment side of the insurance business. A notable achievement was leading the "Travelers Mortgage Securities Corporation" deal, which involved securitizing mortgages.

Dimensions Duration: 8 Minutes, 35 Seconds