

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Elizabeth B. Leete

Date 2016 December 8

Primary Maker Elizabeth B. Leete

Description Oral history interview with Elizabeth B. Leete who was interviewed

by Ann H. Rubin on December 8, 2016 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's

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

- Early Life : Elizabeth B. Leete grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. Her father was a

newspaper general manager, and her mother was a volunteer for the League of

Women Voters and the United Nations. - Early Career: Elizabeth attended

Wellesley College, majoring in history. After marrying Harmon Leete, who

attended Harvard Law School, she worked for the Christian Science Monitor and

a public relations firm in Boston. Upon returning to Hartford, she worked at The

Hartford Courant in the Circulation Department and then wrote for a column

called "Shopping with Jacqueline." After retiring from the newspaper, she did

freelance writing and became active in Black Sash. - Law School: Elizabeth

decided to go to law school, influenced by her friend Shelagh O'Neill and the

Mountain Laurel decision in New Jersey. Elizabeth attended the University of

Connecticut School of Law starting in 1972. She had a summer internship with

Neighborhood Legal Services and later worked at Connecticut General as a legal

intern. - First Jobs: Elizabeth took the bar exam the summer after law school and

later became a bar examiner. Her first job was clerking for Justice Alva Loiselle

at the Connecticut Supreme Court. She then accepted a position at Ribicoff and

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Kotkin. - Formation of First Women-Owned Law Firm: In 1980, Elizabeth, along

with Shelagh O'Neill and Gale Kosto, formed their own all-women law firm,

Leete, O'Neill and Kosto, which became the largest all-woman firm in

Connecticut at the time. - Immigration Law: Around 1990, the firm, Leete, O'Neill

and Kosto, shifted its primary focus to immigration law. - Evolution of the Firm :

The firm is currently named Leete, Kosto and Wizner. The firm remains small. -

Women in the Legal Profession: Elizabeth observed significant changes for

women in the legal profession over time, crediting "groundbreakers" like Ruth

Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor for changing the world.

Dimensions Duration: 9 Minutes, 19 Seconds