

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Judge Janet Bond Arterton

Date 2017 January 4

Primary Maker Janet Bond Arterton

Description Oral history interview with Judge Janet Bond Arterton who was interviewed by Kate Stith-Cabranes on January 4, 2017 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project.

Topics Discussed: - Early Life: Judge Arterton was born in Philadelphia and her family moved to Princeton, New Jersey when she was five. Her mother faced challenges as an architect due to discrimination. - Early Experiences with Injustice: Judge Arterton's early exposure to the Civil Rights movement, particularly the Princeton Plan for school desegregation, instilled in her an idea that changes had to be made. - College Years: Judge Arterton attended Mount Holyoke College, initially as a zoology major before switching to political science. During her senior year, she organized a write-in campaign for herself to be elected County Coroner of Mercer County, New Jersey, with her future husband, Christopher Arterton, as her campaign manager. She won. - Early Career: After college, Judge Arterton worked for two years as a press and appointment secretary for a Republican congressman in Washington. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination and the subsequent unrest in Washington was a wake up call for her. She then moved to Boston and worked in community development as an urban planner developing a pilot program for industry-based daycare for lower-income employees around 1969. - Experience in Mexico:

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Judge Arterton spent a year in rural Mexico with her husband, Chris, assisting

with his dissertation research on political participation in rural Mexican villages.

- Juvenile Justice Reform: Upon returning to Boston, she became involved in de-institutionalizing the juvenile justice system, closing juvenile jails, and replacing them with community-based alternatives. - Law School: Judge Arterton decided to go to Northeastern University Law School. Her first co-op was with a large law firm, where she analyzed whether sex-based actuarial tables violated Title VII.

She also completed co-ops with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Civil

Rights Division and a criminal defense firm, and later with a midsize firm in New

Haven. - Clerkship: After law school, she clerked for Judge Herbert J. Stern in the U.S. District Court in Newark, New Jersey. She ultimately joined a small firm

formed by former legal aid lawyers, becoming their first associate and first

woman. This firm specialized in employment discrimination and civil rights law.

She spent sixteen years there. - Family Life: Judge Arterton began her practice

almost six months pregnant with her second child. - Federal Judgeship: She

became a judge in 1995. The desire to become a federal judge emerged in the

summer of 1992, during a trip to France, where she became aware of the human rights abuses and lack of functioning courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. -

Appointment Process as a Federal Judge: To become a federal judge, she wrote

letters to Senators Christopher Dodd and Joseph Lieberman. She underwent a

Judiciary Committee hearing in February, presented by Senator Dodd, and the

Senate voted to confirm her nomination on March 24th.

Dimensions Duration: 9 Minutes, 6 Seconds