

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Kate Stith-Cabranes

Date 2017 January 4

Primary Maker Kate Stith

Description Oral history interview with Kate Stith-Cabranes who was interviewed by Judge Janet Bond Arterton on January 4, 2017 for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's History of Connecticut Women in the Legal Profession Project. Topics Discussed: - Early Life and Legal Interest: Kate Stith discusses how her parents influenced her interest in law. Her father, who had to leave law school for World War II, and her mother, a legal reformer, inspired four of their five surviving children to become lawyers. - High School: Kate attended John Burroughs School in St. Louis, Missouri. She recalls working on the Gene McCarthy campaign in 1968 and her early desire to be a newspaper reporter. - College Experience: Kate started at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and then moved to Berkeley. After marrying Jeffrey Pressman, she attended Dartmouth College, which was not coed at the time. She became an activist for coeducation and was in the first class to graduate women in 1973. She also ranked first in her class academically. - Harvard Law School: Kate attended a joint program at Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government. She was one of only a few women on the Harvard Law Review, where she and her friend, Susan Estrich, bonded over discriminatory experiences. - Legal Clerkships : After law school, she clerked for Judge Carl McGowan on the D.C. Circuit and then for Justice Byron White on the Supreme Court. - Government

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Service : She worked at the Council of Economic Advisors and then became

Special Assistant to the head of the Criminal Division in the Department of

Justice. In 1981, she became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York. She was

recruited by Rudy Giuliani to work on Mafia cases. - Career in Academia: Her

transition to academia at Yale Law School was facilitated by an interview

arranged through her brother, Richard Stith. She became the first woman Acting

Dean at Yale. - Reflections on Career and Life: Kate expresses some regret about

not taking more time off to be with her young children. She also mentions her

involvement in non-academic pursuits, such as the Permanent Commission on

the Status of Women in Connecticut in the mid-1980s and the Women's

Campaign School at Yale.

Dimensions Duration: 9 Minutes, 14 Seconds