



Barbara Mendel Mayden

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ABA Commission on Women in the Profession

Women Trailblazers in the Law

ORAL HISTORY

of

BARBARA MENDEL MAYDEN

Interviewer: Gail Vaughn Ashworth

Dates of Interviews:

April 10, 2006

April 24, 2006

December 11, 2006

This is Gail Ashworth and today's date is Monday, April 10, 2006. I am with Barbara Mendel
Mayden in her office in Nashville, Tennessee.

Q. Barbara, we're here today for our first interview on the A.B.A. Women's Commission Oral History Project. Could we start by talking a little bit about where you're from, where you were born, your immediate family, where you spent your early years?

A. Sure. I was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1951. I remember my mother saying I was born during the fair, because the fireworks went off as I was being born. I grew up in Chattanooga. My parents had ended up there by serendipity. Neither were Tennesseans. They were both from Georgia. But, I am a Tennessean, born and raised in Chattanooga. My mother was in Chattanooga, seemingly under duress. My father's mother had a children's ware store in Dalton, Georgia, which is right down the road. I was born in Chattanooga, but they lived in Dalton when I was a baby. They moved to Chattanooga, I'm sure, because my mother was having none of Dalton. We didn't have extended family there.

Q. Were you the first child?

A. I was the second child, indeed I was always was reminded that I was the second child. When you would go to my mother's house later in her life and you would see all the pictures, you would logically ask which were my sister and which were me. But - they were all of my sister: Classic second child syndrome.

Q. How much older is your sister than you?

A. She's three years older than I am. She is a lawyer in Macon, Georgia.

Q. Do you have any other siblings?

A. No, it was just my sister and me.

Q. Do you remember living in Dalton, Georgia?

A. I really don't remember it. I don't remember how old I was when I moved, but I was teensy. Still, I remember Dalton pretty vividly. I sometimes still dream about it, because my grandparents lived there, and that's where my father's store was. He took over my grandmother's store when she retired.

Q. What -- what kind of store did you say?

A. Children's wear. It was called the Linda Fay Kiddie Shop, Linda Fay being my cousin.

Q. And you have memories of that shop?

A. Oh yes. I actually visited and worked there. One of my most vivid memories as a freshly minted law school graduate related to the shop. When you graduate from law school, of course, you know absolutely nothing about anything. As I graduated from law school, my father had just entered into a Muzak-type contract and he wanted out of it – and of course, he wanted me to get him out of it. But I couldn't get him out of the music contract – it was a contract! That's what contracts are for. He was very disappointed that after all those years in law school, the first thing he asked me to help him with, I was useless.

Q. All right. Were you born at Erlanger or some other hospital?

A. I was born at Erlanger Hospital.

Q. In Chattanooga?

A. In Chattanooga.

Q. Even though your folks lived in Dalton and ran a store there?

A. Right. Chattanooga is just right up the road from Dalton.

Q. Probably thirty miles, twenty miles --

A. I could make the drive from Chattanooga to Dalton in my sleep, because I used to drive there to work in the store.

Q. All right. Well, how old were you when you moved from Dalton?

A. Little. I don't know exactly; I would guess I was three or four.

Q. Where did your family move to?

A. We moved to Chattanooga, to a cute little gingerbread little house, on a street named Brookfield. Then we moved to your duty ranch house on Maple Lane.

Q. How old were you then?

A. I must have been five or six.

Q. Why did your family move to Chattanooga? Do you know?

A. I can only guess. Dalton was where my daddy's parents were. And I would guess that my mother was having none of it. Dalton is (or at least was) a little town and she's from Atlanta. My mother adored Atlanta. Now, Chattanooga was not Atlanta by a long shot, but it was a heck of a lot bigger than Dalton.

Q. Did your mother work outside the home when you were young?

A. Yes. I remember vividly when she went back to work. We weren't "moneyed" folks. We didn't have squat in those days. And so I'm sure she went back to work out of necessity. We lived on Maple Lane at the time, in this teensy house. I remember -- and I must have been five or six -- my mother coming into the den with a phone book and saying she was looking up job stuff, because she was going to go to work. And, that was that. She worked for the rest of her life until she retired.

Q. What did she do?

A. She was a medical technologist, but being extraordinarily capable and well liked, she always ended up running the laboratories she worked in, as the chief technologist. That first job was at Memorial Hospital where she started as a medical technologist, and then became the chief medical technologist. And then much later - I guess I must have been in either junior high school or high school - the pathologist she worked for moved to Tri-County Hospital, which is Hutchison Memorial Hospital. So she moved with him, also to be chief med tech there. And then later, when she ended up moving back to Atlanta, she ran laboratories and ended up before she retired being chief med tech at Grady Hospital. She was a woman about whom everybody would say, "she's your mother? You're so lucky!" She was extraordinarily capable, but in addition, everybody loved working for her".

Q. So from an early age, you were four or five, your mother worked outside the home?

A. Yes. My mother was the most consistent breadwinner in the family. My father usually worked - when he would lose a job, he would get another job. But my mother always worked.

Q. How long did your father run the Linda Fay Kiddie Shop? How old were you?

A. He didn't do that until later. He did this and that before. My earliest memory of him working was as a traveling salesman. And I think -- this is terrible that I don't remember this -- I think it was in the liquor business. I think he worked for a liquor distributor and he was traveling. Then he wanted to get off the road and he got a job running a distributor business in Chattanooga. He did that for a long time, and then I recall him getting into a little trouble with the law.

Q. This was a liquor distributorship?

A. A liquor distributorship. This is what I recall -- and this is remembered through the prism and the lens of a junior high kid. My father was the sweetest man in the world. He was bright, he was kind, he was funny. But what my father wasn't -- was able to say no to people, and I think people took advantage of him. In this context, his friends would ask him to sell them liquor at discount, and he would do it because he just really, truly did not know how to say no. He didn't ever take anything for himself, and got in trouble doing favors for others. But I remember that there was a big scandal and he got fired from that job. And then, I think he was at Radio Shack for a while, and then finally, my grandmother retired and he took over the Linda Fay Kiddie Shop.

Q. All right. But you stayed in Chattanooga and he drove down to Dalton?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And your mom was working, of course --

A. Right.

Q. Did your parents attend or graduate from college?

A. My mother graduated from the University of Georgia. Interestingly, she was a major in biology and a minor in piano. Back then, when grade skipping was quite the thing, she graduated from high school and went to college when she was fifteen. She was quite the prodigy. My father never graduated from college, because he was drafted.

Q. Where did he attend?

A. University of Georgia.

Q. Is that where they met?

A. Yes.

Q. And was your father older than your mom?

A. A couple of years.

Q. So he was drafted into the Army?

A. He was drafted into the Army during World War II. He served in Italy in the medical corps, because at the time he was drafted, he was a pharmacy student. My daddy exemplified the saying that if he didn't have bad luck, he'd have had no luck at all. His army experience is an example of this. He was drafted while in pharmacy school, but by the time he got back, he would have had to start over, because he wasn't doing pharmacy stuff in the army. So, he didn't go back to school. He got married to our mother, and they moved to Alamosa, Colorado where he started a business. That's where my sister was born. The business was some sort of factory. So, with this fledgling business, which apparently was going well, and this young baby - my father got called back up into the Army. Well, they determined that my mother couldn't run the business - she was young with a new baby - so they had to sell the business. They did that and came back to Georgia, ensconced my mother and sister in Dalton where his family was, and he reported to Fort Benning. That's when they told him that it was all a mistake. So that was that, and that's how he ended up in Dalton. I think that he never quite recovered from that, and thereafter never quite found his business niche.

Q. So your father's family was there in Dalton?

A. Yes.

Q. Was your mother's in the Atlanta area?

A. Yes.

Q. So your other grandparents were there?

A. Yes. My grandparents on my mother's side were immigrants from Poland/Russia - one of these moving border things where one week it's Poland, one week it's Russia. My grandfather, Ben came to the U.S. when he was about fifteen and joined the Army to learn English. He was a wonderful, sweet man. My mother's mother, my Grandma Mary, died before I was born. My grandfather remarried a woman who I remember as my grandmother, a woman aptly named Lovie. My father's parents were in Dalton. Their parents were immigrants and they had come in through the port of Galveston, immigrants from Germany, I think.

Q. What was your mother's maiden name?

A. Krugman.

Q. What was your mother's name?

A. Blanche.

Q. And your father's name?

A. Eugene (and my middle daughter is name Eugenia, after him).

Q. Do you know how old they were when they married?

A. I'm guessing early twenties, sort of when God really intended people to marry.

Q. Let's talk a little bit about your education. Was all of your early childhood and elementary and junior high and high school education there in Chattanooga?

A. Yes.

Q. Public school, private school?

A. Public school.

Q. Do you remember starting school?

A. Yes. I remember very vividly my first day of school, Oh, gosh, this may not be interesting to anybody else, but it sure is bringing great memories. I started at a school called Anna B. Lacy, a little public elementary school in Chattanooga. I remember my father taking me

that first day. I don't know why my mother didn't take me, but my father took me. I know that we were late because I can remember walking down tremendous empty halls at Anna B. Lacy School, holding my father's hand. My sister attended what was considered the better public school, for which we must not have been zoned, Missionary Ridge School. I guess they couldn't get me into Missionary Ridge, so I was at Anna B. Lacy for kindergarten and first and second grades, and then moved to Missionary Ridge for third fourth grade. And then our family moved across town.

Q. Off of Maple Lane?

A. Off of Maple Lane to Belle Vista Avenue, which I thought was really high cotton. I mean, I really thought this was fancy. And actually, last week I was in Chattanooga to see one of my children's track meet, and I drove down Belle Vista Avenue, and I mean, it was just sorry.

Q. There's an exit off 1-24, I think, Belle Vista or you can see the road somewhere?

A. No.

Q. No?

A. No.

Q. What part of town is that in Chattanooga?

A. Brainerd; I thought we were the Jeffersons, we had moved right on up. We were in Belle Vista, in Brainerd.

Q. So you moved -- you changed schools again?

A. Yes, to Woodmore Elementary.

Q. That's fifth grade?

A. That was fifth and sixth grade.

Q. Seventh and eighth was junior high, right?

A. Seventh, eighth and ninth was junior high, and I was at Dalewood Junior High, which was new at the time.

Q. Did you go to school with your sister at Missionary Ridge and Woodmore for a few years? She's three or four years older than you were?

A. She never went to Woodmore. When I moved to Woodmore, she was already at Brainerd Junior High School.

Q. What's your sister's name?

A. Mary.

Q. So what are your memories like of your elementary school years and junior high? Good? Bad?

A. I don't remember much about Anna B. Lacy. My memory of Missionary Ridge was that it was very good. I had this fabulous teacher in third grade, Mrs. Johnson, who everybody remembers as their favorite teacher. She - and actually, my fifth grade teacher would do this too - if you did something good, you got to go spend the night with her. She lived next door to the school. Can you imagine? And it was a great treat. My fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Crittenden over at Woodmore did that too. I remember two things about Mrs. Johnson in third grade. First of all, she would read books to you that were just so good. I remember her reading Half Magic, which was the most fascinating book in the world (at least it seemed to be at the time). While she read, the kids in the class took turns rubbing her back. It was great; a much more relaxed time.

Q. So third grade, she's your teacher all day, covering the entire curriculum?

A. Yes, she was doing the whole thing.

Q. But she went out of her way to read books to the class --

A. Right.

Q. -- in addition to that?

A. While somebody would scratch her back. But I also remember that she was very strict. It was back at a time when marbles were all the thing. You'd take marbles out to recess and play marbles. Your marbles were your prize possession, and you had to have the right kind of marbles. And --did you play marbles?

Q. Yes, I did.

A. There were names, and colors.

Q. You kept them in the bag.

A. You kept them in the bag, right. But Mrs. Johnson hated marbles, because they would always drop on the floor. So, she had a rule that any marble that dropped on the floor was hers. And dang, if I didn't drop my entire bag of marbles on the floor -- the entire bag. And you would think that she would have a little mercy -- show a little leniency. But no. And that was that at -- the end of my marble collection. She kept the whole dang thing.

Q. That was the end of your marble career?

A. All over.

Q. Did you play marbles, at recess?

A. At recess. Yes. You would draw a circle on concrete with a rock, and you'd shoot marbles.

Q. That wasn't your only game at recess, probably?

A. No. I'd swing.

Q. Red rover, play ball?

A. Red rover was huge. Yes, red rover.

Q. Jump rope?

A. Jump rope, of course. We had this great principal named E. Cassidy Bailey, who I think is remembered as one of the great educators in Chattanooga. And for birthdays, you would have skating parties and E. Cassidy Bailey, the principal of the school, would come and dang if he wouldn't skate. In the fourth grade, this being the 1950's, you had bible class in school -- in public school. My mother was generally pretty hands-off. She had to have been so frazzled. She was a working mom back when there were very few working moms. She was working hard. So, she wasn't one of the types of mothers that micromanaged our lives. A lot of times, much to my chagrin, when the other mothers were there fighting for truth and justice for their wronged children, my mother was never there. Until the day in fourth grade, which I will never forget - I was so horrified. I came home from school and my mother asked, "so what did you learn in school today?" And I said, "Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy". She said, "What are you talking about?" I explained that this is what I had learned in bible class that day. She said, "Bible"? She couldn't believe I was in bible class. So the next day, she had me whipped out of bible class so fast, my head is still spinning. Whenever the rest of the class began bible class, I had to go outside and clean erasers on the side of the building.

Q. Were you the only one out there doing that?

A. Only one. Mortified. Mortified!

Q. Was that an experimental bible class or did everyone in fourth grade take bible?

A. Everybody did it. Part of the regular curriculum. But my mother was having none of it.

Q. Well, let me ask you a little bit about your religious upbringing. Did you attend church or synagogue regularly or tell me about that.

A. We attended temple - under duress, and typically only during the Jewish high holidays and my sister and I went to Sunday School

Q. You went when your parents wanted to go?

A. Right, which was very seldom. We certainly didn't go on Friday nights or Saturdays except during holidays. It was a time when there was sort of a blip in Jewish practice in our Jewish movement. In Judaism, the three major movements are Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. Reform Judaism constituted sort of a modernization of Jewish practice and ritual. The movement seems to me to have been somewhat feeling its way, and when I was growing up in the 1950s, it was a time when Classic Reform Judaism went to an extreme in the amount of tradition and rituals that were dispensed with. That pendulum has since swung the other way, and a lot of it has been reinstated. But back when I was growing up, in our Reform Temple, there were no bar or bat mitzvah's, no head coverings. A lot of the ritual was gone. And frankly, a lot of the good education was gone. So I grew up at a time when you didn't learn squat in Sunday School, and I'm sorry about that, because my children know a lot more than I ever knew. It was a weird time to grow up Jewish in the Reform movement in the south, because it was just boring as hell. But yes, we went and we certainly identified and I was very active in Jewish activities.

Q. How old were you when you became really active in religious activities?

A. Junior high and high school. The great thing about growing up Jewish in the south is that you obtain a very strong sense of identity, because you're such a minority that you reach out to one another; interestingly enough, I think much stronger than the sense of being Jewish you have living in New York or another city with a large Jewish population. Because in a place like New York, being Jewish isn't so unusual; it's nothing out of the ordinary. But when you grow up Jewish in the south, it really marks you in terms of an identity. There have been books written about growing up Jewish in the south. One I particularly remember was by Eli Evans, which was a very well written, successful book. Growing up Jewish in the south, you know every other Jew in the south, or at least it feels like it. You're related to them or you know them, or you know someone who knows them. It's known as Jewish Geography and it's a very southern thing. You meet a stranger, and the game begins. There is one degree of separation. So if you go to Birmingham, you're going to know Jewish people in Birmingham. If you go to Cordele, Georgia, you're going to know the two families. I grew up thinking that it was this way it was everywhere. When I went off to college in Indiana, which isn't like this huge hot bed of Judaism, I just assumed everybody in Indianapolis knew everybody in Evansville and everybody in Evansville knew everybody in Fort Wayne, but it wasn't like that. It's a very southern thing, which added a really interesting dimension to growing up in Chattanooga, Tennessee, constituting an important part of my life.

Q. Was fourth grade the only year you had imposed bible class in your public school upbringing?

A. I think so - I don't know whether it was in fifth grade they stopped doing it or it was moving to another school. I don't remember.

Q. Tell me about your summers when you're out of school and your after school hours. Your mother worked?

A. I was quite the latchkey kid. We had a maid who was there. While we had no money, there was one woman who was with us for years who was sort of a second mother. I'm not saying my mother didn't raise us, but Rachel, who I'm sure was paid very, very little, certainly helped raise us. She was an important part of my life. And then later, we couldn't even afford that. That began when daddy was out of work. So I'd come home to an empty house. In the summer, I went to Camp Ocoee, which was a Y.M.C.A. camp.

Q I believe they still have that.

A. They do, but it's very different now. It's still Y.M.C.A., but very Christian now. It was Christian, but not evangelically so.

Q. Was this a day camp or overnight camp?

A. Overnight. I also went to day camp. I was quite the camper. The world is divided into two types of people, campers and non-campers. You love it or you hate it.

Q. Did you ever go to Girl Scout camp or were you involved in Girl Scouts?

A. I was in Girl Scouts, but it wasn't a huge deal for me.

Q. Okay.

A. But camp was a huge deal. This is how I first went to camp – which illustrates how the world has changed. My sister went off to Camp Ocoee, at around age nine when you first got to go, which means that I was six. Camp was only two weeks, which seemed like an eternity, and in the middle was visiting day. So we drove up to Camp Ocoee to see my sister on visiting day. She cried so hard because she wanted to come home. She hated it. I cried because I wanted to stay. I loved it. So they switched us. They switched us!

Q. You were six?

A. I was six. So I was like the camp mascot for three years.

Q. And you were fine in your one week? You weren't homesick?

A. Heck no.

Q. Was that your first camp experience?

A. That was my first camp experience and I went to that same camp every year afterwards until I was a counselor there.

- Q. I was going to say, were you a C.I.T.?
- A. I was a indeed a C.I.T
- Q. That's a counselor in training, right?
- A. Yes, a counselor in training.
- Q. Did you go there through high school as a counselor?
- A. Until I was sixteen or seventeen
- Q. Continuing with the interview on Monday, April 10th. We were talking about camp and some of the things you did there. Were there cabins?
- A. They were cabins. Which I could probably still name for you... there was Peglar, there was Williams I and Williams II... I was the greatest camper of all time.
- Q. You loved to do it; you loved to work as a counselor?
- A. I loved every bit. And I got into the best kind of camper trouble. I was an instigator.
- Q. Is this an all-girl camp?
- A. The counselors loved, loved, loved me because I was such an enthusiastic camper. It was indeed all girls.
- Q. We're talking sleeping bags on a bunk?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Not a bed, not --
- A. No, it was on a bunk. And we'd canoe and we'd go on camping trips.
- Q. When you were a counselor, did you stay longer than two weeks?
- A. I don't think so.
- Q. Okay.
- A. But two weeks seemed like a long time.
- Q. And you did other day camps?

A. In Chattanooga, I went to the Y.W.C.A. day camp. And again, I was the best camper! I think of anything I ever did, the thing I did best, whether with law or anything, I was the best camper in the world!

Q. What does that mean?

A. Nothing that they would offer wasn't the best idea in the world for me. I'd sing the songs. I would go swimming. I would do the crafts. I made lanterns and potholders and loved every second of it.

Q. Skits, kitchen duty, cooking?

A. And starting the mess hall cheers.

Q. Do you still have any contact with folks from your camping days?

A. There was a counselor who knew my mother - it goes back to my mother being the person everybody adored - there was a group of girls who were at University of Chattanooga (which later became University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) who knew my mother because they had part-time jobs at the hospital and they loved my mother. And they would come to our house with six-packs of beer and they'd sit at my house and just chat up my mom. And one of them was a counselor at this camp. Now, I don't remember which came first, the chicken or the egg, but her name was Janet Parks. I knew a lot of these counselors. There was Ann Estes, who actually I knew later in life in Atlanta and Janet Parks and somebody named Vickie. Janet Parks went on to get a Ph.D. in physical education. And she's very well known in that area now. She spent her career as a professor in Bowling Green at Western Kentucky. We recently caught up with one another by e-mail. And she remembered me as a great camper! But I don't remember any of my camp friends, which is interesting, because I send my kids at camp and I know that they will have some of these camp friends for life. I don't remember a single one of my camp friends.

Q. You have three girls?

A. I have three girls.

Q. And are they campers or non-campers?

A. Two of them are as big a camper as I was. One of them doesn't hate it, but she has chosen not to go back to camp this summer. But yes, the camping lines have been carried on by these two.

Q. Do they go to Camp Ocoee?

A. No. Camp Ocoee, is a little more seriously Christian than when I was there, so I'm not sure that it would be a place for them. They go to Jewish camp.

Q. Before we leave this early education, we talked a little bit about high school. Do you remember how you dressed in elementary school and junior high? Were you allowed to wear pants, for instance?

A. Junior high is a whole different ballgame. Let me finish with elementary schools.

Q. Okay.

A. I moved to Woodmore in fifth and sixth grade. Fifth grade I was okay, I had that great teacher, Mrs. Crittenden, and all was well. Sixth grade is when I just went wild. My first teacher in sixth grade was Mr. Jones, who was just out of the Marines. And his first job back, was teaching sixth grade – teaching me in sixth grade. And I was just so bad. Apparently, Mr. Jones went into the principal, Mr. Johnson, and said, “it’s her or me”. So I got yanked out of Mr. Jones’ class and moved into Mrs. Setzer’s class, who was the primary disciplinarian of the school. I just had way too much energy. I don’t think I was a bad kid; I just had too much energy. But one time in Mrs. Setzer’s class, we were playing a game – do you remember the match game?

Q. Yes.

A. I think it was the match game, but we had these cardboard signs we were using and I lost. I thought it was funny to take my sign and sling it across the room Frisbee-style. It wasn’t so funny when it hit Mrs. Setzer in the head. Yanked back into Mr. Johnson’s office, my parents got called in, and I came very close to getting thrown out of school. Ah well. A lot of unchanneled energy.

Q. It did not carry over to junior high?

A. No. So then I get to junior high and, no, I wasn’t wild in class, I was fine. But, very social.

Q. How were your academics during these years, if you remember?

A. You know, I think they were okay. They weren’t stellar. I’m guessing I was a B/A student.

Q. Did you have art and music and anything in public school when you were young?

A. Oh yes.

Q. Square dancing? They would teach you square dancing, songs?

A. Absolutely we did square dancing. And I took home ec. I was not good at home ec. But as our school was very modern and progressive, I also took shop. I wasn’t very good at that either. But it was a good experience.

- Q. And very social in the junior high years?
- A. I was very social.
- Q. That's Daily --
- A. Dalewood Junior High
- Q. All right. Did you participate in any kind of school activities like clubs or sports or gymnastics or anything? Do you remember?
- A. I was a baton twirler.
- Q. Oh, you were?
- A. I was a baton twirler.
- Q. Majorette or private twirler?
- A. Well, in junior high, they didn't have majorettes, but I was a majorette in high school.
- Q. All right. So you took up baton twirling sometime in --
- A. I took up baton twirling probably when I was about twelve or thirteen.
- Q. Now, that's different from camp. You take lessons for that?
- A. You take lessons.
- Q. It's not a camp.
- A. Sandra Brown was my baton teacher; she lived up the street.
- Q. How were you with your baton; were you were pretty good?
- A. I tell you how I was with my baton twirling. Let's just say I had quite a presence about me. So what I lacked in basic skills, I made up with enthusiasm. So, not great, but pretty good.
- Q. Well, let me ask you this. I know a little bit about baton twirling, also, being from the south. You mentioned you were a majorette when you went to high school, which generally means you twirled during the marching band, and provided entertainment at football games and basketball games and that sort of thing?
- A. Right.
- Q. So you're working with a group instead of being an individual twirler?

A. Right.

Q. Did you like that better or did you just like twirling? What about that did you like?

A. I loved the entertainment part of it. I loved performing.

Q. Outfits?

A. I loved the outfits.

Q. The dance?

A. I loved the dancing, the outfits, getting out in front of the crowd. The group thing was okay, but I wasn't the best, and I knew it. Two of us - Diane Maxwell and me - both made majorette in tenth grade. And Diane Maxwell was a better twirler than me. But, we were the tenth grade majorettes, which was huge; certainly gave me a spot in the social hierarchy, which wasn't quite "cheerleader status", but it was something. Now, I was sort of a screw-off - I didn't work nearly as hard as Diane Maxwell. So, come our senior year, it was very clear to me that Diane Maxwell would be the head majorette, as she absolutely, rightfully should have been, but that was not working for me. And so unbeknownst to anybody, I snuck off and learned how to direct the band, tried out, and became the drum major.

Q. That's a solo gig?

A. That's a way solo gig, huge in the hierarchy. And I was in charge of the majorettes - and Diane Maxwell.

Q. How did you learn how to be a drum major? Someone had to teach you?

A. I had the drum major who was the year in front of me teach me how to do it.

Q. All right. Was that a man or a woman?

A. It was a woman, a drug majorette.

Q. And so what high school was this?

A. Brainerd High School.

Q. Was marching band was a big deal?

A. It was big. And, it never got any better than that. I can remember as vividly as everything Friday nights - with the chill in the air. The drumbeat would start - the tap, tap, tap. It was a thrill that I cannot describe. And as drum major, I had this power -- I'd lift my hands and all the horns would come up. And I would give the signal and they would start to play. It was amazing.

- Q. Way better than camp counselor, huh?
- A. Oh, man, it was great. It was a thrill. Were you in a band?
- Q. I was. Did you compete in marching competitions with your band?
- A. We'd compete in marching competitions. I always did very well.
- Q. Did you also direct during concert season?
- A. A little bit, but my great, well-kept secret that I will tell you, that nobody ever knew, is that I couldn't read music.
- Q. Well, I was going to ask you if you had an instrument, because for concert band you have to.
- A. Right. You're supposed to be able to --
- Q. -- read the score.
- A. You are supposed to be able to read the score, but what I had was a great memory. So, when I would go in to concert band, the music teacher -- Mr. Hensen - would run through the music, and I could hear it and remember it. And then, I could direct it not being able to read the score and he never knew.
- Q. Can you read -- to sing, can you read from a book or read melody at all?
- A. I took some piano, since my mother was a --
- Q. Piano major -- minor.
- A. And she was a prodigy. There are newspaper clippings of my mother with this huge bow in her hair --she must have been six years old - "Little Miss Krugman to Give Recital". She had an amazing ear; perfect pitch. But for me, it just wasn't working - reading that music. I took piano for years and I never could quite read music, you know, my mind just didn't work that way.
- Q. Well, being the head drum major at a high school at that period of time is a lot of work, as well. You spend a lot of time practicing, band camp, and all that sort of thing?
- A. All that stuff.
- Q. So you did that just your senior year or your junior and senior year?
- A. I was a majorette in tenth and eleventh grade, and I was drum major in twelfth.

Q. Did you pursue that in college? Because I.U. is a huge music school.

A. Well, very interesting. I toted my baton up there, because I was going to try out for majorette. But, when I got to up to Indiana, I found out they didn't have girl majorettes, only boys were allowed to twirl.

Q. Back on your twirling career, I guess that ended it, high school.

A. That is correct. And you know, I never was that good.

Q. Did you twirl fire?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Knives?

A. Not knives, but I twirled fire. I did that at Dalewood;. I remember putting on a little show in the Dalewood gym.

Q. Are your girls interested in baton twirling at all?

A. Nobody is interested in baton twirling, the best I can tell.

Q. You still see featured twirlers at the half time shows. But your girls have no interest in that?

A. Oh, Goodness, no. They don't know what a baton is. But I'll tell you what, for twenty years, I've said I'm going to go get a baton - a real baton - and see if I can still twirl. I think I could! I think I could do the same routines I did in high school; I think I remember my routines, but I need to go out and get a baton. But, I don't even know where you get them.

Q. I want to make sure we've covered everything that you did up until you graduated from high school, outside interests other than school, which of course is the school related, but we talked about camp and we talked about marching band, concert band, twirling. Was there anything else you were interested in? Church group? Anything?

A. I was very active in Jewish organizations. Part of being Jewish in the south, meant you went to conventions. I was very active in that. And in high school clubs. Back then they had clubs which were the equivalent of high school sororities. I was busy.

Q. Well, I wanted to talk a little bit about that. It sounds like you were. Did you have a lot of different interests and you were always wanting to participate in one of them—

A. Yes

Q. Did they ever interfere with each other? Did you have to give something up; not do something you wanted to do?

A. Give something up? Never! Unless it was study. I was never a great studier. I never worked very hard. It came too naturally, which meant I wasn't a terrific student. I was an okay student.

Q. Well, you just said you weren't very good at shop and you weren't very good at home ec.

A. I wasn't driven to study, but I was always driven to be perceived as smart. When I first got to high school, we were all sitting in the gym and they divided us up into biology classes. They read the names of the people who they wanted to go into advance biology. I was not a very strong science student. But it annoyed me that my name wasn't read off, so I just went with them. And dang, nobody ever said a word about it and I took advanced biology, because, by gosh, if there was going to be an advanced class, by George, I was going to be in it. Back then things were so loose that nobody ever said anything and that was fine. I think I may have been a better student than I recall being, although I don't remember working that hard, because I was in the National Honor Society, so I couldn't have done that badly.

Q. Do you remember your graduation from high school?

A. Oh, yes, I remember my graduation.

Q. The baccalaureate and all that?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. How many students graduated with your class?

A. Well, I had a speech issue. Which meant I had to get on the bus by myself and go downtown to speech class.

Q. What age were you then when you took speech class?

A. I took speech from the time I was in the sixth grade to the time I was probably going to high school.

(off the record).

Q. So you took it weekly?

A. Yes. I couldn't pronounce my L's or my TH's-- what am I doing with my L's and my TH's.

Q. Fabulous. About how many graduating seniors were in your class? How big was that school, if you remember?

A. I'd say that there were around three hundred in my class.

Q. Okay. Do you go back for reunions or maintain any ongoing friendships?

A. We had a tenth reunion and I think we had a fifteenth reunion. I missed the twentieth, because, amazingly, I was too pregnant to travel. Others in my class had grandchildren, but I was too pregnant to travel, because I had my babies so late. And yes, I still have friends that I keep up with from high school.

Q. You mentioned a book that you remembered from earlier education. Do you remember any particular classes or books or any experience, educational experience, in high school that you still remember fondly?

A. I remember my French class fondly. I never was very good at French, but I loved being in French class because we had this great teacher, Mr. Forrester. He was hilarious. And looking back, I assume he was gay (I don't know if I could say that on tape). He was cut from a different mold but, we didn't understand that back then. He was a terrific teacher. I can remember going into the classroom where they had those tall, metal, gray file cabinets. You'd go into class and he was nowhere to be found. And people would start talking and looking around and then he would just walk out of the file cabinet. He also once climbed into the class from the outside window. He was hilarious.

Q. Did you learn a lot of French?

A. You know, I did pretty well for somebody who really was not very good at French. I just loved being in his class. And I remember something else more significant. I had a teacher in ninth grade for civics, Mr. Markham. This was still at Dalewood. Mr. Markham was, you sensed, a little more liberal than your average Chattanooga. Chattanooga was a very conservative place. I remember there being only two democratic kids in my high school - me and Sharon McCullough. But I always remember thinking that Mr. Markham just was a little more progressive. In civics, he taught a comparative legal systems class. So we learned not just about the U.S. government, but we learned about different governments and we compared systems. Well, dang, if he didn't get hauled into court for "teaching communism". Mary Alice Gardner, I think her name was; her folks hauled him into court. And I was just horrified. It was terrible. He was acquitted. I don't know what you would charge somebody with for teaching communism, but --

Q. They had a trial?

A. Yes. And I never forgot it. It was one of the first things that made me think that maybe I would become a lawyer. I knew that what happened to him was wrong, and I maybe I could do something about things like that.

Q. Well, it doesn't sound like from listening to you that you have much of a family history of lawyers, maybe you do and we haven't covered that? But this incident you just described kind of stands out in your mind for one of the first times you thought you might want to be a lawyer?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you go to Indiana University wanting to be a lawyer?

A. By the time I graduated from high school, I was in "I'm going to be a lawyer" mode. Partly because of this incident, I think, which sort of turned my head in that direction. There was another thing. I looked at how hard my mother was working. She was running this laboratory, but she wasn't the pathologist. She was always working for someone. One summer I had a job in the pathology lab where she worked, working for the doctor that she worked for, Doctor Elrod. One day, he turned to my mother and said, "Barbara is so smart and she's doing such a great job, she's going to make somebody a great executive secretary one day". I'm thinking, "the hell, I am". The presumption was that women don't run things - they work for people who run things. I didn't want to work for anybody. And I believed that if I went to work for a bank, then I would be a teller behind the cage. If I were to go to work for a department store, I'd be selling gloves instead of in management. But, I thought that if you have a law degree, they can't put you behind the teller cage. There would be a threshold above which they would have to put you.

Q. Well, how old were you when you remember thinking that, if you can remember?

A. I was in high school, because I was working at the hospital, a summer job.

Q. All right. So you didn't know for sure it would be law, but you thought it might be, but you were for darn sure --

A. I can remember my first date with this boy who would become my first real boyfriend (he later became a gastroenterologist in Chattanooga and recently died) and on that first date, he took me to dinner at a new, fancy restaurant in Chattanooga (there weren't many of those back then). I remember trying to make conversation, and he asked, "so what are your plans, what are you going to do with your life"? I said, "I'm going to be a lawyer". And I remember - he dropped his fork. You know, it just wasn't what girls aspired to back then.

Q. And what year did you graduate high school?

A. 1969.

Q. Okay. So somehow before '69, you made this pronouncement.

A. 1968. He was just startled. It wasn't what people we knew did. When I went back to my high school reunion for what was a decidedly middle class public high school, out of my entire high school class, there was not a single doctor. And I am the only lawyer. Peculiar.

- Q. Well, I was just going to ask you if you knew any lawyers --
- A. I didn't know any lawyers.
- Q. Okay. You just knew about law from reading about it and the personal experience you had with your teacher and that sort of thing? And apparently, very good exposure to it in class. Do you feel like you got a good education in the public school system?
- A. Absolutely.
- Q. We've got just a few more minutes on here. What about music? Was that important to you? Do you remember much about that in high school? Any kind of art influence or theater, anything than the band experience?
- A. I liked rock and roll music and, of course beach music.
- Q. There weren't concerts back then?
- A. No.
- Q. We didn't go to concerns.
- A. I do remember going to a Bobby Goldsboro concert.
- Q. It was probably the only one of the year?
- A. And I saw Jamie Brown in concert, which was pretty amazing.
- Q. In high school?
- A. In high school.
- Q. Which one was your first one, if you remember?
- A. I think it was Bobby Goldsboro.
- Q. I tell you, I would call him light rock today.
- A. Right.
- Q. But back then, he was considered, well, just top ten.
- A. Or country, I don't know. And I also remember seeing the Carter Family. In high school I was a huge reader, always a huge reader. My sister was a huge reader. I think I became a reader primarily to keep up with her.

Q. Did your mother or your father read a lot?

A. My mother was a reader.

Q. Do you still re-read some of the things you read then that were important to you in high school or do you remember what they were?

A. I don't remember what they were.

Q. Did you spend time reading in the summer?

A. I read all the time.

Q. -- days on end?

A. I read all the time.

Q. Go to the public library, get books?

A. Absolutely. It was great. The library was a gorgeous building, which is now part of the U.T.C. campus. I remember going into the children's department, where you could check out four books at a time. I remember getting "Ferdinand, the Bull", which I loved.. You were limited to only four books, so there were always really hard choices. Then I got a little older and found out that I could go upstairs and check out books in the adult part of the library, and there was no limit to the number of books you could check out. So, in the summer or after school, I would get on the bus – what a freer time – and ride it downtown to the library, get as many books as I could carry, and bring them home.

Q. For a week?

A. I guess for a week, I don't remember. But I loved it. I loved the smell of it.

Q. When you went into the adult library and you just saw the difference did you just go through the stacks and start picking out books? Or did you have any kind of method to the madness?

A. No method.

Q. See something you liked, pick it out, take it home?

A. Absolutely. And you could take any number. I had stacks and stacks.

Q. As many as you could carry?

A. And no librarian would look down and say, "child, that's too many". They just let you take them.

Q. Was this a public library?

A. Yes – the Chattanooga Public Library.

Q. So you probably spent a lot of time in the summers doing that?

A. Yes.

Q. Maybe in the school year, as well?

A. Yes.

Q. When you left high school and went to college, were you able to read that much in college or did you do it or do you remember?

A. I always read. In college, I took literature classes. What a great discovery. I remember taking twentieth century literature and what a great gig! Your class assignment was to read all these books that you'd read anyway, and then talk about them in class, and then get credit for it. It was great.

Q. You didn't major in that, though, did you?

A. No, but that's where I discovered Joyce Carol Oates. It was marvelous.

Q. How did you decide where to go to college?

A. Here's how I decided. This is the late 1960s - way before the era of college visits and that sort of thing. One night after dinner, my father took out a map of the United States and he sat it on the kitchen table with a compass. He had calibrated the compass that it would draw a four hundred mile radius on the map. He put the point of the compass in the dot that was Chattanooga and drew a circle on the map and said, "you can go to any state university you can get in within this circle". Well, by this time, I wanted to get as far away from Chattanooga, Tennessee as I could. So, every college I applied to was a state university located around the outer edge of the circle. I applied to Ohio State, Indiana, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina. I just went around the circle on the map. Got into some, didn't get into some. And then Indiana University played in the 1967 Rose Bowl. I remember seeing the half time pictures and thinking it was nice. That was my college visit.

Q. It was the Rose Bowl on T.V. and the half time pictures?

A. Yes. The pictures at campus.

Q. Never set foot on the campus?

A. Not until I was already signed, sealed and delivered.

Q. So how did your father come up with four hundred miles, if you know?

A. One day's drive.

Q. Okay. Your sister was older. I guess she had already gone to college.

A. University of Georgia.

Q. So did she get the same presentation or did she just go a lot closer?

A. It was a foregone conclusion that she would go to Georgia.

Q. Okay.

A. She knew she was going to Georgia, and I knew I was going far away. Now, I didn't know there was a difference between the north and the midwest. I thought I was going to the north.

Q. When did you know your sister wanted to be a lawyer?

A. She became a lawyer after I did, after she had gotten married and traveled around a bit.

Q. So it was years later that you found out your sister wanted to be a lawyer?

A. Yes. But we really were a lot alike, with the same background. She was very verbal like I obviously am and was. It was, for both of us, when you think about it, a logical career choice.

Q. This is April 24th, 2006. This is the second interview with Barbara Mendel Mayden in Nashville, Tennessee, in her office. Gail Ashworth, interviewer.

Barbara, we were last talking about how you made your decision to attend Indiana University. And you explained about the map and the four hundred mile radius and that's the one you selected. And I believe you had told me you never visited before you made the decision to go there?

A. Right.

Q. Okay. So you show up in Bloomington, Indiana, at some point in the summer or the fall of that first year as a political science major?

A. Correct. A Political Science and History double major.

Q. And you had pretty much made a decision in your mind that you were going to be a lawyer. But in the late '60's and early '70's, for a woman to already know that she wanted to be a lawyer and just sign up for a political science and history major... you know, so many women that I know who are women lawyers now did not come that route.

A. Yes.

Q. So I find it very interesting that you, at that age, even though you had no lawyers in your family, knew what you wanted to do, from the time you were a teenager.

A. I was tunnel visioned. I knew exactly what I wanted to do.

Q. I find that very interesting, so I wanted to talk about that a little bit. So did you know much about political science or what a political science major was?

A. I was very political at the time; active in political campaigns. I was a Democrat in east Tennessee, which is a heavily Republican part of the state. A serious Democrat. A died in the wool Democrat. I don't know where that came from; I just think a sense of social justice that I had been lucky enough to have permeate the air around where I lived. My parents weren't that politically active, but both my sister and I grew up with a strong sense of social activism.

Q. Well, were your parents Democrats or neither or did you know?

A. You know, I think they were probably Democrats, but they weren't all that political. I would assume that they voted for Adlai Stephenson and Democratic there on out, but it wasn't much of a topic of conversation.

Q. You used the term "died in the wool". Down here in Tennessee, we usually call those "yellow dog Democrats".

A. I was definitely a yellow dog Democrat. I would have definitely voted for a yellow dog over a Republican.

Q. And how old were you or what got you interested in being active in campaigns in your teenage years?

A. I just always loved it.

Q. Did it start out with presidential or governor or local or do you even remember?

A. I don't remember the order, but I can remember the campaign song for Bill Brock: [sings] "Bill Brock, Bill Brock, B-R-O-C-K" But I was a John J. Hooker man. [sings] "John J. Hooker, he's our man. Vote for John J., John J., John J, vote for John J". I was little but I was into that campaign. I remember putting out yard signs for John J. Hooker. That was of course before he became the off-beat figure he is today. Back then he was a legitimate political figure. If pressed, I could remember other campaigns, but somehow that one sticks out most vividly in my mind.

Q. Did you have politics in your future at that time? Were you considering politics?

A. I've never considered politics personally. It wasn't any political future for myself that I was interested in. It was results and policy that I was interested in .

Q. Okay. So you head out to Indiana University, political science. Now, your sister is older than you. She had gone where?

A. University of Georgia.

Q. And did you live in a dorm? Did you have roommates? How was that cultural experience?

A. It was great! You have to understand. I thought that I was doing something quite bold. I thought I was going up north! You know, there's just no more sheltered person than the girl that grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in the 1950's and '60's. So I thought that Bloomington, Indiana was up north. I didn't understand the concept of Midwest. So I get up to Indiana and literally the first week of school, there was a cross burning. Who knew that the hot bed of the Ku Klux Klan was Martinsville, Indiana; just down the road from Bloomington. So I began to understand that maybe the midwest is different from the north. But what a great, fun time to go to college. I had just so many different cultural experiences all pulled together. On the one hand I was Miss Social. I had my dorm friends and then became a sorority girl. And I was way into the sorority life.

Q. What -- what sorority?

A. Pi Beta Phi, which in and of itself, was another act of defiance. When I went to college, Jewish girls pledged Jewish sororities. Nobody saw anything wrong with that and that's the way it was. So everybody obviously assumed I would pledge a Jewish sorority. That would include me. I assumed I would join a Jewish sorority, but decided I liked the Pi Phis better. So I pledged Pi Beta Phi, which was apparently a big deal at the time. I was one of the first Jewish Pi Phis in the country. I know I was the second ever in our chapter.

Q. What did you like about those Phi Phi's and rush?

A. This is a true story. This is way too much information but here goes. I told you how my introduction to Indiana University was seeing it on the Rose Bowl.

Q. Right.

A. As part of that Rose Bowl, there was the half-time show, which featured one of the cheerleaders from Indiana University. She had a braid from the top of her head to her knees. They showed her doing cheerleading jumps with that braid going straight up in the air. I thought that was simply the coolest thing I had ever seen. I had no illusion about being a cheerleader, but it was very cool. So I go off through rush assuming I'm going to go to this Jewish sorority, and I visit the Pi Phi house where one of the girls arbitrarily picks the next rushee up at the door and takes her in. Well, who picks me up at the door, but that cheerleader with that braid from the top of her head to the bottom of her knees, Wendy Franey.

Q. Wendy Franey.

A. Wendy Franey. Who knows whatever happened to Wendy Franey, but let me tell you, it was all over for me from the time when Wendy Franey took my arm and ushered me into the Pi Phi House. That was it.

Q. You were a Pi Phi.

A. I was a Pi Phi. And I was all over being a Pi Phi. I loved being a Pi Phi.

Q. Very social?

A. Very social. But I was also sort of an anomaly for a Pi Phi, because I was also still very political. I was active in student government. I was what was the equivalent of the vice president of the senior class. I started out being the Greek representative on the student government. And, was still working for campaigns, which I loved. It just was a part of me that had been engrained from my political days in Chattanooga. And then came Kent State. I was one of the ones demonstrating on the lawn called Dunn Meadow, and was generally active in the anti-war movement. And in my sorority!

Q. And those were, like, peaceful marches with signs and chants?

A. Yes. I never got hauled into jail like my sister did though!

Q. And they were large demonstrations on that college campus?

A. Huge.

Q. Did you ever go

A. It was an exciting time to be a college student. The president of the student body was a guy named Keith Parker. My I.U. alumni magazine recently rant an article on him – he is now a college administrator at, I think, Southern Cal. But back then, he was a Black Panther. It was just a crazy time.

Q. Did you ever go off campus to participate in any larger demonstrations during those years?

A. No. But, I was enjoying all these different worlds.

Q. So you're very active in your sorority, you're very active in student government and demonstrations that were popular at the time in those two issues -- or those three issues, really?

A. I look back on it and between sorority life, political life and all of that, and frankly academics were almost secondary. But, I did fairly well in college. I had a teacher my senior year in high school who scared me into success. I was pretty self-satisfied about how I did in high school. I did okay. I wasn't a great student, but I was certainly a good student. This teacher, Mrs. Saxon, my English teacher, said to me, "you're going to flunk out of college. I give

you one semester". Well, I was stunned. That just totally shocked me. I was a good student! I was in the National Honor Society! I thought, "how could she possibly say that?". She said, "because you rely on natural ability, you don't study, you don't have a systematic way of doing homework, etcetera, and you're not going to last in college". Well, that just scared the daylights out of me. So I go to college and, for the first time in my life, I study. And that first semester, I had a 4.0 grade point average, which couldn't have surprised me more. But that became the bar. If I had had a 3.0 that semester, I would have had a 3.0 every semester. But, I had a 4.0. Now, I didn't have any 4.0s after that, but that certainly became the goal.

Q. So you did work in study time? Is that what you're saying?

A. I worked in study time. But I just wasn't that academic. I had other fish to fry. I ended up with a pretty good grade point average, but I look back and what I wish is that instead of immersing myself in student politics and sorority life, I wish I had immersed myself in Russian History. In Comparative Literature. I regret it. I really had a great college experience, but it wasn't as academic as it should have been.

Q. You could have taken advantage of more there than you did?

A. Absolutely. People ask me who my professors were, and I have no idea who my professors were. I can remember Keith Parker, the Black Panther Student Government President, but I don't remember the name of a single professor. I vaguely remember they were good, but I certainly didn't work to get to know them better, go to any special seminars or whatever. It's a shame because Indiana has so many wonderful academic possibilities. And again, I did well, but in terms of my list of priorities, academics were about a four.

Q. Well, later in life when you reflect back on four years of time that you had all to yourself, I suppose it's easy to say I wish I had done this or I wish I had done that.

A. I can also look back at some pretty fabulous classes. The best class I can remember is one I mentioned earlier, a class on recent twentieth century literature. That's when I learned to love modern fiction. We studied Joyce Carol Oates. J.P. Donleavy. That was possibly the most significant academic take-away from college. I was always a reader, but this was where I learned the difference between good, modern literature and a beach read. And that's how I approach books now. There are good reads and bad literature. The DaVinci Code: good read, bad literature. It really shaped my thinking about reading.

Q. And you read both now, right?

A. I read both.

Q. Okay. It sounds like you have very fond memories of your years at I.U. Were you there four years?

A. I was there four years and had every bit of fun I could possibly have.

Q. And I would imagine from your four hundred mile rule that you weren't doing a lot of driving or flying back and forth to home?

A. I was driving back some. I remember an I.U. football player from Chattanooga named Kenneth Starling. I don't know whatever happened to Kenneth Starling. He was an IU football star from Chattanooga, and he was black. And we would drive back and forth to Chattanooga together. This was 1969. It just was not done. I can't believe my parents let me do it. Not because they had any bigotry in them, but it was dangerous. I remember stopping at gas stations and getting scared. I was so bad. I remember sometimes sneaking back to Chattanooga to visit my boyfriend and not tell my parents.

Q. So you had a car?

A. I had a car later on. When my dad told he was buying me a car in order to get me back and forth to school, I guess it was my junior year, he asked what I wanted. I said, "well, I'm just so grateful to get a car", as we didn't have much money, but said, "on my wish list would be a convertible, but I know that's not going to happen, but bucket seats would be nice; I'd like a straight shift..." I ended up getting the worst looking car you've ever seen. Bench seats, automatic transmission, some old grandma's car. Brown. But, it was my car.

Q. All right. What about did you work any?

A. I worked. I had two jobs. First, I worked at Brummett's Pharmacy.

Q. What did you do there?

A. I just was a cashier and cleaned the shelves. It was one of these old-fashioned drugstores. I loved to the smell of it... the old wood.

Q. That's in Bloomington, right?

A. That was in Bloomington. And then I was a waitress at a restaurant called Pizza King. I would finish classes for the day and go to work. The restaurant would close at two o'clock in the morning, at which point I had to scrub pizza pans. I'd get home at around three in the morning and walk; about a half mile. The next morning I had a 7:00 a.m. class, which was geology, which luckily was across the street from my sorority house. So I'd get up, put on my coat over my pajamas, walk across to geology, take notes, go back to the sorority house and go back to sleep and I would wake up with no memory of having been to geology except for the full set of notes.

Q. All right. So you worked part-time?

A. I worked hard. And it seemed like all the time!

Q. What about summers? Did you go to school?

A. No, I never went to school in the summers. What did I do? I remember one summer I worked in Chattanooga in a restaurant. One summer I worked at Service Merchandise as a cashier.

Q. You have three daughters now?

A. Yes.

Q. How does your college experience translate into what you tell your daughters? I know one of your daughters is a freshman in high school. What do you tell your daughters about college or try to steer them towards decisions? How does your experience color what you tell your daughters?

A. That's a good question. I'm sure it does color it. It answers a lot of questions. For example, I look at my oldest daughter and think that maybe she would be better off in a small college environment, but I learned that in a large school you create your own environments and there's always another one if one or another one doesn't work out. For example, my sorority gave me a small group of friends. I had a separate group of friends who were my political friends. And even a separate group were my demonstration marching friends. So it taught me that I don't necessarily have to look for small colleges for her, because you can make your own small college in a big university. But beyond that, I just hope for them that they have as rich an experience as I had. Going off to school and having a good time for four years and while doing well enough academically is a pretty cool experience.

Q. Do you have any preconceived ideas about where you want your daughters to attend college?

A. No.

Q. Is I.U. one of the possibilities?

A. I would love for any of my girls to go to I.U., but obviously, they need to choose what's right for them.

Q. What about those work experiences? How does that color what you tell your daughters about work and encouraging them to do the same? I know they're a little young to work now.

A. They are too young to work, but are approaching the age when they will work during the summers. I hope they don't have to work during school. I don't want them going to bed at three a.m. and getting up and going to a seven o'clock class. It may have been a good transforming experience for me, but there are transforming experiences that they can get other than that.

Q. You told me about different work experiences, like, the camp counselor and working with your mom some in the summers and her job setting and working at your father's store; and then in college at the pharmacy, and waitressing - so you dealt with the public a lot in your work experience?

A. I think that's right. My kids live in a much more rarified environment than the one I lived in. I certainly would like to expose them to a broader circle of people, and you get some of that through some work experiences. I hope they'll be working this summer, at least two of them, but I hope they don't have to work while they're at school.

Q. Well, in the service industry, like waitressing or check-out clerk in a pharmacy or Service Merchandise, is that experience of dealing with the public and learning how to handle yourself in those mixed situations versus sitting behind a desk and being told to do something all day. Is that something you want to see your children learn how to do?

A. Absolutely. I hope that none of my kids will get out of school without being a waitress somewhere. It's a great humbler.

Q. Were those experiences helpful to you in what you do now or not?

A. I think every experience is helpful in forming who you are. These experiences led me to understand that you work hard and that's how you get money. There's nothing glamorous about punching cash register buttons or carrying trays, but if you want something nice or something not nice, if you want something, that's how you do it. You work hard. You don't marry for it. And further, I learned that the more education you have the better job you can get. I knew that I didn't want to punch cash register buttons all my life, and then have to rely on somebody else to support me to get the things I wanted. It certainly taught me that.

Q. You talked a little bit about that, observing your mother?

A. Right.

Q. And her situation at work and how well she did, she seemed to be somewhat --

A. overqualified.

Q. -- overqualified and her lack of further education limited her horizons?

A. Right.

Q. So you have a strong work ethic. It's pretty apparent. And you were willing to do that to earn some money while you were in school?

A. Right.

Q. It may have been necessary, as well?

A. It was both, but I think I learned at an early age, maybe through my mother, that you don't rely on somebody else to make your living for you. If you get that, that's great and good, but if you want, then you've got to do.

Q. At this particular time in history, a sorority girl at I.U., it was very different then than it is now, as far as consumerism, fashion, you know, outward appearance, as well, was that a concern for you or not in the early '70's when you were in school?

A. I was oblivious to money. It's that cliché that everybody thinks they're in the middle class. I thought I was in the middle class. And the people whom I knew and hung out with who had legions more money than I, thought they were in the middle class. Money, and who had how much, was an irrelevant concept. I remember there was a boy at I.U. about whom everybody said, "oh, he's got a lot of money". It meant nothing to me. I didn't know what that meant. Did it mean that his father was a doctor? That was big money in my book. I figured out later that his family had gazillions – a big shopping center family; shopping centers all over the country. Gazillions. Didn't mean anything to me -- the difference between him and me. I think that college at the time I was there acted as the great leveler. In my sorority, nobody seemed to have very much. We were all, you know, hoping for a little cash from home. And back then we weren't as label conscience. Nobody knew from Gucci bags.

Q. No, this was like just when Aigner came out?

A. Exactly. Designer brands that teens and wanted were not the designer brands that Paris Hilton carries.

Q. It's Bobbie Brooks.

A. It was Bobbie Brooks. It was Villager. It was a hugely different price point than the designer brands that thirty-somethings wore. I think it's so peculiar that middle school children in Nashville aspire to carry a Prada bag. My daughter would give anything – and she has a fake Gucci bag. I didn't know what a Gucci or Prada was until I was in my twenties.

Q. But the pressure wasn't there on college students in the early '70's?

A. Well, there was a little pressure, but it was just such a different level. It was an attainable level. You worked at Brummett's Pharmacy or at Pizza King and, by gosh, you could buy that gaucho skirt that sported was the label we thought was cool, but it wasn't a label that some thirty-year-old socialite would think was cool. But I did want nice things. which is another think that motivated me to be successful. When I was growing up, I didn't have the cool labels for teens. My best friend had eight pair of Bass Weegens. I didn't have one pair of Bass Weegens. One year for my birthday, I got a pair of Bass Weegen knock-offs - Old Maine Trotters. Nice, but not Bass Weegens. There was no way in the world my family could afford Bass Weegens.

Q. Which are shoes?

A. Which are shoes. That was the hot brand. But I thought, "if I'm going to have Bass Weegens, I'm going to have to get them myself, because nobody is giving them to me". So clearly, that was a motivating factor. And I worry about that with my children, because they have the 2006 equivalent of Bass Weegens. Now, they don't have eight pair of Bass Weegens or

whatever the equivalent is, maybe they have one. But I wonder about this my kids and my kids friends, generally, what will make them want to work hard.

Q. Because they have them?

A. They have them.

Q. You had to work for your Bass Weegens?

A. I had to work for my Bass Weegens and I worked like crazy for my Bass Weegens, because I knew nobody was going to give them to me. That isn't a big issue for my kids and their friends.

Q. All right. I believe you told me earlier your band days were behind you, even though you were at I.U., like the band capital of the midwest?

A. Right. No girl majorettes.

Q. Did you attend sporting events, like go to the ballgames and stuff?

A. I went to football games. Indiana basketball games.

Q. But you did not participate in sports?

A. Oh, no, girls did not do sports.

Q. Do you still visit I.U. or active in the alumni association or anything?

A. No. I don't do anything. I went back recently --I'm having a reunion of a few of my sorority sisters next month. I still keep in contact with friends, but I'm not connected to the university.

Q. At what point did you decide you were going to go into law school? Right when you went to I.U.? That was your goal?

A. As I told you, I always wanted to be a lawyer. I always talked about how I was going to be a lawyer. During my senior year, I was home, soon to graduate, and my father asked what I was planning after graduation. I replied that, of course, I was going to law school. Well, he was just stunned.

Q. Was that the first he had heard of it?

A. First that he had heard of it -- or maybe the first time he had listened. "What do you mean go to law school? I spent all my money on you for college". I said, "I've always told you I wanted to go to law school". It was then I knew that I would be paying for it myself. And that was that. I did alright on the L.S.A.T.'s - not great, not terrible. Scores that certainly wouldn't

get me into any Ivy League school. But with these fairly mediocre L.S.A.T.'s, word spread like mad around the S.A.E. house, a fraternity, that I was this genius because I had gotten such outrageously fabulous L.S.A.T. scores. But apparently, only by comparison. But the scores were good enough, because I got into a few schools that I had applied to. I decided -- this was subsequent to the conversation with my father -- that I would go to the highest bidder in terms of scholarship money, which was Indiana. So I decided to stay at Indiana and go to law school.

Q. Yeah. Is there anything else you want to tell me about college that you didn't tell me? It sounds like you have very fond memories of your college years? You were looking forward to going on after that and not regretting it?

A. Never. Many of my girlfriends were looking for husbands. That's what you did. And a lot of them found ones.

Q. Did you find one?

A. I had boyfriends who expected that the next step would be getting married, which was the furthest thing from my mind. And I realized it was a little unfair, that I was really a bad draw, because so many girls were indeed looking for husbands, and there were as many boys looking for wives. I should have carried a sign saying "not available". I was so not ready to be married and settle down.

Q. Well, I guess you really didn't have that stress on you if you weren't even considering it?

A. No stress. .

Q. All right. So where did you apply? Five, ten, fifteen schools?

A. I don't remember. Probably five schools. I remember applying to Indiana, obviously, and Georgia.

Q. I'm interested in what your choices were and why.

A. Memphis State and U.T. were "safety schools". George Washington, and I think Georgetown. That's all I remember. I was doing this with no help. I had parents who were not supportive - I mean, they were generally supportive, but they were not into this law school thing. By the way, it reminds me of another thing that happened in college that I should go back to. I was in college for maybe fifteen minutes, when one night, I was at the library and I got a call from my roommate who said my mother had called and she was on her way, and would be there in around fifteen minutes. And it's funny, I knew exactly what was going on. I walked back to the dorm, knowing that she was going to tell me that my parents were getting a divorce. Now, they had never talked about divorce. But why else would my mother just show up? And sure enough, she came to tell me that they were getting a divorce. So my parents got divorced. And that was painful and awful and I was furious, because that meant to me that she had just been waiting, biding her time, until I was in college and I felt very angry about it - that she made me feel that guilty. So, by the time I was graduating, I had parents who were sort of off doing their

own things. They always loved me, but they weren't into this law school gig. So I had no guidance and we didn't ever discuss where I was going to apply to for law school. And there was no support system at I.U., at least, that I knew about.

Q. Well, I was going to say, how did you find these schools or know about them, because it's not like you had a career counselor.

A. Right. So I figured: Memphis State and U.T. were the two Tennessee law schools. My mother had moved to Georgia after the divorce, so I assumed I could get in-state tuition at University of Georgia.

Q. So you applied there?

A. I applied to Georgia. I applied to Indiana, because I assumed I could establish a residency in Indiana.

Q. That would help with finances?

A. Yes. I had lived there for four years. Now, how I got Georgetown and George Washington, I don't know, but I think what must have happened was that because I had done well enough on the L.S.A.T.'s, they could have contacted me.

Q. Okay. Vanderbilt you just weren't interested in or too expensive?

A. Oh, just so far off the charts in terms of what was conceivable financially. So I got accepted, I think, at all of them, but I don't know that. You know, I don't remember. But I got accepted at at least a few of them, and Indiana offered me the most money. So I decided to stay at Indiana and I spent my first year of law school at Indiana. And okay. This is true confession time. Are you ready?

Q. I'm ready.

A. Okay. The true confession is this. I was not a great student my first year of law school. I just didn't catch on to it. I had been so active in college, the idea of just totally focusing on my law school studies, especially when I was at a place where everything around me was the same, just wasn't working. I was social still, but all my friends had gone and it felt like a bizarre experience that I was in the same place, but my friends were gone. But my habits hadn't changed. I was still in that same environment. I had a cute little apartment; probably the smallest apartment you could possibly imagine. But it was mine. You could stand up in my living room, and literally, touch both sides of the walls. There was no room for a couch, but I had a loveseat. I loved living in my own apartment, though. That was great. But it was the smallest thing you've ever seen. Anyway, I just didn't get law school at first. I didn't get the single-minded focus you have to have and was miserable, as so many are. I spent a good amount of my time playing pinball. There was a barber shop across the street from the law school that had pinball and I was hooked on pinball.

Q. I mean, this was before even Packman?

A. Yeah. We're talking pinball?

Q. And that was soothing?

A. It was soothing, absolutely.

Q. Did you gamble with it?

A. No.

Q. No, just played it?

A. Just played. And if I was winning, I didn't go to class. It was really addictive. I still did okay in law school, but not nearly as well as I should have done.

Q. But you were unhappy, it sounds like.

A. I was very unhappy. There was a guy and I think his name was Jack Sawry, which is the first time I've come up with his name in maybe twenty-five, thirty years. Towards the end of the year he came up to me and said -- almost like that English teacher had said --- he said, "you know, what a waste you are". I said, "what are you talking about?" He said, "you could have done so well and you just blew it off". And man, that cut me to the quick. I guess I had just assumed it would be too hard for me, assumed I couldn't do it, and then was able to skate by ...

Q. Natural ability, yeah.

A. -- on natural ability, which unlike high school and college, got me mediocre grades. I don't know what the grades were, but they were pretty mediocre. But, they couldn't have been that terrible because had they been I couldn't have fixed the situation, which I did. I thought, "all right, I have screwed up here, how can I fix it". And, I came up with a fairly brilliant fix, if I may say so myself. I think that it was a real survivor type skill that I realized I had. I thought, "all right, I've got to fix this. I can't do it over". And I thought, "I'm going to transfer. If I have a plausible reason for transferring, then I can in essence, start over". Because, I learned that if you transfer, grades don't transfer. If you can get in, your grade point average is calculated anew, beginning with the courses at the new school. So I applied to Georgia and got accepted as a transfer. And with a very nice letter, which said something to the effect: Indiana's loss is Georgia's gain. It was a very sweet letter. So, I transferred to Georgia and started over. I did better there, or maybe just good enough. At Georgia, in order to get jobs with the great firms, you had to be in the top ten percent of your class. There were two hundred people in my class. I was twenty. To me, that was exactly the right place to be.

Q. Perfect. Hit the mark.

A. Perfect. But as in college, I worked all the way through, so it wasn't a walk in the park. I had a lot of jobs in law school. I was working hard. I was on my own. In law school, it was still the old days. There were very few women. I don't know exactly how many, but it was right before the influx. There were very few women.

Q. You graduated what year?

A. I graduated law school in '76. I started in '73. There were only a handful of women. At Indiana, in contracts class, they still had "ladies day". My teacher was Professor Stanger. Straight out of Paper Chase, the movie. Professor Stanger was a wonderful, wonderful teacher, but he had ladies day on Fridays, which meant the first question on each Friday morning was directed to one of the ladies in class and that was it. You would never get called on any other time during the week and only once on Friday.

Q. And there were only a few of you in the class?

A. Right. There were only a few of us in the class. So, what it resulted in, is that you wouldn't feel the pressure to be prepared, because you knew you weren't going to be called on. And if you were able to avoid being the first one called on on Friday, that meant that you weren't called on at all.

Q. Well, let me make sure I understood this transition -- I'm going to call this a transition. Really, your watershed event was when a classmate, this Jack Sawry, took you aside and kind of woke you up, to the point where you realized you couldn't do over, but you needed to do something.

A. Yes. He made me realize that I had used the excuse that I couldn't have done any better. And he told me that that I was one of the smartest people he knew, but that I just wasted it. And I realized that maybe I was smarter than I thought and that indeed, perhaps I had just wasted it.

Q. And you came up with this idea to transfer to Georgia, which is one of your schools that you were interested in anyway, your family -- your mother was there, it was a good school, and -

A. In-state tuition.

Q. In-state tuition?

A. And they gave me a little money also.

Q. Okay. Did you work the first year or just play pinball? Because a lot of schools do not allow first years to work.

A. I.U didn't let me work that first year and I had enough of a scholarship and student loans that somehow I didn't have to.

Q. And just by comparison, if you recall the tuition cost at I.U. and Georgia when you went? I recall mine.

A. It was next to nothing.

Q. Well, you still had to live? I mean, you had to support yourself, too.

A. But, I didn't have to pay tuition.

Q. Because you earned a scholarship?

A. Yes. But living expenses were low. I think I read recently that undergraduate tuition now out-of-state at Indiana is like nineteen thousand dollars. It was maybe six hundred dollars when I was there.

Q. Okay. All right. And -- but you did have to get some student loans too.

A. I got student loans, because I had to live. But they weren't onerous, and I was able to pay them off within ten years after I graduated. It just breaks my heart what the kids have to do now.

Q. What kind of work did you do while you were in law school?

A. I had all sorts of jobs. I was a research assistant for a professor. The other job was in a factory in Athens. In the summer I worked at H.E.W. - the predecessor agency to H.H.S. I worked in Atlanta and I wrote black lung briefs denying black lung benefits. It was about the most heinous job you could possibly imagine. These poor people with black lung - these were administrative law appeals and I would have to write the briefs denying them black lung benefits. But the best job I had for two years in law school was working at a men's clothing store. Britches of Georgetowne. It was a very, very nice men's clothing store.

Q. Was it commission?

A. No. Even though I was so good at it, it wasn't commission. But once I was given a huge package of Aramis products, because it turned out that I had sold more Aramis products than anybody in the world.

Q. Those are scent products? I think Aramis now makes a clothing line, too. But back then it was all men's scents?

A. Right.

Q. Okay. So you were working, you're going to school and you, obviously, had gotten it by then?

A. Right.

Q. You said you did great, your grades were really good?

A. My grades were pretty good.

Q. I guess you got your focus?

A. Got my focus.

Q. You were happy, you liked it?

A. Yes. But I can remember a little bump in the road. In my third year, I recall getting really angry because I realized that law school had changed the way I thought. And it made me very angry at what I understood was the purposeful endeavor on the part of law school to narrow my thinking. What good lawyers, whether they be litigators or corporate lawyers or whatever, have in common, is getting to the issue, figuring out what's important. And so you're narrowing down. You're weeding out the extraneous; taking all this stuff that's going on around you and all these facts and getting down to what's the point. Whether you're trying to make an argument to a jury, whether you're trying to figure out what's the important bottom line important to a corporate client in a deal, whether you're giving advice to a client, you're always narrowing down to - what's the issue here. And that's what law school teaches you. And I realized that my mind was being shaped like that. I had this great image of somebody taking my brain and squeezing it, because I was such a broad, undisciplined thinker. I loved thinking the big thoughts, without the discipline to get to the point. I didn't like having my brain squeezed like that, and I got very angry about it. They had changed something that I thought was so intrinsic to me.

Q. It's interesting that you discovered that that early in your third year of law school. It takes people a while to realize that. Now, was your entire class two hundred or your section two hundred?

A. My class.

Q. Okay. So you had two hundred. Can you give me some idea of how many women were in your class at Georgia?

A. I would guess there were eight to ten.

Q. Okay. And was that consistent with I.U.?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. What about your professors? Did you have women law professors?

A. There was one that I remember, Emily Calhoun. She was very young, obviously and, just reviled by the men. But I quite liked her. She was dating another law professor, and I was dating her ex-husband.

Q. Was he a professor?

A. No. He was a lawyer in Atlanta.

Q. All right. So you recall having female professors at law school?

A. One. Just one. And she didn't teach me. I never had a female professor in law school.

Q. All right. Of the eight or ten women or thereabouts that were in your class; did you seek each other out or do study groups together or not? Or was that just really not a factor? What can you recall about that?

A. At Indiana, I had a best friend who actually had been in my sorority. So I already knew her. At Georgia, you know, there's such a camaraderie in law school that gender really wasn't an issue. Men and women were all friends. It wasn't an issue.

Q. Well, obviously at your law school there was such a sense of camaraderie. That's the experience that you had?

A. Yes.

Q. Some law schools don't have that.

A. I guess that I can't generalize, but I have very fond memories of my classmates at Georgia. And it wasn't easy being the new girl. In law school, it's during the first year that the real bonding takes place. I parachuted in during the second year, but had a warm welcome.

Q. Did you feel like you had an equal shot at these -- I believe you described them as the big firms or the great firms, if you were top ten percent, whether you were male or female? Do you remember anything about that?

A. Yes. I was top ten percent. I was outgoing, and good on my feet. And, as illustrated by having the savvy to figure out I needed to start over in law school, I just seemed to have an ability to make lemonade out of lemons. One day I had an interview with a smaller firm in Atlanta, which I had totally forgotten about. So, I showed up looking like a scrungy law student; you know: sweatshirt, blue jeans, just sorry. And then, I remembered that I had an interview. So I went in and said, "I know I don't look like what your interviewees usually look like, but I thought you ought to know what I look like in real life. You know, I can dress up in a suit, but this is me and this is what I am and you need to know me. You're a small firm, I assume that interaction is pretty important, so you need to know really what I'm like and this is what I'm like". They gave me an offer on the spot.

Q. What about law review?

A. Didn't do law review, because I transferred in. I could have tried to write on, but I was working in Atlanta and there's no way I could have done that.

Q. What about when you were in law school; was it important to have a summer associate position, what we call clerkships, between your second and third year and did you do that?

A. No, because I was working full time.

Q. You were already doing these brief writing jobs.

A. Right. And working at the men's store

Q. All right. What can you tell me about going to law school at the University of Georgia.

A. I loved going to law school in Athens, Georgia.

Q. Give me some feel for the type of music you were going to hear; what concerts, if you recall, in that era?

A. I do remember going to see a comedy concert. This guy was just so funny and he did his whole spiel standing up with an arrow through his head. It was Steve Martin.

Q. Yeah, Steve Martin. I know that era. He did a lot in the south. What about music? Do you remember? You drank a lot of beer, I understand.

A. I did drink a lot of beer.

Q. As did most of your law students.

A. I just remember local bands. There was a bar called T.K. Hardy's, which was the big law school hangout, which is no longer there. I think he (T.K. Hardy) subsequently was killed at another bar. But it was good times when we were there. I do remember going to a Linda Rondstat concert.

Q. Did you -- by the time you transferred or second year, did you have study groups? Did you all do that in law school or not?

A. I'm sure some did. Working as much as I was working, I didn't get to do a lot of that kind of thing.

Q. You were writing a lot for your jobs?

A. Yes.

Q. That's a lot of extra work. Did you have any negative experiences in law school that you feel were due to the fact that you were a woman law student wanting to be a woman lawyer?

A. Of course, "ladies day" was a negative experience.

Q. Did anybody ever tell him that or did you ever feel like you should tell him that or it was just obvious?

A. No. That's just the way it was.

Q. You felt like you had a pretty much equal shot on the job interviews; signing up for that sort of thing?

A. Yes, but there were your occasional horror stories. There was the story of the woman who interviewed for a job at the firm I eventually worked for. Somebody asked her whether she could type. She said, "I can type and I can screw, but I don't do either one for money", which pretty much did it in for her. And I also remember the story about when my friend Dana Lamer interviewed. She was brilliant. Unlike me, she didn't just barely eke into the top ten percent of her class at Emory. She was like first or second in her class. And just gorgeous; a model. But, hard as nails and just too tough for these guys. She couldn't get a job at my law firm because she just cared these guys to death.

Q. Did any of these horror stories apply to you?

A. Oh, I had my share. Maybe this don't sound like a horror story, because I really didn't want the job that badly, but I applied for a federal clerkship and got a nice letter back said, in effect, "thank you for applying, you are very well qualified, but I'm not hiring women this year". It was so refreshingly openly discriminatory.

Q. From a federal judge?

A. From a federal judge, right. I can't believe I don't think I kept that letter. I need to go back through my stuff and see if I can find it. So yes, things happened all the time, but enough good things were happening that you just sort of laughed at the rest.

Q. You had this rather unique work experience, unlike a lot of the people that you went to school with, where you were working a lot in the legal field while you were in law school. Did you decide or have some idea about what you wanted to do when you graduated to practice law - or what you didn't want to do?

A. I had no idea what lawyers did when I went to law school. I had never seen an actual lawyer. And at graduation, I had never worked in a law firm, because I was working in other jobs to pay for school. I didn't have a parent who was a lawyer, so I really didn't know very much.

A. Much to my surprise, I received a job offer at King & Spalding. Bob Steed, who extended the offer and is now retired from the Firm, and a dear friend, will tell you that the reason I got the job at King & Spalding was because I was so darn cute. My other best friend at

the firm, Ruth West, said that when I was interviewed, there would be just frantic phone calls going around the firm asking, "where is she now?"

Q. What did you wear to that interview?

A. I don't remember.

Q. You were just cute in anything?

A. I was pretty darn cute. And, I'm realistic enough to know that that really helped. There are people who didn't get jobs offers with this firm who had better grades than I had. I had pretty good grades - I crossed the threshold in grades, and then I was so darn cute.

Q. Wow, when did you learn you had a job at King & Spalding? Were you still in law school? Is that sort of the time frame or had you graduated?

A. I was still in law school. Remember, these were different times, King & Spalding was a small firm. I had a part-time job working at H.E.W., which was, you know, God's work, denying people their black lung benefits. And I got picked up by Bob Steed, who was on the recruiting committee, and who became one of my dear friends and mentors for life. He drove me around and -- I don't know where we went, maybe we went to lunch or whatever. That was back when King & Spalding was small, and they weren't recruiting many people. They didn't have recruiting classes of sixty - they had classes of six in a big year. So they lavished all this personal attention on their recruits.

Q. And did you quit all your other jobs and just work full time for them?

A. No. I was still in law school, and still had a lot of law school bills to pay.

Q. You were still working at a men's clothing store?

A. I was working at a men's clothing store, which was fun. It was a new store at the time called Britches of Georgetowne, which is now just a very well-known men's clothing store, and also working for H.E.W., and I was working part-time in Athens. I mean, I was just working away. I was poor! How poor was I? I was so poor that I didn't understand that this king's ransom that I was going to be making as an associate, which I recall being sixteen thousand dollars a year (which was more money than I could ever dream of in my entire life) wouldn't go real far.

Q. This is 1976?

A. Yes. I remember that I got my offer letter and my starting salary was quoted as \$16,500, which was, again, to me a king's ransom. And then before I started, they raised it to the lofty sum of \$17,000. So I actually started at \$17,000. I thought I had more money than the sheik of Araby. So I immediately went out and started spending it. I bought a piano. I decided I was going to learn to play the piano. I remember going to Phipps Plaza and buying a new cashmere coat. I tell you, I went into debt faster than you could possibly imagine any person could go into

debt, because I just never had any money, and was now going to make \$17,000 a year! I figured I had all the money in the world to spend. It was a very hard lesson in money management that I really took to heart and I have tried to start teaching my kids, because nobody ever taught me money management. I spent everything I had and more. And it took years to crawl out of that, but it was a princely sum - \$17,000.

Q. Well, when you started full time with King & Spalding after you graduated -- and I'm assuming you had to get rid of all those other jobs when you were a full-time associate?

A. Right.

Q. That was in Atlanta?

A. Correct.

Q. Were you living in Atlanta? Did you move to Atlanta?

A. Moved to Atlanta, had a fancy apartment. Obviously - I had all the money in the world, so I had this fancy apartment. It was the good life.

Q. How long were you there?

A. I was in Atlanta, about two-and-a-half years, maybe.

Q. Were you doing litigation or what type of work?

A. I was in the bond department, which was just great fun with great folks.

Q. Great closings?

A. Great closings, great responsibility... Could I tell you a story?

Q. Oh yes.

A. So this is my life as a bond lawyer. I had been there about a year-and-a-half, and was, for the first time, going to have my very own deal to close by myself. And, I was so nervous. The closing was for a bond issue for a public authority in south Georgia. The officials of an authority were a chairman and a secretary. I just wanted to triple check that everything was done, so I called the chairman of the authority the day before, and said, "remember, you've got to be in Atlanta tomorrow and you've got to bring the secretary because there must be two signatures on these bonds -- the chairman and the secretary. And he said, that he understood. Now, at these closings, after you got the signatures of the chairman and the authority, the trustee would come and sign the bonds. It's called "authentication", and once the Bonds were signed by the trustee, or "authenticated", the bonds were "live" bonds, they became negotiable "bearer" bonds; they're like cash. So after the conversation with the chairman of the authority, the trustee called me and said, "you know, I've got something else to do tomorrow, may I go ahead and sign these bonds

early?" I said, "sure, why not?" So the trustee came up and signed the bonds the night before. So, after the chairman and secretary came and signed the bonds, and of course, I had them lined up, we would have live negotiable bonds, and I would have successfully completed my first closing. So the next morning I get in my suit and my heels and my stockings and I'm ready to do this closing.

Q. And your cashmere coat?

A. And my cashmere coat. I was fabulous. I'm in my office, and the receptionist calls and said, "Mr. So-And-so is here". So I walk out and there's Mr. So-And-So with this little old lady. So I said, "hello, I'm Barbara Mendel". And he replied, "I'm So-And-So and this is Ms. What's-Her-Name, my secretary". I said, "nice to meet you, did you bring the secretary of the authority?" He replied, "The secretary of the authority? Heck no! Of course I didn't bring the secretary of the authority, he's got a drugstore he has to run, he couldn't come all the way up here to Atlanta!" So, great.. But hey, I'll just get the chairman to sign the bonds and he can take them back down to Hahira, Georgia, and the secretary can sign them and bring them back. But, then I realized that the trustee had already authenticated the bonds. So as soon as the secretary signed the bonds, we would have five million dollars worth of live, bearer bonds. I had to send a Brinks truck to Hahira, Georgia to get that signature. And that was the first thing I thing I ever did by myself as a lawyer. It was a very bad start.

Q. Well, you got around it.

A. Well, yes, but only by hiring a Brinks truck. It was an inauspicious moment.

Q. A good lesson there?

A. I'm sure there is. What it is I am a little less sure of.

Q. After two-and-a-half years, did you leave King & Spalding or leave Atlanta?

A. When I got to King & Spalding and Atlanta, I hadn't seen much of the word – remember I was the kid from Chattanooga, Tennessee who thought that if you went to Indiana, you were up north. Growing up in Chattanooga, the cliché was, that when you die and you've been good, you go to Atlanta. I thought life began and ended in Atlanta, Georgia. So I get to Atlanta and started going up to bond closings in New York. Well, New York hadn't been on my radar screen at University of Georgia, and when I got to King & Spalding, I had never been to New York. I discovered that going to New York was like Christmas every day. So, I decided I would get a little New York experience, and like I left my sorry first year at I.U. law school behind me, by leaving for New York, I would leave a few skeletons in my closet behind - like that Brinks truck episode. So I thought, "start fresh, start new", and decided to go to New York for a couple of years to sort of round out my experience. And that couple of years lasted eighteen years.

Q. And that was with whom?

A. I have a resume with pocket parts.

Q. Who did you start out with?

A. When I went to New York to interview, the market for an associate (also known as fodder) with a few years of experience was white hot. Any mullet could get a job back when I went to New York. I interviewed with a number of law firms who did the type of work I was doing at the time. And they were kids in the candy store. Any live body that had experience was extremely desirable.

Q. No headhunters necessary?

A. No headhunters. They were so eager for bodies, even this sorry bond lawyer from Atlanta. So I interviewed with all the firms that did this work and they all seemed interchangeable to me. And maybe they were. But I had no clue how to differentiate them. So, I went to work for the one that was in midtown instead of downtown so I didn't have to take the subway. It was not a great way to choose a firm. I went to work for Wilkie, Farr and Gallagher where I lasted six months. I was not a happy camper. I'm not sure if I'm supposed to name names on this tape, but I'm sure you can edit it out if I'm not. For years, I wondered whether it was me or whether it was the firm. And I came to the conclusion that I was so used to King & Spalding, which was a very sweet, small, close-knit firm, that I inevitably would have problems with any New York firm where the partners didn't know each other, and where they didn't ask you over to dinner. Now, I look back and understand that one reason they don't ask you to dinner is because they live in Scarsdale or Greenwich and you live in a small apartment in the City. Where King & Spalding seemed like one, big, happy family, New York was a taste of the law firm world to come -- very corporate. They were pleasant enough, but it wasn't social. And they weren't treating associates as colleagues, associates were employees. And I was not happy. So I left there and went to the New York office of Morgan Lewis & Bockius. I figured that a Philadelphia - based firm would have more of the firm culture that I left behind in Atlanta. That was not a good move. It was a bad match. I didn't like them, they didn't like me. So there I was, 0 for 2. At that time, I, like the other twenty-somethings in New York, would spend the summer at a group rental in the Hamptons. I was all with that plan. One of my friends there was at White & Case. So, we would go to the beach on the weekend, and she would complain about how much she had to do and didn't have enough people to do it. And I would complain about how I was not in a good situation and all of a sudden, something clicked with her, and I went to work for her firm - White & Case. Finally, a very happy experience. It was a wonderful firm. It was a wonderful fit. And I was a happy girl there. I stayed there for five or six years, and then left because there was a better opportunity for me at Skadden, Arps. So I moved around a lot in New York and I think I eventually ended up in the right places. I loved White & Case, and I loved Skadden Arps. Those were just better fits for me. It just took a while to get there.

Q. Did you stay at Skadden, Arps the remainder of your time?

A. I stayed at Skadden the remainder of my time. I spend a good number of years at White & Case, and a good number of years at Skadden, before we picked up and moved to Nashville.

Q. Well, why did you leave New York for Nashville after eighteen years?

A. Well, it wasn't my idea. When I got to New York, I was foot loose and fancy free - no boyfriends. I left New York with one husband, and three kids. I was perfectly happy doing that the way I was doing it in New York. New York has a reputation of being not a family-friendly place to raise kids, but I found it was great for working women, because everything was so accessible. Groceries were delivered to your door. You had a doorman to deal with deliveries. You never had to strap kids in car seats because, you would walk just about anywhere you needed to go. Our neighborhood deli was Zabars. We had neighborhood bookstores, and movie theaters, that you walked to. We walked to Gymboree.

Q. Very supportive environment for that?

A. Very supportive environment. You could just get from point A to point B with strapping kids in cars. I was happy, and had a great routine. I would wheel my kids to school; walking across the park with pushing my double stroller, which was great exercise, drop them off at school, walk to work, which was two blocks away. I could leave at lunch and go do some lego stuff and then go back to work. It was all very close, so it almost felt like a small town. So, I was very happy doing that. My husband was not. When we got married he said that he felt strongly that he didn't want to raise children in the city. Well, who knew that we would ever have children? I was not a young bride and just figured he'd forget about it if and when we did have kids. But he didn't forget, so a few babies later, we began looking at places to live in the suburbs. We'd go to Scarsdale and look around. We went to Greenwich and looked around. But that all seemed untenable to me. I don't see how you're a mother with young children and get on a train to go to work. When the kids have a performance at school, you can't just rush over there. It wasn't going to work for me. So in the category of too much information that you can edit out, I said, "okay, fine, you find a place to move and I'll move". So, we began to think demographically. If I wasn't going to be in New York, I would prefer to go back to the south. I love the south. I liked Atlanta, but, in the years since I had left, Atlanta had turned into L.A. It was just crazy in Atlanta and too big for what I wanted. So, we were looking at medium-sized cities in the south. And, if we were going to be in a medium-sized city in the south, I thought it was important that it have a university - not that I expected to be affiliated with a university, I just thought it would bring in interesting people, because I didn't want to live in a place that was too homogenous. We looked at Birmingham, and came very close to moving there. We considered Columbia, South Carolina, and Charlotte. But we were just considering, because this was my husband's idea, and I figured that by the time he got it done, the kids would be out of college and we could stay. But then one day, he found out that the bank where he worked had a branch office in Nashville that they would let him work out of. So there it was. Nashville. Didn't know anybody, didn't know anything about it. Even though I had grown up in Chattanooga, you had to cross a mountain pass to get to Nashville! We didn't go there.

Q. Your route was Chattanooga to Atlanta, not really Nashville?

A. Exactly. Our orientation was south, not west. I had never been to Nashville.

Q. What year was that when you moved?

A. I think 1995.

Q. About ten or eleven years ago?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And how old were your girls? They were little?

A. Three, two and not yet one. So, when we first moved here, I decided I was going to take some time off and get settled. I had thought that the silver lining would be that when we sold our New York apartment, we would be able to buy the biggest house in town! Tara! Well, who knew how expensive Nashville was. So we didn't buy the biggest house in town, quite the contrary. And the smaller house we bought needed work. So we moved into this small duplex while we were waiting for the work to be done to the house. I'll never forget the first day Ted leaves for work. I'm standing in the door of the duplex waving goodbye. I am in my chenille bathrobe, with three tiny children screaming in the background, with my brown rented minivan in the driveway thinking, "what has happened here? I'm not quite sure what happened, but this wasn't the direction I saw my life going". Not a happy day. But Ted? He was thrilled. I was just absolutely mortified. But it all worked out fine. I got the kids settled. I taught adjunct at Vanderbilt for a while I found all the shortcuts around town. It was funny. The first call I made when we decided to move to Nashville was to my dear friend from Knoxville who was active in the Tennessee bar whose name is Howard Vogel; one of my best friends in the world. And so I called Howard and said, "well, Howard, you'll never guess where I'm moving, we're moving to Nashville, Tennessee". And the first words out of Howard's mouth -- and I can hear him say it now -- , he says, "so I guess you'll go to work for Bass, Berry & Sims". And I said, "if I do, take me out and shoot me". At that point, I had been working almost twenty years doing the same thing, working in a large, corporate law firm. So I thought, this is a great time to start over and do something different. I can go to work and be a prosecutor, I can work on Music Row, I can do something totally different in law. I didn't want to leave law, but I could be a litigator! I could start over.

Q. Barbara, I know you went to Bass, Berry & Sims, so what happened?

A. Well, as I said, for a year, I didn't work except for teaching a couple of classes at Vanderbilt. When it was time to go back to work, I wanted to go to Bass, Berry & Sims. It felt comfortable, it felt good and it was a great opportunity.

Q. Well, that's wonderful.

A. So it worked out well.

Q. So you were there about ten years, because you're retired now?

A. Yes.

Q. During the course of this interview process, you have retired just this year, actually?

A. I retired this year.

Q. You did corporate work there at Bass, Berry & Sims?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, you mentioned that Howard Vogel was one of your dear friends?

A. Yes. I met Howard through the ABA.

Q. Okay. I didn't know if you knew him from Tennessee or --

A. I met him in 1976 or 1977 at the ABA.

Q. Okay. You were you involved in bar association activities, national level, the entire time you were in New York? Because I know you're still involved heavily.

A. When I got to King & Spalding, there was a man whose office was next to mine named Kirk McAlpin; a litigator. You could tell a thousand funny stories about him. But one day he comes into my office, and said, "Barbara, you're going to Chicago." Remember, he's talking to the girl who had never traveled. I said, "great, why am I going to Chicago?" He said, "you're going to the ABA meeting," and I asked him what the ABA was. So he said something to the effect that we clearly had some work to do, but he made me go that first year. It was 1977 and it was February and it was the midwinter meeting of the ABA in Chicago. Kirk said - you're going and here's where you go and pointed me to the Young Lawyers Section of the ABA. I will never forget that trip. The Chair of the Young Lawyer's Section, now of blessed memory, was this wild and crazy guy. I showed up at the Young Lawyers Section hotel, which was the Ritz Carlton, and man, it was fun. At that meeting I happened to fall in with a crowd, and they were all going to a meeting for someone running for chair of the Young Lawyers, somebody named Janie Barrett, who became the first woman chair of the Young Lawyers in its almost fifty year history. I went to that meeting and thought, "this is really fun!" I guess it reactivated that political gene that had been dormant for a while. And that's how I got involved. I never missed an ABA midyear or annual meeting since except, when I was having babies.

Q. All right. First ABA meeting was Chicago mid winter and your King & Spalding litigator friend pointed you there; just to get you involved; right?

A. He was a former chair of the Young Lawyers Section- at the time called the Junior Bar.

Q. I mean, he didn't do this because he needed you to substitute for him? He did this to further you.

A. No. He did it -- he did it because he was a mentor and that's what mentors do. He just sort of took me by the ear -- and he didn't even know me. I just happened to be the associate nearest to him in proximity.

Q. Did you become an ambassador for the ABA after that? You were by the time I met you. Did you do that for other people in your career?

A. I tried, but it took with some people and some people it didn't. It has taken a long time for me to grasp that different people enjoy different things. I mean, why wouldn't everybody want to do this? It has so enhanced me personally and professionally that you want everybody to have that opportunity. But of course, there are other ways to enhance yourself personally and professionally. Maybe there are indeed a lot of reasons not to do what I did, but there are a lot of reasons to do it also. It has been terrific for me.

Q. Well, you spent all those years at Skadden, Arps before you came here for ten years' Were you able to develop your outside interests through your work or was that through the bar or both? How did you make those connections to do things outside corporate work?

A. When I was in New York, my primary vehicle for outside, do-good activities was through bar work; whether it be ABA, New York State Bar, or New York City Bar, there always seemed to be a bar project that interested me. Yesterday, I read something about Burma. I had forgotten that I had once done a report for the City Bar on human rights violations in Burma. It was years ago; I don't even remember what it said, except that Burma was bad! But there was so much to do and it was so exciting as a young lawyer to reach outside of your narrow and specialized area of the law and do something about human rights violations in Burma and dramatically expand your knowledge base. It takes you a little bit back to law school where you're looking at a little bit of everything. And to be able to do that in a professional setting was a real treat. I also did volunteer work with Legal Aid and things like that. When I came to Nashville, what I relearned (having had the same experience in Atlanta, back when I lived there when it wasn't huge), was that at my law firm, Bass, Berry & Sims, and I think generally in the profession here, you're expected to do something to support the community. The institutions will not run themselves. They need volunteers. Your synagogue is not going to run itself, it needs volunteers. So, whatever you're interested in, whether it be church work, whether it be symphony, whether it be Junior League, - the people who are professionals in Nashville are expected to do something. Now, in New York, that wasn't true because there was always somebody else to do it. In Atlanta now, it's no longer true - there will always be somebody to do it. But in Nashville, we're still small enough that the expectation that I sense is that you get involved somehow in your community. And that's been fun and interesting and I've done all sorts of things not within the legal realm here in terms of volunteer work.

Q. If you don't do it, it won't get done?

A. If you don't do it, it won't get done.

Q. And you get a lot of personal gratification out of accomplishing things like that?

A. Absolutely.

Q. All right. Tell me some of the things that you've been involved in since you've been in Nashville.

A. Well, it's funny. I look at the list of extracurriculars, and there seems to be a theme, and that theme may be women. If you look at the statistics, you'll find that a lot of monies go to charities to support men and boys, with a smaller proportion of our charitable dollars going to women and children. So I have been active with the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation, which raises money in an endowment to support charities that benefit women and children. I have been active in the YW and their domestic violence services. I have helped and been an officer in a group called All About Women, which is a group that tries to get women to take better care of themselves. Tennessee ranks last in the statistics relating to how women are taking care of themselves, whether it be mental health, physical health, or financial health. We seem to often take care of everybody else and not ourselves. In addition, I've been active in my synagogue and with my children's schools.

Q. Well -- and I ask that about your community involvement, because I know you have also been extremely continually involved in the ABA as a leader?

A. Oh, that, too.

Q. I think since you've been in Nashville, is when you chaired the Business Law Section of the ABA?

A. That's right.

Q. But -- and then before, years before, I'm not sure how many, you chaired the Young Lawyers Division. So along the way, in addition to all of your community work and activities, you've also maintained what I would consider to be a very high profile in the profession as chair of the ABA YLD, which is, I guess, the largest division of the ABA and the Business Law Section, which is certainly in the top five, if not the top three?

A. Well, we were first, but now we're second; we don't count the YLD, because that membership is automatic. If you join the ABA and you're under the age of thirty-six and certain other exceptions, you're automatically a member of the YLD. Of the Sections where you are not a member by status, where you must affirmatively join, currently the Litigation Section is largest, and Business Law is second.

Q. And, you were Chair two years ago?

A. Between the time I was Chair of the Young Lawyers Division and when I was Chair of the Business Law Section, I was on the Board of Governors of the ABA, representing the State of New York. I went on the Board with no children and came off the Board with three. So those memories are sort of a blur, but I was on the Board of Governors for three years with a terrific experience there. One of my most satisfying experiences in the ABA was participating on the first Commission on Opportunities for Minorities, on which I served for a year when it was created, and after that year, I moved to the first Commission on Women in the Profession, which was chaired by Hillary Rodham Clinton, one of the best and most satisfying experiences I've had professionally -- or non-professionally. It was terrific to start with nothing and from scratch, learn so much about the experience of what was going on with women in the profession. It was

most interesting, since there had been no systematic study of the wave of women entering the profession. We were the first group to do that.

Q. And so you were in the House of Delegates of the ABA for how many years?

A. Twenty.

Q. I want to give you the opportunity to tell me about some people who have influenced you over the course of your career, both in your public service and your professional life. I know there have probably been many, many of them, but I want to hear about some of them.

A. Nobody gets where they are without the support of people who help them. At King & Spalding, Bob Steed, Charlie Battle and Ruth West were all mentors and are lifelong friends. At White & Case there was Bob Clare - there were a lot of people who helped me there. At Skadden, there was Chris Kell and all the women that I got to know. There was a great group of supportive women at Skadden.

Q. I was particularly going to ask you about women, because I know earlier, when you started there were so few women.

A. That's a whole different area of conversation - what's it like to be one of very few. On the one hand, it's not terrific, because you don't have the camaraderie that you get with a lot of women around. On the other hand, you get a lot of opportunities you wouldn't ordinarily get. If someone thinks they need to have a woman and there are only two to choose from, you often get the nod whether you deserve it or not. And so I had the opportunity to do a lot of things that I probably would never have gotten the opportunity to do today. I was reminded of that just a few days ago. I got a call from a woman who had gotten a call from someone else who was doing a biography of Justice Ginsberg and was asking about an incident that I had totally forgotten about. When Justice Ginsberg was nominated to the Supreme Court, I, a very young associate at King & Spalding. I got a call asking if I could figure out what was going on in the Carter White House where the nominations seemed to be stalled. Apparently, and I only barely remember this, I got on the phone and figured it out and got back to them and that's going to be part of the biography. Now, how often is a first or second year associate going to be called into those types of conversations? It's not going to happen, but it did back then because there were just so few women.

Q. Do you remember how you found out?

A. I didn't remember, but the woman who called me had taken copious notes at the time and she reminded me. I called someone who had formerly practiced at King & Spalding who was Chief of Staff for President Carter and he apparently told me the women's groups needed to tamp it down a little bit, so it wouldn't appear that the White House was reacting to pressure!

Q. Other than partners and people you come into contact with in a professional work environment, were there also folks that you met who influenced you that you met through your bar work or through your public service work; do any of those folks stand out?

A. A lot of great women. I remember one of my first ABA Board of Governors meetings, I was young and I was nervous. Again, I was given a lot of opportunities at an early age. So, here I was representing the State of New York. And young! At the time, public speaking just terrified me, including speaking around a huge conference table with fifty people. A woman named Brooksley Born was on the Board at the time. Brooksley was sort of a legend in the profession – a true pioneer. Brooksley was on the Board, and Elaine Jones was on the Board. I served with Elaine on the Womens Commission, and she was just one of the most amazing lawyers I've ever known. There were the three of us. And Brooksley and Elaine gave me so much confidence. As issues affecting women would come up, we would look around, catch one another's eye, and sort of silently agree on who would take it on. They gave me the confidence to speak out. Hillary Rodham Clinton taught me a lot about leadership. She was first chair of the ABA's Commission on Women. It is so interesting to read the press about Hillary. It surely doesn't reflect the Hillary we knew in the ABA. She had the greatest leadership skills. She was an expert communicator. It was Hillary who determined that if we had bad news to deliver, we needed to deliver some good news. She had a way of communicating tough news with such a soft touch. It is what made that early Commission so successful - because we weren't perceived as a bunch of crazy women who were going to make people uncomfortable. That was her leadership style. She had the guys eating out of her hand because she knew how to approach hard issues in a way that was nonconfrontational. And we got a lot done. Judge Judith Kaye, who was also on the Commission, was one whose style I know that I sought to emulate. I never quite got there, but she was just such a great mentor and so kind and so smart and so thoughtful..

Q. What do you personally consider to be some of your greatest accomplishments, looking back over your thirty years? It might not be chairing the Business Law Section, it might be something like writing a civil rights article about abuses in Burma, but can you think of anything else that we haven't had an opportunity to talk about?

A. I'd have to say I'm kind of proud of my term as Chair of Business Law Section. We did great things, had great inclusive programs, and did important things in the context of the Business Law Section of the ABA. I worked hard at it and I think we did some good things. Same with the Young Lawyers Division. A lot of energy and effort went into young lawyer issues. At the time that I was the Chair of the Young Lawyers, there was an effort to charge young lawyers separate dues to be a member of the YLD, which would have eviscerated the Young Lawyers Division. And so I had to rise up and organize a vast educational effort; explaining why that would be a bad idea. Maybe it seemed like a good idea, but there were a lot of very good reasons why it wouldn't be a good idea, and it was my job to get that word out. And I did. Did I change the world? I didn't change the world, but I think I accomplished some good things in the organizations that chose to elect me to leadership. And I did good things in the ABA House of Delegates. I loved being in the House of Delegates.

Q. Well, I wanted to mention that, because your political streak came out a lot.

A. It was indeed political. You know, "political" is sort of a dirty word. But, in my book, it means knowing how to get things done. How do you get things done in the ABA? I knew. I was chair of the Committee on Rules and Calendar of the ABA, which was the parliamentary gatekeeper. I knew the House of Delegates inside out and upside down and I knew how to get

something done in the House. I knew how to politic it. I knew if you had an issue that was important to you, which bases to touch. There were some tough issues, and hard votes, but we accomplished some great things for the public good in the House. I am proudest of those hard fought battles, because they were the hardest. There was an issue before the House of Delegates with respect to "pay to play" - a recommendation about paying to get bond work. The ABA, through the House of Delegates, went on record as being opposed to pay to play, which was not as simple as it seemed. It was a hard fight that was politicked hard. We had Arthur Levitt, the Chair of the SEC, come and speak. In my office I have a framed letter from Arthur Levitt thanking me for what I had done on that issue. It was the right thing to do. I also worked hard on ethics reform; orchestrating changes in the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility. Those were very hard fought. We lost, we lost, and then by really politicking it and understanding it and making the right arguments and making the right arguments to the right people, we got it passed. Those were important accomplishments for the profession and the public, and I'm proud to have played a part.

Q. Well, it know a lot about some of these things, because I was privileged to be in there when you were in the House of Delegates, particularly some of this ethics work and I don't mean to imply that your career is over, it's just that you've had thirty years, you're currently "retired" and I know that doesn't mean retired for good for you, although you may not know what that means or be willing to share what that means now, but tell me some of the advice you give women now who are just getting out of law school or that you give women now when you have an opportunity to talk. Because I know you still speak to groups.

A. Well, I no longer speak very often. Did that for a number of years, which was another great experience. Before the Commission, nobody was speaking on the issues affecting women practicing law at the time, which sounds so amazing now, because everybody's speaking on these issues now. I was running around the country speaking on the issues, that I personally had no first hand information about - I had gathered information from my work on the Commission. The most important piece of advice in my view, is to know what you're getting into. I just went back to my thirtieth law school reunion in October. I am sort of milling around with my law school classmates and this guy comes up to me who was a few years behind me. Apparently, he had come to New York and interviewed with me when I was at White & Case. He didn't take our job, went to work for Sullivan & Cromwell and now, he's the General Counsel of some big securities firm; he has obviously been very successful. So, I run into him at the reunion, remembered him, and we chatted a little bit. Well, his wife was standing there and she said, "you know, I also have very fond memories of you; you played an important role in my life." I was perplexed, and asked if she had come with Mike when he interviewed. She said something to the effect, "no, but when I was a first year law student at University of Georgia, you came to Georgia and spoke to the law school about women and balance and career. I heard what you said and I went to the registrar and dropped out of school". Oh my. My first thought was, oh, my gosh, that's a terrible story. And then I reconsidered. That's not a terrible story, it's a good story. She was thanking me because I told her -- and I think in the most positive light -- what it takes to balance a career in law with family. And if you don't want to do that, then you shouldn't. Go into it with your eyes open. The balance is not easy. And sometimes you have to make very hard choices. I remember Sheila Burnbaum who was my great friend and a mentor at Skadden Arps. She used to say that people would ask her how she became the "queen of torts",

which she had been labeled in some magazine. She said that she was able to do it because, "I didn't have a family. I didn't have a husband, I didn't have kids, and I could work around the clock if I had to". This was not a popular thing to say, but you know what, she's right.

Q. It was the truth?

A. It was "truthy" The balance can certainly be struck, but it is very difficult. Some women do it and enjoy the thrill of doing it all, but, sometimes you just can't. You need to know what you're getting into. There are other careers that don't have the client demands and the scheduling demands that ours has. If you make that choice, you make that choice, but don't expect it all to be easy, it's not. It's rewarding. It's great. And the adrenalin high can keep you doing that for a very long time. Personally, I found it harder as my kids got older. I had my kids late in life, and so had the advantage of being able to have thirty years under my belt before I decided to retire and still had kids at home and in school. So I guess I am having it all, just seriatim.

Q. You mentioned earlier how you felt like perhaps you were part of a unique period of time where you experienced things that women today are not going to experience quite the same way or have quite the same opportunity because just that time marches forward. But some things never change, like balance issues?

A. I think they never change, but at least there's now an acknowledgement of the issues that women face and there are efforts by many in the profession to mitigate these issues as much as they can. Alternative work schedules, generous maternity leaves. At Bass, Berry & Sims, we have a breast-feeding room! Can you imagine a firm having a breast-feeding room in 1976? I believe that the profession, as a profession, is working the best it can to make the balance as doable as possible. It will never be easy, but it is certainly easier than it was.

Q. Is that one of the overreaching issues when you look back over thirty years that was one of the toughest ones to stay on top of?

A. Yes. And I think probably that the legal profession has looked at it a lot harder than a lot of other professions and has tried to deal with those issues.

Q. Is it hard now to be "retired"? Is it hard to find that right balance?

A. It is! I saw it when I was in New York. These uber -successful women lawyers would retire; quit, and take all that energy they had expended being high-level partners in major New York law firms and turn that in laser-like fashion on to their families with sometimes devastating results. You know, trying to micromanage their families like they would micromanage a litigation case. The balance when you're not working is really hard, because there is no balance - you've totally tipped the scale. I'm trying to learn to back off a little more. It's hard.

Q. Are you still -- what are you working on now in the profession? Taking a little time off from bar work, from everything?

A. I have truly retired from bar work. It was hard because I was so involved, but I got to the point where enough was enough. I have done everything I would possibly want to do except be president of the ABA. And I wasn't going to do that. Who knows whether I could have been successful in that quest, but the timing was never right to try. I've got younger children and I wouldn't want to take it on with them at home, and waiting for them to go away to college, would have necessitated maintaining a level of intensity that is no longer an option for me. So what am I doing in the ABA? I'm doing this and that in the Business Law Section. The Business Law Section is truly unique in that once you retire as Chair, you're expected to go back into the trenches. It's not up and out, it is --

Q. It's up and back?

A. It's up and back. And so I am trying to limit that, but I'm in charge of a couple of the initiatives that I got started as chair.

Q. What a great historical memory, though, to do that?

A. It's great. You look around the table at our meetings and you have people who chaired the Section in around 1953 still at the table. It's wonderful. And I still have my hands a little bit in ABA politics, because even though I'm basically retired from active work in the ABA, other than the few things I do in the Business Law Section, I have friends who are running for office and I am trying to help them get elected.

Q. Great, okay. I'm going to end this interview unless there's something else you want to tell me about.

A. NO.

Q. And thank you very, very much.

A. Thank you.