

Dawn Thibeault
Interviewing Judge Micklow

me: This is Dawn Thibeault interviewing Judge Patricia J. Micklow at the District courthouse located in Soperming on December 23, 1987 about her experiences as a women judge.

me: Ok. First I have to ask you when and where were you born?

Judge: I was born in (Ah) Ironwood Michigan in the Upper Peninsula, and the year was 1937, in fact this is my (Ah) 50th birthday year, so I'm a half a century old. (laughs)

me: Did your parents decide ~~to~~ to move up over here or did you stay in Ironwood + grow up there?

Judge: No (Ah) I lived in Ironwood well actually I grew up in Bessemer. I was born in a hospital that situated between Bessemer and Ironwood, Import hospital so I'm never sure whether I was born in Ironwood or Bessemer, (laughs) I think it's Ironwood though. But (Ah) I grew up in Bessemer and we lived there until I was 13, same age you are. And then (Ah) we moved to Ironwood for a year and then I (Ah) my parent moved to Marquette in the middle of my freshman year in high school. So I lived

Judge: in Marquette from then on.

cont.

So I regard Marquette as sort of my home town.

me: Did anything happen, important happen when you were growing up that you remember, anything humorous, something that makes you think back?

Judge: Well, I used to spend, um, I was the youngest of 3 daughters and I realized that my father was really hoping he'd have a son to go fishing and hunting with, and (Ah) so I, I figured that I ought to try and do that you know, so, 'cause I was the sort of last hope that, (laughs) But I spent a lot of time in the woods with him we went fishing and (Ah) I didn't really hunt very much, but I used to go out in the woods with him when he was hunting and (Ah) we always had lots of dogs and cats we lived on my grandmother's farm right on the edge of town, and (ah) so I spent a lot of time in the woods and I even (ah) had a lot of (ah) hobbies involving animals and things. I ~~remember~~ remember raising tropical fish and lots (Ah) I had everything from snakes to (Ah) squirrels that I raised. pg 2

Judge: And I tied fishing flies, gave
em to my teachers for
Christmas sometimes, (laughs)
But (ah) I was (ah) really there
were, it was a pretty small
town that I was in and there
were, I had friends at school
and some friends in the
neighborhood to, but I remember
spending a lot of time alone as
the youngest, my older sisters
were out of the house most of the
time when I was growing up
because they were a little
reckless. So

me: I was just gonna ask you what
kind of hobbies you have, have
any others?

Judge: (laughs) Well, (uh) now I like to
read a lot I like (uh) cross
country skiing, I love sailing
we have a sailboat and I
spend a lot of time on the water
and I like y' know everything
connected with water, and (uh)
particularly sailing

me: (laughs) I've heard about that

Judge: and (uh) let's see what else, what
other hobbies, I don't know it doesn't
seem like I have a lot of time I,
I used to be a real prolific sewer
I did, I used to make all of
my own clothes and my
children's clothing at one time
but since I've been (Ah) pg. 3

Judge: Since I went to law school
with added to all that it slowed
down the time I have. (laughs)
I still do a little sewing now
and then but, that's it.

me: O.K. So you were married?

Judge: Yes I'm married for the 2nd
time, I was widowed when I
was (um) 41. And (h) my husband
died of cancer after a long
illness and I had had 3
children from that 1st marriage
and they're all grown-up now.
And (h) I remarried about 4
years ago and (um) my husband
and I now have his 2 children
April and Jud.

me: Yes, one a year older than me and
one a year younger year.

Judge: So now I have two teenagers
in the house. (laughs) But it's
fun I really love those kids
and enjoy them alot we have
a good time together, do.

me: So, what made you decide to
be a lawyer and then a judge?

Judge: (laughs) Boy that, that's a
big question. (Um) When I was
(Ah) growing up I was always
pretty independant person and
I think (ah) I always had
invisiones having a career
of some sort, and you know
doing something that I
wanted to do in life and (uh)

Judge:
cont.

Then I ended up being married when I was 17, and having 3 children by the time I was 23. And I think I was in one that group of (an) women at that time that were starting to say. Well all, is that all I'm going to do with my life is to have a family which was important to me, but was that all I was going to do and I (uh) I was going to college part time and I finished (an) a degree at Northern in (an) history and then I went and got my Masters degree at Northern in English literature and I kind of just (um) got involved in, in school as well as raising my family and I decided that if I wanted to do anything I would have to make a decision as to whether I went on for either a P.H.D and maybe teaching at Northern or going into law which is was always interesting to me, I, I loved law and I was always fascinated with the political process a lot to, ~~and~~ as I was growing up and that why I ended up in history at a masters level is that I was always interested in that whole process of history, Political process and the rights pg 5

Judge:
cont.

the people have, how they're protected and (m) I was looking a lot at that point, the women's movement was just beginning, and I did a lot of reading in that area at the time to, and thought (oo) there must be something to this that maybe I do need to (ah) spend some time developing myself as well. You know not only for my sake, but for my family's sake, so (ah) it was a very ~~grad~~ gradual process I decided that I really would like to have (m) the opportunity that I felt law would give me, to work on behalf of women, other women, and I felt it would be (ah) satisfying. Kind of career for me but it was a very big decision because I had to leave, two of my children were still in high school and I went through an accelerated program at the University of Michigan law school that was a quarter years, which was really (ah) I would never recommend that to anyone 'cause it was so intensive and it was really hard, I would try to get home every other weekend, and it was kind of like jumping between 2 worlds for 2 and a quarter years, and it was very hard on me.

Judge:
cond.

(m) and I don't think I could ever do that again (laugh) at this point, but, y' know there obviously good way to go through school and other way that all a little less easy but I did have some advantages and that I, my husband supported me during the time I was going through school and paid my tuition and everything, and I couldn't have done it without his help and the children were great, y' know they were all supportive so it worked out but I think it was a long term involvement both with history and politics and women's rights that got me into ~~law~~ law.

me: So are you taken seriously around just some guy that go, Oh that a lady judge I don't want to listen to her?

Judge: Well, you know I, um I think that I may have worried about that more when I, when I was in law school what might happen, in terms of me professionally because when I went to law school, at the University of Michigan it was 1973 when I started and I was 33 years old at the time and I was the oldest one pg 57

Judge: in my class. and yet their
were only 17% were of the students
were women. And so, you know you
had a feeling right away that
this was an area that women
were not very welcome in, you
know we didn't have a women's
bathroom at law school, so,
they finally converted something
but, and we had one (an) women
law professor out of all of the
law professors and she taught
part time and she taught
one class and guess what class
it was, Women in the law (laughs)
and that changed now you
know, there are many more
women entering law school and
they are alot more teaching
and there are more getting (an)
~~elect~~ elected into judgeship
(laughs) but it's really still
pretty slow and (um) so I think
I worried about that alot in
law school. I thought you know is
it going to be very difficult for
a woman to ~~make~~ make her way
in this profession. and the first job
I had was as an assistant prosecuting
attorney in Marquette County and
(um) I understood after I interviewed
for the job that the (an) prosecutor at
that time told me that he only gave
me the interview out of courtesy
because I was a local person. He
had absolutely no intention of hiring
me. Because he couldn't figure out why PS 8

judge: Some woman that who's husband
1. Cont. was making a good living
would ever be interested in going
you know, doing the hard work
required in that job. So I guess I
talked my way into that job
'cause I, I guess I startled him
with my answers when he interviewed
me and (um) he realized that I was
serious about it, so I became the
first assistant, the first woman
assistant prosecuting attorney
in Marquette County, so already
I was in kind of a different position
and I, I think that ~~the~~ he worried,
the prosecutor worried more
about me having difficulty
dealing with police officers and
criminal defendant than I
did, but I really didn't have that
much trouble there were some
officers that I think (uh) didn't
like having to deal with a woman
and I think I questioned a lot
of the ways they handled certain
kinds of cases that I had a little
different perspective on, like (uh)
spouse abuse cases and child
neglected abuse I think I authorized
the first (uh) sexual abuse case
against the child in Marquette
County and I also (uh) approached
(uh) the spouse abuse cases a lot
differently, when I was in law
school another woman law student
and myself took on an independent
PS

Judge: research project that was kind
cont. of our, our way of surviving
law school, and we decided
we wanted to do some research in
an area that affected women,
that maybe hadn't been looked at
before so (uh) we did it on wife
beating, we called it at that
time because that ~~is~~ what
it was known as, and we studied
(uh) both in (uh) Washtenaw and
Wayne Counties two big Counties
who went ~~through~~ ^{to} all the people
that had any contact with these cases,
in this, in the criminal justice ~~and~~
system, league system, including judges,
and prosecutors and (uh) police officers,
and defense attorney, and some of the
social work agency people, and we were
astounded at the responses, Everybody
said, Oh, it's not a crime, you know, it's
due to the relationship between the two
people and the women must like it or
they wouldn't stay in that kind of
position and we found all kinds of
really strange responses and you know
alot of them were understandable,
but we ended up publishing that
study and it was the first study
in the United States (uh) in a league
journal, (uh) regarding (uh) the response
of the league system to inner
spousal violence, so that that
whole thing brought me to the
prosecuting attorney office pg 10

Judge cont: with some kind of you know
I guess a cause to the certain
extent although I was very
much aware with the problems of
those cases as well so ah, I
don't think I can really point
to any great problems of being
treated differently because
I was a woman, except I had
one judge who used to call
me honey from the bench which
was a little disconcerting
(laughs) I won't say who that
was, (laughs) you know from
time to time I imagine
there were some problems but I
I really felt that I tried to
do my job professionally, I
tried not to use the fact that
I was a woman to get things
you know I tried to, to be as
professional as I could and I
think that you sort of get
treated the way you treat people
and (uh) and I really didn't
have any big problem with
that and the same now with
~~being~~ being a judge (ah) I
really haven't run into any
great problems that are all
dealing with male attorneys or
male litigents. Sometimes I
think they are a few dependents (pg 11)

Judge: that are a little startled
cont. when they come in here, (ah)
criminal dependents to see a
woman sitting on the bench, but
(ah) alot of it I guess is (ah)
you know trying to do your
job well and sincerely and as
professionally as you can and I
I think that's really important
for women to keep in mind when
they're in any profession, that
if, if they (ah) proceed in that
kind of manner and take
themselves seriously than
everyone else will respond.

me: So, your in some groups about
spouse abuse and stuff

Judge: Well, yes I uh after the study
was completed and I started
working for the prosecutor's office
I uh was appointed to a task
force by the governor that was
state wide that studied the
laws that relate to spouse abuse
and we made alot of changes in
the laws and we made recommendations
to the legislature which they
adopted and so Michigan
became one of the first states to
have laws that were specifically
adapted to the problem of violence
in the home, and (uh) since then
now I've been serving on what's
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Judge: called the Domestic Violence
cont. prevention and treatment board,
long name (laughs) and (uh)
that's a state level board we
disperse about 3 million dollars
in funds, state funds every
year to (ah) shelters for victims
of ah spouse, spouse and violence
crimes or, or crimes between
intimates living in the home.
It isn't confined only to help
people who are married but
people who may be boyfriend/girlfriend
or even (ah) between family
members like parents and
children or grandparents. when
it happens because what we've
found is that victims often
couldn't get out of the situation
and get injured or killed because
they couldn't, didn't have
anywhere to go and the shelters
really provide this release valve
I think in this county I know
we've had no (ah) family
homicide for several years since
we've had spouse abuse shelters
available, I don't know that
there's a cause that affect them
but I suspect that we helped
disperse these ~~more~~ real violent
situations and there's a place for
people to go. There's also PG 13

Judge: place for police to help by taking
conv. the victims to the shelters if
they need to get them in a safe
place. And there they get all
kinds of services to try to make
decisions about what they're
going to do with, how they're
going to handle their future
and whether they'll be able to get
out of that relationship or not.
And so the state board ~~and~~ has
obligations not only to help
fund the shelters but to
provide lots of different types
of services to victims who are
now working with the mental
health agencies across the state
with the state police (ah) & with
the sheriff's department, prosecuting
attorneys association and (ah), I'm
sure there's some other groups but
were trying to work on a state
wide level. To get those agencies
that deal with victims and
assaults and of courts to
course to look at better ways to
respond to this type of crime and
I think it's, it's real important
because most everyone who ends
up in prison as a felon has been
abused or neglected as a child,
and violence get unfortunately
learned in the family when
children are treated that way
they tend to treat other people.

Judge: that way when they get older
Cont. or if they're victimized by
themselves they may have set
violence more when they're
older, as adults then they would
if they, if they were taught by
both society and their family
that that's not right to physically
attack someone else and it's a
real important concept that I
think this country has overlooked
in the legal system, overlooks a lot
because they tend to say well
it's because of the relationship
that this is happening and
they excuse that kind of violence
and eventually people really get
hurt and killed. So we had to
find a better way to (ah) answer
crisis for help from families that
were having that kind of dysfunction
and it's, it's I think it's been a real
important change. Now it's not
unusual to read about it and
to hear about it and (uh) there's
fund raisers to raise money to
help people in that situation and
I think young people like yourself
are going to be lot less likely to
hang around with some guy
who beats them up than you
might have been if you were a
teenager growing up 20 or 30 years
ago. and so you know that probably
~~where~~ where the most change will
happen is with young people

Judge: ^{cont.} being aware of that and looking at the (ah) indications of their dates losing their temper to the point where they strike out and saying this person has a problem and do I want to become part of the problem or not you know. So that might be important.

me: are you happy that you're a judge?

Judge: Oh yes, yes I really enjoy my work there are times when it's hard and I think the hardest part is sentencing yet, there are every individual has a different kind of problem. I try real hard to focus in on what, on two things when I sentence, one is to make sure that the person understands (ah) that what they did is wrong, that they can't continue to do that, that we're not going to let them do that, and secondly that (ah) I want to do everything that we can to provide (ah) services to them or counselling or punishment or whatever is appropriate to make sure they don't do it again, so we try to find lots of ways of doing that (ah) We have like the shoplifter counseling program, and we put everybody through that, that is you know convicted of 1/10 of the Larson crime and (ah) we have all kinds of (ah) programs for people who have (ah) substance abuse problems. we now have

Judge: an assault ~~assessment~~ assessment
and assault counseling, that
I'm really happy about cause
we had some pretty good successes
already ~~and~~ and, (ah) so we try to put
people that are sentenced in situations
where if they want to they can
change their ~~lives~~ lives and (uh)
address these problems that they
have, that are getting them into
trouble, so. But it's still hard 'cause
there's so many variables and (uh)
lots of decisions and sometimes
jail is the only alternative, and I
don't like putting people in jail
but I don't have a lot of choice
sometimes, but, I like the job a lot
because, of, well first of all I
got a great staff, (laughs), including
your mom. But we really do, we
have a wonderful staff that are
all really dedicated, and (uh) they
work real hard, and they care
a lot about what goes on here and
that makes a big difference,
and I like my co-judge, a lot,
we get along real well, Judge
Collins and I, and (ah) I also like
all the people that come through
here, because there's such a variety.
We process almost 18,000 cases a
year between both locations of the (P)
(IT)

Judge: District Court, and that is a lot
of cases, and even though I
may not ~~be~~ personally involved
in half of those because your
mom and other at the counter
take care of a lot of them that
come through. We have a tremendous
~~number~~ number of people that
come through without being
represented ~~by~~ by attorneys, that
need special attention and
everything and it's really
interesting you know (ah) but
~~every~~ every sad case that comes
through there's some real good
things that happen and it's
very challenging we have lots of
good legal questions that come up
that I have to ponder and I like,
I like doing the research on those,
yeah I have to think and sometimes
I'll you know I'll just have it
out of percolating a legal
problem in my mind ~~over~~ for a
couple of weeks and then I finally
am ready to write the opinion
on it but its, its just is really nice
I wasn't sure when I ran for judge
that I would, that I would be able to
(ah) you know be impartial that I
would be able to set aside feelings I
might have about individuals or
issues and yet I find (ah) there's
something magical that happens

Judge: when you put on a black robe and
you sit there and you expected to
be as impartial and fair as you
can be and I think most judges
when they're put in that position
really do their very best to be as
impartial, and I found that it
wasn't hard at all to set aside
~~what~~ what was going on because
you concentrating so much on
the facts and (ah) the law and
trying to figure out what's
fair and what's the best way
to resolve this, that you really
don't think well this is a person
that I never really cared for, or
this person is undoubtedly guilty
because I know he's got a criminal
history, I don't really think about
those things when I'm making
decisions,

me: he looks guilty (laugh)

Judge: Yeah right or he looks guilty,
and it's, it's really a bit interesting
to see how that sort of sort itself
out. It hasn't been a problem, so
I do like it, I (ah) I like coming
to work, yeah, well the hours
haven't been too bad although we
we do sometimes (ah) have very
long hours you know we have
jury ~~trials~~ we've had more
jury trials this year than last
and we've got more cases this

Judge: year than last year and (ah)
cont. So the Court is getting bigger
and (uh) it's getting more complex
the legal issues are getting more
complicated, and (uh) so there's a lot
going on.

me: So you attended law school in Michigan?

Judge: mhm,

me: mhm, yeah, that's good

Judge: mhm, in Blue night? (laughs) My
husband was a UofM law graduate
to, so + he's a practicing attorney
in Marquette so

me: politics in your family

Judge: Yeah, right (laughs) We get a lot of
(uh) lawyers and a lot of politics
and I'm sure April and Jud get
tired of (uh) hearing about law
and everything at the table
and we have very good reasons
and arguments of course about
things, discussions. (laughs)

me: I see law terms around the house,
dismissed (laughs)

Judge: Right, I think they both are
pretty used to that, so that's
fun. but ah it's, it's, it's a nice
job, it's a fun, one thing that's a
little unusual to that you
have to deal with is sometimes
people do treat you a little
differently because you are a
judge, I think they tend to

Judge: to be a little more stand off-ish,
cont: you know, afraid to say something
wrong and (uh) most people are pretty
nervous when they talk to a judge,
you aren't, you're doing great,
(laughs,) but I think that, that often
is the case and (uh) I try to, it's real
important for me to have a lot of
contact with people and to continue to
enjoy people and I try to diminish
that stand-offishness when I can
because I don't like to be treated
like some strange person with this
black costume on (laughs) you know
and so I try to (ah) keep my connections
with people, because that's what this is
all about we deal with people's problems
and try to resolve them as best we
can, (uh) in the least turk? way for
all the parties involved you know and
(uh) I don't think a lot of people have
thought about @ Judges in that sense
? Cause that's how I would rather, because
all we deal with ~~are~~ here are people,
we apply laws and facts, but it's really
people that are affected so it's (uh) it's
challenging in that regard to.

me: oh, do you've a grandna?

Judge: yes I'm a grandma twice. I have 2 little
grandsons and my second oldest son
and his wife and 2 children live in
Marquette, so I get to see them pretty
frequently maybe not as much as I'd
like to but (ah) Gordon is (ah) going to be PS
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Judge:
cont.

4 in March and Trevor is going to be
1 year in February. So they're all
excited about Christmas they're so
cute, they're really cute little guys
so I have now I have big family, 5
children and ah 2 grandchildren.
But my oldest son and his wife live
in California, they're coming in today
for Christmas, and (ah) they don't
have any children yet, but my
oldest son is a lawyer and he's also a
graduate from U of M. And he's
practicing with a firm in San Francisco
and he does all admiralty law which
is really interesting stuff, dealing
with shipwrecks and (ah) hurting barge
and (ah) injuries to fishermen, and
things like that. And (ah) my (ah)
son ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ is (ah) custom
wood worker has a very nice
business in Marquette a big plant
that he runs and does all kind of
custom wood working type of work,
and (ah) my daughter Susan is in her
first year in a graduate dental
program at the University of Michigan
she's (ah) she graduated as a
dentist in May at the U of M, right
and now she's (ah) graduate student
at endodontics which is going to be
doing root canals and bonding and
that kind of thing, and she's (ah) home
for Christmas which is great
because she's helping me wrap ^{resents} 1922

Judge: shopping and cleaning and everything
const. (laughs) I don't know what I'd do
without her. So, and she isn't married
So I don't have any grandchildren
coming up there yet, and then of course
April and Jud at home.

me: Did they like, Did April and Jud are they
interested in Judges and lawyers or...

Judge: Oh, yes, I I think (uh) They're, They're
very (ah) understanding about
the kind of work we do and of
course they hear about it a lot and
April has talked about being a
lawyer but I don't know if that's
really something that she will
(ah) follow through on. She's got
a lot of other interests in music
and drama and I, I really am
not sure that law would be what
she would really like to do, and
I don't think she knows yet but,
she you know she certainly has
the ability if she wants to do
that. Now Jud Robert (ah) there's
a good chance there that he
might end up in a field like
that or possibly in the Sciences
some where uh but he hasn't
committed himself yet and I don't
think he's going to, but ah (to much
basketball) basketballs a lot more
important right now. He really P5
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Judge: enjoy that. So, and he likes his
cont. music to, he's 1st class baritone,
and um, so ~~you~~ you know right now
I keep telling them the important
thing is just to develop ~~as~~ as much as
you can in the area you like because
this is the time when you learn so much,
it's a really great time of your life and
there's so many opportunities the hardest
part is choosing what you want to do. Isn't
that true.

me: Do you find it hard being a mom and
a judge and working?

Judge: sometimes I think I do. I, I think
that really is hard and I don't see a lot
of changes for most women that are
doing both working part time, because I
think women still take on most of the
responsibilities for making sure that
the house works right and that the
kids are all set and they're the ones
that have typically organized
everything at home and um, my
husband is great, he does all the cooking
which I've never had happen before.
He really does, he loves to cook and um
I get to clean-up, but April + Jud help
me with that so I don't do as much
(laugh) to do there but um, I think
it's still real hard. It's hard for
women because since you, since
we're the child bearers we still have
that period of time when we're 1924

Judge: more intimately involved with
contd: child (ah) raising, and I think
it's great that men are sharing
that more and that are you know
they're they're more involved in that
part of family life.

me: Not treating us like little maids.

Judge: Right, yeah. Like my father might
now my mother's been ill and he
has a lot of trouble in the
kitchen because it was not the
thing to do, you know, to work in
the kitchen and cook and things
and he really is pretty helpless in
that regard he's had to revert to
frozen T.V. dinners (laughs) and
he's so, you know, little hard to
learn, but (ah) and he wants his
independence so it's not a matter
of having meals brought into
him so (ah) I think that it's a
much better balance when men
in the family do help and are
willing to share some of those
responsibilities, because women are
now bearing more responsibilities
and finances and uh for the family
and women are having heart attacks
more (laughs) getting more ulcers.
But (ah) I think (ah) the whole

Judge: ^{cont} balancing between the roles of the sexes is helping and good. But I think it's still difficult for women to do everything and a lot of us try to, I think (ah) get into the position where we feel guilty if we feel like we're neglecting our families and so we kind of overcompensate and especially Christmas time you feel kind of like you being a super mom you know, you do everything you would do if you were home all day and then still work and it's hard. I think that probably one of the hardest things that adult (ah) women as adults is to balance all things competing interests.

me: yeah, I know my mom...

Judge: yeah she has the same problems I'm sure.

me: She has me - Nate do chores around the house and my dad will cook

Judge: It is, it is hard and I, I think that within a household there are individuals that do things better, you know, like really my husband probably a better cook than I am and yet (ah) not ^{PS} 26

Judge: all, not all men are going to be good
cooks, not all women are going to be
good cooks and uh, some are neater than
others, (laugh) have to balance all that
out. I always get teased about being
to compulsive about picking up, I'm
always picking up someone's coffee cup
before they'll (through) and things
like that and you know there's just
those crazy little things the day to
day things that every family has to
deal with. But, it is a better balance
when mm, I think both parents have
some interests outside of the home
because that really can enrich
the family more than deprive it and
I think it may place more responsibility
on the kids but that's probably good
for them to you know. Oh that's great, I
did take off (ah) next week so that
I'll be able to be home with everyone,
so that'll be fun, but it's a, it's busy.
(laugh) So ah what grade are you
in now are you in 7th or 8th?

me: 8th

Judge: That's right you're a year older than
me.

me: 1 year younger than April (year) older
than you (laugh)

Judge: Yeah, younger than April. So do you
like school?

me: Yeah (laughs)

Judge: you've been involved in the Red Dust, isn't that great?

me: Yeah.

Judge: It's a wonderful program.

me: Yeah, you'd probably get along well with my teacher, Mrs Honkalas into women's rights, she loves History.

Judge: I wonder if I have met her, at some time, the name sounds familiar and I may have (ah) in this county we kind of know each other a little bit.

me: I think you've probably met her, she's met everybody else (laughs)

Judge: That's great. Sound like she has a lot of enthusiasm in what she's doing and you know that makes such a difference. When you've got a teacher that really invests themselves in what they're doing. I had a lot of teachers that didn't do that and I had some that did, the ones that did I really appreciated a lot. So you, you've got (ah) do you develop a new (ah) presentation each year?

me: Every year yeah.

Judge: That's great. I missed a chance to see you last year there was some benetton where you were going to be appearing and uh for some reason we couldn't be there. I think it was at a fund raiser or so. Bob Anderson

Judge: on something. Did you, did you
cont/ Red Dust go there?

me: I don't know, I wasn't, it was 8th grades
every year.

Judge: Oh, so you weren't in it last year, I
think that's what it was, and I was
disappointed because I heard so many
good things about the group...

me: My teacher will be glad to hear that,
Red dust is a big thing at our school.
Everybody gets into it's nice.

Judge: Oh, and it's such good experience
to work on a project...

me: So ~~work~~ down state and if you win
you get to go to Washington, work
you hardest on it.

Judge: But it, good experience

me: Yeah, we've got I think about 3 years
that they've gone every year

Judge: Oh, that's tremendous and they've
gone every year to Washington?

me: Around 3 years I think

Judge: Is that something? So it takes
a lot of hard work I bet to get it all
prepared and practiced. And who
writes the material then?

me: We all do. Our group get together

Judge: You do write it yourself. Is that
something. It's really a creative
effort.

me: Takes a lot of work to get it done.

Judge: might miss out on some stuff but
Oh sure and you always have to make

Judge: choices you know. It's sounds to me
that that's very worth while. It's
tremendous. So you're going to (th)
be competing pretty soon, not?

me: ~~Yeah~~ In the spring... we haven't talked about it
yet.

Judge: Well that makes sense because
you probably need most of the year to
get ready.

me: mhm, well in June they go to Washington.

Judge: So are you involved in any other things?

me: basketball...

Judge: Oh are you playing basketball?

me: Yeah, it's over, and cheerleading.

Judge: And cheerleading, Oh I don't know

me: how you have time
Track is coming up (laughs)

Judge: and track (Oh) I tell you that schedule
just get to be ferocious. And we live outside
of town - 8 miles and...

me: Well you by the lake, hey?

Judge: mhm, but it's real hard for April + just
because of the back and forth you
know, and then if they have things
to do at school in the evening or on
the weekends driving back and
forth you know

me: You enjoy going to their games?

Judge: Oh yes, Yeah that's fun. We've gone
to I don't know how many concert
this year, cause April we in the (th)
is in the treble ~~choir~~ choir in the high
school so they have the /Pg 30

Judge: madrial dinner...
cont.

me: yeah we just had ours.

Judge: Did you?

me: O in chorus and band

Judge: Oh, that's fun. and Jud had his
concert. And (uh) then they had a
concert at St. Peter's

me: well I expect to April in high school
and Jud still in middle school or
you have two different...

Judge: Now it's two different sets of
thing, mhm. and that gonna
happen for another year. (laughs)
So and April won't be able to
drive for a couple of years, so it
going to be a lot of carting around.
I've been saying we should move
into town but we like wherever we
are much and we've got 2 dog, 2
golden retrievers, that would never,
I think here, and are 2 dog now
would never exist in town now I
think. (end of first side of tape) good
because then I won't have to send
anyone to jail over Christmas.

me: Well how many years have you been
in politics?

Judge: Oh, I started back in ah the late
60's - I think yeah let me think
you know I, I was in (oh) started
really as a result of the women
movement I got interested in (PS 31)

Judge: political candidates and what
Cord. their views were and (uh) opportunity
for women and (uh) women's rights.
And then I ran (uh) (Telephone & kept her)
So, where were we? You asked me
another question (laughs). Didn't you
or did you? (laughs) I can't remember
Umm. We were talking, we talked,
you said something about domestic
violence and I said that that was
a good term to use because it covers
all bases.

Me: Oh! Yeah! How many years you've been
in politics.

Judge: Oh! Been in politics, yeah! I started
(uh) As I say getting interested in the
political process I guess it's always
been kind of interesting in just
the way that people decide how
they're going to choose their leaders.
You know it's just kind of a fascinating
idea to me and (uh) how that, how it
that works. You know and I was
pretty active in the democratic
party back then and I just worked
in party, you know helped with fund
raisers. We put on some really snappy
(uh) fashion shows to music with
dancing models and things to raise
money I remember, we had a
good time with that, and umm (P. 30)
then I got involved in (uh) education

Judge: @ now I had 3 children in
Court. school and (uh) they were some
that was a time when (at that time)
were part of changing in terms of
concepts of what children should
be taught in school and (uh) I had
some problem with my oldest son
(Am) Not being allowed to play
basketball because he'd written a
letter to the school administration
(uh) in the school newspaper about
having to get his hair cut off you
know very short...

me: I know, I know Red dust did something
about that...

Judge: Did they do something about that?
And (uh) It turned out to be a kind
of ~~of~~ difficult learning
experience because I think it,
(Am) it made him kind of stand
out in the community as being some
kind of noble raising kid which
he really wasn't he was really a very
excellent student and a good
basketball player (uh) he
didn't get to play basketball
after that, and (uh) It affected
Barak to as far as sports were
concerned @ so I don't know that
we handled the situation

Judge
cont.

very well at that time I probably would've been, done it differently if I had the experience, because it didn't come across well with the community that time. And um, so I decided to try to run for the state Board of Education where I would have some effect on very thing and I campaigned for an entire year you get, you would have to be nominated by the state party in order to run in the general election, and so I went to all of the (ah) Counties in the state and travelled around and this was before I went to law school, and probably was my year of politicment, becoming politicized and (um) that was a real good learning experience and I realized that for the first time I was out, you know out talking about education with people and people were listening and I was having a good time, and having an effect and uh things and (uh) people were respecting that point of view and (uh) I didn't get the nomination in the end but I (ah) because I withdrew, withdrew at the convention we ended up with a very strange political crunch where

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Judge
Cont

if I had stayed on where if
I had stayed on the ballot then
black candidate on the whole
state-wide ballot would've been
marked off and so I, I (ab)
withdrew and it was a real good,
it was a real good learning
experience and I think it was at
that time that I really
realized that maybe I could
~~go~~ go to law school and in it was
as a result at that year that I
probably in actually started
you know, started with the first
one step of taking the U.Sed and
the applying and the next step
you know and just kind of
taking a step at a time. But as
that was when I started and I,
ever since that time I've been
very involved in the party and uh
I've been appointed to a lot of
state-wide things by the
governor or the Democratic party
because I uh solved a problem
for him by withdrawing at
that time back in the, that was
in '72 and following that I went
to law school. So I've been
involved all along both locally
and then at the state level and of
course while I was in law school

Judge:
cont.

I wasn't very involved in politics
per se, an except I, I was you know
like on a Chairman of a couple of
fund raising events or campaigns
for other state-wide people officers.
And then when I came out of law
school my first husband was an
immediately became ill and uh
the next several years it was really
all dealing with that so I wasn't
that active so my campaign last
an year was really great because
I enjoyed getting back into that,
you know I had done it ~~so~~ before
and uh, I always thought campaigning
was lot of fun. I enjoyed it, and
crazy things happen you know
and you just meet so many
people and it's, there's so much
going on and, and you have to sort of
go with your instincts all the
time because every situation is
different, and you can't, you
can't campaign by having some
canned approach to a campaign
because you have to be able to
adapt to a situation and, and
really figure out what is going
to be meaningful to deal with,
with a particular group and
uh I think it's real challenging
but lot of fun you know and I just
had a great time and I love PS
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Judge: campaigning just in the County
cont. As opposed to trying to campaign
in the state where you don't know
anybody you know and here there
were so ~~so~~ ~~so~~ many people that
I did know and a lot of really
nice things happened in that
campaign for me personally I
think because I, yeah it's fun
it really is fun, and it, it's a
lot of give and take and you learn
more about yourself in a campaign
than anybody learns about you I
think, because uh you realize
what your limitations are you
know like I know I'm a lousy
speaker in terms of giving some big
formal speech, I just can't do it
and I even if I write it out you
know or do I try to, ah, plan it
out, you know, ~~out~~ in an outline
form in my mind and do it I
still feel stilted and I'm much
better just talking one on one or
responding to questions where I
can be a lot less concerned about
trying to develop some, you know,
long complicated concept in a
speech. But so you learn all of
your, you know, limitations
and, and uh people respond
well I think uh if you, if you

Judge: really uh ~~they~~ are enthusiastic
+ cont. about what you are doing and
and having been uh in a family
situation, you know dealing with
my husband's terminal illness for 6
years it was about um you kind of
get cut off you know and you don't
have any time or ~~that~~ energy as to
really be out in the community
and uh keeping up your old
contacts and everything I just
had to put all of that on hold
and uh when I came back and
started campaigning for the
position it was kind of like
coming home again you know and
saying here I am again finally
I'm out ah and my life is ah
changed ah I went through merey
you know difficult painful
time but ah everything's O.K. now
and people ah I think will kind
of responsive to that and I really
felt good about campaigning,
and you know I really didn't
think I was going to win, I uh
I thought that I could do a
better job actually and so I ran
for the job and I had a lot of
ideas I wanted to try and I, I ^{spg}
could just see a lot of mess that ₃₈

Judge:
cont.

I thought could be handled better and differently, and I kind of wanted to to be in a position where I could do that and that's really why I ran, and also I suppose to advance my own professional development I worked for the County for 10 years at that point and done civil criminal work and I, I had to change and do something new ah anyway so I decided this would be fun and to try.

me: O.k. so right now we're not thinking about retirement yet? (laughs)

Judge: NO, probably though ah my husband and I are ah going to retire on a sailboat. I have an older sister who's doing that right now she's in South America they just went through the Panama Canal and that. But ah I would like to ah serve ~~me~~ one more term after this and then I would, then we'd retire. Since my husband's 9 years younger than I am he's gonna get the good deal out of it (laughs) I'll be an old lady by then, but actually living on a boat in the water ought to (ah) be just fine so we'll see how that works out but I would ^{be} ₃₉

Judge: ^{cont.} like to do at least one more ~~term~~ term
but probably no more than that,
and um we'll see how that works
out, hopefully, hopefully it'll work out.
I have a long haired cat that got
on my skirt and I've been trying to
get it off all morning. So

me: Getting about time they're gonna come
in to get you to go for lunch.

Judge: Probably so are, are you at all you
interested in running for office
someday? (laughs)

me: Sure!

Judge: I think it's great, I think it's
good experience really. It doesn't
matter if it's something you're
interested in, and you think you
have some ideas go for it and you
meet ~~what~~ whatever the
qualifications are you know it's
uh...

me: Nothing to lose & everything to
gain.

Judge: Yeah, that's right, even if you
don't win you will learn a lot &
guarantee it in fact you probably
learn more when you lose (laughs)
like I did the first time, ah I
learned a lot from that. I think
it's great that more and more
we have a lot of women involved
elected officials around in this
county and in the state. But I
was a little disappointed when

Judge: I was elected Judge I found out that
out of an 150 district Judges in the
whole state of Michigan, that an,
no 250 exclusive, 250 district
Judges in the state of Michigan, only
22 are women. So it's still less than 10.

me: I'll talk to my friends about that one.

Judge: Yeah, so that's changing you know
but it, it's ~~so~~ slow, it's gonna take
time and I, I don't know in the circuit
bench now which is the higher court
whether an the numbers are similar or
not. but uh so there's lots of areas that
need to have young women like yourself
interested in, there's lots of possibilities.

me: No for the Supreme Court (laugh)

Judge: Right! Right! We only have one up there
now so, well 2 on the Michigan Supreme
the U. S. Supreme Court. But you can see
how long it's taken women to get
involved in the legal profession.

me: Women were always thought as the little
housewife

Judge: Right and should be, well actually
most of the writing indicate that the
male attorneys thought that law was
to mostly a business you know that
you would get yes to harsh for the
acceptability of women to tolerate. I
think it's great. but uh

me: Yeah, we showed them (laugh)

Judge: Right! They thought that we were not
very strong and not very tough (laugh)

Judge: you know and that we wouldn't be able
Cort. to handle all the messy realities of
life, which is kind of funny. So
there's a there are a lot of positions
that are available in the legal field for
women I think that women you know for
have done a good job and there are a lot
of pretty successful women in trial
attorney jobs. and there are certainly
a lot of women prosecutors now. See em
on ah J. A. Gar and in Hill Street
Blues. But ah and I see lately on
television a lot of women judges. I
don't know if you've noticed that
but a lot of programs of women
judges more so probably than there
are existing in reality.

me: Well what do you think of those shows like
in Supreme Court or those little, little
Courts on T.V. like People's Court. (Laughs)

Judge: I love them. I think actually it's kind of
interesting I think people really like
it, like to know what's going on in Courts
it's always kind of this other thing
happening and I think there are a lot of
people that watch "People's Court" because
they're fascinated to hear all
these real life stories. I don't watch it
to much any more but ah we have
small claim Court here of course you
know ah it's the same thing that judges
get these ^{crappy} situations on T.V. and you really
and human life situations you know, of an
drama going on in the courtroom, 19042

Judge: All the time. It doesn't matter what kind
cont. of trial or pursuing, there's always a lot
of human drama, and uh and sometimes
it's really funny...

me: Yeah it is..

Judge: And sometimes it's very tragic and sometimes
it's really a big combination of both of those,
but it's always interesting (laughs) When I
was campaigning I found out people love to
talk about the courts they're real fasci-
nated with them and what goes on and
what do you do with this and that and uh
and so I think, I think the T.V. programs
are helpful because people do wonder more
~~how~~ about it, and of course not, it doesn't
always happen the way they show it on
T.V. People confessing on the stand to
some heinous crime you know and it
doesn't happen that way... But a lot of it
is pretty, pretty much technically
correct I mean an L.A. lawyer has to
know a lot of legal
advisors because it really is the
legal arguments that they show and
the closing arguments are really
very good. So they've got some sharp
attorneys helping them with that
show I'm sure, and I think lately
they're a lot better than maybe Perry
Mason you know always had the
person confessing on the stand, that
was pretty unrealistic. Where he was
investigating ~~the~~ up until the last
minute, caught em in some perfect
lie he um but as I think the
programs now are more
sophisticated and are actually

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Judge: Showing really more about courtroom
cont. precedents occur... And the
Supreme Court in Michigan is
experimenting with having courtroom
cameras there, we've always allowed
the media to be in taking notes, you
know, for like the print media but for
on television were never had any
kind of cameras in the courtroom so
it's going to be interesting if that
our experiment works. There are so
many rules out now that no one
had any experience with it yet even
though our court is one of the
pilot programs in the state until the end
of this year, but right now as party
involvement preceding can deny at the
media's access by camera and that's
been happening every time they want
to come in the defendant doesn't
want them there so we refuse. So we
really haven't had it enough experience
to know how it's going to work but it's
opening up and I think people have a
right to know what's going on in
the court because it does have an
affect on them. And it's interesting
and it really can affect their
lives I mean if we had a fake
out happen to be a party in court
decisions are made that can have
an impact on them. So I, I think
it's good. But do you are you
interested in law at all?

me: Yeah (laughs)

Judge: Are you? Oh, that's great. Well the training you're getting in Red Dust will be very helpful (because they've got to be able to stand up and speak and put together some rational thoughts.

me: Everybody knows I've got a BIG mouth (laughs)

Judge: Well, it always helps to have a big mouth when you're a lawyer. (laughs) Oh that's real good training to be an attorney and of course the thing that you're doing in Red Dust, any writing and speaking that you can do and reading and uh learning about people all those things are real important for law. So look like you on the right track maybe I'll be able to write a recommendation for you to get into law school. You'll have to fund me in the boat (laughs). You might have to travel a way. No you're going to be out of school in a what 5 years and then you would have 4 years of college. I think you can still get into law school with 3 years & a degree if you want to. Yeah, so you'd have your 4 years so well that's another year so that's getting close. I might be just getting ready to leave. Getting things packed up and figuring out what parts of the world were going to be in, so that'll be fun. But I ah I think it's great if you're thinking about law. Well the other thing about law

PS
MS

Judge: to is that it's becoming a kind of a
cont. generalist where you can combine
it with other things, and it's it's becoming
ah more and more specialized so that if
you were a scientist or an accountant or a
doctor or a musician ah and you and
you have training ~~in~~ in those areas
and then you have training in law
you'd become very marketable for certain
kind of jobs. Because it's impossible for
one attorney or even a firm to be ah
excellent ah in all areas of law
because it's become so specialized and so
developed each area and so ah, we
have a cop doing, we had students in
school when I was there that were C.P.A.
you know Certified Public Accountants
who went into tax law eventually
and you know that a dynamite
combination, and we had scientists
that went into law and did patent
work, patent law which is another
big area so it really isn't
limiting you know you can combine
it with a lot of things to find a really
good spot, and it's nice if you have
other interests you can always pick up
you law degree and combine it with the
other interests, and be real, have a
real nice career, entertainment law
is a big one now. You know doing ah
you'd have to have ah a good strong
contracts law background but ah I
know some people that are doing that
and represent all the rock groups and
movie stars

me: Sean Penn (laughs)

Judge: Yeah Sean Penn, (laughs) Sean Penn might be a little tough to deal with. He's giving a bar to our Judge a hard time. But ah then are you know there a lot of interdisciplinary of looking at that and if you think of it as just kind of an extra degree at the top of your undergrad degree oh if you became very involved in another area if you add a lot to it it could be really, could be nice. We ready to go?

Secretary: Yep ready for lunch. You mom said tell Barbara Walters it's time to quit. (laughs)

me: yeah we were just concluding it.

Judge: Do do you think covered everything on it?

me: Yes.

Judge: I told you mom I have to be careful not to talk to ~~each~~ long. You know lawyers that mother problem they talk to much. Well thank you Ramita a ~~great~~ great.

me: Thank you.

Judge: I enjoyed meeting you a little bit more. and talking to you and if you have any more questions or this doesn't come through clearly there's been a lot of traffic in the street give me a call and we'll work it out if you need some clarification on what was said or you have another question I'll be home you can call me.

The End