Evo DeConcini
Oral History Project:
Arizona Legal History

Interview with Virginia Hash
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THE EVO DECONCINI ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: ARIZONA LEGAL HISTORY

HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1985, James F. McNulty, Jr., former U.S. Congressman from Arizona and currently an attorney with Bilby and Shoenhair in Tucson, proposed that the Arizona Historical Society develop an oral history project to collect the reminiscences of senior judges and lawyers in Southern Arizona. As a former partner in one of the oldest law firms in the state, in Bisbee, he had long been aware of the wealth of information and experience expressed in many of his colleague's lives and careers, some of whom had been practicing law for over fifty years. In an effort to preserve and disseminate their stories and observations about the profession, the Archives Department of the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson developed a pilot program focused on Southern Arizona, with the goal of collecting the reminiscences of fifteen to twenty individuals associated with the legal profession over the last fifty years.

The project was funded through a challenge grant made by Roy Drachman and money subsequently donated by members of the Pima County Bar Association and the DeConcini family. At Mr. Drachman's request, the project was named for the late Judge Evo DeConcini, a highly-respected member of the Arizona Bar and a long-time friend.

Most of the interviews were conducted between 1986 and 1988, by Mr. McNulty. Interviews were also conducted by Robert

Palmquist, Jack August, and Adelaide Elm. Additional interviews with judges and attorneys conducted previously for other oral history projects were included with the DeConcini Project, to expand the scope of the project. The narrators, representing both rural and urban practices, were identified for inclusion by Mr. McNulty and other members of the State Bar. They included three judges, sixteen attorneys, the wife of a former state Supreme Court justice, and the legal secretary of one of the oldest law firms in the state. All transcripts and tapes are available to the public at both the Arizona Historical Society and the University of Arizona College of Law.

In addition to preserving the recollections of legal practitioners in Southern Arizona, the Evo DeConcini Legal History Project has spurred the collection and preservation of primary documents relating to legal history, such as day books, client ledgers, correspondence and photographs from law firms and individuals connected with the profession. It is hoped that the DeConcini Project will serve as a model for the collection of such memoirs and historic materials on a state-wide basis.

THE EVO DECONCINI ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: ARIZONA LEGAL HISTORY

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 43 cassette tapes (60 to 90 minutes in length), thirty-two 1/4-inch audio tapes, and twenty-one transcripts produced for the "Evo DeConcini Oral History Project: Arizona Legal History" by the Archives Department of the Arizona Historical Society between 1986 and 1988.

The collection is arranged in two series: (1) Oral interviews conducted for the project; and (2) Oral interviews gathered from other projects.

Series One consists of fifteen interviews: (1) Charles Ares; (2) Ralph W. Bilby; (3) Thomas Chandler; (4) Elizabeth Daume; (5) Ora DeConcini; (6) Gordon Farley; (7) Martin Gentry; (8) Thomas L. Hall; (9) Virginia Hash; (10) Norman Hull; (11) Ashby I. Lohse; (12) James F. McNulty, Jr.; (13) James Murphy; (14) Alton C. Netherlin; (15) Joseph C. Padilla; and (16) Wesley Polley. Interviews 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 13 were conducted by Mr. McNulty. Interviews 11, 14, 15 and 16 were done by Robert Palmquist. Adelaide Elm conducted interviews 4, and 9, and Jack August conducted interview 12.

Series Two consists of five interviews: (17) Harry Gin; (18) Don Hummel; (19) Hayzel B. Daniels; (20) Rubin Salter; (21) Rose Silver. The Gin interview was conducted by Bonita Lam for the "Chinese in Tucson" project; Don Bufkin, Acting

Executive Director of the Arizona Historical Society, conducted the Hummel interview; Richard Harris and Carol Jensen conducted the Daniels interviews; Baiza Muhammad interviewed Salter for the African-American History Internship Project; and Rose Silver was interviewed by Mary Melcher for the "Women and Work: An Aural History," a joint project of the Arizona Humanities Council and the University of Arizona.

The bulk of the collection deals with the experiences and observations of these individuals relating to the legal profession in Southern Arizona over the last sixty years. The interviews document the following topics: education preparatory to the profession (law school, reading law, the bar exam); legal practice during the Depression, and the influence of the New Deal; relationships between the legal profession and politics; the role of judges vis a vis the Bar; the increasingly litigious nature of society; the effect of social changes on the practice of law; the experiences of women and minorities in the profession; and post- World War II changes in the legal system. Of particular interest are anecdotes about particular cases and clients; histories of several old law firms in Southern Arizona; University of Arizona Law School professors and courses of study; opportunities some had to practice law without a law degree; and remembrances of the colorful individuals who influenced the profession in Territorial days and early statehood.

The collection is valuable for its comprehensive look at

the law profession in Southern Arizona over the first half of this century, and its emphasis on the changes which have occurred within the profession during that period.

Virginia Hash Interview

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fifteen dollars, twenty-five dollars. That's silly.

Elm: Were more cases settled out of court then?

Hash: Oh, I think they had to be settled. And plea bargaining. You hear people get after that all the time. Oh, that's wrong. Without plea bargaining the system would fall apart. Completely. It's bad enough now with the public defenders being overworked and underpaid. What is going to come of that? That's going to be cute. You know. Let's be realistic about things. It's so silly.

Elm: I don't want to have us trail off the end of the tape. Tim do we. . . .

McIntire: Do we want to take a break here?

Elm: Yes. Why don't we do that.

Hash: (laughs) She's running out of steam, can't you tell?

End of interview.

Elm: As a true person of your profession.

Hash: These are all true stories. I can back them up.

Elm: Yes.

Hash: But I won't give any names, period. I just don't think it's necessary.

Elm: No. No it's not. Actually the experience that you've had is what's important.

Hash: I know. No way will you ever get a name out of me.

Elm: No. Well, I'm not trying to badger you either.

Hash: (laughs) I know. It wouldn't do a damn bit of good if you were.

Elm: Right. I wondered if you think that society is more litigious now than it used to be. Are there more cases, lawsuits and such?

Hash: Oh, there are more cases because they're making it easier to go to court. I saw an article in, I guess it was the Wall Street Journal, the other morning about Judge, what's his name, Wapner? In the People's Court? I have loved that from the beginning because it takes me back to my days in the Justice Court. So interesting, so similar to what went on. This is good, but. . . .But that Llewellyn, his announcer, I get mad at him. If you can't settle your case, bring it to court. I think, "Dear God, fellow. Shut up. The courts are inundated now. They don't need any more." Most of it's trivia. You know, suing for ten dollars,

didn't recognize it for what it was. And, well let me give you an illustration. One of our better known women attorneys was trying some cases once, years ago, when one of the lawyers called me, the other side. He was just weeping and wailing. He said, "What am I going to do about so-and-so?" I said, "What's your problem, Buddy?" or something like that. Very unelegant with them as well as women. And, by the way, as an aside, sex cases, I knew the two lawyers to get ahold of here who knew all about it. They could give you the space and detail. I've called them up many a time for help. They were perfectly, they were taken aback, but they're gracious about it. Anyway, this guy called me. "What am I going to do about her?" "What has she done to you now?" I had heard stories. He said, "Well, if I treat her like a lady, she takes advantage of me. If I treat her like a lawyer, she bawls. Now what am I going to do?" I laughed. I said, "That's your problem, kid, not mine." (laughter) It struck me as being funny. But it was not funny to him.

Elm: Yes.

Hash: He was one of the fine practitioners here. Very fine.

Elm: Who was that again?

Hash: I am not mentioning any names, didn't I tell you? (laughter) I refuse to mention names.

Elm: I know there have been a lot of men's groups, professional organizations that mostly men belong to where there's a lot of business done, contacts made and all. . .

Hash: You bet!

Elm: Did that kind of thing exclude a lot of the women attorneys from . . .

Hash: Oh, I can't say they excluded, but remember, the gal had to be able. So many were not. And that was the big hangup. The women were their own worst enemies. A lot of times. If she were able. For instance, in the courtroom, you never crowed, when you beat him. If you did, you were in trouble. I learned it <u>real</u> early. If I won the case against somebody, it was because I was lucky. If he won it, his witnesses were okay or his witnesses let him down, as the case may be. Anything to sop his pride. But you'd better. You'd better.

Elm: Did you learn that the hard way?

Hash: Well how else do you suppose I learned it? (chuckles)

Elm: Yes.

McIntire: About two minutes of tape left.

Elm: Okay. You said you never were aware of real discrimination in your own career. Are you aware of cases where the female attorneys were treated with condescension?

Hash: Oh, you bet. Plenty of them. I was at first, but I

Converse. Just a few of us were--Loretta. Loretta Whitney. Just a handful. And oh, when Ann Kappes came out. That was--she and Liz [Stover] came a little bit late. We used to have lunches, informal, no organization, no nothing, over at this one restaurant once a week. And the men knew it. They knew who we were and what we were doing. And they came over. I remember Art La Prade when he was Supreme Court Justice. He was Chief Justice. I knew the family in northern Arizona. (dog growls) Quit it. She's going to come through in here [the microphone]. [to Tim McIntire]

McIntire: Yes. She's coming through.

Hash: I know--We have an intercom, as you can see. Her snoring really comes through on it. Now, you just started that. Let's cut it out, okay.

Elm: Was there a formal, later on was there a formal women's bar association?

Hash: There is now, but there wasn't then. Oh, let me finish telling about it. So we'd have these informal meetings, but we knew who these people were, and we could call them. You talk about this, what do you call it? This networking? We used to network long before they ever heard of such a thing as networking, publicly. I used to laugh like hell. I said, "We've always done that." It's silly.

Hash: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. She and I, both of us were. Terribly. If the woman were able. She better be able. I remember one woman who wanted to be judge so bad, but neither Lorna nor I thought that she was capable. And she wasn't, really. But if they were able and capable, we'd get behind them with everything we had. In fact, the Bar Association used to call me, "Do you know of any jobs for this young woman?" " Oh, for God's sake, I don't, but here's where some of them have gone." That was before they could get jobs. The big firms wouldn't hire them. No way. Some of the gals' interviews that you, I didn't see them here, but I picked them up in Eastern papers, were terrible. The hiring partner would ask the gals questions all about their sex life. Well they didn't ask you [directed toward Tim McIntire, the sound technician], but they sure asked the gals.

Elm: I believe you said there were only six . . .

Hash: I think there were about that. There was just a handful of--oh, I started to tell you. There was just a handful of us, Lorna and I--I was in active practice--a gal named Anita Lewis, who is dead now. Not Amelia who's in Youngtown--she was in New York at that time. I'm talking about Anita, the red-head, who is a native of Arizona. And, oh, Alice Birdsall. She was the dean of the bunch, and Gertie [Gertrude]

Elm: What was the path that she took to that then? It was quite unusual.

Hash: Well, she knew politics. She had been active in the party politics and remember, she had been a representative, a state representative for three terms. She had been in Washington. She knew all these politicians, and her father was a consummate politician. And she was excellent at lawyering. She was a superb lawyer. And all these clubs she belonged to. What more can you ask.

Elm: Yes. It fell into place.

Hash: So, she knew what she was doing.

Elm: What did she do in Washington? What was she there for?

Hash: Oh, she was a secretary. I think she was one of Murdock's secretaries. He was our only Congressman at that time. People forget how fast this state has grown. Then she came back here and she was O.P.A., I think, Office of Price Administration lawyer, here, for the state, for a while. Then she went for the legislature. I think Murdock. But he died, there was a parade of them in there. Dick Harless [Arizona Congressman], he's dead now. Merideth, his wife, I think moved to L.A. But, she had plenty of contacts. Don't think she didn't.

Elm: Was she real supportive of other women who wanted to get into the profession, then?

did. And we had newspaper. You see, she had contacts. She was a native of southern Arizona. She was born down there and I was born in northern Arizona, so between us we had contacts, plenty of them. And we used them. (laughs)

Elm: Now were your political leanings also . . .

Hash: Well, they were all for Lorna. Of course naturally. I liked her and she liked me and I knew she was able. She had a fine mind. If she hadn't been able I wouldn't have gone for her. She was plenty able.

Elm: That's regardless of party affiliation, there.

Hash: It wouldn't have made a durn bit of difference to me.

Elm: Yes.

Hash: But, she was basically a good gal.

Elm: Did you practice, or did you try any cases in front of her?

Hash: I made the mistake of starting out doing it, and we both decided that was a horrible mistake and we'd never do that again. And any of the women judges with whom I've become well acquainted, I don't go into their courtrooms. And that was just a rule that we set at that time. No more. But I remember the first day she was on the bench, her father was still alive and he came down to watch her. He was the proudest man. He should have been. Women just didn't do those things in those days, you know. Really.

could do was laugh and point. She saw what I saw, and the two of us sat there in the airplane and we just roared with laughter. They had at that time an outdoor john. It faced the street and the runway and they had the signs all around it. (laughing) You couldn't miss it. Those bilious green signs. We were advertised in Gila County. No doubt about it.

Elm: When was she running for--that was Superior Court judge?

Hash: No. That was Supreme Court.

Elm: Oh, was it?

Hash: About 1960.

Elm: I see.

Hash: See, she spent ten years on the trial bench, and then ran for the Supreme Court.

Elm: Yes. Was a lot of her constituency in her campaigns, did it come from women in this state.

Hash: Oh, they were the backbone of her support. You bet. She belonged to a lot of clubs and so did I. And then, they had a lot of men. And the press was good to her.

Elm: What clubs, for instance.

Hash: Oh, she was a B.P.W., Business and Professional Women's, and Soroptimist. But the B.P.W., I think was the backbone. She was national officer and, oh, Eastern Star and God, she belonged to everything. But, oh, I can't remember now. What she didn't belong to, I

said, "I know he'll be glad to take it." Of course he was. He flew out with her and she had these people waiting at these airports all over town, all over the state. He loaded that airplane up, it was just sagging with--paper weighs tons. He said, "I can't believe it. All these women out at these airports meeting us." They did. Her signs got up.

And then the hysterical story. Sometime later during the campaign--I think it was in August--anyway we, she and I had been in Safford, and she was due in Globe. Barry Jiroz [Gila County Superior Court Judge] was going to introduce her around, take her up and down the streets. "No, we don't have to call him, because there's a phone there in the Globe airport, there always has been." What I didn't know was that they had been stealing the darned thing and it was gone half the time. I knew nobody was out there. When we got into Globe there wasn't a soul out on that field, and I'm taxiing up and down looking for a place to tie the bird down. I knew I had to tie it down because they had thunderstorms every afternoon. I didn't know how the hell long we'd be, but knowing her I knew we'd be long. And she was still spuming about her damn signs and I spotted some, and I got to laughing so durned hard I couldn't taxi the airplane. I had to stop it. She said, "What in the world are you laughing at?" All I

Elm: And Lorna Lockwood used to do her cases, in different parts of the state, and you flew her around?

Hash: Not only that. No. Not that so much as campaigning.

Elm: Oh!

Hash: You see, we campaigned by air. She said, "I've got a speech in such and such." "Well, okay." She said, "Can you take me?" I said, "Sure." We'd go spend the night, the gals would meet us, and oh, one of her campaigns was funny. Her first campaign for the Supreme Court. I'll have to tell you about that, because you'll get a bang out of it. We had this airplane which was a new one. It was really my brother's turn to fly it, but I'd just barely brought it home from the factory in Pennsylvania and so he should have flown it. We were having breakfast meetings every Saturday morning, for her campaign, and she was incensed with rage because her campaign signs hadn't gotten up. You know I looked at those signs and I said, "Good God." They were a bilious green and I said, "I know you like green, but that green, oh! Awful!" She was furious. And she and Simpson got into it--that's her brother-in-law--because her signs weren't out. Oh, she was going to send them by bus.

I said, "No. I mean, I know how to get them out faster. Let me get my hands on my brother. I know he'll"--because he had the airplane out flying. I

Elm: Okay.

Hash: Because the personnel did change some. They had a nice overcast up at Vegas, which they frequently do, but we slipped out under it. Came down but you couldn't see where the hell you were going very well, until all of a sudden, I was fiddling with the radio and I picked up, I think it was KTAR at the time that had the opera, and what do they have? Carmen. And the four of us sat there in the airplane listening to Carmen and homed in on it to keep our aim to Sky Harbor [Airport, Phoenix] with it. I mean, you know, things like that.

Elm: Yes. It brought you right in.

Hash: For sure.

Elm: Did you fly, or have you flown your airplane as much for pleasure as for business?

Hash: No. Mostly business. But I take pleasure out of it anyway.

Elm: Yes.

Hash: But, basically, well, like I've been to court in every county in the state. By airplane it's only an hour. Like to Kingman, and Bisbee. Places like that. You know how far it is to drive it. Many a time I've gone to Prescott. Been in court at nine o'clock on a short motion and been back in my office by noon. Many times. But you can do that kind of thing with the airplane. You can't do it any other way.

finding old things. One time,I don't know whether you knew it or not, but the kilns along the Gila River, they were talking about them, they couldn't find them--and that's K-I-L-N--there were a bunch of them and what their origin is or history nobody seems to know. You could get there by ground over a very tortuous route, you needed a four-wheel-drive. Well, damn it, you ought to be able to find that from the air. So she and I were flying one day and I had a little twin [engine], I'd borrowed a little twin and we flew up and down the Gila River looking for that durn, those darn things. There was a row of them. Finally, out of the corner of my eye, I said, "Polly, I've got it." We came around. Back down. Spotted them, so once you find them, you know where they are, but, oh, they were hard to see. We've seen American flags on the ground, all kinds of. . . . And the old Indian figures. Everything. Polly's fascinated by history and so was I. I remember one time, we were on a Flying-Farmer-Arizona legislative tour--you'll enjoy this. We wound up in Las Vegas, of all places, I hate that place. But anyway, we wound up there. And, let's see, Ruth Peck, Betty Rockwell, Polly, and I think we were together in the airplane that time. The four-seater. I think that's who was there. Don't put those names down, because I could be corrected on that.

then she went in the legislature, she served two terms and I think she went back to Washington but I don't really know. I think she was with Congressman John Murdock back there. And then came back and had another session in the Legislature. Her legislative friends were crazy about her. I can tell you an old gal you need to talk to badly, who knew Lorna well. That's Polly Rosenbaum.

Elm: Oh, yes.

Hash: You want to be sure you talk to Polly. You'd better catch her quickly.

Elm: Is she here in Phoenix?

Hash: Well, she's in the legislature.

Elm: Okay.

Hash: She's representing Globe, but she's here.

Elm: She's been in a long time, hasn't she?

Hash: She's the dean of all of them out there. And, boy, she knows where the bodies are buried on a lot of these things. It's a wonder to me. I've told more people, "Get ahold of Polly, for God's sake." She's colorful.

Elm: We have an oral history interview with Polly Rosenbaum, but I don't know . . .

Hash: Not on this kind of thing.

Elm: . . . how extensive it is. No. It's not.

Hash: Polly's unique. She's another one that loves to fly.

Hash: As a matter of fact, she and I have gone exploring and

of these to . . .

Hash: Oh, God no. Heavens, no. You never mention such things.

Elm: I see. So when you settled out of court you didn't have to go through. . .

Hash: You didn't go through any of this messy stuff.

Elm: Okay.

Hash: I've had, some came down from, primarily Canada where they still have show-fault, and they'd drag the correspondent, so to speak, into court to testify, which I thought was horrible, but nevertheless, that's what they do. And I've had to take the testimony down here under a deposition thing. They've sent it down. And well, that's pretty bad. I don't like it, but--I asked some of my good Canadian lawyer friends, "Why do you do that?" I say, "Well, okay, you're anachronistic, but. . . ."

Elm: Yes. In your friendship with Lorna Lockwood, did you all ever talk about the difference--she was, say, twenty years or so ahead of you, maybe, in starting the profession--the difference in opportunities for women in the profession in her time . . ?

Hash: No, because they were about the same. You see, she graduated from law school and she couldn't get a job and she finally went to work for her father. Stayed with him until, uh, that anti-nepotism statute, and

a fight with his wife, and he's got too many kids on his hands, who knows. Judges are good, please don't misunderstand me. But these things--they're human beings, too, and we have to take that into consideration. The trial attorney does. Things like that, "What kind of vitamins does that guy use. . . ." (laughter) That guy was a character anyway.

Elm: Did some of these out of court agreements before trying--in other words, when I say out of court agreement, before going to trial did they set up an agreement that said one or the other was at fault, when they really weren't?

Hash: No, they never mentioned that.

Elm: No?

Hash: Basically there was a division of property and who was going to get custody. And how much he would pay because she invariably got custody at that time. It was an agreement and there was no trial, of any kind, except one of them and that was usually the woman, would go to court to put on the minimal testimony. Just enough to get the divorce. We had to have that. And for the property settlement agreement, which we called them, for approval, and the court would approve them. And they still do the same thing today. You bet there are plenty of those. The more the merrier.

Elm: But they didn't have to agree to, say adultery, or any

for me but I might as well find out what it's all about."

He put her on the stand and her testimony was quite the opposite. All these motels, he'd stop two and three times a day. And all he, he was really successful. He was really good. Their stories were just total conflict. And she went on and on and on and on. There must have been fifty times she testified to, to consummate the marriage, you see, so she had him cold. And I thought," Oh dear God."

I saw the judge get all wiggly and all of a sudden write a note and he handed it to his clerk, and I thought, I wonder what he said. I walked up--the clerk was a good friend of mine, too--and I said, "Let me see that note." She handed it to me, and I about cracked up in open court. Because what the judge had written was, "Find out what kind of vitamins this guy uses." (laughter) We got it through, the divorce was granted, but she wasn't too happy. That's the kind of thing that happened under the old code. It couldn't today.

Elm: Yes. (laughter) Did you see a lot of set-ups, a lot of out-of-court agreements between husband and wife?

Hash: Oh, we did that all the time. In fact you're silly if you don't settle. Then you know what you're getting. A bird in the hand. But, bouncing it to some judge and depending on how he's feeling that day. Maybe he's had

can't possibly get a hard on, let alone do any good." He'd been married some 25, 26, 27 years. I told you my language could be very blunt. (laughter) Well it is. You can clean it up if you want.

Elm: No.

Hash: (coughs) His wife, I guess, had divorced him. I don't know. It really wasn't any of my business, so I didn't go into it. And so he finally subscribed to a lonely hearts club and through the lonely hearts club he saw an ad in there, the gal lived in New York. So he jumped in his trusty little car there and traipsed off for New York. And back there he goes and he meets the gal. And he thinks she is splendid. She's really appropriate for him, right in age and everything. A good-looking gal. He proposed to her and she accepted. So they were married back there and they started in his car, back, and they were going for some reason to Los Angeles first, and then back here.

And his tale of woes, oh! They stopped at motels and he tried so hard, all unsuccessfully, clear across the country. And he went on and on and on--this was in open court, mind you. That's the only reason I'm talking about it. I can remember the judge very well--I'll tell you a story about him too--and I noticed her lawyer was sitting there, not cracking a smile, and I knew he was good and I thought, "Oh, Oh, he's laying

Elm: When they had to prove fault in a divorce case, before 1973 . . .

Hash: (laughing) Oh, yes. That's the other thing I wanted to remember. I thought that was hysterically funny. We had very liberal grounds for divorce. We had ten enumerated in our statute, grounds for divorce. Running all the way from cruelty and adultery and things like that. Well get up there and kiss it. See what he does. And so among the things in the statute was impotence. Well will you please tell me if you're going to--How the hell do you prove that one? And you had to corroborate. (laughter) You corroborate. I asked my legislative friend. I said, "Will you please tell me what it was you were thinking on that one." I said, "If you can tell me how to corroborate it, maybe I'd try it, but I haven't been able to figure it out yet."

Elm: Were you aware of that particular thing being used?

Hash: Oh, you bet I was.

Elm: Was it used against someone?

Hash: How could you use it? (laughter) Because you had to corroborate every ground. How could you? I had a funny one on that. Oh, it was hysterical. I represented the man. He said, "I couldn't possibly have done what she said, because I'm impotent." He said, "I've got a terrible prostate condition and I

She wouldn't do it. She just stood pat, clear to the bitter end. Until he finally quit trying anymore. And it changed her looks completely. She was the durndest-looking old hag that you ever saw. She'd aged forty years. And I've often wondered what became of her. It really affected her. Terrible.

But that kind of thing we wanted to stop. And to deprive a man of his personal property just because he was catting around. Excuse me. What the heck's the matter. I mean the male animal's going to do these kind of things. You might as well face it. Part of life. And, we used to know the hotbeds, various activities in town and throughout the valley. There were some little areas, you just mention them and you know. Aha. Oh Hoooo. Now we know. Some of the weirdest things. Think, custody battles are still vicious. They were then, only worse then than they are now.

Elm: Why were they worse then?

Hash: Oh, I think more things came out, because at that time, you see, you could try the fault along with them. Today you're not supposed to, but they do get a lot of it in. To try to influence the judge. Under today's standards, you've got to try everything out, except the custody. So then you go into custody. So the fault's not supposed to affect it. But. . . .

every state's got something like it now. (laughs) If one of them was guilty of adultery, he couldn't get a divorce period.

One of the worst cases I know of, I represented this old gal. She was one of the most beautiful women you've ever seen in your life. A stunning, raving beauty. And her husband had gone off and left her. She got mad about it. Oh, she was mad. Then she chased him down and she found out that he was shacking with another woman, and I mean literally living with her. And not only that, but to add insult to injury, had a child by her. (Dog jumps on interviewer's lap) Paper.

Elm: I can't do it. (laughs)

Hash: Use the paper at her.

Elm: Okay. Get down. Good dog. Okay, good dog.

Hash: See, you didn't have to hit her.

Elm: No.

Hash: Very effective. (laughter) And she was so vindictive. Every time he'd file, she'd say, "No." She'd take separate maintenance, but she wouldn't take divorce. I talked to her and talked to her and talked to her. I could see what it was doing to her in her face. I begged with her and pleaded with her to get him behind her. "You're attractive. Go on get another man if that's what you insist upon having. Quit this stuff."

Because otherwise you'll give something away that you shouldn't. And as a result--in other words, be prepared, that was my motto. That's why all those countless hours out in our backyard. But it worked.

Elm: But when they had the old code and before . . .

Hash: Now I don't understand what you mean by old code.

Elm: Well, before no-fault . . .

Hash: Oh! Okay.

Elm: . . . divorce laws came into effect.

Hash: Oh, yes.

Elm: What kinds of things happened?

Hash: What was the difference?

Elm: Yes.

Hash: Oh, brother! Let me see if I can screen that because some of the most hilarious cases I ever had were tried under the old code. Oh, brother. In the new code, as you call it, in 1973 it was enacted--in fact I had to go out and testify before the legislature for that one. We thought it was a good thing. The so-called no-fault. In other words, spouses couldn't get up in court, she'd call him an old bastard and he'd call her an old bitch. You couldn't, you can't do that any more. They want a divorce. Boom. That's it. Which is as it should be. There's no sense in making a couple wash their own private dirty linen in public. That's always stupid. At least it was to me. And

they had three of us representing the bar. I was one of the three. And we went over and over yelled for it. And I remember they wanted to give us one. We said, "We need at least three." We needed five at the time. Well they finally gave us three. And they went to five shortly thereafter. Really,, it's expanding so rapidly that they need to give more. It helped a lot, but. . . . I still yell. One of my pet gripes. They're pricing people out of the market. I'm still griping about that. Too much preliminary discovery, which is useless.

Tape 1, Side 2

Elm: What is that exactly?

Hash: Oh, discovery is, you can ask the opponent questions, in writing, or you can, what we call depose them, and take their testimony before a court reporter. If you are artful and careful. But you better know what you are doing. And that was the trouble with most of the depositions, they're too early in the game. No way you could possibly--I used to lecture to the bar, before you try to settle, know your case pat. So, just like you were going to trial. Know every facet of it.

that question earlier and I'll come back to it now. Yes. I had a lot of it. A great deal of it.

Elm: Were more of your clients women than men?

Hash: No. Strangely enough, no. I've represented just as many men. I became known as that old bitch. You get them, don't you know? Right. (laughter)

Elm: In that line of work, can you tell us something about--I know there was an old code and then the new code came in, as far as divorce law goes.

Hash: Plenty of it, it's been changing so rapidly that I can't keep up with it, today. I don't pretend to do any of it today, because it's changed in the five years since I've been retired. Oh has it changed. But one thing I do remember, we've been yelling, some of us have been yelling for a long time, to get a domestic relations division of our court. Because every judge was different. You knew you'd better not take a man in front of this judge. He'll bomb him. Just because he's male. You know, sometimes that's fair, sometimes it isn't. Some cases you just don't take in front of certain judges. So we had to know our judges. But good heavens, when we've got over fifty judges now, how can you? We've been yelling for many years to get a domestic relations division created. I think Sandra O'Connor was on the Superior Court bench at that time. She was on that committee, the courtroom clerk. And

Hash: Oh, let's not talk about taxes. See, I was president of the Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association, which is an international association, for four years. And that helps a lot. I get referrals from those fellows. Plenty of them.

Elm: Did you do any of that kind of defense work outside of Arizona?

Hash: Basically, no.

Elm: No?

Hash: Mostly your pilots were here. And you could have your hearings here.

Elm: I see.

Hash: All you had to do was yell.

Elm: Do you recall any cases in particular that were unusual that you worked on regarding aviation law?

Hash: Oh plenty, but I don't want to talk about them.

Elm: Okay.

Hash: I can't. Some of them are hysterical, but. . . . They're just as funny as anything else you'd want to get into.

Elm: Yes. In your law practice, did you do a lot with domestic relations law?

Hash: Oh, heavens yes. I became a specialist in that one too.

Elm: Did you?

Hash: I did a lot of it. Yes. Any woman would. You asked

country.

Elm: Why have the laws changed? Why have they become more . . .

Hash: Let me say this . . .

Elm: . . . unclear.

Hash: . . . all law has changed. See, we're based on the British common law, which tries to keep up with modern thinking. That's why you see so much in the paper about the activist judges. They're way ahead of the public thought. Some of them go too far, but then, it's a matter of opinion. But, it's always changing. So they try to keep up with the changes. They're usually behind, but that's what the Supreme Court of the U.S. is doing in federal cases. Most of the courts won't handle F.A.A. stuff at all. They won't handle the administrative stuff. They say, "Those guys are experts over there. We're not."

Elm: Did you get a lot of clients who came to you because you were a pilot?

Hash: Oh, yes. I should say so. I've got an airplane. And that little airplane brought me more damned business. Some people look askance at me. Well, they used to say, "You're nuts." I said, "I'm not either. I know what I'm doing." And I was right.

Elm: (laughing) Could you deduct the cost of that airplane from your taxes for good advertising? (laughs)

work together very closely. See, they have a regional counsel. The F.A.A. has regions, and in each region they have a chief counsel. Our region is Los Angeles, is the headquarters. They have a chief counsel that is a very fine young man. I know him well. Then they have lawyers under him. They come over here periodically. It's a different practice entirely. But you have administrative procedure and always, you're always seeing cases, kicked out of trial court because you didn't follow such procedure. They didn't go through the administrative process, you see. And they're required to do it. That's both federal as well as state. Of course my stuff was all federal.

Elm: Because it was associated with the, not the F.A.A. . . .

Hash: It had to be a violation of the federal air regulation, which is federal, not state.

Elm: Have you seen a lot of changes? Or what kinds of changes have you seen in F.A.A. laws and rules over the years?

Hash: Plenty. They've just over-hauled them again. And they need to do it again. And they're written in very obfuscating language. You look at it and "what in the heck do they mean?" It's bad enough trying to interpret in court, but try to interpret those. Oh, there's just a loose network of us throughout the

movement.)

Elm: How did you begin? How did you get your first cases? Did people come to you?

Hash: Oh, sure. I had cases before I left my uncle. And he had such a shabby old office, I was ashamed to take them there. See, I got a whole lot of cases through aviation. I was always an expert on aviation and I did a lot of aviation work. But it's not in the courtroom so much. It's more administrative. Behind closed doors or in the Federal Tax Court or in little rooms scattered around the Federal Building. Or occasionally around the Superior Court Building.

Elm: What do you mean by it was 'mostly administrative'? What kind of work was that then?

Hash: Oh, basically pilots or mechanics or the like would be charged with a violation of the federal air regulations. So you'd come in to defend them. That's administrative practice. There's no jury. You have a judge. An administrative law judge sent out of Washington at that time. He went on a circuit. Now they have them assigned.

Elm: Was this administrative judge with the F.A.A. or was he with the Justice Department.

Hash: No. He was with the, at that time, the N.T.S.B., the National Transportation Safety Board. He still is ostensibly, but, he might as well be the F.A.A. They

of us in active practice in Phoenix. And believe me, when you're on your own, you'll take anything you can get.

Elm: You said you worked for your uncle for about four years, and then did you start your own firm, or what did you do after that?

Hash: I went out on my own. Yes, and then it wasn't long until we just boomed.

Elm: When was that that you started your own firm?

Hash: I left him in 1953. And, I think my brother came out from law school, and I used to have kids out of law school in the office. Liz [Elizabeth] Stover used to come around--she's a judge here now [Maricopa County Superior Court]. And some of the others. (dog in lap snores) (to dog - "You don't need to snort. Shut up. Brat.")

Elm: So you hung a shingle out with, as your own firm. Did you hire an . . .

Hash: I wasn't a firm. I was me.

Elm: Okay. Private . . .

Hash: Right.

Elm: . . . attorney. Did you add people to your firm shortly?

Hash: Oh, yes. It wasn't very long, but don't ask me how long. It's been too long ago. I don't remember. Oh, yes. It just went. . . . (whistle indicates rapid

Elm: Why did she tailor her ads to the Juvenile Court in the first place? Do you know?

Hash: Because we all thought, at that time, that that was the only niche that a woman could fill on the bench. Remember, the atmosphere was totally different then from what it is today. Women couldn't get hired. Nobody'd hire them. That was the first partnership, the first lawyer in town to hire a woman. And they wouldn't hire them. Not so far as I know. Let me qualify that. As far as I know.

Elm: She worked with her father, as an attorney? Is that--was Frank Lockwood her father?

Hash: No. Oh, J.F., oh--it's in the law books, plenty of them, but I can't think of it right now. [Alfred Collins Lockwood]

Elm: Okay.

Hash: He was a cute little old guy. He was strict. She loved opera. She used to come over here and hide out, before we had this house. She'd come in here on Saturdays and this place was a bedlam. I usually had a football game going on T.V. and no sound, and opera, and the Metropolitan going. And she'd think we were crazy. (laughter)

Elm: Did women attorneys deal a lot with domestic relations more than the men attorneys did?

Hash: No, at that time, you see, there were only five or six

"Yes, ma'am, I will." (laughter) And I did. I sat in the back of that room down there. But, oh, she was great. Amongst her other qualities was the ability to take criticism. She was a terrible speaker when she first started. And she insisted on improving and wanted all kinds of criticism. And for some incredible reason, I would sit in the back of all these big meetings, two or three hundred people and critique it for her and she loved it. And, boy, she learned. She became one heck of a fine speaker.

Elm: What were her main interests in law? Did she have particular specialization?

Hash: Oh, I tell you. She was broad. Well, when she first campaigned for judge, on the Superior Court, she thought at that time--thought it at that time, because the door was closed to women--she better run for Juvenile Court judge, and she had a bunch of ads prepared--we used to meet for lunch every week regularly, there was one very fabulous restaurant which is not there anymore--and I objected to that right from the beginning. I didn't like it. I said, "If you're going to be a judge, blankety blank it, be a judge. Not just a specialist." She looked at me in astonishment. And she modified her ads all right. So she was Juvenile Court judge for a while. But, it didn't last too long.

Hash: Yes. The first Chief Justice, yes.

Elm: Was she serving as Chief Justice when you were in law school?

Hash: No. Heavens no. She wasn't even Superior Court judge. She was still in the Legislature. No, I guess she was in the Attorney General's office, at that time. She came down to Tucson. I will never forget my first sight of her. I was aghast. You know that name is a beautiful, tall, sylphy-like, splendid, and here's this short, dumpy red-head. I thought, "Oh!" She was wearing glasses--I said, "Lorna, what on earth?" She stayed with us at the house. We became good friends, as I said, and she used to love to fly. (pause) I'm not an old, bold pilot. That scares me. I'm the worst chicken you ever saw, and I'm not afraid to admit it. And so she'd fly with me. She just loved to go. We've had some rare adventures. One Democratic Convention meeting was in Yuma--oh, Evo's wife, I can't remember her first name.

Elm: Ora.

Hash: Ora. Yes. She was, I think, the chairman of it at that time, in Yuma, and Lorna was invited as a speaker. I said, "You going to throw me out?" Because by that time I'd changed my registration [to Republican Party]. And Lorna knew it, but we didn't tell anybody else. She said, "You just keep your mouth shut." I said,

Elm: Did your uncle, V. L. Hash, have a law degree? Did he go to law school?

Hash: As a matter of fact, no. But he passed the bar with the highest then grade that had ever been made on it, I think. He was a totally brilliant man. Just brilliant. And, oh, there was Lou Whitney. He was one of the old-timers. His widow is still living. She's still practicing. She's right over here, Loretta Savage Whitney. She was one of the original court reporters. She's done a lot of probate law. She was one of the few that stayed in the business. Get her to talking about her days in Superior, Arizona, when she just started out. She can tell you some stories that will knock your ears off.

Elm: I remember her name. I've run across her name in some . . .

Hash: That's right.

Elm: . . .some of the things. Yes. Can you tell us any more about Lorna Lockwood? You've said . . .

Hash: (laughs) Where do you want to start?

Elm: Was she a Supreme--I understand she was the first Supreme Court Justice, female . . .

Hash: Not only that, she was the first woman Superior Court judge in the state.

Elm: And she was the first Supreme Court Justice as a woman in the United States.

summer school, but the family wouldn't let me. They said, "No. You can't do it." Well, I always bit off more than I could chew and--see I weighed about ten pounds more then than I do now. (laughter) Not very much. And, oh yes. I would come up in his office. And what I learned from him! Oh wow! Yes, I learned I knew a law library, because he had an extensive library, and I'd follow along with him and. He was well-rounded and, as I said, well-read. He had congressional records stacked two and three feet deep. "Do you ever read those, V. L.?" Most of the time he did.

Elm: Who were some of his associates, here?

Hash: Oh, God. You're going back into ancient history. Well they didn't--practice wasn't then like it is today, because there were only a handful at the bar. I would suspect your best bet on that would be to go to the Supreme Court and get their records. There weren't too many of them. I remember some of them, I was appalled then that they couldn't write English. The complaints were terrible.

Elm: These were practicing attorneys?

Hash: It's still the same way today, believe me. Not as bad, but, oh, in the courtroom when they open their mouths, they don't know grammar. But then maybe I'm getting old-fashioned too. I don't know.

don't . . .

Hash: Oh, they had the same basic type of training. There's different courses. At that time they taught mining law and water law and I understand they've just started water law again. Mining law, of course, what the heck! There aren't any miners! And they had the common law pleading and code pleading. And they have code pleading today, but they forgot the common law, which is just as well, because you don't use it at all. But they taught the same basic method, the case book method. Which they're doing today. What we used to yell then, "Boy, they need some internship here, in the worst way, to teach the, to bridge the gap," because the old-time lawyers will tell you, any lawyer who's been practicing will say the first two or three years out of law school a young lawyer isn't worth a. . . . Well, I won't say he's a--he isn't worth a you-know-what. (laughter) And he isn't, he's not worth anything. He's a liability to a law firm, because he doesn't know anything. He thinks he does, but he--that goes for, I'm using the term he to cover both sexes. (laughter) One has to be a little cautious nowadays.

Elm: That's true. Did you have jobs in the summertime? Did you work for your uncle between the semesters in the summer?

Hash: Oh, yes. I was up here. See I would have gone to

interview.]

Elm: I wanted to get back to law school for just a minute. We're kind of going back and forth a little bit, but. . . . The course work that you took in law school, was it . . .

Hash: It was tough.

Elm: Was it the same as it is now, or has it changed quite a bit?

Hash: No, heavens no. It has all changed. I'll tell you an interesting one. I had been out of school for twelve years. See, I had gotten my B.A. many years earlier. Which was good because at that time, if memory serves me correctly, six years was all of college you needed to get both degrees. I think they've changed that now. But I had the B.A., so I was way ahead of the game. It was sure different. The curriculum was different. I remember reading that stuff--and I was always a quick study. I'd read it two and three times. Didn't make sense to me. They had a lot of Latin and I used to know something about Latin, and French, which I never knew, German, in those cases. Yeah! What's all this junk anyway? I had a horrible time with it. But as soon as I got that rust out, it was okay. But that took about a semester and a half.

Elm: What kinds of things did they stress in law school at that time? What type of training did you get that they

during the war?

Hash: Well, there were a bunch of women during the war with that, but it was unusual, yes. Haven't you ever heard of Rosie the Riveter?

Elm: Sure.

Hash: Okay, it was in that same category.

Elm: Any funny stories about being an airplane mechanic, that you can remember?

Hash: Oh, there must have been, but I don't remember.

Elm: Yes. Did you apply, then, to be a pilot and train?

Hash: Oh, sure. There was a long rigmarole that you had to go through. I remember going out to Davis-Monthan [Air Force Base] for the physical exam and some kind of a written exam. And that written exam was duck soup for me with my background, what the heck. (laughs)

Elm: Yes.

Hash: I enjoyed it.

Elm: Did you belong to any flying organizations?

Hash: At that time?

Elm: Yes.

Hash: I didn't have much time, did I? (laughs) Not then.

Elm: That came later?

Hash: Later. You bet.

Elm: So. Let's see.

Hash: Solo is inspecting that [the microphone] too, you know. [Ms. Hash's dog, Solo, was in her lap during the

They had the first women pilots, I guess. Ever. Of course, they wouldn't acknowledge us for years.

Elm: Yes. I understand there were some other women in the WASP unit who were later attorneys and went through law school at the U. of A.

Hash: Oh, your own Mary Anne Richey. Yes. Mary Anne was one class ahead of me in WASP and I was a year ahead of her in law school. She used to come to the house down there. We were good friends. Oh, there were a bunch of them in Tucson there. But, typical, you know people retire. And they retire out here. An awful batch of them in Arizona now. But only as far as I can trace. Ruthie Reinhold, you know her, a good friend of mine--her books are sitting right over there--she used to live right across here. In fact her husband is in the same nursing home that my buddy is. She was one of the real pioneers.

Elm: Did you know Ruth Reinhold before you became a WASP?

Hash: No. Oh, I had met her, yes. But I didn't know her as well as I came to know her later. She used to come over here swimming a lot. And she had a key so she could get in. Many a time I'd come home and there she was. (laughs) And she loved the dogs! Oh, how she loved them.

Elm: Were you unusual to be a woman working on airplanes as a mechanic, or were there quite a few women doing that

he had an outside belly turret hanging down outside. He forgot to put the wheels down or something, and he landed on that gas tank. I was standing on top of a B-24 wing. I had a perfect view. You could see him coming down that runway. Pretty soon little sparks way behind and I said, "Get out and run like hell, Buddy." But he didn't know it. He finally turned around. He came to a stop, saw that fire coming at him and you never saw a man get out of an airplane so fast in your life. But he was okay. Of course the airplane was destroyed, but he was okay.

Elm: How did you happen to go into airplane mechanic work? Was that a choice that you made?

Hash: Well, they needed them very badly then and I wanted to learn. And I'm mechanically-minded and enjoyed it. I loved it.

Elm: Thinking back to your earlier love for airplanes, did you train in Tucson?

Hash: Oh, heavens no. They sent us to Sweetwater, Texas. That was the big training base. I didn't like Texas and there I was back in Texas. And I thought, "Oh hell. Here I am and I don't like it." But it's pretty interesting. I'll tell you, that military education is the finest in the world. Anybody that wants to fly and has that opportunity should take it. Delighted with these gals over at Willie, Williams Air Force Base.

started?

Hash: Yes. I worked at Ryan. You know where Ryan Field is in Tucson? I worked out there as a mechanic. Then I moved over to Consolidated, as an inspector on B-24's. I used to see some of the weirdest things.

Elm: Like--do you remember any of the incidents that. . .

Hash: Oh, I remember, yes, two instances. I remember one with a B-24. The nose-wheel apparently collapsed on take-off and it was taking a whole crew up of factory pilots from San Diego. Because they used to fly them over here. I remember the nose-wheel collapsed and that thing going down the runway on its nose. They couldn't stop and, it had machine guns coming out of the nose at that time, that was before they put the turret in, and it burned those machine guns off right level--well you'd know this--right level with the pavement. The tail was way high and when it came to a stop and all these guys back in there, they were jumping out. Some of them broke their legs and whatnot, but they all got out alive. And that was one.

Then I remember, oh, a real funny one. It was kind of a ferry base for the P-51's when they were fairly new, so they brought them in for modification or something, to install another integral fuselage tank. I think it had ninety gallons, or an hour's worth of flying, anyway. This guy was bringing one in once and

Elm: Is that your first love?

Hash: Yes.

Elm: And law is the second?

Hash: Yes.

Elm: Okay.

Hash: And I was able to combine both for years. I'll give you a little highlight. I'll try to condense this, because you get me started talking flying I haven't sense enough to shut up. Ah, this is interesting. The first airplanes I ever saw must have been Wright Flyers or the very early airplanes out at our old fairgrounds. And my dad, I remember, parked the car, he had an open touring car, parked the car at the end of the, well, what was by the flying stands, would have been the racetrack. Those darned things going right over our heads and I fell in love with an airplane then. But he died and I knew Mom was a teacher and couldn't afford it, it was expensive then, so I forgot it for years. And then finally I couldn't wait any longer and during the war I worked on planes and took flying lessons and wound up in the WASP, and <u>that</u> was fun. See, there were only 1074 of us that graduated. And that was a lot of fun. I enjoyed that. But I found out there I didn't want to do it full time.

Elm: You said you worked on airplanes before you started flying. Was that a job that you got after the war

discrimination. I was just one lawyer doing battle. It took me, at first it took me about six months to get settlements because my uncle would go to court and he'd settle the cases. He'd take an armful of the darn things and, folders coming out, just dripping. I couldn't settle and it would make me so mad and I found out later, I realized that I was being tested. But no more than any other young lawyer would have been. I wouldn't give them an inch. I'd just stand. But, oh, the homework it took. My mom said, "Don't you ever talk anything but law? Don't be like your uncle."

I'd come home and go out in the backyard and sit out there and it was hot and it didn't make any difference to me. I'd dunk in the pool and cool off and come back out and study some more. All weekend. And of course I had to have that little time--I had to go to the airport. The fellows in law school tried their darndest to get me to go play golf. I said, "Look, I've got one thing I'm doing. I squeeze the time out to get to the airport. The heck with you and your golf. I don't want that." (laughter)

Elm: Well, maybe then, would you like to talk some now about your interest in flying and aviation? We'll get back to the law profession. . .

Nash: When do you want to start? When do you want me to stop? I haven't got sense enough to stop.

sober, cruel look on his face. He never cracked a smile in the courtroom, and underneath it in that pair of blue eyes, he had an impish sense of humor. And I'm light, I always was pretty light, and I can't make those darned swivel chairs rock back. I was sitting there very uncomfortable, straight up and down, and I didn't like it.

So I found out that by propping my feet carefully on that bar that goes across under counsel table, tilting it just right, there was a precarious balance point. And I'm going hammer and tongs and all of a sudden the thing got away from me. And we didn't have carpets then, and I'm rolling backwards across the courtroom floor. And I never will forget Judge Ling. He said, "The court will now take a ten-minute recess to allow Miss Nash to get control of her vehicle. (laughter) Everybody roared including the jury and me and everybody. They thought it was funny as hell. I think I crashed into the seats behind me before I got stopped. (laughter)

Elm: That's funny.

Nash: His eyes were just twinkling. I thought, "You rascal you."

Elm: I wondered, what was the reaction of male judges and other, say, opposing attorneys to you as a female.

Nash: Let me say, I didn't know there was such a thing as

decided, well the heck with it. If I'm ever going to do it, now's the time. So I left. And my mom, bless her soul, she stood behind me one hundred percent. She said, "Go on and leave. You need to leave. Go on and leave." She was the only one who didn't call him by initials. She called him by his first name and he let her. He was scared to death of her. She was no bigger that I and he was six feet tall, big fellow. (laughs) And she said, "I'll scrub floors. Get out." And I was glad I had the experience, because experience with him was worth its weight in gold. I was in court every darned day.

Elm: Did you try cases then?

Hash: Everything. He just pitched me into it and baby I was it. Had him call me in the middle of a jury trial, criminal defense, and I didn't even know the defendant.

Elm: To go up and take part in a case, in court.

Hash: I was it. I was defense counsel. (laughter) I remember once--here's another funny one--I remember once he sent me over to Federal Court. He says, "I'll be there, but I'll be a little late." I go, "Who's the defendant?" He handed me a file. I didn't know the guy. I don't remember now, but I think it was an Indian--charged with rape or something, that's what their usual offense was--and in front Dave Ling who was then Federal Judge, oh a fine guy, but he had a real

Elm: Did your uncle think that would be a good move for you?

Hash: Well it was in retrospect. Heavens to Betsy. An opportunity to see how that appellate court works, you bet it was an opportunity. But I didn't know it. Didn't take long for me. All I did was wanted out. It was supposed to last, I think, for two months or something like that,[but was] extended until July. And I was very unhappy.

Elm: Did you like working with DeConcini?

Hash: Oh, yes. He was fun. He was a fine guy.

Elm: How did you know him previously?

Hash: I didn't. I'd never seen him before. I didn't know him at all. He knew me. I had been in his courtroom once. I vaguely recall that. When he was Superior Court Judge in Pima County. I vaguely remember when I was in law school, I don't know how, what I was doing down there, but I remember vaguely being in there.

Elm: Yes. So you went to work then for you uncle after a few months and what kinds of work did you do with him?

Hash: Shall we say general practice? That was in the days before specialization.

Elm: Yes.

Hash: A lot of things they do as a matter of course today they hadn't even heard of then.

Elm: How long were you with him?

Hash: Oh, I stayed with V. L. four years. Until I finally

Hash: Everything that a law clerk would do. That is researching the law for him. Occasionally writing the opinions for his screening, and of course he always screened them, but every law clerk does that today. It was rather heretical at that time, and I was, I didn't like it, because I was [counting on] going down to my uncle's office where the action was and I knew it. I didn't want to go out there in the first place, but I liked Evo.

Elm: How did you happen to get that job? Did you apply to him or. . .

Hash: (laughs) No. I went out to be sworn in one day in March and--it was a very small class as I recall--and Mo [Morris K. Udall] wasn't there, he had other fish to fry--of course being who he was I'm sure that played a part in it--he was not there to be sworn in that day officially. And when I came home--my uncle had been out there--when he came home from work that evening--I was staying with him and my brother was there--he says, "I've got news for you young lady. You're not going to work for me. You're going to work for the Supreme Court next Monday." I said, "I what?!" He says, "You're going to the Supreme Court." I said, "I am not." He said, "Oh yes you are." I said, "Wh- wh- what did you get me into?" "You'll be Evo DeConcini's law clerk." And that's how it happened.

the capability. I'm just sorry as heck that I didn't keep track of it at the time, because there were so many he was involved with. He was funny, it was funny. He and I fought like cats and dogs in the office.

Elm: Did you work for him then?

Hash: I did after Evo.

Elm: You worked for Evo DeConcini first?

Hash: He was my first job out of law school.

Elm: Oh, is that right?

Hash: Yes.

Elm: What did you do for Evo DeConcini?

Hash: I was his law clerk. In fact I think, as far as I can tell, I was--see, the only one that had law clerks out there at that time--they were, it was a five-man, it had just been increased to a five-man court, and each judge could have one either lawyer or secretary. And the law clerk had to be able to type, which--mine was of the great hunt and peck variety. I did take shorthand but I didn't want anybody to know it. My uncle knew it of course and I used to throttle him. I'd say, "Blankety blank it. I'm not going to do this for you. I ain't going to do it, period. Get your own secretary." So they could have one or the other. But not both.

Now Levi Udall, he was Chief Justice--that was Mo's and Stewart's father--he always had a law clerk.

Elm: Okay. We didn't get that on the tape, I don't think. So you mentioned your uncle, V. L. Hash . . .

Hash: Correct.

Elm: . . . and I'm interested in him. I've heard he was a real colorful . . .

Hash: Oh, he was. He was one of the last of the real colorful ones. He (laughs), one of our judges cracked even at his funeral: "Well, he's the only man I know of who could postpone his own funeral." (laughter) We had, we had a heck of a rainstorm and he couldn't get there.

Elm: Oh my gosh.

Hash: (laughter) So we postponed it. And he laughed and cracked up. He's retired now.

Elm: Was V. L. Hash an attorney here in Phoenix or. . . .

Hash: Yes. He was. And he had a statewide practice. He used to do a lot of--he loved criminal defense work--and he used to do a lot of defending of the so-called moonshiners. He had a lot of them. Oh, he was colorful. He could pull rabbits out of a hat. Brilliant mind. Because he could remember the law. He was astounding, an astonishing fellow.

Elm: Do you remember any particular cases that he had that you were interested in?

Hash: Hundreds of them. (laughs) Let's don't screen them now. Somebody needs to write about him. I don't have

Lockwood] while I was in law school. So she had no influence on that.

Elm: She had been a practicing attorney for twenty years?

Hash: Let's put it this way. I knew darned good and well. I'd been in a man's field all my life. If they could do it, by God I could too. That was my attitude. (laughs) Rather arrogant now, in retrospect, but that's the way I felt about it, and I guess that's just as well.

I remember walking into court in the early years and being treated like a secretary. And going into depositions and the opposing lawyer looking at me like a secretary. You'll get a kick out of this. You know what I learned to do? Watch his socks and his shoes. (laughs) And that is devastating. One of our old-time practitioners who was my father's lawyer, he wore the darndest fluorescent socks that you--(laughs) used to shine brightly, and I'd stare at them in utter fascination and get him so upset. Now if you want to be nasty, you've got one. All right. (laughter)

Elm: No. I was going to ask you who that was, but that's not fair.

Hash: I'm not going to tell you. I wouldn't tell you anyway.

Elm: No. Maybe we should establish where you went to law school.

Hash: University of Arizona.

Elm: What year was that?

Hash: In 1946. With all the returning vets.

Elm: Were you one of the few women in your law class?

Hash: Oh, well, some of the fellows went to summer school, which the U of A held at that time to help the vets get through, and I remember at one time I was the only woman in law school. There were, when I went in, I think there were six in that graduating class, none of whom may I say are practicing today. Because jobs were tough to get. You couldn't find a job at all.

Elm: Who were some of the people, the women in your law class?

Hash: There weren't any in my law class, per se.

Elm: Graduating with you.

Hash: Graduated with me? None. I'll tell you who was famous that graduated with me. Your senior congressman. Mo Udall [Morris K. Udall].

Elm: Oh.

Hash: He and Stu [Stewart L. Udall] were both in law school the same time I was. We used to have a lot of fun. Mo and I wound up taking the bar together.

Elm: Were there any women who were influential in your decision at all to go to law school?

Hash: None.

Elm: You didn't know any . . .

Hash: I didn't know any. I met Lorna [Justice Lorna E.

he ever had. She was secretary to him before she started her political career. She was a good gal.

Elm: Do you think this--your mother's interest in politics--did that have any influence on you or . . .

Hash: Oh, probably. My dad was a southerner, of course. Need I say more? But I don't remember any discussions at home because, remember, he died when I was only ten.

Elm: Yes. I was wondering about your decision to go into the field of law, what influenced you . . .

Hash: (laughs) Well, that was kind of weird. See I had a flying bug and I was in the WASPs in World War Two. And when I got out, well, excuse me, you understand. There weren't any jobs for women. I mean it was just a dead end. I guess I've always been very ambitious. I didn't like what I was seeing at all. And besides that, to my utter shock, I found I was bored to death with flying every day. Just bored to death with it. What's an airline pilot, he's just nothing but a damned bus driver. Of course he's more than that, but that was my reaction to it at the time. Forget it!

And my mind was too active, and I had an uncle who was a lawyer, a very fine one, and I was staying with him at the time and I said, "You know, V. L. [Hash], if I had to do it all over again, I think I'd go to law school." He said, "What's stopping you?" That's how I happened to start it in the middle of the year.

Elm: Okay. We turned the tape off for just a minute and now we're back.

Hash: Right.

Elm: I wanted to ask you, in your early life with your family, your mother and your brother, were you all politically aware and active at all?

Hash: My mom always was. As a little kid I don't remember much about it. But she was. She was one of the very few lifetime Republicans in this state when they couldn't even field a slate of candidates. They used to have Republican meetings here in this house. I'd come home and, good gosh, where'd all that come from. (laughter)

Elm: It seems like someone told me at one point it was illegal to be a Republican in this state. (laughs)

Hash: Oh, I wouldn't--no, I don't think so. But I know she knew Tom Campbell [Thomas E. Campbell] and some of the other governors. She knew a lot of those guys personally. In fact a lot of them have been here in the house.

Elm: Did she ever run for office or serve as a precinct . . .

Hash: No. No, the closest we came to fame was Anna Frohmiller. She was State Auditor.

Elm: Yes.

Hash: She was a good secretary. My dad says she was the best

Elm: So you said you graduated from high school in Tucson?

Hash: No. I did not. I said I went three years to Tucson High.

Elm: And then moved to. . . .

Hash: That was my, shall we say, Texas interlude. My mother got romantic notions. Married a Texan. That's how come we. . . . I'm a graduate of El Paso High.

Elm: You moved to El Paso then?

Hash: For a year, and then Texas Tech for college.

Elm: Which high school did you go to in El Paso?

Hash: There was only one.

Elm: Austin High?

Hash: No! El Paso High. At that time it was the only high school. That was before Austin. They've got a bunch of them now, but not then.

Elm: Oh. My grandfather taught school out there. That's why I asked. (laughter)

Hash: Oh. I knew you had some connection there. Clay's father, my cousin, has been a teacher and principal at McArthur School, a combined grammar school and junior high in El Paso, for many, many years. He just retired.

Elm: How about that.

Hash: (bell rings) Don't pay any attention to that. It's just the doorbell. (dog barks) You'd better cut that thing off. (taping stopped and started again)

Elm: Do you remember what year that was?

Hash: Oh. . . .

Elm: Or how old were you?

Hash: In 1923, I think.

Elm: And then you didn't stay, you moved from Phoenix?

Hash: (laughs) Oh, we lived all over. He died Thanksgiving night and my mother didn't find a place to teach school until the following October. You know the reason? Talk about--you gals today think you've got discrimination, but you ain't lived. They wouldn't hire her as a teacher because they thought she was a married woman. She had a heck of a time. Told them, "Hey! I'm a widow. I've got two little kids to support." She had a horrible time.

Elm: What did she teach when she finally got a job?

Hash: Grammar school. She taught--the first place she got was White River. She taught in the white school up there. And then the next one was Aguila. I went to school to her two years. And then she got the school at Flowing Wells, out of Tucson. You know where that is. And it was either two or three rooms. She became the principal of that. She was quite a gal. She had one sister who also was a lifetime teacher.

Elm: This was back in the times when teachers were unmarried, then. Was that one of the qualifications?

Hash: Oh, I don't know. I assume.

younger or older?

Hash: Not quite. He's younger. Not quite, but almost. He's a graduate of the U of A [University of Arizona].

Elm: Did you go through the U of A before he did, then?

Hash: Yes.

Elm: I see.

Hash: You see, I graduated in mid-year in 1949. I don't think he graduated until 1955. But he was a Korean War veteran as well as a World War Two veteran.

Elm: Did you live in Flagstaff as a child?

Hash: Well, I went to the first grade there. Came down here when I was <u>in</u> the first grade.

Elm: To Phoenix?

Hash: Yes.

Elm: Okay. And did you stay in Phoenix for a while?

Hash: Until my father died.

Elm: What was your father's occupation?

Hash: He was a merchant. He came down here to open up Babbitt's wholesale house.

Elm: In Phoenix?

Hash: Yes.

Elm: Did he work for the Babbitts in Flagstaff?

Hash: Oh yes. He was manager of their store.

Elm: I see. And then you all stayed in Phoenix until he died?

Hash: Yes.

more about my dad and my grandpa and my family than I do, really.

Elm: Okay. That's interesting. Were both your parents from Arizona?

Hash: Oh, my mother was brought to Arizona as a tiny baby. While Geronimo was still on the warpath. Her father was a pioneer newspaperman in, Clifton, I guess. When he first came here.

Elm: Clifton, Arizona?

Hash: Yes. And then he didn't like Clifton, or my grandmother didn't, I don't know which, and they moved to Kingman. He had bought one of the papers over there. My grandmother decided Kingman was too hot. So he sold it and moved to Flagstaff.

Elm: Much more pleasant up there.

Hash: My mother was just a tiny baby. My dad didn't come until after, oh, I don't really know, but sometime shortly after 1900.

Elm: Where was he from?

Hash: Virginia. (laughs) That's where I got my name.

Elm: Oh. Do you know what brought him to Arizona?

Hash: Health. Which brought most of them in those days.

Elm: That's true, it did. Do you have brothers or sisters?

Hash: I have one brother only. He is Edgar Hash. He's a lawyer here in Phoenix.

Elm: Has he been practicing as long as you have? Is he

VIRGINIA HASH INTERVIEW

This is an interview for the Evo DeConcini Legal History Project in the home of Virginia Hash. The date is March 9, 1987 and I'm the interviewer, Adelaide Elm. [Tim McIntire, sound technician, is present to operate sound equipment.]

Elm: I'd like to start with some questions just of biographical nature. When were you born and where?

Hash: In Flagstaff, Arizona, in 1913.

Elm: What were your parents' names?

Hash: Edgar was my father and my mother was Mary Funston Hash. Her father was a newspaper publisher. In fact he owned the Coconino Sun, which was then a weekly.

Elm: That was your grandfather then?

Hash: Yes.

Elm: I see. Did he run that paper while you were a child?

Hash: He died before I was born.

Elm: I see.

Hash: But my mom was in it, the paper with him.

Elm: Did she work on the paper, then?

Hash: Well, if you can call a little nine or ten year old kid, you bet. She was under his heels all the time. What little newspaperese I learned, I learned from her. You know Platt Cline.

Elm: Sure.

Hash: He's a good friend of mine. He can tell you. He knows

pilot, which she says is really her first love. She discusses the opportunities for women lawyers, their roles in the profession vis-a-vis their male counterparts and the bench, and the support they gave to each other. Her activities as a pilot brought her much legal work from other pilots, and an involvement with aviation law. In the interview, she expands on the procedures involved in aviation law. A good deal of her practice involved domestic law and she discusses the problems with divorce law and the changes, good and bad, from show-fault divorce to no-fault divorce.

Hash was a close friend of Lorna Lockwood, the first woman in the United States elected to a state Supreme Court bench. She talks about Lockwood's career, and her own participation in Lockwood's election campaigns.

The interview closes with Hash's reflections on the number of lawsuits in the courts today.

Virginia Hash Interview

Virginia Hash was born on September 20, 1913, in Flagstaff, Arizona. Her father, Edgar Hash, was a merchant in Phoenix until his death in 1923 when Virginia was ten years old. Her mother then supported herself and her two children as a school teacher in schools throughout Arizona until she remarried and moved her family to Texas. Virginia Hash graduated from El Paso High School, and from Texas Tech University in 1934.

Since childhood, Hash had been interested in airplanes. During World War Two she worked as an airplane mechanic at Ryan Field in Tucson and joined the WASPs to became a pilot. She continued to fly in the years following the war as a private pilot and was elected the first female president of the Lawyer-Pilots' Bar Association, from 1966-1970.

After the war, Hash attended law school at the University of Arizona, graduating in 1949. Her first job upon passing the Bar exam was as a law clerk for State Supreme Court Judge Evo DeConcini. After clerking for DeConcini, Hash went into practice with her uncle, V.L. Hash, in Phoenix. In 1953, Virginia Hash started her own law firm, which she maintained until her retirement in 1980. During her years of practice, she received the "A" rating from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory.

Although this interview focuses on Hash's experiences as a lawyer in Arizona, it also details equally her experiences as a