

Interviewee: Martha Grace  
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**Abstract:** Martha Grace was born in 1940 and raised in Providence, RI attending primary, secondary, and eventually collegiate level schooling in Providence as well. Soon after graduation, she decided to move to Worcester, MA with her husband because of his profession at the time. Shortly after the move, she had two children and was looking forward to continuing her education. After having her first child, and being turned down once already because of their fear of her getting pregnant, she attended Clark University and studied history. In 1969 she wanted to attend veterinary school but was dismissed as her status as a wife and a mother, along with her age, because it was believed this would not allow her to be a dedicated full-time student. These history classes pushed her to go to law school making the commute to Boston daily for this education. After she graduated from law school, Martha's first job was teaching as a professor at Assumption College. She had the opportunity to teach various ethics and law courses at the time. After she decided to leave Assumption College, Martha became even more active in the bar association, eventually receiving the title as Clerk Magistrate in the town of Spencer, MA and eventually became Chief Justice of the Juvenile Court of the State of Massachusetts. In this interview Grace discussed balancing her career and life as a mother. She also brought insight as to what it was like to pursue a job and education as a woman and mother during the 1960's onward and reflects on how things have changed. Martha tells her story as a strong woman who does not give up on her goals, hopes and dreams, based on circumstances in her life that may not support that desire. She got married, had two kids, went to law school, vet school and did all of this in the midst of all of this she was pursuing her desires to further her education.

**MG:** I grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. I had a deliriously happy childhood until my mother got sick when I was twelve and she died when I was fifteen.

**OG:** I'm so sorry.

**MG:** That was probably a life changer for me because in our house—I grew up in a somewhat middle class house. We didn't have a lot of money but I didn't even know about money. You know what I mean? Education was the most important thing in our house, it was the only thing. So I don't remember another thing my mother discussing except my father on how important it is. So when my mother died, I knew I had to go to school and I was applying to college [dog comes into room, laughs]. Rusty... He is just showing off... So I wanted to go away to school. We lived in Providence and Brown University was in Providence and the women's college was called Pembroke at that time. It's now still men and women but it was separate. So I wanted to go to Pembroke and I had to stay home and take care of my father. I had to make dinner for him

and at that time the male and female roles were very well defined. So my father earned the money. My mother did work and she got a master's degree actually about two years before she died which was interesting. They married during the Depression in 1933. She taught Hebrew at Boston Teacher's College and with the money that she earned she put herself through college one course at a time. So you hear these stories growing up and you realize—my father was one of six children and he was the only one of his siblings to graduate from college. It was a huge thing. I still have my father's graduation diploma. I can't get rid of it and I don't know if my kids realize how important that is so of course I kept it. Education was this great thing. I get into Smith and other schools. I had done very well in school. Then my father sent me a letter when I was living with him. He gave me a letter and he said if I let you go to Pembroke College I'll never be able to give you up enough to let you go away to school. I mean I was seventeen.

**OG:** You said Pembroke was an all girls school at the time?

**MG:** It was the women's college of Brown University. It was co-ed but they did that with Radcliffe and ...

**OG:** Our professor said they did that with Notre Dame and...

**MG:** Yeah, a lot of schools. I wanted to go to Goucher in Maryland, but it was too far. So I went to Smith and you know, I had a great time, but Smith was all women and still is all women as is Wellesley and Mount Holyoke, not too many all women schools. I loved being in an all women's school. The thing about being in an all women's school is that you didn't have to compete with men at that. I mean you're in a different generation and while your generation thinks that we broke the glass ceiling, we didn't.

**OG:** Do you feel like going to an all girls school had an effect like either way on the progressiveness of everything?

**MG:** Yes. Because at that time, and remember this was in the late fifties. I went to school in 1950s so I graduated in '61. So at that time, men and women in a classroom, the men would get the top job of editor of the newspaper, they would get the big jobs, women didn't get those. Now whether they didn't apply for them or people didn't pick them or they are afraid to raise their hand. That's what it was like. It seems bizarre. I'm telling you that today. But that's what it was like. And by the way, we've moved in many directions, but we haven't moved as far as one would like us to. Remind me to tell you about my two incidents later. So, okay. I went to Smith. I had a great time. I thought I wanted to be a veterinarian. I did. I knew as a child. I always wanted to be a veterinarian full time. I was eight years old.

**OG:** Yeah.

**MG:** Always wanted to be a vet but I majored in zoology and biochemistry. Loved it, loved it. I thought it was fabulous. You know, Smith was in the country. It was Northampton, it was

beautiful. We go hiking and all the stuff I loved and my sister went to Simmons. I'd go to visit her in Boston. I loved the outdoors [dog walks in, interruption]. I got married during my junior year, after my junior year, and I remember I had to go to the Dean for permission.

**CL:** Oh, that's interesting.

**MG:** She said no, I swear cause this is exactly what she said to me. Sex and education don't mix. Now I wasn't so fresh as I am now. I should've said to her, really I'm going to have sex, you think? [Laughs]. Anyways, so I was so determined. I did very well in my senior year and I lived in an apartment outside of campus and at that time when I got married and I was very young, I was too young, of course. I didn't realize that my dreams of becoming a vet weren't going to happen. You know, you think you're in love and going to get married.

**OG:** Do you feel that at that time... I know that it was the norm for a lot of women to just go into college or especially if they didn't go to college. That was their one main goal is to look for a husband. So do you think that like you felt pressured or do you think you were ready at the time?

**MG:** No, because my mother had died and because I was taking care of my father, I thought I was more grown up than I was. I was taking a lot of responsibility for someone my age, you know. My friends, they were still arguing with their mothers and doing all this and I was taking care of... I mean, I was doing stuff that I probably shouldn't have been doing. There was no such thing as counseling. No one ever said that, you know, you're grieving. You ought to get it but I have to tell you that over the years, my mother's death was a pivotal, pivotal aspect of what I did because I was driven. Everybody says you're always driven. But I know that's what it was. It was that I wouldn't have had fulfilled this. So I got married, we moved then to Worcester and I thought I died and moved to the armpit of the world. I couldn't even believe how awful Worcester was [laughter]. But you know, I didn't know anybody. All the women that I did meet already had children. My marriage was not the same and unless I showed that I'd wanted children right away and I got a job, I was the only woman working amongst the women.

**OG:** That's awesome.

**MG:** So I felt very disconnected talking about babies and bottles and diapers and stuff and like, Oh my God. I decided I'd go get a master's in Clark University or a PhD. in biology. Rudolph Newman Maka, he is since deceased, he was a chairman of the board and a chairman of the department and he said to my idea, "You are married and you could get pregnant and I will not take you on as a PhD student."

**CL:** Oh wow.

**MG:** Now that was not legally actionable then. So, you know, so I kind of—you go back and say, "Oh right." But one of the things that happens in nature and biology and zoology was that

while I loved being in the labs, you missed some of the liberal arts all over government. I mean, you haven't taken that. We had, I don't know if Assumption still has a core curriculum

**OG:** Yes

**MG:** We had that. So you took the required course, not in your major. So I applied to Clark for Master's in History because I had missed—it's not that I missed a history class when I missed being in a certain, so I took it and I had, I had a wonderful time. I don't know that I was going to do anything with it straight to—I don't even remember that. I don't remember and then I had—oh wait a minute. I had my first child and went to get, I guess I went to class rocking one of these little seats. I used to take it to class and move it or I would, I will take it. I got friendly with the secretary in the History department and, and they would watch her for an hour and a half. It was really, I felt that I'd lost my mind, but that was nothing to come. Then while I was in the history master's Eugene McCarthy ran for president. And our house was headquarters for the precinct. My husband was a Republican. He was always Republican. I was always... I didn't even know how to spell it [Laughter]. And so we totally took this, this gap year in terms of my master's. And then the college contacted me and said, "Look, you have a year to finish your master's degree. If you do it or not." And so I just cleaned off the dining room table, put myself in there, and I finished my master's for me. I didn't care one whit about having a master's degree. I just, I don't know. Fast forward again, I don't know the child and the vet school comes into Worcester... to Grafton. Oh my God. And I have two kids. So I went out to talk to them. I didn't apply, just went out to talk to them and they said, "You're too old for our entering class."

**OG:** Do you think that it was because you were too old or because you were a woman with kids?

**MG:** I don't know. I was 36.

**OG:** Yeah. Well we watched these ads and it's like the flight attendants, but they advertise it for age twenty to what? Your thirtieth birthday you're fired because you're too old.

**MG:** I know. I know. They can't do that anymore. So they said to me, I was 30. Actually I was 36, but they did say you're above the age limit. Now today that sounds so bizarre that they could say that. But they did and it wasn't actionable. So I needed to be out of the house so bad where I could taste it. So I went to law school the next year. Law school meant I was commuting to Boston every day. I did not have any family here. My mother was gone and I didn't—I have one crazy sister, who I just moved to a nursing home in New York. She's difficult and they called me the other day, to tell me how difficult she was, and I said, "You know what? She's been difficult since she was three years old." [Laughter]. And so that was the hardest thing I ever did. I had to hire babysitters, and now I'm going to school with kids who are mostly at that time a lot of people didn't take.. [Dog interrupts. Laughter].

**MG:** Yeah, you know, the people... There was on the wall maybe about ten women in my class.

**OG:** Did you feel that your commute and that decision to go back to law school had any type of effect like on your home life here?

**MG:** Well, my home life was already not... My first husband was a lawyer. So I thought he will understand that and he didn't want me to [Laughing]. That was me thinking that he would understand that. And of course he was fine with my going back to law school as long as I had three meals on the table. In other words, he didn't want his life disrupted in any way. And we had very traditional roles. He did not cook, clean, or do the laundry or anything like that. So I still had to do everything. I remember being in law school and being in a class in Boston, he worked downtown Worcester. He called me to say the school had called one of the kids needed to be picked up at school. The school was over here about a mile from where he worked. And he made me come home from Boston to get my—I mean, it was like, as awful as that sounds, that was traditional. I mean, I was furious, but it was, that's the way it was. I mean, it was that way and there were some men who were, who were more aligned, but not many. And at that time, by the way, post graduate, so I graduated in sixty-one. It was around sixty-five, nineteen sixty-five, nineteen sixty-six that maybe we've already talked about *The Women's Room* and *The Feminine Mystique*. Those things hit us so hard because we had graduated from college with exactly what you described. You've got to find a husband, you've got to go on and your education is going to, to help you build your husband's career. It was never about you having a career. It was about you want to be a perfect hostess for your husband, as he would love to cooperate. It is so bizarre now that I think of that. So the mistake that women made in the early feminist movement was saying to the world, we want to go out and prove ourselves. We want, and we didn't say to the men, come along with us, here's what you have to do. We said, we want it all and we're going to do it all. And that's the mistake women made that, as the feminist, and I'm sure you studied that, as the feminist movement started to have internal issues tended to decline. I do think it was that the fizzle a lot of men said, "Sure, go back to work and don't interrupt my life. I still expect the meals on the table. Your responsibilities to take care of the kids. I'm out earning a living." I mean today it's very different. I assume neither of you are married. When do you get married? You're going to have, I mean like, I have kids and my late husband has kids and their marriages are very equal. Like my daughter is a senior buyer of a TJ Maxx and travels all over the world. Her husband cooks and he does all these things and he was always there for their daughter. I mean I see it in my children, which is terrific. They can take on the role. So that the roles are not so defined.

**OG:** Do you think that that has to do a lot with how you're brought up? Like you said when you were younger, your parents had very traditional, familiar, parent roles. And do you think the way that you raised your kids and your generation raised their kids like that had an impact on the way that they act?

**MG:** Well, it's an interesting thing because we now have nieces, grandchildren, females. We have raised our children, your ages, to be independent, to be self sufficient, to have jobs. So at the time you marry you have your own money, your own car, your own apartment, your own stuff, your own job. If you get a job across the country, let's say somebody offers you a job

across the country, you're going to have a discussion if you have a significant other about whether you both move or not. That was unheard of.

**OG:** You just wouldn't.

**MG:** She went, we were at the fee. That's how it was. So the problem with having raised children like this is I see a lot of young women being challenged to find suitable men because while the men say, sure, I want you to be independent. Absolutely. I want you to earn your own money so you can contribute. But wait a minute, I want you also to be like my mother.

**OG:** And that's what is hard for women because it's housework and we want to do everything because it's fulfilling. But like, yeah, like you said.

**MG:** I think on some level it's harder. Yeah. It's harder because it's more out there in the open. So these things that I told you about like being told I was too old and I was married, I might get pregnant but I couldn't come (to class). Those were, I mean today they're considered awful. It wasn't considered terrible then. I didn't even, I wasn't a lawyer or anything, so I didn't even understand what that meant and well, I mean, I just saw what it meant, but I didn't realize that you could be legally objectionable.

**CL:** What made you pursue law?

**MG:** Well, because they turned me down at the veterinary school and they didn't, I didn't actually apply. They just told me I was too old and I realized of course, because I was, I mean, law of veterinary medicine, was like you have labs or things it's simply no way. I didn't have the money to hire full time help or a nanny or any kind of family.

**OG:** That's so hard.

**MG:** It was, I mean it was hard enough to get babysitters and so I think if my then husband would like would be understanding about what it meant to study law. So that's what I did. I honestly, I don't think I had any particular interest in the law. I needed to get out, I needed to get up.

**OG:** Are you happy that you pursued it?

**MG:** Well, of course because I went to law school and that was impossible. It was impossible because I remember sitting in, I was in the cellar at 4:00 AM. I was studying, doing laundry, trying to figure out how to make lunches for the kids to go to school if it was snowing or raining. If they need snow boots with it. I mean it was the same way. And I remember exams and kids in law school would think, where are we going for drinking? And I'm thinking I'll take separately. Is the sitter going to show up? I mean it was like, it was crazy. I learn to live on on two and three hours of sleep a night. Nothing I thought would ever be that difficult again. And in some ways it

wasn't. So, but it was a good, it was good model, role model for my daughter and my daughter was around 15 at the time and her father wasn't happy with the fact that I wasn't around all the time, although he technically supported it. Little things. I'm going through a lot of stuff trying to play now. And I found the letters that I sent to the mortgage company. After I got divorced saying that I had to. That I wasn't saying that I couldn't pay the mortgage and I need the extension, but that's because I wanted to keep that of course. Anyway, she was unhappy because her father was on this complaint that I must... but fast forward, she went to work. She called me, they moved into a house and she said, mom, nobody in the street works. I can't imagine nobody in the street was working. I said, okay. And she was working, she was committed. She's always worked. I said, okay, let me tell you, they're your neighbors. And I can't remember if she had... I think she was pregnant. Yeah. I said go to the annoying parties. We hold these things because there'll be times when it's snowing or it's raining or the sitter doesn't show up and you're going to want to be in a town and say, can my daughter stay at that house for half an hour. In time I think I would have out of five neighbors, two or three. But it's been interesting to watch that development. And the fact that I went to school and then went to work was very instrumental in her working. And in terms of what you, what role models you have, I mean she was sort of in this teenage, um, didn't like it. So I finished law school.

**OG:** Would you say that you had any role models and like accomplishing everything that you did?

**MG:** Yeah, there's no question in my mind that the fact that my mother knew she died when I was 15. I was so driven about education that I, that was it. I mean I think, look, I dealt with abused children for 20 years and kids in terrible situations and I don't, I think that every person needs somebody in their corner. Now you hope it will be the parents. Sometimes it isn't. Sometimes it's a grandmother or an aunt or a teacher or a neighbor or somebody who takes an interest. I mean, I really do try lots of times now to mentor young people. I got a job. Finally, at first I didn't have a job. Oh, so I started teaching at Assumption.

**OG:** That's what that was about your first job?

**MG:** Yes.

**OG:** After law school?

**MG:** Yes. A fellow named Richard Oehling, I think he's passed away. He lived on Willow Avenue. He was changing. I remember when he was changing everything, every assumption in the.. God I should know. Anyway, it was a Christmas time. I had neighbors on probably within the next street. He came over and it was Christmas and he said, "What are you doing after?" And I said, I don't know, I want a job. And he said, I need somebody to teach business law. I said, "Oh." He said, "It starts in two weeks." [laughter]. And so I went to meet with them, the Dean, the chairman of the department. And he said, "Well, tell me what you're doing." And I said—I mean, you have two weeks to plan, I said. "I've had a lot of education." I had a masters degree

and a master's degree after my BH. I said, "I've just been thinking about the educational experiences that I liked. What was it in certain classrooms? Why is it that you like certain teachers and not others? It's not really quantifiable."

**OG:** It's like the feeling, I guess that like the professor give, I don't know, like cares about what they are doing. You can tell that they're really passionate.

**MG:** Yeah. Opinions. They listened. They're willing to sort of, I sit in the, and I'll have to speak in class and they say "Oh, you know, the kids at Assumption you're not going to get them to talk." And I said, "Yeah I am. They don't get a grade because I'm going to make the grade depend on than speaking." He said, "Good luck." I said, "Okay, I'll see you at the end of the semester." So I taught there for a few years and then I taught in the regular business departments.

**OG:** What year was that? Do you know?

**MG:** Yeah, May eighty-one. Anyway.

**CL:** Was Assumption all men?

**OG:** I think they went coed in seventy.

**MG:** But what there wasn't Assumption was that it was developed as a French Jesuits. I mean the French department, the history department of philosophy are very, very strong. These business people were upstarts.

**OG:** Now in the business.

**MG:** I know, I know. But they were bringing in the money. So at the board meetings... cause I had a friend getting, I was already older by then. It was 40, 41, 42... 41 when I graduated law school I knew that there was this real schism, the people from the French philosophy, the old time thing held sway in terms of their influence, but the business people were bringing in the money or the related new fields.

**OG:** That's how it is now. Business is taking over.

**MG:** I know. And you know whether that's good or bad, I don't know. Because there's still a place for it, but a person who was a history major at a liberal arts school like Assumption is going to have a much harder time finding... [dog interrupts]. So that was interesting. So I got this job and then I taught at... it was at a graduate program in business or a continuing ed? I think they had. And I taught in one of those classes. And the interesting thing about Assumption because one of those things... I taught one semester at Clark, the same thing, and Clark University where I had gotten a master's degree, had a lot of kids from New York and the East Coast who had not worked. Who had very, very different backgrounds. The contrast between the

Assumption students and the Clark students was so in your face. Assumption students had worked for the most part. So when you started talking about implied contracts or stuff like that in business, the Assumption students had actually had jobs, made a paycheck, had taxes taken out. They knew how the world works. And a lot of Clark students had not ever worked. Which is why I am—people call me on this. Even now, people still call and say, “Oh, my son wants to go to law school. My daughter wants to go to law school. Can you talk to them?” And I say, “Well, firstly, I'm going to tell him is take two years off.” “Really? Oh, and then they'll never go to school.” I said, “They'll be better students if they take a couple of years off.” My son is a lawyer and went right into school. I should've said, I won't pay if you go right onto school. But he went and today would say that he wished he'd taken off.

**OG:** Do you think that the experience that you get when you work...?

**MG:** Yeah, you just understand the world of the world better and you're a better student. And parents always think, well, they won't go, but they will. It's like kids that I had in court. They wanted to quit school and they were sixteen at that time. They could quit school and parents had been deficits in your weight. Once they get out if you're going to afford to send them to even to a local college or whatever they'll eventually want to go back because they'll see what they can get with just a high school degree.

**OG:** And the difference between getting an education and the importance of it.

**MG:** Right. You know, there's a lot of controversy about this because so many students are coming out with such high student debt and the new salaries that they're getting right out of school not commensurate with paying off debt.

**OG:** We'll see how that goes in one year.

**MG:** I know. Yeah, no, yeah, yeah. Wait, if the world still exists in one year.

**OG:** Yeah. Right.

**MG:** Where was I? Oh, so I go to law school and then I got a job. I was riding in the elevator one day, one of the... I don't know where I was. And I saw this man, there was a lawyer that I knew just slightly, and he said, “What are you doing these days?” And I said, “Well, you know, I'm teaching at Assumption.” “So, you're looking for a job?” I said, “Yeah.” So he said come in. It was a small firm and so I started there and it was actually, a good place to start.

**OG:** It was in Worcester?

**MG:** It was in Worcester. It was a little off, but he taught me a lot and dragged me everywhere. So I went to every deposition. I went to every place he had interviewed, anybody. I went everywhere and he would come into the office in the morning and he would give me stuff and

he'd say, "You need to go down to the courthouse and you need to go to an article online or something, because I've got a case up there and I have to go try a case." But I learned a lot because I was really learning on the job. So, I was there about six or seven years and someone that I knew from politics—I used to work for Michael Dukakis—called me and said, "There's an opening for court magistrate." They don't have it in all states, but it was sort of a quasi-judicial role at a courthouse. And he said there's an opening in Spencer, Massachusetts. And the reason that I even thought about it was because even though I learned a lot from this man, this lawyer, he worked all the time, he didn't know about the cases, he didn't, he couldn't understand why. And I had two kids at home, so I had to go—oh, and I was divorced by that time so I mean I had to go home and he was used to people working at night. So every night I come home with a briefcase full of stuff. And, you know, you still had all the things you'd have vacations and I mean, not vacations, but you know, baseball games and piano lessons. So crazy stuff. Honest stuff. Yeah. So I started thinking about leaving him and going out on my own. And there were a couple of women that I talked to and I talked to a friend of mine. He's a retired judge now, but at that time, he was practicing law but he was a man that I knew well and I would go to him for advice. I'm thinking about doing this, what do you think? And he said, "Yeah, you can think about that, but you know people are gonna think that you're lesbian if you go out with two women." Well, because I did tell her that it didn't matter and I really, I could no more imagine...

**OG:** Do you think because you're going out with women people think you're a lesbian that's why it mattered? Because you guys were women trying to do things that not many women do.

**MG:** I mean yeah. I mean and there was still a lot of that. It was still, when I went to law school there was still the feeling that you're a woman taking a man's job. What are you doing taking a man seen in this law school class? That was clearly, I had an issue.

**OG:** Let me phrase that like the workplace too, when you started your work did you face gender discrimination?

**MG:** Yeah, because this law firm, I went to superior court and district court a lot, whereas most of the women were in divorce for what?

**CL:** What were the two incidents you were going to speak of?

**MG:** That was one of them. I told you about this, which was, which was being denied because I was 36 years old. So just to fast forward from that. I'm teaching at Tufts, teaching law. I've been teaching four or five years. So when [President Donald] Trump was elected, the whole class was I mean rabidly democratic or liberal support. All these guys are, so the class was the day after the election. So I said, "Okay, I'll probably get fired for this, but we need to talk about the election. As soon as she showed you that misogyny is alive and well in the United States, maybe more so than racism." And I told them these two ones sentences and I said, "You know, they couldn't do that today. So nobody can say to you, you're too old. You're too young. You're married, you're

this, you're that, you're gay, you're whatever. Nobody can say that to you, but don't think for a minute they don't fake it.”

**OG:** They can say no. They don't have to say why.

**MG:** And I said, women need to be better prepared. Always in every situation. You need to be better prepared when you don't get a job for some reason, you're not gonna know the reason why. So in that sense, it was better to know the reason why I said, and we did not crack the glass ceiling. We made inroads. We pushed back. But it was so this, I said, women, it's not a level field anymore. It's not for you. It is not a level playing field. And women need to know that. You go into a workplace and some workplaces are equal. I have friends who are high powered engineers and they still, I mean, you know, they're not my age maybe than 10 or 15 years younger, but they still talk about the fact that .....

**OG:** This man's job, it's his job.

**MG:** Anyway, this court magistrates' job came up and I was already thinking about leaving because he was impossible about vacation time. And I applied, it was, it's a governance council positions and governance appointment and volunteer holds. I got it. I don't know how but you know, you go through and I had sort of paid my dues. I was active in the buyer association through him alone, trying to do all the right things. And I support magistrate and it was in Spencer, Massachusetts. So from here to Spencer was a 15 minute drive. It was delicious, horses living in the field. I of course, I was always a writer, and so I have a book. I had a course that like, Oh, while I was in law school, I turned 40. Once I was in law school and my then husband was still married, said, “Would you like a fur coat for your 40th birthday?” “I thought how little he knew about me, I don't know where fur coat came up in the morning. I said, “No, I'd like something in science or still moving.” So he gave me some money like, this law school is meeting myself coming around the corner. So I put it into a stock. I saw a stock broker from time to time and he said, “Okay, the stock is down and you can buy the front and half the horse in the back half. Anyway, I finally bought a horse and I, I had that horse for many, many years until he died. I have another horse now who's not doing so well. So anyway, I passed a herd, group of horses every morning in cows, maybe three cows. Now the animals live there because sometimes I went there and I loved it. I don't know, I was there for four or five years and the judge of that court was retiring. Oh, someone said, “You really should apply for judgeship.” I said, “Me?” I can't even imagine that and applying for judgeship in Massachusetts is one of the states that appoints judges. It's one of the few states that appoints judges. You're appointed by a traditional nominated council. You make an application, everybody makes an application. There are plenty of lawyers who are around for one time. They'll say, “Oh, they asked me, they asked me to be a judge” which is BS. Nobody. Yeah, you apply like everybody else. So I applied thinking really, me? You know, like what am I doing applying for judgeship. So I didn't get it the first seven, I didn't to expect to get it. As you just went through the process. Then the person on the judicial nominating council calls me and said, “Would you take a job as a juvenile court judge?” I said, “Sure,” because I have to have a lot of experience with juveniles, except that which was handled

in our little court. And it wasn't a lot. So, I got the job. Nobody could have been more surprised than I. And so I became a juvenile court judge. Now it doesn't overnight. I was active in the bar association, active on projects. I volunteered for stuff. I work time, you have to pay your dues. I worry a little bit about this generation. My daughter for instance she went to Northeastern and she majored in criminal justice. She thought she was going to be a customs officer, police, and I don't know. But all the time she was working at—so I don't know if you know how Northeastern works, they have co-ops. And when she did co-op she went to work in the trial court and had nothing to do with me. I wasn't there then. She also, she always needed extra money because her father was not always paying. She always had extra jobs. So, she worked in the Limited, I don't know if you remember the Limited. It was like a precursor to a Marshalls or TJ Maxx. And there was another store she worked at. Now what did she do? She was a student. She was on the floor where she hung up people's clothes. She said, "Oh, that's a pretty skirt, Camille, Oh, I have this top to go with it." You know, that's what she did. She was a student when she applied and so Marshalls came to her. When she was working at the Limited, after she graduated college, she got a job full time job with the Limited. I can't remember why she didn't, couldn't go to anyway. And they came to her and then Marshalls started interviewing her, and the thing they were most interested in was that she knew the work from the ground up. She knew what it meant to be on the floor. And the reason I tell you that is because she's now is in a senior position. She's been there for more than 25 years. But she says that the young people coming in, they don't want to start at the bottom and you have to pay your dues. You have to understand what it's like at the bottom. And I say, because no matter what you go into, if it's making coffee in the office, you can't say that's beneath me, I went to college, I've got this fancy degree. So I always took the position or whatever they gave me to do was what I was gonna do, whatever it was. I see that missing and sometimes when I interview people, you are still young enough so you're not part of this late twenties early thirties is a very entitled generation. It's a very entitled, they don't want to do this, they don't want to do that. I see that amongst our young people.

**OG:** I feel like now it's because we talk about like, everyone just wants to make money so fast. Like that's what it's all about now not about actually getting the education and going through what our parents went through.

**MG:** Right, right. And you have to go through that. You absolutely have to. So I think that I did that stuff because I didn't know what else to do. It wasn't because I was, it wasn't because I was planning to become a judge. I mean that was, you know, so the thing about being a juvenile court judge was astonishing. Do you have a time limit?

**OG:** Supposed to be around an hour? Yeah, but I'm asking about, do you think that being a judge helped you like integrate more into the community in ways that you never really saw the community or like, other people?

**MG:** Yes and no. I mean, the best thing about becoming a judge, especially a juvenile judge, was I always had, and I still have, a sense of having made a contribution to society and making a difference in people's lives. That was the most—I mean it was impossibly hard. The stories that I

heard about children being abused, being sexually abused, being physically abused, seeing kids in front of you having done horrendous things and looking into them and realizing they have no shot in life. They had, but they had also no moral center. They didn't understand right from wrong. Yeah, it was, it was a very powerful job. It was hard. I had a lot of respect in the community and I still do, but I don't think anybody really realizes how very difficult it was. The opportunity in life to have made a difference is one of the most important things. It keeps you going. I retired after nine and a half, almost 10 years. The only chief justice of the juvenile court, at the time had retired. And there was an application that some of the women from the court—there were twelve juvenile judges at the time—there were only two or three women came to me and said, “You have to apply.” And I said, “Me? Come on.” “No, no, you have to apply.” So I applied. I didn't think anything of it. I just didn't think anything of it. And when I ever got the job,

**OG:** So, this is still in the 80s?

**MG:** This was 1998 in November of 1998 in one week, one of my best friends passed away. My son was sworn in at the bar in Massachusetts. My first grandchild was born and I became, I was horrified, I was chief justice of the juvenile court. All these, within 10 days, so my son in law called me and he said, “Mary's gone into the hospital.” I said, “Okay, all right, I'll be there.” And I went to the Uxbridge because I had to do arraignments and bails and then I showed up at the Newton Wellesley Hospital where she was, because I know that's first two, first baby. It's not going to be a long time. And who was there, but my former husband. Oh! In the interim I got married again and so my former husband was there and we spent the next seven hours together until she had the baby. I thought I'd go out of my mind, but it was it was like a page out of—you probably are way, way too young to know the movie Gigi but there was his old movie Gigi, if you ever have a chance to see those you should. Wonderful. With Leslie Caron and anyway, there was this fabulous song between two people as they're aging. Oh yes, I remember it. Well, it was, it was night and it was day. It was raining. It was sunny. You wore pink. No, I wore blue. And that's how it was with my ex husband and I, he was talking about (inaudible), but now they start up, I remember walking Meredith when she was a baby at night. I said, okay, which wife did you do this? Because I don't ever remember you doing that [inaudible]. And so at some point he said to me, you know, I heard you applied to be chief justice of the juvenile court. What in the world makes you think they'd ever give you that job? And I said, I'm really lucky you're not making the decision. And then it was like the next day that I heard and so forth. And that was so, so when you talk about women—whoa, I was from Worcester and I was a woman and I was Jewish. I was so “other to this group of people in Boston. I mean they were fine, but they were mostly Italian and Irish. That's what Boston was, Boston politics, the judiciary and that's what it was. I was so “other” to them and that was the end. So nine departments in the trial court, housing, probate, superior and district and juvenile. There were nine altogether. I was the only woman at the table.

**OG:** That is something I was going to ask you. How many women did you work with while you were in the judicial court?

**MG:** Well, eventually, eventually a lot because right after, maybe two or three years after I became a judge, the legislature decided to expand the juvenile court appointed 16 new judges. They were all sent to me for training in Worcester from Boston. It was really fun. I got to know a lot of them and so forth, but I watched them. So now I think it's at least 50% is 42. I think there's at least two. So I've watched over the years now the veterinary school, so, okay. It was a fabulous career. It afforded me opportunities, but you know, if we can go out in Worcester, and someone said hello, judge, the waitress would say look at my husband because he actually looked like a judge.

**OG:** Yeahhh...

**MG:** See behind the post, that's my husband and that's with Sonia Sotomayor from the Supreme Court. There's another picture with Ruth Bader Ginsburg someplace.

**OG:** Oh my gosh.

**MG:** Yeah. I mean because I was very active in the national association of women judges and one of them would always come. So that was sort of my year.

**OG:** It definitely helps you create relationships with.....

**MG:** Oh yeah. I mean it was it was true, he looked like a judge. One of the first things we went to right after I became a judge was the brief resignation of the chief justice of our state Supreme Court. And I had been a judge maybe three months. So as we leaving, the chief says to my husband, "Good evening, Ron, I thank you for coming." And he said, "Thank you for having us, Mr. Chief Justice." And I'm like the mouse standing there, but I'll tell you, it was great to be underestimated and no one expected anything from it and then you come out. And it helped me with legislature, helped me because I didn't ever feel that you should sort of flaunt yourself when you are, you know that you're able to..

**OG:** Did you ever get to talk to your ex husband after you actually got the job and it'd be like, ...(inaudible)..

**MG:** We did, he was furious. He died unfortunately a few years ago, but he was, he had a tough time because he was of that ilk that he, you know, he didn't like women being successful.

**CL:** And you were in the same profession.

**MG:** Yeah. Yeah. Well we weren't really, we were like, weren't competitive. And when I became a judge, of course it was like, do you think that I'm being a judge? Well, obviously, but how involved or like how into politics at the time were you. One of the things is once you became a judge, you could not be involved in politics at all.

**OG:** Really? Is that still like that today?

**MG:** Judges.

**OG:** Well, that makes sense because you cannot be biased.

**MG:** Beause in Massachusetts, judges and masters, the truces are not permitted to be involved with politics.

**OG:** That makes sense. I never knew that.

**MG:** Well, you know, once I retired, one of the things I was glad that I could get active in somebody's political campaign. I mean, cause that was hard. That was hard. As a matter of fact, this man that I always asked for advice for when I became, should I become a court magistrate? What did you think about applying for judge here? Is it too soon? And so I always went to him. So, so a friend of ours, she's, she's a good friend. She was a state Senate President. She just retired. She's Harriet Chandler and there was some fundraiser and he, this judge, called me and he said, "Are you going to Harley's fundraiser?" because we're really, I mean she was a friend of us, a personal friend of ours, but still, you know, he was an appeals court judge and I was a Chief, so I assume, okay. Maybe not. So my husband took his wife to this fundraiser and the next morning in the *Telegram*, there is a picture of this, this a seminar with my husband and his wife. And I said, thank God we weren't there because, because we probably would have been reprimanded. No, we wouldn't have been fine or anything, but it's just practice. Right.

**OG:** It seems like there's some internal politics. Definitely.

**MG:** Yeah. Top of the food chain. Trust me there are internal politics.

**OG:** So that's where you make up for the no politics thing.

**MG:** Yeah. You know, I never liked to get up to the politics with that stuff, but women's issues, I don't think I experienced gender bias until I got on the bench. Yeah. Because again, on the two candidates with me vying for my position were men, one of them came up, congratulated me right away. The other half has never talked to me since he's practicing law.

**OG:** He's mad.

**MG:** Yeah, he felt...

**OG:** Cause I feel like, like you said, until you were on the bench, does that mean like once you're anointed like yeah. Positions like then there it's a reality. You are above that.

**MG:** Yeah. I mean you weren't, but you know, still. So it's, it's very, very interesting. I go to a yoga class and his wife actually is in this yoga class and she's gracious to me, but I really know there's this feeling that he should have gotten it. He was the man he should have got the job. So there's still that too. Yeah, there is still that the vet. So, to fast forward, I'm getting ready to retire and I knew about this program at Tufts Veterinary School. It was an animals and public policy program that started about 15 years ago, maybe 20. And public policy was— had done a lot as a Chief. I was always up at the State House. And again, it was wonderful to be underestimated. They never really knew and then come talk to them, you can sit with them because she knows what she's talking about. I always thought it was better not to sort of pin down staff kind of thing. So we took off a couple of days and I went to Tufts to sit in on some of their classes. I thought I could start taking some classes this semester. I said, well, it's full time. And so, when I retired, I told my husband, I told my chief of staff, I'm going to retire next February. You had mandatory retirement at age 70, I was 69, I said, I'm going to retire. And I didn't tell anybody else. That was in September and in November, two months later was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, I thought I wasn't going to make it. Okay. And so I retired that February and everybody thought I retired because I was sick because that's when I had surgery. I was getting chemotherapy, but actually had already planned to retire. I don't know, I hope you've not had anybody in your family, anybody who had chemotherapy, but it affects your brain, you get chemo brain. I thought like I'm gonna lose my mind. I mean that's how I made my living. Yeah. I was active. I took yoga and dance and writing and all this, but my brain is how I made my living. And so I thought, “Oh my God, I don't want to do this.” And so I applied. So we were watching the *Bucket List*. Did you ever see the movie, the *Bucket List* with Jack Nicholson, I think Morgan Freeman? And it was about what they were gonna do. They can only get so many years, how are going to do all these things. So we're watching this movie, and I said, “I've got to apply to this. If I don't reply, I'll never know.”

**MG:** It said you had to write three essays. So I've done online, I wrote all the time. I mean as a judge, I would write opinions. So writing essays was nothing, I could do that. And then it said upload them. I had zero idea what that meant. I had to call my granddaughter and say, “Can you please help me upload this. Upload? I can't do that.” And so I applied, I really wanted to test to see what my brain would still work. Deep down. I was afraid like, well what if I lost it? And so I got in, it's the only one of its kind in the country still. That was, this was in 2010. And they only take 15 students. So I got my school clothes, I bought three pairs of jeans. I had these fancy suits for work. And I started and it was really fun. But going back to school with the technology advancements in it. Oh my God. I mean, we had statistics. Now your kids will probably have statistics. I never had statistics. I didn't know the first thing about Excel. So our first-class was statistics. They might as well be speaking Greek. And a woman professor. And I was older than most of my professors and she said, “Did I go too fast for you?” And I had zero idea.

**OG:** Even like, I know how to type, I know how to use the internet. Like if the professors are like, make this whatever, I don't, like it's too much.

**MG:** Yeah I know so I had to get a tutor. My next door neighbor was the Dean of Admissions at Bancroft School. So, one day was walking the dog—I always had dachshunds and you should too. He said, “How are you doing?” I go, “I’m flunking statistics.” I got this woman who had been teaching there and she came over, but it was, it was such a come down with some humbling for me having been at the top of the food chain to have a tutor for statistics. But one day I pulled over coming back from Tufts and I said to myself, “Okay Martha, a year ago you had cancer and you thought you were going to die. This is statistics get over it. You either pass it, or you don’t. You don’t pass, you’re going to take it again. Put this in perspective.”

**OG:** Yeah, it’s a good way to think about it. Like getting over that stressful, like there’s more to life and living than just this statistics class.

**CL:** So looking back, is there, like any advice you would give yourself?

**OG:** ..or something that you didn’t know, then, that you know now that you wish you knew?

**MG:** Yeah, I....the one decision you make in your life that you can’t change is who you marry. I mean you can change your school, your clothes, your car, your home, your job. I mean, you can do anything, but when you marry the wrong person, it is extremely difficult.

**OG:** I did have a question before about that. So you said you were, you got divorced. What was it like to get the divorce then? Because I feel like it was not popular.

**CL:** What time? What was the time you got married?

**MG:** I got divorced on the year after I graduated law school and I didn’t have a job. I didn’t have any money. I got at that time, this house and a house on the Cape, both with mortgages and no money. I didn’t get any alimony and I just would’ve walked out with the clothes on my back. Anyway, I got married a few years later. I didn’t want to get remarried. But this was an extremely nice man. And I said, “If we get married, I don’t have time to be a wife.” He said, “I will do all the cleaning, I’ll do all that. I’ll wash the dishes, I will do the marketing, I’ll do all the laundry, I’ll do everything except cook. But I love to cook.

**OG:** Yeah, the best thing.

**MG:** Yeah and he lived up to that.

**OG:** Is he still around?

**MG:** No, he died 11 months ago and it was hard, and the thing is I knew what it was to have not made the right marriage the first time. So he was very, very proud of me. So I guess I would say to people when you pick a life partner or when you pick a job, make sure you like it. My first day of law school, this professor said to us, “If you don’t like where you’re working, don’t stay there

for five years. It's going to be too hard to get rid of it.” Now your generation is not from when you go to a place—maybe your parents—you work in a place for 40 years, then they give you a gold watch. Now, I mean five years is a long time. There's no more employee loyalty. So you can't expect people to protect you in a way that we were protected.

**OG:** I know my mom works for a union... I live in West Hartford. She works in the Hartford union and she's been working in the same job since she was 26 she just turned 52 she gets to retire in four years with everything because the union, she says they take care of you, I'm not going to find that.

**MG:** Right. You're not. No. This is the, you're the first generation that may not live as well as your parents.

**OG/CL:** Yeah. Yeah.

**MG:** I mean that's sobering cause every generation for a long, long time, technology has changed the way the world works.

**OG:** Yeah. That's kind of scary to think that like our parents and you like never thought what we have now would be around and we're thinking like what we have now. Like how could it get any more advanced?

**MG:** But like, yeah, I mean in some ways I'm closer to my parents' generation than I am my children's because the technology was changing so fast and we didn't understand. I mean technology and an internet was always my heralded as this great new adventure. We didn't really understand the negative sides when there's negative sides of everything. But mean I used to go up and I'd go out, even now I go out and do some guest lecturing and stuff. And, the other day I did something on the first and fourth amendments and what it means, what it means to have a loss of privacy. I grew up at a time when we really valued our privacy. And I understand that when I make a cell phone call, I'm giving up my expectation of privacy. Your generation says, okay, I understand I'm giving up my right to privacy, but I'm going to use my cell phone. So you do it knowingly, maybe you're not really thinking about it, but every cell phone call you make every computer

**OG:** And even now they have technology in the phones sitting here right now. Right. They can hear through our phone. And I hate that because you don't even have to be using your phone and they can hear you

**MG:** Well when you get into your car. I mean I used to go to the barn four or five times a week, if you go to someplace all the time, you get it in, you're tired, it's going to say it's going to take you 15 minutes to get to Assumption or five minutes and you'll say, I don't want to go there! Yeah. So, I think, yeah, I think the technology has changed dramatically. I think the balance for women is having a sense of self confidence, but not too much. And men can get away with stuff.

I mean, I've watched women when they campaign and we watch these, I don't know if you watch the Democratic debates, but I've watched debates. I've watched campaigns over the years. If the women are too strong they're bitching, if they're too weak they're not strong enough, So for right after the debates, I'm glad Elizabeth Warren—I don't know if she'll make it. I don't know if they're, I can't even believe that we elected a black president before a woman of any color that blew my mind. But yeah, I think somehow the world is afraid of women, or maybe they were feeling, I mean, if the woman were running the country, we'd be in great shape.

**OG:** But I think it's, they're afraid of women. They're also afraid of change too, because I feel like when Trump was running for president, no one thought he was going to be president. But it's all those people who don't speak what they believe, who really want it to go back to how it used to be.

**MG:** That's right. Yeah. So people didn't like Hillary [Clinton] for a whole bunch of reasons and she was a flawed candidate. I wish you had that. I wish she had money and she would've picked good people around her or whether you like or not, so people didn't think Trump would get in, didn't like Hillary and didn't vote. So whoever gets in next, I just had this conversation with my granddaughter who's in her senior year at the University of Colorado Boulder. And I said, "Who did you vote for? You have to vote, you have to vote." And she said, "Who are you gonna vote for?" And this was, you know, way back. And I told her and I said, "But you don't have to vote for who I vote for. You must vote for who you vote for."

**OG:** Every vote counts, literally every vote

**MG:** Yeah, Well, because you've seen some states where they're down to the few. So yeah, you're facing a different sort of look. Women are now, they're like 85% of the veterinarians school classes. They are, they're not that high in medical school in law schools, but there are at least 50/50 in (inaudible). So that was one of the reasons they're so high of veterinary schools because there's no third party payments. And they're making less. When I was the Chief and I was the only woman Chief for a while, then subsequently there were more women chiefs and it's still not equal but three or four. So when they would get visiting groups and judges, if they were from other countries, they would ask me to entertain them or take them around Boston. So I remember meeting with a group of churches, they're all women from Bosnia and Lithuania with them. I don't know where I'm like, wow, this is really a fancy look. They were all women. Well, turns out that the reason the women were appointed judges is that they didn't make much money and they're expected to agree with the government. Wasn't the same system as we've ever expected to agree with and rule in favor of the government.

**OG:** So they were hired just to agree and favor with them?

**MG:** Yeah. That's how it works.

**OG:** Do you think, is it like they feel as if men were in that position, they wouldn't have any, like they wouldn't hold back and like opposing with that.

**MG:** Well, that's possible. And it also the salaries for that. Yeah. So you learn. It still goes on at some companies, women and men were paid differently for the same jobs because nobody, the companies would not reveal what the pay scale was. Now there's some push back on that, but still there are plenty of places where you could be doing the same job. And if you and a man next to you, were making two different salaries, they would somehow say, well, he's given more responsibility in this area, or something.

**OG:** I think one good closing question because we might be running out of time, unfortunately. But, what advice when we talk about women now, especially in the work field, but just in general, what advice would you give to women our age for the future?

**MG:** I'd say you ultimately each of you, each of us has certain abilities and talents that are not the same as somebody else's. And so we tend to feel insecure much quicker than men do. "Oh God, I should learn to do that because look what she got by having that," without saying to yourself, "Wait a minute. I don't have that particular talent, but I have this talent." And so I think in that sense, even, we tend to sometimes exclude self-confidence. We don't really take advantage of our own abilities. We each have abilities. How you walk that line between advancing your own abilities to an interview for instance, or to somebody in the workplace without seeming boastful. That's an art. You can't be afraid to speak up for yourself, but then someone's gonna say to you, "Oh, she's so pushy." It's a no win. But I think your generation is much better at speaking up for yourself. What's the cost to that? The cost is that you might be perceived as too pushy. The cost might be more difficult to find a male companion if that's what you want. Or a female or any companion that is willing to put up with that sense of independence or that sense of confidence. It's hard. It's not easy.

**OG:** It's so true. But like it's something that's so ingrained in our lives, I feel like we don't even know, like think about it like that.

**MG:** And you may have parents, I don't know anything about your parents, but you may have parents who look around and I see they've got their number of unmarried, 29, 32 year olds who are not married and they want you to get married. They want you to find somebody. So they start telling you, even I've heard this from women who [inaudible] and say, "Well, you know, it's not so bad if he does this, really want me to settle for that?" So, is the choice really the settle or you are companionless.

**CL:** And successful.

**MG:** And successful? Yes, and successful. So, I mean I have a couple of nieces who have had children without the benefit of marriage, raising them alone and doing just fine.

**OG:** And it's hard for women like the pay gap and like the disadvantage is for when we, even that we face now, like there are a lot of single mothers who do prefer to do it on their own because of the empowerment that women have been given. But still it's hard based on the circumstances of the workforce and just like society.

**MG:** It is. And our workforce has not kept pace. I mean, and I know I shouldn't say that most businesses, cause I don't really know, but I think a lot of businesses are still very male oriented and the men are always going to work late and they're always gonna do this. And my son went to Brown University and, and I said to him, "Don't think that your fancy Ivy League university degree is going to take you to any place. It might get you in the door for your first job because somebody went to Brown on the staff. But otherwise, the person who went to Eastover School, Nebraska University is going to walk right ahead of you. If you're not willing to work late to do extra jobs, do this and do that." Women can't always do that. I had a young woman before me as a lawyer in court one day and we would have what we called care and protection cases. They were the abuse, neglect cases and everybody that the department of social services who represented them took away the child, and you didn't have a lawyer for, for the department and the lawyer of the mother and the father of the child. And so everybody had to get together with a new date. And this one lawyer, young woman, terrific lawyer though, she would say, no, I can't. I've got childcare responsibilities that day or I have to take care of my kids. The man would never say that. They'd say, I can't make Tuesday at three for the Tuesday, the 23rd or whatever. And so one day I called her in and I said, look, I said, you're terrific. You're going to be a terrific lawyer. I know you only been out a few years, but I'm going to give you a piece of advice. I said, you know how we are always trying to get a date. When you say I have childcare responsibilities, you automatically go down in somebody's esteem. I'd like to tell you that's different. And maybe in 20 years it will be different, but it's not different. Now the man who was saying, I can't make this date, they may have childcare responsibilities. Maybe they're playing squash, maybe that's their day to play golf. They're not going to tell you that. It's no one's business why you can't make it.

**OG:** And you think that that's a valid excuse. Like, Oh my children. But then that just makes them look down on you.

**MG:** They do, they do. So, as more men have childcare responsibilities, we are seeing that more and more we're seeing more men instead of, instead of everybody saying, I simply can't make it. I'm here more than men are saying. I have childcare responsibilities. So I think, as the world shifts, I mean, I'm hoping more men in the workplace are able to say, no, I can't stay late on Tuesdays because I've childcare responsibilities. I can stay Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We would have caught officers, those, the guys that bring people in from arrest and stuff and sometimes we get late arrests. Somebody had a stay, somebody always seem to be staying and so I called them together one day. I mean, I didn't have direct supervision, a little apartment in the court where I was, I called them in and I said, "How come Vinny's always staying late?" "Well, you know, I have to go pick up my kids at school and do stuff at ..." I said, "Okay, here's what I want you to do. I want you to make a chart and you take turns. Yeah. On the days when, I mean,

it might be every fourth day, every other day, every day for a week, not for two weeks. You need to take turns. Just because he doesn't have children or child responsibilities doesn't mean that he gets to have the burden, all the time. Sometimes you need to." And this one guy plays the stock market, makes even more money than I ever thought of making in my life. So I said, "You can afford to get a sitter, get somebody at the last minute, hook up with some high school kid to go." So, we're able to talk about these things in a way that we couldn't before

**OG:** Making some steps.

**MG:** But you know, you should keep trying. I worry a little bit about the millennial generation being entitled because you have to pay your dues. So if there's advice to women it's to be willing to accept menial jobs and that, I think that's one of the flip sides of the women's movement is wait a minute, why are we always the ones making coffee? Why? Why do we have to make coffee when we should be at the seat at the table?

**OG:** But I think a lot of things in the women's movement, like when we were talking about, what's her name, Patty Schalfly or like Patricia Schalfly or something like that. She was against the... Phyllis!! Yeah.

**MG:** She was the one, she was the one who was she the one who, who recommended meeting your husband at the door wrapped in nothing but sandwich wrap.

**OG:** Yeah, exactly. She was like, I find pleasure in being a housewife. So maybe you do, but it doesn't mean that everyone will.

**MG:** And you know what happened after that. So then I sort of came of age in a place where there was still plenty of women staying home and happily, but they are not to be looked down at. They shouldn't look down at the women who go to work.

**OG:** Because it is a full time job, both of them. But you have to choose and you have to, I don't know, do it, do it your best.

**MG:** And if people have companions, whether they're men or women, I think today most of them sort of split the work. I don't see many people in these traditional roles.

**OG:** I think our parents did that, like our parents. Oh no, it's like half and half. I think I have a lot of friends whose parents...

**MG:** Did your parents both work?

**OG:** Yeah.

**MG:** Did they work when you were young?

**OG:** Mhm

**MG:** Did your parents work?

**CL:** My parents did, but my mom was a real estate agent so she had a very flexible schedule so she would always like to make her schedule surrounding us.

**MG:** Okay. But that's fine. I mean there were lots of male real estate agents.

**OG:** Yeah I went to pre preschool, whatever, like nursery school and I was three months old. Right. So like my mom would work, my mom actually went to work at like 5:30am and would get home for when we were out of school at 3:30pm but my dad went in at like nine got home at six so that was tradition. My mom's job is very stressful, so she's, she can't take time off. She can't just leave.

**MG:** But she becomes a role model for you.

**OG:** Oh my gosh. Yes she works. I see how hard both of my parents worked. So then like I want to work just as hard, because I know how important it was to watch both of them work growing up, as much as it sucked, but it was really rewarding.

**MG:** The judicial nominating council, which passes on the traditional appointments and it makes recommendations, used to call me and ask what I wanted to see in a judge? And I'd say, "I want somebody with a good work ethic and a good temperament. Don't worry about the law. I'll teach them the law. They'll know the law and I can teach them what they need to know. But I cannot teach somebody to have a good work ethic. Or a good personality."

**OG:** Wow. It's been a really nice time.

**MG:** Oh, good. Well, if you have any questions, I mean, once you transcribe it, if there's any questions? Do you love the class?