

**Federal Court Clerks Association
Oral History Interview Outline
for Court Unit Executives**

This is an interview of _____ (name) _____, who is/was
(title) _____, for the U.S.
District Court, (name of district) _____, in _____ (city) _____ from
(date) _____ to (date if retired) _____.

This interview is being made on (date-month/day/year) _____, at _____
(location) _____, by (name of interviewer) _____ as part of the
History Project of the Federal Court Clerks Association.

I. About You

Place of Birth
Childhood
Education - Institutions/Dates/Degrees
Family

II. Work History

Positions held before working for the judiciary
Positions held within the judiciary
Judge(s) or court unit executive who initially hired you
Impetus for becoming a judiciary employee
Dates of service

III. Experience as a Judiciary Employee

Environment (both physical layout and overall atmosphere)
Notable procedures and policies
If pre-computer (pre-copier), preparation and revision of
documents/dockets
Most significant technological advancement you can remember
Other memorable employees who worked for the judiciary at
the same time as you
Favorite aspect of the job
Least favorite aspect of the job
Interaction with judges, chambers staff (law clerks,
secretaries), court staff (deputy clerks, probation,
pretrial services, court reporters), attorneys (private,
assistant U.S. attorneys, federal public defenders)
Outstanding judges and attorneys known
Important legal issues during your employment with the
judiciary
The most interesting or significant case(s) you can remember
Other memorable and/or difficult events during your tenure
with the judiciary

Perception of how the judiciary has changed over time
Favorite court event/tradition
Professional achievements/major initiatives while in office
Professional organizations
Community involvement

IV. Judges

Your earliest memories of the judges of your court
Characteristics that made the judges unique
Influences that judges had on you - mentors/role models
Collegiality between judges, influence upon one another
Interaction between judges and staff
Personality traits that you most admired
Anecdotes or stories about the judges or chambers staff

V. Other Court Unit Executives

Your earliest memories of other court unit executives
(clerks, probation chiefs, etc.)
Characteristics that made the court unit executives unique
Influences that other court unit executives had on you -
mentors/role models
Personality traits that you most admired
Anecdotes or stories about other court unit executives

VI. Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts/Federal Judicial Center

Your earliest memories of interactions with the AO and FJC
Committee work or other memorable work with the AO and FJC
Influences that AO/FJC staff had on you
Anecdotes or stories about AO/FJC staff

VII. Post-Court

Type of career/volunteer work/hobbies you pursued after
leaving the judiciary, if any
Fondest memory of the judiciary
Any information (including documents, pictures, etc.) of
historical value you would like to share
Final words of wisdom