

COOK COUNTY COURT ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEWER: MARC DLUGER

INTERVIEWEE: JUDGE ROBERT DEMPSEY

DATE: 11/05/04

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ROBERT DEMPSEY INTERVIEW, 11/05/04

INTERVIEW ABSTRACT:

The County Cook Oral History's objective is to share the personal and professional lives of Cook County judges. Selected as one of the judges for this project was former Judge Robert Dempsey. Judge Dempsey was influential in shaping the tax deed code during the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s. Dempsey attended Loyola University Chicago and Northwestern University's Law School, eventually working for a former Illinois governor by the age of twenty-five. His previous experiences working for various influential members in Chicago's political landscape in various legal capacities prepared him for the challenges he faced while on the bench. This interview explores Judge Dempsey's life before becoming a judge and his judicial experiences up to the mid-1970s.

INTERVIEWERS' INITIALS: MD

INTERVIEWEE'S INITIALS IN CAPS: RD

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Marc Dluger
Interviewee: Judge Robert Dempsey
Observer: Dana Bowers
Transcriber: Julia Cahil & Marc Dluger
Date: November 5, 2004

[Transcribers' note: Due to the poor audio quality of the recording device and media, certain aspects of the oral history could not be transcribed. Multiple playback devices were used, as well as supporting audio technicians, but none of these sources filled in the inaudible gaps. If only certain phrases or select words were audible during particular sentences, unless the words and phrases were directly related to preceding/forthcoming sentences, it was generally too fragmented to include it in the transcript (i.e., "to ... the ... for ..."). If the opportunity is available, please request the audio portion of the interview and follow along. Upon hearing the audio portion, a greater appreciation for the written version will be apparent.]

Marc Dluger (MD): My name is Marc Dluger and I'm here interviewing Robert J. Dempsey for the Cook County Court Oral History Project on November 5, 2004. Judge Dempsey, Welcome.

Judge Robert Dempsey (RD): Thank you.

MD: I'd like to start off asking you some basic questions about where you are from and uh where uh, where you lived in Chicago. Let's start there. Where in Chicago were you born?

RD: I was born November 30, 1929 in Logan Square. And I was born in the Logan Square Hospital which was down the street from where my grandmother lived [inaudible] My grandfather was a resident at the Logan Square Athletic Club. And my Dad, when I was born was the recently appointed Republican committeeman of the 34th Ward of Chicago.

Dana Bowers (DB): What ethnic background do you have?

RD: My mother's family was South Irish except for [inaudible] grandfather or great grandfather was born in England. My father's family, well, his father was Irish. His mother's maiden name was [inaudible] was born in Switzerland.

MD: Was the neighborhood Irish also or was it diverse?

RD: The neighborhood was diverse. I'll describe the way that existed there at that time as follows: British streets 3800 N all the north increasing streets were German. So then onto South, all this changed over the years of course, but south east of Midway Airport or east of Midway particularly was mainly Polish. The area around Logan Square was a collection among regions. Logan Boulevard as mixed, and uh actually, there were not too many Irish in there.

DB: Are you the youngest or uh...

RD: I am the oldest.

DB: [inaudible]

RD: I have two brothers, uh, one sister.

DB: How was your relationship with them?

RD: Well, we're still friends (laughing).

DB: Were you particularly close to one brother that you liked hanging around with or [inaudible]?

RD: No, I'm the oldest but uh, with my sister about 2 years younger, 2 ½ years younger than I am and my brother was another year younger than that. The youngest was six years younger than I am.

MD: Did your siblings look up to you?

RD: Do you have to ask that? (laughing)

DB: What schools did you go to when you were younger?

RD: I went to St. John Burton's Grammar School. I graduated there in early 1941. At age 11. I skipped a year, first grade and went into second grade. I then went to Loyola Academy. I graduated in 1944. I finished that in 3 years because the war had that incentive as a program. They gave the opportunity to people who were willing to work hard and work harder and get 3 year courses done in 2 years. They would give up study periods and things like that.

MD: Was the ethnic diversity found in Logan Square, was that reflected in the schools that you went to?

RD: The grammar school would be, the grammar school was largely Polish, you know. St. John Burton's was the official Belgium parish of the archdiocese of Chicago. The Pastor was Belgium decent, and was still a member of Belgium... [inaudible]

MD: What about when you went to Loyola Academy?

RD: Loyola Academy, uh, I would say the majority of the students were of Irish background. [inaudible]

MD: Were the schools within walking distance? How did you get to...

RD: Well, the reason my mother sent me to, excuse me, my mother and dad sent me to St. John Burton's, which is on Logan Boulevard. You can see it if you drive out the Kennedy Expressway [inaudible] just west of Western Ave. Uh, as you lived in territorial limits of St. Sylvester's Parish. My mother sent me to St. John Burton's because if the weather was bad she could give me a nickel and I could get on the bus. It stopped at our corner and it stopped by the school corner, on Logan Boulevard.

DB: Who thought, so you graduated basically high school at 15...

RD: 14

DB: 14, and what did you do after that?

RD: I went to Loyola University.

DB: That was your college education.

RD: Yes.

DB: How was that at the university? Was it...

RD: It wasn't bad. When I started in 1944, of course the war was on, it was under populated... [inaudible] Then starting into the year 1945 the veterans came back [inaudible] ... graduated from high school. I was two years ahead of myself at that point. The fellows were older. I got along with them alright. I had a very successful college career.

DB: Did you feel like you missed out on any the normal childhood things to do?

RD: In retrospect, maybe. But I don't think so.

DB: Did you go to law school straight from there?

RD: After I graduated from Loyola, I went to Northwestern Law School.

DB: And did you, uh, your father was an alderman you said?

RD: No, he was a Republican, ward committeeman of the 34th Ward.

DB: What was his education [inaudible] similar? Was it a tradition for you to go to these schools?

RD: My dad, I don't know where he went to grammar school. He went to high school at a school that no longer exists, a boarding school [inaudible] called Martin Academy. Then he went to Notre Dame University for 2 years. After that went to Northwestern Law.

DB: Is that the tradition for you to follow in his footsteps?

RD: Well, um, to Northwestern yeah. My dad and I had enough of Loyola Academy and they had enough of me [inaudible laughter].

DB: Was he proud whenever you told him that you were, like did he, was it something that he expected you to do or was he happy that you happened to choose that school, or...?

RD: Well people uh. I never did make up my mind to go to law school until I had been out of college and I basically had the alternative to continue my education or to work. So, I tell people now how I had been admitted to Northwestern Law School and they don't believe it. I called up in the afternoon of July, the dean of Northwestern Law School, and said that I wanted to attend and he said come down and talk to me, and bring a transcript of my grades. So I transferred my grades from the Loyola University and we chatted for a little while and then I started.

[laughter]

DB: So what was um, what was your college career like in the, like what sort of classes did you take, what did...?

RD: I had a uh, gotten an AP at that point I [inaudible] Latin and something else. Some varied courses in Latin. Some language, I'm not really sure but Greek. I took Greek in high school. I majored in English and minored in History. Also, enough courses for a minor in Philosophy, but I never declared that as my...

MD: Which history classes did you take while you were there?

RD: European civilization, Russian Revolution, [someone else enters room, inaudible] United States History.

MD: Was there a certain area of history that you liked?

RD: At that point no. I think that it was just general history. In English, the basic courses, 101 which is composition writing, courses in Chaucer, Shakespeare, dramatic [inaudible], poetry, dramatic movement.

MD: Oh, okay. Did you enjoy the English classes that you took?

RD: Oh, very much so.

MD: How come you didn't pursue a field that might have been educational, your teaching and what not? Why did you choose, didn't choose that path?

RD: Well, I thought that I had a better chance at succeeding in the law. I also thought the rewards would be better.

[laughter]

MD: You mentioned going to school at an early age and when the veterans from WWII came back. Did, did you know anybody who served in WWII? Was there a bunch of family members?

RD: Nobody in my family. Well, pardon me, I had a cousin, one cousin who served in the war. Although there are people who served in the war that became friends after they returned in the community. For example, my chosen fraternity, it shrunk. There were very few members left and then they came back and I hardly knew them before the war we really got to [inaudible] become friends in the fraternity

MD: Which fraternity were you a member of?

RD: Pi Alpha, it was called.

MD: Are you still active in the?

RD: No.

MD: How would you compare your schooling at Northwestern to Loyola?

RD: Ha, totally different. Totally different. All of the courses that they gave at Northwestern Law School could fill out, basically reduced to Socratic approach. [inaudible] So, you had to switch [inaudible] liberal arts college to a law school.

DB: [inaudible] I'm back...

[laughter]

DB: [inaudible] Sorry to interrupt, there will probably be another student because her judge didn't show up. [inaudible]

MD: Okay.

MD: How long was the program at Northwestern?

RD: Three years.

DB: Did you already, had you met your, when did you meet your spouse [inaudible].

RD: I didn't meet wife until, uh, [inaudible] my last year of law school.

DB: Where did uh, how did you all meet?

RD: Blind date.

DB: Blind date? Through whom? Was it a good friend of yours, or?

RD: Well, through a fellow I had known at Loyola and was a year or two ahead of me at Northwestern Law. He uh, he was dating a girl, he was engaged to a girl who was a friend of my wife's, Kathy. He was going to fix up my wife with a friend of his from, coming in from somewhere else. Iowa, I think. He couldn't make it and so he called me and said [inaudible] Thanksgiving dinner. We called and [inaudible] blind dates that were on Saturday night. [inaudible] Well uh, then he described what the night was to be and I was very apprehensive [inaudible] president of the philosophy club. And she was just as apprehensive as me because I was the new editor of the newspaper and uh, a reputation of [inaudible]. Thought I would be not suitable and I'd be scared to death of her, being the president of the philosophy club.

DB: So, how did, where was your first date at? What did you all do for that?

RD: Yeah, to the uh, boat harbor on the Conrad Hilton, although then it was the Stevenson.

DB: And was it love at first sight?

RD: No. [laughing] It was close, close. Well, I, her mother and her dad lived in an apartment, a high rise apartment on North Sheridan Road. The building is still there. It's across the street from the Waterfront Beach apartments. And uh, it's one of those buildings where there's two apartments per floor and it's long and deep. [inaudible] all the way to the street. And uh, I began to think [inaudible] philosophy club and I saw this vision [inaudible] little pink dress, gold gloves and so forth, come down this long hall [inaudible]. It wasn't love at first sight, but ...

MD: How long did the two of you date before you got married?

RD: We had to wait for me to graduate from law school, found a job and made some money.

MD: How long was that process? [laughter]

RD: We were married in 1953.

MD: You mentioned that you were the editor of the newspaper. How long were you editor?

RD: Well, I'd been on staff, been a staff member since they re-resurrected it after the war in 1945, and I was the editor, co-editor actually, 1947 to 1948.

MD: What kind of responsibilities did you have because you worked your way up in the newspaper?

RD: Well, I was originally a copy editor for two years. And uh, then I was [inaudible] I was in [inaudible]...

MD: So the background that you had in English from Loyola helped you?

RD: Very much so. Very much so.

DB: What were your, could you go over what your favorite classes in law school were? Did you tend to lean toward any field or any professors you feel that affected you?

RD: Yeah, just Professor McEdward, in English. I think Francis Allen. A young social at that time [inaudible] University of Michigan [inaudible] Less Socratic as the others.

DB: So you could do that whole calming on you thing. Clammy hands. [laughter] Um, what classes did like other than those, did that make an impact [inaudible] like law more?

RD: Well, it turns out career-wise yes. The uh, I liked it, uh, the teacher interests. I didn't care much for criminal law. Or those pushing me who met my dad was an assistant state's attorney in the criminal division and thought that criminal law was the place to be. I didn't.

DB: Where were you, did you ever have um, the fear about being drafted or was it Korea was about the time that you were coming up?

RD: Um, it happened, um, no I never had um the fear about being drafted because I joined the National Guard in 1948. I was active. I was active in the Guard during the time of the Korean War and uh friends of mine were called up. [inaudible] Its not like times like this. [inaudible] This sergeant started taking courses with the really qualified commissioners and uh I was in the headquarters of the anti-aircraft artillery crew, which was under the anti-aircraft battalions and so forth. Now the army, during the Korean War, [inaudible] the anti-aircraft artillery, what they didn't want was the commanding general. So their solution occurred to them, they took all of the subordinate lieutenants [inaudible]. That way they got what they wanted and didn't have to let me go. I was under the rule[?] [inaudible] of headquarters. At that point I was a personal sergeant [inaudible] adjutant, cause shortly after [inaudible].

MD: You mentioned that some of your friends were going to Korea. Were they the same friends that you met who also served in WWII?

RD: No, no. Very few of the guys that I knew in WWII stayed active in the service. Some did, we are not going to be [inaudible].

MD: While you were going to Loyola and Northwestern, did you still live in the Logan Square area?

RD: Yes, I lived there until we moved.

DB: Where was your first apartment like together?

RD: Where?

MD: Was it good?

RD: Fortunately it was still rent controlled at that time so the rent couldn't go up, which was really hard to come by. We managed to get one and uh, in a 3 floor walk up. One bedroom apartment and uh. I don't even know what they called it then, it was up near Foster Street. We thought about going downtown but then I it was like well it was posh. South Siders can understand.

DB: Is there interesting activities that you like to do?

RD: No. No.

DB: Did you do any clerkships or um jobs while you were going to law school?

RD: Well, they had legal clinic, they called it. Which was sort of an introduction to crafts. And uh, you made arrangement in some law firm and a supervisor would give you various jobs to do. He'd show you [inaudible] and show you where the courthouse was. And I did that. Not any clerkships.

MD: Was that a normal class program?

RD: It was a school program.

MD: So it lasted all semester?

RD: Uh-huh. It was really very interesting.

DB: Did you get to look in on any cases or did [inaudible]?

RD: Um, no the only thing I remember now is one of the lawyers that, on a personal injury cases, was coming back for trial and from a few months in advanced [inaudible] care and he sent me out to Northern Indiana to her last known address so that I could find her but I couldn't find her.

MD: How come he wasn't in contact with her?

RD: I have no idea. I have no idea.

DB: So after you worked as an adjuster what did you do after that?

RD: I practiced law with Ed Donovan for about 8 months.

MD: A year?

RD: About that.

MD: What type of law did you practice?

RD: Whatever we could find.

MD: Okay.

DB: What happened at the end of the eight months?

RD: I got another job offer from the lawyer by the name of Green, who had been governor of Illinois [inaudible] 1941-1949. My dad took me out to be his campaign manager. In his successful first election. My dad was appointed by the governor to be a senator in the Illinois senate and a public administrator in Cook County. And uh, a republican candidate for state's attorney in 1942. So, uh, I interviewed with them two months before but he had another lawyer and he did not have a need at that time. [inaudible] His associate Luke Austin, who was a democratic candidate for governor and later a federal judge. Had been an Assistant State's attorney went back to the states attorney office in Cook County, as first assistant. Governor Green at that point was an officer. That's who I got to work for.

MD: What was your dad doing at this time?

RD: My dad was a 1951 Senator[?] the week I graduated from law school. Uh, he was elected circuit court judge.

MD: So your dad had at least worked in a personal relationship with the people, Green?

RD: Oh yeah.

MD: So they were still friends and colleagues who knew each other, even after he had worked with him on the campaign?

RD: Well, it was more than that. They and a couple other mutual friends would vacation together.

MD: So they were family friends?

RD: They were friends, more business friends or professional friends more than social friends [inaudible].

DB: How long did you work for that man and what sort of things did you do with him?

RD: Oh [inaudible laughter] Well, by the time I was 23 I had organized a bank. Um, let's see. 19-Spring of 1953 some sort [inaudible] FDIC closed a couple of banks [inaudible] were looking for a new group to organized banks or in other words, take over the deposit liability, liability for insurance. So it was a wonderful opportunity. One of the requirements for organizing a bank, capital and so forth, and [inaudible] put a million dollars in [inaudible] wasn't that much, but it really wasn't that much in deposits. [inaudible] application for [inaudible] depositors to make good. Set them up so they'd still have a bank account. That's the way we did it then. That's the way we do it now. So, the governor got together with friends of his and other associations, and I did all the paper work [inaudible].

MD: How long did it take to organize the bank? You said it's an easy step process to...

RD: It's not that uh, it's not that uh, complicated once you get the approval but uh, getting the approval is something I had nothing to do with. My job was to get the paper work in order, draft the by laws and charters and so forth.

MD: Once you organized the bank, what is your capacity, do you still, are you on the board of...

RD: Well, the governor became chamber of the board.

MD: Okay.

RD: They hired a professional banker to actually run the bank. I became a secretary of the records.

DB: What did you, like what was, what would you consider the most significant achievement while you were working there? Would the bank be the first thing?

RD: Well the bank is the first thing followed shortly there after by a permanent boundary. One of our clients was a high company of mine. The name should still be around and so are a number of clients. And uh the high company had subsidiaries I guess you would say, yeah, subsidiaries that were in Michigan. One was a processing company, specialty in Michigan for like apples, cherries, peaches, things like that. Another company like that was a warehouse, a cold storage warehouse. So they, he wanted, the client wanted to organize the company in Michigan to make frozen pies. Which were a big thing in 1953. And uh, we did, a bond issued. Clearly it didn't have to enlist at sea because we're. [inaudible] You had to be register or qualified to be considered. [inaudible] Cold storage company.

DB: So by the age of about 25 you had accomplished quite a bit?

RD: By age 24.

DB: It seems like you'd done quite a bit by this time. How did you feel, you know, with the contemporaries, the people that you worked with? Were they significantly older than you?

RD: Yeah. The people in the office were, Governor Green, Teddy Weinberg, [inaudible], me, to do everything having to do with the law and uh, they also had an internal revenue specialist, who I didn't like. He's not a lawyer [inaudible] but he's qualified to practice for the internal revenue service. And uh, he had an enormous background in that area. [inaudible]

D: How did that make you feel?

RD: I would stop this now.

DB: Alright.

MD: You had a good time working there?

RD: Oh yes indeed.

MD: Besides doing the bank and joining the bond, what else did you end up doing while you were working there?

RD: Well, there's always business with the bank. Uh, meet with the bank with a general council and major stock holders and do legal work, etcetera. [inaudible] things like that for the firm. [inaudible]

MD: What else did you do?

RD: General corporate practice and that's largely what my job was.

DB: So what's going on in your person life at this time? Any, how um, have you had your first child?

RD: No. My first child was born May 8, 1954.

DB: And it was a boy or a girl?

RD: A boy. He is now Monsignor Dempsey with [inaudible] Parish. [inaudible] distinguished career out of himself.

DB: And how has your life during that? How, when um, how what was it for, you know, the birth? Were you, were you [inaudible] at work when you found out and wife says "Come home right away!"?

RD: Well that happened. That was my 3rd child.

DB: Okay. And um, how long, how far apart are they?

RD: Bob is 50 this year. His brother Philip, who is Phil is [inaudible] will be 48 this summer. And David is, well David was born May 8. Not May 8, August 7, 1968 so that would make him ten years different.

DB: You had all boys?

RD: Yes.

[Judge Henry enters room. Outside conversation.]

DB: So we were at your first-born son is being born right about now. [Dana Bowers leaves]

MD: Where were you when you heard that? Were you at home when he was getting born?

RD: Oh jeez, my wife was very ill all during the pregnancy. Um, because we're on the third floor of a walk up, the obstetrician did not want her walking three flights of stairs. So she went back to live with her mother and father next door apartment in Malibu[?]. One Saturday morning uh, she wakes me up I say how'd things go the night before. She looks at me and says "I think today's the day."

MD: Did you go with her to the hospital then?

RD: Sure.

MD: Did you go? Did you stand by her and go through the entire birthing?

RD: No, sir they didn't permit that. I sat out in the waiting room and got periodic reports to what was going on. [inaudible, laughter]

MD: Was it a smooth birth then because you mentioned that she had been ill?

RD: No, it was a normal birth.

MD: Did she have the same difficulties with the other two? Two children when they...?

RD: No.

MD: How long did you work for Green?

RD: Um, about 4 years.

MD: Was there anything else that you wanted to add to that time that you haven't already mentioned about your time working for Green that you think is significant?

RD: Nothing specific. There was nothing exciting. I organized a bank and floated a bond issue.

MD: What did you do after working for him then?

RD: I became an examiner of titles for Cook County.

MD: What exactly do you do with that process?

RD: Well, back at that time, and this was just a few years ago, [inaudible] the system [inaudible] operated by the county called the Tontif[?] System. The recorder of deeds [inaudible] and the examiners, they uh, they do all the legal work necessary to gain property under the system; I handled various transferred properties with the succession ratio with the circle of province that would arise. Handled them with litigation as the 216th defendant. [inaudible] nominal defendant. Advised the registrar when we collected fees and uh, handled legal matters.

MD: How long did you work as an examiner?

RD: Seven years.

MD: What would be your normal daily routine as an examiner?

RD: Well, I would go to the office, generally first thing [inaudible], I would go to the office first thing in the morning. And uh, at that time the [inaudible] office located on the 10th floor of the County Building. And also on the 10th floor of the County Building is the Chicago Law Institute. The Law Institute is a private legal library. It no longer exists. It's been taken over by the Cook County Law Offices. It used to be upstairs in this building.

MD: Oh okay. Did you spend time there?

RD: Yeah, I would go because we're employees of the county. We would use the library. And it was very convenient more than anything because I could work on anything sitting in the library there. If somebody came in and wanted to see me, you know, girls from work would come in and I would be in the library and just walk out.

MD: Oh okay.

RD: Take care of business. I was also allowed to practice on my own. As long as it [inaudible].

MD: Okay, so you were able to do your own practicing law at the same time?

RD: Yes.

MD: Was there interesting cases that you dealt with at that time?

RD: Oh sure. I was just reminiscing about one of them. My friend Ed Donovan. I had one of my clients was a sand blast company. It was a partnership with a younger fellow. He was my contemporary and I had known him from Logan Square. And his uh, stepfather and they had a very, very successful operation. Until they got themselves indicted for federal income tax evasion.

MD: Did you, you ended up defending them?

RD: I defended one of them. The uh, it was the, my guy's defense was that the stepfather was taking off and then taking the money. And he wasn't. The other guy's defense was that my guy was taking all the money.

MD: Oh, okay.

RD: So, they were indicted uh, they were indicted separately. And uh, I actually [inaudible] insurance for both of them for the arraignment. [inaudible] And uh, I didn't have anything to do with the investigation. [inaudible] It became apparent once they talked to both of them that the defense was totally incompatible. So I got Ed Donovan to represent the stepfather because I committed myself to the younger fellow. The upshot of it was that the government now had indicted individually, not as a partnership and now the government could only try the case once so we consolidated. And once I objected, Mr. Donovan had the same objection [inaudible] ... and the gravity charge includes their clear intent to deceive. The judge, God bless him, bought it. [inaudible]

MD: What was the outcome of the case then?

RD: Well he pleaded guilty and got probation.

[laughter]

MD: You had mentioned that they had uh, that they were from the neighborhood, did you end up representing lots of people then from the Logan Square area?

RD: Some, some.

MD: Did your dad represent anybody ever in the neighborhood?

RD: Sure. Somebody always came [inaudible].

MD: Were you practicing by yourself at this point or were you again working with the..

RD: I was practicing by myself.

MD: What was your friend Ed doing at the time?

RD: He uh, joined up with another friend of ours who we had also met in law school called Bill Isaacson. They joined up with a former state legislator by the name of Tom Pina. So they organized Pina, Donovan, Isaacson which is still the name in which it still operates. [inaudible]

MD: Now this is all taking place in the mid to late 50s. You had mentioned earlier that your dad was a Republican ward, um, committeeman. Was he still a republican or had he um?

RD: Yes, he was still a Republican but he was a circuit court judge so he couldn't be committed to anything. He resigned that when he went on the bench. Although he was still a Republican.

MD: What about you during this time? Did you have any political um, aspirations in the community? Did you, did you do anything along those lines to be?

RD: When we moved into our first house, I was interviewed by a Republican organization that counseled [inaudible] did not select me. Ed Kahousky, with the court [inaudible] After the election of 1960 I was kept on [inaudible] on the bench.

MD: Was there any other trials when you were still at the examiner, that you worked on, that was also interesting?

RD: Well, most were interesting. [inaudible] State's attorney Ed Kahousky, a republican, indicted. A number of officials in the assessor's office [inaudible] conspiracy to evade personal property taxation.

MD: What was your role then in that uh?

RD: I had a uh, I had a client that was a Chevrolet dealer and he wanted me to represent him. And uh, I got myself aligned with the criminal [inaudible] that was few boys, [inaudible] Bush, Tom Doyle, who became the chief judge was in private practice at this point. We represented some of the defendants. Some of the co-defendants were the [inaudible] chief [inaudible] personal property officer division of the assessor's office. [inaudible] And the upshot of it was that the no one asked you who [inaudible]. I would put in a sound motion [inaudible] organized here three months before he was indicted for it. But uh, [inaudible] he's a federal judge.

MD: No, nothing I can recall.

RD: He still runs. His nephews are in house. They're still around. They've earned it so. I was the presiding judge over criminal court one time. Motions and since I did indictments, motions, dismiss all these indictments [inaudible] hot indictment I wasn't going to take all the heat by myself. So I'm known in the judiciary, in the judicial crowds, [inaudible] as a democratic judge and a republican judge. For one glorious summer afternoon we were all out there I chose some representative [inaudible] dismissing indictments, the state's attorney presented his argument, the two judges retired to the [inaudible]. Very careful to tell everybody that the judicial system [inaudible] [laughter] And of course he dismissed all of the charges.

[laughter]

[End of side one]

MD: What made you leave the examiners office?

RD: I had been appointed as a magistrate in the circuit court.

MD: Well, what type of things did you do as a magistrate?

RD: Well I've got to tell you the story on how I became [a magistrate].

MD: Okay.

RD: became a judge to start with.

MD: Okay.

RD: As an examiner of titles we executed[?] master of chancellors of the circuit court. In other words, we'd write an opinion, draft a decree, [inaudible] sign as a judge in the circuit court in provost matters. [inaudible] In the 1962 judicial act that passed we got rid of all the small courts and consolidated them in the circuit court. There was a provision in the constitutional amendment that there would be no masters or chancellors. There would be fee officers in the judicial system. Well, somewhere within the year 1963 we called this to the attention of the chief examiner of titles. A man named Tom Vertousi, who had been chief examiner at that point for some 35 years. And, he was a very savage individual, as you could imagine. I said, "Tom, this thing is going to put us out of business." I said, "What do you think we should do about it?" He said, "Well, I think that I should, we should get ourselves in line with the system." [inaudible] a piece of legislation, which I did. I drafted it up. As an amendment to a bill, that was pending in the legislation, [inaudible] sign by magistrates in office and the judicial system. Created affectively in January 1964. So, uh, I provided much of the frame [inaudible] things that happened in the article that was a judicial in nature [inaudible] signed all the documents [inaudible]. I also provided in there that these matters could only be assigned to a division of the court that established to hear them. In other words, [inaudible] I didn't want my precious identity claim to be in the hands of some JP from Chicago Heights. [laughter] So, that was included in the legislation. And uh, it was up to Vertousi to get the powers that be to accept it in the legislature. Which he did. My draft became the [inaudible] article establishing matters of [inaudible] magistrate in the state.

MD: So he had some political clout not only statewide but locally then too?

RD: Yeah, he had political clout too. He was well known in the legislature after being around for fifty something years. [inaudible] Well respected, well respected. Yeah, I would say he had clout.

MD: So during the court consolidation in the early 60's and you were on the front line of that consolidation?

RD: To that extent yes.

MD: With that going on, you had also mention that your youngest son was born in 1964. So there was a lot of stuff going on both professionally and personally for you?

RD: Yes.

MD: Did, was it a hectic time for you?

RD: Was it a hectic time? No, it was very tranquil, as a matter of fact. In my job and in my practice. The house was paid for. The kids were doing swell. We spent time, moving my way through the National Guard. [inaudible] Major. Everything was peaceful.

MD: How did you then become the magistrate, since you?

RD: Well, the legislation's in place.

MD: Right.

RD: So now they have you uh, the people to implement the legislation. That was a decision made locally, I believe. And uh, the people, the powers in the county decided they would pick six people. And uh, I was one of those that who wanted it. Put my [inaudible] applied for it by all associations. I qualified. They selected me. [inaudible]

MD: Was there anybody else from the examiners office?

RD: Yep.

MD: Okay. Um, so you all worked together? You knew each other?

RD: Yes. Yes we did.

MD: So you were able to build a sense of consistency then, then since you were all familiar in this relatively new area?

RD: Well you wind up doing, you wind up doing the same things that you were doing before.

MD: Okay.

RD: That's, that was the plan.

MD: Uh huh.

RD: But uh, that's not quite the way that it was done. [inaudible] By this they had the offices on the 10th floor of the Daley Center or the County Building, which had formally been the registrars office. He was ousted. [laughter] somewhere else. [inaudible] Which he did. Later on he got married. I got called. [inaudible] I can see him. [inaudible] He said, "Well we got six people down in that division. How many people do you need?" And I said, "Four." He said, "No, not four." I said, "Three." [inaudible] In affect, you are not going to be in that division. [inaudible] I had been re-elected county judge and uh, I was now a presiding judge of the county division, 2nd court. [inaudible] I said "That's fine." I'll do everything that I'm told but don't cut an order transferring me from in the title section, which I had been appointed. Because I had still some matters pending. Among [inaudible] And uh, I said don't cut an order in some county division because I'd still rather have the number. In other words I'd heard testimony. I handed out decrees and so forth. So, fine, just go down to the County Building [inaudible] And then he did.

MD: So you were able to save those positions from being cut from your co-workers basically?

RD: Yeah. John Austin was sent to the first municipal district. I was sent to the county division. There were four of us.

MD: What did you end up doing in your new assignment?

RD: County division?

MD: Uh-huh.

RD: The county division at that time was sort of a bumpy ground. It was the jurisdiction of uh, taxes, real estate taxes. Jurisdiction [inaudible]. Cases when a uniform municipal [inaudible] enforcement support that. Cases uh, with a division split. A collection from families that uh, money that supported the aging parents or the mentally ill. [inaudible] All mental health received, all adoptions that happened were handled within the county division. All the inheritance cases that happened in the county. So yeah, potpourri I guess you would call it of little things. My basic assignment the first couple years I was down there was uh, computer[?] in back law. Small, personal injuries, contracts claims [inaudible]

MD: Did you find that stuff interesting?

RD: Oh sure, fascinating.

MD: Now you had, did you have to give up your practice then on the side?

RD: Absolutely.

MD: Was there outstanding cases that you working on that had?

RD: Yes.

MD: What did you do with those then?

RD: I turned them over to other attorneys.

MD: Was the experience that you gained in the examiner's office helpful at this point? Doing small claims and uh?

RD: No, [inaudible] but surely turned out to be.

MD: How long were you doing that after?

RD: [Until they exhausted the backlog of cases.]

MD: How long did that take?

RD: I would say about two years. More than that maybe. Two and a half years maybe.

MD: Now with the court consolidation that had been going on, did that change the setup of the county?

RD: No, it made the statutes long. But uh, the county division and the rules [inaudible] But uh, [inaudible] the county division [inaudible] In the county court [inaudible] wasn't independent. [inaudible] County division today [inaudible] 1964.

MD: What did end up doing after the two years of the back law cases?

RD: Effective in May of 1964 we uh, the Supreme Court had this thing called the Mental Health Code. That was the name of it, the Mental Health Code. Which provided, in effect uh, the rules [inaudible] magistrates [inaudible] cases. So that was within the jurisdiction of our division. Our division, we all started to do them. One week a month, it was divided between the various magistrates. [inaudible] mental hospitals: Cook County Mental Hospital, Cook County Hospital at that time and, shortly thereafter, the uh [inaudible] began studying [inaudible]. The [inaudible] the courtroom technique. The mental health center on the west side. And uh, we would spend the week there. We also went to private hospitals. You were signed up that week to study mental health, mental health problems. And then something else happened.

MD: What happened next?

RD: Well, Judge Swain, who was here earlier as well, had been the assistant state's attorney for a couple of years in the tax section at the state's attorney office. Among the things that he had wanted [inaudible] involving tax deeds. And judge [inaudible] decided whether or not a tax deed was going to be issued. Judges didn't [inaudible]. The county judge would need assistance and other counties, other county judges, judges who could be in court, who were qualified sit in. They didn't know too much about taxes, tax deeds. So, Judge Kerner, he was a county judge, would uh, devised a system where, approve us in the tax deed for the matters in front of the state's attorney. [inaudible] He would tell the judge it was okay to sign it. [inaudible] When I first met Ted Swain and he was in the system [inaudible] tax deed. So uh, 1965-66 the state's attorney decided he didn't want [inaudible]. So, Judge [inaudible] came to me because I had been in the [inaudible] division, examining titles, I should know this stuff. So, would I take over the job as state's attorney. I said no I can't because there's no masters in chamber [inaudible]. I can't hear matters, hear evidence, and sign. I can't do it that way. What I can do is this. I'll review it and if I find that it's okay then I'll write you a memo telling you what I think is wrong with it. And if there's nothing wrong with it the memo would be attached to that case. [inaudible] revised language a little memo [inaudible] the facts set forth in support of this application if proved in satisfaction in courtroom, constitutes prima fascia compliance with [inaudible]. I was [inaudible] of the facts. It was up to the judge who signed the order to make that determination.

MD: Okay.

RD: And I did that for, in addition to all these other things I did this for [inaudible] a year and a half.

MD: And was this your only assignment or did you also have to do the mental health stuff?

RD: Mental health. I had jury trials, the uh reciprocal support call, the tax deeds. [inaudible]

MD: Out of all those different aspects, which one did you enjoy the most?

RD: The one I hated the most, this is easy, was the mental health.

MD: Why is that?

RD: I didn't, I found it very, very exhausting. I had a kid at that time [inaudible] head back home and when I came home on Friday night [inaudible].

MD: Did you find that often that you were bringing work home? You know, from the fatigue of the office? Or from tough cases? What was the reflection upon your home life?

RD: Uh, I don't think it did. I think that [inaudible] my wife complained about the loss of income. [inaudible] magistrate.

MD: Did that matter much to you?

RD: Uh, at that point the house was paid for, the kids were still young and it didn't bother me that much.

MD: Did you see it as a way of progressing your career? Is that the next logical step?

RD: Yes, that would be it. And my mother was desperately happy I became a judge. And [inaudible] to my father also.

MD: So.

RD: My wife didn't...

MD: But both of your parents, they wanted you to?

RD: [Yes]

MD: When you were sworn in was there any type of ceremony stuff going on?

RD: All 40 of us or however many there were went to a room, held up our hands and got sworn in.

MD: So you couldn't bring, like you couldn't bring your parents with or any of your family members?

RD: Yeah, I don't recall. I don't think there was anybody there. There may have been, but I just don't recall.

MD: Was your dad still practicing at this time?

RD: He was on the appellate court.

MD: Okay. Did you ever have interactions with him then?

RD: Uh, I had dinner with him at least once a week. Stay over for holidays and so forth. [inaudible] National Guard. [inaudible] Humbolt Park, which was about a mile away from where my parents' lived, still lived in Logan Square. They'd go out there on Monday nights, and have a drink and we'd grill. I'd end of going with my parents there on national [inaudible].

MD: Did you ever interact with your dad on a professional level?

RD: Oh we discussed court business. [inaudible]

MD: How long were doing the mental health stuff, the tax deeds?

RD: I mean, the mental health stuff, I continued to take my turn in that uh, until 1972. And then there was just too much tax work.

MD: So you were able then to just concentrate then on, then on the tax aspect?

RD: Well, tax at they end of the year, uniform reciprocal enforcement support act. Up until 1976 when I was elected. After that I, [inaudible] internal organization. I think they took me [inaudible] reciprocal enforcement support act [inaudible] somewhere else.

MD: What usually fell under that heading? If you could give an example.

RD: Reciprocal enforcement support act, it's still in the statute.

MD: Uh-huh

RD: But uh, at the courtroom in every state you could probably read that such and such, a citizen of Illinois is responsible for the kids in whatever jurisdiction it was. There were few [inaudible] in state's attorney who would then put out a summons and would call the other guy in to court and uh he would [inaudible] enforce the decree [inaudible] in the other state to support the children. And there were two us that got to do it. One was uh, the case we heard. Then we were also to sign off in quadruplicate, about 16 signatures for a case that has been sent from the county to some other state.

MD: With the tax deed taking more and more of your time...

RD: Tax deeds and there were also others, other tax matters.

MD: Oh. What other tax matters were there?

RD: Tax objections, [inaudible], issues with sale and [inaudible] etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

MD: You mentioned that you were eventually elected as a judge?

RD: Yes.

MD: Did you have to campaign?

RD: Ah well yeah, I went around. [inaudible] Had to get a campaign manager and [inaudible].

[laughter]

MD: What was that process like for you?

RD: Being elected?

MD: Uh-huh.

RD: Well, I was delighted, frankly, to be selected and nominated. I was down in uh Charlottesville, Virginia with the judge advocate general school of the army and I got a call that I had been selected and [inaudible] get your ass home. [inaudible] sign your statements of candidacy so we could get the nomination petitions out.

MD: How long was that process?

RD: I would say it took 12 years. That was the time [inaudible] bench [inaudible].

[laughter]

MD: Um, what changed once you were elected?

RD: In my case uh, very little. I moved court rooms. Instead of being in 1708 I worked in 1704.

MD: Same floor just down the hall?

RD: Yeah. They had a bigger court room with a jury room to hear cases. Yeah, there was a jury room and [inaudible]. At that time I was doing all the tax judges, almost all the taxing judges. [inaudible] mental health, the reciprocal enforcement support act was gone. So I would, after I was elected, I would uh, just continue on with the work I'd been doing in a different courtroom. [inaudible] Judge Snyder became presiding judge [inaudible]. I'd been additionally hearing all the tax deeds so I would sign [inaudible] the tax deeds myself and I send it to other judges and signed tax briefs went to other judges.

MD: Did you ever assign those cases back? Um, did you assign it to people who you trusted or as it just here's a list of uh judges who could hear those cases?

RD: These were the judges in my division. I trusted them all. [inaudible] that some discretion was involved uh, I mean at one point Judge Snyder, who was the presiding judge at the time was afraid that one of the judges had a closer relationship with one of the lawyers and suggested that I not sign the deed. Because it was one of the cases of this particular judge. Which I didn't, as I was instructed.

MD: Now, it was mentioned earlier about how you were influential in the property tax system. Was this where that influence began or was it more back when you were a magistrate?

RD: It started when I was a magistrate. Definitely. [inaudible] describe the process [inaudible] I would like to continue. The next step was [inaudible] hearing the cases, county heads in 1964. They conducted their first ever scavenger sale. The statute was in effect and really, do you know what a scavenger sale is?

MD: No, if you could elaborate.

RD: It's quite a bit of elaboration. There's an annual tax sale for the taxes for one year. Profit for sale. Presumed your judgment in the sale of these in the circuit court. And uh, because of a tax problem caused in the Great Depression, uh, thousands of plots throughout the county were in delinquency. During 1929 to 1946, actually 1966 at this point. So the legislature back in the 1940s passed an act commonly known as the Scavenger Act which permitted the court to look at special applications presented to the county, a county board [inaudible] state's attorney to ask for judgment against all these separate judgments, all those years and get one judgment off of that property for sale to the highest bidder. And [inaudible] dollars we collected [inaudible]. Well, Cook County resisted the statute [inaudible] enforcement for twenty years [inaudible]. In 1964 they conducted their first scavenger sale and covered volumes one to 250. Which would be all the suburban counties inside Cook County, but outside the city of Chicago. There's a two year redemption fee which is still better than paying all the [inaudible] from 1964. So, looking forward you can see that there was going to be a thousand, several thousand cases, taxing cases. They were going to require move up and get a time limit because they want to be finished and have the one-year after the redemption started. The question then became, how are we going to do it? And the solution being, the judge asked me what I thought should be done about it? And I said well, I think that you should probably give the magistrates the ability to [inaudible]. And I said the problem there is that you have to get the entire company to agree that they wouldn't [inaudible] that the tax deed has been signed, a tax deed that has been by a magistrate, excuse me, signed by a [inaudible] of the county court by the issuing judge. You've got to get the title company to agree that the magistrate has the authority to do it. So, I became the point man to get that done. And I negotiated and talked to the chief council of the title company, deputy chief council. They studied it and finally said, "Yeah we'll do it. We'll guarantee those titles, if its done this way [inaudible] signed in the circuit judge to a magistrate with no objection on the assignment. We'll do it and if it's done that way we'll guarantee the titles." So, that was the solution. So I was the one that doesn't have to hear all the cases. So, starting the fall of 1964, [inaudible] late in the year 1966 [inaudible] The first sale produced about 1700 cases and I did them all. Some were redeemed of course, others were consolidated. Some were [inaudible]. During the following year, 1965, the city had shared uh, all of the [inaudible] in the city of Chicago. [inaudible] three times the size [inaudible] So, uh I said, "I can't so them all. Get the other guys involved." [inaudible] tradition of the annual, stuff for the annual sale [inaudible] The guys hearing the scavenger cases and some of the others [inaudible]. [inaudible] title company guarantee it. And uh, so the scavenger sale with that background, with cases that had been assigned to uh all of the magistrates. [inaudible] You know problems arise and I didn't have any problems that were that important so I became managing authority.

MD: So you were able to set the precedence then for how the steps to go through that then?

RD: Yeah. I had the set with the system, set well, well the system approved, if you will, by the title company. Because it no good to get the deed if you can't get the title insurance on it. So, I worked on that until the [inaudible].

MD: And then when you became the elected judge people still turned to you as the authority?

RD: Well by this time the focus had changes. The focus when I, had changed. I was not hearing so many tax issues. I was hearing mostly, starting in the late 1960s, 1967 I think [inaudible] was 1967 and [inaudible] was 1968. [inaudible] judge hearing tax objections [inaudible] at that time [inaudible] tax objections. Now actually, actually the state's attorney turned it over to the judges [inaudible] different people, different judges. [inaudible] I wound up [inaudible] tax exemption [inaudible]. Presiding judge [inaudible].

MD: What was the case load for each of those different uh areas?

RD: It really was approximately equal. The, I think the first year there might have been 40, 40 objections. Each one made through the United States.

MD: That changed over time?

RD: Uh-huh, yes it did. I don't know how many thousands they get now. But from the time where, I resigned from the bench, there were well over 2000 [inaudible].

MD: What do you believe is the reason behind the, the...

RD: Well, the reason behind it was uh two fold. [inaudible] The uh, back in the 19, I think 30s, 40s, 50s up to 1969 the assessors had a procedure called objection one. The number reserved by the county affected the court because it said you could have objection one. An objection one is in effect a statement by the assessors [inaudible]. I made a mistake, this is what I think should be done. [inaudible] The only problem with that it there's no statutory basis for it. It wasn't legal. But it went on for years. That was even in most court cases. Put in its proper place it couldn't affect the statue, so other arguments continued [inaudible]. Well then [inaudible] assessors office, who was the guy running that system was convicted.

MD: Convicted of?

RD: Income tax evasion. I think that what he was doing, taking money [inaudible].

MD: What other causes do you think um...

RD: Well that's which one because it suddenly stopped. The new chief deputy assessor, and he came in office, I think in 1970, [inaudible]. First of all because of the scandal the court stopped processing. They stopped. I'm not going to sign it. [inaudible] I'm not going to issue it. [inaudible] There's much more to it than that. That is one of the factors. Another factor is prior to 1970, 1970 the county had a constitution [inaudible]. Which Cook County maintained a classification system because the assessment of real estate. De facto classification was completely illegal. Classification is, again it says industrial property in such a level, multi-family residential is another level, single family residential is another level, vacant lots is another level. And uh, in 1970 the constitution was amended. When that happened, the size of Cook County, 2 classified [inaudible]. So in 1971 and 1972 the accessory made a de facto classification system. In 1972 the legislature said [inaudible] if you are going to have any classifications system its got to be [inaudible]. The board passed an amendment saying what the classification level would be [inaudible] [inaudible classification levels]. So, that's another factor. Now, if somebody [inaudible] complaint. [inaudible] That's another aspect, I think. The third aspect of it is Tom Tully, the chief deputy assessor. After his assessment [inaudible] they opened up the system. They formalized the complaint system. People knew when they uh, when they could do and what they could go on, so on and so forth. So, they formalized it. [inaudible].

MD: So, they established the framework for more people?

RD: The framework for more complaints. And this in when property taxes started to go up. Go up big time. And uh, I think those three or four factors together had a huge increase in the number of taxing cases.

MD: Did you think that was the right way for the system to develop?

RD: Well, I think what Tom Tully did was to open the system. [inaudible] value judgments. Well, it certain made a good living for a lot of lawyers. [inaudible]

[laughter]

MD: So building off of that um, you saw your caseload when you were a magistrate grow because of doing the deeds?

RD: Oh yeah. And then somewhere became associate judge for the United States. I became an associate judge it was 1970, I think.

MD: Okay. And then when you became the elected judge you saw your caseload again grow?

RD: It kept, well, the caseload kept growing no matter what you call yourself.

MD: Uh huh. Do you think having more and more cases limits the amount of time you can actually spend on each case?

RD: No. Not necessarily. Because most cases every branch of the court system are settled. Some were [inaudible] and some were taxes, tax exemptions. The state's attorney with uh, they developed expertise and they would be willing to talk. [inaudible] Feel us on why a case, why a case that might not be so good. Or [inaudible].

MD: Did you work closely then with the state's attorneys office?

RD: Very much so. And there was another aspect to it, the caseload. Which I've mentioned, objection one. By 19, by 1970 or early 71 the courts would stop hearing objections on indictment that were still pending in the assessors' office [inaudible] re-elected and had to do something. And Tom Tully, good guy, once chief deputy and they cast around why objection one did provide a necessary function. Somebody's got to correct that mistake. If the decimal point that gets misplaced or the house it isn't there, the burned down building. Somebody has to do it, something should be done about the job. It's obvious. So, by that I'd developed some expertise in [inaudible]. At any rate I was consulting and I could actually do a statute. Actually took an existing statute and changed it, to legalize objection ones. Not the past ones but legalize it for the future. It was called a Certificate of Error. Certificate of Error, Certificate of Error is a statement by the assessor [inaudible]. The stature was originally drawn so that the assessor makes the certificate and it's approved by the board here. Or at that time [inaudible], it was approved by the Board of Approval. When it's legal it can be filed in court, and the court would hear it.

MD: Okay.

RD: In other words, its legalized. Its actually a necessary practice that giving the assessor a chance to correct his uh, his mistakes. Which is the purpose of the Certificate of Error that was originally set up. [inaudible] The assessor agreed and then you could file for a certificate. So, what we did was change it around, the form, largely to be existing when practicing in Cook County. It provided legal basis for, provided legal basis for the assessor to make objections. Okay now, those studies here certificates there, because they are now legal. They uh, the assessor, after 2 years, tax years[?] 1970-1971 that owned it issued Certificate of Errors based on factual mistakes. They wouldn't listen to appraisals, wouldn't consider appraisals, or income statements, or things like that. [inaudible] But if the building was burned out, it gone, it never was built, taken off the roles and factual errors.

MD: Uh-huh, and typos? Clerical mistakes?

RD: And decimal points and clerical. Whatever factual errors there were. That was his rule at that time in those years. And he was only going to [inaudible] for those reasons. Um, he said ... how are we doing [for time]?

MD: We can finish up this question.

RD: Then the question then became what to do with the objection ones. First of all, nobody knew how many there were of them. Nobody knew much about them at all, except that they existed. There was a lot of pressure to do something about it. So that's what happened. You got it. You got it. I got assigned to it.

MD: So you had to clean up then?

RD: There was a backlog that went back to 1959.

MD: Wow.

RD: And it turns out that eventually, turns out there were about 35,000. For the next 7 years I spent 3 ½ months hearing the objection ones for the Certificate of Error. Tax objections, that would be 3 afternoons a week. The rest of the week would be tax objections, signing tax deed cases, hearing tax deed cases, hearing all sorts of miscellaneous stuff that came up under the revenue act.

MD: How long did it take you to go through the back log?

RD: 7 years.

MD: Wow. When did you start with the uh?

RD: I started in 1971. The fall of 1971 and it ended in, when Tom Tully left office in 1978 and [inaudible] cleaned it all up by the time he left. And he did. Serenity in the end, we got through it.

MD: So that covered the span of when you were magistrate and as an elected judge trying to make you way through the backlog?

RD: Yeah. Meanwhile we finished the Certificate of Error. There were only a couple thousand of them in 1970-1971. [inaudible] Then 1972 the assessment requested of the state's attorney a formal opinion of whether or not they could issue Certificate of Errors on questions of value. And guess what the state's attorney said? [inaudible] very popularly. Yes, you can. This has been [inaudible] [the Certificate of Errors as it existed in the 60s prior to the suggestion of terms that I suggested limited to factual questions.] I changed the stature but didn't, [inaudible] I omitted and outlined it. The question of statutory interpretation, the old statute says you can do this, the new statute says something different. It doesn't affect the new statute so the state's attorney wrote his opinion exactly as he should have [inaudible] the authority to do it. [inaudible] [laughter] Not so much during the time when Judge Swain was there, when Tom Tully was assessor, but subsequent administrations [inaudible]. That and some other changes in the law. So, a very prominent feature in the legal landscape.

MD: Well I'd like to thank you Judge Dempsey for coming by today and uh,

RD: My pleasure.

MD: And at least uh, going through the first half of your life and sharing that with us. I suppose we'll have another opportunity to meet personally or my partner or somebody else from the Cook County Court Oral History Project will come and talk to you in the future about putting together the second half. And continuing on when you were an elected judge and the cases that you've gotten to hear then. I'd like to thank you for that, for the privilege today.

RD: Okay, thank you.

[end of interview]

COOK COUNTY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
ROBERT DEMPSEY INTERVIEW, 11/05/04

INTERVIEW INDEX

Bill Isaacson, 16
Brothers, 2
Children, 14, 24,
Circuit Court, 11, 17, 18, 26
County Building, 15, 20
Daley Center, 20
Ed Donovan, 9, 10, 15, 16
Elected Judge, 27, 28, 30, 31
Ethnicity (Irish), 2, 3
Father & Grandfather, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23
Governor Green, 11, 12, 14
Grammar School, 3, 4
High School, 3, 4, 5
Judge Swain, 22, 30
Korean War, 8
Logan Square, 2, 3, 8, 9, 15, 16, 23
Loyola University, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
Magistrate, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30
Mother, 2, 3, 7, 14, 23
Northwestern University, 4, 6, 8, 9
National Guard, 8, 19, 23
Sister, 2
Wife, 6, 9, 13, 14, 23