

1 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
2 COUNTY DEPARTMENT - COUNTY DIVISION

3 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

4  
5 GUEST OF HONOR

6 HONORABLE EUGENE L. WACHOWSKI

7  
8 CONDUCTED BY

9 JUDGE JAMES F. HENRY

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 JUDGE FRANCIS BARTH

12 JUDGE JAMES MURRAY

13 JUDGE MICHAEL J. MURPHY

14 JUDGE JOHN A. MCELLIGOTT

15 JUDGE MARJAN PETER STANIEC

16  
17 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS on the 15th  
18 day of May, 1996, at the hour of approximately  
19 3:00 p.m.

20  
21  
22 Lillie L. Davis  
23 Official Court Reporter  
24 Circuit Court of Cook County  
County Department - County Division

1                   JUDGE HENRY: Just as a preliminary  
2 matter, I want to try and thank you, and I will  
3 talk slow too.

4                   I want to thank Judge Wachowski for  
5 coming here today. I appreciate that very much,  
6 because the gift of your time is a very valuable  
7 thing.

8                   And I also want to thank your  
9 friends that came here. And if I invited all of  
10 your friends, we couldn't hold it here. We would  
11 have to get the United Center. We couldn't get  
12 it because it is busy with the Chicago Bulls.

13                   But my purpose of trying to get  
14 this project with the Cook County Court System  
15 off the ground is to try to provide some type of  
16 perspective on all of the wonderful things and  
17 all of the wonderful people that have been  
18 involved in the court system over the years and  
19 to try and give a fair and even view of the  
20 characters and the people that have participated  
21 in the administration of justice in Cook County.

22                   Some of the stories are funny, some  
23 of them are tragic, but there is not too many  
24 places where they have been recorded. So that's

1 the purpose of this project, which hopefully will  
2 go forward on four different levels.

3 One aspect would be an anecdotal  
4 history of during various times during the  
5 history of the circuit court where there were  
6 major events that shaped the history of the city  
7 and those events if they had to have played out  
8 in the court system.

9 Now, Judge Jim Murray who is a  
10 historian by all vocations, is a great justice of  
11 the Illinois Appellate Court and is working on  
12 that aspect of it with me. And that will  
13 hopefully be something that the Chicago Bar  
14 Association will be interested in. Which I have  
15 spoken with Terry Murphy, the executive director,  
16 he thinks that the Chicago Bar Association would  
17 be interested in publishing.

18 The second aspect of the project  
19 would be to look at the architectural history of  
20 the Circuit Court of Cook County. I have an  
21 architect teaching historian who has volunteered  
22 to do that. And I will say more about that at  
23 some other time. But that too is a part of the  
24 tradition, the aura and the dignity of the court

1 system.

2 The very building that we sit in  
3 has a rich political history on how it even came  
4 about. I was told at one time that it came about  
5 when at one time, it subsequently became  
6 Appellate Court Judge McGloon, decided that,  
7 well, I will go along with the Public Building  
8 Commission legislation that will authorize it,  
9 but I want one of those window seats in the  
10 Appellate Court. And he became an Appellate  
11 Court judge, and the building in which we sit was  
12 constructed.

13 But there are many stories like  
14 that -- some of them true, some of them not true.  
15 But like many great stories, some of them  
16 happened.

17 And the third part that will take  
18 place is an oral history program. And today is  
19 the first interview of a judge, which will  
20 hopefully be the first of many that will  
21 chronicle the life stories of the judges who have  
22 made up a significant part of the history of the  
23 Circuit Court of Cook County.

24 Father Tom Croak, C-r-o-a-k --

1 that's a good Irish name, he tells me -- is the  
2 chairman of the history department of DePaul  
3 University. He apologizes profusely. He called  
4 me three times in the last half hour to tell me  
5 that he could not make it because three of the  
6 staff members who staff his office at DePaul are  
7 ill with the flu. He is not only running the  
8 department, he is also answering all of the  
9 phones and taking care of other administrative  
10 duties. He is very sorry that he is not here.  
11 He wants very much to be a part of this project,  
12 and he wants to use of some of his students that  
13 are seeking masters' degrees in history at  
14 University of DePaul from undertaking a lot of  
15 the background investigation and do the  
16 interviews with future judges. So that's  
17 basically three avenues.

18 And the fourth has to do with the  
19 involvement with the Chicago Historical Society  
20 of putting on at the turn of the century a  
21 retrospective of the history of the court system  
22 in Illinois and as it applies to Cook County.

23 So that's basically in a nutshell  
24 what this is all about.

1                    Judge Murray told the story, which  
2 I think would be just a fitting story to get  
3 started here, and that would be the story about  
4 Emmet Morrissey. And I will let Justice Murray  
5 tell it in his own words. And that will be the  
6 first story which will make up the history of the  
7 Circuit Court of Cook County, but I think that it  
8 is a fun one.

9                    And then after he tells that story,  
10 what we are going to do, Judge, and I know that  
11 you asked me to send you some questions, which I  
12 did, I am not going to ask for great detail or  
13 anything else, but what I want to do is I will  
14 ask you some questions. And I want to start with  
15 your childhood, your memories of Chicago and what  
16 it was like at the time. And then we will move  
17 through your early business career, your decision  
18 to go to law school, your early years practicing  
19 law. Anything that comes up and takes us on a  
20 little tangent is fine.

21                    I think that your friends who are  
22 here -- Judge Staniec and Judge McElligott --  
23 will be happy to pitch in.

24                    JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: We will keep him

1 honest.

2 JUDGE HENRY: That's what I was going to  
3 say. Judge McElligott says that he will keep you  
4 honest.

5 They may give you a view about  
6 something that you knew about, but he may have a  
7 different view.

8 If anybody wants to jump in at any  
9 time and ask Judge Wachowski a question, please  
10 feel free. There is no format to this other than  
11 to let Judge Wachowski to give us the benefit of  
12 his reflections and memories on the life of  
13 service to the people of Cook County and  
14 certainly the circuit court.

15 And one of which I am very proud  
16 of, because when I was first year in law  
17 school -- I am not proud of myself, I am proud of  
18 Judge Wachowski -- I was assigned as a bailiff to  
19 his courtroom as a deputy sheriff when he was the  
20 presiding judge of the First Municipal District.  
21 And I saw how he dealt with people that I would  
22 say were somewhat down on their luck.

23 Judge Poynton was also your  
24 administrative assistant at the time. He is

1 living in Michigan right now. He was going to  
2 try and make it today. I didn't know if his  
3 schedule would allow. He was certainly going to  
4 try to make some arrangements to come down. He  
5 certainly wanted to be here. He may be here at  
6 some future date.

7 So everybody pitch in. There is no  
8 agenda here other than the chronicle, what all of  
9 you think is important, questions that you might  
10 have for Judge Wachowski that you think would be  
11 of interest to you or that you think that would  
12 be of general interest to anybody interested in  
13 the history of the Circuit Court of Cook County  
14 and the court system prior to the unification of  
15 the courts is fair game.

16 But Justice Murray will you just  
17 tell us your story to get this started?

18 JUDGE MURRAY: Judge, you remember the  
19 days before the consolidated court system when we  
20 had a Municipal Court in the City of Chicago and  
21 the Circuit Court, the municipal judges got a  
22 little less money than the Circuit Court judges.

23 And one day Emmet Morrissey who was  
24 a Municipal Court judge was elevated to a full



1 Circuit Court judge. And they had a party. The  
2 judges had a party, and their wives were there.  
3 And Judge Hermes -- Joe Hermes' wife had a little  
4 too much to drink. So she went up to Emmet  
5 Morrissey. And she said to Emmet "How come an  
6 ass hole like you is elevated to the full Circuit  
7 Court and my husband Joe is still in the  
8 Municipal Court?" And Morrissey says, "Well,  
9 maybe they didn't want two ass holes on the bench  
10 in the Circuit Court at the same time."

11 (Laughter)

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, I remember this.

13 JUDGE HENRY: And you don't have to  
14 comment on either one of their personalities.

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I was there at the  
16 party, and I know whether --

17 JUDGE MURRAY: Was that true?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes. That's truthful.

19 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: I wasn't at the  
20 party.

21 JUDGE HENRY: Well, there you have it.

22 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: I am asking you, are  
23 you under oath?

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: There was a lot of

1 tension there at that party.

2 JUDGE HENRY: And when would that have  
3 been, Judge? Late '50s?

4 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Morrissey went on the  
5 Municipal Court in 1948.

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I think it was before  
7 the "blue ballot" and before the constitutional  
8 amendment.

9 JUDGE MURRAY: And Judge Hermes was a  
10 pretty good judge, I hear.

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Hermes was a good  
12 judge and the courts he sat in.

13 Although he did some bizarre  
14 things, the lawyers all liked to go before him  
15 because he ruled fast. And this is what  
16 practicing lawyers like. They don't like to fuss  
17 around with briefs and such things.

18 And Hermes, it was reputed that he  
19 knew the law. And he was sitting in the motion  
20 court in the First Municipal District or rather  
21 the Municipal Court of Chicago and later on in  
22 the First Municipal District. He was still  
23 there.

24 Incidentally -- Well, that's

1 another avenue we will get into. The districts  
2 were created after the passage of Louie V, the  
3 constitution. And I was the chairman of the  
4 committee that created these districts.

5 Joe Bower was with me in the court.  
6 And a guy by the name of ~~Sholtz~~<sup>SCHULTZ</sup>, Blue Island,  
7 was the other court judge.

8 JUDGE MURRAY: Is Schultz a judge out in  
9 Blue Island, in the old city court? Wasn't he a  
10 judge out there?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Schultz?

12 JUDGE MURRAY: Yeah.

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. Yeah, I said  
14 that.

15 JUDGE MURRAY: When they had the old  
16 city court.

17 JUDGE HENRY: When you say --

18 JUDGE MURRAY: It was kind of divorce  
19 court out there, wasn't it?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Did you say "divorce"?

21 JUDGE MURRAY: Divorce, yeah. You used  
22 to be able to get a quick divorce out there.

23 JUDGE MURPHY: Hi, gentlemen. Nice to  
24 see you, sir.

1 JUDGE BARTH: Nice to see you, Mike.

2 JUDGE MURPHY: Nice to see you too.

3 Didn't mean to interrupt you, Judge.

4 JUDGE BARTH: Judge Michael Murphy is  
5 here. Put him on the record.

6 Just throw it on the couch,  
7 anywhere, (indicating coat).

8 JUDGE HENRY: Judge, let me go back to a  
9 few weeks, a few months ago you and I and Judge  
10 Barth were sitting down here, and we were talking  
11 about your earliest recollection of the City of  
12 Chicago. And you told us about how you grew up  
13 on the south -- the near southwest side, Lawndale  
14 area, and this was a farm in the area, so on and  
15 so forth.

16 So could you tell me your date of  
17 birth and your earliest recollection of the City  
18 of Chicago as a young boy?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I-- my date of  
20 birth was August 15th, 1901. In fact, a couple  
21 of months from today I will be 95.

22 JUDGE HENRY: That's great. That's the  
23 same birthday as my dad by the way.

24 You know, it is also a holy day?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: It is a day of  
2 obligation.

3 JUDGE HENRY: That's right. Did that  
4 come about in your honor?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I used to think so  
6 until -- I say this in jest.

7 JUDGE HENRY: At least that's what your  
8 mother told you anyway.

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I didn't realize that  
10 it was a religious holiday, that everybody went  
11 to church on that day. I thought it was because  
12 it was my birthday.

13 JUDGE HENRY: Were your mom and dad born  
14 in Chicago, or were they both <sup>IM</sup>emigrants?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: They were <sup>IM</sup>emigrants.

16 JUDGE HENRY: Were they both from  
17 Poland.

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: They were both from  
19 Poland, the Poland which was under the  
20 jurisdiction of Germany at that time.

21 JUDGE HENRY: And what did your dad do  
22 at that time when he came to Chicago? What was  
23 his vocation or profession at that time?

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He came over here as a

1 cabinet maker. I never got into that. I don't  
2 know what that means. I don't know if he built  
3 cabinets or whatever he did. But he got into --  
4 He got some employment as a grocery salesman.

5 JUDGE HENRY: Did he meet your mom here  
6 or did --

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I guess he met her  
8 over here.

9 JUDGE HENRY: And how many brothers and  
10 sisters did you have?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I had three  
12 brothers and four sisters.

13 JUDGE HENRY: And you all grew up on the  
14 southwest side of Chicago?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

16 JUDGE HENRY: So the first house that  
17 you remember living in, where would that have  
18 been located, approximately? If you know the  
19 address, that's great, or just the general area.

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. I believe it  
21 used to be known as the 2002 West 22nd Street.  
22 It later got to be 3032 -- 3032 on Cermak Road.

23 JUDGE MURRAY: What ward was that on?

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: 22nd.

1 Mayor Cermak was --

2 JUDGE MURRAY: He was the committee man?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He was the ward  
4 committee man. He was the alderman there later.

5 JUDGE MURRAY: That's how the Criminal  
6 Court got situated out there, wasn't it?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He managed to get it  
8 out there. He thought that it was going to be a  
9 great development in the property value, which it  
10 was not. There were lawsuits at that time  
11 because of the type of persons that were coming  
12 out to the district.

13 JUDGE HENRY: Were your mom or your dad  
14 involved in politics when you were young?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, not too much. I  
16 think my dad -- I don't know what he was before  
17 1893. I think he came in about '87. And he was  
18 republican.

19 JUDGE HENRY: He was a republican?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He became a republican  
21 in 1893 when Cleveland was the president and  
22 there was a big, big depression. Not as big as  
23 the '29, '30 and '31. But there was a big  
24 depression, I guess. They blamed it on the

1 democratic party at that time.

2 JUDGE HENRY: And would there have been  
3 an election in 1894 for president?

4 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: '92. That was  
5 Cleveland. Cleveland and ~~Adley~~<sup>ADLAI</sup> first, in '92.

6 That's the man that you have to get  
7 to look to for the political statistics.

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: That was the date that  
9 he got for the political districts.

10 JUDGE HENRY: How about 1896? Who was  
11 the presidential candidate in 1896? Was that  
12 Williams Jennings Bryan?

13 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Williams Jennings  
14 Bryan.

15 JUDGE HENRY: And he was a democrat?

16 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah.

17 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. So would your dad  
18 have supported William Jennings Bryan or the  
19 republican nominee?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, he would have  
21 voted for the republican nominee.

22 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That was McKinley and  
23 Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt.

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Teddy Roosevelt.



1 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: For vice-president.

2 JUDGE HENRY: We can get off on  
3 presidential politics, and we won't get past  
4 1900. So we are going to have to move up a  
5 little bit.

6 So what is your earliest memories  
7 of the City of Chicago as a young boy?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I don't know.  
9 Playing around with the kids in the baseball --  
10 in the -- We had no parks.

11 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: School yards.

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: We had a little yard  
13 or a vacant piece of property. We played  
14 baseball on the vacant property. And --

15 JUDGE HENRY: Were you a White Sox fan  
16 or a Cubs fan?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I was a Cubs fan  
18 from the start.

19 They were located, you know, on  
20 where County Hospital now is. And I was a Cubs  
21 fan. And we used to go over there and try to  
22 sneak in.

23 (Laughter)

24 JUDGE HENRY: Did you succeed?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I don't think so.

2 JUDGE HENRY: Okay.

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: And we had to go  
4 through territory that was very dangerous. So  
5 there was Irish and Germans west of Marshall  
6 Boulevard. And we were -- or east of Marshall  
7 Boulevard.

8 We had to walk through their  
9 territory to get there. And the little gangs  
10 were around there. You might get punched up  
11 there a little bit. So that's why we had to run  
12 to get through.

13 JUDGE MURRAY: What high school did you  
14 go to?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I started out at  
16 Farragut High School. And it was -- that was in  
17 about 1900 and -- it must have been 12, no, 13.  
18 Then they built Harrison High School. And they  
19 built Farragut over there.

20 JUDGE HENRY: And then -- I am not  
21 going to brush over this early part of your life,  
22 but I do want to know about, tell me where you  
23 met your wife, how you met her.

24 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Don't you want to get

1 into his army career in World War I?

2 Tell him about your army career in  
3 World War I.

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I thought I could keep  
5 this under cover.

6 JUDGE HENRY: Well, that's why he came.  
7 He is going to keep you honest. That's why he is  
8 here.

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: That would be being  
10 honest, just not said.

11 (Laughter)

12 Well, I always say now, in all  
13 fairness, that my -- I must have been a real task  
14 for my parents. I did, I joined the army at 15.  
15 I was in the -- in there four months. And then  
16 my brother, who was in the same 22nd company,  
17 they were down in -- chasing --

18 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Mexico?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: -- Mexicans.

20 What was his name?

21 JUDGE BARTH: PANCHO VILLA  
Poncho Via?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: PANCHO VILLA  
Poncho Via.

23 He was in the same company that I  
24 was placed into. And he informed them that I was

1 not of the proper age.

2 So they gave me a cap and told me,  
3 "Three minutes. You shouldn't have done it,  
4 buddy. You are patriotic. And for that, we will  
5 give you an honorable discharge." Which I have.

6 And, well then after that, I was  
7 kind of rocky. Because I would used to walk  
8 around with a United States' government suit, and  
9 then all of a sudden I didn't have it. Sneaking  
10 it on.

11 So I took the application -- I  
12 made an application to get on the, what they call  
13 the helping, providing the food. And I still had  
14 a job to do, sending fellows out to the farm to  
15 get food. So I used to get together with two  
16 other fellows, went out to a place in Wisconsin  
17 here, and we worked at a farm all summer.

18 That's interesting. I had lost  
19 track of these two fellows that were with us.  
20 One I never did see again. It picks up. But the  
21 other one, I was trying to -- I was presiding in  
22 a case, and there was a jury going through. The  
23 lawyers were interrogating. And a name sounded  
24 real familiar. I looked over. And so I had him

1 brought into chambers. "Are you so and so?" He  
2 said, "Yeah." He says, "You remember me?" I  
3 said, "Yeah, you are kind of familiar. Were you  
4 ever on the farm?" "Yeah." He was in the  
5 grocery business.

6 JUDGE HENRY: And that would have been  
7 1919 or 1920?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh, no, that was much  
9 later. I was already a judge, and I was elected  
10 judge.

11 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: This fellow on the  
12 farm --

13 JUDGE MURRAY: When was that, when were  
14 you on the farm, 1919?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: In 1918. This was to  
16 help the war effort.

17 JUDGE MURRAY: Were you a lawyer at the  
18 time or not?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No.

20 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: He was only 17 then,  
21 Jim.

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, that was another  
23 disastrous thing for me. I came here, and then I  
24 went to work for the National ~~Malabar~~. I almost

MALLEABLE

1 got killed there.

2 I was the head of a job on a truck  
3 bringing the workers who were putting together  
4 a -- what would you call it -- a cast of the rear  
5 end of an automobile.

6 And they worked on that by pouring  
7 in this metal that they finally put into the  
8 stove. And they had it all piled up. And on  
9 this particular day, they were walking. They  
10 were doing work piecemeal. They got paid for  
11 every part they did.

12 And I am coming along with this  
13 wagon. It happened to have a little wave in it.  
14 And it didn't have the rod that was pulling the  
15 cart that I would pick up and that caused the  
16 thing to sway.

17 And so I got by the pile with this  
18 guy, this thing swayed over and caught the  
19 bottom, and down came the whole pile. And the  
20 guy that had worked all day long, he grabbed the  
21 shovel, and he started out after me. And I  
22 jumped out and I run like hell. If it wasn't for  
23 some of the other guys, I might have ended my  
24 career right then and there.

1 JUDGE HENRY: Before it got started?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, anyway, after  
3 that experience, a little later, I decided to  
4 knock that off and decided to go back to school.  
5 I never got my high school diploma because I  
6 didn't finish.

7 But they were giving -- They were  
8 giving the examinations for credits, high school  
9 credits through examinations from -- from the  
10 Illinois University. And I applied for those and  
11 was very successful.

12 I passed all the tests they gave  
13 me, except Latin. And in those days, Latin was a  
14 necessary element to the law business.

15 So I took a year's law while I was  
16 taking these examinations. And I passed the  
17 year's law at DePaul. And when --

18 (Loud noise.) What the hell is  
19 that?

20 At any rate, I took that, those  
21 examinations, got my first year of law passed,  
22 got credit for it. And then the word came out  
23 that I didn't get my Latin. I didn't have all of  
24 it.

1                   So I went to summer school, got the  
2 Latin credit in summer school. I was there, a  
3 guy about 21, 22. All the kids were 13, 14, 15,  
4 16 years old.

5                   JUDGE HENRY: Were you living at home  
6 then?

7                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes. I was living at  
8 home.

9                   And I lost track again.

10                  JUDGE MURPHY: You were saying the  
11 credits --

12                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh, yes, the credits.

13                         I came back hoping to go into the  
14 second year of law. And at that time there was  
15 a -- there were no preliminaries needed. You  
16 went right into law school. I think it was a  
17 three-year law course.

18                         So anyway I came in with my  
19 achieved goal. I had all the credits. Now, I  
20 was now going to go into the second year of law  
21 at DePaul, Grace Sasary.

22                         A new law passed, went into effect  
23 July 1st of this year, in which they provide for  
24 two years of pre-law and two years of law, day



1 school. Night school, three years of pre-law and  
2 four years of law night school. And that's what  
3 you have got to do.

4 JUDGE MURRAY: What year did that go  
5 into effect, Judge?

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: 1922.

7 So there I went, seven years, night  
8 school.

9 And fortunately, during all that  
10 time, my dad who came here as a cabinet maker  
11 became a grocery salesman, became a real  
12 estate -- got interested in savings and loan  
13 associations.

14 And when he was working for the  
15 grocery company. It was Henry Horner and  
16 Company, that the guy was a brother of the guy  
17 who later became --

18 JUDGE MURRAY: Governor.

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Governor, yeah. Henry  
20 Horner.

21 And so then he organized the  
22 savings and loan association. And Henry Horner  
23 who just got out of law school who became  
24 governor of the state and the judge, he was

1 the -- did -- he was my dad's lawyer.

2 And in getting that charter --

3 Well, anyway -- I digress now on  
4 that subject.

5 JUDGE HENRY: That's okay. Your dad  
6 then started a savings and loan?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

8 JUDGE HENRY: What was the name of it?

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Albert Wachowski  
10 Savings and Loan Company.

11 JUDGE HENRY: And that was located in  
12 your neighborhood on the southwest side?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: All over. It was  
14 located all over the county and also in Gary,  
15 Indiana.

16 He had made friends with all  
17 these -- all these grocers that he was traveling  
18 around selling groceries to. And I think when he  
19 was doing that, he would take them off to the  
20 closest bar to have a drink. So he got  
21 acquainted with a lot of bar keeps or tavern  
22 owners.

23 So when he was operating his  
24 business and all of these people came in and

1           bought a home for 1500, three-flat building, and  
2           they paid like 25 bucks a month, they didn't have  
3           to come in to his -- he went out to their place.  
4           Like Chicago Heights, Blue Island, Harvey, all  
5           those places, Bridgeport, Brighton Park. All  
6           those places, he would go once a month and have  
7           the people come in with their payments. They  
8           would pay 25 bucks and two percent interest or  
9           two-and-a-half percent. I forget what it was in  
10          those days.

11                 JUDGE HENRY:    Would he travel around by  
12          car?

13                 JUDGE WACHOWSKI:  No. Not at that -- It  
14          was dead winter. When automobiles came into  
15          being in about 1916, I think.

16                 JUDGE HENRY:    Before that -- How did  
17          he make his calls before that? How did he get  
18          around?

19                 JUDGE WACHOWSKI:  Traveled around on  
20          public transportation.

21                         We used to go out to Chicago  
22          Heights. We went to 63rd and Western, there was  
23          a -- that's where the train stopped. And we took  
24          the train and went out there.



1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No. In fact, my first  
2 son was at the graduation exercises.

3 JUDGE HENRY: And what church did you  
4 get married in?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: St. Cashmere's.

6 JUDGE HENRY: St. Cashmere's?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: The priest that  
8 married us, he later left the church. I told my  
9 wife that we got a couple of bastard children.  
10 The priest is not legitimate anymore.

11 JUDGE HENRY: And how many children do  
12 you have?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I only had three  
14 children.

15 JUDGE HENRY: Three children. Are any  
16 of them in the law business?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No.

18 I don't know why. In fact, I am  
19 dealing with that subject with them now, trying  
20 to get some reaction from them as to why.

21 Well, there are only two living  
22 now. My second son was a West Point graduate and  
23 was in the air force. He was in Vietnam for a  
24 considerable length of time, had about 200

1 missions over in North Vietnam.

2 But he was what they called a  
3 forward air control. He would go in on one of  
4 these small planes and pick up information as to  
5 where the military were gathering or transporting  
6 materials.

7 I said to him one time, "You travel  
8 on that plane. It makes noise. You can't hear  
9 anything. How do you know if they are shooting  
10 at you?" He says, "Well, they make holes in the  
11 wings." "Oh, God."

12 JUDGE HENRY: And what was that son's  
13 name?

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Tom.

15 JUDGE HENRY: Tom. And what's your  
16 older child's name? Tom was the middle child.

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Giles.

18 JUDGE HENRY: The oldest, Giles?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

20 JUDGE HENRY: And what does Giles do?

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He is in the computer  
22 business, work. He does computer work for the  
23 big insurance firms down here on the south end of  
24 the Loop.

1 JUDGE HENRY: C.N.A.?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

3 JUDGE HENRY: And what's your youngest  
4 child's name?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: That's my daughter.

6 JUDGE HENRY: Your daughter?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: And --

8 JUDGE HENRY: And what's her name?

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Doris.

10 JUDGE HENRY: Doris. And how many  
11 grandchildren do you have?

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, she only had one  
13 child. My first son had one boy and five girls.  
14 And my second son had one girl and five boys.  
15 So --

16 JUDGE HENRY: That's a big crowd.

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

18 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Was he the one that  
19 got killed in the auto accident?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. Tom, after he  
21 came back, he was a colonel in the air force.  
22 And he had 20 years of service then. He had a  
23 job in the computer company in Alexander,  
24 Virginia.

1                   And one night when he was going to  
2 some religious ceremonies they have in the  
3 church, there was a woman on the highway with a  
4 flashlight standing near the "Stop" and "Go"  
5 sign. And she was flashing it. So he drove up,  
6 turned around, and came back behind her, asked  
7 her what was wrong. And she said her battery  
8 went dead in the car, and she is afraid that at  
9 the stop sign, somebody might not see her. And  
10 so she is standing there with the light.

11                   Well, he was a careful guy. He  
12 always had good flares in his car. So he went to  
13 get the flares. And as he is opening up the  
14 trunk door, somebody came up and put a gun to  
15 him. It is a foggy night. There is a little  
16 hill there, I guess. And this kid came screaming  
17 over the top and crashed right into him, into him  
18 and the car. And that was the end. Yeah.

19                   JUDGE HENRY: That is a sad story.

20                   Are any of his children or any of  
21 your children -- grandchildren, any of your other  
22 grandchildren in the law business?

23                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No. As I said, I am  
24 trying to find out if I can, why.



1 JUDGE HENRY: Are any of them in the  
2 savings and loan business?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No. Well, I didn't  
4 direct them that way because my -- I had a  
5 brother who was a -- who had a son. And they  
6 were more interested in the later years. And I  
7 didn't want any friction in that department, so I  
8 didn't encourage them to get into that.

9 JUDGE HENRY: Just up to this point, we  
10 are up to about 1930 or so. You graduated from  
11 law school in 1930? Would that be accurate?

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, '30. And I got  
13 my certificate in '31.

14 JUDGE MURRAY: Was that -- You  
15 graduated from Depaul? DE PAUL

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: What?

17 JUDGE MURRAY: Judge, was that the  
18 DePaul University Law School?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

20 JUDGE HENRY: How many people graduated  
21 with you that year, do you remember? Were there  
22 10? Were there 100?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I don't think that  
24 many. No.

1 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That was the depth of  
2 the depression.

3 Wasn't Schultz around then?  
4 Phillie Fleishman? Ira Schultz?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I think he was there,  
6 yeah. I can't remember definitely.

7 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah, Ira was class  
8 of '31 and a half.

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: They had one girl in  
10 the class. She became the wife of the divorce  
11 lawyer.

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Katherine <sup>BARASA</sup> Brasa.

13 JUDGE HENRY: I think this is the point  
14 where Judge McElligott will keep you honest  
15 because all of the memories.

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He has a better  
17 memory.

18 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Wasn't that Katherine  
19 Brasa? Judge <sup>BARASA'S</sup> Brasa's daughter?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, yeah. She was  
21 the only girl.

22 JUDGE HENRY: Judge, did you go to  
23 DePaul too?

24 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No, I went to Notre

1 Dame and Northwestern.

2 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. How long have you  
3 known Judge Wachowski?

4 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: About 50 years. I  
5 think right after the war, when he was in the  
6 Torts Division over in the corporation counsel's  
7 office.

8 JUDGE HENRY: And the two of you worked  
9 together then?

10 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No. I was a lawyer,  
11 and he was one of the three older lawyers.  
12 \$3,000. Are you trying break the city?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I was the head of the  
14 Torts Division for the City of Chicago,

15 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: He and <sup>LY</sup>~~BY~~ Burke and  
16 Charlie ~~Horn~~ HORAN

17 JUDGE HENRY: Let's go back to when you  
18 graduated. When you graduated from law school,  
19 what was your first job in the legal community?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I worked in the  
21 savings and loan. My dad, who was not a lawyer,  
22 he was -- he was used -- he used to examine the  
23 titles.

24 And he --

1 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: The abstracts.

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

3 And he would tell me, "Now, we are  
4 up to here. And up to there, it is all right.  
5 Now, from there on in, you have to read  
6 everything. And if there is anything that  
7 doesn't coincide, let me know."

8 And in the meantime I had a brother  
9 who was a lawyer. He became a lawyer in about  
10 1918 or 1919. In fact, he became a lawyer when  
11 he was 20. He had to wait a year before they  
12 gave him his certificate.

13 JUDGE MURRAY: That was your brother  
14 Casey?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, that was Leon. I  
16 had another brother Casey, he was a lawyer also.

17 JUDGE HENRY: And he became a lawyer  
18 before you did?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

20 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: He was on the T.V.  
21 the other night in the Speck case.

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, that's somebody  
23 told me that.

24 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: He was the attorney

1 for the estate of the girls. He was the attorney  
2 for the parents of the girls who were killed.

3 JUDGE MURRAY: He used to play golf with  
4 my dad, Casey.

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, we used to play  
6 golf all the time.

7 JUDGE HENRY: Let's go back. Where did  
8 you fit into the family?

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I was the fifth.

10 JUDGE HENRY: You were the fifth. And  
11 so there were four -- five older than you --  
12 There were four older than you?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Four older and four  
14 younger. And my brother the doctor died just  
15 here about a year a week ago.

16 JUDGE HENRY: And did he practice  
17 medicine in Chicago?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He was a radiologist.  
19 In fact, he got a plaque from the Radiology  
20 Society of America. And he is listed in the  
21 Who's Who list of "Who's Who in the World." He  
22 is listed in that book.

23 JUDGE HENRY: And what's his name? His  
24 name was John?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, his name was  
2 Theodore.

3 JUDGE HENRY: Theodore. And was he  
4 practicing radiology in Chicago?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

6 JUDGE HENRY: And with what hospital  
7 was he affiliated?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, he was at the  
9 Illinois Hospital first. And then he was with  
10 Comp-3 in Aurora. And they moved to Wheaton. In  
11 fact, they bought the home that belonged to owner  
12 of the railroad company in Gary.

13 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Albert in Gary?

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. He was the head  
15 of the railroad company, I think.

16 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: U.S. Steel.

17 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: U.S. Steel.

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: U.S. Steel, yes,  
19 that's it.

20 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Elgin, Joliet and  
21 Eastern Railroad they owned.

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: What?

23 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: EJ&E, they owned, the  
24 Elgin, Joliet and ~~Steel~~. That was part of U.S.

*EASTERN*

1 Steel.

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I am having a little  
3 trouble with my ears.

4 JUDGE HENRY: That's all right. I will  
5 try to keep my voice up and Judge McElligott will  
6 too.

7 Now, so when you graduated from law  
8 school, you went to work for your dad, sort of as  
9 in-house counsel with the savings and loan?

10 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

11 JUDGE HENRY: What was your first job in  
12 the legal community outside of the savings and  
13 loan?

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, my brother Casey  
15 was a lawyer. He was in the Ashland Building  
16 downtown here where the --

17 JUDGE MURRAY: Civic Center?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: -- where the Civic  
19 Center is now located. And I did a little  
20 research for him.

21 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Well, the block where  
22 the new site of the trust building is, Randolph  
23 and Clark.

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: There were two

1 lawyers. We were at the lowest ebb at that time,  
2 because the bank in this story, there was other  
3 developments where my dad used to take money from  
4 people for safekeeping. And he never gave them  
5 any receipt. They would just give him the money,  
6 and he would take it over and put it in the  
7 little safety deposit vault that he had in his  
8 office.

9 And then my sister, oldest sister  
10 got acquainted and later in there where she was  
11 courting a guy that worked for a bank. And she  
12 was telling him about this. And he would say,  
13 "Oh, my God. That's impossible. Because if  
14 these people give him this money and they say  
15 they gave more, what are you going to do? How  
16 are you going to" -- He says, "You have got to  
17 give them a receipt."

18 So they started what they called  
19 the private bank. And they had that -- he had  
20 that private bank for, oh, I don't know, maybe  
21 eight, maybe ten years. And then they passed the  
22 law that prohibited private banks.

23 So in 1922, I think it was, my  
24 brother Leon, who was a lawyer at that time, he



1 got two or three people to buy stock in the bank.  
2 So they had a bank. And that went through until  
3 1932. It lasted.

4 Although there was clients that  
5 would give us money until the skies fell or they  
6 themselves were in deep trouble, and that's when  
7 the bank folded.

8 At that juncture, we were in that  
9 same neighborhood trying to get business. So  
10 I -- We talked about getting a job in public  
11 office. And so we went to see Sonnenschein, who  
12 was secretary to Mayor Cermak. And then we got  
13 Mayor Cermak and another face --

14 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That was '31 now,  
15 right, 1931?

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, about '31.

17 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Bill-William Hale  
18 Thompson?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

20 But there was another feature about  
21 that. The -- My brother, the doctor, married a  
22 girl, she was a doctor also. They met at  
23 Illinois University. And her father was  
24 acquainted with the owner of one of the Bohemian

1 newspapers. And she interceded, or they did, for  
2 the Bohemian newspaper to talk to Cermak.

3 JUDGE HENRY: In your behalf?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: On my behalf.

5 So in <sup>1933</sup>~~1963~~, I went in and began to  
6 work in the state's attorney's office.

7 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Thomas J. Courtney.

8 Thomas J. Courtney.

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh, yeah.

10 JUDGE HENRY: How many people were there  
11 in the state's attorney's office in Cook County  
12 when you started working there as attorneys?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I know for the  
14 country towns, there were two.

15 JUDGE HENRY: Now, when you say country  
16 towns, you mean any city outside of the City of  
17 Chicago?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, yeah. I  
19 remember very straight. It went for the north,  
20 went for the south, and one for the west.

21 Later on there were two because,  
22 well, the guy from the west was released from his  
23 employment for some reason or another. I don't  
24 know.

1 JUDGE MURRAY: Who was the person that  
2 assisted, Wilbert Crowley?

3 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No, Grover ~~Nemar~~. <sup>NIEMEYER</sup>

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes, Grover ~~Nemar~~. <sup>NIEMEYER</sup>

5 See, that's why I like you.

6 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That's why he brings  
7 me along.

8 JUDGE HENRY: I am glad he did.

9 And was the state's attorney a  
10 republican or a democrat?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He was a democrat.

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That was Roosevelt.

13 JUDGE MURRAY: He beat Swanson for  
14 state's attorney. Swanson.

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: That's right.

16 JUDGE MURRAY: Swanson was a republican.

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Right. Right. Crowe  
18 was in there too, you know.

19 JUDGE HENRY: Was it for a four-year  
20 term for state's attorney in 1932?

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

22 JUDGE HENRY: So you went to work there  
23 in 1933?

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I was employed,

1 not any term of time, I guess.

2 JUDGE HENRY: I understand.

3 But the term of office of the  
4 state's attorney that you went to work for was  
5 for four years?

6 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: '32 to '36.

7 JUDGE BARTH: Judge, can I ask a  
8 question?

9 You said that you went to  
10 Sonnenschein. Could you tell us who Sonnenschein  
11 was?

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. He was a --

13 JUDGE MURRAY: He was a ward committee  
14 man. Wasn't he?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He was the ward  
16 committee --

17 After Cermak had another job, he  
18 became the alderman of the 22nd Ward.

19 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: And he was ward  
20 committee man too.

21 JUDGE BARTH: What was his full name?  
22 What was his first name?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Henry.

24 JUDGE BARTH: And was he from your

1 neighborhood?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes, he lived there.

3 JUDGE BARTH: Was yours an ethnic  
4 neighborhood?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, he was about two  
6 blocks from mine.

7 JUDGE BARTH: Well, the name  
8 Sonnenschein doesn't sound like Wachowski or  
9 Cermak.

10 JUDGE MURRAY: He was Bohemian.

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, let's say, he  
12 was Jewish-Bohemian.

13 JUDGE BARTH: Well, was he your sponsor  
14 or was Cermak your sponsor? Or did they have  
15 sponsors in those days?

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Cermak was mine.

17 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Sure, sure.

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Cermak happened to  
19 become my sponsor because of the -- I know the  
20 intercession of this Bohemian newspaper.

21 So I got assigned to state's  
22 attorney's office through the country towns.

23 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: How much was the pay  
24 then, Gene?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: \$200 a month. Yeah.

2 And they were paying us in --

3 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Script?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: -- script.

5 And I was fortunate. I was renting  
6 a flat for 50 bucks a month and -- owned by a  
7 Bohemian family. And he liked that 5 percent  
8 interest that they were paying on.

9 JUDGE HENRY: You were giving him the  
10 scrip for the apartment?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I gave him my scrip,  
12 and he gave me 150 bucks back every month.

13 JUDGE MURPHY: Did he accept dollar for  
14 dollar, Judge?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Absolutely. Dollar  
16 for dollar.

17 Otherwise guys had to go and sell  
18 at a 10 percent discount, 20 percent discount  
19 sometimes.

20 JUDGE BARTH: Were you not politically  
21 active at this time in your life?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Was I?

23 JUDGE BARTH: Politically active.

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I became politically

1 active.

2 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: You got energized.

3 JUDGE BARTH: Did you work a precinct?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes, I did.

5 JUDGE MURRAY: He eventually became  
6 president of the organization, didn't you?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, for one year, I  
8 think, or maybe two.

9 JUDGE HENRY: Could you tell me some of  
10 the political work that you did?

11 You worked a precinct as a precinct  
12 captain, and you were responsible for the vote  
13 totals in your precinct?

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. Sure.

15 JUDGE HENRY: And so that would have  
16 been in 1936, would have been the next  
17 county-wide election, I guess.

18 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That's right.

19 JUDGE HENRY: And presidential election.

20 Can you tell me your recollection  
21 of your political work at that time? Was it fun  
22 for you to do or --

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, it was tedious  
24 work because you were walking from home to home

1 making yourself known to the people, telling them  
2 you are ready, willing and able to possibly help  
3 them out in certain areas.

4 In those days, with personal  
5 property tax, generally you could come in and  
6 make a settlement. And sometimes even the  
7 traffic court cases, you could -- well, reduce  
8 the --

9 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Fine.

10 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: -- the punishment.

11 JUDGE HENRY: Where was the traffic  
12 court located?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: 1121 South State  
14 Street.

15 JUDGE MURRAY: The police building. It  
16 was in the police building.

17 JUDGE HENRY: And that would have been  
18 part of the Municipal Court of the City of  
19 Chicago? Or was there a separate police force?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: That was the Municipal  
21 Court of Chicago.

22 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: <sup>GUTKNECHT</sup> ~~Goutnick~~ was the  
23 judge. <sup>GUTKNECHT</sup> ~~Goutnick~~, the traffic judge. You  
24 remember.



1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: The Judge.  
2 JUDGE BARTH: Even in those days.  
3 JUDGE STANIEC: Not too far.  
4 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah, he started  
5 going on radio.  
6 JUDGE MURRAY: Yeah, but Cermak died or  
7 was killed at a convention, what year was that?  
8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, he was killed down  
9 in Florida standing next to Roosevelt.  
10 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Sitting in a car.  
11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, they were  
12 standing.  
13 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Were they? I thought  
14 they were in a car.  
15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: They say that this  
16 guy, he was after Roosevelt, apparently. And  
17 they --  
18 JUDGE MURRAY: I was told differently.  
19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Some of the stories  
20 that I -- Whatever. There were a lot of rumors.  
21 JUDGE MURRAY: The mob was after Cermak.  
22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: But I don't accept  
23 that.  
24 JUDGE HENRY: What was the feeling in

1 your community when Mayor Cermak was killed? Was  
2 there --

3 Aside from being sad, was there --

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I don't know. Well,  
5 yeah, he was well-known and well liked.

6 JUDGE HENRY: Where was his funeral?

7 JUDGE MURRAY: Mack told me that he  
8 warned Cermak not go to that convention.

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He was being waked at  
10 his home. And there was a line there around the  
11 block, waiting to get in.

12 JUDGE HENRY: And you were at his wake?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes, yes.

14 JUDGE HENRY: Did he live on Cermak  
15 Road?

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, no. He lived on --

17 JUDGE HENRY: Or 22nd and Street at the  
18 time?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No. He lived on 24th  
20 Street.

21 JUDGE HENRY: 24th and what, do you  
22 remember?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Central Park.

24 JUDGE MURPHY: Wasn't he originally from

1 Braidwood, Illinois, Judge?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, he was.

3 JUDGE MURPHY: He gave my grandfather a  
4 job as a policeman when he came up from  
5 Braidwood.

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I remember him  
7 when he was traveling around the alleys, I guess,  
8 collecting junk or something. That's before he  
9 got to be the alderman of the ward.

10 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That's why they  
11 called him Push Cart Tony.

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: That's what what's his  
13 name called him. Was that Thompson?

14 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah, Thompson.

15 JUDGE HENRY: When you say Thompson, you  
16 mean the mayor?

17 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah. Called him  
18 Push Cart Tony.

19 JUDGE HENRY: And so now you are about  
20 34, 35 years old. You are in the state's  
21 attorney's office. You are married. And you  
22 have how many children at this time?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, at that time I  
24 had two children.

1 JUDGE HENRY: Two children?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

3 JUDGE HENRY: And so they are starting  
4 to go to school.

5 And you still live in the same  
6 neighborhood that you grew up in?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. Yes, they went  
8 to Blessed Sacrament School.

9 JUDGE HENRY: And your mom and dad are  
10 still alive at this time?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, my dad died in  
12 1928, just before the crash, which was a good  
13 thing. My mother died a year later, in 1929.

14 JUDGE HENRY: Did your other brothers  
15 and sisters remain in that same general area?

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, my brother  
17 Casey, he did. My brother Will, he would -- he  
18 lived in what was the 24th Ward, north of us. It  
19 was -- Ogden Avenue is the dividing line there.  
20 He was north of Ogden Avenue. But it was almost  
21 the same. It was pretty close.

22 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. You say the 24th  
23 Ward, who would have been of the committee man  
24 and the alderman in the 24th Ward?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Arvey.

2 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. Now, that's a very  
3 prominent political name in Chicago?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: North of the Ogden  
5 Avenue predominantly Jewish and south  
6 predominantly Polish and Bohemian?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. Some sprinkling  
8 of Irish in the western part of the ward there.  
9 Church was actually the church.

10 JUDGE HENRY: But the city that you grew  
11 up in was predominantly defined by ethnic  
12 enclaves, would that be fair to say?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes, I would say so.

14 JUDGE HENRY: Now, you are 35 years old,  
15 are you still working in the Circuit Court of  
16 Cook County in the country towns, or did you move  
17 into another branch of the Circuit Court?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, I moved in  
19 downtown.

20 JUDGE HENRY: And where was the Cook  
21 County state's attorney's office located in  
22 downtown Chicago?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: In downtown Chicago?  
24 I think it was --

1           \*           JUDGE MURRAY:  It was the County  
2           Building, wasn't it?

3                        JUDGE WACHOWSKI:  Yeah, it was the  
4           County Building.

5                        JUDGE HENRY:  What did you do in the  
6           state's attorney's office after --

7                        Well, first of all, let me back up.  
8           When you were working in the country towns, what  
9           were your responsibilities as an assistant  
10          state's attorney?

11                       JUDGE WACHOWSKI:  To have hearings on  
12          cases that were beyond the jurisdiction of the  
13          police magistrates or --  There were two.

14                       JUDGE MCELLIGOTT:  States cases?

15                       JUDGE WACHOWSKI:  Well, because there  
16          were two categories of police magistrates.

17                       JUDGE MCELLIGOTT:  And justices of the  
18          peace.

19                       JUDGE MURRAY:  J.P.s?

20                       JUDGE WACHOWSKI:  Judgments for  
21          plaintiffs.

22                       JUDGE MURRAY:  Justice of the peace?

23                       JUDGE WACHOWSKI:  Justice of the piece.

24                       JUDGE HENRY:  And were the magistrates

1 paid based upon the amount of the fines  
2 collected?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Huh?

4 JUDGE HENRY: Was the justices of the  
5 peace or police magistrates paid based upon the  
6 amounts of fines that were collected in their  
7 court?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I think that that  
9 deals with the policemen.

10 We had a lot of investigation of  
11 street traffic during those --

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: They collected the  
13 costs then usually.

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, they would --  
15 The costs would go to the county or whatever  
16 the -- or the city that they were working in. I  
17 think the fines though were split between the  
18 policemen and the judge.

19 JUDGE HENRY: Now, did you prosecute  
20 criminal cases too? Were there any serious  
21 criminal cases that you were involved in?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh, yeah, a lot of  
23 them. A lot of them.

24 JUDGE HENRY: Is there any one that

1 comes to your mind as a case that might be of --

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, two of them come  
3 to my mind.

4 I worked for two years, I worked  
5 before Judge ~~Zazork~~ with a lawyer that you all  
6 know.  
*DESORT*

7 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Julius ~~Sherman?~~  
*SHERWIN*

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Julius ~~Sherman~~. He  
*SHERWIN*  
9 just died. In fact, I went to his services.

10 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: About six months ago.

11 JUDGE MURRAY: Rudolph ~~Zazork?~~  
*DESORT*

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Rudy ~~Zazork~~.  
*DESORT*

13 And he says, and I do remember when  
14 the case came out where the appellate -- the  
15 Supreme Court was criticizing, the judge and the  
16 attorneys were being too --

17 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Facetious?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: -- facetious.

19 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: 139 instances of  
20 facetiousness.

21 And we can't find that case in the  
22 Appellate Court, Jim. And the Appellate Court  
23 affirmed and said, "One guy started and the other  
24 guy followed up. And they both participated."



1 And they were even in facetiousness."

2 JUDGE MURRAY: Oh, I remember that.

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: There was one case  
4 that I remember. There was a case that had to do  
5 with the testimony of a head doctor. He -- what  
6 the hell do you call it? He was estranged from  
7 his wife, Dr. Perch. And she was having the  
8 party. They weren't living together.

9 And he came over to the party. And  
10 she says he can't come in because he gets too  
11 boisterous and too argumentative. And they  
12 flipped back and forth. Finally, she says,  
13 "Well, okay. Okay. You can come in. But if you  
14 get obstreperous, I am going to call the police."

15 And that's exactly what happened.  
16 The doctor, he came in. He got into a fight with  
17 somebody. She called the police. Three  
18 policemen came.

19 So they <sup>GARNERED</sup> ~~garnished~~ -- they garnered  
20 him out to the side. They got him to the door.  
21 They said, "Come on. You are coming with us."  
22 He said, "Wait a minute. It is cold outside. I  
23 got my coat in the bedroom." "Well, go ahead.  
24 Go on and get your coat." So he went.

1                   And there they stood in front of  
2 the door ready to go out; three policemen, his  
3 estranged wife, her friend and the maid. They  
4 are all in the front.

5                   And this guy comes out with his  
6 coat and a gun under the coat and shoots his  
7 wife. And he then turned the gun on himself and  
8 shot himself.

9                   JUDGE HENRY: Was his wife killed?

10                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: His wife was killed.

11                  He went to trial in the -- in a  
12 wheel chair because the bullet lodged next to --  
13 somewhere next to the spine that there is an  
14 operation would make him totally -- would  
15 paralyze his legs. He couldn't use them at all.

16                  It was a trial of -- We had four  
17 people who were tested -- No, we had three. The  
18 state had three. And the defense had four  
19 psychiatrists who testified.

20                  One said -- One man said that he  
21 was sane at the time that he did it, and he was  
22 sane at the time of the trial. The other one  
23 says he is sane now at the time of the trial, but  
24 he was insane at the time that he did it.

1 Well, the jury gave him 20 years.  
2 And he served -- No, it must have been -- Oh,  
3 they found him guilty of man slaughter, I think.  
4 And that was 14 years. He served 8 years.

5 The reports are that he was a  
6 great -- He was a podiatrist, a great doctor.  
7 And he helped everybody in the county jail, at the  
8 house of corrections. And after 8 years, he was  
9 released.

10 There is another little anecdote  
11 in connection with that. When I had a little  
12 foot problem and I happened to go to a doctor, he  
13 was Dr. Perch's student. I thought that they  
14 were going to cut my leg off.

15 JUDGE HENRY: Where did that trial take  
16 place?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: At 26th and  
18 California.

19 JUDGE HENRY: At 26th Street.

20 And you prosecuted it because it  
21 arose in one of the areas that was under your  
22 jurisdiction as assistant state's attorney?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, it was assigned to  
24 the room. No, that isn't the way. It was

1 assigned to the room. In fact, this guy lived up  
2 on Sheridan Road! He didn't live there.

3 JUDGE HENRY: And so by this time, you  
4 were at 26th and California as a criminal  
5 prosecutor?

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

7 JUDGE HENRY: How many years did you  
8 spend at 26th and California?

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I think that  
10 from about 1935 to 1939 when I left.

11 I left there because Courtney ran  
12 for mayor against --

13 JUDGE MURRAY: Kelly, wasn't it?

14 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah.

15 JUDGE HENRY: So Courtney was the  
16 republican?

17 JUDGE BARTH: No.

18 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No, no.

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: The primary ballot.  
20 This is for mayor.

21 JUDGE MURRAY: They split the 18th Ward  
22 too.

23 JUDGE BARTH: Well, why did you leave  
24 the state's attorney's office?

1 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: He bet on the wrong  
2 horse.

3 JUDGE BARTH: I know. I want to hear  
4 him say it.

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I left because  
6 they wanted me -- Courtney wanted me to run for  
7 alderman in the 22nd Ward. And knowing the  
8 tactics that Sonnenschein was using, I didn't  
9 want to be the fix under that. I wanted to sleep  
10 nights.

11 And I know that he was a very  
12 vigorous individual. And he would go to any  
13 length to win whatever he was aspiring for. And  
14 then --

15 JUDGE HENRY: And so they were asking to  
16 you run against him?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

18 And I told them about that. I  
19 says -- He says, "Oh, gee," that it would be a  
20 good idea. "Well, yeah," he says, "You can go  
21 over there and go to their meetings and find out  
22 what they are doing and report back to us." I  
23 says, "No, sir. I am not that kind of guy. I  
24 either will be -- If I go, I will be with them."

1 He says, "Okay. Okay. We will get you something  
2 else."

3 And right at that time there was a  
4 question -- there was a vacancy for the -- in the  
5 department. They used to call these fellows the  
6 judges in the -- Where was it?

7 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: It was Probate.  
8 Probate.

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Probate Division.

10 In other words, they had five or  
11 six assistant Probate judges.

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah, they called  
13 them --

14 JUDGE MURRAY: They were appointed by  
15 the Clerk of the Court.

16 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: They were deputy  
17 clerks.

18 JUDGE MURRAY: They were appointed by  
19 the Clerk of the Court?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: And he says, "I have  
21 got this guaranteed for you."

22 So I waited, waited, waited. And  
23 in the meantime, I was doing a little practicing.  
24 I was practicing law. And the practicing law,

1 that was mostly in real estate.

2 And then one night I got a call,  
3 they were having a party for somebody else who  
4 had been assigned to take that spot that I was  
5 supposed to take.

6 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: It was supposed to be  
7 yours, right?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. And the guy  
9 was -- You all know him, ~~Radesco~~ <sup>ADESKO</sup>.

10 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Thadeus ~~Radesco~~ <sup>ADESKO</sup>.

11 JUDGE HENRY: Where was he from?

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He was from the ward  
13 right next to us.

14 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: You know ~~Marzullo's~~ <sup>MARZULLO'S</sup>  
15 ward.

16 JUDGE HENRY: Was he Vito ~~Marzullo~~ <sup>MARZULLO</sup>, the  
17 committee man at the time?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, very prominent  
19 at that time.

20 JUDGE MURRAY: He took over ~~Patty Bower~~ <sup>PADDY BAULER</sup>.

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, anyway, I never  
22 heard a man get so excited and use the language  
23 and call a person the names that I heard Sonny  
24 call the Clerk of the Probate court.





1 JUDGE HENRY: Do you know him, Judge  
2 O'Brien?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No.

4 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No, he never was!

5 JUDGE BARTH: Getting back, Judge,  
6 Sonnenschein called the clerk and ripped him for  
7 not giving you the job. But what happened?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: They said that they  
9 had an understanding, a deal made, and that he  
10 was double crossed. Oh, he called him a whole  
11 bunch of names.

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah, that was in the  
13 Probate court. Yeah, that was Frank <sup>LYMAN</sup>~~Linman~~ then?

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, no.

15 JUDGE BARTH: Well, what happened to  
16 you?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, what happened to  
18 me? I later was given the job that paid I think  
19 \$100 more a month.

20 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: In the corporation  
21 counsel's office?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: In the corporation  
23 counsel's office.

24 JUDGE HENRY: And what year would that

1 have been, 1940?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: It was about '42  
3 maybe.

4 JUDGE MURRAY: Who was the corporation  
5 counsel that appointed you?

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Hodes.

7 JUDGE MURRAY: 5th Ward.

8 JUDGE HENRY: 5th Ward?

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: So was he in private  
10 practice with Jacob Arvey while he was also the  
11 corporation counsel?

12 JUDGE MURRAY: No. No, that was later.  
13 The firm did later.

14 JUDGE HENRY: So in 1940 or '42, you  
15 went to work in the corporation counsel's office,  
16 and the corporation counsel was Arvey -- I am  
17 sorry -- Hodes.

18 JUDGE STANIEC: Barney Hodes.

19 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: The firm was formerly  
20 ~~McInerney~~ <sup>McINERNEY</sup>, Arvey and Epstein.

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: And then it became --

22 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: And then it became  
23 Arvey, Epstein, ~~Otis~~ <sup>HODES</sup> and ~~Mentinvane~~ <sup>MANTYNBAND</sup>.

24 JUDGE HENRY: And what did you do then

1 in the corporation counsel's office?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, then I was  
3 trying personal injury cases, defending the city  
4 where people filed suits for tripping on the  
5 sidewalk mostly or automobiles -- public  
6 automobile accidents.

7 JUDGE HENRY: Were there any problems  
8 that the city had with paying on judgments that  
9 were entered?

10 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes, they did. There  
11 was a long list of waiting two, sometimes three  
12 or four years before then. You had to get on a  
13 list.

14 And then there was some scandal  
15 there. And that's how I got assigned. I got to  
16 be the presiding judge of the -- oh, wait a  
17 minute. I got to be the chief of the Torts  
18 Division.

19 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Clean it up. Clean  
20 as a whistle Wachowski.

21 JUDGE MURRAY: You used to lay down a  
22 couple of bucks getting your name up on the list.

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: (Laughing.) Yeah, I  
24 was there from 1950 to '54 as the chief of the --

1 JUDGE MURRAY: You were chief of the  
2 Torts Section?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

4 JUDGE HENRY: So from 1942 to 1950 you  
5 were in the corporation counsel's office --

6 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That's how I met him,  
7 in the corporation counsel's office.

8 JUDGE HENRY: -- handling personal  
9 injury litigation?

10 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I was handling  
11 personal injury litigation.

12 And then after that, I was asked  
13 by, oh, the alderman from the 37th Ward,  
14 democratic --

15 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Tom <sup>KEANE</sup>~~Kean~~?

16 JUDGE BARTH: No.

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: You knew him well,  
18 because he was one of your group.

19 JUDGE MURRAY: Paul Corcoran?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Who?

21 JUDGE MURRAY: Paul Corcoran.

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Corcoran, no.

23 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: What ward, Gene?

24 JUDGE MURPHY: 37th he said.

1 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Oh, McGloon.

2 JUDGE MURRAY: No, not McGloon. He went  
3 to congress.

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He served in the city  
5 council. His son --

6 JUDGE MURRAY: Irish name?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: His son is a lawyer.

8 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Not George?

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, it will come  
10 tonight.

11 JUDGE HENRY: Well, it may come before  
12 that. We have got the repository of knowledge  
13 here. You will think of it.

14 So during those years from '42 to  
15 '50 you were in the corporation counsel's office  
16 doing personal injury litigation. And from '50  
17 to '54, you were the head of that department?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, I wasn't trying  
19 personal injury cases all the while. I forget  
20 what year it was, but I was called --

21 Lancaster, Bill Lancaster.

22 JUDGE MURRAY: Yeah, he was Tom ~~Kean's~~  
23 partner. *KEANE'S*

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. And he was in

1 charge of the subway damage case. So I was in  
2 that department.

3 JUDGE HENRY: I see. When you say  
4 subway damage, do you mean when the construction  
5 of the subway at Dearborn Street?

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Right, when it was  
7 supposed to have caved in.

8 So -- And then we were also  
9 acquiring some land for the airport. And we were  
10 condemning some cases of property for the -- what  
11 was called the expressway, now it is the  
12 Eisenhower. And it was in that department that I  
13 was when they asked me whether I would like to  
14 come over to the other department.

15 JUDGE MURPHY: Did you work with Judge  
16 Righeimer on that project by any chance?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. He was a great  
18 guy in condemnation.

19 JUDGE HENRY: So that was a pretty  
20 sophisticated practice within the corporation  
21 counsel's office?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

23 JUDGE HENRY: Did you try a lot of cases  
24 during those years?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, I tried a pretty  
2 good number of cases.

3 JUDGE HENRY: Condemnation cases?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, the subway damage.

5 JUDGE HENRY: The precursor to the flood  
6 cases?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: What?

8 JUDGE HENRY: The precursor to the flood  
9 cases where the city had been sued.

10 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I was down there  
11 looking in those years. That statement was made,  
12 "What would happen if one of these pipes broke  
13 and it fell off?"

14 JUDGE HENRY: The city would flood.

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: It was agreed that  
16 there would be a lot of damage.

17 JUDGE HENRY: And so you walked around  
18 in the tunnels that are underneath the Loop?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

20 JUDGE HENRY: And who did you go down  
21 there with?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I think -- I went  
23 down there, the other judge, with the other  
24 lawyer who also became a judge from South

1 Chicago. Three martinis at Henry C's.

2 JUDGE HENRY: Was it somebody that you  
3 worked with in the corporation counsel's office?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah...

5 JUDGE HENRY: And you were down there  
6 seeing if there was any damage to those tunnels?  
7 Or why were you down in those tunnels?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Just to see how, what  
9 they did. And we did watch them.

10 They had the big plates, and they  
11 would press it against the ground. And there is  
12 a little hole, two little holes in the shield.  
13 And the ground would come into the holes, and  
14 they would take it off and put it in a little  
15 train that they were building the railroad right  
16 behind the -- this plate.

17 JUDGE HENRY: I see.

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: And put the mud in  
19 there and wheel it away.

20 JUDGE HENRY: So then --

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: And then, of course,  
22 they couldn't avoid this, and so they would punch  
23 a lot of grout in along -- along this circle as  
24 they went along.



1                   Just as soon as they would get rid  
2 of that stuff, they would pump more, more stone  
3 mixture in there. But they --

4                   A lot of these people still said  
5 that they were hurt building the -- couldn't  
6 close the doors, or the windows wouldn't fit  
7 because -- you know, the whole town and everybody  
8 knows this, the deal on mud. And most of the  
9 buildings were built on a plate. So when the mud  
10 would move, the plates would cause the --

11                  JUDGE HENRY: Now, were you still living  
12 in the 22nd Ward during these years?

13                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: (No audible response.)

14                  JUDGE HENRY: This would have been  
15 during the early 1950s?

16                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I moved --

17                  No, no. I moved over to Carl  
18 ~~Sandberg~~<sup>SANDBURG</sup> in about 1960. Yeah.

19                  JUDGE HENRY: So but your kids were  
20 raised in the same neighborhood that you grew up  
21 in?

22                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. They were away  
23 at school so much you could hardly say they were  
24 raised in the neighborhood.

1 JUDGE HENRY: Where did they go to  
2 school? You said that your son had died who went  
3 to West Point. But where did your other two  
4 children go to school at?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Where did the hell did  
6 they go to school? Blank.

7 JUDGE HENRY: That's all right. It will  
8 come back to you.

9 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Did you say Lane  
10 Tech?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I said, "blank."

12 JUDGE HENRY: Did they go to public high  
13 school or a catholic high school?

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: My son, he went to  
15 Quigley.

16 JUDGE HENRY: Quigley at the time?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Down on -- down on --

18 JUDGE HENRY: From down on Rush Street?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: And then he went to  
20 St. Louis University afterwards. And it looked  
21 like we were -- He was working in the hospital  
22 and out there to make a little extra money. And  
23 I kind of figured that we were going to have a  
24 doctor in the family, but it didn't turn out.

1                   He met this young lady that he is  
2                   now married to.

3                   JUDGE HENRY: Now, you had a daughter  
4                   too, right?

5                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

6                   JUDGE HENRY: Where did she go to high  
7                   school, out in the neighborhood there?

8                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Doris. Oh, Marquette  
9                   University.

10                  JUDGE HENRY: She went to Marquette?

11                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

12                  JUDGE HENRY: And what did she get her  
13                  degree in, if you remember?

14                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh, some general.

15                  JUDGE HENRY: General?

16                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Nothing.

17                  JUDGE HENRY: Okay. So your children  
18                  are --

19                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Her daughter is now  
20                  graduating from school in Pennsylvania. In fact,  
21                  this coming weekend.

22                  JUDGE MURPHY: You going over by any  
23                  chance?

24                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, no, no. My wife

1 is walking around with a crutch.

2 JUDGE HENRY: So your children are now  
3 raised.

4 Were you working politically --

5 During the years whether you were  
6 in the corporation counsel's office, were you  
7 still active politically in the 22nd Ward?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: A little bit. Not too  
9 much.

10 JUDGE HENRY: Did you ever run for any  
11 public office? We will get to the judgeship  
12 later. But --

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No.

14 JUDGE HENRY: But at one time you were  
15 offered the opportunity to return as alderman,  
16 but you declined?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

18 JUDGE HENRY: And so your activities  
19 could be described as a worker within the  
20 democratic organization in the '30s, '40s and  
21 into the '50s?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes, I think so.

23 JUDGE HENRY: How did it come about that  
24 you became a judge? How did that happen, and

1 when did it happen, and how did it come about?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, it came about  
3 because, as every lawyer, I guess, you aspire to  
4 go higher in the practice. And, of course, I  
5 will say this at this time, some of the lawyers  
6 that were in before me was at \$500 deps, \$1,000  
7 cases. They are now wealthy enough to contribute  
8 a half million to the school or to other  
9 organizations.

10 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Art <sup>KANE</sup> ~~HARRIS~~ gave 3  
11 million.

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: The University of  
13 Chicago.

14 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: And I remember he was  
15 hustling subrogation cases for \$25.

16 JUDGE HENRY: And so you were in the  
17 corporation counsel's office and you decided  
18 that --.

19 Well, did somebody come to you and  
20 say, "Gene, we would like to put you up and have  
21 you run for judge"?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I aspired to  
23 that position for a long time, from 1948 -- no,  
24 from 1938.

1 JUDGE HENRY: When you went to work for  
2 the state's attorney's office, it was always your  
3 goal to hopefully some day become a judge? Did  
4 you always have that in the back of your head?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

6 JUDGE HENRY: And what year did you  
7 become a judge?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: 1954.

9 JUDGE HENRY: 1954.

10 Now just for historical purposes,  
11 were you elected to that position or appointed?

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Elected.

13 JUDGE HENRY: And what position did you  
14 run for? Was it one of the divisions of the  
15 court or --

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Municipal Court.

17 JUDGE MURRAY: Municipal Court.

18 JUDGE HENRY: And so you ran for the  
19 Municipal Court. And that would have been  
20 hearing many of the types of cases that you might  
21 have tried as a corporation counsel?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, no. I -- In  
23 fact, my first assignments were right in the  
24 police courts.

1                   And the arrangement they had, they  
2                   had five different clerks that appeared in one  
3                   day. We started up on the north side and then  
4                   came down and -- I remember those days --  
5                   DesPlaines Street. And then the last one was on  
6                   Crawford Avenue.

7                   JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Philmore.

8                   JUDGE MURRAY: There is one out south,  
9                   out on Racine?

10                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

11                  JUDGE HENRY: 61st and Racine.

12                  JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: 61st, yeah. Town  
13                  hall.

14                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Town hall, yeah, that  
15                  was another one.

16                  JUDGE HENRY: Now, that is at Addison  
17                  and Halsted?

18                  JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah.

19                  JUDGE BARTH: Did you ride a circuit?

20                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Monroe Street. Monroe  
21                  and --

22                  JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: And Racine.

23                  JUDGE BARTH: Did you ride a circuit,  
24                  Judge?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

2 You started out in the morning and  
3 then when we get down to the place on Flournoy or  
4 the --

5 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Harrison and  
6 Flournoy.

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: All of the cases were  
8 settled by the clerks.

9 JUDGE BARTH: You would do several  
10 courts in one day, is that how it was done?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, that's right.

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: He used to cover  
13 circuits, he said.

14 JUDGE MURRAY: Have gun, will travel.

15 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: East Chicago, Monroe  
16 Street.

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: All of those. Yeah,  
18 they were all covered in one day.

19 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: And then there was  
20 11th and State too. You had 11th and State.

21 JUDGE HENRY: So what was your route and  
22 how did you get around to do all that in one day?  
23 Did you drive?

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh, yeah, I drove.



1 JUDGE HENRY: And at this time you were  
2 still living on the west side because you didn't  
3 move to Sandberg Village until the early '60s.

4 And so you would drive in the  
5 morning. And what time would your first court  
6 call be?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: It was 9:00 o'clock.

8 For years and years, they used to  
9 summon all the people in at 9:00 o'clock. It was  
10 much later when I was the presiding judge of the  
11 First District. I changed that to have the  
12 police book the cases in different sections; like  
13 9:30, 11:00 o'clock, 1:00 o'clock, 2:30.

14 I earned the bitter feelings of  
15 many of the judges, the clerks and the policemen.  
16 In fact, we tried it several times. It all broke  
17 up because the police would not book their  
18 clients for the right time. They were booking  
19 them now for 9:00 o'clock.

20 So we had a meeting in my chambers  
21 with a fellow who later attained -- later became  
22 the chief of police.

23 JUDGE HENRY: DeLeonardi?

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Who?

1 JUDGE HENRY: DeLeonardi.

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, that's him.

3 He came in, and we had all of the  
4 courts' policemen in my chambers. And I told  
5 them what our policy was and how we were having  
6 trouble.

7 And he said, "Listen, you guys.  
8 You are going to follow the rules that we tell  
9 you about today. And if you don't, you are going  
10 out to South Chicago on the beat." So --

11 JUDGE HENRY: So many years later when  
12 the presiding judge corrected the problem --

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, we finally got  
14 that straightened out.

15 Of course, the clerks were mad  
16 because they had to stay there until 2:30 until  
17 that call was heard then.

18 Then, wouldn't you know it,  
19 ordinarily, they would, no matter how busy a day  
20 it was, I sat there myself at 9:00 o'clock in the  
21 morning, from 9:30 when we started to right  
22 through the noon hour, having something, a bite  
23 to eat on the bench. That's how -- And at 5:00  
24 o'clock, we are still there and these people that

1 were brought in, you know.

2 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: 9:00 o'clock in the  
3 morning?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: 9:00 in the morning.  
5 They were there, still there waiting to have  
6 their cases called.

7 JUDGE MURRAY: Were you still active in  
8 the organization when you were judge?

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, very vaguely.  
10 For a very short time. Then, of course, you  
11 know, law was passed preventing judges from  
12 having any political --

13 JUDGE MURRAY: And who was mayor when  
14 you were made judge?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Who was the mayor?

16 JUDGE MURRAY: Yeah.

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, Daley was  
18 elected the next year, in '55.

19 ~~Canelli~~ <sup>KENNELLY</sup> was the mayor.

20 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: ~~Canelli?~~ <sup>KENNELLY</sup>

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: ~~Canelli~~ <sup>KENNELLY</sup> was Mayor, '47  
22 to '55. Canelli was there.

23 JUDGE MURRAY: Mortimer was corporation  
24 counsel, right?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Huh?

2 JUDGE MURRAY: Mortimer was corporation  
3 counsel, wasn't he, when you were elected judge?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, yeah, for --  
5 No, not when I was elected. Later on he became  
6 the corporation counsel.

7 JUDGE HENRY: So you ran for judge as a  
8 democrat?

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

10 JUDGE HENRY: You ran for judge in the  
11 Municipal Court of the Circuit Court of Cook  
12 County?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

14 JUDGE HENRY: Did you have any  
15 opposition in the democratic primary when you  
16 ran?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh, yes.

18 JUDGE HENRY: Was that in a municipal  
19 election, or was it in a general election in  
20 November?

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I think it was in a  
22 municipal election.

23 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. Would it have been  
24 a -- was a partisan election then, democrats and

1 republicans? Was there a primary opponent that  
2 you had in 1954, do you remember?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I don't think there  
4 were any candidates for -- on the republican  
5 ticket.

6 JUDGE HENRY: Did you have an opponent  
7 in the democratic primary?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

9 JUDGE HENRY: And the voting was  
10 city-wide?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Right.

12 JUDGE HENRY: Did you have the support  
13 of the regular democratic organization when you  
14 ran?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

16 JUDGE HENRY: So -- And was that --

17 Usually, then you would have been  
18 elected with that support?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, I was elected.

20 JUDGE HENRY: So then how many years did  
21 you travel the circuit in the First Municipal  
22 District?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, let's see. Let  
24 me think. (Brief pause.) Even he can't help me

1 on this one.

2 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: I wasn't there,  
3 Charlie.

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Let's see. How many  
5 years, you say? The question is how many years  
6 was I traveling the circuit?

7 JUDGE HENRY: Yeah. That's okay, Judge.  
8 Tell me, when you finished with  
9 that assignment, where did you move to next in  
10 the court system?

11 You were still a Municipal Court  
12 judge, and so you were elected to the Municipal  
13 Court. What was your next assignment after the  
14 outlying police court?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I ran for  
16 Municipal Court judge in '60. And I was --

17 JUDGE HENRY: Did you have to run again  
18 in 1960?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. Six-year terms.

20 JUDGE HENRY: Okay.

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: And I was elected. In  
22 fact, I think I had the highest recommendation  
23 from the Chicago Bar. And I think in between  
24 Feldman and me, we were running 1, 2 in the vote.

1                   And then in 1962, I ran for Circuit  
2                   Court judge. I was elected Circuit Court judge.

3                   JUDGE HENRY: Was that considered a  
4                   higher level court at the time?

5                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh, yes. Yeah. The  
6                   salary was more.

7                   JUDGE HENRY: Was it county-wide?

8                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI: We were getting about  
9                   12,500. I think they were getting 18,000 around  
10                  that time.

11                  JUDGE HENRY: And the Circuit Court  
12                  would have been a county-wide court?

13                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: The circuit -- Yeah.

14                  JUDGE HENRY: What type of cases were  
15                  heard in -- you call it -- it was the Circuit  
16                  Court?

17                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: In the Circuit Court.

18                  JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Were you circuit or  
19                  superior?

20                  JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Circuit Court.

21                  JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: You ran for the  
22                  circuit, yeah.

23                  JUDGE HENRY: What type of cases were  
24                  heard in the Circuit Court?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, all the criminal  
2 cases, I sat in the criminal courts.

3 JUDGE HENRY: At 26th and California?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

5 JUDGE MURRAY: That was the court of  
6 general jurisdiction?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. And, of course,  
8 the personal injury cases in of the Civil  
9 Division, yeah.

10 JUDGE HENRY: And you heard both.  
11 How long were you at 26th and  
12 California hearing criminal matters?

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I don't recall.

14 JUDGE HENRY: Do you have any --

15 Were there any significant cases  
16 that come to mind that you presided over during  
17 those years?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I guess there are, but  
19 I can't recall any.

20 JUDGE HENRY: Well, that's okay.

21 Was the death penalty an issue when  
22 you were a judge out at 26th and California  
23 during those years?

24 The death penalty, I believe, was



1 in effect in the State of Illinois at that time.  
2 Were there many controversies surrounding the  
3 enactment of the death penalty among the judges  
4 at 26th and California?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I prosecuted a  
6 case with a fellow who was found guilty and  
7 sentenced to death.

8 I was asked to attend the  
9 execution. And I did go to the County Building.  
10 And there were a lot of reporters. I don't think  
11 there were any T.V. guys around yet at that time,  
12 but reporters and the people who were the family  
13 of the guy who was killed.

14 And I am wondering "What the hell  
15 am I doing here? What do I want to see this  
16 for?" And so going there, I figured I would stay  
17 in there 15 minutes and go back home.

18 JUDGE HENRY: That execution would have  
19 occurred at the county jail?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: It did, yeah.

21 JUDGE BARTH: Was that the electric  
22 chair that was used?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

24 JUDGE BARTH: How long after the

1 sentence was imposed was the execution carried  
2 out in those days, Judge?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I don't think it was  
4 over, what, six months, seven months maybe.

5 JUDGE BARTH: It is quite a bit  
6 different from today.

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

8 JUDGE BARTH: Was there an automatic  
9 appeal to the Supreme Court?

10 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I guess having  
11 the public defender, and nobody looked at them.

12 JUDGE MURRAY: It was no appeal to the  
13 Federal Court of Opinion?

14 JUDGE BARTH: There was no federal court  
15 process in those days.

16 JUDGE MURRAY: There was no  
17 post-conviction, yeah.

18 JUDGE BARTH: There would have been an  
19 appeal to the Supreme Court of Illinois after the  
20 state --

21 JUDGE MURRAY: You are correct. There  
22 was a direct appeal on criminal cases in the  
23 Supreme Court of Illinois.

24 JUDGE HENRY: Was that a bench trial or

1 a jury trial, Judge?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: A jury trial.

3 JUDGE HENRY: And then once the jury  
4 found the person guilty of murder, was it the  
5 jury's determination that the person should be  
6 executed, or was that your decision alone?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, this thing that I  
8 am talking about, I prosecuted.

9 JUDGE HENRY: Oh, you prosecuted?

10 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

11 JUDGE HENRY: Just as an aside, you just  
12 mentioned that you didn't know if the television  
13 cameras were around during these particular  
14 years.

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

16 JUDGE HENRY: I don't want to belabor  
17 this point, because we have run out of time. And  
18 I just want to finish the whole picture today and  
19 get it all down.

20 But what is your view briefly on  
21 the issue of whether television cameras should be  
22 allowed in the courtroom?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: My opinion is that  
24 they should not be.

1 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. We won't belabor  
2 that point then.

3 Bill ~~heard~~<sup>HARTE</sup> just wrote a long  
4 article supporting that. And as we sit here  
5 today, we are within six or eight months after  
6 the O.J. Simpson case, many feelings now right  
7 are that if anybody was leaning towards having  
8 televisions in the courtroom, the O.J. Simpson  
9 case establishes that it probably is a better  
10 idea that they not be.

11 But you go along, and I just wanted  
12 to establish that.

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: It always has been.

14 JUDGE HENRY: So you said that you were  
15 elected to the Circuit Court in 1962?

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes. And then, of  
17 course, in 1964, when the new -- that was the  
18 "blue ballot" -- no, this is the constitution.

19 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah, the  
20 constitution. The judicial article.

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Everybody who was a  
22 Municipal Court judge or Circuit Court judge, so  
23 I blasted away 10 to 15 grand for nothing.

24 JUDGE HENRY: In your election?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

2 JUDGE HENRY: If you had waited, you  
3 would have been elevated to the same position.

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

5 JUDGE HENRY: And so that was in 1964?

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Because my term was  
7 not up until 1966.

8 JUDGE HENRY: I see.

9 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I was re-elected  
10 Municipal Court judge for six years in '60.

11 JUDGE HENRY: I see. So, I got you.

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

13 JUDGE HENRY: And then you became --  
14 Well, you were Circuit Court judge in 1964 then.

15 Rather than having to stand for  
16 election again, you would just be subject to  
17 retention in 1970 and every six years thereafter,  
18 is that correct?

19 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

20 JUDGE HENRY: And in 1964, the court  
21 system becomes unified, and there is no longer  
22 these separate elected judges?

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: That's right.

24 JUDGE HENRY: What was your assignment

1 then in 1964? Where were you sitting, and what  
2 types of cases were you hearing? Were you still  
3 at 26th and California, or had you moved from  
4 there?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: In 1964.

6 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: You became head of  
7 the First Municipal District.

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I became head of  
9 the First Municipal District in 1900 and --

10 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Wasn't it '64?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: '64.

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah.

13 JUDGE HENRY: So the Municipal Court --

14 JUDGE MURRAY: Well --

15 JUDGE HENRY: I am sorry, Judge.

16 In 1964, this building that we are  
17 sitting in today, the Daley Center, had not  
18 opened yet.

19 So the Municipal Court, were they  
20 still located over in City Hall?

21 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, that's where the  
22 Municipal Courts the were located.

23 And, believe me, I remember some  
24 blistering summer heat, that and dust and noise

1 from the railroad.

2 JUDGE MURRAY: Yeah, but they closed all  
3 summer then, didn't they?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: What?

5 JUDGE MURRAY: Courts closed all summer.

6 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Well, jury trials.

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, when we  
8 backlogged, we stayed open.

9 That's the time when Judge Sullivan  
10 ran down to the train and told them -- the guys  
11 to pull the guy over, stop the noise.

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Over at 26th and Cal.

13 JUDGE HENRY: Well, what's that story,  
14 Judge?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Why don't you tell it?

16 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No, I don't know it.  
17 You tell it.

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He sent his bailiffs  
19 over there to tell them to stop operating the  
20 train there because it was interfering, with the  
21 noises.

22 And so they did go down there.  
23 They told the guy. They came back, and the noise  
24 has continued on. So he ran down there and said,

1 "Come on. We are going to place this man under  
2 arrest." Pulled the guy off of the train.

3 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Who was that,  
4 Sullivan?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

6 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Which Sullivan?

7 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, the tough  
8 Sullivan. What the hell, I forget his first  
9 name.

10 JUDGE HENRY: And that was at 26th and  
11 California?

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

13 JUDGE HENRY: And so you were the  
14 presiding judge of the First Municipal District.  
15 Was your courtroom located in the City Hall at  
16 that time?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No. No, this was  
18 already here. This building was in existence.

19 JUDGE HENRY: When you became head of  
20 the First Municipal District, this building was  
21 already open?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

23 JUDGE HENRY: I see. So you were the  
24 first presiding judge of the First Municipal



1 District to occupy the office that is in this  
2 building today on the thirteenth floor?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No. There was a judge  
4 by the name of --

5 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: ~~Tomalski?~~ <sup>DRAYMALSKI</sup>

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: ~~Prasalski.~~ <sup>DRAYMALSKI</sup>

7 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No, ~~Gramalski.~~ <sup>DRAYMALSKI</sup>

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: ~~Gramalski~~ <sup>DRAYMALSKI</sup> was the head

9 of the First Municipal Court, but I don't think  
10 that he was in the -- the fellow that was --

11 JUDGE MURPHY: Augustine Bowe.

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Oh, I see.

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Augustine Bowe was the  
14 judge. He died walking down Lake Shore Drive.  
15 They almost sent him to the morgue.

16 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: You had your  
17 courtroom up on the eleventh floor?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, that's when I  
19 used to hear cases in the City Hall.

20 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Yeah.

21 JUDGE HENRY: And what did that  
22 courtroom look like? I mean, was it a fancy  
23 courtroom?

24 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well --

1 JUDGE HENRY: In City Hall?

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: A little junky room,  
3 that's all it was.

4 JUDGE HENRY: I see.

5 Now, the courtrooms that were in  
6 the County Building were somewhat ornate and a  
7 little more regal, as I recall.

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, not much  
9 different, not much different. They have been  
10 kept up a little better.

11 JUDGE HENRY: Well, the County Court had  
12 a little bit more stature. I am talking about  
13 before the 1964 judicial article. The  
14 county-wide judge was more prestigious and had a  
15 larger courtroom and more money. But you had a  
16 courtroom in City Hall --

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

18 JUDGE HENRY: -- to hear municipal  
19 cases?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

21 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. What was the first  
22 assignment that you had when the Daley Center  
23 opened? What was it that you were doing in this  
24 building when you first moved into this building?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I think I was still  
2 hearing personal injury cases.

3 JUDGE HENRY: Personal injury cases?

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

5 JUDGE HENRY: So then what year --

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: When this was opened?

7 JUDGE HENRY: Yes.

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, I was hearing  
9 cases.

10 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. Now, when you took  
11 over --

12 Well, you said it was '64. Let's  
13 say '64, '65, whatever it was, you became  
14 presiding judge of the Municipal Division of then  
15 the Circuit Court -- of what then had become the  
16 Circuit Court of Cook County?

17 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yes.

18 JUDGE HENRY: Okay. Well, here you are  
19 sitting in charge of the whole show. You had  
20 started out as an assistant state's attorney  
21 prosecuting case. You had been a judge running  
22 around all the various branch courts.

23 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

24 JUDGE HENRY: You had heard the various

1           municipal cases involving torts and personal  
2           injury.

3                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI:   Yes.

4                   JUDGE HENRY:   You were now the presiding  
5           judge.   What was the first thing that you wanted  
6           to do since it was your decision now to decide  
7           how the First Municipal District should operate,  
8           or how did you feel about that?

9                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI:   Well, I felt that  
10          there was some improvements needed.   And I think  
11          one of the -- I think one of my greatest  
12          accomplishments was the establishment of the Pro  
13          Se Court with just the fellow sitting there,  
14          Judge Jives.

15                   JUDGE MURRAY:   Judge Teton.

16                   JUDGE MCELLIGOTT:   We were at his  
17          funeral.

18                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI:   That was just  
19          yesterday, right?

20                   JUDGE MCELLIGOTT:   Yes.

21                   JUDGE HENRY:   Did you appoint Judge  
22          Teton as the head of the Pro Se Court?

23                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI:   No, no, no.

24                   JUDGE HENRY:   He came years later?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: He came much later.

2 We had several pretty good guys in  
3 there.

4 JUDGE HENRY: Do you remember who you  
5 designated to start up that Pro Se Court?

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I designated my  
7 administrative assistant.

8 I sat there for a couple of days  
9 myself. But that was not possible, to operate  
10 the court and spend so much time on the bench.  
11 Being called off all the time with this problem  
12 or that problem, that is not the proper thing.

13 So I had my administrative  
14 assistant, Francis Pointon, he was sitting out  
15 there originally.

16 And something you said here that  
17 brings me back to Dr. Perch. I told you all  
18 about Dr. Perch and how -- what a wonderful guy  
19 he was and they let him out after 8 years.

20 It must have been four or five  
21 years after that. I picked up the Tribune one  
22 day and there is headline there, "Chicago doctor  
23 kills wife and kills self." So I looked down at  
24 the headline. It is Los Angeles. So quickly I

1 am looking down. There it is, "Dr. Perch,"

2 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: He liked to kill  
3 wives, huh?

4 JUDGE MURPHY: Same guy?

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Same guy. Went to  
6 California, married apparently, killed his wife  
7 and killed himself.

8 Now, the psychiatrists, who was  
9 right? They were both wrong. Because I think  
10 that he was nuts when he did it. He was nuts  
11 when he was on trial.

12 JUDGE HENRY: And he was nuts years  
13 later when he did it again.

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

15 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Incidentally, it was  
16 Gene ~~Wilder~~<sup>WARD</sup> who was sitting in the ~~music~~<sup>MUSIC</sup>. MUCILACE  
17 Court -- we used to call it -- there were 36  
18 justices. And he was one of three who would when  
19 you would say "a jury trial" -- you would mention  
20 jury trial, and the judge would get a look of  
21 fear in his eyes. "No, no, I don't hear jury  
22 trials."

23 You and Wendell Green and Sam  
24 ~~Heller~~<sup>HELLER</sup> are the only three to take on a jury

1 trial.

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, I think Jimmy  
3 Geruse.

4 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No, he was still  
5 assistant corporation counsel.

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: This was 50 years ago.

7 JUDGE BARTH: Judge, along that line,  
8 going back to your trying jury cases, just to  
9 give an idea of how long your career is, when you  
10 first started trying jury cases, is it true that  
11 women weren't permitted on juries?

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: That's right.

13 JUDGE BARTH: Would you tell us about  
14 that?

15 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: '39.

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah, that was in '39.  
17 That was when I left the state's  
18 attorney's office. That was just about the time  
19 that the women were permitted to sit on the  
20 juries.

21 JUDGE BARTH: Was that by state law?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah.

23 And I just left at that time, so I  
24 didn't have any experience with them at that

1 time. But a fellow that was my partner, he  
2 stayed on in the state's attorney's office.

3 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: That was <sup>SHERWIN</sup> Sherman.  
4 <sup>SHERWIN?</sup>  
~~Sherman~~

5 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No. No. It was a  
6 fellow who later on was, I think, in the public  
7 defender's office or someplace. And they used to  
8 sit in the traffic court dozing off all the time.  
9 It was one of the finest lawyers I ever knew.

10 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Buckley?

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: What?

12 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Buckley.

13 JUDGE MURRAY: Getty?

14 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Who?

15 JUDGE MURRAY: Getty.

16 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, no. Gee, what is  
17 this guy's name?

18 JUDGE MURRAY: <sup>GETTY</sup> ~~Garretti~~. Judge  
19 <sup>GETTY?</sup>  
~~Garretti~~

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No. But he got  
21 involved with some lady juror. They began to  
22 wink at each other. I think he dated her. And  
23 when his wife found out about it, she sued for  
24 divorce and all this. And this killed the guy



1 because this here was one of the finest lawyers  
2 that I ever knew.

3 And here he wound up -- I couldn't  
4 believe when I was sitting in the traffic court.  
5 And I spent some time there, by the way. I  
6 remember having a jury trial there until 4:00 in  
7 the morning. 4:00 in the morning.

8 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Remember what Skinny  
9 McDonald said? He said, "The <sup>PRACTICE</sup> ~~price~~ of criminal  
10 law is never the same since they put women on the  
11 jury."

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. Well, I told  
13 you about -- that was another --

14 You talked about another case,  
15 another case I prosecuted. I had two of the  
16 Cranes and one --

17 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: George Crane?

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yeah. And another  
19 guy.

20 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Went down in the  
21 plane crash?

22 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: No, he wasn't on the  
23 plane crash.

24 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: No, George Crane went

1 down in that plane crash, criminal lawyer, went  
2 down in that plane crash in Cincinnati?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: I didn't think that  
4 that was Crane. I thought it was somebody else  
5 went down in that plane crash. This fellow was a  
6 prosecutor.

7 Well, tough thing when the computer  
8 goes bad.

9 JUDGE HENRY: Your computer is doing  
10 fine. Mine is not so sharp.

11 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: But this case, the two  
12 doctors were -- I was the prosecutor. And I  
13 never take credit for this guilty.

14 The doctor who testified for the  
15 state murdered these two lawyers in the cross  
16 examination.

17 Crane and the guy that went down on  
18 the plane, he was the other guy.

19 Well, anyway, they --

20 And this was one of the -- All the  
21 abortion cases that I think are on the record,  
22 they were not guilty of murder by abortion. But  
23 they were guilty of abortion, permitting the act  
24 of abortion.

1                   And apparently what they did was  
2 wrong. And this girl went to this doctor. And  
3 when she described how badly they had treated  
4 her, the jury didn't need anymore.

5                   Well, anyway, they said -- one of  
6 these doctors said, "If we are convicted and if I  
7 have to go to jail, I will commit suicide." So  
8 they were convicted.

9                   They took an appeal. The Appellate  
10 Court sustained the conviction. The guy  
11 committed suicide.

12                   The other guy, the other doctor, it  
13 was a year later, they gave him his license back  
14 to practice. Can you imagine that?

15                   And here is a guy --

16                   JUDGE HENRY: That's an amazing story.

17                   Now, we are just getting down  
18 towards the end. I told you that we would stop  
19 at 5:30, and I have got about 25 after.

20                   I am just going to ask you one  
21 other question. We have basically gone -- We  
22 have covered a lot of ground, and most of it has  
23 been very general. But I think that that's what  
24 I thought it would be best to do.

1                   When you left as the presiding  
2 judge of the First Municipal District, you  
3 then -- we won't get into the details of being  
4 recalled and being here or whatever -- but you  
5 then served in the County Division for a number  
6 of years. And I will tell you, people always  
7 tell me that they miss you here.

8                   JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Oh.

9                   JUDGE HENRY: And I just want you to  
10 know, if there is anything in those years, just  
11 as we are winding down, and if anybody else  
12 sitting here has a question that they want to put  
13 to the judge that we can get on the record,  
14 please feel free.

15                   But in your years in the County  
16 Division, which is kind of a unique place because  
17 of all the various and sundry types of cases that  
18 are heard here, is there anything that during  
19 those years that you think would be noteworthy  
20 for you to reflect on or to comment on, you know,  
21 just in general? And that's up to you.

22                   I don't have a specific question  
23 about those years because we are running out of  
24 the time right now. But is there anything that

1 you would like to make a comment on during that  
2 period of your judicial career?

3 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: They were all  
4 interesting cases, including the adoption and  
5 which is proven by the Baby Richard case.

6 JUDGE MURRAY: Now, you handled the Baby  
7 Richard case, didn't you?

8 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Yep. And I still say  
9 the guy is not a fit father.

10 JUDGE MURRAY: Don't say that. He is  
11 still one of the guys from the Tribune.

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, if it wasn't for  
13 Brown -- That's the guy's name, I think, isn't  
14 it? If it wasn't for him, the thing would be  
15 dead.

16 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: You mean Greene, Bob  
17 ~~Greene~~ <sup>GREENE</sup> Green and Brown.

18 JUDGE MURRAY: He just got sued by the  
19 father?

20 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: The election cases,  
21 they were all interesting. But I did the best I  
22 could with them.

23 JUDGE HENRY: This question was --

24 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Gene was the first

1 judge retired, recalled in 1979.

2 JUDGE HENRY: Judge, there was a  
3 question that was put to a number of practicing  
4 lawyers a number of years ago. And it was a  
5 survey done by the Illinois State Bar  
6 Association. And the question was "If you had it  
7 to do over again, would you go to law school?"

8 And the percentage of people that  
9 were happy practicing law went up the further you  
10 were into your career and the larger the law firm  
11 you were with and the fact of whether or not you  
12 were a partner in that firm?

13 But even most lawyers under that  
14 scenario, only about half of those people said  
15 that they would go to law school again. The  
16 percentage among judges was extraordinarily high.

17 The question asked of judges,  
18 "Would you go to law school again?" "Yes." A  
19 job satisfaction rating of close to 75 percent,  
20 which is extraordinary, I think.

21 If you had it to do over again, are  
22 you happy that you went into the practice of law,  
23 number one? And two, are you happy with your  
24 career in public service as a judge?

1 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Definitely happy.  
2 Definitely happy.

3 You know, I always think that I  
4 don't know what motivated me to -- You know, I  
5 was bumping around every place. And all of a  
6 sudden here, they tell me that I have got go to  
7 night school for seven years.

8 I think this persistence of mine in  
9 going and going and going, having the lunch down  
10 at ~~Tough and Eddie's~~ <sup>PIXLEY EHLERS</sup> on the first floor. You had  
11 a quick lunch before you run up there. Sit  
12 around.

13 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: Was that ~~Tough and~~  
14 ~~Eddie's~~ or Pixley and ~~Elliot's~~ <sup>EHLERS?</sup>

15 JUDGE HENRY: Well, he is checking every  
16 cite here. He is not letting you get away with  
17 anything.

18 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: There are places.

19 JUDGE HENRY: Does anybody else have any  
20 other questions? It is 5:29.

21 JUDGE BARTH: I have one comment to  
22 make. I know that this was not scheduled to be a  
23 tribute to Judge Wachowski, but you did remind  
24 me, Judge, when you were talking about the

1 adoption cases you handled in this division and  
2 the election matters as well, I think that it is  
3 truly significant that Judge Wachowski --

4 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Election cases too.

5 JUDGE BARTH: Well, that's just what I  
6 was going to say too.

7 Judge Wachowski at the end of a  
8 long career as a lawyer, as a judge, then as an  
9 administrator in the court system, after  
10 retirement came to a division that he had never  
11 served in before and distinguished himself in  
12 areas of law that he had not practiced.

13 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: They chased me to the  
14 law books.

15 JUDGE BARTH: The area of adoption,  
16 election, taxation, real estate taxation, a very  
17 complex area of law, both in the collection side  
18 and the assessment side, and I know from the  
19 practitioners here and his colleagues on the  
20 bench, he was extremely highly regarded, and any  
21 any type of case could be transferred to him.

22 So I think that we are truly  
23 honored to have had the tutelage and the exposure  
24 to a great legal mind and a very kind and



1 knowledgeable and compassionate jurist who is  
2 able to impart the knowledge that he would then  
3 inquire to the rest of us who had the privilege  
4 of serving with him.

5 So I just wanted to say that it has  
6 been a source of great admiration for me to  
7 realize. And the older I get, the more I come to  
8 respect your ability at that stage in your life,  
9 Judge, to assimilate these new areas of law.

10 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Thank you.

11 JUDGE BARTH: You are welcome.

12 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: The only thing that I  
13 say the difference between being in public office  
14 all the years that I was in, I had a brother that  
15 was in the law business, two brothers in the law  
16 business. And as I say, when I -- when we  
17 decided that I should try to go for public office  
18 it would be much better because the banks having  
19 closed and doing business from the same  
20 neighborhood would be -- it would help them as  
21 well as me too.

22 But I think I would have advised  
23 anybody who wants to establish some financial  
24 security, that it would be better for them to go

1 out and practice slow and catch one of those  
2 million-dollar cases and get one-third as a fee,  
3 you know.

4 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: You know, when we  
5 started out, there weren't those cases, Gene.

6 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, it was  
7 suggested, maybe twice a little more back. But I  
8 like the security of getting that check every  
9 month without -- you never knew when that  
10 million-dollar case was coming in. But that's  
11 what -- I don't know whether this will change my  
12 mind any, I think not.

13 JUDGE HENRY: You can still get that  
14 million-dollar case?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, they are there,  
16 and even more now.

17 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: We had the first big  
18 airplane case in '48. You know what it settled  
19 for? \$148,000.

20 JUDGE BARTH: Big money.

21 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: <sup>TRIPOLINA MEO</sup>  
~~Triple E. O'Neal~~.  
22 She went down in that plane crash. We settled  
23 the case when we found out that she was pregnant  
24 by her ex-husband who snuck back one night and

1 planted his seed.

2 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Let me say that as  
3 judge and a public servant was justice well  
4 performed by the people we have here. Here is  
5 one of them, Murray, McElligott.

6 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: I will give you a  
7 quick one on Gene. In 1946, I came back from the  
8 army. It was the first personal injury that I  
9 had, a slip and fall. I didn't know anything  
10 about it.

11 I got an order to appear before the  
12 committee. The committee was Gene and Carly Horn  
13 who became the successor and Lisle Berch. And I  
14 went over there in the room, and I sat back in  
15 the corner, and I watched all these cases going.

16 I didn't give the clerk a few  
17 dollars or anything. I just sat back and found  
18 out what was going on. And so finally I am down  
19 to the last one. And I suggested or somebody  
20 suggested \$1,000. I remember Gene said, "\$1,000?  
21 What are you doing, trying break the city?" Gene  
22 said, "Well, let's give Mack 1250, we kept him  
23 waiting here all afternoon." I said, "That's all  
24 right. I made ~~\$33.50~~ for sitting there for an

83.33

1 hour, hour-and-a-half."

2 JUDGE STANIEC: Something else that I  
3 have to add to it, it absolutely has to be on the  
4 record. He is the greatest storyteller. And  
5 when we had Horny Collins for a time -- he was a  
6 judge here too -- when you get them together, it  
7 would be hours upon hours upon hours of jokes and  
8 exchange between the two of them. It was just a  
9 hilarious evening whenever you had the two of  
10 them together. Even if he was alone there. He  
11 would have an endless routine of joke telling.  
12 One led to something else. And they are all  
13 wholesome jokes.

14 JUDGE MCELLIGOTT: He made football?

15 JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, thank you. I am  
16 picking them up off of the -- like the Legion Mag  
17 and the Readers' Digest now. And the last one I  
18 got from the Legion's Magazine is the lawyer  
19 examining the client who was a witness to a  
20 shooting. "You say you saw her shoot him?" And  
21 he said, "Yep." "Was the gun close?" "Yep."  
22 "How -- "Was there any powder on them?" "Yep."  
23 "Why do you think she shot him?"

24 JUDGE BARTH: On that note --

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JUDGE HENRY: On that high note?

JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Off the record.

(Whereupon, a discussion was had off the record at this time.)

JUDGE HENRY: Just that completes the interview with Judge Wachowski, the first interview with the Supreme Court system as it applies to Cook County. And everybody that is here I think benefited a great deal just to hear you talk about the life that you have had in the City of Chicago, your personal life, and also the court system. And I just think that it is fascinating, and I appreciate it very much.

Anything else fellows?

JUDGE BARTH: That will be all.

JUDGE HENRY: Can I get a picture of you?

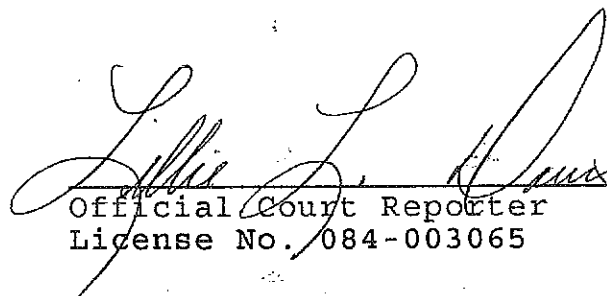
JUDGE WACHOWSKI: Well, I suppose. Why not?

(No further record was taken at this time.)

\* \* \* \*

1                   IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
2                   COUNTY DEPARTMENT - COUNTY DIVISION

3                   I, Lillie L. Davis, an Official Court  
4 Reporter for the Circuit Court of Cook County,  
5 County Department/County Division, do hereby  
6 certify that I reported in shorthand the  
7 proceedings had at the hearing in the  
8 above-entitled cause; that I thereafter caused  
9 the foregoing to be transcribed into typewriting,  
10 which I hereby certify to be a true and accurate  
11 transcript of the proceedings.

12  
13  
14                     
15                   Official Court Reporter  
16                   License No. 084-003065

17  
18  
19                   Dated this 25th day  
20                   of June, 1996.

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