

VIRGINIA WOMEN ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION  
ROANOKE CHAPTER  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

ATTORNEY: BETTY JO ANTHONY  
INTERVIEW DATE: May 17, 2023  
INTERVIEWER: SHARON CHICKERING, ESQUIRE  
COURT REPORTER: KELLY D. HOPKINS, CCR

MS. CHICKERING: I'm Sharon R. Chickering, Esquire, and the date is May 17, 2023. I'm interviewing Betty Jo Anthony, one of the first women attorneys to practice in the Roanoke Valley of Virginia. This interview is part of the Oral History Project of the Virginia Women's Attorney Association, Roanoke Chapter, in which we are recording the oral histories of the first women attorneys to practice in the 23rd Judicial Circuit of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This interview is being recorded in the law office of Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black in Roanoke, Virginia. The stenographer is Kelly Hopkins, and the videographer is Melissa Stephens.

Betty Jo, do I have your permission to record this interview?

MS. ANTHONY: You do.

MS. CHICKERING: Betty Jo, can you tell us your full name, where and when you were born, and the names of your family members and just a little bit about your childhood?

MS. ANTHONY: Yes. My name is Betty Jo Clark Anthony. I was born in 1947 right here in Roanoke, Star City of the South, at Jefferson

Hospital, which is no more. And my parents lived in Mount Pleasant, and I have one sister whose name is Kathy. They are all deceased, unfortunately. But, you know, we had a rather idyllic childhood up to about age nine out in the country in Mount Pleasant. I went to Mount Pleasant Elementary School, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, and William Byrd High School.

MS. CHICKERING: So tell me a little bit about what you did growing up, and how Roanoke was back then.

MS. ANTHONY: It was a great place to grow up. It was safe. We had very little traffic out in Mount Pleasant. My parents didn't own a car when I was born. My grandparents didn't own a car. Most of the neighborhood didn't. We'd get together if somebody needed to go to the hospital or something. We played with each other up and down the streets, rode our bicycles. Nobody worried about anybody.

If you did something that was naughty, it would get home before you did. So everybody -- everybody took care of everybody and their children. It was a good place. We had a small

farm. And there were cows and horses and pigs and chickens and eggs. So we did not want for any type of food. There was not much money around in those days, but we were happy.

MS. CHICKERING: That sounds lovely. What is your educational background and your college experience?

MS. ANTHONY: I went to William Byrd High School. Then applied and was accepted at Westhampton at the University of Richmond.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay.

MS. ANTHONY: And I just said that we were very poor, so probably doesn't make very good sense that I chose to go to the University of Richmond. But the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church pastor told my mother that that was a good, safe place where they had rules. So she said that's where I'm going to go. So I applied there, was accepted, didn't find out for years later that I could have had basically the same education at Virginia Tech for a fourth of the cost. But anyway, so I went there. Then --

MS. CHICKERING: What year did you graduate?

MS. ANTHONY: 1969 is what my diploma says. I actually went through a little a bit quicker and quit taking classes in '68. I thought there was something important to do, but I don't know what. And so then I moved to North Carolina and worked for Harry Winston, who is the world's largest diamond distributor.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: As a person who coordinated sales amongst their 130 or -40 nationwide chain. And then decided maybe that I would rather teach school mostly because my mom thought I should. So I had to go to the University of North Carolina Greensboro to take enough courses to get the teaching certificate part. I already had a major in psychology and a minor in math. So I -- you know, math teachers are hard to come by.

MS. CHICKERING: They are.

MS. ANTHONY: That was a good move. Then I moved to Charlottesville because that seemed like a good place to be. Then I found out that it's a hard job market because there's so many students and their spouses that want jobs. So my first job when I lived in Charlottesville was I worked at the

law school in the admissions office.

MS. CHICKERING: Goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: It just so happened that Mary Sue Terry and Charles Robb were both applying that year. In the small world category, Mary Sue had been my roommate my freshman year at Westhampton.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: So it was kind of like, that's weird. I was in a -- this is going to sound really dated, but a women's lib club with Linda Robb, Charles Robb's wife. So wife, yes. So it was kind of -- I mean, it felt like I was in with people I already knew a little bit.

Of course, now I didn't have any authority in that office. I was a file clerk, administrative kind of person, but it was very interesting to listen to what faculty members said when they would talk about the applicants. Of course, I'm like furniture, you know, in that position.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: They talked. I found out a little bit about the real world that I didn't know

before. They talked about who could give to the university and who would be grateful, who would probably make a good student and maybe shine and bring the university's name to the fore, and who might be wasted, by which they mostly meant women.

MS. CHICKERING: Interesting.

MS. ANTHONY: Yeah. But they never actually said that, but all the people who were going to be wasted were women. So it didn't take me too long to get the idea.

Then I worked there maybe six months or so and then got a teaching job in Palmyra, which is a county about half an hour from Charlottesville. I taught there in their high school for four years, math.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay.

MS. ANTHONY: And then I thought, you know, I love teaching because I love seeing people learn something. I love when the light bulb comes on. I love interacting with these high school kids. And I was not much older than they.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: So it was really good in that sense. But the other half of teaching is that

on your own time, you have to grade papers and make lesson plans, you have to worry about who is in the bathroom and who is in hallway and who is punching whom.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: That kind of thing. So I thought there has to be a better way. There has to be. So I started applying around thinking, well, what really am I qualified to do? A psychology degree will get you handing out pencils in a testing center, but not much more. Then I heard about a little college, a business college that was getting ready to hire some people. It had a really good reputation, about 150 years of service in the Richmond area.

MS. CHICKERING: Nice.

MS. ANTHONY: So I applied thinking...

MS. CHICKERING: Why not, right?

MS. ANTHONY: I can try. I was hired there. Smithdeal-Massey Business College. And they -- we went along. That was the kind of teaching that is good for the soul because you can teach, but you don't have to worry about where people are. If they walk out of your class, they

walk out. If they are in the hall, they are in the hall. You don't have to worry about it.

MS. CHICKERING: Did you teach math?

MS. ANTHONY: I taught in high school -- to flip back, my -- they separated people in those days into groups. There was the vocational group.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: There was the business group, and there was the college-bound group.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: So I was in the college-bound group because my mom said I was going to college. That's what I did. But my mother was a professional secretary, is what she would tell you. She said that I should not get out of high school without some skills. She said you take whatever you want to take over there in that college-bound thing, but you are not leaving this house until you have shorthand, typing, business accounting, and home ec. She said when you check those four off, you can do anything else you want.

So I did, bitterly complaining the whole way. I have to say, though, to give her her due, so -- that I have never had any class that was more

beneficial to me than shorthand.

MS. CHICKERING: Interesting.

MS. ANTHONY: I have used it almost every day of my life since then. It was very helpful, as you can imagine, in law school.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: I never had a boss who didn't appreciate me being able to tell him what he said last week. I can do that. So that was very helpful.

So when I went to business school, I taught math. That was the reason they primarily wanted me. But then I could fill in with shorthand, typing, and business accounting, and letter writing is really what it was, but they called it business English. So I was sort of the chief cook and bottle washer, you know.

MS. CHICKERING: Absolutely.

MS. ANTHONY: And because the schedule was about the same as teaching in a public school, except that you didn't have any homework, so I decided that I could really use another job. I went and applied and was accepted to J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay.

MS. ANTHONY: And did pretty much the same things except they added in business psychology. They let me develop a little business psychology class.

MS. CHICKERING: What did that entail?

MS. ANTHONY: How to talk to people, how it's better to compliment and then suggest maybe some positive criticism rather than just smacking somebody, that kind of thing. How to dress for success. It's better if you look your best and look people in the eye when you talk to them. You know, just the usual stuff.

So I did that kind of thing for a year or two -- two I guess. Then meanwhile, the college that I -- the Smithdeal-Massey Business College said that the rules had changed, and now in order to maintain their certification, they had to have a certain number of people who had an advanced degree.

MS. CHICKERING: Of course.

MS. ANTHONY: And I got elected because, you know, I was low man on the totem pole, so to speak. So they said you have to start. We can get

an exemption or extension or something if you are working on it.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: So I went home. By that time, I was married to Joe. I was like, you know, I don't know. I don't see myself getting a degree in psychology -- an advanced degree in psychology because you need to go all the way if you are going to do that.

MS. CHICKERING: To a Ph.D.

MS. ANTHONY: And I don't see myself getting a master's in math.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: I'm thinking -- and he said, Well, really -- I took -- he began, in the army when he was overseas, a master's degree in business administration, MBA. He finished it up after he got back. So he said, I really think you would enjoy that and it would do you good to know how some business works. You know, hey, a business college and a MBA, you know.

MS. CHICKERING: Nice.

MS. ANTHONY: Okay. I went to VCU and signed up for an MBA program.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: And away we went. So I was doing that mostly at night and still keeping my J. Sargeant Reynolds and my Smithdeal-Massey. So we get through that. And I'm almost at the end, have three more courses to go -- and I should mention that I had a lot of prerequisites to take before I could get in the master's program because I didn't have business courses.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: So I had to go back and pick the college level up of that at VCU and then start on the Master's. So it was a long road, and I was almost to the end -- so happy -- and Smithdeal-Massey called me in and said we don't know how to tell you this, but we are bankrupt.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: I said, What does that really mean? They said, It means that you don't get paid for the last quarter and we are not going to be here next year.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: I was like, Oh, my Lord. Joe told me how to get a judgment, which turned out

to be fruitless, worthless. Anyway, I learned how. So that was something. I kept on with J. Sargeant Reynolds and the -- so then there was what to do. I thought, I will be an FBI agent.

MS. CHICKERING: What a great idea.

MS. ANTHONY: So I applied. They have rounds of interviews. I'm on the third round when they told me that my first assignment would be on Church Hill in Richmond. I don't know if you are familiar with Richmond, but that's a very rugged area. I just wasn't sure about that.

So I'm telling Joe. He said -- by this time, he had finished law school. He said, Why don't you go to law school? I was like, I don't think so. I watch Perry Mason. I don't think I'm up for that.

He said, Well, you could do corporate law. That would be great for you. I said, Okay. All right. That's what I will do. I said, I will take the LSATs. If I do well enough to get in, I will go.

We lived about a mile from -- probably about less than a mile from the University of Richmond by that time. He said, Okay. He bought

me all these books to look at. The How to Study for the LSATs and this and that. I kept pushing them aside.

The night before the test, he asked me how far I had gotten in the books. I had to tell him --

MS. CHICKERING: Not very far.

MS. ANTHONY: -- not very far. He was said, Like how far? I was like, page 1. So he was upset, but I took the test. I did well enough to get in. Based on that test, they gave me a half scholarship. So they paid for half of it, and Joe paid the other half. Out I went. That's how I got to law school, totally by accident.

MS. CHICKERING: That's a meandering path, isn't it?

MS. ANTHONY: It is.

MS. CHICKERING: So what year did you graduate?

MS. ANTHONY: Law school, 1978.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay. And '69 for your university of Richmond undergrad. Wow. Okay.

MS. ANTHONY: Yes.

MS. CHICKERING: Were you admitted to the

bar in '79 as well?

MS. ANTHONY: Yes.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay. So tell me a little bit about your experiences in law school?

MS. ANTHONY: Well, talk about meandering. When I applied, it was in the summer of '76 when I applied to law school. Of course, by the time you take the LSATs and you take the application and you have the interviews and all that, it was too late to make the '76/'77 year. They said, Well, you would be number one on the '77/'78 list. I said, Fine, I will just keep doing what I'm doing.

So about two months later, I found out I was pregnant with Kathryn. And everyone said, Oh, you can't go to law school, you know, because you will be -- she won't be born until June, and you will be starting in August. I thought as only naive people who never had a child can, how much trouble can a little, bitty baby be? So I kept on.

And then I realized that they have a time limit on the MBA. You have to finish within a certain period of time. I was getting near the end. So I went back and finished that up while I

had my little, bitty baby and my first year of law school.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: I could not have done it had it not been for my study team, a group of women who felt sorry for me. One was an older lady who had seven children --

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, my goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: -- and her husband had died and she had gone to law school. She was in the first-year class. The other one was a teacher who had quit to go to law school -- she didn't have children -- and later became a partner at Hunton Williams. She was very bright. And a third person and me.

They felt so sorry for me that I was doing all this stuff that they would just write out the notes and say this is what it covers. I would read it to Kathryn. We would walk around and read and blah, blah, blah, blah, contract or no contract? No contract. That's what I thought. So it worked out. It was -- little, bitty babies are a little bit of work.

MS. CHICKERING: Indeed.

MS. ANTHONY: Dad stepped up a lot for that.

MS. CHICKERING: What was he doing at that time?

MS. ANTHONY: He was a lawyer. He was in-house counsel for Ernst & Whinney, which is one of the Big 8 CPA firms. He would come home from work at 5:00, 5:15, and take Kathryn. I would go off to the study group.

Then during the day, if I didn't have a class, I kept her myself. If I did have a class, I had a lady who kept children in her home. She kept her.

But to show what a different world it was, one fine day an elderly woman, probably about my age now, came over to the house. And I answered. I said, Oh, Ms. So-and-so.

She said, Can I talk to you for a minute? I'm like, Sure, come in. She said, We ladies have been talking, and we think you leave your child too much with the daddy.

I went, What? She said, Yes, almost every afternoon when he gets home, you drive off. You are not gone long enough that that could be a

job.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, my goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: So we just think you should cut it back a little and give him a break. He was -- had her in a backpack, and he would mow the lawn and trim the hedges, and whatever, walk up and down the street. She's happy as a lark. But the ladies of the neighborhood were concerned that I wasn't being a very good mother as I went off every afternoon.

So I explained to her that I was in law school. She went, Oh. Like I can't imagine such a thing. It was a different world.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: Actually, in law school, I really didn't notice -- I mean, I noticed there were few women, but I didn't really notice that anybody particularly picked on me or, you know, tried to hold me back or tried to help me, for that matter. I mean, they just -- everybody was everybody.

MS. CHICKERING: Treated the same, basically.

MS. ANTHONY: Since the four of us and

then there was Broaddus Fitzpatrick's wife at the time, Joanie, she was in that class we just went about doing our thing. You know, nobody messed with us. We felt fortunate.

MS. CHICKERING: That's wonderful. How did you meet Joe because obviously you didn't meet him in law school?

MS. ANTHONY: No. I met him at the University of Richmond. I was taking second-year French because they told me I couldn't graduate early unless I had second-year French. I said, Okay, I will take it in summer school. They said, But you have to have first-year French first. I went like, It doesn't say that. I started practicing my legal skills. They said, Okay, smarty pants, go right ahead.

MS. CHICKERING: Take French 2.

MS. ANTHONY: So it took me all summer, I mean, literally day and night because I had to look up every word and all that. But, you know, there again, it got done. He was in that class, too, taking second-year French, but he had had first-year French. He was interesting, and we liked each other. We had lunch occasionally

because we were finishing up the class. It wasn't, you know, written in the stars yet.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: He then -- he started law school, and that would have been a year ahead of my graduating year. He was in the next up class. He went to law school and then was drafted out of law school in his first year and had to spend three years in the military, mostly in Germany.

And then when he came back -- he's from Patrick County and knew Mary Sue Terry. They were in the same school. So then when I moved to Richmond to work at Smithdeal-Massey, we just happened across each other again. Then it was written in the stars.

MS. CHICKERING: So a little bit of a backtrack, tell -- explain who Mary Sue Terry, Chuck Robb, and Broaddus Fitzpatrick are.

MS. ANTHONY: All lawyers, as it turns out. Chuck Robb was a military hero and married Linda, well, Johnson, the president's daughter at the time. Mary Sue Terry was my classmate at Westhampton and turned out to be the Attorney General for Virginia twice.

MS. CHICKERING: The first woman.

MS. ANTHONY: The first woman attorney general, that's right. Who was the other person you asked me? Broaddus Fitzpatrick.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: Is Judge Fitzpatrick's son, one of them. He happened to be my classmate at the University of Richmond as well. He's a lawyer. Although, he doesn't practice anymore. He didn't enjoy it. So he's fundraising or something.

MS. CHICKERING: His father, Judge Fitzpatrick, was a general district court judge in the City of Roanoke?

MS. ANTHONY: In the City of Roanoke, was much loved.

MS. CHICKERING: So tell me a little bit about what was special about your husband.

MS. ANTHONY: He was a partner-type rather than a -- you know, he never has tried to be controlling or -- you know, we talk. We decided early on that there'd be no secrets and no games. And just like I said, he advised me along the way. I always trusted his judgment. I did a lot of that stuff.

My mother would say because he was making me, but that was far from the truth. He just was advising me, and I took his advice.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay.

MS. ANTHONY: He was willing to help with Kathryn when -- in order for me to get -- I think a lot guys don't want their wife to be above them in some way.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: Not a matter of smart, but not to do better or something. Joe's never been like that. It was good.

MS. CHICKERING: Very good. So what brought you all to the Roanoke Valley?

MS. ANTHONY: Well, when I finished law school, I really was in a hurry then because now I'm 30 and I haven't done anything. I'm in a hurry. That was one of the reasons I did law school in two years instead of three is so I could hurry up and get on with it. I got a job with a firm in Richmond, Williams Mullen.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay.

MS. ANTHONY: So we were all ready to do that. We had made a down payment on the house --

another house, a better house, really. Because we were thinking maybe we will have some success now. But Ernst & Whinney decided to open an office in Roanoke and they wanted Joe to come with the group that was starting that out. And I didn't want to at first, but he said it will be closer to my family, closer to his family.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: We decided that would probably be best. So we -- you know, I had to go and tell them why I wouldn't be appearing after they had given me that kind offer. Then I was in the market for a job again.

It happened that my mother was secretary to a lawyer who was actually in the real estate business named Jimmy Treakle, and one of that firm's friends was Bo Rogers. So my mom said, Why don't you go over and ask Bo Rogers for a job?

I'm like I'm sure he would love that. So -- but I did. He said, Well, you know, I can't promise you, but I will get you in front of the committee.

MS. CHICKERING: So step back and explain who Bo is.

MS. ANTHONY: Bo Rogers was one of the Woods Rogers Musegrove -- Hazlegrove, it was at that time. And Rogers was one of the founding members. This was his son, Bo, who at the time I was talking to him was probably in his 70s by that time, 60s or 70s, anyway.

MS. CHICKERING: And it was one of the premier firms in Roanoke at the time, one of the larger firms?

MS. ANTHONY: I always debated whether it's Gentry Locke or Woods Rogers, but yes, they were. Starting salary was, you know, very nice for a girl that grew up in Mount Pleasant. I was impressed by that.

MS. CHICKERING: So did you make it before the committee.

MS. ANTHONY: I did make it before the committee. When I was talking to the committee, they said, Well, you know, we really have to have you go in and meet, you know, old Mr. Rogers, not Bo, but his father, who was like in my 30-year-old estimation probably 100, 110. He was elderly, but he still had an office and came in every day and did whatever partners do.

So I went in to meet him. They introduced me and just left me sitting in front of his desk. We had a nice chat. He said, I don't see any orange on you, so I'm wondering if you graduated from the University of Virginia.

I went, No. I graduated from the University of Richmond. He went, Okay. Well, you are not going to tell me that you wanted to be in the courtroom, are you? Because women have no place in the courtroom.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, my goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: I went, No, I wasn't going to tell you that because I think I would like to be a corporate lawyer. He went, Well, good.

He called back in, and so they said I passed. When they said, "What did he say?" and I told them what he said, "You are kidding, right?" I'm not kidding. They were all very apologetic. I have got a grandfather and, you know, it's just the way it is.

MS. CHICKERING: That's true.

MS. ANTHONY: They said, Okay. We will take you to a nice lunch. I thought that would be so nice. They said, Have you heard of the

Shenandoah Club? We've all heard of the Shenandoah Club. I had never been there, but I had heard of it. We -- this committee of five -- six of the men and me went over to the Shenandoah Club. You know how they had the -- I don't know if they still do, but the big table in the middle for the lunch crowd.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: We went, and we sat around. You know, we are looking. I'm looking. I'm hoping I know which fork is which and all that. While we were sitting there, I guess the maitre d', somebody in a little uniform comes over and starts whispering to one of the partners that's on this committee. The partner says something. They say something. They go back. They come back again and say something else. The partner gets up and goes out and comes back. He said, You know, they're just not having anything very good today. Why don't we just go down the street?

It turned out later that was because the Shenandoah Club did not allow women as members. And if you weren't a member, you couldn't sit at that table. There I am, kind of, you know,

breaking all the rules.

MS. CHICKERING: And they refused service?

MS. ANTHONY: They refused -- I guess they did. I don't know what they said to him, but I know we got up and left.

MS. CHICKERING: Did you tell your mother about it?

MS. ANTHONY: I did.

MS. CHICKERING: What did she say?

MS. ANTHONY: She said, They don't let in minorities either. Okay. So -- but, of course, like the rest of the world, they changed. It was fine. But I have wondered in the past whether they offered me the job because they had messed up so many times. Maybe that's all it was.

My husband said, No, I think it was your Law Review, where it says after your name Law Review and how many classes you booked. I think that was it. I went, Okay, if you say so. It felt weird.

MS. CHICKERING: So were there any women attorneys at Woods Rogers when you started?

MS. ANTHONY: Judge Diane -- well, who

turned out to be Judge Diane Strickland was employed there. But she was for the most part the time I was there, she was on maternity leave a lot of that time. Bless her heart, she tried to help me. She had Joe and I to her house with she and her husband, who is also an attorney. And, you know, she tried to make me feel welcome, but she was not there a lot of the time.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: There were no other women there. And, you know, for the most part, I don't believe that people knew how to treat a woman attorney. And I did not know enough to tell them how they should.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: It's as much my fault as theirs. Growing up until I met Joe, I never knew a lawyer personally with the possible exception of Charlie Osterhoudt.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, wow.

MS. ANTHONY: He came to our -- our church had some sort of dispute, probably a boundary dispute; but I was too small to really know. They hired him, and he came to a business

meeting a couple of times and told them what they could do. I knew he was a lawyer.

My concept of what a lawyer was was very vague. I knew it was somebody that advised you and they knew the laws. But, you know, as to how they should act or what education they should have or -- you know, I was just -- and I think if I were totally honest, a lot of the time I was at Woods Rogers, I was suffering from -- I don't know -- imposter syndrome or something. I felt like I was playing grownup a lot of the time.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: I didn't know what I should do or who I should talk to. And I found out since -- well, some of the partners have told me since that now they assign a person to be the chaperone, the mentor or whatever, to each new lawyer to sort of -- but I didn't know that at the time. I didn't know that they should. I didn't say, you know, Can you give me a mentor?

MS. CHICKERING: I need help.

MS. ANTHONY: I was just kind of in my office doing my thing. People would come and say, "Can you do this?" and I would do it. They didn't

complain. So I don't I guess it wasn't too awful. You know, but it wasn't a comfortable feel. Sometimes a lawyer and his secretary would have a small spat and the secretary would be in the ladies' room crying, and I was the only one that could go in and talk to her.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: I spent -- I'm not talking about a lot of time, but I spent some time being sort of the mediator, you know, like, He really didn't mean it. She said she will come back if you don't yell. You know, that kind of thing.

I know now that, you know, I have had a lot more experience, like, close to 15 years that I should have aligned myself with somebody. You know, I should have seen who was a good personality fit for me and just sort of shadowed that person, asked that person questions. But at the time, it made me feel stupid to ask questions.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: And now I know that there are no stupid questions. If you need to know, you need to know, so... But, you know, it was a different world.

Then a series of things happened, one of which is I got pregnant again and lost two babies like at the two-month period.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, wow.

MS. ANTHONY: And it sort of reminded me of other women in stressful positions, and -- but I didn't -- I didn't really put a whole lot of stress on that because I figured, well, you know, these things happened. Then I got pregnant and I was in my fifth month and I lost that baby.

MS. CHICKERING: Goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: Diane, bless her heart, had told me her gynecologist and, you know, OB-GYN. So I was conferring with him. He said, I cannot tell you that stress did this, but I can tell you that it did not help.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: I said okay. That's fine. We lived through that. It was much harder -- the further you go, the more connected you are with the little love bucket. So I had a good long talk with the Lord. I said if you just let me get pregnant one more time, I will leave. I will knit or something. Anything, I will just do it.

But, you know, that doesn't happen, like, immediately. I was working there. And then one day -- the office where the firm was was much, much smaller than this. It was nice, but it was -- they were cramped. And they had taken the file cabinets out of what would have been the file rooms to make them into offices and put the files along the corridor.

So one day I was outside of an office -- you know, like if that door, it would be right there. I was looking for a particular file. I couldn't find it. It was taking me a minute. I was not eavesdropping, but the door was not closed. A male lawyer was talking to a male client.

You know, I could hear that they were talking, but I wasn't really focusing on what they were saying because I was looking for the file. But then I heard the client say, I really would like a very competent female attorney handle this case. And there was pause. And then this lawyer, who has female children, said to this man, There's no such thing as a competent female lawyer.

MS. CHICKERING: My goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: And so it sort of -- I'm

ashamed to admit it, but it sort of validated the feeling that I was having that I don't really know what I'm doing. So I thought, well, okay. This is the good Lord telling me something. So I started looking for another job.

So Joe knew Jonathan Apgar, who turned out to be a circuit court judge. But at the time, he was the chief assistant commonwealth's attorney.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay.

MS. ANTHONY: So he said, Why don't you go up to talk Jonathan. I hated moot court with a passion. I don't want to go to court. And he said, Well, you know, I don't think it would be the same thing because that's appellate work and this is something else. You love teaching, and that's sort of what it would be. You are in the front of the room kind of teaching a group of people what they should know about something. Okay.

They had an opening. I went up and applied. Everyone was so nice. They said, you know, when you come, this will happen; when you come, that will happen; this person will do this. I'm like, Okay, this sound good. We -- they told me what the salary would be, a significant drop.

MS. CHICKERING: I'm sure.

MS. ANTHONY: Like more than half.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: But, you know, I promised the Lord already. So it's fine. So I went -- the last person I was interviewing with, they made me interview all five attorneys that were present.

MS. CHICKERING: Were they all male?

MS. ANTHONY: They were all male.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay.

MS. ANTHONY: The last one, a man named Gary Thompson, but he turned out to be a really good friend of mine. He lives in Norfolk now and practices law down there. He said, you know, I'm going to ask you a few questions, but really I think we pretty much already decided who is going to get this position. And it's not you.

I said, Oh, really? Because everyone's saying -- you know, even the boss said when you come. He said, Well, you know, but this guy is friends of this guy and this guy. So I really think he has the inside track. I just don't want you to get your feelings hurt.

Don't worry, my feelings are hurt

already. It's too late to get them hurt. I'm hurt.

But I didn't say anything because he wasn't the boss. He was the low man on the totem pole at that time. I just went on back to my office. They called me the next day and said, We really enjoyed meeting you; you are really on the ball; you know, we can't believe that somebody that was in Law Review is going to come prosecute; but we just don't think it's right right this minute; and we've given the job to this other guy. They didn't tell me who it was.

I said, Is it Don Wolthuis?

MS. CHICKERING: Was it?

MS. ANTHONY: They said, Yes. How did you know? I said, Well, okay. Thanks for your time. I was, like, very brusque.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: So they said, Well, we think we will have another opening in about two or three weeks, if you would like to be considered for that. I said, Right. In that exact tone of voice, Right. They said, No, really, if you come back, we think that you are good.

So I went back. Sure enough, they hired me. The rest is, as they say, history.

MS. CHICKERING: Who was the commonwealth attorney at that time?

MS. ANTHONY: Donald Caldwell.

MS. CHICKERING: Don's been the commonwealth attorney for the entire time you worked?

MS. ANTHONY: Yes.

MS. CHICKERING: When was it that you took that job?

MS. ANTHONY: That was in 1980.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow. And are you still working at the commonwealth attorney's office?

MS. ANTHONY: I'm part-time now. I retired at the end of 2018 as chief assistant. But I'm still doing an occasional brief, an occasional -- most people hate embezzlements, and I don't mind them. I do the occasional embezzlement.

MS. CHICKERING: That math coming --

MS. ANTHONY: That math, yes. All that business. So yes, I'm part-time there.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay. Well, it's a long period to cover, so tell me a little bit about how

it was at first. Obviously, there were no other women in the office.

MS. ANTHONY: There were not any other women.

MS. CHICKERING: What was your initial experience?

MS. ANTHONY: They were all surprisingly accepting of me. I did not feel put upon by anybody in the commonwealth attorney's office. I mean, no weird stuff. Donald has -- I found out since then. He's not a person that judges folks by their nationality, their skin color, their sex, their -- or I guess I should say gender, but -- I mean, he just takes you as you are. You are either doing the job or you are not doing the job. He doesn't really care.

So yes, you know, I would say he's probably my best friend, but that developed. When I went there, the person whose job I was taking, of course, had gone. That left four other attorneys present. Now they have 14 attorneys.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: So there were four others. They had told me that they would have somebody to

be with me for a week or so. I had already been at Woods Rogers for right at two years. So, you know, theoretically, I should have experience, but big firms settle most of their cases.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: So I had only been in the courtroom twice in my life, both at Woods Rogers.

MS. CHICKERING: That's amazing.

MS. ANTHONY: One was a case that fell apart through no fault of anybody at Woods Rogers on the first day of trial. I just can't remember what happened. I remember we had a lot of notebooks. We had researched everything. I was like third seat, you know. So my job was if somebody said, What's the law on X, I would go find the notebook and open it up to where it was supposed to be.

The other one was Bill Poff, who was just the nicest kind of guy in a really rough cut way --

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: -- had sent me to do a landlord-tenant general district court case before Judge Storming Norman, they called him, Moore.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: We lost. So I didn't think the ruling was correct. I came back and told Bill this is not right because here's the law. He said, I know. That's why I sent you because it's a clear law. I said, But he ruled against us. He said, I know. That's what you just told me.

I said, Well, let's appeal. He said, Are you kidding me? This is a general district court case worth \$400. You are going to appeal? I would have done it in my spare time I was so mad. Anyway, that was my experience.

So they said somebody would be with me, don't worry. When I came in the first day, one of the lawyers was sick, one had been called out to do something somewhere else, one was at a training exercise, and Donald had to cover another court. So that left me.

He handed me -- in those days, the computer printouts were big tall pink things. They had, like, the person's name and the charge and the section number and the officer's name. Now, we have probably 60 or 80 cases a day. In those days, we had 400 cases a day because the police were out. We were making money in those days.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: So they had to have the traffic court in the city council chambers because that's the only place that was big enough to hold them. So it took me the first 10 minutes to figure out where this place was. Because if you know, the old courthouse, the commonwealth's attorney was on the second floor of the part that faces out towards Campbell.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: And the new part of the building, the city council is on the fourth floor of that, but the floors don't line up. So you have to go out and down and around and up to get there. I had never been up. So it took me a while to figure out where I was supposed to go.

So I go. Of course, it's not rocket science. So, you know, you figure out after about four or five cases, you can say, Officer Jinks, what happened? And then sort of automatic after that. You don't know when you are walking in. So about 11:00, Judge Cornelison --

MS. CHICKERING: I remember, Charlie Cornelison, yes.

MS. ANTHONY: He was on the bench, and he -- about 11:00, he said, I'm going to take a break. He said, So everybody go potty.

By this time, I was pregnant again. I needed to go break. So I turned around from counsel table and head up the alley -- up the aisle. An older guy in bib overalls came towards me. He said, Ma'am. I said, Yes. He said, I need to speak to the commonwealth's attorney.

I went, Well, I'm the commonwealth's attorney. I'm so proud. He said, Oh, I thought you had to be a lawyer. He turned around and walked off. I have not seen him to this day. I don't know what that was about. Talk about deflating your balloon. Maybe I hadn't done all that good of a job. And so I went.

Then I had Judge Ballou, rest his soul, who I loved dearly and was --

MS. CHICKERING: Circuit court judge.

MS. ANTHONY: Circuit court judge, Federal Court Judge Ballou's father.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: A judge among judges. But he called me in one day and said, You know, I just

want to tell you that nobody ever died and said I wish I had spent more time at the office. I said, I'm sure that's true.

He said, Have you given it any thought that maybe you should be home with your babies? I said, No. Really? I had not thought that.

He meant it so sincerely, so sweetly, so much from the heart. And he had four children of his own. He said, You know, just as -- how did he have it -- anybody can be a father, but it takes somebody special to be a daddy; and I'm sure it's the same with mothers.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, wow.

MS. ANTHONY: I was like maybe I should go home and be with my babies.

But anyway, it worked out. Those were the most -- I guess when I was at Woods Rogers, they sent me to docket call in Covington. That was in the days where you had to go and sit.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: Again, being the cheapest person they could send, they sent me. So I waited and I set the case and all is well. It was ending. An older lawyer, male -- I didn't see any females

that day -- came and said, Could I take you to lunch? I went, I would love to each lunch with you.

We went to a nearby place, had a sandwich and a Coke or whatever. The bill came, and I'm getting out my money. He said, Oh, I'm treating you. I said, Well, I have an expense account. So, you know, I appreciate it, but you know --

MS. CHICKERING: Let me do it.

MS. ANTHONY: Just let me do it. They are going to pay it, so I'm not out. He said, No, you're lady, and ladies are treated. I went, Well, I appreciate that very much, but they told me to bring back a receipt. I'm afraid what will happen if I don't bring it back.

So he said, Hmm, all right then. He said, Let me ask you this. I said, Okay. He said, Are there any more little girls like you in Roanoke?

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, my God.

MS. ANTHONY: I'm like, I'm not sure. Do you mean, like, my age or that are lawyers or, you know, what does that mean, really? He was very nice and very unenlightened. It was a different

time then.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: I never had anybody be affirmatively mean to me for being a woman.

MS. CHICKERING: Just clueless.

MS. ANTHONY: They are just clueless.

MS. CHICKERING: Gotcha. How about when you were pregnant again, what was the support that you got or lack of support? How did you get through continuing cases? Or after the baby was born, nursing? How did all that get handled?

MS. ANTHONY: Well, I just started there, so I didn't have any leave built up. I didn't have any maternity leave. There was no laws on the books for that. Out of kindness of his heart -- and I mean that sincerely -- Donald said, When the baby is born, why don't you take a month and you can be off for a month. He first said three weeks. Then when the three weeks was up, it was the commonwealth attorney convention in --

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: -- some other place. He said, I know you haven't had time to get involved, so take that week too. So that gave me four weeks.

You know, they never told me that I couldn't nurse or pump or whatever. But there was no refrigerator and there was no place to be private. There was no clean -- well, it was clean. I mean, it's a ladies' room that's open to the public. It's not sterile by any stretch. So I just abandoned that at the end of the four weeks.

Then for all working parents, it's who takes off when they are sick, who takes them to the doctor, the dentist, or whatever. We had to work that out as we went.

MS. CHICKERING: Did you have child care in your house?

MS. ANTHONY: We started out with child care in our house. But then you find out, like all mothers everywhere, they -- hello, I have decided to quit; I won't be in today.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, dear.

MS. ANTHONY: Or sometimes you would get it the night before and you would feel lucky they didn't abandon you. Or they say -- one day the police came to my office said, Don't be alarmed, no one is hurt.

MS. CHICKERING: Which alarms you right

away.

MS. ANTHONY: Right away I'm scared to death. My child care person, who I had instructed and pleaded with and asked for solemn vows that she would not take them in the car. By this time, I had been a prosecutor for several months and I realized that all matter of strange things happen when you get in a car and none of them are good. So I said, Don't take them out of the house.

And she had taken them out of the house and was in an accident.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, my God.

MS. ANTHONY: It was just a fender-bender. But, you know, so you come to realize that, you know, it's hard to find a dependable person that you can trust. I'm sure there are a lot of great au pairs and nannies, but I just couldn't find one. We ended up at a child care center.

MS. CHICKERING: Okay. So what about the other women in the bar at the time?

MS. ANTHONY: Yeah, what about them? There were some women in the bar. If only I had had the sense God gave little green apples, I would

have gone and talked to them. I'm sure they didn't come to me because they didn't want to appear -- I don't know what the word is -- bossy or --

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: -- intrusive or whatever. I didn't go to them because I didn't think they would care or have time or whatever. So that is why I was so excited about the VWAA when that -- I think you were the one that was getting it together, but you were certainly present.

When I heard that it was going to be about women helping other women and there was going to be education and there was going to be mentoring and there was going to be -- I mean, if nothing else, just swapping stories, this happened to me. Oh, it happened to somebody else. I was just so excited about that. I got a lot of grief at -- from a lot of the men attorneys, not necessarily my office, but others about why -- if I want to be equal, why am I going and being in a separate bar.

MS. CHICKERING: Very interesting.

MS. ANTHONY: Why am I going to be in the women's bar when I thought all this was about being equal. Well, it is all about being equal, but

first I want to be equal and this is going to help me. Even if I doesn't help me be equal, it's going to help me feel better about where I am in life.

Because I don't really know about other age groups, but I know my age group was sold a bill of goods because they led us to believe we could have it all. And you cannot. My daughter's an attorney now. I told her all along -- and she believes -- but you cannot be June Cleaver, Perry Mason, and Mother Teresa. There's not enough time. I don't care how talented or how smart or how pretty, it's not possible. And if somebody tells you it is, they are full of it.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: I needed somebody to tell me it was okay to choose and prioritize.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: I spent a lot of time even at the commonwealth attorney's office, nobody made me, nobody told me to, nobody made me feel bad about it, but I felt like I had the weight of womanhood on me. I know that's stupid. That's how I felt.

I never wanted to go to a trial that I

wasn't super prepared for because people would say, That's what you get when you get a woman. Or she's got kids, so how can she prepare for a trial? I prepared for many of them in the middle of the night because you have to put the kids to bed and whatever.

MS. CHICKERING: So tell me how you felt that you were treated by male members in the bar.

MS. ANTHONY: My coworkers in the commonwealth attorney's office, I was treated very well. I mean, could not have asked for better. But by the bar in general, always politely, always civilly, maybe a little deferentially, especially by the older members.

They would -- well, there was some that would call me pet names. Like in the courtroom, they would say "sweetheart" or whatever. Totally off the subject, but my husband told me how to fix that.

MS. CHICKERING: What did he tell you?

MS. ANTHONY: He said the next time -- this one particular lawyer did it a lot. He said, The next that lawyer calls you sweetheart or honey or something, you call him a pet name and then he

will quit because he know how it feels. I said, I couldn't call Mr. So-and-so by a pet name. He said, Well, if you want it to stop, you will.

So the next time he said, you know, sweetheart this or that, I said, Okay, lamb chop. I handed him what he wanted. Well, unbeknownst to me, because like I said, I'm just not very astute, he was Jewish.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, no.

MS. ANTHONY: So that was my own mistake. Nobody said a word. He never called me another pet name. The judge told me after, he said, you know, I know what you were doing and I know that was not from a bad place, but very unfortunate choice of words.

I went... I had to go and -- I mean, they didn't make me, but I felt like I ought to apologize. I told him I'm just trying to keep -- you know, I wanted you to know how it felt. I wasn't trying to be ugly in any way.

You know, I have done things that are sexist. Like as a good example, we had -- Judge Ballou had a rule that women could not come to court in slacks. They must wear a skirt. He had a

very large brown skirt on a hook behind his door. If anyone came in pants -- any woman came in pants that -- not the audience, but any witness or attorney or whatever, he would call a recess and have a bailiff go get the skirt and pins because it was -- you, for example, could have lifted it two or three times around you. So, you know, it was just a rule.

So when I became chief assistant, Donald told me, I can't talk to the women about their dress, so it will be your job. If you see anybody that isn't wearing hose or has on pants or whatever, you have to talk to them in whatever way women will accept and get them on the straight and narrow. I did that.

Well, along comes Ann Gardner, who is a fiery little lawyer that we hired, a great lawyer.

MS. CHICKERING: Absolutely.

MS. ANTHONY: Weight lifter, she's like this tall. So she wears a pantsuit. It was a very nice looking pantsuit. So I go in her office and I say, Ann, now you know, it's a beautiful suit and I wish I had one like it; but you know you can't wear it to court. So, you know, let's just go back to

dresses.

She said, Are you for real? I went, Uh-huh. She said, This is whatever it was, 1990-something. She said, I don't even know if that's legal.

I said, Well, Judge Ballou is still on the bench. She said, But I still don't think we should even -- I mean, we should just show up in our pants. She said, If it's good enough for the guys, it's good enough for us.

I said, Okay. What -- they are going to tell you have to wear collar and sleeves and all that. If you are going to dress like the men, you would have to have a whole suit. She said, I have a whole suit.

I went, Well, let me talk to Donald about that. I talked to him. He said, Well, she has a point. I went, She sure does.

So I went back to her. I said, Okay. We will do it. We will try it.

I bought a pantsuit and we --

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, wow.

MS. ANTHONY: I said, I will be the -- because I have more seniority than she does. I'm

used to people yelling at me. It doesn't bother me. I went to Judge Ballou. He called me back and said, What's with the pants? I said, Well, Judge we are sort of moving into a new era and women think they can wear pantsuits. He went, like, Okay.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: I personally have not had a skirt on since that day. I mean, that's the truth. My daughter laughs and laughs. She said, I can't believe it took Ann Gardner to straighten you out. I went, you know, I'm oblivious. It was a rule, and I was following the rules.

MS. CHICKERING: So do you feel you were a mentor to the other women attorneys that came into the office?

MS. ANTHONY: Either that or they were mentors to me. For a while, we had about 50/50. The rate of turnover, it's now like five women and seven guys. We still have some vacant positions, but none of them have been hired or not hired due to their gender or color or anything.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure. So early on, what about dealing with the victims and the witnesses

that you had to deal with? How was that?

MS. ANTHONY: I feel that it was very helpful to be a woman, particularly with domestic abuse and child victims both of abuse and other things that -- I believe that those people related to me better than they did some of the guys just because I was a woman.

I guess that's the flip side of -- I remember one little girl who was the victim of terrible sexual abuse, and we had her on the stand in circuit court in front of a jury. And she just sat there, you know.

That was -- now we have a victim advocate. That's the law. But at the time, which would have been in the early '80s, she was just there. Her mother was going to have to be a witness, so she couldn't even be in the courtroom. I had spent a lot of time building a rapport with this child. It's scary for adults to be in a big courtroom with a jury staring right at you and the judge and bailiffs and people in the background. She just would not say a word.

So finally -- I never forget, Jack Kennett, an older lawyer who's passed, but he was

on the other side. He started saying, Well, if she's not going to talk, you know, I guess we can just move to dismiss the case. I walked over and picked her up -- she was four years old -- and sat her in the my lap. I put my arms around her. I said, See that man up there?

Uh-huh.

You just tell him what happened. I'm not going to ask any questions. You tell him what happened. And she did.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: Now, you cannot get away with that today. There is not an attorney in the entire universe that would let the prosecutor hold the witness, but it worked that day. I think that's an example of how people can feel isolated and lonely and scared and you can help.

MS. CHICKERING: Right. So is there a favorite case or a case that really stuck out to you over the course of your practice?

MS. ANTHONY: There's so many.

MS. CHICKERING: There have been.

MS. ANTHONY: One of my favorite ones, especially on the topic we are talking about, was

Commonwealth versus David Lafon. The victim was a Virginia Tech co-ed. He had murdered her and put her in a cistern, I guess is what it would be, in Montgomery County. We -- the defendant's aunt or somebody worked in the court system. So they asked for a special prosecutor and Donald volunteered.

So we -- he went up there. He wanted me to help. So, you know, I was happy to do that. That's part of my job. It was very interesting, and it very complicated evidence-wise. I mean, we had all this stuff. We rented a room in the only hotel there in Pearisburg at the time. We were in two rooms -- three rooms. I had one, Donald had one, and we had one in the middle and they were connecting. That was the war room. Donald brought Joel up on this day.

MS. CHICKERING: Joel Branscom.

MS. ANTHONY: It was the two of them and me. We were in the war room. We quit, and we were going to bed. But they were in the same room. As I was gathering up my stuff to go to my room, I realized they were talking about the case.

So I go over and bang on the door. I went like, Unless you-all want me to come and get

in bed with you, you better come back in here and talk. So they did. But the thing about that is, as you know, Pearisburg is much more rural than Roanoke.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: As we were going up for the first trial date, Donald said, I think I would like you to do the opening and the closing, and I will do the rebuttal. I said, I'm not sure that's going to really fly well up in the area.

He said, What's the matter? I thought you wanted to be equal. I said, Well, I do. But I want the best for the case. This is a very serious case. And if the people are going to feel like they don't want a woman presenting, you know. He said, Oh, get over yourself. He said, They will like you if you just talk to them like you always do. They will be fine.

So we got several bib overalls, one guy a with spittoon.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, my goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: I was just sure they weren't going to like me. So I did opening. Of course, you can't tell. They are just sitting

there. We did the case. Max Jenkins, who was an attorney, was on the other side. And, you know, it was very hard fought, maybe five-day trial, maybe six days. I think we were in the second week. And the jury went out. I did the closing. He did the rebuttal.

And I said, you know, they were out like three hours, four hours, five hours. I'm thinking it's so clear. And I said, See, I told you. You shouldn't have done that. He said, It's fine. If that -- if it comes down to that, you know, we are lost anyway. The jury comes out, they find him guilty, they give him -- that's when juries could sentence. They gave him the maximum they could have on all those charges. The judge said what he said, and then he dismissed the jury right from the box. The jury got up, came around, and started hugging me.

MS. CHICKERING: Oh, my goodness.

MS. ANTHONY: Donald said, So who is potted meat now? I mean, sometimes you have it in your own head.

MS. CHICKERING: Right, right. Yes. So are there any particular judges or other attorneys

that you've admired over the course of your career?

MS. ANTHONY: Gobs. Gobs of them. You, for example. You know Diana Perkinson just because she's always been so kind to me. I mean, I can name all day. There are just -- unlike the partners said, there are many, many competent female attorneys and they are mostly kindhearted too. There are a good number of guys who will treat you decent too, as soon as you know it.

MS. CHICKERING: You mentioned Judge Ballou.

MS. ANTHONY: Yes. I love Judge Ballou. Yes, I very much admired him. He always tried to do what he thought was right. And, you know, I'm not saying he never made a mistake, but who can you say that about. He always tried hard to do what was right. And if you could point the law -- if you could point out the law to him, he would go with that, whichever side could do it. He seemed fair, which is, you know a gift.

MS. CHICKERING: Obviously, you've remained with Donald Caldwell all these years and he's your best friend.

MS. ANTHONY: Yes. My very best friend,

yes. He's -- you will always know where you stand with Donald. He's so truthful. I tell him, You can just be quiet sometimes. But if he tells you he's fine with it, he's fine with it.

Also, what I like about him is that he will never throw somebody under the bus. You know, if he told somebody do this or this is the way we are going to handle it and they do and it blows up on them, he will be the first to say that was my decision, I will stand by it. He doesn't -- and there are not that many people around who will do that when it comes to their reputation, especially if they have to be elected every four years.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: I very much admire that. All the other lawyers who are truthful when they don't have to be, and you find out who they are --

MS. CHICKERING: That's true.

MS. ANTHONY: -- over the course of your lifetime.

MS. CHICKERING: My memory is that back then, plea agreements didn't have to be written and they were just verbal between the two attorneys.

MS. ANTHONY: Right. You just told the

court what it was, and that's what it was. Occasionally, somebody would say that wasn't what I said or I didn't mean that or, you know, whatever. By and large, it was fine.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: But, apparently, it wasn't fine other places because now you have to write them out.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes. You know as a prosecutor, you've dealt with criminal fallout of many societal issues: abuse and neglect of children, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, poverty, drug addiction and abuse, gun violence, and more recently, gang violence to name few.

What have you felt your accomplishments have been in addressing these issues during your time in the commonwealth attorney's office? What are you most proud of?

MS. ANTHONY: Well, I'm proud of the work we have done toward all those issues. You know, I think we -- I mean, gun violence, as an example, we keep doing things; but I don't know that we have come up with anything that actually works. So we keep trying.

You know, we -- there's been the whole development of the victim-witness --

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: -- program, and we started out with volunteers. Jane Renick, who's the wife of a lawyer in town, she started our program just as a volunteer. Then gradually it became one person, two persons, three persons. Now there's victims' rights. And, certainly, I could not take credit for that, but I was involved in the movement. I'm very proud of the progress that we made on that issue.

For example, that you can have the lead investigative attorney in the courtroom with you when you are trying a case, even if he's a witness. I used to moan or bemoan all the time that, you know, the person with all the knowledge is out in the hall. So, you know, I need to confer with that person. There was a rule that the witnesses were sequestered. Now there's a law that you can have that person. You have to choose if there's more than one, but still.

I'm really proud of a lot of the progress that we all made together. I can't say this is

what I did. But I spoke at civic groups and taught at the citizens' academy and taught at Roanoke College criminal law, taught at Hollins College criminal law. I did my best to kind of spread the word and tell people if they are unhappy with something, telling me is really not -- I will agree with you, but you need to tell a legislator. So I'm proud of those efforts in sort of trying to develop people.

We have some people working for us that came through those classes like Sherry Jones --

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: -- is an example of somebody that was in school and did an internship with us and stayed. She wasn't planning to go into prosecution, but we nabbed her. I have a list somewhere of all the interns, and I bet you there are a thousand people on that list.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow.

MS. ANTHONY: You know, I don't know. I'm really proud of all progress that's been made in the justice system. And at the same time, I'm happy to acknowledge that there's a lot further to go.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: But we have come a long way. I, myself, have come a long way and I think other people have come a long way in trying to understand what's going on with us folks.

MS. CHICKERING: You have mentioned the VWAA. Tell me a little bit about your involvement with the VWAA and what you feel like was accomplished.

MS. ANTHONY: There's so much accomplished both for me personally and for the community. You Be the Judge is like a super example. And there again, it was not my idea and I didn't do it, but I had a little piece here and there.

MS. CHICKERING: So you were president.

MS. ANTHONY: I was president in 1994 of the state.

MS. CHICKERING: Then you were on the board?

MS. ANTHONY: I was on the board for a whole bunch of years.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes. What is You Be the Judge?

MS. ANTHONY: Well, it's an educational program for anybody, really, but we were targeting women. We didn't exclusively make women -- at least I didn't hear that we did -- to show them what steps are necessary to get to be a judge, if that's your goal. And I guess I could have used it earlier. I ran for a judgeship once.

MS. CHICKERING: Tell me about that.

MS. ANTHONY: Well, I wasn't successful.

MS. CHICKERING: What was the position?

MS. ANTHONY: General district court judge. You know, I thought I would be okay at it. I was -- it just seemed like the next step. But I was a little reluctant to leave the commonwealth attorney's office, too, because that's the world's best job. I'm sorry, it just is.

But several -- I mean, multiple guys in the bar -- not in my office, but in the bar sought me out to counsel with me that this was not a good choice, that I should wait for a J&D spot because -- they didn't really say that's where women belong, but that was the tone of what they were saying.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: That I would be so much better off in J&D. And at that time, I had been the chief assistant for years. I had tried, you know, probably 5- or 600 murder jury trials. While in the very beginning of my career, I did a whole lot of child abuse cases, you burn out on that very quickly. You can only see so many scalded babies before you can see it in your sleep.

So I sort of cycled out of that. And for them to say -- these guys to say you really -- you should take your talents to J&D, you know -- I mean, that is an area that needs a lot of attention. My hat is off to people like Leisa, who, you know, are great judges and they put their time and effort there. It's just not me.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: It needs to be somebody that's good at it.

MS. CHICKERING: Right, right.

MS. ANTHONY: But, you know, it sounds -- I mean, you can only say so much until it sounds like you are tooting your own horn. I really would be better. You can't say that, but I was really kind of overcome by how many people --

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: -- how many men counseled me for that.

MS. CHICKERING: Wow. When was that, approximately?

MS. ANTHONY: Well, you can find out for sure because Judge Harris won.

MS. CHICKERING: That was a while ago.

MS. ANTHONY: That was a while ago.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: I didn't try again because I realized that while all that was pending that I'm not sure I really wanted to do that. When it came back that he had won, I knew -- this sounds so awful -- we needed a person of color, diversity. We needed that. So that was a good thing. And on the other hand, we could have used a woman there, too, because we didn't have Jackie yet. But I was relieved and that sense relief told me that really wasn't what I wanted to do anyway.

MS. CHICKERING: That's right.

MS. ANTHONY: I could lose with grace because it was good.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: Then Judge Harris is my neighbor. I was, of course, happy for him too.

MS. CHICKERING: Absolutely. So when you talked about Leisa, it's Leisa Ciaffone you were mentioning, who is a juvenile court judge now here in the 23rd Circuit. Then we talked Judge Harris and -- who was the third person? -- Jackie, Judge Talevi, Jacqueline Talevi.

MS. ANTHONY: Yes. At some point, she became the chief assistant public defender at the same time I was chief assistant prosecutor. We were good friends. She's a good lawyer and very level headed and serious when you need to be serious. I was so happy that she was selected for the bench.

It's such a roll of the dice on who gets to be it. It's not really that you are saying one person is more capable than another person. There's just no -- there's not a good way of choosing who will get to be that person. I think the fact that we have had so many good judges is a testament to how fortunate and blessed that we have been because certainly the way that they are picked was not calculated to do that. So, you know, the

bar recommends people, but legislature doesn't have to even consider it, let alone go by it.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: I had -- one legislature told me that, you know, they knew as well as anybody who should be the judge -- who should be a judge. You know, I guess that is true and the other way of doing it is for them to be elected. And I'm not sure -- I mean, by the population. I'm not sure that's any better. I don't know exactly what the answer to that is. But I know when we get really good judges, we get them by the board blessing us and -- you know, I don't know how we have had so many good ones.

MS. CHICKERING: It's interesting because you mentioned You Be the Judge and kind of reflect on the fact that right now we have four women judges selected for the juvenile and domestic relations court bench but only one circuit court judge.

MS. ANTHONY: Twenty years ago.

MS. CHICKERING: Twenty years ago. And then that judge having been a general district court before she went on the circuit court bench,

that being Judge Strickland, and then Judge Talevi being the only female who has been named to the general district court bench.

Reflect on that, if you would. What are you thoughts about that?

MS. ANTHONY: Really?

MS. CHICKERING: Yes, ma'am.

MS. ANTHONY: I think it reflects that, you know, we can -- I have several reflections. One is that we can no longer say, well -- as I have been told many times before, well, there are so few women in the bar that you cannot expect many to be on the bench because -- I mean, if you just had a random draw, you know, if there are five out of a hundred women, that's five percent. We have so few judges, so that makes sense. In a way, I guess it does.

But then you think well, now, the law school is about 50/50, maybe a little bit more women than men are going to law school. And there are a huge number of women in the 23rd bars. So okay. Now where's my percentage? Where's my 50/50? Then you hear people say, well, but it's so-and-so's turn. Excuse me?

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: I thought we were doing this on ability. Are we doing it on turns? Where's the line? Get some women in the line. I don't know. I have no answer. I just think that it's not -- we don't choose them well, but I don't know that I can recommend a better way. So I hope that there will be women like you, you who will hop up and, you know, get some support behind them.

You know, if somebody from Woods Rogers, say, or Gentry Locke were to run for a judgeship, some qualified woman and there have been some managing partners in the local areas that have run big firms, so you know they know what they're doing. If those people could get the whole firm behind them, that's a huge percentage of the vote. At least we can get a recommendation for some women.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: Then you can hop up and down to the legislator about how they are the problem. But now, if we don't have any women that are recommended, then --

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: -- you really have no ground. As Bill Poff used to say, You can't ride your high horse because you only have a little bitty horse.

MS. CHICKERING: Interesting reflection then if you look now, the Roanoke Bar Association, their full board and their slate of officers are all women. Are you surprised about that and what are your reflections on that?

MS. ANTHONY: Go, ladies, go. I am surprised in a way. But on the other hand, my mom used to tell me way back in the old days -- and it's very true -- If you want something done, ask a busy woman to do it because she will figure out how to do it.

In the churches, I think that's sort of fulfilling itself that men are doing something else and women are doing the work. The bar is like that too. There's a lot of work to be done there, so these are people who are willing to do the work. And they happen to be busy women. In that way, I'm not surprised.

MS. CHICKERING: And do you feel that the diversity they bring is important --

MS. ANTHONY: Yes.

MS. CHICKERING: -- for the bench and the running of the bar?

MS. ANTHONY: I certainly do. I certainly do. I think we could use more diversity.

MS. CHICKERING: So were you involved with the -- I know you've always been a member of the Roanoke Bar Association. Were you involved with the Roanoke Bar Association?

MS. ANTHONY: In earlier days when I was a busier person, I did that too.

MS. CHICKERING: Tell me about that.

MS. ANTHONY: I was on the board at some point, but it was too much. Like I said, it's a lot of work.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure.

MS. ANTHONY: I was not willing to do the work, and it doesn't seem fair to take up a place if you are not going to -- if you know you are not going to be able do what's expected or what's needed really.

MS. CHICKERING: So you also have a strong record of civic service in the Roanoke Valley. Tell me about that.

MS. ANTHONY: Well, I was a member of Civitan, a group for many, many years. I have dropped out. Like I said, I'm on a rotation to do speaking engagements. I mean, there are literally hundreds of them. And I did a mentorship for the fourth grade class. That's something that the bar did at the time when I was --

MS. CHICKERING: Tell me about that.

MS. ANTHONY: They assigned lawyers to be with a fourth grade class and you had to agree to give them an hour a month. And now it's reading buddies, so you read. Then you could read or you could talk or you could have sort of like the presentation of the law, that kind of thing. Basically, whatever you wanted to do, just make a connection with the fourth grade group.

I happened to be connected with Ms. Evans at Fairview. I mean, it was wonderful, all those little bubbly faces. They had so many questions. Some of them related and some of them off the wall. One time we talked about a marijuana. A little girl said, If my brother is growing marijuana in the basement, should I tell somebody? I went la la la la la la.

But what I quickly found out was that an hour a month is really not enough to make a relationship. It's kind of like being Grandma. If you are not there, you are not there. I started doing it once a week. I would have the horse platoon -- at that time, we had a horse squad or something. We did that. We did the vice squad one time. We did the bicycle squad one time. We just went through the police department and the community. We had firefighters in one time. We would talk about what they do and just be with them. They are hungry for attention at that age. That was wonderful. I did that for a couple of years. I just couldn't keep it up.

MS. CHICKERING: Sure. So you truly have been a trailblazer, but not only for women in the law in Virginia and in particular the Roanoke Valley, but also for the preservation and betterment of the Roanoke Valley.

So what are your observations of the progress or lack thereof of the equality of women attorneys in Virginia and elsewhere and on the bench?

MS. ANTHONY: Well, the quality of the

women lawyers is fantastic. I really think that they're much more on the ball than I was. They know to ask what they don't know. They know to network. So I think that is wonderful. I think they -- all together, we've all made lots of progress. But we just have to keep plugging at it so that we get equal pay for equal work. I know as soon as you say that, somebody's going to say yes, but you took time out for your babies. But I really didn't. You know, four weeks out of a lifetime is not that much.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: I know that -- I think that's where we have to go that every female lawyer, like every male lawyer, has to decide where their priorities are. And if they are going to be super lawyers, that's great. They have to work on that. If they are going to be June Cleaver, they have to work on that. We have to get over ourselves thinking we have to do it all. You just have to pick what you are going to do and prioritize other things. And, you know, you've heard the story about the rocks and the sand.

MS. CHICKERING: Yes.

MS. ANTHONY: Well, if you fill -- if you have rocks and sand and gravel, if you put the sand in first, that's all the little stuff of your life, you have very little room for the big rocks that are important. But if you put the big rocks in first and then you put the gravel in, it shifts all down. Then you put the sand down, and it will shift in around there. You can get a whole glass of everything rather than just the sand.

MS. CHICKERING: Right.

MS. ANTHONY: I think that if I had known that 40 years ago, it would have been much better than knowing it to today. But still...

MS. CHICKERING: So what would you most like your legacy to be?

MS. ANTHONY: That I was a great grandma.

MS. CHICKERING: Tell me about that.

MS. ANTHONY: Truly.

MS. CHICKERING: Tell me about that.

MS. ANTHONY: I have five grandchildren. I spend one day a week with them. You know, just be part of whatever they are doing. If they are having friends over, that's fine. If they are studying, I sit with them while they are studying.

Whatever they are doing, I do it too. When they were very little, we played in the floor and things like that.

My baby is two and my oldest one is 16, just driving. So the other day for the very first time I got to meet her for lunch. She drove, and I drove. It was so special. So I would like when I pass on if the five of them can say she was such a good grandma, if they could just say that, I'm happy.

MS. CHICKERING: Betty Jo, this has been absolutely delightful. Thank you for participating.

MS. ANTHONY: Thank you. It was fun. I told her when we first came in that of all the juries I've tried, I have never been as nervous as I was to come in here. You know, I have this vision of this piece of film lasting for eternity and what if I say something really stupid. My daughter said last night when I was telling her that, she said, Whatever you say, we are still going to love you after. It's okay. All right.

MS. CHICKERING: You did beautifully. Thank you so much.