



UNDERSTANDING #METOO BY LISTENING TO THE PAST

PRESERVING, MINING AND PROMOTING THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S WOMEN
TRAILBLAZERS IN THE LAW ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION @ STANFORD LAW SCHOOL

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WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS IN THE LAW (“WTP”)

- **100+** oral histories of US women lawyers
- **Leaders** in judiciary, academia, law firms, government, corporations, and public interest organizations
- Uniquely comprehensive, **nationwide** project devoted exclusively to capturing and recording complete histories as told by the pioneering women themselves
- Created by **Linda Ferrin**, former Executive Director of the Historical Society of the DC Circuit and **Brooksley Born**, co-founder of National Women’s Law Center, retired partner at Arnold & Porter, former Chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and SLS alum (JD ‘64)
 - Originally funded by **charitable contributions** from law firms, lawyers and foundations
 - Aimed for **diversity** in geographic locations, professional service, and race & ethnicity

The Honorable Ruth I. Abrams

Loretta Collins Argrett

Barbara Allen Babcock

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The Honorable Rosemary Barkett

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Barbara Aronstein Black

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Women Trailblazers Project Listing

Find a Trailblazer

Welcome to the Women Trailblazers search page. The names of Trailblazers are located on the blue navigation bar on the left side of this webpage. Click the Trailblazer's name to gain access to her oral history.

[Home](#) > [Directories](#) > [Women Trailblazers Project Listing](#) > [LaDoris H. Cordell](#)

Interviews

Special thank you to the name of an

Ann E. Allen

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The Honorable

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Hilarie Bas

Pamela E.

Brooksley B

Amelia H. B

Nicole Colb

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LaDoris H. Cordell

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Oral History Transcripts

- Interview I
- Interview II
- Interview III

Donative Documents

- Donative Documents

Biographies

- LaDoris H. Cordell Bio
- Dr. Florence O. Keller - Interviewer

WTP on ABA's site

SLS WTP PROJECT TEAMS

- **Digital Repository Team**

- Camelia Naranch
 - Jake Kubrin
 - Carol Wilson



- **Web Team**

- Alba Holgado
 - Esther Chen
 - Sarah Reis



THE NUMBERS

- # of cassette tapes digitized: 444
 - 406 regular cassettes
 - 34 microcassettes
 - 4 minicassettes
- # of interviews digitized: 345
- # of photos ingested into SDR: 554 images
- # of videos ingested: 21 videos
- Total # of files ingested: 2406



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Women Trailblazers in the Law: Our Visions, Our Voices

The Women Trailblazers in the Law Project (WTP) captures the oral histories of women pioneers in the legal profession nationwide, memorializing their stories in their own voices and preserving their experiences and observations for future generations.

The women who entered the legal profession in the 1970's and earlier faced blatant discrimination and a variety of unique challenges and dilemmas. It is this history that Women Trailblazers in the Law is preserving – as told by the women who lived it.



Shirley Abrahamson



Ruth I. Abrams



Judith Areen



Loretta Collins Argrett



Barbara A. Babcock



Sheila C. Bair



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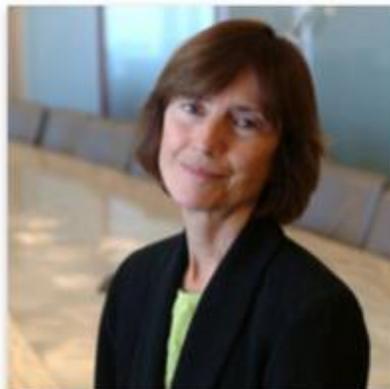
Barbara Aronstein Black



Brooksley E. Born



Ruth C. Burg



Elizabeth J. Cabraser



Nancy Duff Campbell





BARBARA ARONSTEIN BLACK

Recommended Citation:

Transcript of Interview with Barbara Aronstein Black (Mar. 27, 2006; Apr. 5, 2006; Apr. 17, 2006),
<https://purl.stanford.edu/sv384vk4422>.

Interviewer:

[Nancy Kramer](#)

[Oral History](#)

[Biography](#)

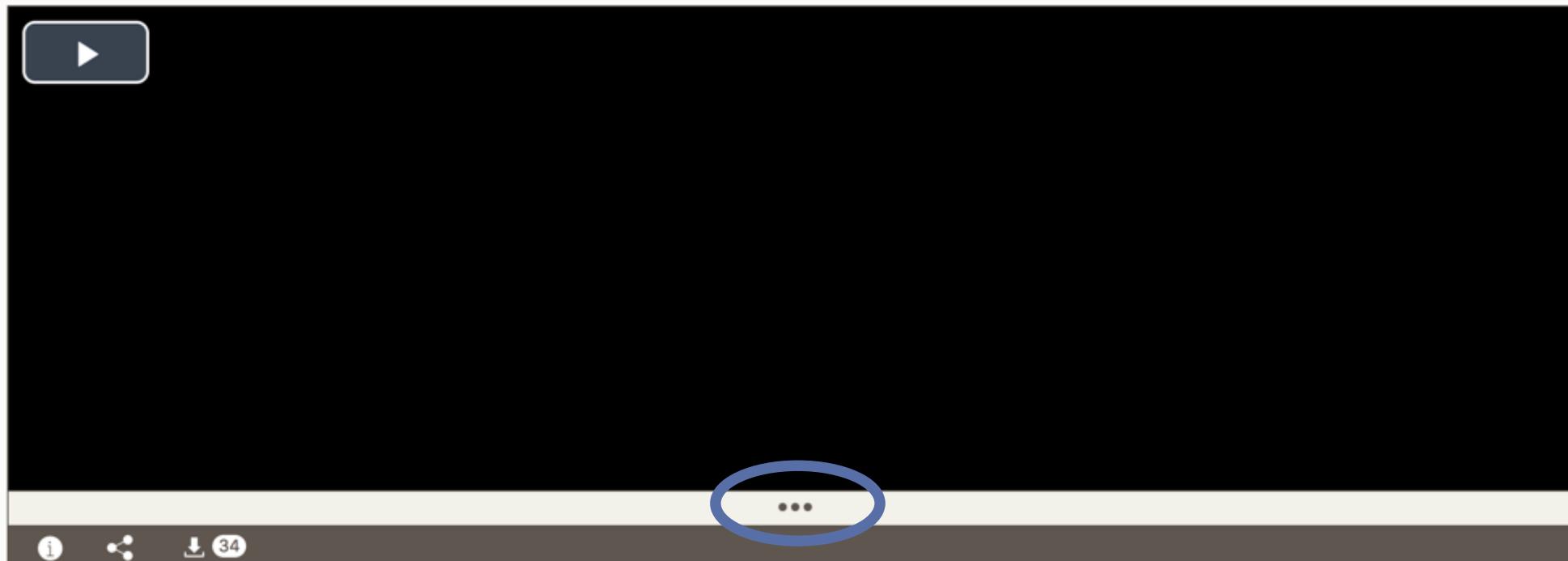
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[Oral history of Barbara Aronstein Black]

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[Oral history interviews of the Women Trailblazers in the Law Project]



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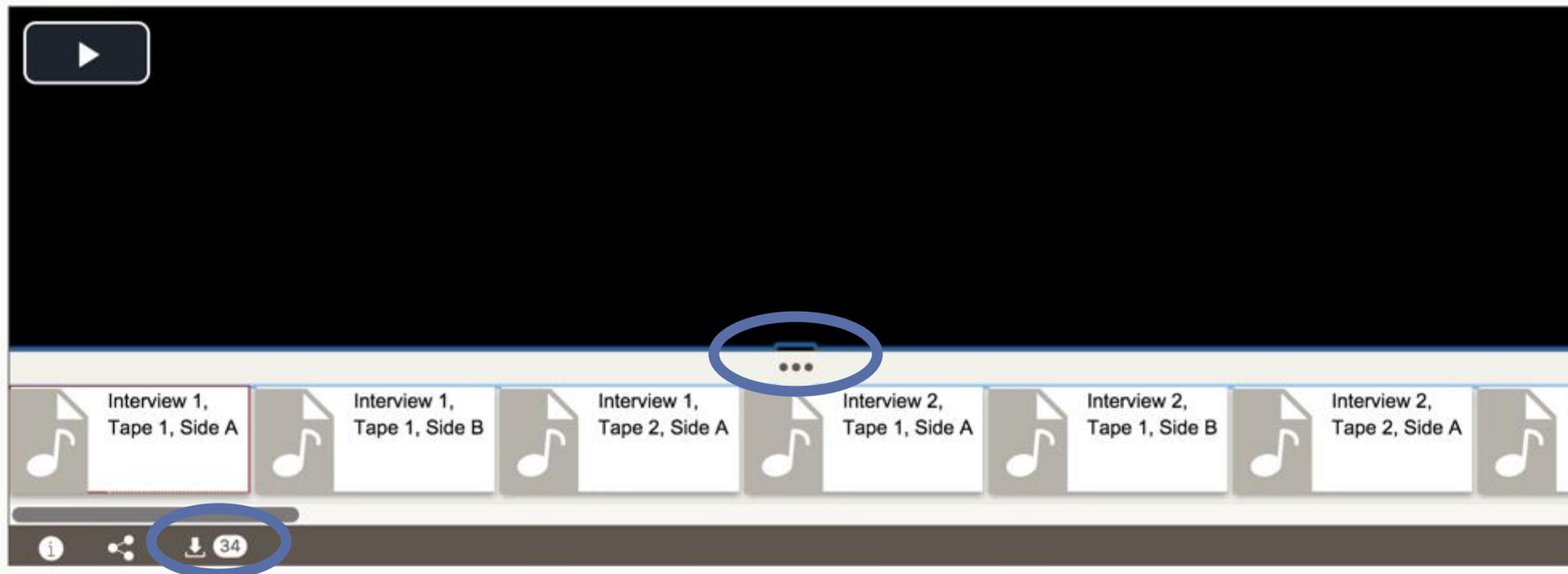
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Interview 1, Tape 1, Side A

Interview 1, Tape 1, Side B

Interview 1, Tape 2, Side A

Interview 2, Tape 1, Side A

Interview 2, Tape 1, Side B

Interview 2, Tape 2, Side A

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Barbara Aronstein Black

March 27, 2006; April 5, 2006; April 17, 2006

**Recommended
Citation**

Transcript of Interview with Barbara Aronstein Black (Mar. 27, 2006; Apr. 5, 2006; Apr. 17, 2006),
<https://abawtp.law.stanford.edu/exhibits/show/barbara-aronstein-black>.

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ORAL HISTORY

of

BARBARA A. BLACK

Interviewer: Nancy Kramer

Dates of Interviews:

March 27, 2006

April 5, 2006

April 17, 2006

ORAL HISTORY OF BARBARA BLACK (final)

March 27, 2006: Tape 1

I am sitting with Barbara Black on March 27, 2006, and we are about to begin the oral history.

Interviewer: Barbara, I wonder if you could start by telling me about your birth and your childhood, your earliest memories.

Ms. Black: Well, I was born in Brooklyn in 1933, and I was the youngest of three. I've got two big brothers. My father was a lawyer, and he had attended Brooklyn law school. In fact I just came across his diploma which I actually have framed. My mother did not work outside the home and this was largely because my father would not permit her to do so. There were times when she wanted to go to work, but this was something he was dead set against. My father as a lawyer was a sole practitioner with a fairly general practice and the financial situation was somewhat up and down. It was feast sometimes and, not exactly famine, but scraping by, just getting through, at other times. I come from a very large extended family on both sides and not only large but very, very close, so that my experience of family, as I have come to understand, was really quite unusual. I remain to this day close to those aunts and uncles who remain, not very many, and to my cousins. We have indeed a family list serve so that we keep in touch and wish each other happy birthday and so forth and send news. For many years I would have said my closest friends were my cousins; I grew up with cousins, and we were in each other's houses all the time. I think

ORAL HISTORY

BARBARA ARONSTEIN BLACK

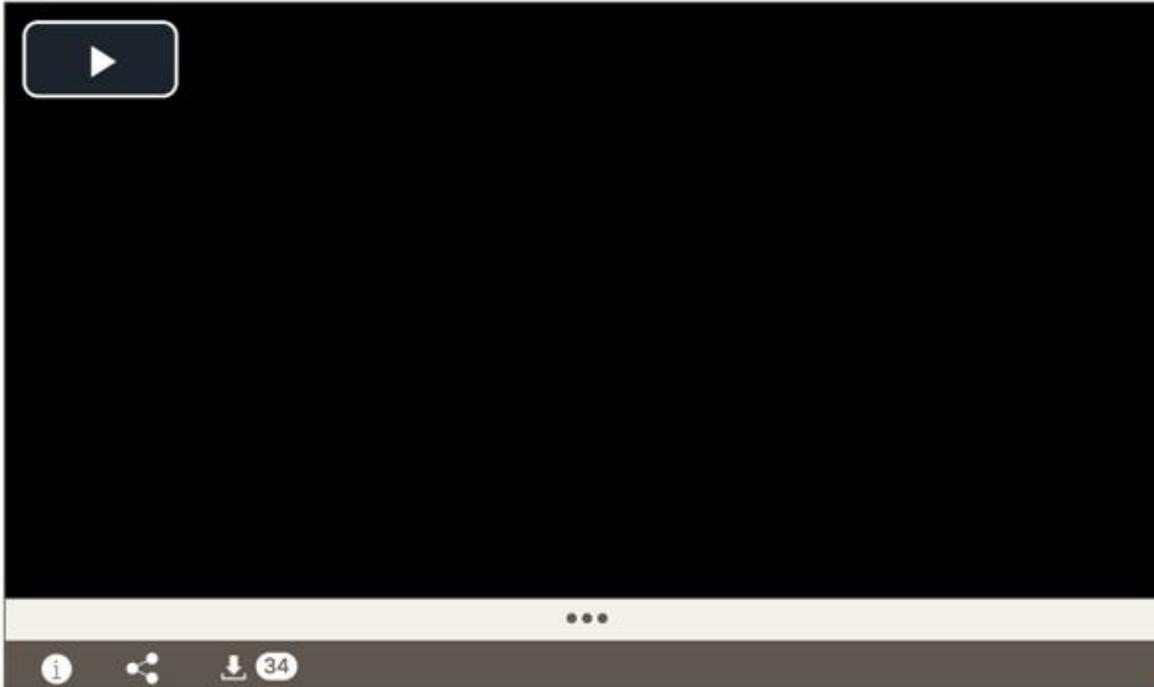
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[Transcript of Interview with Barbara Aronstein Black](#) (Mar. 27, 2006; Apr. 5, 2006; Apr. 17, 2006).

Interviewer: [Nancy Kramer](#)



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BIOGRAPHY



Barbara Aronstein Black was born (1933) and raised in Brooklyn, and attended the Brooklyn public schools and Brooklyn College. In 1952, she entered Columbia Law School, where she was an editor of the Law Review, a Kent Scholar and recipient of the Federal Bar Association Prize; she graduated in 1955 and spent the academic year 1955-1956 as an associate-in-law at Columbia.

She married Charles L. Black, Jr. in 1954. In 1956, her husband's career took the couple to New Haven, Conn., which was to be their home for 28 years; for the first nine of those years, Black devoted her time to her family, which soon included two sons and a daughter. In 1965, eager to move toward an academic career, but not wishing, quite yet, to take on full-time work, she began a doctoral program in history at Yale. During the next decade, while a graduate student, she was appointed to part-time teaching posts in the history department. Wryly describing her career progress at this stage as "meteoric," Black commented that since, at the age of 38, she held appointment as "quarter-time acting instructor," she could presumably look forward to being a full-time acting instructor by age 152.

However, the pace accelerated, and, receiving her Ph.D. in 1975, she became an assistant professor of history at Yale in 1976 and an associate professor at the Yale Law School in 1979. In the spring semester of 1984, she was a visiting professor at Columbia Law School; in April of that year, she received, from Yale, tenure and appointment as a full professor, and, from Columbia, an invitation to join the faculty as George Welwood Murray Professor of Legal History. Accepting the Columbia offer, she moved back to New York. A year and a half later, her colleagues asked her to take on the suddenly vacant Columbia Law School deanship, and she agreed to do so. She served as Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1986 to 1991 and has been happily engaged since then in full-time teaching, research and writing in contracts and legal history. She has been president of the American Society for Legal History (1986-89) and a member of the New York State Ethics Commission (1992-95). She is a member of the New York and Connecticut Bars, a member of the American Philosophical Society, the Selden Society, and other learned societies, and the recipient of honorary degrees from Brooklyn College, Smith, Georgetown University Law Center, and other institutions. She has a number of publications on legal history, and five grandchildren.

BARBARA ARONSTEIN BLACK

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Biography

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Photo Gallery



ORAL HISTORY

PAULINE A. SCHNEIDER

Oral History

Biography

Transcript of Interview with Pauline A. Schneider (June 25, 2007).

Interviewer: Susan Winfield



Closed captioning video of *Pauline Schneider Oral History Interview*, is available at:
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?317026-1/pauline-schneider-oral-history-interview>.

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ORAL HISTORY

Transcript of Interview with Antonia Hernández (Jan. 10, 2006; Feb. 6, 2006; Apr. 18, 2006).

Interviewer: Louise LaMothe



The video player interface displays a video of Antonia Hernández. The control bar at the bottom features several icons: an information icon (i), a share icon, a download icon, and a view count of 69. The download icon and the number 69 are circled in blue. Above the control bar, there are thumbnails for other media: a music icon labeled 'Interview 3, Tape 3, Side B', a video icon labeled 'Video Interview', an image icon labeled 'Image (1 of 61)', and another image icon labeled 'Image'.

Closed captioning video of *Antonia Hernandez Oral History Interview*, is available at: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?294199-1/antonia-hernandez-oral-history-interview>.

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RUTH BADER GINSBURG

[Biography](#)

This oral history is currently restricted; it will be located here at the appropriate time.

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- **Linking students: Women's History Month @ SLS**
 - Co-sponsored by:
 - Robert Crown Law Library
 - Stanford Center on the Legal Profession
 - Stanford Law Review
 - Women of Stanford Law

Celebrating Women Trailblazers in the Law @ SLS

Speakers:



Barbara Babcock

Judge John Crown Professor of Law Emerita,
Stanford Law School

March 1, 2019
12:45 - 2:00 pm
SLS Crown 180



Brooksley Born, JD '64

Chair of the ABA Senior Lawyers Division (SLD)
Women Trailblazers Project Committee
and Retired Partner, Arnold & Porter



Ajay Mehrotra

Executive Director and Research Professor at
the American Bar Foundation, Professor of
Law at the Northwestern University Pritzker
School of Law, Affiliated Professor of History
at Northwestern University



Jill Norgren

Professor Emerita, Department of Political Science, John Jay
College of Criminal Justice and the CUNY Graduate Center
and author of "Stories from Trailblazing Women Lawyers:
Lives in the Law" (New York University Press, 2018)



Deborah Rhode

Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law and Director,
Center on the Legal Profession, Stanford Law School

The Robert Crown Law Library recently launched a new website to preserve and promote a landmark collection of oral histories called Women Trailblazers in the Law, a collaborative research project between the American Bar Association and the American Bar Foundation. Please join us on the first day of Women's History Month to celebrate our website and to explore these captivating stories of women pioneers in the legal profession.

Lunch will be provided.



Please RSVP by February 25, 2019 @
<http://bit.ly/RSVPtraiblazers>

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MAKING CONNECTIONS: LINKING RESEARCHERS, CONT.

Ms. Hernandez: So, did I know what I was getting into? No. Did I know what a lawyer did? I didn't know a single lawyer. Did I have a sense? No. Sometimes ignorance is bliss.

Ms. Lamothe: That's absolutely true. I had a very similar experience really. Because in those days as you no doubt had the same experience, there was no career counseling for us. But there was that expectation that you could be a teacher, nurse, or secretary. That was the range.

Ms. Hernandez: Secretary.

Ms. Lamothe: That was the range. To go outside that in those days was really quite extraordinary. Let me double back and ask you a question. Just to delve a

Source: Transcript of Interview with Antonia Hernández (Jan. 10, 2006; Feb. 6, 2006; Apr. 18, 2006) at p. 11, <https://abawtp.law.stanford.edu/exhibits/show/antonia-hernandez>.

know a lot about. He was her employer and had the power. His lynching metaphor made it clear to black women—or at least to me—that appeal to racial solidarity had its limits for black women.

NM: The reference to lynching was picked up by the press?

PK: And picked up by the press, she was portrayed as a scheming woman who made false accusations in connection with sexual matters, something that also happens in other context like rape, claims of child sexual abuse, etc.

NM: Did it feel like race trumping gender?

PK: No, at least not to me. It seemed like men trumping women.

Source: Transcript of Interview with Patricia A. King (Dec. 5, 2005, Mar. 9, 2007, May 22, 2007, Aug. 8, 2007, Aug. 28, 2007) at p. 141.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- **Linking collections:**

- SLS' Women's Legal History bibliography - <https://stanford.io/2NrGb5b>
- Foreign & international projects
 - Australia – <https://bit.ly/2BR2MAA>
 - New Zealand (Judges) – <https://bit.ly/2CGsucz>
 - UK (Oxford) – <https://bit.ly/2GPqYJh>



National Association of Women Lawyers (1930)
Source: LOC <https://bit.ly/2R0VrsM>