

**FMJA History Committee Oral History Project
Suggested format for interviews**

1. Name, city and state of residence, and district of service as a MJ.
2. Age, religion and ethnic background; other languages spoken, how did you acquire this skill?
3. Pre-MJ legal specialty. What was the best part of that? What was hardest to leave for the bench? Easiest? Did you serve on a different court before becoming a MJ? How was your transition to the bench? What helped? How have you helped others make the transition?
4. What was your favorite/worst pre-law job. What did that teach you?
5. Academic background; undergrad, Law, other grad school. Why did you choose these schools? Did you serve as a law clerk? For whom? What did you take away from that experience?
6. What year did you become a MJ? How long have you served as an MJ? Age at appointment; how did that impact your service as a MJ? Have you been considered for a DJ or CtofAp appt?
7. Did your heritage, ethnicity or background influence your decision to become judge, or shape your approach to judging? Who in your family encouraged you to become a lawyer or judge? When did you decide that you wanted a judicial career? What steps did you take to make that happen?
8. Your reaction to your appointment as a MJ: where were you when you got "the call" telling you that you got the job? Do you remember anyone or any experience from "Baby Judge School?" Who were your role models or mentors? How and why? Did you ever thank them?
9. Childhood friends/classmates/family members' reaction to your being appointed a federal judge? If surprised, why? If not, why not?
10. Primary duties as MJ; how have these changed over the years? How do you feel about the administration of justice in this country? The jury system? The decline in the number of jury trials? What would you change about how civil or criminal cases are handled in the federal system if you were able to set policy?
11. Best/ Worst part of being a MJ. How would you change the duties of MJ if you were in charge?
12. Decision/Order of which you are most proud. Why? What was the ultimate outcome of the case –was it appealed? Did you have to enforce any Orders related to the case? What did you learn from this?
13. Most humbling/embarrassing experience as a MJ. (Yes, only one).
14. Most memorable trial or hearing. Why? What happened, and how did you react? What did you learn?
15. Most difficult issue you had to decide as a MJ. Why? Was it the subject matter, the parties, or the law? Did this change how you approached any later cases?
16. Strangest issue brought before you as a MJ. How did you resolve it?
17. Funniest experience as a MJ
18. Any former law clerks gone on to fame and fortune? How did you choose your law clerks? What advice would you have for a new MJ on the best way to find a law clerk? Did you use interns? How did that work out?
19. Retirement plans? What advice do you want to leave for your grandkids/future generations/new lawyers? Do you think there should be a mandatory retirement age for judges? Should MJs be allowed to be on Senior Status without annual renewal process – just serve like Sr. DJs?
20. How would you like to be remembered?