

**October 26, 1997**

MS. GERE: This is October 26, and this is a continuation of the oral history of Judge June L. Green.

Good afternoon, Judge Green.

JUDGE GREEN: Good afternoon, Sally.

MS. GERE: We were talking the last time we met about your days as a private practitioner in Washington. Today I would like to ask you about whether there were any lawyers that you think back on as ones who served as mentors to you during your career as a lawyer. Obviously, there were not a lot of women in practice at that time and therefore I would think it would have been difficult for a young woman to find a mentor. Were you able to do that?

JUDGE GREEN: The person who comes to mind was Joseph Bulman. Joe helped me in many, many ways, and we were fast friends. We are to this day, although he now lives most of the time in Florida.

MS. GERE: How did you come to know Mr. Bulman? How did you meet him?

JUDGE GREEN: I met him, actually, when I was still at Lumbermens. On different cases that he had, we worked together—on opposite sides.

MS. GERE: So he mostly represented plaintiffs, is that right?

JUDGE GREEN: He did. He was one of the most successful and nicest plaintiffs' attorneys in Washington, I thought. Always friendly with everybody at the bar. I think that I learned how to behave from him, because I sat with him many times in court, and realized that just because the rules provide for your objections, unless they're very necessary, you don't need to use them all the time. I learned things that Joe would say, for instance, about the jury. You

always watch the jury to see what goes over and what doesn't. If the person is making too many objections, they may be sustained, and they're very pleased with themselves—but the jury thinks they're trying to keep something from them. Joe made this very clear to me. He said that you just don't want a jury to think that they are—

MS. GERE: Not getting all the evidence.

JUDGE GREEN: And that you just take it easy. I thought this was fine advice. I have tried very hard to pass it on to at least my law clerks and to the lawyers who appear before me. Privately. However, sometimes they think they know better. Never with my law clerks.

MS. GERE: Well, that's good. I was going to say, I remember this lesson, and hope that I have used it myself and not forgotten it or thought that I knew better.

JUDGE GREEN: I'm sure that my law clerks have all been splendid lawyers.

MS. GERE: Well-raised. I think that's what we were. Well-educated.

JUDGE GREEN: Well, Joe took a particular interest in me, for unknown reasons. I knew him well. He would recommend me for the D.C. Judicial Conference. Which, of course, was the federal one.

MS. GERE: How did one become a member of the Judicial Conference in those days?

JUDGE GREEN: The judges were the only ones who invited them. And I had appeared many times before—oh, I take that back. There's another thing. The bar associations were given particular subjects to address when there were changes, I remember, in the law in some respect. Or when they thought there should be changes and were recommending to the bar itself that they would like to change these things. The Women's Bar would send me as their

delegate to the Judicial Conference and I would be invited if I made some presentation before the court. And when I started, we did not leave Washington at all.

MS. GERE: Oh, the Judicial Conference was held—

JUDGE GREEN: The Judicial Conference was held in the courthouse, in the beginning. It was one day. Then they would go to, after that, they would go to the Mayflower. They called the roll, and saw that people sometimes were not there when the roll was called. I was there.

MS. GERE: I would think that would be a good thing—to be there when they called the roll.

JUDGE GREEN: I thought so. Then they would have a break before they started, and a number of people would leave and go back to their offices. Not me. I sat through many a boring presentation and I did manage to look interested. Sometimes I would be rather alone there, almost. Especially after lunch, when the people would come back, but then they would get out of there—

MS. GERE: And go back to their offices?

JUDGE GREEN: Well, they'd do whatever they were going to do. Maybe they were going to play golf, I don't know. But in any case, I think that the fact that I stayed—always—to do the job, that if you were the speaker—I always felt, how terrible to talk and not have anybody to listen at all. So I think that they thought that I ought to be invited the next time. And I was. Joe would always recommend me as well, when the time came that any attorneys could recommend anybody. So when I started in, the Women's Bar did help, very much. And I remember one time we had a subject that involved changing the probate rules. The

people who really were in probate law wanted more time than they were given. I thought that the least that I could do was to give them my time. That was appreciated by the people who needed it. I think that just plain common courtesy made a lot of difference. This is why I feel so strongly about the lawyers today who are just uncouth to each other.

MS. GERE: Both in the courtroom and out of the courtroom.

JUDGE GREEN: Right. Just not considerate of anything, except themselves. I've seen a lot of them go by the board as a result. They just have not made it.

MS. GERE: That is one of the things that, in teaching law students, we regularly say. You have only one reputation as a lawyer. You should take good care throughout your career to protect it. Because once you lose it, it's not likely that you will be able to get it back.

JUDGE GREEN: Right.

MS. GERE: I hope that the younger lawyers remember that. I certainly think that's something I learned very early in my clerkship with you. Both listening to you say how important it was, but also in watching the lawyers who appeared before you who were not able to maintain it.

Well, as to Mr. Bulman—did there come a time after you were in private practice that you ever worked with him on the same side of a case?

JUDGE GREEN: Yes, absolutely. After I no longer represented Lumbermens. I don't know whether I've told you about that?

MS. GERE: No.

JUDGE GREEN: Well, Mr. Glenn had moved to Chicago, to a more important position—

MS. GERE: With the company?

JUDGE GREEN: With the company, yes. He had been wonderful about submitting all the defense cases in Maryland that were handled in the Washington office. That was all of Montgomery County all the way through St. Mary's. So I handled the defense of all of those personal injury cases, including the city of Rockville, as they were insured by Lumbermens. The person who succeeded Mr. Glenn was not a lawyer. He was—I don't really know what his background was. But he was not a lawyer—and the head of the office had always been a lawyer both before Mr. Glenn and all the years that he was there. And this man came and complained about one of my cases. They had never complained about my fees or anything of the sort in Chicago, and it always was put through the Washington office. Then they would send it on to Chicago to get paid at the home office. I had had a very successful record. Obviously, you never win them all. But at least there was a basis for it when we didn't win one. In any case, this was one that I thought was a very serious case, in which a driver from the city of Rockville, a truck driver—

MS. GERE: An employee of the city?

JUDGE GREEN: —had injured somebody else to such degree that they were emasculated. He was entirely at fault. I did not feel that this was a case that should be tried by a jury. I felt that it should be settled, if possible. I had worked very hard on the case to get it in position to settle, with depositions and witnesses and so on. All of the things that one does. It had been settled quite comfortably, decently. I had, as usual, sent my bill for my time and efforts. The then-Chief of the Washington office came over to see me. He said, "I think that you have a very tough bill for this case. What is the reason?" So I explained to him exactly what was

necessary to do in the case and what had been done, and we'd had a very fine—

MS. GERE: Result.

JUDGE GREEN: And I felt that that was a fair bill. They had always felt that I was fair, I felt. He continued to pace up and down my office. I said, "What do you think?" He said, "Well, I don't want to set your fee. I just ask you what you think." I said, "Well, I gave it a good deal of thought, and that is what I think." He said, "Well, I just think—" He kept on, never explaining what was wrong with it. So I realized that he was quite dissatisfied with me, personally. I wondered why. But I also felt that if I cut the fee, I was going to lose my self-respect. I figured if I didn't, I was going to lose his business. As against the two, I didn't want to lose my self-respect. So I said, "I'm sorry, but that is what I think it's worth." He said, "Well, after all, you are a woman." I said, "Yes—"

MS. GERE: That was not an issue, but—

JUDGE GREEN: I said, "I have always been a woman, and I always expect to be in my lifetime. If you'll excuse me, I think that's a non sequitur." And he said, "Well!" And he stalked out of the office. I had many cases that were still pending in different stages. I thought they would all be called for. But they were not. He allowed me—I guess the company allowed me—to finish them all, because it would have been a rather awkward position for them, I think, if they'd had to get somebody else to do it at the last minute, when we were all scheduled for trial.

MS. GERE: Did it cross your mind at all to send them back their cases that were in mid-process?

JUDGE GREEN: Not at all. My feeling was that I was not at fault in doing anything. I thought that this man is never going to send me another case, and that's the way it is.

I would not be able to get along with him anyway. But I never heard anything about the other cases. They just paid me. Nobody was complaining.

MS. GERE: Did you ever—

JUDGE GREEN: I never knew what he was saying or anything, but I got paid what I was charging.

MS. GERE: Did you ever talk to Mr. Glenn out in Chicago?

JUDGE GREEN: No, as a matter of fact, he died very early, out there. I had never known he had a bad heart or anything, but he had had a heart attack and died. In fact, I didn't know that he had died. It was afterwards that I finally got some word about it. I felt very sad about it, because he had been a very good friend, and a good boss. In fact, I was godmother for one of his children.

MS. GERE: Oh, my. When that happened, what percentage of your work at that point in practice was for Lumbermens, or Lumbermens-related?

JUDGE GREEN: Quite a lot. Although by this time, so many people had been represented by me in the city, in the area, that people I'd represented when I was at Lumbermens itself would seek me out to come back if they had bought a house and there was a settlement, and I would do that. Or a divorce, or something of the sort. Anything.

MS. GERE: Whatever they needed a lawyer for.

JUDGE GREEN: Right. People were very, very loyal. Many of my former clients have been friends for years and years with me, still. Naturally, they had to get other counsel. But for a while, John was taking care of the ones who were the freebies. I told him that I had always represented these people, and they changed their wills every year and that sort of thing, and that

he should do that without charging them. He did for a long time. Then he decided that was not—

MS. GERE: That was not his line, either. Well, with your practice then—

JUDGE GREEN: I had a very general practice. But Joe Bulman came forward and said to me, they are still very stuffy about the cases in Maryland, for that you have to have an office. I did have an office in Annapolis as well as in the Washington Building. So he said, “Would you care to represent plaintiffs? I’m sure that you can do a good job.” I had of course been representing some plaintiffs on my own. So we had worked it out that I would represent any person that he wanted me to represent and sent to me. He paid me very well for it. It was always a percentage.

MS. GERE: And these were typically cases that were going to go to trial in Maryland, and that’s why he had associated you? Because you had an office in Maryland?

JUDGE GREEN: Right. Also, when he sent them to me, they were beautifully fixed. I shouldn’t say fixed. [Laughter.] Sounds like a strange term. But I mean prepared. All of the things that you start doing in a case to get to know it had been done. Of course, I had to meet the clients, finally. He would send them over pretty fast, when I was doing all of his plaintiffs’ work in Maryland. They would have police reports, they would have all of the witness statements; they would be quite ready for me to take the depositions and so on, and get ready to really try them. It was a wonderful experience for me to have both sides of the cases. At one point, actually, when I had started with some of the plaintiffs’ cases, I had a problem—because sometimes they would be one of the Lumbermens cases or something of the sort that I hadn’t known that the defense was covered by insurance. I would have to get out. At least I felt that I

did, because sometimes I was still representing Lumbermens at that point.

MS. GERE: So most of these plaintiffs cases, then, were personal injury?

JUDGE GREEN: Personal injuries, but plaintiffs. We had a wonderful arrangement. I wanted to stay in my own office, and that was perfectly satisfactory to Joe, and we were very close to each other. We were in the Washington Building, and he was in the Woodward Building, just up 15th Street.

MS. GERE: So he had a firm, then, and others that he was in practice with?

JUDGE GREEN: Yes, it was Joseph D. Bulman's. I thought that was good enough for me. And mine was June L. Green. And Joe's firm, the name still goes on now that Joe has been retired for a long, long time. He had Montedonico and he had Sydney Goldstein.

MS. GERE: Oh, Joe Montedonico was with him?

JUDGE GREEN: Oh, yes. Started with him.

MS. GERE: Oh, he did? Oh my gosh.

JUDGE GREEN: He had a number of people. But as to say, I did my thing in my own office, and I had always an assistant or an associate, always on my own payroll. Sometimes I worked it out so that if they brought cases in, they would get their own fee that way.

MS. GERE: Among the associates that you had working for you while you were in private practice—were any of them women?

JUDGE GREEN: No, I didn't have any connections with the women. The only time was after I had had William Stevens, who turned out not to be able to try cases. It made him sick. Every time we'd start court, I would end up having to try the case that I thought he was going to take. He turned out to be—to stay out of court and do tax work. He is very happy and

very successful now, which is fine. I heard from Bill Ehrmentraut, at that point, who knew that Stevens had left, and he had been in practice out in Brentwood. And he hadn't been able to make it, with a fellow named Cumulata. He wanted to know if I would take him on. And I did. He was with me for about six years, I think.

MS. GERE: He then went on eventually and started his own firm, didn't he?

JUDGE GREEN: He did, with Donahue, Ed Donahue. Who had been with McInnerney . I remember those things. After Bill left, and I thought it was a good idea for him to set out on his own and he was ready for it, and was very successful. And I had Yasha Drabek. He was still in law school at the time he started with me. He became a lawyer and stayed, and was quite able to take over some of the cases and work on them. He stayed until such time as he got married. He got a job in the government for a short period, and thereafter they moved to New York. He was general counsel for a corporation, a manufacturing corporation. Unfortunately, he has been dead a long time now. He died of cancer. But we were fast friends, as we were with his wife and widow. He had three children. I still hear from Jill, his wife, and I knew his parents very well. They're both dead at this point, too.

MS. GERE: Did he stay with you until you were appointed to the bench? Or he left before that time?

JUDGE GREEN: No, he was there when Joyce came in.

MS. GERE: That's Joyce Green.

JUDGE GREEN: Joyce Hens. I saw her at the bar meetings. I didn't know her particularly well. She was associated in an office with—I don't remember the woman's name—but Joyce was practicing mostly in Virginia. She had an office there. She had shared an office with

someone in Washington, a woman. When Bill left, I think, that was when she came. Pretty sure. Because Yasha was still there. Yes, I think Yasha was there when Bill was there, too. But Joyce wanted to know whether I would be willing to rent her some space. She thought that she'd like to be associated with me that way. We didn't have any business connections, only a friendly situation, where she'd pay rent to me and she also contributed to the secretary. She had her own office in the suite.

MS. GERE: What kind of work was she doing at the time?

JUDGE GREEN: She was doing family law. Well, I was doing a lot of it, too. Divorces and all kinds of settlements, because that was what I used to try to do. Until I found out that that was not a kindness, sometimes. That it was better to try to see that they not do mean things to each other, and explain that you didn't want to have sometime in the future when you would be ashamed of what you'd done. That was very important. And so my clients stood a chance of being happy, I think. Because they didn't do things like that. I found that in doing domestic cases, that is one thing that all the laymen are willing to give the client free advice. They will tell them, "Do this to 'em. Move the furniture out. Take the bank account." All of these things. They're so upset that they think this is the thing to do. You must, I felt, get them in the proper state to know, to think, that it was their idea that they were not going to do these bad things. And so my clients, this is why there are some still very friendly with me after all these years.

MS. GERE: It's because they can look back and feel good about themselves, even though it was a bad situation.

JUDGE GREEN: They were not ashamed of themselves and they had something

to build on. Joyce was the same kind of practitioner. We were close. I had been for nine years going to the Congress to get them to change the laws in the District of Columbia for divorces. I wanted them more like Maryland laws, in which voluntary separation was the same as desertion, the length of time. Otherwise, they were much more inclined to be phony. I didn't go with phony rules and regulations. I just thought the rules and regulations should be changed, and have them both the same. And also I thought that I found that the cases that I tried in the United States District Court, in the divorces which I did—

MS. GERE: In the federal court, you tried divorces? Oh my goodness. I guess that's right.

JUDGE GREEN: Oh, yes. You see, when I was in practice, the District Court, the federal court, had general jurisdiction as well as the federal jurisdiction. They had the D.C. General Session, what would have been a state court, and we had all of the D.C. felonies, and we had probate in our court, in the United States District Court. Which was why it was a subject matter of the—

MS. GERE: —of the Judicial Conference. Oh, I see.

JUDGE GREEN: But on the basis I had recommended that they change the laws and that they set up a special court in the Court of General Sessions, which was the District of Columbia court, to have special judges do family work. Because so often the judges felt that divorce cases were beneath them. I think that was the way most of the people treated them. Not all of them, of course, but many judges were not in favor of divorce anyway, because of religious commitments. It was a difficult thing to get a case tried by the court properly. One judge in particular who was not very well known there, when he would have a divorce before him, would

be in and out of there in seven minutes.

MS. GERE: Oh, good heavens.

JUDGE GREEN: Because the witnesses you'd brought were never allowed to say anything. They would not even require you to make a case, I felt. And this was not the way it ought to be. I represented many defendants as well as plaintiffs.

MS. GERE: So it was unfair to all parties.

JUDGE GREEN: To everybody.

MS. GERE: How did the judges get assigned to those cases? Were they random assignments, or—

JUDGE GREEN: Well, you see, they didn't have any—it was the so-called master system. There was a clerk who would find out what judge was available or most of the time they would set motions in the entire court for a Friday, and it would be in the master calendar, generally. But they didn't give the consideration to the custody cases that should have been paid attention to. I'd always felt that I certainly could give myself the opportunity of not taking a case if I felt it was the wrong side when I got into it. I would have to tell them that I was not going to represent them. When I had a custody case I could put all of my efforts into it, because I believed in it. I believed that was the best thing for the children. I took the trouble to find out what the other side was like and what it was going to do to the children, because so many times it did a lot more to the children than it did—

MS. GERE: To the adults. Right. Did you find that to be true in all of the cases in which you were involved—that is, that you had to feel comfortable with the side that you were representing, or the position that you were advocating, or was that more—

JUDGE GREEN: Especially with custody. If custody were involved, if that were the situation. I felt otherwise that people were entitled to representation. You see, the District of Columbia at that time had no CJA rules at all. There was no one appointed for indigents. I mean there was no system for it. So if you were appointed by the court, you might be appointed to represent a defendant who was charged on a serious felony, and when you did, you were expected—out of your own pocket—to get the copies, make the copies, go to the jail, or do all of the things, trial or whatever.

MS. GERE: Truly pro bono.

JUDGE GREEN: It really was, indeed. You didn't get anything back, at all. Or any money for your time. The judges always felt that it was made up to you by having you appointed a guardian ad litem in something. Well, I might say that those were not very satisfactory.

MS. GERE: The equation didn't quite work the way they thought.

JUDGE GREEN: They appointed me to many rape cases. So many so that I had a feeling that maybe there was something about—

MS. GERE: To represent the defendants? In rape cases?

JUDGE GREEN: Yes. There were civil attorneys who would go to the court when they were appointed and say they were unable to do criminal work. They didn't think they could do it well enough. I didn't personally feel I wanted to admit to anybody that I didn't think I knew how to practice law. So I would find out how to do it.

MS. GERE: So these were criminal cases, then, that you represented the defendants in?

JUDGE GREEN: Sometimes they would not be. To start off, they would pick a couple of them each year that you had to do at your own expense and your own time. I sincerely told one of my clients, I remember, that I did hope that he would be more convincing to the jury than he was to me, because I frankly thought he ought to plead guilty. But he didn't, so I represented him.

MS. GERE: And what did the jury think of him? Convicted him?

JUDGE GREEN: Yes.

MS. GERE: Back to the domestic relations work—were you successful in ever convincing Congress to change the law?

JUDGE GREEN: After nine years. And it was very interesting, because it was always in the District—it was the Committee for the District of Columbia, you see—that I was always required to testify before on behalf of the bar.

MS. GERE: Was this the bar or the Women's Bar?

JUDGE GREEN: D.C. Bar. Both, really. They got on the wagon, too.

MS. GERE: Probably something that everyone would have been in agreement on.

JUDGE GREEN: They finally set up the Family Branch and it provided for three judges. I had really assumed that one of them would have to be, since they had a male and female involved in every case, I thought that one of them would certainly be a female judge. I was in error. They were all three males they picked.

MS. GERE: Who picked them? Congress? Or was it by Presidential appointment?

JUDGE GREEN: They were—I think those were recommended by the bar. These

were people who wanted it and got it and were political appointment.

MS. GERE: Political appointments, I see.

JUDGE GREEN: One of them was Godfrey Mutter.

MS. GERE: I remember that name.

JUDGE GREEN: One of them was Frank Meyers, who was a very able negligence man.

MS. GERE: But didn't know a lot about domestic relations?

JUDGE GREEN: Nothing. And the other one was Judge Burnett who was quite an able civil practitioner. Unfortunately he had diabetes. Every now and then he would be completely out of it on the bench. He died on the bench, actually. I mean, while he was—he was one who was so insulting to women. Even if it was a voluntary separation, he would go into what their marital experiences had been—things that were absolutely totally irrelevant and insulting. One of the witnesses before him was a senator. He was so horrified at the way his friend was treated and the outrageous behavior—he had sat there and listened to these things—that he started a proceeding against him to remove him from the bench, which was joined by a lot of people. It was only a limited period of time that judges were appointed for in the General Sessions Court. When they came up for re-appointment, they were checked on to see whether they were doing alright. This poor fellow was certainly not doing alright, and indeed there was no doubt about it. So he was being considered to be taken off the bench.

MS. GERE: So Judge Burnett died. And then who took his seat?

JUDGE GREEN: I'm not sure whether this was when Judge Joyce Green was appointed or not. I know what date it was, because she was appointed in March, 1968, and I was

appointed to the federal bench in 1968 in June.

MS. GERE: Goodness. So within months of each other.

JUDGE GREEN: Now at that point, Joyce was married to Sam Green.

MS. GERE: Who was also a lawyer in Washington.

JUDGE GREEN: A very able one, who practiced a great deal of domestic relations law. And always the way she and I did. Great feeling for the people, custody, all that sort of thing. I had many a case against him, and it always was a happy situation. He was a very decent nice person.

MS. GERE: The civilized practice of law—the way, as you were saying before, it should be practiced and too often is not.

JUDGE GREEN: Exactly. Indeed. So that when I was doing a lot of these things, I was then the chairman of the Domestic Relations Committee. This was one of the reasons why they appointed me to go up there to Congress.

MS. GERE: This is the Domestic Relations Committee of the D.C. Bar?

JUDGE GREEN: The D.C. Bar. Now that was the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, because there wasn't any other one at this point. The Women's Bar and the Washington Bar, which was black lawyers. And that's about it.

MS. GERE: Then your practice was—

JUDGE GREEN: A very general practice with a large amount of negligence cases, and with large amounts of personal family matters.

MS. GERE: What kinds of work did you—what did you like best about private practice?

JUDGE GREEN: I loved representing both sides of negligence cases. I felt that I could do more for the people in the family cases, but I would worry and stew about them a lot. I didn't worry and stew about—except of course to feel that I had to be successful—the people who were really needing the money to take care of themselves when they were injured. That was always a worry, but generally speaking I was pretty successful. There came a time when Joe Bulman said, “You're making more money than I am from this. I really think I have to open my own office in Maryland.” I said, “I think that's your right, and more power to you.” There was nothing he owed me. He was so kind and wonderful over the years that I was delighted for him when he did this. I guess that I had an awful lot more of family and domestic matters at that point because there were people recommending me. I remember some judges would recommend me to clients that were surprising to me. They would call me and say, “I have a friend and I just know that if you'd represent them I would be happy.” I could take cases either in the District or Maryland, you see.

MS. GERE: So your work—it's sort of interesting that you began more as a defense lawyer, then became a bit of a plaintiffs' lawyer—

JUDGE GREEN: That was over a number of years.

MS. GERE: Domestic relations work, and a little bit of criminal work sprinkled in there.

JUDGE GREEN: Oh, yes. Of course every now and then you would have a client you had represented in all other ways and they would be charged with drunk driving. I couldn't just say, “I don't handle things like that,” when I was the only person that they'd been having for all those years. So I'd represent them. They hadn't killed anybody, thank God. Because I would

have been hard pressed then.

MS. GERE: To say yes to them? Well, in the various courts where you practiced and over this spectrum of work that you did, did you find that a woman practitioner was more accepted in some realms than others? In other words, was there women's work in the law? Or were there courts that were more hospitable to women? Or lawyers who were more hospitable to women?

JUDGE GREEN: I think that there were—but I never felt that way, I mean I didn't really feel that way. I certainly think that some of the characters that I met on the other side of marital cases were the worst. The absolute worst. I recall one man from Baltimore who had written me about how sad he was to think that I already had had my swearing in when he'd read about it. I must say, I had not invited him.

MS. GERE: One reason he didn't go. That would be good.

JUDGE GREEN: He was engaged in every kind of chicanery. I thought it was chicanery. I made sure that anybody I ever knew did not—really, I didn't reciprocate his building up of me. I didn't think that he was a person who should be representing anybody. Certainly not in anything as personal as a divorce.

MS. GERE: But were the judges—

JUDGE GREEN: One never knows what anybody else feels. I really didn't look for prejudice, bias, to tell you the truth. That was why I was so struck with men who came over from Lumbermens. I had never had that experience. I believe that the people who were insured by Lumbermens undoubtedly wondered whether or not I was going to be able to do the job. I would see questioning in their eyes sometimes. But I was what was presented. But if they ever

complained, it wasn't to me, except one person. And he was just a—

MS. GERE: A difficult human being.

JUDGE GREEN: A difficult human being. It was one that the judge had to say, Mr. So-and-so, you're not doing very well on your own, popping off. So I would suggest that you listen to Mrs. Green's questions and answer those, because she is very experienced, and you're not doing very well for yourself.

MS. GERE: I guess at times like that you don't need to say anything, just let the judge do the talking.

JUDGE GREEN: I remember another one. I attended a luncheon at the, not the Women's Bar, it was a luncheon with the Maryland bar people, and the host was someone who owned a hotel in Washington. He really was not much of a lawyer, but he made his money in things like the hotel business and other such. He had Judge John Gray from Southern Maryland who was a wonderful gentleman at that luncheon. He had about fifteen others of us at the table. I think there were about sixteen. He made a big speech of introduction about each one of us. I was the only woman. He said, when he got to me, "Well, of course, Mrs. Green." Everybody else had had their description as to what they were doing and what their practice of law was, and what their office was, and a few other such things. "And of course Mrs. Green is the decorative one."

MS. GERE: That's what he said?

JUDGE GREEN: And that I was lending the charm to the group. And Judge John Gray got up and said something like this: (I wish to goodness I had a copy of it.) Mrs. Green is one of the best lawyers at this table. She has been in trial work for a number of years and all

quite satisfactory. I would like to say that she indeed adds more to this group than decoration.

MS. GERE: Very good.

JUDGE GREEN: I've remembered the gist of it for my whole life. My whole legal life.

MS. GERE: I can see why.

JUDGE GREEN: I remember also when I was having a lot of trouble with a judge who was a curmudgeon in Annapolis. I had decided—he had kept us there until 11 o'clock at night on a jury trial. The jury came in. It was a hung jury. They couldn't decide anything after all that time. This was an automobile accident case, a woman had been seriously injured and had had a number of—it was an ad seriatim case and all rear-ends. She was a passenger. There wasn't any way she could have been contributorily negligent. I mean, she wasn't—

MS. GERE: Hardly, when you're the passenger.

JUDGE GREEN: So anybody would have assumed that we were going to get it settled, but we didn't. You had one chance to have a case transferred. I took it. The judge decided he was going to fix me, by sending me to Prince Frederick, which consisted of mostly farmers and not as big jury verdicts. And so we went there, and guess what—well, my old friend Judge Gray had just been transferred—

MS. GERE: Oh, goodness. Transferred to Prince Frederick.

JUDGE GREEN: He always helped out other courts, when he was there. He was in Marlboro, he was there, and he was in several other places. It seemed to me when I'd gotten to—oh, bless me.

MS. GERE: There is some justice in the world. It may take a while.

JUDGE GREEN: It settled. And he was not a biased, bigoted man. He just wanted to see justice done. He figured that they were not giving it to me.

MS. GERE: Well, your practice, then, and we talked about the different subject matters that you covered, and it sounds as though throughout your private practice career you practiced a good amount in Maryland and a good amount in the District of Columbia. How did you decide which bar or which legal community you were going to be most active in? I mean, aside from where you actually tried your cases? What drew you ultimately into the Washington community?

JUDGE GREEN: Well, of course, the Washington community was where I started. I had started my practice there, at Lumbermens. My office was there first. I got the one in Annapolis in 1950. In '47 I was in the Washington Building. I realized that I had to have a Maryland office, because they were not having reciprocity at that point, of any place around the area. So I had an office in Annapolis. I had just said to John, when I had been considered for a judgeship on the then Superior Court—

MS. GERE: General Sessions Court?

JUDGE GREEN: The Superior Court was set up about 19... after I was on the bench. But it was all the result of a committee that we had, the Administration of Justice Committee, that I felt made a lot of difference. I know that the Court of Appeals had set up that committee.

MS. GERE: The D.C. Circuit?

JUDGE GREEN: Yes, the D.C. Circuit. They had set up everything. That was when I was the chairman of the Relations with the District Court Committee. I had been, that

was one of the places where I went down to recommend that they not have the civil cases waiting five years to get tried. I took two gentlemen with me and we were down there to bell the cat. I went down to see Judge Pine who was at that time Chief Judge.