

ABA Senior Lawyers Division
Women Trailblazers in the Law

ORAL HISTORY
of
CAROLYN DINEEN KING

Interviewer: Marcy Hogan Greer

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ORAL HISTORY OF THE HONORABLE CAROLYN DINEEN KING

THIRD INTERVIEW

December 20, 2010

TAPE 1

MARCY GREER: We are here again in Judge King's chambers on December 20, 2010, discussing her oral history. Judge King, when we left off, we were discussing Hurricane Katrina and the experience you had there. Do you want to tell me a little bit more about that?

JUDGE KING: Well, what I would like to do is to point out that the single, most inspiring aspect of Hurricane Katrina was the way in which the employees of my Court and the other courts that I was, in effect, responsible for responded to it. All of them lost something in Katrina. Some of them lost their homes, some of them simply had damage, and others of them lost family. So, we had people with serious losses. We also had people who were simply in shock, and that shock continued for quite a long time. In spite of all that, these employees came to work every day here in Houston or wherever they were relocated, and they did the business of the Court and they took care of one another in a really amazing and admirable way. The employees were absolutely marvelous. Real heroes and heroines. So that was really the best feature of it. Out of every disaster, there's always a great deal of good that can be said, and the best that can be said about Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita is that they brought out the best in the people who were affected by them. So, at the end of the day, they lived through what will be described in the history books as one of the

worst disasters in the history of this country, and they acquitted themselves as marvelous human beings. I think that was the upside of what had a lot of negative to it. It was very, very inspiring to watch the employees of our Court and the other courts affected deal with the hand that had been dealt them.

MARCY GREER And did a lot of them go back to New Orleans afterwards?

JUDGE KING They all went back, most all. We did have a couple of them decide to stay. One of them, I think, in San Antonio, and others here.

MARCY GREER And they continued to be part of the court family?

JUDGE KING Yes. But most all of them went back, and I see them all frequently. We hug each other because that was the kind of relationship that developed in the aftermath of Katrina, there were a lot of hugs. That was good—that was in some ways the thing that got us all through.

MARCY GREER And shortly after that, you finished your term as Chief Judge. Do you miss being the chief?

JUDGE KING No, I don't miss being the chief, in most respects. I do enjoy administrative work, and I miss doing as much of that as I did. You're able to make a difference for the good in the way in which the Court operates, both at our level and then at the national level and in the way in which the district courts operated. It's very satisfying to see a problem, identify it, figure out what it's all about, and solve it. You can make a difference in the lives of people, both employees of the Court, judges on the Court, and the people that we're here to serve. So, I enjoy

administrative work and, I must say, I miss some of that. Now, of course, administrative work consists of an awful lot of minutia, and I don't miss the minutia. I do miss the occasional ability to really make a difference in the resolution of a problem that I see.

MARCY GREER Now, you've continued to be an active judge on the Court, is that correct?

JUDGE KING Yes. That's right, and I don't have any immediate plans to take senior status. As I told you, my father didn't retire until he was 75, and I don't see any reason for me to retire before 75, and maybe not even after, but certainly, I have no immediate plans to take senior status. There's really no reason for me to take senior status, because I am able to do the work without any difficulty, and my husband, my wonderful husband, at age 89 and a half, works seven days a week. So, what would there be to taking senior status except to stay home and wait for him to come home from the office. As it is now, he's in the office next to me, so if I want to see my husband, the place to be is here, and not at home.

MARCY GREER Let's talk about your husband, Judge Reavley, and I want to hear about the courtship and how you met. I know how you met, but let's hear about the courtship and the marriage, and everything.

JUDGE KING Well, as perhaps we've already covered, we met in the hearing room of the Senate Judiciary Committee. When we both showed up for our confirmation hearing, he was the one who was so smooth and well-adjusted and comfortable in that environment, and I was the one at the far end of the table quaking in my boots. We got to be good friends over the

years. Interestingly enough, that was true partly because we were both drawn to Alvin Rubin, that's the judge who was my mentor and who was a close friend, or became a close friend, of Judge Reavley. Judge Reavley took senior status, I think in 1990 or 1991, and in the mid-90s, he moved to Bellingham, Washington, where three of his four children live. His wife's health was failing, and she wanted to be where her children were located. So he was, from about the mid-90s on, more or less missing—although he continued to sit with the Fifth Circuit, and I would run into him occasionally in New Orleans. But I didn't see as much of him as I had before. He sat frequently with the Ninth Circuit and ...

MARCY GREER .. and other circuits?

JUDGE KING Actually at this point, I think he has had a sitting with each of the circuits, but one. And many of them, he has sat many times with, particularly the Ninth Circuit, but also the Eleventh and Tenth, and so on.

MARCY GREER The First Circuit when they were in the Virgin Islands?

JUDGE KING He did sit with the First Circuit; he didn't get the Virgin Islands trip, but he did get the Boston trip. Once he moved to Bellingham, I would talk to him on the phone occasionally—well, actually, quite a bit—but I didn't see much of him from then on. I found this out afterwards. In, I guess, it would be early 2003, his wife's health was really going down; she was on hospice care, and she called him in one day and said, "I've been thinking about what you are going to do after I die." He said, "Well, don't think about it, because I'm just fine, and I'll be able to get along, and don't

worry about that.” She apparently said, “No, I have been thinking about it and when I die, you are to marry Carolyn King.” He said, “Well, why would I that?” And she said, “Because she will take good care of you and, if you don’t marry Carolyn King, you’ll be a burden to your daughters. So that’s what you need to do.” And then she apparently called the daughters in and told them exactly what was to happen.

MARCY GREER Did he tell you any of this at the time?

JUDGE KING No, he didn’t tell me any of this until later. I had no idea. His wife died in 2003, and I think all of us on the Court were very worried about what would happen to him. He had been married to her for 60 years, and the consensus amongst the judges, including me, was that he was liable to go into a decline when she died. We didn’t hear anything from him after she died for a couple of months, and then one day he called me up and he said, “Are you going to Los Angeles to see your son on New Year’s Eve, the way you always do?” And I said, “Yes, I am.” My son was living out there then, and he and I had this practice of always spending New Year’s Eve together. We would go to an early dinner and then sit in front of the television set and watch them ring in New Year’s Eve in New York City, and then we’d all go to bed. So, that was my exciting plan for New Year’s Eve every year. So I said, “Yes, I am planning on being there.” And he said, “Well, good, I want to have dinner with you on New Year’s Day, so you figure out where we can have dinner.” Well, as it turned out, I thought that would be great because I would be able to find out how he

was doing. At that point, it was a complete mystery to those of us on the Court how he was doing. It turned out that the only place I could find that was open in Los Angeles on New Year's Day was Ruth's Chris. That's his favorite eating establishment, because he is a steak hound. So when he heard that I had gotten a reservation at Ruth's Chris, that was super. I got there a little bit early, and he came in the door with a smile from one ear to the other. I thought: "Oh, this is great! He looks so good. He doesn't look to me like he's in a swoon; he looks fine." We had a great dinner and he then said to me, "Well, when are you going back to Houston?" I said, "In the morning." "No, don't do that." He was going to be teaching a course at Pepperdine in the morning, and he said, "Come with me out to Pepperdine. We'll have lunch with the faculty and then we'll spend the afternoon at this place where he was staying, which was overlooking the Pacific. You can go back the next morning." So, I thought, "Why not." I didn't have to be back. As I recall, I didn't have a sitting until February, so I just said, "That would be fine." So, we did that—spent the morning at Pepperdine. We had lunch with the faculty, and we went out to this place where he was staying, which had a wide veranda overlooking the Pacific. We sat on this veranda, and he told me the story of Florence, his wife, and what she had said to him. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I was thinking, well, what is he about to say. So he said, "Well, I've thought about this now for two months, and I've decided that Florence is right, and

that you and I should get married, so I am proposing that you and I get married."

MARCY GREEN Aren't you glad you stayed?

JUDGE KING I'm glad I stayed, but I have to say, I was stunned. He had this smile on his face and a complete air of confidence about it. I thought, this man is happy and confident and you need to be careful. So, I said, "This is the best first proposal and I'm sure the second one will be even better, but in the meantime, we might ought to talk about this a little." He said, "Well, you mean, you'd consider it?" I said, "Absolutely, I'll consider it. But we need to talk about, for one thing the logistics, because I don't want to move to Bellingham, Washington. I'm happy in Houston, and my children live there." I was at the time still the Chief Judge, and I said, "I don't see how I could move to Bellingham, Washington."

MARCY GREER And did he have a chambers in Austin at this point still?

JUDGE KING Yes, his chambers were still in Austin, and he still had a house in Austin. I'm not sure I knew that. Maybe I did, but as it turns out, he had a house there and he said, "I don't want to stay in Bellingham. The reason I came to Bellingham is because of my children and my wife, and I would like to go back to Texas. I have a house in Austin, and that's where I want to go." So, I said, "Well, okay, now you're talking." So we spent the rest of the afternoon talking about all kinds of things. And, when I went back to Houston the next morning, we spent the month of January talking about

this on the telephone and at the end of January, we decided to get married.

That was it.

MARCY GREER Did you tell anybody?

JUDGE KING No, no, I didn't tell anybody. After we decided we'd get married, I said to him, "Well, since we got that question behind us, why don't you come back to Texas for awhile and let's have a courtship. You know, we're doing this a little backwards, but let's just see what this is all about." So, he came back to Texas and we had this courtship that lasted, well, it lasted forever, ever since then. But it's turned out to be fabulous; and it's turned out to be a match made in heaven. We got married in August of 2004, and it has been a perfect marriage. This man, because he's in the same business as I'm in, because we share the same interests, and because we're both at the age where the things that shouldn't matter, don't matter anymore, has really been a perfect husband for me. There isn't anything about this marriage that I would change if I had the ability to. It really is excellent. After about a year, he decided to sell his house in Austin and move to Houston. It turned out that several of his doctors were retiring, and he had to get new doctors. I thought, "Ah ha! Here's my opportunity." So, I suggested that he meet some of the doctors that I had lined up in Houston, who are wonderful. He met them and he really liked them, and he said, "You know, I like your house. I like your doctors. I might as well sell my house and move my chambers to Houston." Which he did, so now he's in the office next to me, and it's perfect.

MARCY GREER Much better than commuting?

JUDGE KING Much better than commuting. Commuting from Austin, being on the road three hours each way, really didn't make a lot of sense. And he loved Houston. He loved the fact that he's ten minutes from the office. In Austin, the traffic is so bad. Even though he lived relatively close to downtown, he was on the Mopac, and that is always a traffic nightmare. So here he is able to be at his office in ten minutes and get home in ten minutes, and he likes that. We have what I think is a marriage that could not be improved upon. It is perfect.

MARCY GREER What surprised you the most about marrying a judge on the Court?

JUDGE KING Oh, I would have to say, this man is a very big man, in multiple respects. He's not just six feet plus tall, but he's also a very broad-gauged person. There's nothing petty or small about Tom Reavley. He has a heart as big as the universe, and he has a very broad view about the world that he lives in and about his country. So he does not feel challenged or threatened by what it is that I do for a living and what it is that I've been able to achieve. He's proud of me. He accepts me as I am.

MARCY GREER He's very proud of you. I loved his speech at your dinner for the 30th anniversary.

JUDGE KING Yes, that's true.

MARCY GREER I wished we had recorded that.

JUDGE KING Yes, he is proud of me, and I'm proud of him. I think that, in both of my prior marriages, the men that I married were very fine men. But to some

extent, what I do for a living and my achievements were problematic for them. That's simply not the case with Tom. He is completely satisfied and happy with what I do. So, I think what has aided us is that he's in the same line of work. He understands what I do. He understands the weaknesses of it as well as the strengths, and that's helpful.

MARCY GREER Do you find that you talk about the Court a lot and the law, or do you...

JUDGE KING We do talk a lot about what we do, yes. We talk about cases endlessly. His and mine. We have a sort of an equal time rule, an informal one, because we don't have any rules, but we do talk about cases, and muddle our way through some of them. And we talk about, you know, the way courts operate nowadays, and we talk about the Supreme Court. We talk about our Court. We talk about district judges and all kinds of things. He was a trial judge when he began, and I think both of us have a great respect and affection for trial judges, so we share the same viewpoints on many things. That's been great.

MARCY GREER Let's talk about your sons for a moment and where they are in life right now. You said they were all in Houston, except for Stephen who now lives in Midland.

JUDGE KING Right. The oldest boy, James, is now 42. He is a computer expert, IT, I think, for a broader definition of it, and he at the moment is the number two person for IT for the Houston Independent School District. He's very successful, very bright, very happy, very positive, and he seems to be doing well financially, so that's good, always a relief to a mother. Philip,

the second one, is now 40 and he has been working for Methodist Hospital for the last three or four years. He started out as a grant writer for the head of the Research Institute.

MARCY GREER That's a demanding job.

JUDGE KING Yes, and the head of the Research Institute has now migrated and is also the chair of the Department of Pathology at Methodist. So Philip is not only doing grant writing, but he's also started working as an assistant to this man who is head of the department there. It's a huge department. You can imagine in a big hospital, lots of challenges and a lot of people that he works with. And Stephen, the youngest, is my lawyer. He graduated from South Texas two years ago and clerked for a federal district judge in Beaumont, Thad Heartfield, for a year. Then he spent a year trying to get a job in what has been an absolutely terrible job market. Finally, what he got was the job he most wanted: he's an assistant district attorney in Midland County, working for a perfectly marvelous district attorney out there named Teresa Klingman, and he loves it. He's only been in the job now for a little more than two weeks, but what he wanted was a job where he would be in the courtroom all the time, and all the advice he got from every corner was that the only way you can assure that is to be a prosecutor.

MARCY GREER Especially a district attorney.

JUDGE KING Yes. And so he is, and he's in the courtroom. He's only been there two weeks, and he's been in the courtroom several times and he feels good

about what he's doing. So that's been a very successful outcome. Right at the moment, all three of them are employed, making enough money to live on, and happy at what they are doing. What more could you ask?

MARCY GREER Tell us about your granddaughter.

JUDGE KING Megan. Megan is James' girl, who is now ten. She is in the fifth grade. She is just lovely. I get to see her once or twice a week, and she is Miss Bubbles. I mean, everything is coming up roses for her. I worry because, at least for my children when they got to be 11 or 12, the teenage vapors set in, and I look at Megan and I think, how long will you be this perfectly lovely ten year-old. But, at the moment, that's what she is, and I'm grateful for it.

MARCY GREER Let's talk a little bit about your work for the nonprofits. I know that you continue to be very heavily involved on boards of Baylor College of Medicine and ALI.

JUDGE KING Yes. I started out at age 13 working for a nonprofit, and there has never been a time in my life when I haven't been deeply involved in some nonprofit? I kept that up when I came on this Court. You may remember that I was the chief financial officer of the United Way when I came on this Court. That actually played a role in my taking the job because the chair of President Carter's search committee was trying to talk me into taking this job. He noticed that I was the chief financial officer of the United Way. He asked me why I was doing that and I said, "That's community service. I've done that all my life." He said, "Well, that's

what I'm asking you to do as a judge," which was exactly the right thing to say if what you wanted to get me to do is become a judge. But I kept it up, and it turns out to have been a critical decision. The job of an appellate judge, particularly, is a very isolating job. You can spend days on end really not seeing anybody except your secretary and your law clerks. What I found was that by continuing to be deeply involved in these organizations here in Houston principally, I continued to deal with people who had multiple backgrounds, very diverse backgrounds, but who were deeply committed to whatever the work of the particular organization was. They didn't care what I did for my day job any more than what I cared what they did for their day job. The only question was what are you doing today for this particular organization.

MARCY GREER Kind of liberating?

JUDGE KING It was. We all came together from very diverse backgrounds, and we were all working for a common cause, and that was a marvelous companion activity to what I was doing in my day job. I moved on to the University of St. Thomas. They had taken Philip in when he graduated from high school. He started out at the University of St. Thomas. I felt the need to pay back and went out there and asked what I could do for them, and the next thing I knew, I was on the board, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

MARCY GREER I'm sure they loved that.

JUDGE KING

Well, it was sort of an interesting experience. They had just gone through a big financial crisis, and they had broadened the board in response to that, and I was one of the people that they took on. It was great experience for me. I had never served with priests before, and that was a good experience for me and for them. One of the things I discovered was that the cat got their tongue. They would sit in a meeting and say nothing. After I had been on the board for about a year, we had a board evaluation meeting and I said, "You know, I came on this board, partly because I was interested in serving on a board with priests, but none of you has been saying anything. I would like to hear more about what you think about things." They were surprised, but they all started talking, and that was good. So for nine more years (I was on that board ten years), they all talked and it was a great experience hearing their points of view on things. During my tenure on the board, we built a science building, and we built a chapel designed by Philip Johnson.

MARCY GREER

It's gorgeous.

JUDGE KING

Oh, I know, and that was the most fascinating experience. Philip Johnson was 90, around 90, when we began the thing and the trick was to get it done while he was alive.

MARCY GREER

And you accomplished that.

JUDGE KING

We accomplished that. It was a great experience working on that chapel and figuring out how we could ... you know, I'm not allowed to raise money, but I am not prohibited from figuring out how other people can

raise money. So the question was, how do we raise enough money to build this chapel, given that Catholics put a dollar in the collection plate every Sunday and think that's the end of their financial obligation. The Chapel turned out to be an architectural masterpiece. The president of the University and I hatched up this plan that it was to be marketed as an architectural masterpiece as well as a Catholic chapel. He was able to persuade some nonprofit organizations that would not ordinarily have contributed to a religious institution to contribute substantial amounts because it was an architectural masterpiece. So we were able to raise the money, and we went forward and built that. Of course, we didn't have any problem building or raising the money to build the science building—that pretty well took care of itself.

MARCY GREER And I understand that they are expanding to a nursing facility.

JUDGE KING Yes, I have some reservations about that but, unfortunately, they didn't consult me.

MARCY GREER ...And are you continuing to serve on the board?

JUDGE KING Well, I am on an advisory board, which meets once or twice a year. That's when I found out about the nursing school, which was already committed for. The reason I said I'm a little bit apprehensive about that is, well really, there are two reasons. One of them is that the financial disaster that I came into at St. Thomas was caused in part by losses that they had incurred in connection with a nursing school. They had closed it down. So, I was hopeful that we would not have a repeat of that. Also, of

course, I've had the experience of being on the board of the Baylor College of Medicine, where we had started building a hospital and then discovered the costs of building it exceeded the resources we had to do it. I was somewhat apprehensive about St. Thomas and whether their plans for the nursing school were sound.

TAPE 2

JUDGE KING

When I became the Chief Judge, which was in the beginning of 1999, I decided that I would not jump right into another nonprofit, because I had a feeling that my time was going to be taken up by being Chief Judge. And that was certainly true, so for a period of about, I don't know, three or four years, I did not have any nonprofit involvement.

MARCY GREER

When did you get involved in Baylor?

JUDGE KING

Well, now, wait a minute. This actually isn't quite right. I've been involved with the American Law Institute for more than 20 years, actually 25 years, and that continued during my tenure as Chief Judge. I had already been elected to the Council, which is the governing board of the ALI, and so I did continue service on the Council of the American Law Institute. Then towards the end of my tenure as Chief Judge, I went on the board of the South Texas College of Law here in Houston. I was very impressed by their commitment to making legal education available to people who might otherwise not have the ability to go to law school, and I wound up on the board there and in multiple leadership roles: strategic planning, Chair of the Finance Committee, and one of the people involved

in the search for a new dean for South Texas. So that was a very enriching experience. Again, because of the diversity of the board and all the interesting people who were on it, and the fact that we had such a good time trying to do our best for South Texas. Then, right about the time that my chief judgeship ended, one of the people who is a trustee of the Baylor College of Medicine, and is a friend of my husband, thought it would be a good idea if I went on the Baylor College of Medicine Board.

MARCY GREER With all your medical background?

JUDGE KING Yes. God knows I've had more of that than I ever bargained for. So, I did, I went on the board and asked to serve also on the Finance Committee, which was an important committee to be on. Baylor had committed, before I came on the board to build a hospital, and it turned out that they had not fully anticipated how much it was going to cost. I spent a year on that Finance Committee being deeply concerned about operating losses and about the demands for capital that this hospital was generating.

MARCY GREER There are many unknowns in developing a hospital

JUDGE KING Well, that's right. At a meeting of the advisory committee for the University of St. Thomas, they were talking about building a nursing school. I asked the president of the University of St. Thomas, "Well, how did you make this decision?" "Oh," he said, "It's no problem. We got all these outside consultants and they gave us their best estimates of what it was going to cost." There was a man standing next to me, whom I don't

even know, who said, "Well, asking outside consultants about whether you should build a nursing school is like asking your barber about whether you need a haircut." Which I thought captured it beautifully. At Baylor, our plans to go forward to build a hospital were also principally informed by outside consultants. It turned out that we simply had greatly underestimated what it would cost to build this hospital. Part way through, we just simply had to suspend the construction of the hospital. We completed the outside of the building, but we did not finish the inside.

MARCY GREER

Where is the hospital located?

JUDGE KING

It's located in the Medical Center, somewhat to the east, just a little bit to the east and south of M.D. Anderson. So, as we put it, we "paused" the construction of the hospital, and we're not going to decide what to do about that for another 18 months. We now have a new president of the medical school who is just terrific I think. I wound up being involved, not only on the Finance Committee, but on the audit committee, which I chair. I'm on the governance committee; and I'm on the executive committee. So there are multiple committee meetings, which I enjoy. Again, why? Because there are so many interesting people who are involved in this, who come from diverse backgrounds, but who are there for the good of the order. Our common interest is Baylor College of Medicine. So, I find that to be a very satisfying experience. Then the American Law Institute, which I've been involved with now for now, I don't know, 25 plus years.

As I said, I've been on the council for a long time, principally because

Charles Allen Wright at the University of Texas Law School encouraged me to become involved in the American Law Institute, and then also encouraged me to take leadership roles in it.

MARCY GREER I recall you started out with products liability?

JUDGE KING Yes, I was an advisor to the Products Liability Restatement, and then I was an advisor to the Transnational Insolvency Project. About a year ago, the nominating committee and the president asked me to be the Treasurer. So I am now the Treasurer of the American Law Institute, and that turns out to be far more time-consuming than I thought it was going to be. But again, I serve with all these interesting people, in this case, from all over the country, academics, lawyers, practicing lawyers, judges, state judges, federal judges, and it's a very diverse group and they are very interesting people.

MARCY GREER Smart people.

JUDGE KING So, I've enjoyed that too. The nonprofits have nourished me at every stage of my life, starting from when I was 13, and they are an integral part of my life. I really would not want to be free of them. I want to be heavily invested in them, and I am.

MARCY GREER Who have you gotten to know through your work in the nonprofit that you probably wouldn't have otherwise gotten to know but have become close to?

JUDGE KING Well, of course, a lot of people in the American Law Institute. Roberta Ramo, who is the former president of the American Bar Association, is the

president of the American Law Institute and she and I have become very good friends. And then, at Baylor, I don't know that I'm particularly close to any of the individuals out there, but I've certainly gotten to know a lot of people that I would otherwise not have gotten to know. I have become much more knowledgeable about the business of running a research institution, because Baylor is primarily a research institution. I've also learned a lot about how expensive it is to build hospitals, and I'm sure it's even more expensive to run one. I've learned so much from it. One of the most interesting people that I got to know was Father Miller, Michael Miller, who was on the Academic Affairs Committee at the University of St. Thomas, when I went on that board and joined that committee. Then he went to the Vatican, the secretary of state's office at the Vatican. He was there for a few years. When the president of the University of St. Thomas retired, and we did a search, Father Miller applied to be the president. He came back; we elected him as the president. He and I are very good friends. He's been a wonderful source of support, and he's also got a great sense of humor, and that's a blessing. He then, of course, went off to the Vatican again. From being the president of St. Thomas, he went off to the Vatican to be the number two person in the Catholic education system worldwide for the Vatican. And now he is the Archbishop of Vancouver in British Columbia. I see him at least once a year and stay in regular communication with him. He's a marvelous human being. He's

been a treasure, that came directly from my service on the University of St. Thomas board but certainly has, for both of us, extended beyond that.

MARCY GREER Judge King, you have won a lot of very prestigious awards in your career. Which one has meant the most to you?

JUDGE KING Two of them. One was the Margaret Brent award. That meant a lot to me because it's given by the American Bar Association to women who have done something for the advancement of women. I've never had it as my goal to do something for the advancement of women, but somehow or other, I had succeeded in helping women. I was very pleased to get that award because that's what that award recognizes.

MARCY GREER You were nominated by a group of really amazing women.

JUDGE KING Well, apparently. The other award that was really thrilling was the Devitt Award which is given by the judiciary itself, the federal judiciary, to one person a year, one judge a year, and recognizes your contributions to the judiciary and that was really thrilling. The selection committee included Justice Ginsburg and Judge Deanell Tacha, who was the Chief Judge of the Tenth Circuit, and Judge Gerald Lynch, the federal district judge in New York who is now a judge on the Second Circuit and who incidentally has recently become a member of the Council of the American Law Institute. Further proof that there are only 300 people in the world and they all know each other. So, that was very thrilling. The people who put on the award ceremony told me to invite as many people as I wanted because no matter how many people I invited, only a hundred would

come. I invited people that I had been dealing with over all these years, in all these nonprofits that I'd been involved with here in Houston, thinking they wouldn't come because only a hundred people would come. Well, as it turned out, four hundred plus people came, and it was a giant love-in. That's the only way to describe it. It was just thrilling; it really was. People that I hadn't seen in years came and we had hugs—we had lots of hugs and loves, and it was really fun.

MARCY GREER And Justice Ginsburg came too.

JUDGE KING Oh yes. She has become a very good friend. She and Justice O'Connor have become very good friends over the years. So I was delighted to have her there. Judge Tacha came. She and I have become very close friends over the years; she was Chief Judge of the Tenth Circuit at the same time I was Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit, so we saw each other regularly. Then she won the Devitt Award, I don't know if it was the following year or the year after, but I went up to Kansas for her receipt of that award. She asked me to speak, which was fun to do.

MARCY GREER Now, just for the record, you were the first Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit, first woman?

JUDGE KING Yes.

MARCY GREER And now we have a second woman, further breaking ground.

JUDGE KING Yes, that's good.

MARCY GREER I want to talk a little bit about the Court and how the Court operates and obviously, I clerked so I know a little bit about it, but for the purposes of

the history, I'd like to have you talk a little bit about your decision-making process. How it works when cases come in and briefs are filed and then except for argument, what happens at that point?

JUDGE KING

Well, we might ought to back up. When the last brief comes in, the whole package is sent to a judge in rotation on a screening log who makes up his or her mind whether the case needs oral argument. If it does need oral argument, it's simply sent back to the clerk's office and it gets into the queue. If it doesn't need oral argument, then that judge drafts an opinion from the briefs and the record and then sends it to the next judge on her screening panel. If that judge likes the opinion, she initials it, or he does, and then sends it to the third judge. And if all three of them are satisfied with the opinion, the case is sent to the clerk, and it is decided. That is a very expedited way of deciding cases. Many cases do not have oral argument. The outcome is clear; almost always, it's an affirmance; very rarely is it a reversal. That is a very efficient way to decide cases.

MARCY GREER

And how are the screening panels determined?

JUDGE KING

They are set annually. Just drawn at random by someone in our clerk's office who sets them up. There are about five or six of them, and you serve for a year with the same three judges. The next year you serve with two other judges, and you just rotate.

MARCY GREER

And these are just active judges?

JUDGE KING

Senior judges are also on screening panels if they want to be; they don't have to be. Then for a case that's back at the clerk's office because it

needs oral argument, it gets in a queue for oral argument, and goes on the next available panel. Those judges are chosen at random—again, by someone in the clerk’s office who doesn’t know what the cases are that are going to come before that panel. Then the cases are assigned to the panel by another person in the clerk’s office who doesn’t know who the judges are on that panel.

MARCY GREER It’s a double-blind system . . .

JUDGE KING It’s a double-blind system, and then after all the cases are assigned, they go through and check for recusals. They have to do that; if a judge is recused on one of the cases, then the case is sent to another panel. So that’s how that happens. We get the briefs in about five weeks before argument. The three panel members usually divide up the responsibility for doing bench memos on these cases, and I assign the responsibility to my law clerks to do bench memos for me and the other two judges.

MARCY GREER Can you describe what a bench memo is?

JUDGE KING A bench memo outlines the background of the case, what the case is about and what’s happened to it up until this point. Usually, it has gone through a district court, and the bench memo will describe what the facts are, what the procedural posture of the case is, what the district judge did and why, and then what the issues are on appeal. For example, we’ll take the first issue and we’ll say, the appellant thinks the district court got it wrong for these reasons. The appellee thinks the district court got it right for these reasons. And then the law clerk will give his or her assessment of what

the right answer is. They go through each of the issues represented on that basis.

MARCY GREER Do you find that your law clerks are pretty good at predicting how the case is going to come out, or is it a mixed bag?

JUDGE KING Well, they get it right about two-thirds of the time, I'd say. And they get better, of course, as the year goes along. I mean they are not as good at the beginning as they are at the end. They are very important. Law clerks are critically important to the way that we operate.

MARCY GREER How do you use your law clerks?

JUDGE KING I use them to prepare bench memos, and I use them to draft opinions, and occasionally, I will ask them to do spot research. Let's say I get a proposed opinion in from another judge and there's a piece of it that I'm not certain about. I need some research done on it, and I will give a clerk the proposed opinion and the briefs and so on, and then say, look at this particular issue and tell me whether this is right or wrong. So they do memoranda on individual issues. Sometimes, if I see a recent opinion come out and it doesn't look right to me, and it also looks like an issue that is important, I will sometimes get some research on a recent opinion.

MARCY GREER And how do you divide up responsibility among your law clerks? Do you pick one to handle criminal, one to handle ...?

JUDGE KING No. They pretty much divide it up amongst themselves. I used to say that if somebody is the first law clerk in any batch of law clerks to do a social security case, she would become the social security expert...

MARCY GREER Much to their chagrin...

JUDGE KING Yes, I must say that was not a favored post, and it was strictly luck of the draw who happened to get it. But generally speaking, they divide them up amongst themselves. Now afterwards, when it comes time to assign responsibility for drafting an opinion, I'm the one who decides that, and it may go to the law clerk who did the bench memo, or it may not. Of course, we didn't do all the bench memos. So there will be some cases where I'm assigned the writing responsibility that we didn't do the bench memo on. As the year goes along, a law clerk may have had some experience in, let's say, you have a Title VII case—somebody did a couple of Title VII cases—so you may assign it to that law clerk. But generally speaking, we have such a wide variety of cases and so many different subject matters, law clerks don't build up subject matter expertise. They frequently get assigned to draft an opinion in an area they have no experience in, and they are smart and they are good at it. So they usually do a very good job; not always, but usually.

MARCY GREER Do you like working with law clerks straight out of law school? Do you prefer that?

JUDGE KING Well, that's what I have done. My husband has a permanent clerk, and the clerk that he has is terrific, and I think that if I had an opportunity to get somebody as good as he is, I would do it. But at this point, I've had clerks that serve only one year.

MARCY GREER So after the bench memo is prepared and circulated, how do you prepare for oral argument?

JUDGE KING Well, I read the briefs from cover to cover, and of course I read the district court opinion, and I read the bench memo. I try to read maybe as many as half a dozen cases that are determinative of the outcome. Many of those cases I would have read before. One thing I learned at Yale is that you start making mistakes when you think you know what a case says. Because a case says something different in every context. So you go back and look at the cases and make sure you've got them in your head.

MARCY GREER Do you have an order in which you do these various reviews? Do you read the brief first or does it vary with each individual case?

JUDGE KING Well that depends on whether I have a bench memo on the case or not. I can't wait until I get all the bench memos to start preparing for a sitting. I will read the briefs and the first thing I do is read the district court's opinion.

MARCY GREER Even before the briefs?

JUDGE KING Yes. Read the district court's opinion, and then I read the briefs, and then when the bench memo comes in, I will read the bench memo. If I happen to have a bench memo on a case before I start, I'll read the bench memo, then read the district court's opinion, then read the briefs.

MARCY GREER And do you read the briefs cover to cover or do you jump in at different...?

JUDGE KING No, I read them cover to cover.

MARCY GREER Some judges start with the issues, some even with the table of contents.
Do you have....?

JUDGE KING No, I read them all the way through.

MARCY GREER And then oral argument is generally handled by three judges, as you were
saying.

JUDGE KING Yes.

MARCY GREER And then do you conference afterwards?

JUDGE KING Yes. As soon as we finish, we have a conference on the cases that we've
heard that morning. The junior judge goes first and says what he or she
thinks about the case and the outcome, and then the next more senior
judge, and finally, since I'm usually the senior judge, I speak. The cases
get assigned depending on who thinks what. And sometimes they get
assigned when we all three see a case the same way, and one of their
clerks has done a terrific bench memo on it, then I might assign it to that
judge. If someone has a particular interest in a case, I might assign it to
that judge.

MARCY GREER And can you describe how.... Once a draft of an opinion is made, after
the assignment, it's circulated to the whole panel, right?

JUDGE KING Right.

MARCY GREER And then how do you communicate about the case? Is it by telephone, by
memo—how do you typically do that?

JUDGE KING By memo. And usually, if it's good and I concur, great job, thank you. If
there's a problem, you say, "Well, I think that three-fourths of this is just

fine and I appreciate your effort. I have a question about this particular issue,” and you lay out what your problem is, and wait and see what happens.

MARCY GREER Of course, it’s been a few years since I was a law clerk but I remember there being almost an art form to complimenting another judge’s well written opinion.

JUDGE KING Well, there is, and it’s important to do, particularly if there’s some part that you don’t agree with. You have to have fulsome praise about the parts that you do agree with.

MARCY GREER Tell me about the collegiality of the Court when it comes to decision making.

JUDGE KING Well, that rises and falls. On the whole I would say that the Court is pretty collegial. That’s partly because, you have to understand, ninety-five percent of what we do, the outcome would be the same no matter who the panel members were. So it’s really only maybe about five percent of what we do that there’s really any question about. I think that on the whole, the judges get along pretty well. Every once in awhile there is a problem that comes up and people start taking sides and things get to be a little difficult but, on the whole, people get along pretty well.

MARCY GREER Does that seem to come up when a decision is voted en banc or there’s a decision to be made as to whether it’s going to go en banc?

JUDGE KING Oh yes, of course.

MARCY GREER Could you describe a little bit about how the process works?

JUDGE KING

Well, one or more judges may have a problem with a particular opinion; sometimes not the whole opinion; sometimes, just a piece of it. And in order to get a case voted en banc, it has to be on a major issue, an issue that is perceived to be a major issue. There is a great deal of exchange of correspondence about that issue, with the panel defending its outcome and what it did and the people who are taking issue with it sending memos saying what they think the problem with it is. When finally everybody has had his or her say, then a vote is taken as to whether the case should go en banc or not. If it gets voted en banc, that has the effect of vacating the panel's opinion, and the case is put on the next en banc calendar to be heard by the whole Court.

MARCY GREER

And all the judges are copied on all the correspondence?

JUDGE KING

Yes.

MARCY GREER

And is it more typical for a judge who is on the panel to be "so called" carrying the water for the en banc vote, or is typically a judge from outside the panel looking in, or does it matter?

JUDGE KING

Well, of course, whoever wrote the opinion is usually the person who carries the water, defending it. Not always, but usually, and then whoever takes issue with it, which by the way, may be another judge on the panel who wrote a dissent, but also may be another judge of the Court who wasn't on the panel, takes the laboring oar. And sometimes, two or three judges will wade in, and they all have an opportunity to speak when we get together and have a conference on the case.

MARCY GREER And do you find that cases are voted successfully en banc more often, based on a party's request for review, or there was already some motivation within the Court?

JUDGE KING I think, more often than not, it is because a judge on the Court has a problem with the case, obviously more than one judge has a problem with the case. Occasionally, a petition for rehearing will come in and it will suddenly focus people's attention on a case that may have otherwise escaped their notice, but generally the impulse for taking a case en banc comes from within the Court itself.

MARCY GREER How persuasive do you find amicus briefs? Are they helpful to you and what kind of things makes them more helpful or less helpful.

JUDGE KING That varies dramatically from one case to another, and part of that depends on how good the lawyers are who are representing the parties. When the lawyers are really good, usually the amicus briefs don't add anything. Occasionally, you get lawyers who are not particularly good and you will have an amicus brief which makes a big difference. But on the whole, the amicus brief doesn't make a great deal of difference, in my experience.

MARCY GREER Let's talk about other judges that you admire, whether on this Court or other courts. Who are some of your role models? I know we've talked about Judge Rubin.

JUDGE KING Judge Rubin has been my principal role model. Judge Reavley and I, although we talk a great deal about cases, we come at them quite differently and he doesn't write the same way I do. I'm an "i" dotter and a

"t" crosser, and he finds the opinions that I do sometimes to be too long and cumbersome, too detailed. I guess I would say it's principally been Judge Davis on our Court, who is a marvelous judge, and I've been greatly influenced by him. When he's got a problem with something that I do, it really causes me to reconsider. I mean if anybody has a problem with what I do, it causes me to reconsider, but particularly if it's Judge Davis, that's when I start thinking long and hard, and decide whether I need to throw it over the side.

MARCY GREER Did you ever ask yourself....

TAPE 3

MARCY GREER Can you tell me a little bit about the changes in the Court since you've come on the bench. In the thirty years you've been here.

JUDGE KING Well, there have been some changes that I think are principally the result of changes in the appointment process.

MARCY GREER How so?

JUDGE KING The appointment process for the federal bench has always been political, and I would have to say that my case—which was not political at all—was the exception. But before President Carter, there was always a political element to appointments because presidents frequently appointed people who had been involved in some way in the political process, perhaps in the campaign. For example, Judges Wisdom, Tuttle and Brown were all involved in the election of, I believe, President Eisenhower. But, although they may have been appointed as a part of a high level patronage process,

they were not chosen because they had strong political views of a sort that would be directly relevant to how they did their judging. President Carter was somewhat unusual in that for many of his appointments, he didn't care what the politics of the person that he was appointing were. I told you that I explained to them that I was a Republican and they said, "Well, he doesn't care about that." And in fact, he didn't. I think that for perhaps the non-minorities and non-women that he appointed, there was probably a political patronage element to it, but many of the women that he appointed to the bench were Republican. So, I think I would have to say that for President Carter, certainly politics were not anywhere near as important as they have become for subsequent presidents. I also think that it's fair to say that for all subsequent presidents, Republican and Democrat, it has become important what your political views are. Particularly your political views about matters that the judiciary has some relationship to.

MARCY GREER ... so your substantive beliefs as opposed to just your party affiliation.

JUDGE KING Exactly. They have mattered more and more, and so as a result of that we see, not just in my Court, but in courts all across the country, particularly beginning in the second Reagan administration, Attorney General Meese, an effort to select judges who are deemed to have the right judicial philosophy for that appointing president. That has resulted in an increasingly politicized bench. That isn't true of every judge that was appointed, and some of them have turned out to be quite different, I think,

than the president who appointed them would have thought. But I would say that the politicization of the federal bench has certainly increased over the years and that has been true not only of Republican appointees but also of Democratic appointees. When I came on the Court, I didn't have the impression that the political views of most of the judges that I dealt with were significant in their decision making process. I don't have that same sense today. I think many, though by no means all, of the judges do have an outlook that is colored by their political views, and I find that to be very disturbing. I'm a believer that a judge has to decide the cases presented to him or her according to the rule of law. By that I mean that you have to decide a case in the way that a knowledgeable person would expect you to decide it. That means someone who is knowledgeable about the record in that case and who also is knowledgeable about all of the law that is on the books today. It's a betrayal of your oath to decide a case in accordance with your political views about how the outcome of this case should be rather than on the basis of what the law is on the books today.

MARCY GREER And do you think that the contentiousness of the Senate Judiciary process is a symptom of this change, or is it driving this change, or a little of both?

JUDGE KING Well I think it's a symptom of it.

MARCY GREER More coming from the top?

JUDGE KING Yes, I think the president chooses a judicial candidate who has what he thinks is an acceptable political view and then that judge is expected to decide cases in accordance with that political view. Many of them,

fortunately, don't always decide cases that way, but many of them do. I find that to be very disturbing. I think that, if I had understood that that was the direction the country was going to go in, I certainly would never have taken the job.

MARCY GREER It would be hard to know that in 1979 though.

JUDGE KING That's right! Least of all if you were a securities lawyer doing transaction work, for sure you wouldn't have anticipated that.

MARCY GREER Has your judicial philosophy evolved in any way?

JUDGE KING I would have to say it probably hasn't because I believe very strongly that you have to come at a case absolutely straight down the middle. Remember I was a securities lawyer. A transactions lawyer. Transaction lawyers issue opinions on transactions. Those opinions are designed to deal with what happens if the ox gets in the ditch on this transaction. What would the outcome be? Will the contract that covers the transaction be enforceable in accordance with its terms. All of that assumes a legal system that is functioning according to the rules. That's how I look at the cases I decide. That is, we're going to decide them in accordance with the way people fully knowledgeable about the facts and the law would expect them to be decided. That does not include my political views one way or other. At all. So, I do have political views, but my law clerks are all instructed, if you see me listing in one direction or another, you are to straighten me up. My political views, so far as I am concerned, are irrelevant to the way I have to decide cases. I try very hard to enforce on

myself that view about how a case should be decided, and I think on the whole I've been faithful to that. I'm not perfect. I make mistakes. Sometimes I may listen to my own political views, but I would say, for the most part, I have remained faithful to that, and I really insist of the law clerks that if they see me tilting one way or the other, they should straighten me up.

MARCY GREER If you feel yourself tilting one way or the other, are there things that you use to try to adjust it back to center that have worked?

JUDGE KING I have a drill that I go through that forces me to deal with the law that is on the books today. What does it say and what does it teach about this case, and I have to be faithful to that.

MARCY GREER You taught me to keep going back to the text, over and over and over...

JUDGE KING Over and over and over again. That's right. I would have to say, though, that that view is not shared by a number of judges. Many judges seem to think that you decide how you think a case ought to come out by some inner guide and then you paper it over. You get there somehow, picking and choosing amongst what authority you can find. Some judges actually mistreat the record. They simply are not faithful to what's in that record. Because if they were faithful to it they couldn't get to the result they think they need to get to, and I find that reprehensible.

MARCY GREER Do you think it's a question of being careless about the record or just ignoring it?

JUDGE KING Sometimes it's willful, not just careless.

MARCY GREER Do you get the impression that a case may be going off track at the conference time, or when the memos come, or it depends?

JUDGE KING It depends.

MARCY GREER The radar goes off?

JUDGE KING Yes.

MARCY GREER Do you get to interact much with attorneys who appear in your Court?

JUDGE KING Not really. Not very often.

MARCY GREER I know they have the judicial conferences on occasion.

JUDGE KING Yes. I've been to many of those. Too many. The first one I went to, I wasn't even on the Court yet and it was in Atlanta. I was in this room, that was just filled with lawyers because the Circuit at that time included six states. I didn't know a single person in the room. Now I know most of them. I enjoy a judicial conference because it does give me a chance to see the lawyers, and it gives me a chance to see district judges whom I haven't seen perhaps since the last one. It gives me an opportunity to renew some of the friendships that I made when I was Chief Judge and that's good.

MARCY GREER Do you think that the Court would benefit from more collaboration with the bar as to the various functions of the Court or would that be a hindrance?

JUDGE KING Well, I'm not sure that it would benefit. I think lawyers have a very hard problem being candid with judges. Remember when I organized, when I was in the business of organizing judicial conferences, and we tried to set

up a couple of different panels where the lawyers were supposed to speak candidly. And they never did. Even lawyers that you would have thought would be candid were not. That was always a disappointment. So I'm not sure. I think with lawyers, a cat gets their tongue when it comes to being around judges. I don't think that more exposure would help.

MARCY GREER

Have you enjoyed your 30 years overall on the bench? I guess 31 now.

JUDGE KING

31. I've enjoyed it. But I have to tell you I would enjoy anything. I sort of go through life thinking the glass is half full, so I've enjoyed it. People ask me sometimes, "Did you like practicing law better than you like being a judge?" and the answer to that question is "Definitely, yes!" I would rather practice law than I would be a judge. Mainly because I'm a people person, and I enjoyed my clients and I enjoyed doing deals. They were very creative. They brought out your ingenuity and your inventiveness and that was fun. I also am fascinated by the way in which companies work. The way in which they operate. How they make money. When they make money. When they lose money. What the factors are that influence that. So that's what I really enjoy. Being a judge is a much more confining exercise. You don't have nearly as many people in your life. Your thought process, the way in which you do things is much more channeled than it was when you were trying to figure out how to do the deal or how to undo what someone else was doing. So, I think on the whole I would rather have been a practicing lawyer than I would be a judge. But that isn't to say that I haven't enjoyed being a judge. I have.

I'm the sort of person who would enjoy it if you put me out there in the emergency room at Ben Taub or Memorial Hermann and said here they come. I would enjoy that too. I mean, I might be scared and I might lose quite a few patients in the beginning, but I would soon figure out how to do it and I would enjoy doing it. So, I'm generally, as I say, a glass is half full person and I've enjoyed being a judge. But as compared to being a practicing lawyer, I loved being a practicing lawyer.

MARCY GREER If I could turn back the clock to 1979 and you were making this decision all over again, knowing what you do now about the good, the bad, the ugly—the whole picture—would you have stepped up to the plate again?

JUDGE KING No. I would not. I did it then because I thought that at the end of 10 years I could leave. I was perfectly willing to devote 10 years of my life to public service. But, you can't go home again. Thomas Wolfe said you can't go home again. You can't go back to being a securities lawyer after having spent 10 years on the bench. So the answer to that is that if I had it to do over again, I would not have done it. But that isn't to say that it hasn't been an excellent experience. It has been.

MARCY GREER And right now you intend to continue being an active judge for quite a while?

JUDGE KING Yes. Absolutely, because the one thing that I enjoy, I am a lawyer and to the extent that being a judge involves being a lawyer, it's wonderful. And I'm going to keep doing it.

MARCY GREER What advice would you give to someone who is about to become a judge for the first time on the Fifth Circuit?

JUDGE KING It would be hard for me to advise someone like that because someone who is going to become a judge today would be doing so for very different reasons than I did it, and we wouldn't be speaking the same language.

MARCY GREER What about lawyers? What advice would you give them? Someone who is just starting the practice of law and has the whole world open to them?

JUDGE KING Well, what I tell my law clerks and my children and that is that you have to do very careful work. I always talk about the Cloisters, that place outside New York where they have these marvelous tapestries on the walls. Beautiful tapestries. Those tapestries are composed of millions of tiny stitches and each one of those stitches is perfect. So you have to go at anything you do, whether it's as a lawyer or a judge or whatever, with a view towards doing each piece of it as well as you can possibly do it. And if you do that for a lifetime, then the quality of your work will on the whole be good. But it has to be careful, it has to be accurate, it has to be thorough and it has to be faithful to the rules that you are guided by. One thing that you might also factor in here is that you don't make decisions about what you are going to do with your life based only on what you have the most fun doing. So it is the case that I had much more fun practicing law, doing transactions and dealing with the myriad numbers of people and types of people that I dealt with as a practicing lawyer. I really had more fun doing that. Although, as I pointed out, I've also had a lot of

fun just lawyering cases as a judge. But you also have to take into account things like, what can I do to be of service to my community? When I was asked to take this job, it was because President Carter thought it was important to appoint a woman to the western half of the Fifth Circuit. There had not been any women appointed to the Fifth Circuit at all before his tenure as president. So there was good to be accomplished by doing that. You have to think not only in terms of what gives you the most pleasure but also in terms of how you can be of service. I did it because that was a way of being of service to women and to my community. And I'm glad that I did that. In that respect, that was the right decision. But in terms of overall, where did I have the most fun? I had the most fun as a practicing lawyer. Now people tell me that if I were out there practicing law today it would be very different, and I understand that and I realize that if I were going to go back out there today to practice law, it wouldn't be the same kind of practice. But, you do need to take into account that your choices and your decisions in life have to focus not only on what you enjoy but also on what your obligations are to your community, to your family, to a broader range of issues and people than just what you enjoy.

MARCY GREER Do you have any further goals for yourself in the next 5 to 10 years?

JUDGE KING Yes. I want to bridge the transition to old age. Some people would say I'm there now, but I don't feel any differently than I felt 10 years ago so I don't think I'm there yet. But to bridge the transition to retirement in a constructive way. One thing that I want to do I have learned from my

husband. He reads part of every day. A big part of every day. Theology, history, commentaries on the economic and political life of this country and the world. I want to make changes in my life so that it's a richer and more diversified life than I have been able to lead certainly for the last 25 or 30 years. I have a wonderful teacher in the person of Tom Reavley. So I'm going to transition my interests in the years that lie ahead in ways that I think will be richer in some respects and more constructive for both my intellect and my soul than the last 30 or 40 years have been. I think that would be good.

MARCY GREER Are you going to travel more?

JUDGE KING I don't think so. I'm going to travel some, but not a great deal. I like to travel with someone, and I know Tom is not a traveler. My sister is, and that may be good for a trip every other year or something. But travelling is not going to be a big feature of it. What is going to be is hopefully a great deal more reading than I now do outside my own area of expertise. Right now I read, for example, all the slip opinions of this Court and of the Supreme Court, and it takes a lot of time. When I become less involved in the work of this Court than I am now, hopefully there will be some more time to read in more areas than I now have time for.

MARCY GREER Will you continue to be involved in charitable organizations?

JUDGE KING Absolutely! As long as they will have me. Because, once again, you have to take into account what you can do for other people and your community. Also because of the rich variety of people and causes that

you get involved with. That's very important to your development as a person and to your soul.

MARCY GREER Thank you so much for taking your time to share with us.

JUDGE KING Oh, you're welcome. You're welcome. I've enjoyed it.