

THE ORAL HISTORY

OF

STANLEY J. ROSZKOWSKI
RETIRED DISTRICT JUDGE

OF THE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

AS TOLD TO

COLLINS T. FITZPATRICK
CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE OF THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

AND

PHILIP G. REINHARD
DISTRICT JUDGE

2011

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CTF: Today is December 27, 2010, and we are in the chambers of Northern Illinois District Judge Philip G. Reinhard and I am interviewing retired District Judge Stanley J. Roszkowski who had his headquarters here at the Rockford courthouse.

Stan, can you tell me where did the Roszkowskis come from? How far back do you know where your ancestors came from on your father's side?

SJR: Well, on my father's side, my father's father—this is kind of interesting I think, because my father's father was a judge in Poland. Phil, I don't know if I ever told you that.

PGR: You did tell me that.

SJR: All through my boyhood, there was a photograph of him in our living room in his judicial garb which was rather formal clothing. He didn't have a robe as such, but he was dressed up and had a book beside him and that remained in our living

room all during my boyhood. Later on, one of my sisters, Ann, was working for a clinic, an eye clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, where she lived and she had that blown up and gave it to me as a gift when I was inducted as a district court judge.

CTF: What was his name and where was he a judge?

SJR: He was a judge at Lapy and his name was Jan Roszkowski. He was in a small community of, I think it was, around 40,000 people about forty miles north northeast of Warsaw. As I understand it, he was called squire in Polish. I don't know a lot about that aspect of it. One of my father's brothers was inducted in the Russian Army. I guess this was close to the Russian/Polish border and I have pictures of him in a Cossack uniform. He was a Cossack. His name was Stanley, my namesake. My father's name was Joseph. His brother's name was Ben and Benjamin came with my father to the United States.

CTF: When was that?

SJR: It was a little before the turn of the century in the 1890's. I can't tell you exactly. They never really gave us a lot of information about that, but as I understood it, his father didn't want his sons to be inducted in the Army. So he gave them enough money so they could migrate to the United States. And the two boys, Joseph and Ben, ended up in the coal mines in Pennsylvania first.

CTF: Where in Pennsylvania?

SJR: I think somewhere near Pittsburgh in a smaller community.

CTF: How old were they when they came?

SJR: Fifteen, his brother Ben was about thirteen. And he worked in the coal mines. He told me that his best friend who was also

on the ship that came over with him—and they were about the same age—was killed in a rock slide. My dad always had a scar on his head. It would be right behind his left ear, a blue mark. It was caused by a rock slide in the seam of coal where he worked in Pennsylvania. The seam was only four feet deep so he was on his hands and knees most of the day. And he wanted to get out of the mines in the worst way. The mine operators had coal mines opening in Illinois and he was either transferred or just got a new job somehow in a little town named Westville which is right near Danville, Illinois.

He came and worked in the mines in Westville and he met my mother there. I'll tell you a little about her later. She was then about seventeen, I think, or eighteen. Well, they were married when she was eighteen so they might have met at sixteen or so.

CTF: Was he an underground miner in Illinois?

SJR: Yes. They were just opening up the Westville and Danville mines in Illinois. At the same time when they were in Westville, he met my mother. I think it was at a church dance or something of that kind. They met there and were married in Westville. She was eighteen and my father was twenty-one by that time. So he worked in Pennsylvania and Westville for a number of years.

CTF: What's your mother's maiden name?

SJR: Anna Chrostowski. They stayed in Westville for some time. Then they opened mines in the southern part of the state where I grew up in a little town named Royalton. At one time it was a very prosperous town. We had three coal mines surrounding that town, actually four. One was about four miles away. And somehow they got transferred down there. Whether the company transferred them or not, I am not really sure. The Franklin County Coal Company is where he

worked and he began working in the mines in this little town named Royalton.

CTF: Which is close to our Benton courthouse.

SJR: Absolutely, Benton was our county seat. And it was interesting because he wanted to get out of the mines in the worst way and my mother was a professional seamstress. They both were working their heads off and saving money to get out of the mines. They bought a couple of lots and they built a house on one lot and they had this corner lot in this small town near the railroad tracks and this is an interesting story.

Let me back up and tell you about it. They saved enough money to go into business. Well, he thought he had enough money to go into business but he didn't know anything about business. I'm not sure that either one of them could speak English very well because they were in their twenties. Darn if

they didn't go into business. They were very successful. They built a store and I had a conversation back then with a guy named Jim Fisk. It was right before the war. I had a conversation with Jim. He was our town carpenter. And he said, "I have something to tell you about your dad." I said, "What's that?" And he said, "I built his first store." And I said, "How did that happen?" And he said, "Well, Joe came to me (my dad's name was Joseph) one day and said, 'Jim, I want you to build me a new building on that lot that we had bought.'" And he said to him, "How big a store do you want me to build, Joe?" And he said, "As big as \$1,800 will build." That's all the money he had.

PGR: Was that a grocery store?

SJR: Yes, a grocery store. It was a grocery store and a dry goods store. My mother ran the dry goods side. It was kind of split down the middle. She ran the dry goods store and he ran the meat market and the grocery store. Well, he proceeded to be

very successful and drove the coal mining company store out of business.

Early on, their store was then the only store in town. Other than the company store, he didn't have any competition. They were very successful. This is in the Twenties, the Roaring Twenties, so I'd say during the Twenties they were very well off at that point which changed during the Depression. They went from being very successful. Like all businesses in a small town then, it was a credit business and we had half the town on credit to our store for the groceries that they bought. And he carried those people for many years because they had been his customers and he couldn't cut them off and it almost broke him. But then when World War II came along and the coal mines were working seven days a week, the store came back. He was in pretty good shape again, but all those years between the Twenties and 1940 were very difficult years in the grocery business, but he was one of the leading grocers in that part of the state for many years.

And he was very heavy in the meats. That is when they had to go out and he would buy a steer or cows. He would actually go out to the field and pick out a steer and butcher it out in the field. And so he was very successful in that area. And then he became, I would say, the town's leading citizen. He was the president of the school board and helped to build the new school where I went to school. If it hadn't been for him, they never would have built the school. The WPA along with his help built the school. They would run out of mortar at times and they would come to him and he would give them some money to buy mortar.

CTF: That was your high school?

SJR: My high school, yes.

CTF: But you were born in New York.

SJR: I was born in New York, but I was only there for a year.

CTF: Okay.

SJR: My dad was an investor, always investing in something new. He was very successful in that. And for some reason, I never did get this straight, he sold his business in Southern Illinois, why he did that I don't know, but he sold it and bought a business in Boonville, New York, which is right near the Adirondack State Park. And it's right near the entrance. It's the snow capital of the world. There are pictures where the snow is up to the eaves of the house. You know that they had that same problem very recently. And they were there for about a couple of years and I was born there. The people he sold the store to in Southern Illinois didn't know how to run the store and they were drowning and they didn't know how to run it. And so my dad bought it back and he just couldn't stand that cold, cold weather in Boonville.

PGR: Well, tell him how many children your parents had.

SJR: Well, I think Collins knows a little bit about that. I was the youngest boy. Actually there were five boys. My oldest brother, who would have been the oldest child in the family, his name was Joseph and he died young. This was before the advent of shots and vaccinations for smallpox and diphtheria and he died, I think, of smallpox in the Twenties. And my oldest sister Mary died when she was also very young, I think of diphtheria or smallpox, one or the other of those two I'm not sure about that. But in any event, they didn't grow up with the rest of the family. There were thirteen children who grew to adulthood. Now we are down to two. My one sister died this year and there are only two of us left. My sister Lovean and myself. So when my dad got back, he bought the nicest house in the town. Don't get me wrong, we weren't rich by most standards, but as far as that little town was concerned, we were well off.

Well, they raised this large family. I don't want to get ahead of the story. They raised this large family over a period of years and my sisters were all really great students; I'm not sure about the older ones, but my four younger sisters were all valedictorians of their class. We were in this small coal mining town. Most of my friends were sons of coal miners. I would say all of them were. I grew up with coal miners and I have some of those friends to this day. Most of them are dead by now. Don Stanley was flying missions out of England and I was flying out of Italy and he was one of my good friends. Norm Passenger was a navigator on B-17s flying out of England. Both of them got shot down and were German prisoners during the war. I flew out of Italy and I didn't get shot down, fortunately. But to back up a little bit.

PGR: Tell him the story about your mother's side of the family.

CTF: Where did your mother's family come from? How far back do you know about them? How did she get to Westville?

SJR: I'll tell you. This is a real interesting story. She came to this country at age eleven and brought her younger sister who was age nine with her.

CTF: By themselves?

SJR: By themselves, yes. The Polish government had tried to stop the migration out of Poland because they were losing so much of their population so at the point what they were doing—her parents came to the United States first and they settled somewhere near Syracuse, New York. And you know some of these stories I only got secondhand so I am not sure how accurate they are. But they sent for her and her sister. She was then with her grandfather and grandmother and they were in a small city, a small town near Krakow which you know is one of the large cities, in Poland. They were out in the country, farm people. They sent for Anna. My mother's name was Anna and Alice was her younger sister. They came

to the United States by themselves. Her grandmother sewed some money in her jacket and kissed her goodbye. They were trying to stop the migration out of Poland so they couldn't just go out of Poland, like normal people. Poland already lost a lot of the population so they smuggled them out. My grandparents apparently had hired a smuggler. My mother by the time she told me this story was about my age. I'll be eighty-eight next January 2011. She was about eighty-seven and she is telling my wife Cathy and me this story down in Birmingham. My mother said that she was under the hay in this hay wagon and the smuggler was driving this horse across Poland and apparently there's a stream at the border, a low stream with a rocky bottom. That is the way she described it. They came upon one of the guards. They had a checkpoint and apparently the smuggler paid him off because he gave him some money and he let them through, but when they got nearer to the border, this guy wouldn't accept the payoff or something. Apparently they didn't give him enough money. All of a sudden she said she heard this guy

say, "Get off," and he whipped the horses and away they went across the river. It was the border of Germany and Poland. So they then ended up in what is now Gdansk, which was then Danzig, and they got on an ocean going vessel in the Baltic Sea and went to Portsmouth, England. And at that point they got on another ocean going vessel, a bigger vessel, and she said two Jewish ladies befriended them and took care of them during their trip because they were two little girls all alone. Two nicest German Jewish ladies were so nice and they just took those two kids under their arms and took them to New York.

CTF: What year is that?

SJR: I'd say this is between 1895 and 1900 sometime like that.

And then the one thing that she recalls so vividly and she is about my age now when she's telling this. By the way even though my parents were from Poland, neither of them had an

accent at all. You would never know they were from another country. They spoke nearly perfect English and spoke several other languages because they ran this grocery store. We had Russians, Italians. They spoke a little Italian. They spoke a lot of the Slavic languages because they are very similar you know. They spoke a little Russian, Lithuanian, Polish, and a little bit of Italian so they could wait on their customers, but they spoke English very fluently; both of them. You would never know they were immigrants, especially my mother. My dad might have been a little bit less fluent than she was, but you would never know that she was from anywhere but the United States.

But anyway to finish the story, you could see that she virtually had tears in her eyes about this part of it. When they arrived and she saw the Statue of Liberty, these people were on the railing and they were cheering and everything, they were coming into the United States. That was a great thing for all these immigrants. There were some of them from

Poland and various places. They were throwing things over the side of the railing throwing it into the water in celebration. And my mother said that her grandmother was a great knitter. She knitted beautiful things and she had knitted this white and gold thread shawl, huge shawl, and she had given it to my mother who was this little eleven year old girl and said, "Annie, I want you to have this for the rest of your life." And my mother threw it over the railing and you could see she had tears in her eyes because she regretted that all of her life.

CTF: How did an eleven year old and a nine year old get from New York City?

SJR: Her parents had already been to the United States and they sent someone, whether they came or not I'm not sure. They were near Syracuse and then she ended up going to Syracuse. Whether or not one of her parents came after her and Alice, which was her sister's name, I'm not sure. Some of those things I didn't get the details of, but someone met them at the

boat and then they went to Syracuse. An interesting story about this is my mother was a professional seamstress and a really good professional seamstress. She made clothes for everybody in town.

CTF: Self taught?

SJR: No, this is part of the story. She got a job in a bridal shop making bridal gowns in Syracuse and became very professional at it. And as she is telling this story, you have to know my mother to really believe this because of what happened to her. She's working there. Let's say two or three years go by. She is working in this bridal shop making bridal gowns and stuff, as a matter of fact she made all the bridal gowns for my oldest sister's wedding. She had six bridesmaids. It is a Polish wedding, it went on for three days. And she made her gown and all the bridal gowns all different colors, just beautiful. And she made them all. And there were people coming from all over. People would come over

to the house and she'd make bridal gowns. I don't think there was a wedding in Royalton that she didn't make most of the bridal gowns for. And she didn't charge enough as was warranted. But she's working. She's telling this story. You have to understand my mother to believe this. She said that one day the woman who she worked for was really mean and this woman came over and picked up the cloth that she was working on and threw it on the floor and said, "Pick that up." And my mother said, "You pick it up yourself, you put it there." She's maybe by this time twelve, thirteen, fourteen years old and they fired her. So she got a job in a tanning factory and she said it was just an awful job. She loved the job in the bridal shop. She said the tanning factory smelled. It was just awful. She just hated it there and a few months went by I guess and in comes the woman who had fired her and wants to hire her back. And she said, "I'll come back under two conditions. One, you apologize to me and, two, you increase my income. Otherwise I'm not coming back." You had to know my mother. She actually did that and so the

woman agreed to it and she went back to the bridal shop and became a professional seamstress as a result and was always making something. I think I spent an awful lot of time in the sewing room that we had in that big house that my dad bought. My dad actually bought the house that was built by the owner of the mines who had committed suicide in our backyard. I don't know what the problem was, but his name was Huddleston. I remember that, why do I remember that name I don't know, but Mr. Huddleston was very famous, he was one of the leading citizens in the town because he owned the mines.

CTF: How did your mom go from Syracuse to Westville, Illinois?

SJR: You know I think that her parents were in the mines too. And I know nothing about Mr. Chrostowski, my grandfather, that side of it. I know all I know about my other grandfather was that he was a judge in Poland. Now I don't really know much about the Chrostowski family and I wish I did.

CTF: Well, your father came from Poland in order to avoid the service, but he would have been prime draft material for World War I you would think.

SJR: Yes, he would have been. Now he didn't get drafted because they had children already. But my uncle Joe Missavage was drafted and he was in the AEF (American Expeditionary Force) during World War I and he was my godfather. He was Lithuanian. His father was a farmer right outside Royalton. And he met my aunt Mary who was just a wonderful person. Joe Missavage raised a wonderful family. His children are nearly all college graduates like so many of ours are. Joe Missavage—in fact his oldest son was an outstanding football player at Monmouth College. In the history of Monmouth College, he is the Red Grange of Monmouth College. He made the college all-stars in his senior year at Monmouth. He was the best athlete I have ever known personally. He was a great baseball player. The St. Louis Cardinals wanted to sign

him, instead he took the scholarship he had at Monmouth. He had a full ride at Monmouth.

And Joe established a large seed dealership. Joe died a couple of years ago and I think his children are now one of the largest seed dealers in the United States for a company known as Pioneer Seed, which is a division of DuPont.

I have regressed a little bit. But my mother and my dad married in Westville. And I can tell you she was eighteen. He was twenty-one. And then they went into Royalton and started this store. And my dad bought Huddleston's house and it was a very nice house. You would think that with thirteen children that it would be crowded. But you know what happened, so much time went by the older children were gone when I was there. Let me think, my brother Herman and me. Herm was with General Patton by the way during the war. And I guess Herm would be the oldest one there. Well, my sister Wanda, who died last year, would have

maybe been there for a while. But the rest of the girls were already working or married and elsewhere. Maybe six or seven of us children were in the house during the time that I was a child and growing up. Maybe there might have been a lot more than that when I was real small.

You have also asked for the names of my siblings.

My oldest sister Josephine worked in the family store for many of her early years. She was a great person, loved by all who knew her. She was married to Ray Krisch and they had two children, Phyllis and Robert. Phyllis passed away during the 1980's and Robert still survives. He is very successful at his profession.

My sister Helen was an executive secretary during her long career. She never married. She was always close to our family members and attended many of our reunions.

My sister Ann was a brilliant student, attending DePaul University on scholarship, due to her grades on a statewide test. She was married to Joseph Rodgers and they had four talented and successful children: Peggy, Joe, Lynn, and Larry. She passed away during the 1990's.

My brother Anthony was a successful inventor of several devices, the most successful one being an ice making machine. He was married to his wife, Helen, and they are survived by two children, Jim and Judy, both very fine people.

My sister Lottie passed away during the 1990's. She was an executive secretary during her working years and was married to Dr. Russell Forbes, a chiropractor, who is also deceased. They had one son, Russell Charles, who was also a chiropractor. He died during the early 2000's.

My brother Edward was killed on his third combat mission flying out of England on B-17s. He was about twenty-six

years old. He is survived by his wife, Vera, and his daughter, Jeanne Heuberger, who remain close to our family.

My sister Wanda was married to William Walker. She passed away in 2005. She and her husband owned a successful tree and flower nursery. He predeceased her. They had two talented sons. One, Alan, died tragically two years ago. She is survived by their other son, Roger. Alan's wife, Sue, survives and is a great comfort to all who know her.

My brother Herman was a year and a half older than me. He was married to his wife Olive for fifty plus years, and they had three talented children: Lynn, Barbara, and Patrick. He died three years ago. He was a successful executive in the automobile and luxury boat businesses.

Then me.

My sister Florence died in the early Seventies. She was an

executive secretary during her professional career. She was happily married to Ronald Shaloo, who was a railroad engineer and they have two talented daughters, Susan and Karen.

Only two of us are still alive from the family of thirteen. My sister Lovean is now eighty-five and living in Ft. Myers, Florida. She is a very talented person, a great singer (soloist at Southern Illinois University) and an outstanding golfer, having been club champion at her club several times. She had four children: Gayle, Keith, Patricia, and Carol, all very successful in their respective professions. We are very close and always have been, even in early childhood, and remain so to this day.

My sister Henrietta was a registered nurse. She was killed in an automobile accident some time during the Seventies. She never married. She was the head of all the nurses at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, at the time of

her death.

My sister Charlotte died last year in her early eighties. She was an outstanding registered nurse for many years, was married, with four talented children.

CTF: Did they buy that house from Mr. Huddleston before they moved to Boonville or after?

SJR: No, I think it was after, when they got back. I'm not sure of that to tell you the truth. They could have bought it before. I think it was after; it must have been afterwards. But their business was doing very, very well at that time. See what had happened—the town is now like twelve hundred people, but back then, as I understand, they had a lot of rooming houses, single miners who lived there and worked there. It was a booming town. It was like a gold rush; the coal was really necessary to the development of the country. And we had so much coal under the state of Illinois and we still do.

PGR: That was the mining underneath the soil versus surface mining.

SJR: Yes, right. You go straight down. They do have some surface mines near there in DuQuoin. But we were never strip mine people, what they call strip mines down there. My dad wanted to get out of the mines in the worst way. I grew up in that town and it was historically a place with a lot of the industrial strife, mines and mine operators. I recall one of the stories. I recall being in the store raiding the candy box and maybe I was eleven or so, probably ten or eleven. I heard gunfire going on behind the store. The railroad tracks to the mines were right behind the store. The mine was a quarter of a mile away from the store, that's where the coal cars would go to the mines and then they would go out and go to St. Louis, Chicago, and elsewhere. And I heard this gunfire going on. I wanted to know what happened but my dad said, "Stanley, go home." And when my dad said, "Go home," you

went home, you didn't ask questions. I found out later that they had a pitched battle out there between the strikers and mine owners who brought in some Pinkerton men who actually were some of Al Capone's men, I think. And they killed some miners there. And so there was a lot of industrial strife.

CTF: It's known as "Bloody Williamson County" if I remember correctly.

SJR: No, "Bloody Williamson" is right next to my county. Mine was Franklin County. There's a book on that "Bloody Williamson." And, of course, Charlie Birger. His gang and the Shelton gang were two of the gangs down there, bootleggers and so on. And Charlie Birger was hanged in the square in Benton. A great story about that. There's a book on that you ought to really read it. It is really the history of Southern Illinois right there. The book is called *Bloody Williamson: A Chapter in American Lawlessness*.

CTF: Right next to our federal courthouse was the jail.

SJR: Yes. They hanged old Charlie right in the square.

PGR: Had that been a federal court case?

CTF: No. I don't know, I don't think it was.

SJR: No, I don't think so either. Jim Foreman used that courtroom back in the 1980's. Jim and I are friends from college days. You know we used to double date with our wives. Well, anyway my parents did well there and all the children were raised there. I went to school there. Incidentally I was telling Joe and Phil earlier that there were several small towns surrounding there which were all coal mining towns basically. And I played six man football there, not eleven man at that time. They had a six man team and I played quarterback. I was the backup quarterback in my junior year. I only

weighed 135 pounds. By my senior year, I weighed 175. And when I came back after the summer the coach said, "What in the hell happened to you?" He clapped his hands together because I wasn't very good my junior year, but I was fairly good in my senior year.

CTF: What other sports did you play in high school?

SJR: Basketball, baseball, tennis. I was captain of the football and basketball teams my senior year.

CTF: Were you in any other extra curriculars? Editor of the newspaper?

SJR: Mostly sports, no. I should have been, but you know I was a good enough student if I wanted to be. If I had applied myself, I could have been valedictorian like all my sisters were, but I didn't pay attention to that. I don't think I ever took a book home.

CTF: I am sure you worked at your father's store?

SJR: Yes.

CTF: But did you have other jobs too?

SJR: Yes. The only job other than that I did—at one time I wanted to make some pin money and you could sweep the schools out at the end of the day and I did that. It was the National Recovery Act, part of the NRA. I did a little bit of that, but no, if I took another job, my dad would say, "What are you doing there, I need you here." I cleaned up. At the end of the day, I'd come in and sweep the store out almost every day.

CTF: So you are probably a senior in high school when the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. Where were you when you heard about it?

SJR: This is interesting. I had never heard of Pearl Harbor before and the *Saturday Evening Post* was the leading periodical at the time. I had just read an article that was entitled on the front page of the *Saturday Evening Post* "Pearl Harbor Our Impregnable Fortress." That was the title of the article. I can still remember it like it was yesterday. And I had just read that article that week and my brother and I were getting ready for church and my brother came in, my brother Herman who was with Patton, and he said, "The Japanese just bombed Pearl Harbor." I wouldn't have known where Pearl Harbor was except I had just read that article and then it turned out, it was not impregnable. They had just destroyed most of our battleship fleet. And that is the first time I heard of it. Then Herm, my brother, he was old enough to be drafted and my brother, Ed, was also. They were both old enough. Ed was in the Air Force and Herm was in the Quarter Master Corp. He had an all black company, 150 black soldiers. And he was delivering oil and gas to Patton's troops. He was the company commander. He had two other white officers. All

the other noncoms and soldiers were black. Something interesting he told me was that, his first sergeant was black and he was illiterate. He was from the south. Herm told me, "He's so smart. If he had an education, he would have been a general." You could tell him anything. He would remember forever. You would tell him what to do and he would get it done somehow. So he had that company and he went in on D-Day plus thirteen with that company delivering oil and gas to Patton.

PGR: Were the two brothers that went in older than you?

SJR: Yes. I was the youngest boy.

PGR: How much older were they?

SJR: Herman is about a year and a half older and Ed was probably three years older because there was a girl, Wanda, between them.

PGR: And you were a senior then?

SJR: No, I had just graduated that year.

PGR: Did they go in pretty soon after?

SJR: Yes. And then my parents had to sign for me and I wanted to go in right away and they wouldn't sign for me because they already had two boys in there. And finally they said, "Oh, okay." And when you go in at that time, you had to take what they call an Army GED and, if your grades were high enough, you had your choice of going in the infantry or the Air Force, the Army Air Corps. And so they said, "Well, you could go in any unit you want. Where do you want to go?" And I said, "I want to go in the Air Corps." And that's how I ended up there.

PGR: Did you graduate first from high school?

SJR: Yes, I graduated from high school. I tried to get in that fall but my parents wouldn't sign for me. Then they finally said, "Well, we might as well sign for you because they are going to draft you anyway." So I ended up going in January 1943.

CTF: What did you do after you graduated from high school?

SJR: I was working in the store.

You know I don't know, in a sense there is no one more antiwar than I am. I think it is such a waste, but in a sense World War II was a wonderful thing that happened to me in that way. And I don't want you to quote me in that sense because I think war is horrible and I have always been that way, but it changed my life. You know I got the GI Bill when I came back and so on. And I don't mean to glorify war in any way. I lost my brother. My brother, Ed, was shot down on his third mission. At the time Ed went over, I already had

twenty-five missions. And I wrote to him and the letter came back from his chaplain. He said that he got a direct hit in the bomb bay on his third mission. He came over late. He was older than me but his career in the Air Force was much different than mine.

CTF: Where did he get shot down?

SJR: Over Wiesbaden, Germany, which is right near the French border. And he is buried there. He is buried in a cemetery outside Alsace Lorraine. Cathy and I visited his grave in D-Day year, 1994, and it is a long way from Paris. We got on a train and rode for four hours each way. It is the largest American cemetery outside the United States. Ten thousand plus Americans are buried there. I remember standing near the top of the hill and overlooking those graves and saying, "What a waste."

CTF: Was he single or was he married?

SJR: He had just been married maybe a year or so. He was an outstanding young man; Clark Gable handsome. I think he would also have taken advantage of the GI Bill as my brother Herman and I did, if he had survived the war. His wife was pregnant when he went overseas. And his daughter—we stayed in touch with her all these years. She stayed in touch with us. And she's a wonderful person and incidentally is the wife of Jim Foreman's probation officer. His name is Russ Heuberger. He is retired now, but Jeanne was Ed's only child when he was killed. His wife Vera, who is also a great person, was pregnant with Jeanne and I saw her last year or maybe a year and a half ago when my sister Wanda died. I went down to St. Louis for the funeral.

PGR: Where did you go, where did you serve before you went over to Italy?

SJR: Well, I took a train—without going into great detail, I was transferred seventeen times in the two years and nine months I was in the service. And the main thing I can talk about, I trained in armament school in Denver and they train you on all the guns and ammunition, bombs and things of that kind. And I was trained and then they sent me to Panama City, Florida, the gunnery school. I was there. I was in Denver for two months and then I was in Panama City for six weeks and then went from there to replacement depot which was in Springfield, Massachusetts. I first went into Keesler Field. That is an interesting story. The first place that I ever went in the service was Camp Grant in Rockford, Illinois, from Southern Illinois to here, of course. And then we went from there to Keesler Field, Mississippi, basic training. Eventually I wanted to go into flight crew. I was first in cadet training at Michigan State for six months. I flew light planes there and then I was getting ready to go into flight training, I flew almost like Piper Cubs; they were Aeroncas really. I flew those planes and did quite well in that. And it ended up that

they closed the flight training program and they kept me in the Air Force. I was told that many of those same guys ended up in the infantry. I fortunately stayed in the Air Force. I don't know why, just accidental I think. I ended up staying in the Air Force, going to Denver for armament school and gunnery school in Panama City; Westover Field, Massachusetts, for overseas training; picked up a crew in training. The guy that was my pilot, his name was Ross Koile. Ross had been flying since he was fifteen and he was about twenty-six at this time, an old guy for a flight crew but he was really good. He had been in flight training and had been teaching flight training, advance training, multiple engines.

CTF: When did he start, I mean he started at fifteen, so was he a crop duster?

SJR: You know I don't know. He was flying those biplanes he told me. He was flying biplanes. But he was a hell of a pilot. He saved our lives a few times.

CTF: On the plane were you the navigator?

SJR: No, I flew the nose. I was in charge of all the ammunition and the guns. If something went wrong with a gun or ammunition.

CTF: What bomber was that?

SJR: B-24s. I flew thirty-four missions out of Italy.

CTF: Did you ever know Ted Scott (Theodore Scott, President of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association), the attorney?

SJR: No.

CTF: He just died. He flew out of Italy on bombers, but he got shot down. He was in Italian prison camps.

SJR: I have two good friends that played high school football with me, two of my good friends in high school got shot down. Both of them were German prisoners. One guy when he got back weighed 100 pounds. He had been 180 pounds, Norm Passenger. Don Stanley weighed about 90 pounds. He had been about 160 pounds. He was our kicker. Both close friends of mine. In fact the interesting thing was, when the war ended, we all ended up on furlough at the same time. We were chasing girls all over Southern Illinois, during that time the three of us. But we were all in uniform. We were the first guys back in uniform I think.

CTF: So when do you get out?

SJR: This is interesting too. Everything happened to me a little different than most people. I was in Tampa, Florida, when the war ended and they start discharging people. You had to have eighty-five points. They gave you five points for so many months and a series of five points. If you had a medal,

you got five points. I had two air medals and three clusters. Those are decorations and no big deal if you flew enough missions. Well, I was in Tampa when the war ended.

PGR: The war in Germany?

SJR: No, this was the war in Japan. Japan was still going on. The war in Germany had already ended when I came back. Incidentally we flew a plane back. We flew a B-24 back. And we went from Southern Italy to the northern coast of Tunis in Africa across to Dakar, Africa. Dakar is the shortest distance between two points on the South American continent and the African continent. We went from Dakar, Africa, over to Natal, Brazil, shortest point. Our range was not that great. The B-24 wasn't anything like the planes nowadays, but we had that much range. And we landed in Natal. We lost an engine actually in Tunis and had to stay there for a while to change the engine. We were there for about a week. God, it was hot there, 120°. You talk about heat, you would take a deep

breath and it would sear your lungs. But we were there maybe a week and they changed the engine. And we took off and went across the desert and into Dakar and went from there to Natal. Sat in Natal a few days because the weather was bad. And we took off finally and we kept climbing because the weather was really bad over the jungles. We were over the Brazilian jungles. And we were really in trouble because we climbed, we went up to 27,000 feet and we couldn't get over the bad weather. It was still really bad up there, so we started looking for a place to land, the only place to land was a place called Belém, Brazil. And the Air Transfer Command had built an airfield there in Belém which was right in the middle of the jungles. And we finally found a hole in the clouds and went down like that. I'm not sure, but I think I'm the one who located it and we went down and landed in Belém.

CTF: Now your plane is not pressurized?

SJR: No.

CTF: So when you're at 27,000 feet.

SJR: We're on oxygen, oxygen masks. Every once in a while we would have a guy die because the oxygen mask would freeze up. A crew member of a friend of mine died, a guy from my hometown actually, John Derbak. John was a year ahead of me; he played halfback on the team when I was a junior in high school.

CTF: It was just so cold in the plane because of the altitude.

SJR: Yes, it froze up the oxygen masks. They went on like this and it froze up the passage. He was a top gunner. They kept calling him and he didn't answer and he died of lack of oxygen. And what we were constantly doing was crushing our masks with our fingers like this to keep the ice from accumulating otherwise it would stop up your passageways.

CTF: How cold was it in the plane?

SJR: Fifty-five degrees below.

PGR: Below!

SJR: So you better have a heated suit on. They fortunately had heated suits and it wasn't always that cold, but you know that's as cold as it got probably.

CTF: Where did you fly out of?

SJR: We flew out of a place called Pantanella Air Base, which was about halfway between Naples and Bari in Italy. If you look at a map of Italy, Naples is up here and Bari is down here. We were right in the middle.

CTF: Where were most of your missions?

SJR: Some of them were in Northern Italy. We bombed right over the lines. The Po River was the line at that point. We had a few missions which we called "milk runs" that were easy missions when we dropped some bombs on the German troops right across the Po River. But many of our missions were into Vienna. I think I went to Vienna four or five times. I went to Munich three or four times. And our worst target was an IG Farben plant in Poland in Upper Silesia, what they called the coal country in Poland. The Germans were making artificial oil out of coal, both oil and gas. And we would bomb that plant out and a week later it would be back in operation. I went up there five times in five weeks and it was a terrible target because we just got the hell shot out of us every time we went up there.

PGR: Anti-aircraft or was it German aircraft?

SJR: No, it was anti-aircraft guns. By the time I got over there, our troops and the Russians had taken out so much of their fighters. The problem was they didn't have enough oil and gas. Really I only saw a couple of German fighter planes. One I did see was the first jet plane—the Focke-Wulf jet plane. And he came diving down. We had a lead plane, two planes off the wing. We flew deputy lead sometimes. The lead plane was here, we were here, another plane here, two back here, and one at the tail end. There were seven planes in a box. And in our wing we had four different squadrons in each group.

CTF: Did you have fighters at all to protect you?

SJR: Yes. We were the ones that were escorted by the all black squadrons. They used to come and I used to listen to them on the intercom. They were talking this jive talk. I didn't know what the hell they were talking about.

CTF: Well, the Germans didn't either.

SJR: They're flying off our wing, but above. They'd pick us up.

We went off the Adriatic Sea coast. You know how Italy goes like this. We went off the Adriatic most of the time unless we were going to Munich then we would go closer to Italy. But we would go across the Adriatic and then we would bomb.

Well, our first mission for example was Budapest. We were so dumb, the crew was so dumb, we didn't realize it, we had the hell shot out of us. We had forty some holes in our plane.

And those were one of the worst missions we had in all the thirty-four that I flew except for one. A lot of missions were milk runs, just went up there and dropped your bombs and turned around and come back. But that one was really bad, we flew into Budapest on our first mission and it was right near the border of where the Russians were. They had just taken a part of Budapest. They had taken the airfield at Budapest. And we went in and bombed the marshaling yards at Budapest. Dropped our bombs and then peeled off. And

obviously you could hear these sounds, PPPPPZZZ like rattling. This was flak going through our plane. Well, it knocked a big hole in our plane. This is our first mission. We were so dumb. We didn't realize it was a bad mission. It knocked this big hole in our plane. And it cut our hydraulic lines. Understand we are a bunch of rookies and it sprayed hydraulic fluid all over the back of our plane. The bomb bays and everything were full of hydraulic fluid. We dropped our bombs and turned around and we weren't sure if we had any brakes because they were hydraulic brakes so Harley Bridger who was our radio operator and I, we are back in the waist and we attached—we were trained to do this—two parachutes to the waist gun mounts and hooked them on, strapped them on just like you would strap them on to a person and we are ready to pop those two parachutes if we needed to. And we are on the intercom.

CTF: This is kind of like the dragsters at the drag strip.

SJR: Yes, exactly, exactly. And we are ready to pop those things. But fortunately they had an auxiliary hydraulic tank just for this kind of emergency and we had enough hydraulic fluid in the tank. Apparently it didn't leak out when the rest of it did. It was probably designed that way and so the brakes worked. So this guy we are flying with, he was the squadron commander, young guy, but again, he had been flying for years like our pilot. It was our first mission. We were lead plane. That is why we were hit so bad.

CTF: This is your pilot, the guy that started at fifteen?

SJR: Yes, and I think this other guy started about the same because he was only twenty-two or something like that. Our squadron commander at that time was a guy named Scanlon.

CTF: And the fighters were the Tuskegee Airmen?

SJR: Yes, and they would pick us up on the coast of.

PGR: The Adriatic?

SJR: Yes! The coast up there along Yugoslavia. They would pick us up right there and they would escort us all the way to the target and turn around and come back with us. And you'd see them out off to our right usually sometimes to the left, but I'd say most definitely to our right and they would be above us and we never lost a plane to fighters with those guys. They were the Michael Jordans of the Air Force. They were just terrific. They had the cream of the crop, but these guys were really good. And they escorted us all the time I was there. I think they started even before that because I went over in September of '44 and stayed until the war ended. I had one mission left.

You know I look back at my life and I say how lucky can you be. I had been grounded because I had a sinus infection. You can't go in high altitudes with that and they grounded me for

five days and I missed five missions. Well, I had thirty missions. I was volunteering to fly with anybody and anyone because I was trained in all five of those positions: top turret gunner, nose gunner, waist gunner, tail gunner, but I usually flew the nose. Well, every time they needed somebody, I'd say, "Put me on." So I was going up to the operations tent and volunteering every day, put my name on there. My thirty-fourth mission, I finally quit because I got exhausted. I flew five days in a row, getting up at two o'clock in the morning and so I said, "Take me off." A guy named Taylor was in charge of our operations account. Finally after the fourth straight day in a row, I said to Sergeant Taylor, "Take me off." Bob Taylor was his name. So he took me off. And then I came back in and said, "Okay, put me back on. I rested a couple of days. I am flying my last mission." So he put me on a crew where I knew all these guys and their nose gunner was sick or something so he put me on a crew, puts it on the blackboard substituting for Sergeant so and so, Stan Roszkowski. And I am standing there and in comes the squadron commander

and he looks at the board and he said to Taylor, "What's Ros's name doing there?" He said, "Well, he volunteered. He's going to fly his last mission." And he said, "You take his name off there. He's not flying today or tomorrow." I said, "Well, Major I want to go home you know." And he said, "You listen to me, you're not flying tomorrow, do you understand me." He said, "Let's take a walk across the area." That's how lucky I was. And so we go walking across the area and he said, "You don't want to fly tomorrow, believe me you don't want to fly tomorrow. I know where we are going and you don't want to fly. Understand me." And I said, "Yeah, I understand now." And I said, "What do you want me to do." And he said, "I want you to go lay on your dead ass. I got guys who haven't flown five missions to take your place." Those guys got shot down over Linz, Austria. They bailed out and they were picked up by the civilians in the square, over Linz, Austria, and they were going to lynch them and fortunately German soldiers intervened and they all survived the war because I talked to one or two of them at the

end of the war. But I would have been on that mission. The guy who took my place lost his leg. He was from Madison, Wisconsin. I played basketball with him. But he lost his leg. A real good guy. Outstanding basketball player. Played freshman basketball for the University of Wisconsin. That's the guy who took my place. So, how lucky can you be.

CTF: You can see the war ending in Europe because you are looking at it from above and you know where the missions are.

SJR: Yes.

CTF: And what's the timing, you fly back to Brazil and land in the jungle and then I assume you hopscotch back to the United States.

SJR: Yes. We flew from Belém to Puerto Rico, and from there to Savannah, Georgia.

CTF: What time was that when you did it?

SJR: Let me think. It was June of '45, I think.

CTF: That you came back?

SJR: Yes.

CTF: So I assume that you figured that they were just shifting your focus and that you were going to go to the Pacific?

SJR: Absolutely. And when I went into the operations tent they said, "Well, your next assignment." And I thought I didn't have any more assignments. He said, "Your next assignment is B-29 school; you will become a fire control officer." I said, "What the hell is that?" In B-29s one guy controlled all the guns. They were automatic and so I was going to Boca Raton, Florida, for school for ninety days and then to Okinawa or

somewhere like that, Iwo Jima maybe. And I said that they wanted me to be an instructor in the States before. I'm about ready to be an instructor. "Well, they don't need any instructors." So I am ready to go to Okinawa, which I didn't want to go to, to tell you the truth. And then about August of that year, they dropped the atomic bomb.

CTF: Where were you when you heard about that?

SJR: I was in Tampa.

CTF: But I mean who told you about it because at that time you figured this was going to still be a huge war?

SJR: Oh, yes. You know I thought it was a big headline, a big strange bomb. You know I didn't know what it was. I didn't know it would end the war at that point. I think we all knew that it was going to have a big impact on how the war ended. But all of a sudden you know from the time that bomb was

dropped until the war ended wasn't much time went by after that.

I just finished reading the biography of George Marshall who was the Chief of Staff. What a great man he was. You know he was just terrific. And I just finished reading that just recently in the last month. I do a lot of reading. I read a lot of biographies. That's what I got for Christmas from my kids they gave me some more biographies.

CTF: You know the war is ending. So how long after that do you muster out?

SJR: Well.

CTF: And when do you make the decision that you are going to come back to go to college?

SJR: Well, this is interesting too. We had a big front porch on that big house I was telling you about and my brother and I are sitting there talking. He is back from being with General Patton and we are sitting on the front porch. There is a swing on the front porch. It is a wonderful house really and he said, "What are you going to do, Stan?" I said, "I don't know. But I know one thing. I want to get an education." He said, "Well, I am too. I have enrolled us both at the University of Illinois." I said, "Really? Where the hell is that?" And so we get on the train—now this is August, school starts in September. I wasn't out of the service more than about three weeks before I started college. And so we go up to the university. We are on a train. We get off the train in Champaign and get in a cab. And I have said this a thousand times. We are the two greenest freshmen that ever existed. We didn't know a university from a grade school. And we got in a cab and I said to the cab driver, "Take us to the university." And he looked back at me and he said, "Where at the university? That's a big place." And I said, "I have no idea." And he said,

“You look like you need housing.” And I said, “That’s right we do.” But there wasn’t any housing. And we ended up staying with an elderly lady who had a boyfriend who was about thirty years old. The lady was probably my age now or at least in her eighties and she had this boyfriend and we ended up—both of us had Army cots in this extra room that she had. There weren’t any other rooms available on campus. It took me forty-five minutes to get to the campus on the bus because it stopped at every bus stop in town. We had gone to the housing department and there is no housing.

We finally found a room near campus. I remember our landlady’s name; her name was Bundy. And Mrs. Bundy had this house and my brother and I ended up there with only one double bed. We slept in this double bed. But I was so determined to get an education that I studied so hard. I took college algebra, college chemistry. I had never had a chemistry course in my life. But I remember I memorized everything in that book. I studied all night long. My brother

did the same thing. Well, I had to take these entrance exams because they said my school wasn't accredited because it was brand new, the first year of a four year high school. My brother had graduated from Zeigler High School and he took his senior year there. And so he was eligible because of Ziegler.

CTF: Named after the Ziegler Coal Company.

SJR: Yes, that's right. Ziegler Coal Company. Herman graduated from there so his school was accredited, mine wasn't. So I said, "What are you going to do now?" And they said, "You've got to take entrance exams." So I spent two whole days, eight hours each day taking entrance exams. And I come back to the registrar's office and said, "What do I do now?" And they said, "Well, you did really well on the entrance exams. You can go to any school you want to. What school do you want to go to?" I said, "I don't know." So I ended up in engineering school, which was the farthest thing

from what I should have been. Well, I stayed there one semester and I transferred to business and I had a major in accounting. I could have taken the CPA exam, I think, if I wanted to, but I wasn't interested in being a CPA. And that's where I met my wife by the way, interestingly, in an accounting class.

CTF: Was she a business major or was she just taking accounting?

SJR: No, she was an accounting major. And she probably graduated first in her class. She was a really, really great accounting student.

PGR: What year was that when you met her?

SJR: I was a junior.

Oh, let me finish the housing problem. We stayed in Mrs. Bundy's house for a while. And then my brother ran into a

guy who was a member of Lambda Chi fraternity and this guy tried to recruit us. I met him too. He was going to recruit us as a member of Lambda Chi fraternity. At night we go visit his house and go through the rushing and they wanted us to come in the house and we both ended up at Lambda Chi. I eventually was president of that house.

PGR: So you moved in there your freshman year?

SJR: Yes, late in the freshman year, it was almost right at the end of freshman year. That first year was a nightmare because we are sleeping in the same bed together. But we both studied our heads off. Otherwise we never would have made it. As a matter of fact, I had not had algebra for seven years and I hadn't learned anything then anyway. I was interested in football. I'm taking this college algebra course, a five hour course, and this woman who's teaching the course is an elderly woman, but not as old as me now. I'm sure she was in her sixties. I thought she was elderly and I went to see her

and I said, "You know what, I don't have a clue of what you are talking about. I have no idea of what's going on." This is about a month into the semester. And she said, "I understand. We have set up a course for you veterans, a refresher course in algebra." And they put me over in the electrical engineering building and they put me in this class and this guy was the best teacher I have had all through all the years I went to college. He was just tremendous. He was getting his Ph.D. in mathematics. Here's what he said, which was true, he said, "Gentlemen"—nothing but veterans in there—he said, "I want you to know something, algebra is really easy, but you have to know the rules. So I want you to open your book and follow me through pages one through twenty-seven." I remember this like it was yesterday. My memory is pretty good. And he said, "I want you to memorize all the pages from one through twenty-seven, that's where all the rules are." Then he said, "Then algebra is going to be easy. We're going to spend half the semester on the first twenty-seven pages and the rest of the semester we'll breeze through it." Sure as hell

he did that. I go back to the same class and I made straight A in mathematics after that while I was in college. I made five hours of A, boy was that nice, five hours of A. It was a five hour course. I would have made five hours of zero if I hadn't taken that course though because I didn't know the rules. I did the same thing in rhetoric in English. I'd go into English and I said, "You know I don't know the rules here either." So I go to the teacher and she said, "Well, we set up a course called rhet zero." And I took rhet zero for a semester and then English was pretty easy for me after that, but I just never had any and I didn't pay attention in high school anyway. I was out on some kind of sports field all the time.

Don Stanley and Norm Passenger were real close friends of mine. We all ended up on furlough at the same time. We had a good time for thirty-five days.

PGR: Did any of those guys go to Illinois?

SJR: No. Norm was a really good student. And I don't know where he went, but he did go to college, Purdue, I think. And he died of a massive heart attack when he was very young. Now it might have been because of the time they spent in German prison camps because they both were virtual skeletons when they got home. But I know I didn't have that problem. I went home and then what happened is kind of interesting too. There was another guy who was a good friend of mine from Fairfield, Illinois, and we are trying to get out of the service. You had to have eighty-five points; I had eighty-two. I needed five more. Each thing would give you five points. So many months, I don't remember how many, in the service, so many for medals, and I had a good number of medals, and so on. And I had eighty-two points and they wouldn't budge. I'm trying to get out. I'm going up to talk to them at the executive office all the time. And they weren't going to let me out. It so happened I walked in one day and who had been transferred to our operations department in Tampa was the guy who was our operations guy in Italy,

Sergeant Taylor, same guy that was there. And I said, "Bob, what are you doing here?" He said, "Let me ask you. What are you doing here?" I said, "I'm trying to get out." And he said, "Let me look up your records." He was a good friend of mine. He had been an engineer on one of the flight crews before he got grounded. And say how lucky can you be. So he goes and looks up my records and he said, "You got eighty-two points." He said, "Have you ever been in France?" I said, "Well, my crew went up there and picked up a plane one time." He said, "You just fought the Battle of the Apennines." I said, "Where the hell is that?" He said, "It's somewhere in France, but don't worry about it." He puts it down that I was in France somewhere. Actually, they were trying to discharge us as quickly as possible. So, I had eighty-seven points. And then we're sitting there with this other guy from Fairfield. We are ragging this major who is in charge of letting people out until he ships us out. We go see him every morning and he got tired of seeing us because it had been two or three weeks. Now all these guys have been shipped out to

repo depots was what we called them. Some guy going to Louisiana, some guy going to Texas and they were supposed to be reassigned or be discharged that's the purpose. Well, he and I were the only two left in the barracks. The barracks is emptying out and we are still sitting there. So we are still ragging this major every day and he's getting tired of seeing us I know. One day we came in and he looks at us and says, "Oh, you two guys. Can you be ready to ship out tomorrow morning at two o'clock?" And I said, "Where do we go?" I took my old flight bag and put my clothes in there and he and I showed up at two o'clock in the morning. Put us on a C47 and we were in Fort Sheridan, near Chicago the next day. And we were discharged within two or three days. All these poor guys I thought, some of the guys that I knew, they were shipped all over the country, some of them to Louisiana. They sat in those repo depots for two or three months. Best thing that ever happened to me, to get out. I was lucky again. I always had good luck.

CTF: Next you are a student, you also meet Cathy your junior year, you are in Lambda Chi, you become president, are you in any other activities at the university?

SJR: I played intramurals. I played basketball and touch football intramurals. I thought about going out for football because they didn't have a very good team in 1945. I became acquainted with Eddie Bray who was one of their halfbacks and I told him I was thinking of going out for football. He said, "Are you out of your mind?" He said, "If I didn't have a scholarship, I wouldn't be out there taking that beating." He's a little guy. They, Bray and McGovern, were two scat backs both of them were about 155 pounds. Boy, they were really good. But I could never make the team. I'd just get beat up that's all. I never seriously considered it. I was serious about getting an education.

PGR: Where was your Lambda Chi fraternity, what street was it on?

SJR: On West Armory. 209 Armory.

PGR: And that's still there.

SJR: Oh, yes.

PGR: Probably when I went to school.

SJR: Beautiful house.

PGR: Yes.

SJR: What house were you in?

PGR: I was at Beta.

SJR: Beta. I knew some guys in Beta. President of the house and I were good friends in fact. I can't remember his name offhand,

but we became acquainted because we were on the fraternity council together, that sort of thing.

PGR: You didn't know the Rockford guys that were Betas? John Holmstrom and Alex Welch at that time?

SJR: No.

PGR: They're older than you.

SJR: They're older than me. They were pre-war.

PGR: John just died. I think it said he was eighty-nine.

SJR: He's a little older than me. He's about two or three years older. But I met Cathy you know. This is interesting, how that occurred. Again I'm a lucky guy. I was sitting about maybe the third from the last row in the accounting class. This is cost accounting which was my best course and this is

the first day. I went in and I said, "God, this attractive blonde comes sitting right behind me just one seat over. I'm going to see if she'll date me." Well, a couple of my friends and I decided we are going to get a date and we are going to go to the Urbana Lincoln Hotel, big stuff, big stuff.

PGR: A hotel that was the popular place.

SJR: Yes.

PGR: Upscale.

SJR: Upscale. Yes.

PGR: It was a nice place to take a date.

SJR: I couldn't afford that, but I did anyway. I didn't really know her name for sure. And I picked up the phone and I looked her up in the book. They had made a girls' house out of one

of the fraternities—Delta Chi. And that's where she was living. So I looked and I found her name. I knew she was in the former Delta Chi house and I walked out with her one day. And I called her and apparently we had our eyes on each other. And then that same week, here we're both coming out of church, the Catholic chapel there, and we are on the stairs. Remember the stairs?

PGR: Sure. You are talking about the Newman Center?

SJR: Newman, yes. And I was walking out of church and she was walking out at the same time and we ran into each other and went and had coffee. And then I called her and we had a date. We never dated anybody else after that. We got married on campus.

PGR: Did you get married at the Newman Chapel?

SJR: Yes.

CTF: What year?

SJR: In 1948.

CTF: So before you graduated.

SJR: I was a junior. Cathy and I both continued in our education, but I went to school. I continued to go to school and I went to summer school and she didn't because she was working. She started working at the university's legal counsel. And we didn't have any backup whatsoever. When I went to law school, we had \$600 in the bank and we owed \$600 on a '49 Plymouth. That was it.

CTF: Why did you decide to go to law school? Your grandfather was a judge and that portrait was in your family home.

SJR: You know people ask me that question so many times and I don't really know except I always had a yen to do it. My brother and I had actually gone to the law school. And you know at the time, you didn't have to take the LSAT. If you had an all university average of 3.5 or 3.75, I think it was. You had to have a B average and they'd let you in the law school. But they flunked a large number. When our class started— Tony Fabiano and I talked about that the other day. Tony's in my class you know. We talked about that the other day. We both guess that this is about right. Our class started with 135, I think, and I think we graduated about a third. But instead of having an LSAT, they just weeded you out that way.

PGR: Was that at the Altgeld Hall?

SJR: Altgeld Hall.

PGR: And did you go immediately from undergrad to law school?

SJR: No. I went out to Spokane, Washington. I interviewed for jobs and my undergraduate major was really economics and accounting and I had a minor in industrial relations and I became an assistant to the labor relations superintendent. They had a night law school at Gonzaga and I just couldn't see myself spending my life working for a big corporation. That one year at Gonzaga at night, I went my first year I was out there. I went to night law school and I said that's what I'm going to do. I had a scholarship at Illinois and I came back to Illinois because I used up the GI Bill by that time.

PGR: So after you graduated, you and Cathy moved out there?

SJR: Yes.

PGR: And spent about a year there?

SJR: Yes, a year and a half.

PGR: And then back to Champaign?

SJR: Right.

CTF: Did you get the Spokane job offer on the campus at Champaign?

SJR: Yes. I had one of the best jobs come out of the commerce school. It was really good. But I just couldn't see myself spending my life doing that you know. I wanted to go to law school. See my brother and I had gone to the law school at the end of our junior year. And they said, "Boy, you are both highly qualified to go to law school. If you want to, come in." It was unfortunate for Herm that he didn't go, he regretted that he didn't go. And he died last year or two years ago.

CTF: You go to law school. You work during the summers in the legal area or do you go straight through?

SJR: Here's what happened to me on that score. I was working for the university. The best job I could get was a dollar an hour and I was putting in twenty to twenty-five hours at a dollar an hour and I was working in the department where you would check the films. When they had a break in the film I'd repair it.

PGR: Splice it back together?

SJR: Splice it. I was making a buck an hour. Well, Cathy then was with the university's legal counsel's office. And I knew, and I'm still in my freshman year, if I kept that up, I'd have to drop out of school. Mark, our oldest son, was three years old getting close to four when we enrolled. And I figured if I don't get a job where I make more money, I am out of here because Cathy's mother is a widow and my mother's a widow and we didn't get any help, zero help, I mean zero like that. Oh, I take that back. I borrowed a hundred dollars from my mother which I paid back.

Anyway I am in school and I see an ad. I am looking in the paper for ads, trying to find something to do to make some money. And I see this ad for an appliance salesman, refrigerators, ranges, television sets, that sort of thing. We had all the major appliances and we had some small appliances too. And I go interview. This guy's name was Don Hayes and he had been in charge of the department at Robson's, the appliance department, and then started his own business there on the corner of Neil Street. He had this big long narrow building that he had opened and he was doing pretty well. He had this ad in the paper for a salesman. So I go and interviewed with him. And afterwards he said, "You know I really like you." He said, "When can you start?" And I said, "Well, before you offer me a job, I want you to know I'm a law student and I'm not sure if you want to do that." And he held up his hand and said, "I've been in this business sixteen years and I have never hired a student yet. I'm sorry." He said, "I like you, but you know that's what it is."

So a couple of weeks go by, I am disappointed because I really liked this guy and he called me about two weeks later and he said, "You know I have been interviewing people since you left. You are the only one that appeals to me. Could you give me forty hours a week?" I said, "You bet I could." That's what I did the last two and a half years. Basically, I worked full-time my last two and a half years in law school.

PGR: In the store selling?

SJR: Yes. In the store and out of the store. I'd pick up a good prospect you know and I'd be out there that night. I don't know how many houses in Champaign-Urbana I spent some time in. If I had a live customer, I knew who it was and I sold so much stuff. I got 8 percent commission on refrigerators and washing machines and things like that and I got 5 percent on television sets. It was that or visa versa. There were months when I made \$800 a month. This was back in the

Fifties. We came out of school in pretty good financial shape. We didn't owe a nickel to anybody. The reason I came back to Illinois is they had a scholarship. They gave me a scholarship to the law school. It cost me seventy-five dollars a semester for tuition and the rest was paid by the scholarship. After the first semester, I didn't buy any books. I didn't own a book after the first semester because I couldn't afford it, but the library had all kinds of books. I'd just go check out a library book. Or I'd go to the library. I did most of my studying at the library anyway. So it didn't really bother me, but I would take off work during finals. During finals week I would take that week off and I would study usually most of the night and Tony and I studied together.

PGR: Tony Fabiano?

SJR: Tony Fabiano and Cal Bostion. Cal, Tony, and I studied together. I would always tell them, "You guys are responsible for me being a lawyer." They would start studying about

seven o'clock for finals and I wouldn't get there until nine or after nine because I quit work at nine. I'd come in and I'd say, "Okay, bring me up to date. Where are we?" But we all graduated.

PGR: How about your relationship with Jim Foreman in the fraternity. He was a year or two younger?

SJR: Yes. I brought Jim into the house. I was rushing chairman that year. We became really good friends and we used to double date with our wives. We are still good friends. They talked to me several times during Cathy's illness and when she passed away.

PGR: Did he go to law school at Illinois too?

SJR: Oh, yes.

PGR: Now was he about a year or so behind you?

SJR: He's a little ahead of me because I dropped out for a couple years. He was in Pren Marshall's class. Dick Haupl, Pren Marshall, all those guys. And he and Dick were really good friends. Dick died a couple years ago. Did you know Dick Haupl by chance?

CTF: No.

PGR: No.

CTF: But I did Pren's oral history and actually that's pretty funny because he was never a good student until he got to law school.

SJR: Until law school?

CTF: Prior to that he would just coast.

SJR: The best student in our class was the same way and he died very shortly after law school. He became part of the faculty. And he was the best student in the class. He had to petition to get into law school because his average wasn't high enough. And then he became the best student in the class. Amazing.

CTF: Pren had a similar path.

SJR: Yes. I know he did because I knew Pren really well. As you know he was a good friend of mine.

Mark was a baby when Cathy finished her degree because she was about, I think, twelve hours short of her degree and she's working as a secretary at the university's legal counsel. And she wanted to get her degree in the worst way. So during her lunch hour she was taking courses. And after the first year, she got her degree in education and she dropped out of accounting because she had to take another fifteen hours for an accounting degree. And so she got her degree in education

and taught in the fifth grade in a little school in St. Joseph when I was in law school the last two years.

PGR: Where was she from originally?

SJR: Moline.

PGR: That's right.

SJR: She graduated the first in her class at Moline High School. She was a great student especially in accounting. She ran rings around me in accounting. We studied together and I think she'd figure out the answer to the problem before I understood the problem.

CTF: She's from Moline. You're from Southern Illinois. How do you get to Rockford?

SJR: That's an interesting story too. This dealer I was working with you know the appliance dealer. I was his leading salesman and I became acquainted with the guy who was our propane supplier. We sold a lot of propane around those farms around Champaign. And I became acquainted with the president of that company which was a division of Warren Petroleum. It was called Dri Gas. His name was Moore. Mr. Moore got acquainted with me and he said, "Why don't you come and work for us?" I said, "I want to be a lawyer." He said, "Well, give me a year at least. See if you like it." So I said, "Oh." There were no jobs. It was the Eisenhower Depression/Recession at the time. Nobody had a job. Not a single guy in our class had a job in the law business that I know of. I'm sure there were some guys. But it was a very small class. The only guy that I know was one of my good friends and he took a job with a trucking company. I think maybe Bob Plotkin. Did you know Bob by chance?

CTF: I know of him, Chicago attorney.

SJR: I think Bob might have had a job in Chicago, but not very many people. And I didn't want to go to a large city. I ended up there anyway as you know. I wanted to go to a medium size city. And I said, "Well, where are you located?" He said, "Well, I got two openings. One in Decatur and one in Rockford." And I said, "Okay. I'll see what you got." And he called me back and he said, "Well, they already filled the job in Decatur. Would you be interested in going to Rockford?" I said, "That's about the right size city for me."

PGR: And that's when?

SJR: This was when I graduated in '54.

PGR: Fifty-four. Was that in June or were you a semester earlier?

SJR: Yes. It was in June '54. And I took the bar exam. So I took this job as district manager here in Rockford. And I was

working as district manager when I took the bar exam in September. And I got word that I passed it. And they admitted me in January.

CTF: December 27, 2010, we are in Judge Reinhard's chambers and we are recording the oral history of Judge Roszkowski.

Stan, on the other tape when we finished up, we were talking about your taking a job, your first job out of law school, since there weren't many legal jobs. Why don't you tell us more about going to Rockford.

SJR: Well, Mr. Moore who was the president of the company asked me if I'd take it. And he said, "I got a problem in those two places." He said, "Would you agree to stay for a year at least?" There weren't any jobs anyway. So he offered me \$12,000 a year plus a car and expenses. It was better than any law job in existence back in 1954-55. And so I took it, and we came up here. Cathy and I drove up in our old Plymouth with all our

belongings and our only son at the time, Mark, who is now a law professor by the way. And we drove to this town and we had all of our belongings in the backseat and trunk of that car along with our little five year old son. He was about five by that time I think, the one who is now a professor at the University of Illinois. We came into town and I can tell you how poor we were. The first thing we noticed was a restaurant that was called "The Pink Pony." Unknown to us it was one of the fancier restaurants in the city at the time and we go in there and the least expensive thing on the menu was a hamburger. I don't know if we could afford that even, but we did order a hamburger. And so that's when we came into town. So I worked in the company and they did have a problem here in this company. We were doing all kinds of business, you know there was no reason why we shouldn't be making money. I put the business on a profitable basis, and meanwhile, I took the bar exam that fall and passed it and was admitted in January and started practicing in March.

You know I give my wife so much credit for things that happened to me, just one example. When I went to law school, we didn't have any money. I think we were even with the board. And when I graduated, I was making pretty good money at that point in 1955. Twelve thousand dollars was a lot of money in those days. And I came home one day and we are expecting our second child and now I passed the bar in January. I was admitted in January and I came home one day and like it might have been March and I said to Cathy, "I want to start practicing law." And she said, "When?" And I said, "In about two weeks." And she said, "Don't you think you should wait until the baby is born?" I said, "No, there is no time like the present." Because I knew that was what I was going to do. Interesting thing was that, when I started practicing, I started practicing with an old trial lawyer, B.J. Knight, who had tried cases with Clarence Darrow. He had tried two or three cases with Clarence Darrow. Great trial lawyer.

CTF: Why did you decide on him? How did you get to meet him?

SJR: Well, that's interesting too, accidental. I had gone to the bank to borrow \$2,000 and I had become in my job acquainted with the president of the bank. It was called Central National Bank. And I became acquainted with the president of the bank, really nice fellow, elderly guy. He was probably in his seventies. And I went to see him and I said, "I'd like to borrow \$2,000." And he said, "Okay. You want to borrow. I'll loan it to you." I told him what I was going to do. He said, "But I have a better idea." And I said, "What's that?" And he said, "My friend who's a trial lawyer needs someone."

CTF: You were going to borrow \$2,000 to set up your legal business?

SJR: That's right. Although I knew I would probably have to borrow more as time went on.

CTF: And your baby is due in the next two weeks.

SJR: About three weeks actually. And Cathy said, "Don't you think you ought to wait until the baby is born?" And I said, "No, there is no time like the present." Well, when I think back on that I say that's kind of crazy what I did, but I did it. And anyway I knew that my future was going to be in the law business. I knew that and I thought I might as well get started soon. Mr. Warner was his name. Mr. Warner said, "Well, Stan, I have a good idea, a better idea for you. I'll loan you the \$2,000 if you want it, but, I know that my friend, B.J. Knight, lost a couple of partners recently and he's getting up there in years and I think he could use the help of a good young guy like you." So I said, "Well, okay." I went over there and interviewed with Jay and we made a deal. The rest is history in a way. But I was just working on a share basis. Whatever I did that he gave me, we split the fee fifty/fifty, and if I brought in business, we split the fee fifty/fifty.

That one case I got was really unbelievably lucky. A guy came in and he was unhappy with his lawyer. And he had a name problem with a business name, a small business, and he was having a dispute with someone else who had a similar name and he didn't care too much about it you know. He said his lawyer wasn't doing anything. So I picked up the phone and I called the lawyer who I didn't really know at the time and I said, "Are you still interested in this case you are on?" And he said, "Oh, why don't you see what you could do, I don't have time for it." I won't mention the lawyer's name. So I said, "Okay." The day I got it, I went over and talked to the other person's lawyer. I didn't even know the guy. I had only been in practice about a month, two months maybe. And I go over and talk to him and I said, "Why don't we settle this case." He said, "Yes. I'd like to settle also." So within an hour we had settled it. I go back. I pick up the phone. This guy thought I was an absolute genius. I didn't do much of anything to tell you the truth.

And so another six months go by and he called me one day and said, "Do you handle personal injury cases?" I said, "Oh, yes!" I handle anything. And he said, "Well, my uncle just got killed in an accident. Would you handle his case?" I said, "Sure." I settled that case for the limit for a death case. And I made a third of the settlement as my fee. At the end of the year, I was making more money than \$12,000. I made \$17,000 that year and I never looked back after that. I learned how to enforce judgments, nobody in town knew how to enforce judgments. The law school put out a book on enforcement of judgments so I got that book and I followed it to the T. And then one thing that you do if you are a new lawyer is you find out who knows how to do things. Right?

Well, we had a woman in the clerk's office. Do you remember Florence Carlson?

PGR: Sure.

SJR: Well, Florence was a lawyer. She never took the bar, but she worked in the clerk's office forever, like maybe forty years. So I found out when you want to get something done that you didn't want to do, you go talk to Florence. So she became a good friend of mine. I went over to Florence and I said, "I've got another case that was a judgment case." This guy had not paid his child support for twenty years and his wife found out where he had run off to and left two children, twins, and so he's down in Kentucky. So I go to Florence and I said, "How do I enforce this judgment?" And she told me what to do and I prepared a petition and I got a judgment against this guy for twenty-one years or whatever it was eighteen years of child support. By this time, the guy owned a couple of apartment buildings down in Lexington, Kentucky. And the guy that I contacted down there, the lawyer down there, was the chief referee in the National Football League. He's a lawyer. You know referees are not full-time employees. His name was Bell. Do you remember a guy named Bell who was a referee? Well, he was the chief referee in the NFL in those days so I get a

hold of Mr. Bell. He sued on the judgment and got the judgment down in Lexington. I settled that case for a lot of money so I made \$17,000 net that year and never looked back. My income always increased every year until I went on the court in 1977. And so it didn't depreciate our income and then from then on it kept snowballing a little bit. I ended up when I went on the bench I had ten lawyers in my office and so it worked out pretty well.

PGR: You were well known in the community for plaintiffs personal injury cases. You got into that right away. Well, like all young lawyers I guess, you get some cases and then you somehow develop business.

SJR: You know one thing that I did that I didn't know if I was doing the right thing. I used to come over here to the old courthouse and I hadn't anything else to do really when they first started and I would watch the good trial lawyers, Jim Maynard for example. Jim had a crowd. I would go and

watch Jim Maynard. We ended up trying a lot of cases against him you know. I knew what his pitch was all the time so I ended up doing a lot of trial work. I went to Judge Dusher who was the only circuit judge here. At that time we had no public defender. I said, "If you need someone to defend an indigent criminal, call on me because I'll do it." I tried a ton of those cases. I must have tried eighteen or twenty cases by appointment. You didn't get paid at all. You didn't get expenses even which was really terrible. But I got some great experience.

PGR: Did you try one against John B. Anderson?

SJR: Yes, you know what happened to me. This tells you why you should always do a good job. I try to tell some of my young lawyers in my office, don't underestimate any cases in your office. Do a good job regardless. Years went by and by this time I have ten lawyers in my office, just before I went on the bench. A guy comes in my office and he said, "Would you be

interested in handling the case of my daughter. She is paralyzed from the waist down." And I said, "What happened?" This happened in Cary, Illinois. They dug a hole in the ground and the contractor left the hole there. I took pictures of it. This little girl is sitting down at the bottom of this hole and a piece of boulder which was actually a piece of concrete or it might of just been clay came rolling down the hill and hit her in the back of the neck paralyzed her from the waist down. So this guy comes in my office and he's the postman. And I said, "Where did you get my name?" He said, "Well, I'm a postman." He said, "You tried a bunch of cases here several years ago and I went to two of the people on my route who were on two of your juries and asked, 'If you had to hire a lawyer, who would you hire?' They gave me your name." I didn't get a dime for defending those two cases, but I made money, because of the cases I handled *pro bono*. After we talked I took the case which I ultimately settled for \$1,250,000. I told those young lawyers in my office, there is an example of what I am talking about. Do a good job

regardless and get your exposure out there somehow. So my practice kept growing. I believe I was one of the busiest trial lawyers in our area during those twenty years. In 1975 I was honored to be inducted as a fellow into The American College of Trial Lawyers in Montreal.

CTF: Were you also active in civic affairs at the same time?

SJR: I think I raised money for every hospital that they ever thought about in this town. I was a big money raiser. I was on several committees at different times. For example, one thing I did was the Chamber of Commerce. It had owned a credit bureau and the guy who was president of the Chamber of Commerce called me one day because I was acquainted with him and he said, "Would you do something for me?" And I said, "What's that?" And he said, "The credit bureau is in terrible shape. Would you be interested in being chairman?" This is a volunteer you know. "Be chairman of it and see if you can do something about it?" And I said, "Okay." I didn't

know anything about it. So I took it and I rounded up about six guys that I knew, younger guys, and we became the board of that credit bureau. And we put it on a paying basis.

CTF: What had been the problem? Do you remember?

SJR: Oh, you couldn't name a problem that they didn't create. I mean it was just terribly managed. It was just awfully managed. The first thing we did is get rid of the guy that was running it. We did kind of a search, not a national search or anything like that, but we kind of searched around and we found a guy who was really good and we hired him and he was president and I was chairman of the board for several years.

But mostly I did fundraising, different things, hospitals. I must have been on seven or eight fundraisings over a period of years.

I did a lot of free defense work and I was glad to do that because I was getting experience. One thing I observed about trial lawyers, if a guy comes in and says he wants to be a trial lawyer and you allow five or six or seven years go by and he never tries a case, he'll never try cases. Isn't that true, Phil?

PGR: Sure.

SJR: You could testify to that I'm sure. He gets scared out of it. Well, those experiences I had in trying those criminal cases really stood me well. Later, I tried some criminal cases for fees. I tried two cases in Galena in the old courthouse where General Grant called the troops together. I tried two cases over there.

PGR: Were you practicing when the federal courthouse was over in Freeport in the post office? Did you have anything to do with the movement of it over to Rockford?

SJR: I was vice president of the bar association so I was promoting it as much as I could. I was a leader of getting it back to Rockford. In fact the clerk over there was very angry with me. What was her name? Angry with me and she wrote a letter to the editor saying that. We were the major city in our district and the courts are over in Freeport. The statistics showed that 95 percent of the cases thereabouts came out of Rockford. So it didn't make any sense for it to be over there. So that's when we built the building here and that's when we transferred the court. She wrote a stinging letter attacking me.

CTF: I give that as a good example of how to do it. I suggested that they do the same thing in Hammond, but they didn't follow your lead. The genius of it was to add Rockford as a place of holding court by statute and not substitute Rockford for Freeport and then move on opening the courthouse. If they had done that, I think we would have been able to move the Hammond courthouse, which is now a block away from the Illinois state line to a more central area to serve the public.

SJR: Hammond didn't serve the public very well nor did Freeport. Let me tell you an interesting story about that, a little digression.

Well, what happened when, as Phil knows and you know, you are appointed, you are supposed to call on the two senators. And, of course, Senator Stevenson was my sponsor. But when I went to Washington, D.C., Stevenson had talked to me about bringing federal court service to Rockford. He was at a luncheon and I introduced him and when he stood up he said, "I want Stan to know something. I want to tell you the audience something." And he said, "I am going to name Stan as my first appointment to the federal court." I almost fell off the chair because I didn't know anything about it. But anyway he talked about the necessity of having federal court service here in the Western Division. But this is what was interesting to me and that was interesting in itself but

when I went to Washington you are supposed to call on the two senators. I don't know if you did that, Phil.

PGR: I called on them while here. We had to call on them.

SJR: You called on them in Chicago?

PGR: Yes. When they were there.

SJR: But I was in Washington and I was there to appear before the committee. Senator Stevenson, Senator Percy, and John Anderson all indicated that they favored my candidacy, so I figured I was pretty safe. John was a state's attorney here. We used to have breakfast or coffee together at times, John and I. We were pretty good friends. And anyway when I went into Percy's office his secretary said, "Oh, the Senator said if you came, to call him off the floor. He is on the floor." So sure as heck fifteen minutes go by and here comes Senator Percy. And he said, "Come on in the office." And we talked

for an hour. And he said, "If you get the appointment and I am supporting you 100 percent, I am sure you are going to get the appointment because the bar association approved of you and everything." He said, "I want you to promise me one thing." I said, "What's that?" He said, "That you will provide federal court service. You will do everything you can to provide federal court service to the Western Division." He said, "Because when I get out there that's the bane of my existence out there. They are always all over me when I get out there." He told me this one story. A guy was apparently a businessman over somewhere in Jo Daviess County. He said that this guy was charged with a crime, I can't remember, or he had the government after him for taxes. Apparently a successful businessman of some kind, maybe farming, I don't know. Anyway he said that this guy told him this story that he had to go to Chicago to get his case heard and he spent like three months in Chicago and had to hire Chicago lawyers. He said it cost him \$500,000. That's what he told me, whether the

guy was telling him the truth or not, I don't know. Very well could have been true.

CTF: Sure.

SJR: He had to go back and forth from Galena. He had to stay at a hotel in Chicago. I think the total costs were housing and everything and he said, "Every time I come out there, I have someone get on me about federal court service." He said, "I want you to promise me if you get the appointment that you will do everything you can to bring federal court service to the Western Division." I said, "Well, that's part of my reason that I am taking the job." That was kind of interesting I thought. I didn't expect that at all.

PGR: You must have, at some point, got involved in Democratic politics. Was that through B.J. Knight or someone else?

SJR: No, I always said that I called the first meeting of the new Democratic Party. They were so poor. I called the meeting. I had four people, five counting me. And we used to meet at the Redwood Hotel Restaurant.

CTF: Is this for Winnebago County or is this for Rockford alone?

SJR: Winnebago County.

PGR: Winnebago was a strong Republican area.

SJR: We had no elected Democrats at all. And so we started and I think our first meeting I had myself and four others.

CTF: Had you been a Democrat down in Southern Illinois?

SJR: No, I hadn't been active in politics at all. My uncle who was my godfather was active in Democratic politics down there. But he was a coal miner and he was active.

CTF: What about at Champaign?

SJR: No, I wasn't. I got active up here and kind of reorganized the Democratic Party. I really was a leader of that. But then you know over the years I would say the city is probably just split right now.

PGR: Same way with the county.

SJR: And the county is pretty much fifty/fifty. But back then we would have a meeting, we would have twelve people. And that went on for some time. We started to grow. We made an effort to take over control of the Democratic Party and we did. My group took it over. And then when Senator Stevenson ran for the Senate, I ran his campaign for this part of the state.

CTF: Which is interesting because your good friend Jim Foreman ran Percy's campaign in Southern Illinois.

SJR: I know he did. He ran Percy's campaign. That is kind of interesting that we ended up and we are still dear friends, both of us and we double dated together for many years and they were the first ones to call when Cathy died. We were just young people in love both of us. That's the story on that one.

CTF: You come to Rockford and you are with Jay.

SJR: Yes. Well, I was with Jay for a long time.

CTF: Is it Jay?

SJR: Yes. B.J. They called him Jay.

PGR: They called him Jay.

SJR: I don't know what his first name was to tell you the truth. But he was a good guy, but I got to the point where I built up my

own practice and was really kind of itching to get on my own. I had a call from another larger firm and I went with them for a couple of years but decided I wasn't going to do that.

CTF: What was that firm?

SJR: Brown & Connelly. And Dave, one of the partners there, and I opened Roszkowski Paddock and we hired Ray Johnson who was an Internal Revenue Service guy. We wanted someone who is a tax person and Ray became a partner and then we continued to grow and I built the bank building. A guy came to me—so many of these things are so accidental you know. A friend of mine came in and he had a business. He said, "Stan, I have a proposition for you." I said, "What's that?" He said, "I would like to start a bank or a savings and loan association." I said, "Really, what do you want to do that for?" He said, "I'd just like to do that." And we talked about it for a while and I said, "Well, I don't know anything about it, but let me find out." So I got to looking around and I finally

said, "Okay, let's do it." And by the way Vick Pozzi who owned the store.

PGR: The grocery store?

SJR: The grocery store out there. He had that building next to it which was old. An old grocery store. And so I got talking to Vick and he said, "Why don't you remodel this building here? It's a pretty good building for the purpose and we'll put the bank in there." On the west side, the poor side of town.

PGR: All the other banks were downtown either right down where we are now or across the river and this was a west side bank. I mean you were a dozen blocks from downtown or more.

SJR: Yes, about that. Straight down on State Street. You kept going when you came into town. If you kept going, you go about ten more blocks, you would run into where I built. Well, I didn't know what to do, but what I learned from

Florence Carlson was when you don't know, go ask somebody that knows. So I go down to the Department of Financial Institutions in Springfield. And I walked in and the girl said when I came walking up, "Can I help you?" And I said, "I want to know who in this department knows the most about organizing a bank?" And she said, well, that is Mr.—an Italian name you know, let's say DeStefano or something like that. And she said, "In that office, he is right there." So I go in and meet Mr. DeStefano. And I said, "How do I go about this?" I didn't know what I was doing, but I figured he did. And I sat down with him and he said, "Here's what you do." And he gave me all the documents, an application which was about twenty-five pages long. And he said, "Just be sure of one thing." And I said, "What's that?" He said, "Be sure you fill in every blank or they'll send it back to you." So I was very careful, filled in every blank, sent it down and all of a sudden I get a call. He said all you have to do is get approval of the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.). So I called the FDIC. I don't know this guy and I get ahold of the district

director in Chicago. He was regional director in Chicago and I became acquainted with him and I went in and had an appointment with him. Talked to him for a while and he told me what to do. So I made the application there and all of a sudden I get approval. And so we remodeled that building. Started the building there and built it up to several million dollars. Had a holdup by the way, a big holdup.

And by that time, that area was depreciating as time went on. So I said, "Well, I'm going to move it." So I moved it over here on Church. Built a new office building.

CTF: Downtown?

SJR: Five blocks north. The building is still there. And then what happened after I went on the bench, Cathy went on the board. I was chairman of the board when I went on the bench. And Cathy went on the board of directors and was there several years. I couldn't serve on it when I went on the court. They

wouldn't allow you. So I put Cathy on the board. I went on to Chicago and spent most of my time there. What happened after that is I met the president of the bank in Freeport, the largest bank over there. He was interested in acquiring a branch bank in Rockford and establishing an appearance here. We didn't think too much of it, but one of the board members, Walt Smith, did most of the work in connection with it. But I couldn't do anything as I was on the court. They absorbed our bank. We merged with them. And subsequent to that, we merged with another bank in St. Louis, Mercantile. And subsequent to that we merged again with U.S. Bank Corporation and that's who we are now. I still own a good block of stock in U.S. Bank Corporation.

CTF: Was your law firm in both buildings?

SJR: We were in the new building.

CTF: But not in the old building?

SJR: No, it was just perfect size for a small bank.

Nice building; pretty nice for that. But when I built this building, it was a six story building and my office was on the top floor. So that is where I spent my last few years in the law practice. Cathy was a member of the board for several years. Finally we decided that was too much of an effort on her part. We were starting to get to where we would maybe go to Florida for a month or so. She was a little bit leery about the fact that she didn't feel that she was getting enough information and a little concerned that we might be sued as a member of the board. We didn't want to have a lawsuit against us. It never did occur, but we both agreed that she would resign from the board after several years. But she was on it for several years.

PGR: You went on the court in 1978, was it?

SJR: The end of 1977.

PGR: And I know you bought a—.

SJR: Condominium on Lake Michigan. Yes. Harbor Point.

PGR: But you kept your home here.

SJR: Yes, I did. And the idea was that eventually we were hoping to establish a court out here. And when I first came out, I think they were using different judges. Once a year they would change judges out here. And finally they decided to assign me on a part-time basis in Rockford in 1979 or 1980.

CTF: Some people might of thought it was a pledge program for new judges although Jim Parsons liked to come out.

SJR: Yes, he did.

CTF: But he is the only one that I know that liked to handle the Western Division.

SJR: I'd like to tell you how the service in federal court was before we established a court out here. I was a very busy trial lawyer. I had five cases ready for trial, federal cases. Who comes out but Julius Hoffman. That is when I was still in the practice. I didn't know anything about federal court. You know Julius sat up there and calls my cases. I reported ready for trial on all of them. I had taken all my depositions. I was ready to go on all of them, all five. One was a real good case, a death case. I reported ready and Julius said, "These cases are all transferred to Chicago." He goes back to Chicago and I never saw him again until I went on the court. So that is the kind of service we were getting, wasn't it, Phil?

PGR: Yes.

SJR: And the lawyers up here were always up in arms about it. But eventually what happened after I got on the court. I was making an effort to get the court out here, which I promised both Senators Stevenson and Percy that I would do. And I would come out once a month. For the first time, I had eighty cases on the docket something like that, eighty-two or three. And a lot of them were minor cases. I went through them and I must have reduced it to forty cases real quickly. But there was one case on the docket that was an antitrust case which is now a famous antitrust case. I called the lawyers and said—this is a funny story. I called the lawyers before me and I said, “This case has been on the docket nine years. What’s going on? Why hasn’t it been disposed of?” And they made all kinds of stumbling excuses like they tend to do. And I said, “Okay.” This is like in October. I said, “This case is set for trial on January the fifth. There will be no excuses for any reason including death of counsel.” You could hear a pin drop in my courtroom. So I go back in my chambers after the call was over and I said to my two law clerks, “Let me tell you

what is going to happen now. We are going to have an agreed motion to continue the case within thirty days." Less than thirty days go by, I get an agreed motion to continue the case. So I call them before me and said, "What are your grounds for continuing this case?" They said, "Well, we haven't taken all the depositions yet. We are not ready for trial." And I said, "You have a nine year old case and you are not ready for trial?" I said, "I'll tell you what I'm going to do I am going to give you a continuance, five days." So I gave them until the following Monday, tried that case, we reached a \$10,500,000 judgment against the defendant. It went up to the Supreme Court, *Spray-Rite v. Monsanto*, a very famous case now. *Spray-Rite Service Corp. v. Monsanto Co.*, 684 F.2d 1226 (7th Cir. 1982), *aff'd*, 465 U.S. 752, 104 S. Ct. 1464, 79 L.Ed.2d 775 (1984). And an interesting thing about that too was I had six women and three men on the jury. Now I have tried a lot of cases in my life but I have never had this happen in any case that I tried as a lawyer or on the court. I lost all three of the men. Two had heart attacks and one I can't remember

what happened to him, something. I lost all three of the men so I had a six women jury.

CTF: How long was the trial?

SJR: Six weeks.

PGR: One every two weeks.

SJR: Yes. And I thought these women won't know what's going on. Turned out that jury had five college graduates and one had some college. They sent me a note said, "Judge, can we have a blackboard?" I said, "Sure." I got a blackboard and put it in there. Not a blackboard, I had one of those big sheets they could use and gave them some marker pens. I asked them if that was all right and they said that was fine. And when we finished, the lawyers wanted me to submit fifty some interrogatories too. I said, "Really." I said, "I am not going to submit fifty interrogatories to that jury. They will go

out of their mind. They won't know what's going on." And I said, "I'll tell you what. I'll submit some interrogatories, but I'll prepare them myself." I submitted seven interrogatories. If they had been wrong on any one of those interrogatories, it would have been a mistrial. They answered them all correctly. When I went back in there you should have seen the intelligent work they had done. They had five or six pages of things that they put on that board. They were out for a day.

CTF: But you didn't even have to give them any interrogatories.

SJR: I didn't, but I did. There were good reasons for them. I think I gave them either five or seven. It might have been five.

One of the funniest stories I have in the practice when I was on the court was there was a smoking gun memorandum in that case. The general manager of the district was in St. Louis. He was the district manager for Monsanto and he had written this memo. This guy was a price cutter and they were going

to put him out of business. And he sends this memo which in effect says the following: We're going to get this son of a bitch and here's how we are going to do it. 1) You are not to sell him any product. 2) We will not sell him any product. 3) If you hear of anyone selling any product, you are to notify us and we'll take care of it. 4) And it went through ten items. Okay. And at the bottom of the memo it said.

"Read and destroy immediately!" Well, guess who didn't destroy his copy?

CTF: The original author.

SJR: The district manager. So one of the lawyers, the lawyer for the defendant, who was lead counsel for Monsanto. And he said, "Your Honor, we object to the entry of that memorandum." I said, "Okay." I sent the jury away and I said, "I'll see you in chambers." So I said, "Counsel, what's your objection?" This was really funny. I said, "What's your

objection? This memo came out of your files. It was your agent who prepared the memo. It's his signature on the bottom of it. What's your objection?" He said, "It hurts too much."

PGR: That's good.

SJR: I said, "Well, you are honest, but it is admissible." And the jury goes out and gives them \$3,500,000 which was trebled.

PGR: Treble damages.

SJR: Treble damages so and then it went to the Supreme Court and was affirmed.

CTF: You were active in the Democratic politics.

SJR: Yes, somewhat.

CTF: But you don't run for office.

SJR: No, I did too. I ran for the Supreme Court in a district where I had a snowball's chance in hell because it included DuPage County.

CTF: Was that to fill out the ballot? Or did you think you had a shot?

SJR: Well, it was right after Watergate. And I thought, well there's no better time. I wanted to run for office once in my life just to see how it was. I didn't feel I had a great chance, but I thought it would be interesting.

PGR: Was that in 1976?

SJR: Yes.

PGR: Because that's when I first ran for circuit judge.

SJR: Yes, it was 1976.

PGR: And I remember running across you.

SJR: Yes, I went all over the district. It was like I was running for Congress because if I am going to run I am going to run a good campaign, but I had a snowball's chance you know. DuPage County is the most Republican county in the world.

PGR: Yes.

SJR: Including Orange County.

PGR: It was the Second Judicial District which includes Kane County and Lake County and DuPage County and.

SJR: Yes.

PGR: We were probably more Republican than Winnebago was although it had evened out.

SJR: You know I really did well. I carried Winnebago. I carried Ogle. I even carried Belvidere. I carried Boone. And I think I carried Stephenson. But I had no chance.

PGR: Not with those other people.

SJR: Once Wheaton came in, I knew that I had lost. I wanted to try it once just for the hell of it if not nothing else. And you know Watergate had just occurred. Who knows. And so that's the only time I took a crack at it. They wanted me to run for lieutenant governor. They asked me to run for lieutenant governor twice and I said, "I'm not going to do it."

CTF: So you are appointed to the federal court and there is no opposition.

SJR: Yes.

CTF: You are well rated by the ABA.

SJR: Yes.

CTF: But you are basically in Chicago because that is where the caseload is.

SJR: Right.

CTF: Although you are clearly talking to the bar association members in the Western Division about filing in federal court.

SJR: Right.

CTF: The caseload does increase and that is true anytime if there's a judge to serve the public.

SJR: Well, we had no service out here.

CTF: Right.

SJR: Nobody filed in federal court.

CTF: Right. I'm sure. They avoided it.

SJR: I made a couple of speeches to the bar association. And talked about it because I was president of the bar at that time. When I took the bench, I was president of the bar here. This bar association. And we talked about it for years. You know that's all they talked about out here, about court service. And isn't that true, Phil?

PGR: Sure.

SJR: And anyway what I did then I looked at the division and I said, we are never going to do it with the counties we have in

the division. I made an effort to bring in three other counties which were DeKalb County, of course, and McHenry and these were logical, I think, area-wise. We had the population. Even the Western Division had a population to justify a court out here even before that. But if you added DeKalb County and McHenry County and LaSalle County, you certainly had more than enough. So I went and I spoke to the bar associations at their request. I advised them that I was available and I spoke to the bar association in McHenry County and I spoke to the bar association in DeKalb County and in LaSalle County and we talked about it and they unanimously in DeKalb and McHenry voted to join the Western Division. The one that didn't was LaSalle County and the reason was because those guys had some clients in Chicago and they liked to keep it that way. I lost by one vote down there. A friend of mine told me, "You didn't have a chance, those guys control the bar association down in LaSalle County." But we had a unanimous vote in McHenry. They all approved of it. So did DeKalb. Didn't get a single

negative vote from either of those bar associations because they knew it would give them better service. And we had a lot of filings out of those two counties.

PGR: Well, especially out of McHenry County.

SJR: At that time McHenry was the fastest growing county in Illinois.

PGR: I don't know if it is now but it was. And then we got a lot of litigation because of the university in DeKalb County.

SJR: I wouldn't do anything that I thought was political I just thought this had to do with the court service. I thought that was appropriate. It certainly has been justified now. I don't know how many filings we get out of McHenry, but we get a lot.

CTF: When did we construct this building?

PGR: I think in the Seventies about the time you were—

SJR: I was the first judge in it.

PGR: Yes. I think it was. There's a key.

SJR: Seventy-six.

PGR: Yes.

SJR: Yeah, dedicated then.

PGR: Completed in '77.

CTF: March of '78 is when it was dedicated.

SJR: I was here at the dedication too and I was on the court at that time because I remember Jim Parsons came out.

CTF: I came out for that.

SJR: You were here also because I was here too.

CTF: I remember that it was being built for twenty years.

SJR: Yes, that's right. It was supposed to fall down after that.

Now I think this building is going to be pretty good for the purpose they are going to use it for. It wasn't very good for a courthouse.

PGR: Since GSA actually bought it twenty years later. They have made some improvements.

SJR: Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, this building here was so cut up you couldn't hold anything in this place. It was terrible. And so you know who designed this area, right here (the

chambers)? My son, my architect son. He did it *pro bono*. He did all of this.

PGR: He did that when I came in 1992 and Stan then moved over here to the senior judge chambers.

SJR: Right. And my son Dan comes and takes a look at it. This was chopped up into little bitty rooms.

PGR: Yes.

SJR: And I said, "Dan, we need a magistrate's courtroom, we need a chambers for me."

CTF: Remember we used to have a problem of people wandering in this place because they couldn't find where they were going.

SJR: Couldn't find anything. I got lost in this building. And I wasn't alone either. People would say, "Where is such and

such number." So, Dan redesigned the floor *pro bono*, providing a magistrate's courtroom and a senior judge's chambers which are presently used for those purposes.

CTF: Stan, when we were on the phone, we talked about some of the big cases that you had. One of them was in Chicago. Harry Aleman was a hit man for the mob and was acquitted in state courts.

SJR: Right. The first time he was ever convicted, it was in my courtroom. *United States v. Aleman*, 609 F.3d 298 (7th Cir. 1979), *cert. denied*, 445 U.S. 946, 100 S. Ct. 1345, 63 L.Ed.2d 780 (1980).

CTF: And he was acquitted in a murder case in which the judge is later found to have been taking a bribe.

SJR: A bribe. Judge Wilson.

CTF: He committed suicide when he was—.

SJR: When the FBI went after him.

CTF: When the FBI went after him. But in your case it was a civil rights violation, I think.

SJR: No, he was the head of a home invasion gang. And what they did, this is kind of interesting because they set it up as a business. I think it was in Hammond. They had a warehouse and these guys were working on a job for commissions. Whatever they stole, they got so much when they sold it. This fencing operation was down in Hammond, I believe it was, it might have been South Bend, but I think it was Hammond.

Anyway what they would do is they would go into the wealthiest north suburbs in Chicago like Winnetka or Wilmette. And here's what they do. They would knock on the door under some pretense. One pretense was that they were from the sheriff's office and they would wait until the

husband went to work. They would case the place and the wealthy husband went down to the stock market or maybe a law office and had a lot of money. And they would go in and tie the wife and the children up, go upstairs and clean out the furs and jewelry and then leave. And when the husband came home, there is his wife and children all tied up. They did this routinely.

And Leonard Foresta was the co-defendant. And I have a couple funny stories about this. I won't bore you with it, but it is so good that you'll enjoy it. Now by the way I've been on the bench about two months when I get this terrible case. And I am having headaches every day and I would go to Cathy's doctor because I know her doctor at Northwestern Hospital and I tell him, "I'm having headaches." This was a little later after this case maybe six or eight months after I have been on the bench and he listened to me and he said, "What you are describing to me are tension headaches. Are you under a lot of tension?" And I said, "On a scale of one to

ten, I am an eleven." He said, "That's what your problem is. You are under too much tension." But anyway I got through it all right.

And anyway the main witness in the case was a gangster named Louie Almeida. And Louie is on the stand and he has been in the witness protection program. And he has just gotten out of prison very shortly before that. Well, defense counsel is cross-examining him. He says, "Now, Mr. Almeida, isn't it true that you just got out of prison, served seven years." He said, "Yes." He said, "Well, how does that feel?" He said, "Well, it sure feels good to get back to work." That's not the worst thing. The next question out of counsel's mouth, now the jury's going like this, "mmmm," and trying to keep from laughing. And counsel asked one more question. He said, "Now isn't it true that when you were picked up in connection with this matter, you were on your way to Cleveland to kill the first of eleven people?" And Louie

leaned back and said, "No, that's not true." Counsel said, "What is the truth?" Louie said, "Only ten."

And we tried that case and what I did there was one thing, the prosecution was kind of angry with me, but I'd do the same thing again. They had a woman come in during the trial.

And the prosecution wants to put this woman witness on.

There was a picture of Harry Aleman on the front page of the *Sun-Times* and it said Harry's on trial for this crime. And they want to put this woman on to testify that she saw his picture in the paper and that is the guy who invaded her home. I said, "It wasn't this case. It was a different case." I said, "I am not going to let that in. That's prejudicial error. I'm not going to let it in." Well, they went after me about three different times that night and I refused to let it go. And, of course, the jury came in with a guilty verdict. And we are standing out in the courtroom and the prosecuting attorney is standing next to me and I said, "I bet you are glad I didn't let that in, now aren't you." He said, "I am now."

CTF: Harry Aleman later gets tried again in state court because no double jeopardy applied the first time because the judge was bribed.

SJR: The only person in the country that has ever been tried twice on the same charge because the case was fixed.

PGR: Yes.

SJR: Judge Wilson had been taking bribes. He took a \$10,000 bribe in that case. And I gave Aleman thirty years which was a heavy sentence. But if you look at his background, it was appropriate. He got out in ten years. I'm out here and the FBI comes to tell me that Harry Aleman is going to get out tomorrow. I said, "Okay. There's nothing I can do about it." They said, "Well, that's okay. We'll go pick him up on a different charge. He's never going to get out." So then they

tried him for murder. Then he got a life sentence. And he died last year I think. Wasn't it or this year?

PGR: Maybe it was this year.

SJR: Might have been this year. I think it was, Phil.

CTF: Actually the person who made the bribe was Bob Cooley.

SJR: So I've heard.

CTF: Who to me was the most important government witness that I had ever seen in the Chicago courthouse.

SJR: Well, he knew everything, didn't he?

CTF: He is the one who went after Judge Shields. He testified against two of my classmates from St. Ignatius Pat DeLeo and John D'Arco, Jr. who were lawyers.

SJR: They were classmates of yours?

CTF: At St. Ignatius High School. And Bob Cooley's brother was an Evans Scholar with me at Marquette.

But what other cases can you think of that you had?

SJR: I tried that antitrust case out here, that was really interesting. I tried a good number of cases. I tried the Chicago Bulls case in a bench trial, the guy who owned the Chicago Bulls. The suit brought by a guy named Fishman from Milwaukee. The guy that owned the Milwaukee Bucks and I tried that as a bench trial. It took me seven weeks to try that darn case. *Fishman v. Estate of Wirtz*, 594 F. Supp. 853 (N.D. Ill. 1984), *aff'd in part, rev'd in part*, 807 F.2d 520 (7th Cir. 1986).

CTF: What was the issue in that case?

SJR: The issue. Well, he had a contract with Elmer Rich who owned the Bulls to sell the Bulls. Guess how much money, \$3,500,000. He sold the Bulls for that and he was going broke, Elmer Rich was. It was against the guys who owned the Chicago Blackhawks you know.

CTF: The Wirtzes.

SJR: The Wirtzes and some other guys. But the Wirtzes and the Crowns, you know very wealthy people in Chicago. And I tried that for seven weeks and then the damages took another six weeks. I tried thirteen weeks of trial in that case. And so what had happened is Rich wanted to sell, they had a contract to sell to the guy that owned the Milwaukee Bucks. And by the way I got a book on it, he wrote a book about it and sent me five copies because he knew I had four children. He has a problem with the book. I don't think anybody ever read it but me. But anyway we went to trial on it, a bench trial and I am taking all these notes. I must have had ten legal pads full of

notes on that case when I got all done with the damages and everything. I just worked my tail off in that case. It went on for thirteen weeks altogether. First was the liability question, what had happened, did they do all kinds of things to prevent his deal from going through. For example, they wouldn't let him play in the Stadium. You know they own the Stadium.

PGR: The Wirtzes did?

SJR: Yes. And they wouldn't let him play there. So he goes to what's the other stadium there, there's another stadium?

CTF: Well, they had the Amphitheatre.

SJR: Yes, the Amphitheatre, which wasn't a real good place to play.

CTF: No, I watched games there.

SJR: It is horrible there. I didn't see it, but I saw pictures of it. It sounded like a real bad place so they did everything in the world to try and prevent him from buying that team. And Elmer Rich actually said to them, "Would you get your ass out of here and let me sell my team." Well, they weren't about to do that. As a matter of fact they had a meeting of the NBA owners okay and who is sitting at the door, a representative of Wirtz and his group, Wirtz and Crown. In fact it was one of the board of directors I think and he's telling everybody, don't approve this sale. And they lost by one vote before the NBA board. So I said that is in violation of his rights; it interfered with his contract. It was a violation of antitrust laws and a violation of his contractual rights. And it went up on appeal and I was affirmed by the Seventh Circuit. Then it comes to the damage question and we went to bat on the damages and I ruled that by that time the value of the team was now out of sight. So I gave him \$3,500,000 plus which was trebled you know \$10,500,000. It went all the way

to the Supreme Court and it was affirmed. So that was an interesting case too.

CTF: You also handled the Rockford school desegregation case early on. Didn't you?

SJR: Yes. I handled that and you know it was really difficult because you live in a city this size. It is not like living in Chicago where you know you are sort of anonymous. Everybody knows me in this town, I think. Mostly like they know Phil. But the evidence—first of all I didn't find them guilty. They came in and pled guilty. First thing the lawyers did on the defendants' side was come in and say, "Judge, we don't have a defense. Would you help us get this case disposed of?" I said, "Well, that's my job. If you don't have a defense, you plead guilty." So I said, "Well, that's all I can do." So I took their plea and we went ahead and then later on, they reversed the decision and said that we had to go give them a trial. By that time Cathy was quite sick and I—

PGR: You had your surgery didn't you?

SJR: Yes, I had surgery. I had open heart surgery. And I wasn't feeling really good at the time and Mike Mahoney took over that part of the case, but the guilt had already been determined.

CTF: The original suit was brought by the United States wasn't it?

SJR: Yes, originally.

CTF: And then a group of concerned parents became intervenors.

SJR: They became People Who Care. Yes, back a long time ago a judge came out here and he found them guilty. And before that some other judge came out and he found them guilty. So I was the third one.

PGR: There was a problem when it went up on appeal because the unions didn't agree with something. The school district did, but not the unions.

SJR: Here's what happened.

PGR: Teachers' union.

SJR: And I would do the same thing again because subsequently the Seventh Circuit reversed what they did on my case. What was happening was the schools on the west side—because the union contract didn't allow—as soon as a teacher got seniority they exercised seniority at the school on the west side and the school lost a teacher. Let's say they were assigned to the west side and they would get an opportunity to exercise their rights under seniority and go on the east side. So the effect was that schools like Ellis and Barbour out on the west side, they had not had a single teacher who wanted to stay on the

west side in those two schools and also there was one other school.

CTF: And the west side just to set the stage for someone who reads this is a poorer area predominately black and Hispanic.

SJR: Yes.

PGR: At that time predominately black.

SJR: Predominately black, but now it's black and Hispanic basically. And those two schools were actually—more than that, there were three schools that were involved. And we replaced one of those schools. But the point was none of those teachers stayed there for a whole year. They would exercise their rights and the west side schools would then have a substitute teacher. I talked to one of the teachers out there who deliberately stayed there. And she came over to me, I was working out at the clinic, and she came over and said,

“You are Judge Roszkowski aren’t you?” I said, “Yes.” She said, “I want to thank you.” I said, “For what?” She said, “Well, I have been at Ellis for twenty-one years and I did that on purpose. I am from that area and I stayed there and I have been teaching there all that time.” She said, “For the first time, we have had teachers who stayed there for the whole year.”

And so what I did was—I wrote this order myself and I said you have to give the teacher who wants to make the transfer due process. You have got to give them a hearing. I drew up an order myself what the hearing should compose of: present evidence on why you should be allowed to transfer, what the effect would be on the school system, both sides should be heard. I gave them due process and the Seventh Circuit reversed. *People Who Care v. Rockford Bd. of Educ., School Dist. No. 205*, 851 F. Supp. 905 (N.D. Ill. 1994), *aff’d in part, rev’d in part*, 111 F.3d 528 (7th Cir. 1997). And that caused the thing to be lingering on. And then later on Magistrate Judge Mike Mahoney called me and said, “I want you to come by the office and pick up this decision.” The Court of Appeals went

just the opposite direction in another case. It wasn't the school case, but it was a sheriff's office case. While I actually drew that order myself, I said, "Here's what you have to do if you are going to resist the transfer of the teacher. You have to give them due process." And that is what the Sixth Circuit said. I followed the Sixth Circuit's rule, because the Seventh Circuit hadn't ruled on it yet. So, I followed the only circuit that had ruled on the question.

CTF: You also handled the merger of the hospitals.

SJR: Yes, I did. I got that decision. *United States v. Rockford Memorial Corp.*, 717 F. Supp. 1251 (N.D. Ill. 1989), *aff'd*, 898 F.2d 1278 (7th Cir. 1990), *cert. denied*, 498 U.S. 920, 111 S. Ct. 295, 112 L.Ed.2d 249 (1990). It was a bench trial. I got a magazine article from one of my good friends from undergraduate school who had gone out to San Diego to open up a clinic out there. He is a psychiatrist. He was here. Bob Moore was his name. He was a fraternity brother of mine. Really smart guy,

much smarter than me. He sent a copy of an article in a hospital journal which said to the hospitals that Judge Roszkowski's decision is exactly right and you have to follow it. I followed a decision that had been written by Judge Posner and pretty much that is the language I used. I wrote a 105 page opinion and it was affirmed eventually, I believe two to one. But anyway it was affirmed. I don't think Posner wrote the decision.

The interesting thing about it is what I try to do on all the things that I do, I try to do the best I could. I followed the law and the facts that I saw. I told Cathy when I got the job, "I don't know anything about federal court. I am not a federal lawyer, but I am going to look at it this way. I am going to do exactly what the law requires of me and apply the facts as I see them, the best I can in all cases, and let the chips fall where they may." That's what you have to do. If you don't do it that way, you will always be in trouble. I made mistakes, hell yes. I know I made mistakes, who doesn't in that job. But as

busy as I was, at one time I had 571 cases on my docket out here and in Chicago. The interesting thing that has happened since—what would have happened and one of the resisters to this merger was St. Anthony's Hospital, what they said was that they would control 75 percent of the market. And if you did the statistical analysis, which we did, it was true they would have controlled 75 percent of the market. And there was a case that I relied on by Justice Brennan that was called *Philadelphia National Bank*. And that case read on this case 100 percent. And so I used the language on that case in which Justice Brennan said, if they control that much in the market, you are not to allow the merger. And that's what I said. Now the best hospital in town is the one that would have been gone, Swedish American. Almost everybody admits it's the best hospital around now. Otherwise it would have been absorbed. So I guess I must have done the right thing. Anyway I feel that way.

CTF: What are the other cases, Stan, that you remember?

SJR: Yes, in addition to that, I had the *Sundstrand* case. You know these were local cases. All of these people—I got so much criticism in all three of these cases. This one was another one. Sundstrand was and still is—although they're not as big as they used to be here in town—one of our biggest employers and they were engaging in some conduct, according to the U.S. Attorney's office, that what they were doing was basically this. They were making equipment for the space missions.

CTF: NASA?

SJR: Yes, and also for the Air Force. Making pumps and things like that and the government was their biggest customer. I think the statistics showed that 80 percent of the products were used by the government, one way or the other. This has been several years ago, but I can give you fairly much in general. They were setting up warehouses in South Beloit and down in Rochelle, in those two towns. And when they would

write off something, say they had a pump that was no longer in vogue, it wasn't being used, they were supposed to destroy it. They had been paid for it but they are supposed to destroy it. Instead they opened warehouses in those two places. They would shoot them down there and resell them.

CTF: To the government or to others?

SJR: To others. And the government brought suit against them.

CTF: For selling the same product twice.

SJR: Yes, selling the same product twice, which isn't fair and right. So anyway it comes before me and by the way they had a lot of witnesses from the company who turned state's evidence and you know they'd bring in affidavits from the U.S. Attorney and the FBI. And I granted them immunity. There were a number of months that went by when that was going on and so I finally took their plea of guilty. And there is an

interesting story about that too. They brought out a lawyer from Washington, D.C., and he was the most arrogant individual I have ever run across. Keith Syfert was the Assistant United States Attorney out here. He was the leader of them. There are six of them now I think. He and I were the only ones out here at that time. I think he had one assistant. I called everybody into my chambers, "I just want you gentlemen to know how I take a plea. I take all pleas the same way. Whether I am getting a corporation plea or individual pleas. I have reviewed all of the cases in which the Seventh Circuit tells you how to take a plea and the Supreme Court too. If the cases are reversed, I don't want to get reversed on taking a plea. So here's what I do. I want you to put a representative in front of me and I am going to ask him to specifically tell me in simple words what you actually did in this case." Point by point by point. So Washington counsel is sitting in there along with local counsel and he said, "Well, Judge," he said, "we get rid of these cases in fifteen minutes in Washington." I said, "I don't care what you do in

Washington. That is not the way I do it, understand? I am just telling you what I am going to do." I am telling him about the plea in the *Sundstrand* case.

And so I started to say something. Again for the third time, he interrupted me. And he said, "I think." And I turned to him and I said, "Counsel, I don't care what you think. Do you understand me? Now we are going to take the plea. It is my courtroom. We are going to take it the way I want. You are not going to get me reversed on a plea." So fifteen minutes later, we go back in the courtroom. He is nowhere to be found. He has gone back to Washington, I guess. I think they told him, "Get your ass out of here." So I then take the plea. They put a representative of the defendant before me and I said, "Now tell me just exactly what you did in simple language." He told me they opened a warehouse in South Beloit. They opened another warehouse in Rochelle. Then they shipped the stuff there and they sold it under the name of whatever it was and another company. Now clearly that is

illegal. But if I had just allowed them to say, "We plead guilty." It would go up on appeal and they would say, "We didn't admit to what they actually did." And later on I hear them say, well, we didn't admit to anything. The hell they didn't. They had two warehouses. Now why would you put stuff in a warehouse in two different places and put different names on them if you weren't doing something illegal. Which is what they did. The total fine, plus profits, etc., came to \$215,000,000 I think it was.

CTF: I always want to ask people what makes them tick? What motivates you?

SJR: Well, that's a good question.

PGR: Yes, it is.

SJR: It really is. Could you answer that?

PGR: I'd have to think about it.

CTF: He's not on the witness stand.

PGR: Yes, right.

SJR: What motivates me? You know no one has ever asked me that question before. You're a good questioner.

CTF: You can think about it and add it to the transcript.

SJR: When I think about my own career, I wonder how in the world, why in the world, I did what I did. I had nobody encouraging me, in fact it was discouraging. People discouraged me by saying, "Why don't you come down, you got a good business in Southern Illinois? Why don't you just come down and run the business here, you don't need to work very hard." By that time I wasn't working very hard. And I said, "No." I really did it the hard way. But I want to

say one thing I give so much credit to my wife. I really do because no one would put up with me that much, really. The things I did were really hard on her. And anyway I know some people will say, "You give a lot of credit to your wife." I said, "Well, that's only because it's true." But she did so much for me. And I for her too by the way. But that's the time when I really get emotional because it is so close to her death. But anyway I think there is something that motivates me and to tell you the truth I am going to have to think about that.

You have asked, "*What makes you tick? What motivates you?*" I had to give that question a great deal of thought because I did many things the "hard way." It is difficult to put an answer to that question in a nutshell, but perhaps the best way to describe my motivation is that I wanted to "make a difference." I know that may sound like a cliché used by many news commentators, etc., but I wanted to accomplish something which would leave some imprint on society because I had

passed this way. While I wanted to succeed financially, that was not my principal motivation. If it had been, I would never have taken the appointment as a United States District Judge, since I was doing much better financially. My law firm had reached ten lawyers and supporting personnel, and I was chairman of the board of the bank I had founded. Also, those seven years on the bench in Chicago proved to be really difficult, but rewarding. I would also add that I am extremely proud just to be a citizen of our great country and am honored to have had an appointment which allowed me to contribute something, however small, to the betterment of our society. I hope that answers a very difficult question.

One other thing I want to tell you though was about one of the missions that I flew. There's a very famous picture of a mission I was on where the plane is blowing up, having sustained a hit at the bomb bays. My brother was killed in that kind of mission. Of course, he wasn't on that plane. He wasn't in the same Air Force unit I was in. But I was on a

mission in a place called Blechhammer, which was in Southern Poland. The Germans were making oil and gas out of coal. It's coal country, Upper Silesia, sort of like Southern Illinois, probably all coal mines in that area. And it was a mile away from Auschwitz, unknown to me until I was on the board of directors of the Federal Judges Association for a few years. I used to go to Washington and they opened the Holocaust Museum, Cathy and I were there.

CTF: The Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.?

SJR: I was there for a meeting of the Federal Judges Association board. And we walked in there and here was a picture an aerial photograph of Auschwitz and right below Auschwitz unknown to me until then, right below Auschwitz was Blechhammer our target. We couldn't figure out what in the world they were doing. They would repair that plant with slave labor we were told. "How come we are going back there? We were just there a week ago?" We went there five

times in about six weeks. And they said, "That's because they used slave labor and rejuvenated the plant right away." What I found out then was that it must have been the slave labor from Auschwitz. But there is a very famous picture, probably one of the most famous pictures of the combat Air Force. I was on that mission. It is in the book by the historian Stephen Ambrose called *The Wild Blue: The Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s Over Germany 1944-45*. It's about George McGovern who was a pilot in our Air Force, the Fifteenth Air Force. And it's a picture of a plane blowing up. The center of the plane is just a big ball of fire. The nose is going that way. The tail is going this way. And there's another plane that's flying off his wing. We think that's our plane. We were flying deputy lead. And we are not sure if that's our plane or not because we weren't marked. We just took any plane that happened to be there. But I think it was the plane right behind us because, when he got hit, he went backwards. He would have rolled with the target and then we kept going so there's a plane in the picture over here. We always took pictures when the

bombs were falling. And he got a direct hit in the bomb bays. It's a very famous picture of the horrors of air warfare. It was in *Time* magazine when I got home. Several years later, it had "Lest We Forget" underneath. And that picture is also in the book, *The Wild Blue: The Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s Over Germany 1944-45*. It's in the center of that book. He has some pictures in the book and one of the pictures is Colonel Lokker's plane blowing up. We dropped our bombs and we peeled off like this going a little to the right. I'm looking back. I had the best view in the Air Force, glass all around me. I'm looking back. I'm watching this thing, parachutes one, two, three, four, five, six. So I come back and they are debriefing me. This major is debriefing me. He said, "You see anything unusual?" And I said, "Yes, I saw six parachutes no seven parachutes." He said, "You have to be wrong. You are the only one that reported that." Nobody else reported that. I said, "I don't care I had the best view in the Air Force. I am looking back this way. We peeled off this way and I am looking back and here are these parachutes coming out poof,

poof, poof.” You wouldn’t believe anybody could have gotten out of that plane. Colonel Lokker got killed on the ground. The other guys got back to the states. They lived through it, the other six guys it’s either six or seven. All, but Colonel Lokker got back. And he got shot. We had forty-fives in our flight suit and he pulled his gun and they killed him. But the other guys were all prisoners for the rest of the war.

CTF: You know it is interesting that you should say that about the Holocaust Museum because one of the controversial things about the war was when did we know about the concentration camps.

SJR: Yes.

CTF: And should we have bombed them to stop the killing of the Jews. And one of the arguments against that was that, then we would have been blamed for the killings.

SJR: That's true. Because we would have wiped out that prison camp.

CTF: Well, obviously you could because you did five trips to the area.

SJR: Yes, we would have wiped it out. And it's interesting that my background is from Poland too you know.

CTF: Right.

SJR: And our five worst missions were to Blechhammer because of what they had done. The oil fields were in Romania and the Germans relied on that for their oil and gasoline and so on. And the Russians by that time had taken that part of Romania. Do you remember the Ploiesti raids? After the Russians took Ploiesti, the Germans moved all of their anti-aircraft guns (88s) to Blechhammer.

PGR: We used to bomb them.

SJR: Yes. You know who was on that mission where they went in at fifty feet from North Africa. That was our squadron, our group, our wing that did that, but they were in North Africa at that time. And you know who was on that was Lou Gilbert's brother.

PGR: Oh, yes. Tom?

SJR: Tom. He was an alderman up in Loves Park. I talked to Tom about it and they went in at fifty feet which is about the worst blunder you can imagine. We only flew at 165 miles an hour. You could shoot it down with a rifle if you want.

CTF: Is this against Rommel in North Africa?

SJR: Well, by that time we had bases in North Africa so we had taken the whole North Africa, post Rommel. And they were flying from North Africa into the Romania oil fields. And they almost court martialed that general. They called him Killer Kane. They called him Killer because he killed too many of our troops, our flyers. They lost sixty-six planes or something like that going in at fifty feet. They were blowing up each other. You drop a bomb in front, and the explosion destroys the plane following.

CTF: Sure.

SJR: You are in formation. We flew like this. We were that picture I was telling you about. We were over here. We were deputy lead, another plane over here, another plane down here, and two back here and another one here, Tail End Charlie. Sometimes I didn't have Tail End Charlie. And that one we were on though was horrifying. The interesting thing though, some of those guys I watched, those other planes too, I didn't

see all of them. I saw a couple of them and those guys were bailing out too. It wasn't just that they got out of that plane, they got out of two or three of the others. Some of them peeled off and landed in Russia you know. They all came back. They didn't get killed. The only ones that got killed were three guys that were killed in an explosion, I think, in that plane and then three or four got killed. I talked to this guy when I got back. I was down in Tampa and ran into one of the guys on that crew and he's telling me about it. And I told him I was on that mission. I mean you talk about somebody who's been lucky all his life, that's me.

CTF: That's interesting because your grandmother on the Roszkowski side came from close to Auschwitz near where that plant was if I remember correctly.

SJR: You are right. They weren't very far away from that. And interestingly there is some thought that my family on I don't know which side it was. I don't think there is proof of this so

don't quote me on this that we were related to the Polish Pope John Paul II. I have a funny story about that. Cathy always called me when something new was going on. So she called me the day Pope John Paul was appointed and said, "I've got news for you." And I said, "What's that?" And she said, "The Pope is Polish." And I said, "What's the punch line?" That was during the Polish joke era. I think that Pope John Paul's obvious brilliance helped put an end to the Polish joke era.

You have also asked for the names of my children and their respective families. They are as follows:

Mark Edward Roszkowski, age sixty-one, and his wife, Christie. They have no children. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a major in accounting, for which he is a Bronze Tablet recipient as one of the top .3 percent of the graduates. He is also a CPA and is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law. He is a tenured

professor of business administration and the principal lecturer on business law in the College of Business. He had received two awards as the outstanding professor in the college in the 1980's. He is the author of a textbook on business law, which is now in its seventh edition.

His wife, Christie, is also a law graduate from the University of Illinois College of Law and is presently an associate professor and undergraduate coordinator in the School of Business at Eastern Illinois University. She has a master's degree in business and has taught business law at Eastern Illinois University.

My second son, Gregory Lee Roszkowski, age fifty-six, is also a University of Illinois graduate, majoring in computer science. He also has his master's degree in business from the University of Chicago. He graduated with high honors and presently is a consultant, an expert working in the power industry, primarily for Indiana Power and Light and

Connecticut Power and Light.

His wife, Patricia, is also an Illinois graduate, majoring in accounting. She had a successful career in accounting and insurance.

They have two children, Amanda, age twenty-three, who is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago and is just starting her career in advertising and public relations. Marc Lee, age fifteen, is a junior in high school and is an outstanding sprinter.

Our third son, Dan Joseph Roszkowski, age fifty, graduated from the University of Illinois in architecture and also received his master's degree in that subject. He graduated near the top of his class and was a recipient of the Paris prize as one of the most outstanding architecture students in his class. He is presently the senior partner and president at the architectural firm, Larson and Darby, the largest architectural

firm in Northern Illinois outside Chicago. Many of the buildings constructed in Rockford in recent years bear Dan's imprint.

His wife, Lynne Roszkowski, is an accountant for the public accounting firm of McGladrey, Inc., the largest such firm operating in Rockford. They have two children: Alex, age twenty-one, who is beginning his junior year at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and Anna, age seventeen, at Guilford High School. Anna is an outstanding student and basketball player. She has not yet chosen her college and future career.

Our fourth son, John Lincoln (he was born on Lincoln's birthday) Roszkowski, age forty-six, is also an honors graduate of the University of Illinois, majoring in journalism. He also received his master's degree in journalism from Northern Illinois University. He is an excellent writer, and a journalist in the best sense of the ethics of that profession. He

presently writes for a newspaper chain owned by the *Chicago Sun-Times*, where he has worked for eleven years. He is happily married to his wife, Maggie, who is a sales executive for the business supply company, Office Max. They have been married three years and live in the Northern Chicago suburb of Round Lake.

I would like to add that my wife, Cathy, and I always stressed the importance of education, and, as you can see, they all responded by doing well in each of the respective fields of their choice.

Your next question was: "*Why I retired as a district court judge.*" The answer to that is that there were several reasons. First, I had reached the age of seventy-five and my wife's health had deteriorated substantially so I felt I should spend more time with her and in our Florida condominium during the winter months. In addition, one of the leading arbitrator-mediators at a company called JAMS (Judicial Arbitration and

Mediation Service) had, for several years, been urging me to retire and begin serving as a mediator-arbitrator under their auspices. Mediation was always my strong suit while I was on the bench so I was very interested in trying my hand at it. So, when I retired, I signed with JAMS and mediated and arbitrated for them for the next twelve years. I closed my last arbitration at the end of 2010. I was the chief arbitrator on a three judge panel. It was a difficult case, involving asbestos and had been pending for many years, but we finally closed it in December of 2010.

You have asked me to discuss some of the most interesting and/or important cases I mediated over those years.

I think the most important one involved a dispute regarding the patent's reading on the genetic changes in corn. The parties were Monsanto and a division of DuPont. Some of those cases were before Judge Reinhard in Rockford and he assigned one of them to me to see if I could resolve their

differences. As it turned out, the dispute between the parties was bitter and had been going on for years. The parties also had fourteen other cases pending between them in various parts of the country. I first called the CEO's and their counsel together and found that they were barely speaking to each other, so I spent the first half day getting over that hurdle. After three days, we had made some progress, but late Friday that first week they advised me that it was hopeless and they were going back to their respective offices. The case was set for trial before Judge Reinhard a week from the following Monday. I told them that I wasn't done with them yet and I went home that weekend and drafted a three page letter to them changing the approach we had been using. I then got them both on the phone the following Thursday and we negotiated, off and on by phone, finally settling that one case on Saturday while the CEO of Monsanto was at O'Hare Airport on his way to Spain.

Some months went by and they called me in Florida in

February and asked if I would come back to Rockford to mediate two other cases they had pending. I told them that I wouldn't come to Rockford at that time of year, but I would mediate the cases if they came down to Florida, and they agreed to do so. I made arrangements for conference rooms at the leading hotel in Naples, Florida, and we proceeded to engage in the mediation of those two cases. After about four or five hours, it became apparent that we were going nowhere with the mediation of those two cases, so I advised them that I considered our efforts hopeless, but I felt that we might be able to resolve all the cases they had pending between them if they put all of them on the table. I then called a recess for an hour and asked them to come back with a proposal to settle all fourteen cases. After an hour or so, the CEO for the DuPont subsidiary came back with a proposal to resolve all fourteen cases, principally by trading some of those cases against others. I then asked the CEO of Monsanto to respond and he came back with a counter-proposal. By the end of that long day, I was pretty sure that we would settle all of them. It

really made the negotiations much easier. We spent the next day, which was Friday, resolving some other issues and we adjourned until the next week. I told them that I would be in touch with them by phone the following Thursday, but I suggested that they get together and attempt to resolve some remaining issues, which were relatively minor. I then drafted a proposal, which I believed would resolve those issues and got them on a conference call, advising them that I had a proposal to resolve those remaining issues. Before I could tell them of my proposal, they advised me that they had gotten together in St. Louis, the site of Monsanto's headquarters, and settled all of the remaining issues, disposing of all the cases which had been pending between them. I am prouder of what I was able to accomplish in mediation, than I am of the many cases I have mediated over the past twelve years although I mediated many, many cases during that time. I am told that it was the best thing that could have happened to those two companies, for these were largely complex patent and antitrust cases which would have been expensive and

time consuming. The time, energy, and expense of trying those cases and the distraction caused to their executives, experts, and legal counsel is difficult to estimate, but is clearly in the multi-millions of dollars. I am pleased that I still get a personal note from the President and CEO, Hugh Grant, of Monsanto every Christmas.

Immediately after we closed all of those cases, Mr. Grant, the CEO of Monsanto, said to me, "We couldn't have settled them without your tenacity." Perhaps I should have added that, or a similar word, in answer to your question, "What makes you tick?" I wrote an article for our local bar association newsletter which illustrates the point. The title to the article was, "Mediation, an art, not a science." My personal approach to every mediation was what I would call my four P's, which stand for: 1) be prepared, 2) be positive, 3) be persistent, and 4) be patient. Perhaps, be tenacious might have been a better word, but I think tenacious or persistent is one quality which describes, "what makes me tick."

Note: I am enclosing a copy of the article for your information.

Although I also arbitrated several cases during the past twelve years, I preferred to mediate, because I always felt that both parties walked away from a successful mediation somewhat happy, if not completely satisfied. I also mediated heavily while I was on the bench, and feel that mediation is a judge's first obligation concerning the disposition of the cases on his or her docket.

I am not sure how many cases I have mediated and arbitrated since I joined JAMS, but it is a substantial number, in addition to some of which were handled *pro bono* for the district judge or the magistrate judge. I mediated and arbitrated a wide variety of cases including: patent, antitrust, personal injury and property damage, contract and agency, among others. I could have handled a good deal more, but I did not want to travel, although I did go to New York City for a week and to

Houston, Texas, for a mediation and an arbitration respectively. JAMS wanted me to come to New York for a large arbitration a couple of years ago, which would have taken six weeks and I would have been the chief arbitrator. I turned it down and they called and asked whether I would come for another case, which would have taken a week. Staying in a hotel in New York was not interesting to me and besides my wife's health would not have permitted my taking the assignment.

There is a great demand for federal judges who are retired because of our experience in handling a variety of cases. Patent cases particularly are an example where such judges are in demand. As it happened, I was the first new district court judge to come on the bench in Chicago for two and a half years. As a result, I was assigned to a large number of patent cases, which I handled to verdict or settlement. As a result, I was considered to have some expertise in the patent area and was called upon to mediate and/or arbitrate several

of those cases. Most federal judges seem to remain on the bench after taking "senior status," so those, like myself, who have retired are relatively small in number, creating a demand for our services in mediating and arbitrating, especially in the patent area.

In addition to fundraising and *pro bono* legal work, the most time consuming and sometime difficult *pro bono* community work was the years I spent on the Rockford Fire and Police Commission. I was on the commission for about eleven years, and chairman for seven of those years. We were charged with hiring, firing, and discipline on the Fire and Police Departments. We spent many hours interviewing new applicants and candidates for promotion. It was a voluntary, time-consuming job. As a result of my service, I know many present members of the Fire and Police Departments.

The thing I am proudest of concerning my service on the court is that I was able to bring federal court service to the Western

Division, as I had promised Senator Stevenson and Senator Percy I would try to do. It was not an easy task and I am pleased that I was able to accomplish it with the help of many others. In particular, I know we wouldn't have been able to do so without the many contributions of my late wife, Cathy, who passed away last year. We were happily married for more than sixty-one years and raised a fine family. My greatest regret is that she will not be present at the dedication of our new United States Courthouse, which will bear our name. I know she will be with us in spirit on that historic day.

CTF: Thank you.

For more information see Geri Nikolai, *Voices of History: Career of judgment days*, Rockford Register Star (Nov. 2, 2009, 10:42 AM), <http://www.rrstar.com/multimedia/x1156070507/Voices-of-History-A-career-of-judgment-days>

PRACTICE TIP

MEDIATION

"An Art, not a Science"

By Hon. Stanley J. Roszkowski (Ret.)

Several years ago, after a particularly difficult mediation session which lasted three days and resulted in a \$4 million plus settlement, Magistrate Judge Michael Mahoney remarked, "Mediation is an art, not a science."

I've often reflected on that remark and have concluded that it is a very accurate statement. The more I mediate, the more clearly it becomes evident that mediation requires an approach which more closely resembles an art, not a science.

Every successful mediation has his or her own approach to mediation. All of them have various degrees of merit. My personal approach to every mediation is what I call the four "P's" which stand for: (1) be prepared; (2) be positive; (3) be persistent, and (4) be patient.

I believe that careful preparation is absolutely essential to every mediation. I try to obtain as much background information as possible before I receive the respective submissions of the parties. For example if there has been litigation, I like to read any decisions which been ruled upon by a court, as well as any related matters which may be pending in any court. Upon receipt of the respective submissions of the parties, I spend several hours reading and digesting all the information, preparing a brief summary of each submission. Finally, I prepare several scenarios as to how the case or cases may be settled. This allows me to gain a "feel" for what I will be faced with during the mediation session.

My second "P" stands for positive. By this, I mean that you should begin the mediation session on a positive note and never allow that to change. Personally, I begin each mediation session by advising the parties that I expect the case or cases to be resolved by the end of the session, and I never allow any party to change that attitude. In this regard, I always remind the parties that we should always keep focused on our goal to settle the matters and not allow ourselves to become embroiled in arguments and past disagreements. I often find that parties tend to become involved in arguing about past disputes, which inevitable occur in any litigation. If the mediator allows such disputes to occur, it wastes much valuable time and might cause a breakdown in the courteous atmosphere essential to producing a successful mediation. Remind the parties that such actions are not only counter-productive, they waste valuable time and damage the relationship so essential to successful settlement negotiations.

My third "P" is persistence. It is my strong belief that many mediations fail because the mediator is not persistent enough in keeping the parties negotiating, even though it may seem to be a hopeless task. I had a recent experience involving two large, international corporations, which illustrates the point. These companies had been at odds for many years and had never succeeded in settling any cases between them. They were faced with trial in fourteen cases in various parts of the country.

Our first effort was to attempt to settle one of the cases pending in Federal Court. After two full days of negotiations, the parties advised me that the matter couldn't be settled and went back to their respective offices to await trial, which was set a week from the end of the session. I advised them that I wasn't through yet and intended to write to them, proposing a new settlement approach. I did so, and had a further teleconference three days prior to the trial date. After many hours of teleconferencing for three more days, we finally succeeded in resolving the case. This success story doesn't end there. As a result of that settlement, we arranged for another session, which lasted two full days plus an additional teleconference and resulted in a "global" settlement of all the fourteen cases pending between the parties. Although I was the mediator in assisting to resolve those cases, most of the credit for the successful conclusion must go to the two CEOs who were determined to resolve all the disputes pending between the parties. As in any mediation, it is essential that the mediator have the full participation of all parties to the dispute. Perhaps that should be my fifth, and most important, "P", willing participants.

The mediator's contribution is to keep the parties talking and focused on the purpose of the sessions, which is to resolve the issues pending between the parties. In this regard, I think a good mediator should constantly probe the views of the parties to determine their respective thinking as to avenues which should be explored in affecting a settlement. Try to allow the parties to suggest various scenarios toward resolution of the issue, if possible. Of course, if no reasonable approach appears during the discussions, the mediator may then offer a solution or several suggestions which may resolve the remaining issues. Early preparation often proves invaluable at this juncture.