

David Knight: Please give me your name and spell your last name, and give me your formal position.

Robert L. Martin: Robert L. Martin. M-a-r-t-i-n. Former Justice of the Fifth District Court of Appeal.

Steven Vartabedian: It's my pleasure today to be talking with retired Associate Justice Robert L. Martin of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District. My name is Steve Vartabedian, and I am an associate justice of that same court here in Fresno.

As a part of the Centennial of the California Courts of Appeal, the Appellate Court Legacy Project Committee is creating an oral history of our appellate courts and their justices. Good morning, Bob, and thank you for your participation.

Robert L. Martin: Good morning, good to see you. Now, are we going to call each other Bob and Steve?

Steven Vartabedian: I think that would be okay.

Robert L. Martin: I think I'll be more comfortable with that.

Steven Vartabedian: I think that's a very comfortable way to do it. Bob, you served 20 years as a jurist, 15 of those years here on the Court of Appeal. And most of the attorneys appearing before you have described you as a tough, no-nonsense judge. Yet there is a side of you that many attorneys may not have seen that some of us have seen: that you are an engaging, hospitable man, actually a man with quite a talent for cooking. We'll get into that later on and talk about that a little bit. But first let's talk about some of your younger years, and then we'll go into your legal and judicial career.

Robert L. Martin: Certainly.

Steven Vartabedian: As I understand it, you were born in San Francisco in 1929 and you grew up in Vallejo. As a youngster was there any particular person that had a great influence on you or persons that had a great influence on you growing up?

Robert L. Martin: Well I didn't think you were going to ask me that far back. But probably the person who had the most influence on me in the high school—by the time I reached the high school—there was a Miss Letson.

In those days, lots of teachers, women teachers, were unmarried, and she was the counselor for our grade. And I don't know, I remember that in my mind I was trying to figure out what I was going to do and this sort of thing, and we came from a very poor family, blue collar worker.

I would go and talk to her during study hall; and she not only gave me some good advice, she sort of caused me to think outside the box, if that's appropriate to this discussion. I think that she . . . I've made a long story out of one that could have been very short.

Miss Letson was sort of a mentor to that extent, plus one of our . . . in those days they called it social studies, which was historical, that sort of thing. And she was . . . I don't know why I focused on the women teachers, but she and her husband befriended me, and it was in retrospect an influence on me.

Steven Vartabedian: Did you think that the social studies course—those kinds of things—that they helped develop aspirations towards maybe law? Did that have any effect, do you think?

Robert L. Martin: I don't know why I decided I wanted to be a lawyer, but somewhere along the line by the time I was 12 or 13, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer. I'm not sure I knew what a lawyer did, but I wanted to be a lawyer. And as an example, my father was a machinist on Mare Island, had been there for many, many years. And when I got to be 16 and a half or so, he—I guess he waited till my mother was out in the yard or out of the room or whatever one time—and he said, they called me Robert, he said, "Robert, did you ever think about going to work on Mare Island as an apprentice?" I think the way he put it was, "You'll not make a lot of money but you'll always have job security and a paycheck." And I said, "Well, Dad, I understand what you're saying, but I want to be a lawyer."

I think figuratively his jaw dropped a little, and he says, "Well, Robert, you know we don't have any money." And I said, "I know, but I'll figure a way." And he says, "Well, I'll help you all I can." But he was sort of—overwhelmed is probably overstating—but much surprised by my comments in that respect.

Steven Vartabedian: Sort of an old-school, hard-working guy?

Robert L. Martin: Oh, yes.

Steven Vartabedian: You worked with your hands and that kind of thing?

Robert L. Martin: Highly, very highly respected within the family. Whenever anyone had a problem, I think the saying was, let's go talk to Leslie. But at any rate, I just had the idea that I wanted to be a lawyer. And I got a library card.

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I found out about the libraries at school and I got a library card by the time I was about 9 or 10 and started reading. And I don't know; it just all came together.

Steven Vartabedian: So reading was something that you at a very young age had a great interest in?

Robert L. Martin: Never lost it.

Steven Vartabedian: Never lost it. Another thing that you never lost is your interest in cooking. Did that start at a young age also?

Robert L. Martin: Well, yes. I love to cook, and I give my mom credit for that, because she was an old-fashioned gal in the sense that she didn't have Ross cookbooks or that sort of thing. They cooked because their mother told them, well, you put a handful of this and a pinch of that, I guess, or whatever.

At any rate, by the time I was seven or eight, she would say, "You want to cook your breakfast this morning?" So she'd stand behind me or be close and I would cook, and I loved it; I still do.

Steven Vartabedian: We'll talk about that a little bit later on, but let's get back to your younger days at Vallejo High School. Did you have any particular interest or extracurricular activities that you took part in?

Robert L. Martin: Well, football, of course.

Steven Vartabedian: Okay.

Robert L. Martin: Played two years of high school football, and thinking of something . . . Oh, they didn't have forensics at my school, but they had public speaking, and I really enjoyed public speaking.

Steven Vartabedian: That's the sort of thing that served you well in your career.

Robert L. Martin: Oh, yeah, but I was thinking, well you know, I think I was just a typical high school kid: a little interested in everything, but not totally focused on anything.

Steven Vartabedian: Now, I understand you also, after graduation from high school, you attended junior colleges in the Bay Area.

Robert L. Martin: Well, with Vallejo.

Steven Vartabedian: Vallejo College.

Robert L. Martin: Junior college.

Steven Vartabedian: Vallejo Junior College.

Robert.L.Martin: They didn't call it community colleges then. They were junior colleges after World War II.

Steven Vartabedian: Did you have your career kind of planned out at that point? Were you thinking in terms of law, or were you more general in your thinking?

Robert L. Martin: Well, I was thinking in terms of law if I could get through college, which I never did. I got about two and a half years in, and by that time my dad had retired. I was adopted, and my parents were in their middle 30s when they got me; so by the time I was out of high school, they were in their middle 50s. They were not the typical 43- or 45-year-old parents.

At any rate, my dad had retired and there was absolutely no money. So I had to leave school and go to work. Needless to say, within six months Korea started and I got drafted. So I never got back until after the Army.

Steven Vartabedian: So between going to work and your military service, that kind of caused a detour in your plans.

Robert L. Martin: A little bit of delay.

Steven Vartabedian: How did that military experience from 1950 to 1952, how did that affect you?

Robert L. Martin: Well, I didn't like the Army. There was nothing wrong with the Army; I just didn't want to be in the Army because I had started what I thought was a beginning career—by that time law school was in the back of my mind—started a beginning career in banking with Bank of America, and I was in a hurry to get out of the Army and get back to that.

And what happened was I did my two years in the Army and I got out. And then a friend of mine from school, Sol Teverbaugh, to be exact—well, he was married and had a child. While I was in the Army, he had started going—we lived in Vallejo—he had started going to night law school in San Francisco, and as soon as I got out of the Army we got back in touch. I said, what an opportunity, because by then I had the GI Bill.

So I went to four years of night law school, which the GI Bill paid, I think, about the first three years; and of course I worked full time during the day. So what didn't seem possible two or three years earlier worked out.

Steven Vartabedian: I've talked to other people who went to school during your time and also served in military service. Was it that you could start law school without having gotten a bachelor's degree if you had served in military services? Was that a way to do it?

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Robert L. Martin: Yes, because they gave you credit for the military in the sense of you're older, more mature, and in their view had a more firm idea in terms of what you wanted to do career-wise and all. In other words, I guess they weighed it and said okay, this is good enough to offset not having the bachelor's.

Steven Vartabedian: So it's the mid-1950s. You're attending law school at night—I take it a four-year program. Was it Lincoln University there in San Francisco?

Robert L. Martin: Yes.

Steven Vartabedian: And you're working for Bank of America as a trust officer, you said; is that what you were doing also?

Robert L. Martin: Well, started off in Vallejo, of course, out of the service. And once I started going to night law school or a few months after, they reviewed all the employees' records for changes and one thing or another. And they picked up in San Francisco that I was now going to night law school in San Francisco three nights a week back and forth, and so they transferred me to the trust department in San Francisco. That all of a sudden made it much easier.

Steven Vartabedian: What was the city of San Francisco like in those days? That's before my time. I was a young child; I didn't see much of San Francisco. What was it like?

Robert L. Martin: It was a fun place to live. Well, certainly for someone come from Vallejo it was an exciting place to live. It was a little early for the—what'd they call the kids, the flower kids; there's another word I can't figure.

Steven Vartabedian: That's my era in the late '60s; the flower children.

Robert L. Martin: It was a little early for that, but they had some of the poets, lots of things going on. It was a fun place to live. And I lived in what they called a guest house, which was like a . . . it was more like a boarding house. You had your own room and bath; and you had a bath if you could afford a room with a bath, otherwise you had a bath down the hall. And you got two meals a day: breakfast and dinner six days a week for a fixed price. And for someone new to the city and a bachelor it was fun to live there too, because it was co-ed, you know; so it was very interesting.

Steven Vartabedian: I bet it was a lot of fun.

Robert L. Martin: That's where I met my wife Jean.

Steven Vartabedian: Oh, you did, okay. When did you get married? Was it during this time period or—

Robert L. Martin: Yeah, 1956. I think it was 1956.

Steven Vartabedian: Okay. Then you graduated from law school and you become admitted to the bar in 1959. What brought you to Fresno at that time?

Robert L. Martin: Jean was from Fresno.

Steven Vartabedian: Oh, okay.

Robert L. Martin: She was from Fresno and her parents were gone, but her brother and his wife and their two children lived here. She was Italian, and I liked Fresno. It seemed like it would be a neat place to live.

So I came down here on a trust case. I appeared in court, and after court the attorney who represented the trust took me over and introduced me to Clarke Savory, who was the district attorney then. And we talked for a couple of minutes and I said I was in San Francisco married to a Fresno girl and I'd really like to—by this time we had two children—really like to move down to Fresno. Did he have any opportunities in the district attorney's office? He said, "Well, let me take your name and number." So he pulled out his phone book, and on the cover of his phone book were like 150 names and telephone numbers scribbled in all different directions and everything. So I gave him my name and telephone number at the bank, thinking, forget this, I'll never hear from him again. And that was a Friday.

Two weeks later on the Friday, two weeks to the day, I was sitting at my desk in the bank talking to the vice-president about an estate and the phone rang. And I answered the phone and the person on the other end said, "This is Savory; you still want a job?" And I said . . . I was able to connect it up and knew who it was without giving things away to the vice-president. I said, "Yeah." He says, "Two weeks notice enough?" I said, "Yeah, I suppose so." He says, "Okay, see you two weeks from Monday," and hung up.

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Steven Vartabedian: Clarke Savory—very brief and to the point, wasn't he?

Robert L. Martin: So on the basis of that I . . . It was just before noon, so I went out and walked up and down Montgomery Street for an hour instead of having lunch. I thought, okay. So I went back and resigned from the bank on the basis of that telephone call.

Steven Vartabedian: I think today the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has something like 110 attorneys.

Robert L. Martin: I believe so.

Steven Vartabedian: At that time, about how many attorneys were in the office?

Robert L. Martin: There were 10 attorneys and 1 assistant.

Steven Vartabedian: So it's grown ten-fold.

Robert L. Martin: But I'll tell you one final note on the hiring. When I got down here two weeks later on Monday, at first he didn't remember me. So I was thinking, what am I going to do now? But then he remembered me, and in his inimitable way he said, "Walk down the hall till you see an empty office." At any rate, I didn't mean to interrupt.

Steven Vartabedian: *[laughing]* Oh, not an interruption at all. That's all a part of the way Clarke Savory was and the way he operated the DA's office here in Fresno. So you I guess worked there for about four years. Did you enjoy being a prosecutor—anything in particular?

Robert L. Martin: Oh yes, I enjoyed it very much. About three and a half, and then the opportunity with the firm came up. But when you went to work into the DA's offices in those days, irrespective of background, experience, or whatever, you started as a junior deputy DA. And I think the pay was like \$405 a month—that's 1960. So even then that was pretty bad. But one thing about Clarke, as soon he had the opportunity and the position available in the office—assuming he wanted to keep you, and he was very good about that, gave everybody a very good chance—he promoted you to senior deputy district attorney. And I think you made a jump from \$400 to \$650 or something in, like, overnight. So that puts you back in the situation where you could at least pay your rent and buy groceries.

Steven Vartabedian: That's a pretty good percentage increase anyway, isn't it?

Robert L. Martin: Very good.

Steven Vartabedian: So at that time—and you mentioned the law firm opportunity came up for you, and of course the firm Wild Christensen, which has undergone a lot of different names and still is in existence today, a very venerable law firm in this town. Was it a matter that that firm took note of you as handling cases in the DA's office? How was it that you became acquainted with those folks and were interviewed by them in 1964?

Robert L. Martin: Well, the firm was Wild, Christensen, Carter and Blank and the Blank was Arthur Blank. But Bob Carter was the primary trial lawyer in the firm and handled some criminal as well as civil.

And I got to know him, became acquainted with him; and he had a brother, George Carter, who was quite well known in the community as a criminal defense lawyer.

But at any rate I got acquainted with Bob, tried a couple of cases with him, again me on one side, he on the other. I started making hints about I would be interested in getting out of the DA's office and going to his firm would be very acceptable. So I sort of pushed it a little.

Steven Vartabedian: But it worked.

Robert L. Martin: It worked and they invited me in.

Steven Vartabedian: They invited you in, and when you look at that particular firm it reads like a Who's Who in Fresno legal circles. Some of the partners you served with and a number of them like you became judges. Was there anyone in particular who mentored you at the firm that you would refer to?

Robert L. Martin: Bob Carter; if anyone, Bob Carter.

Steven Vartabedian: What was the nature of your practice once you got there?

Robert L. Martin: Litigation. I went into litigation and he and I worked together for the next 13, 14 years.

Steven Vartabedian: Any particularly memorable cases that you wish to share with us?

Robert L. Martin: Oh, I don't have any reluctance, but I don't really think of any particular outstanding case at the moment. We did a little of everything, and we represented, the firm represented, a few semi-large businesses. But we kept busy, had lots of work.

But the biggest case I can remember is the one in which I didn't participate. When Bob and George represented this . . . he also was a lawyer, Marc—can't think of what it was, he was accused of trying to buy off the city attorney.

Steven Vartabedian: Was it Marc Stefano?

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Robert L. Martin: Marc Stefano. I couldn't think of his name. He was all over the papers at the time. You were probably still pretty young. But they ultimately took the case up and tried it at the Oakland's Alameda County, in Alameda County, and they ended up trying it before a very well-known judge in California, Sparky Avadesian—do you remember the name?

Robert L. Martin: Sparky Avakian.

Steven Vartabedian: Avakian, I'm sorry. And they tried the case before him and won the case, got Marc acquitted. And there was a real estate person also charged in the indictment, and he ended up getting convicted. But that was one of the more exciting things that was going on. Other than that nothing that just all of a sudden overwhelms everything else.

Robert L. Martin: Looking back, is there anything in your law practice that you think particularly well prepared you to become a judge?

Steven Vartabedian: Well, I had lots of litigation experience; and although in the DA you don't try civil stuff . . . I had gone from the district attorney's office to the firm, and there I had tried mostly civil litigation, everything from personal injury to breach of contract to almost anything you can think of.

So in that respect I felt generally well founded, in a position where at least I didn't have to be scared—well, I was anyway in the beginning—but that I was going to be able to handle the business at hand.

Robert L. Martin: We have that fear at first.

Steven Vartabedian: Oh yes. I know that.

Robert L. Martin: But we get into our jobs eventually. At this time did you become involved in any civic or political organizations and those kinds of services?

Steven Vartabedian: Well, I was active in the bar association, of course. I was Law Day chairman for three or four years. And I can't remember which president it was, but at any rate, this was in the days where they were beginning to create these public service firms like Legal Services, Inc., in Fresno. The bar appointed a committee, and I was on the committee to consider the possibility of Fresno creating a legal service firm for the—I don't like to say poor people, but the people who couldn't otherwise afford legal service and that sort of thing.

So we worked on it for several months and put it together and formed Fresno Legal Services, Inc. I was on the first board of directors. But there were six or seven of us who did that, and that was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience.

I got involved with the Junior Chamber of Commerce soon after I came to Fresno because several of the guys in the district attorney's office were in the Jaycees. And I really enjoyed that, and I became what they call state director, and then I became first vice-president, and president of the Jaycees over a period of about three or four years.

That was very enjoyable, and it also helped me become a little better known; you know, by this time I was in private practice

and you're looking for client sources in those circumstances. And oh, I was a member, no, I was on the board of directors of—what's the primary charitable deal in Fresno, they do all the charities together? They have the big . . .

Robert L. Martin: United Way, something like that.

Steven Vartabedian: I was on the board of directors of United Way for a couple of years, and I was on the board of directors and was president of the Volunteer Bureau—that's pretty much it. Those are the things that immediately come to mind.

Robert L. Martin: At some point in time did you either express an interest or did you hear from the Governor's Office that you were being considered for a judicial appointment?

Steven Vartabedian: No, it was my idea. *[laughing]*

Robert L. Martin: Okay, tell us about that.

Steven Vartabedian: Well, I guess after I had . . . when I became a lawyer or when I was in the process of becoming a lawyer, it never occurred to me to think of the bench. It was hard enough for a night law school graduate to get a job in those days—forget being a judge. But along the line, especially after I got to Fresno and got into private practice . . . Oh, I also became involved in Democratic politics and I was on the Democratic Central Committee for a few years and was vice-chairman a couple of times.

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So that got me interested; and somewhere along the line the idea began to form—well, it's a possibility. I was co-county chairman for Jesse Unruh for Governor in 1970 and then he didn't win. But Jesse Unruh was the head of the Assembly—what do they call it--the Speaker of the Assembly. And they attribute the famous remark "Money is the mother's milk of politics" to Jesse Unruh.

At any rate, he didn't win, and then Jerry Brown ran in '74 and I was county co-chairman for him with Simon Marootian, who has passed on now but was a very well-known lawyer in Fresno. And he and I flew up to San Francisco one Saturday for a county chairman orientation or something, and while flying back he said—we were sitting in the plane, of course—and he said, "Bob, what do you want to be: a superior court judge or a municipal court judge?"

And I thought for a second and said, "Well I think maybe a municipal court judge." And he said, "Good, because I want to be a superior court judge." So that's the way we ended the things. And after the campaign and Jerry won, Simon got

appointed to superior court within three or four months, but some other people were getting appointed to the municipal court, but I wasn't one of them.

Robert L. Martin: You were starting to think, maybe my time is passing me by here for municipal court—but your perseverance pays off, doesn't it, in the end?

Steven Vartabedian: Absolutely. Well, at any rate I finally said okay, that's the way you want to play the game. Immediately I called in to my friend in the Governor's Office and said, "Listen, forget the municipal court stuff; put me in for superior court." Two months later I got appointed—to superior court. *[laughing]*

Robert L. Martin: You weren't aiming high enough was the problem. You were overqualified for the municipal court. *[laughing]*

Steven Vartabedian: Yeah, sure.

Robert L. Martin: After taking the bench, what were some of your first assignments that you recall?

Steven Vartabedian: Oh god, I remember my first one. Holly Best was the presiding judge—and I'll anticipate one of your questions. If I had a mentor on the court it was Holly Best. But at any rate, he assigned me some short causes and one of them was this contest. This 18-, 19-year-old girl from Utah, this couple from Coalinga had adopted her baby and gone back to Utah and picked up the baby within a matter of a few days after birth, whenever. And she had signed the necessary papers; but if I remember correctly, you had a year within which you could renege on that and change your mind. Well, she changed her mind.

And Henry Leckman was an attorney out in Coalinga who represented this couple who had the baby. And this young woman, I've forgotten whether she even had an attorney—she must have—but at any rate, it came up for hearing before me. That was the short cause.

So the law was clear: She was entitled to have her baby back. And finally I was trying to think, what am I going to do? And finally I said, "Well, I'm going to have to talk about this"—we'll say they're Mr. and Mrs. Smith—"with you in chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Smith." And she's been holding this baby and no one else is going to hold that baby. And I said, "It's okay; let the other young woman, go let the mother hold the baby while we're back in chambers talking."

So I got them back in chambers and with their lawyer Leckman, and he was supporting me all the way. Henry was a good guy. He's gone; like so many others, he's gone now too. But I finally said, "I have to give the baby back to the mother." And the

adoptive mother absolutely went to pieces and started crying. It was more than crying; it was just terrible, and I didn't know what to do.

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So her husband is there trying to console her and finally we had to call the medics and take her out on a stretcher. I was standing . . . This was in the new courthouse; by then we were in the new courthouse and my chambers had windows looking out the . . . I get turned around downtown; not the north side, but the east side.

So I got up, turned around, and stood and looked out the window until the medics and everyone got there with the gurney and took her out. So that was my first case.

Steven Vartabedian: Nothing like an emotional start to your superior court career. Any particular assignments in superior court that you've liked?

Robert L. Martin: I started out with family law. Ken Andreen had been a family law judge for several years, I think. And well, you were there, in those days at least they used to rotate. Criminal law, family court, estates and trusts pretty much had a different judge each year in those departments, unless somebody . . . I think, like, when John Fitch came on I think he wanted estates—no, he wanted family law, didn't he? He took that for two or three years.

But that's about the way it worked. But I enjoyed family law and especially adoptions because, as I told you, I was adopted, and I got great pleasure out of handling adoptions for people. That's the only thing you handle in which everyone involved is happy when it's over.

Steven Vartabedian: It's so true in family law; otherwise there's a lot of bitterness.

Robert L. Martin: Yeah, there's a lot of bitterness there.

Steven Vartabedian: Adoption is a very pleasant type of order to make, certainly.

Robert L. Martin: I enjoyed trials.

Steven Vartabedian: Any trials that stand out?

Robert L. Martin: Oh yeah, *People v. Stankewitz*. It was a death penalty murder trial and he escaped in the middle of the trial and was gone for two days. They brought him back and we picked up where we left off to continue the trial, and the jury brought in the death penalty. He's still on death row in San Quentin and it's been almost 30 years.

Steven Vartabedian: Yes. And it sounds like you really enjoyed superior court. Did you sense, though, that there might be a window of opportunity for appointment to the Court of Appeal sometime during your superior court tenure?

Robert L. Martin: I was appointed to superior court the same day that Pauline Hanson was appointed. And somehow Pauline and her husband, Bill, and Carol and I became fast friends. We traveled together, we did everything; we had a wonderful time. They're both gone now, but when Pauline, who was . . . what do you call the chief lawyer here?

Steven Vartabedian: The principal lawyer.

Robert L. Martin: She was the principal lawyer on the Fifth District from the day it was created, back in about 1961–62. And as I said, we were fast friends. And she told me that when she came on the superior court, she had been told by the then–Chief Justice Rose Bird just to relax, it wouldn't be long before they had her back on the appellate court. Within a year and a half or two . . . do you remember? I'm guessing maybe a couple of years.

Steven Vartabedian: It was a couple of years. And of course she was the first woman to be appointed to superior court here and the first woman on the Court of Appeal.

Robert L. Martin: In Fresno—either one, municipal or superior. At any rate, we'd become fast friends and I guess we talked about it a little bit or whatever. And essentially I was saying, "Well, you know, I'd like to be in the superior court a few more years."

But in 1974 Brown was elected. And I went on the superior in '77 and then I went on the appellate in December 1982. Okay. George Deukmejian had won the Governor's Office, but didn't take office until January '83. And somewhere back during the campaign, earlier than November, Pauline had said . . . Oh, they were creating two new positions on the appellate court, increasing it from six to eight. She said, "Bob, if you ever want to be an appellate judge, you'd better put your application in now." And I took her word for it and put it in. And after much political . . . Well, the Republicans tried to block Brown from getting the appointments so that they could have the appointments after Deukemejian took office.

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At any rate, they didn't prevail, and the same day that I was appointed to the appellate court, Charles Hamlin, who was my former law partner, was also appointed. So I did things in twos: twos to the superior court, twos to the appellate court. And now I can't remember what the point of this story was.

Steven Vartabedian: Well, we were just trying to determine when that window of opportunity came for you. . . .

Robert L. Martin: Okay, I'm sorry, you're right.

Steven Vartabedian: . . . appointment to the Court of Appeal. And you've pretty well described that.

Robert L. Martin: Oh, it's hell to get old. But at any rate, it's because of Pauline that I went ahead and put my name in.

Steven Vartabedian: That's good advice you received from her, certainly.

Robert L. Martin: I would have been very happy to serve another five years on the superior court and then go to the appellate court, if ever.

Steven Vartabedian: Sure.

Robert L. Martin: But things worked out.

Steven Vartabedian: Things worked out that way. And as you said, you and your former law partner Chuck Hamlin, who was also on the superior court, were appointed that same day. A few months before you there was an opening when Wickson Woolpert was appointed from San Luis Obispo County; so the three of you really joined the court very close in time, in a court that was expanding quite a bit with the two new positions. Just between the three of you—that would be Wick, Chuck, and you—was there any sense of competition, camaraderie, or some other way you'd describe your relationships, coming on the court so close in time?

Robert L. Martin: Well, Wick got there about six months, four or five months, maybe, before Chuck and I. And that was the point where we were outgrowing the offices over in the State Building and they created two new temporary—well, they weren't temporary offices, but offices in space that wasn't intended for offices for Chuck and I, just for us to have a chambers. And Wick was way down at the other end of the court. So the only time you spent much time together was if you were on the same panel for oral argument or if you went down to someone's office and said, "I want to talk to you about this case or that case."

So we were all friends, and of course I had established this relationship with Pauline; and George Zenovich was on the court, and George was always fun. So it wasn't that—at least that I—singled out any particular one or two other than Pauline. We just sort of all came together; and it was a very happy relationship. Once, in my experience, once you took the oath, forget the politics. From then on you were a judge and you weren't a politician, and so politics never entered into it. We weren't real social, but we were social enough so that we

periodically got together and that sort of thing. It was just a very happy experience.

Steven Vartabedian: You've already mentioned that of course the other two that were appointed very close in time with you . . . and you joined George Zenovich and your good friend Pauline Hanson. The bench also consisted at that time of Presiding Justice George Brown and Associate Justice Don Franson as well as Associate Justice Kenny Andreen.

As part of this Legacy Project we are able to interview Justices Zenovich and Andreen. Unfortunately the others have passed away. You've already told us a little bit about Pauline Hanson. Is there anything you would like to share with us about your working relationship with George Brown and Don Franson, starting with Presiding Justice Brown?

Robert L. Martin: One thing about George Brown, he was a great guy. So many of these people are gone—knock on wood, or find some. At any rate you would be on a panel with George Brown, which is, you know—and whoever ultimately listens to this might not—there are three judges on the panel, one of whom is assigned to write the opinion.

Well you'd be on a panel with George Brown. I would write the opinion, you go through oral argument if they had oral argument, and at that point I would circulate an opinion, my opinion, for sign-off by the other two judges. At that point George Brown had never said a word about the case. Back comes my opinion with a dissent. Well, he didn't like the search.

I'd walk down to George's office and say "George, why didn't you say something about this? I would have modified the opinion; I think you're absolutely right." He'd say, "Oh, well, I didn't want to bother you," or something of that sort." "Oh, okay, George." I'd take it back, rewrite my opinion, which meant that his dissent got tossed out, and we're all finished.

(00:39:59)

Why he wouldn't come down and save himself hours of work and just say "Bob, take another look at that search issue or whatever." It got to the point where I'd laugh about it. I'd sign my prospective opinion and send it down to George and then wait to see how long it took to get back—with a dissent. But George was great.

Steven Vartabedian: He was a wonderful leader of the court, a very bright man.

Robert L. Martin: Oh yes, he was.

Steven Vartabedian: Sometimes he would be formal, though like you said very . . . I don't—

Robert L. Martin: He was very—I don't like to say old-fashioned, because it applies to me—but he was very formal in that respect, and he wasn't above coming down to your chambers and chatting and gossiping a little, that sort of thing. But he was a great guy.

He told us a story one time. We'd all gone up to Madera and—what was that, there was that judge up there—no, I'm sorry, Merced. We had gone to Merced for one of these legal get-togethers in which we'd been invited, and there was a judge up there on the superior court who had been there for years and years. I can't remember his name; he was well known.

But George was telling us on the way back that when he had not been appointed to the Court of Appeal he was on the superior court in Kern and they had gone to some judges' meeting. And this judge from Merced had taken him aside; he said, "George, don't bother putting your name in for that vacancy on the Fifth District," he says, "because I got it all sewed up." And then George said, "A month or two went by and I got the appointment, needless to say." He says, "I never miss a chance to hold it over his head to remind him of that conversation." And he'd laugh.

Steven Vartabedian: Perhaps I should interject who I think that is; probably Donald Fretz?

Robert L. Martin: It was. I couldn't think of a name.

Steven Vartabedian: He was a longtime judge in Merced County.

Robert L. Martin: He's gone now too.

Steven Vartabedian: Yes. Another person on the court at that time who later became presiding justice himself: Don Franson. Any thoughts about Don?

Robert L. Martin: They all became presiding justice except me. I was the token Democrat, after a while. But Don Franson, well, he built this courthouse. He was the presiding judge during the time that the Legislature finally broke down and voted the funds to build this courthouse, and he was very instrumental and active in building it.

And I think he knew—I didn't know, but I think he knew—that he was going to retire a couple of years after it was finished, because he really took great pains to be a part of everything that went on. He was just a really nice guy. He was a Fresnan, so I knew him before he became a judge, way, way back in the '60s when he was with the Bob Sears Eanni—what was the old name of the firm?

Steven Vartabedian: Miles, Sears, Eanni.

Robert L. Martin: Miles, Sears, Eanni, and Franson.

Steven Vartabedian: Oh, Franson.

Robert L. Martin: Before Eanni.

Steven Vartabedian: That's right.

Robert L. Martin: So I just thought of Don as being a very nice guy and a friend, and knew Irma. And when we would go on judicial trips Carol and Irma got along very well, so we spent maybe a little more time with them than maybe with somebody else; a very enjoyable experience.

Steven Vartabedian: Did you find any difficulty in your transition from the trial court to the appellate court? How did that go for you?

Robert L. Martin: Well, I had sat on the appellate court for two months pro tem before I was elevated; and that two months up here is long enough for you to become acclimated to know generally what's going on and what's expected of you and what isn't and that sort of thing. So I felt it was a very easy transition, and I'm sure that's the primary reason why.

Steven Vartabedian: How would you describe your judicial philosophy?

Robert L. Martin: I'm a conservative Democrat; but I don't know, does that answer the question?

Steven Vartabedian: I suppose that does.

Robert L. Martin: Ardaiz, our Presiding Justice Ardaiz, never misses an opportunity to remind me that I'm the lonesome Democrat. But he did tell me—one time we were talking about something and he said, he leaned over towards me like this and said, "Bob, you were never liberal."

Steven Vartabedian: *[laughing]* Well, when you mentioned Don Franson retired after a couple of years, then in 1990 Hollis Best became the PJ upon Franson's retirement. From my vantage point—by that time I had come on the court as a junior justice—I could see that you and Holly Best had a very good working relationship as well as a good personal relationship. Could you share a little bit of that with us?

(00:45:04)

Robert L. Martin: Well, Holly was just a joy to work with. And he was nice enough, as I related to earlier, to sort of take me under his wing when I first came to the superior court. And I had only

been with the superior court about two and a half years or so, and we had a judges meeting; we elected our presiding judge annually. I presume they still do, although now I've noticed that they tend to have someone hold the position for two or three years, which is probably not a bad idea with the size of the court now. But at any rate we were at this judges meeting and somebody said, "Well, Holly, you're going to be presiding another year, aren't you?" And he reluctantly agreed. Reluctantly. *[laughing]*

He loved it. Then he said, "I'm going to propose we do something different, because I think we ought to have an assistant presiding judge. So whoever the presiding judge is has someone to hand things off to and make them go on vacation in a year and all that stuff." And everyone agreed. "Okay," he says. "I propose that we elect Judge Martin as the first assistant PJ." He hadn't said a word to me about it or anything. I just was floored.

But he was my mentor. He took care of me, and he was a joy to work with. I miss him.

Steven Vartabedian: I do too; I agree with that entirely.

Robert L. Martin: He was a very, very intelligent, capable man, but he was a people's person. George Brown is maybe to people sort of aloof and straight-laced or whatever. Well, Holly was just the opposite. I don't think he ever met a person he didn't like.

Steven Vartabedian: I don't mean to put you on the spot here—and if you want to describe it in terms of something about the case—but I was just wondering, are there any favorites among the cases that you authored, among the published opinions? Anything that comes to mind?

Robert L. Martin: Oh yes, one case. I went through the cases, the Nexis list that they sent me from San Francisco. God, I can't remember those things. But the one case I love, back in—I want to get this straight now. About the middle 1990s, a little earlier than that, the Legislature had passed a new bill that gave the superior court the authority in matters relating to judicial affairs to take over the county clerk's office, take control of it.

About—I'm not sure of the year, but somewhere about 1994, 1995—the Fresno County Superior Court elected to do that. I'm trying to think of . . . the then-county clerk was down on our board of supervisors.

Steven Vartabedian: Susan Anderson.

Robert L. Martin: Susan Anderson filed a lawsuit to block the superior court from taking over the county clerk's office, as she was the county

clerk. Well, the case came to the Court of Appeal. They didn't have a trial or anything. I guess it must have been a writ.

Anyway, it came to us and Don Franson was sitting on a side bench. He had retired and came back and was sitting. A couple of judges were on vacation or something or whatever, and I was working that month or for a couple of months.

So Jim Ardaiz assigned himself, Don Franson, and me, which would be the three most senior people on the court, to that case, and assigned it to Don to write. Well, Don wrote an opinion and very intelligently thought out and formulated that this law was unconstitutional and the Fresno County court had exceeded its authority in taking over the county clerk's office—and issued an order to revert back to the original system.

I wrote a dissent; I didn't agree with any part of it. And the Supreme Court took it up and after a month or two handed down a ruling reversing Franson and Ardaiz and finding that I was right all along. I loved it.

(00:50:04)

Steven Vartabedian: It was a good feeling, wasn't it?

Robert L. Martin: Oh, I think I scorched the carpet heading from my chambers down to Ardaiz to tell him about it; of course he had already heard.

Steven Vartabedian: I remember reading about that.

Robert L. Martin: I'm kidding about that—it was just fun.

Steven Vartabedian: I remember when that case came down, and what you said is actually pretty close to being accurate. But I remember early in my career on the appellate bench I sat on the panel. A case you authored, it left quite an impression on me. It was in 1989. It was the published case of *People v. Kane*. And as I recall the factual situation, it was a case where a law enforcement officer received a call to go to this apartment where there had been an attempted rape, and there was a badly beaten woman that the officer found in that apartment; and while he was there he could hear loud noises in the apartment next door.

And so there wasn't time really to get a warrant or anything, so he just went on in and searched; and lo and behold there was the perpetrator in the room next door. And it was a question of whether that could be justified as a matter of exigency that he was going to look for other potential victims, or if this was a crime that was continuing in the next apartment.

It left quite an impression on me, because you wrote in that opinion that in fact that was an appropriate exigent

circumstance to justify the officer's action. Do you remember that case at all? I don't know.

Robert L. Martin: I do.

Steven Vartabedian: Again, I don't mean to put you on the spot.

Robert L. Martin: No, no.

Steven Vartabedian: That left quite an impression on me.

Robert L. Martin: I remember it vaguely. I remember the part about the lady who had been raped and going next door and all, but getting beyond that I really don't recall it that well.

Steven Vartabedian: Yeah, but to me it was important because it showed that sometimes we have to get a little bit outside of what all the published cases say. We might have a unique circumstance, and I thought that you showed the willingness to extend exigency to that kind of circumstance, where someone is looking for other victims and a possible continuing crime.

Robert L. Martin: Well, you can correct me on this, but I think we were in the stage then where exigency at all was a new theory. It hadn't been around for 50 or 100 years, like so much of the basic law that we practice.

Steven Vartabedian: It was something that was still evolving and being formulated; and so that, I thought, was a pretty important decision.

You've already alluded to some of the turnover that took place in the court as new people came on by the early to mid-1990s. In fact, there was a huge turnover in the membership of the court, and I like to say that you kind of bridged the gap between a couple of generations on the court. Would you describe any changes that you might have seen over the years in terms of the administration of the court, the processes and the work environment as a person that was going there during these transitions?

Robert L. Martin: Well, of course the biggest change was we got bigger. When I went on the court, Chuck and I were the seventh and eighth justices. We are now what, at 13?

Steven Vartabedian: Ten justices now.

Robert L. Martin: On the court now, I mean.

Steven Vartabedian: Yeah, 10.

Robert L. Martin: Only 10?

Steven Vartabedian: Yeah.

Robert L. Martin: I don't know why I thought it was more than that. But at any rate, it seems to me to be so much more, so much more going on and everything. I'm not putting it well. But other than that, almost everyone who came on after I was appointed—Jay Ballantyne, Wiseman—they were mostly from Fresno, or people I had known in prior years either on the superior court going to conferences and that sort of thing.

So we all seemed to blend together, fit together, very well. There was no . . . I can't remember anyone ever coming onto the court, where prior to his or her getting there people were saying, "God, what a terrible appointment." I really can't remember that ever happening, and I don't believe it ever did. They were a very collegial group.

Steven Vartabedian: Yeah, you've already pointed this out. You half jokingly referred to yourself as the token Democrat, but it's something . . . And I think you've already also pointed this out, that the difference in party affiliation hardly meant you didn't get along with your cohorts. You did, and you've always described this as a very collegial court.

(00:54:56)

This collegiality wasn't a mere matter of social collegiality. Although you've already pointed out that one very important dissent that you had, other than that there were very few dissents in cases in which you participated. To what do you attribute this harmony, let's call it?

Robert L. Martin: Well, a lot of it is attributable to our staffs. We have 10 justices now, which means we have—not counting the group that does by-the-court-type opinions—we have 20-odd lawyers writing drafts and synopses for the various justices. And as a result of that, you don't have 10 individual judges thinking about that particular case and thinking of various alternatives. And I'm not putting this well, but it all comes together very well, and I think we get a better work product.

Steven Vartabedian: Do you think it's a good thing that we have career lawyers as opposed to, like, an annual or maybe every two years have clerks come in?

Robert L. Martin: Absolutely. I'm anticipating you, but absolutely. I admire the lawyers who go into that career. Because I can remember one of the Supreme Court justices back about the time Marvin Baxter was appointed—what was the old man on the court in those years? God, he was a Democrat and he sat into his—

Steven Vartabedian: You're thinking of Stanley Mosk, I think.

Robert L. Martin: Stanley Mosk, right. Stanley Mosk had an attorney assistant, and Stanley must have been on the court what, 30 years or thereabouts—a long, long time. Towards the last 10 or 15 years the saying was, “When you read an opinion by Stanley Mosk, I challenge you to tell me whether it was written by him or his assistant.” They had been together so long that they thought the same way and they even wrote the same way. And I think that’s indicative of the kind of work and product you get from these lawyers who take this job to heart and don’t say “This is not a stepping stone.”

“This is something I’m going to do for a long time, so I’m going to do it well.” And we’re so blessed to have people like that.

Steven Vartabedian: That’s so true. On a bit of what was a sad note for many of us, we were all shocked and sad a year ago when suddenly Justice Bill Stone passed away at the age of 66. Bill was a colleague of both of ours, and he served here at the Fifth from 1988 to 1999. Would you share some of your recollections of Bill, if you can?

Robert L. Martin: Oh, Bill was a joy. He and Judge Ardaiz were both sworn in the same day, and when Chuck Hamlin and I were sworn in, Judge Brown said, “Okay, flip the coin to see who’s senior this month”—and then he changed back every month. It worked out fine. But when Ardaiz and Stone were sworn in, was it Franson? Who was the PJ, it wasn’t—

Steven Vartabedian: I believe Franson would have become PJ; it’s very close in the time between when Brown retired and Franson became the PJ.

Robert L. Martin: Maybe Brown was still there, because I thought Jim told me later on, Brown told me, that because of our ages that Bill will be senior. Bill deserved to be senior. *[laughing]* He deserved anything that he received because he was a fine person, because he was a fun guy.

Steven Vartabedian: Did you have any . . . you’ve already related some favorite stories on the court. Any other stories of your time on the court that you wish to share with us, or have we pretty well covered the ones that you’d like to talk about?

Robert L. Martin: You know, when you try to think of those things they just won’t come to mind. Well, I remember . . . oh no, that was superior court, when I was the presiding judge of the superior court. Before Pauline came to the Fifth, she was sitting out in Juvenile, and then they were building the new court section out there. So I was sitting in my chambers one morning without anything—well, I had plenty to do, but without anything I wanted to do. So I was thinking, what can I do to get Pauline? So I gave her a call, and I called the juvenile hall and the clerk answered the phone. And I said, “This is Justice Martin.”

I'm sorry; I'm one court ahead of myself. "This is Judge Martin and I need to talk to Judge Hanson."

(01:00:05)

He said, "Oh yes, Judge, oh yes, sir, we'll stop, I'll have her stop the proceeding and get right on that." I thought, oh god, all right. At any rate, she came on the phone and said, "Bob, Bob what is it?" I said, "I want you to look out of your window." She said, "Yeah, what are we looking for?" "Well, I gave an order for those carpenters out there to take the leftover lumber and build a scaffold, so we can take care of these juveniles once and for all."

She said, "What? What? Bob!" And then she said a couple of words that a lady doesn't normally utter. But that was a fun day. *[laughing]* I don't know. This is the truth: I never got tired of getting up in the morning and going to work. Because every day was a challenge, and it wasn't the kind of a challenge, you know, that's going to change your life or anything; but it was interesting enough and challenging enough that I never got tired of it. And it was like that for 20 years.

Steven Vartabedian: So after 15 years on the court, you did retire in 1997. What do you miss the most about the court, those 15 years that you had here?

Robert L. Martin: Well, I think I miss the activity of being on the court and involved in things. After I retired, I worked for about six years on assignment. Not 100 percent of the time, but the first couple of years or so I worked almost 100 percent, and then I cut it back till I was working maybe 25 percent to a third of the time sitting on assignment. And I would travel up and down the valley primarily. I spent a month in San Francisco one time and a month in Oakland, but primarily up and down the valley trying cases. And number one, it was fun to get back into the courtroom trying a case. It's different on the appellate court, obviously. And I missed it after being up here for 15 years.

So that was really a joy. And then I had a couple of strokes and with relatively good recoveries, and that sort of ended my legal career. But I think it was just being with the people and that sort of thing. My former staff and I still go to lunch three or four times a year, and that's one of the exciting days for me. I wake in the morning thinking about, oh I'm going to go to lunch with Linda and Bob and Phil. I'm an involved person. I like to read and I like to do things, but it's not like being on the court.

Steven Vartabedian: I imagine serving on judicial assignment—after having been an appellate judge for 15 years, there's a little bit of a transition back to the trial court, something a little different.

Robert L. Martin: Oh! They treat you like a king.

Steven Vartabedian: They treat you well.

Robert L. Martin: When you show up in a small court—“Justice Martin!” And no one ever calls you Judge; it’s Justice Martin. And I say, “Call me Bob.” Forget it; it’s not going to happen.

Steven Vartabedian: *[Laughing]* That does give you a chance, maybe, to travel some places you wouldn’t otherwise go to.

Robert L. Martin: What’s that one up in the mountains? San Andreas—not the most exciting place in the world, but it was fun. San Francisco was sort of fun to get back, and Carol wasn’t with me, but at least my daughter worked in Oakland and she’d come over and we’d have dinner. So that was sort of fun. And then I got a month-long case in Oakland, a rape in a concert. Well, that wasn’t fun, but it was fun being there and being able to go around and again with my daughter and go different places for dinner and that sort of thing. I don’t know. Mostly when you’re on a two- or three-day assignment you’re there, you do the work, and you come home; that’s sort of it.

Steven Vartabedian: Yeah, I imagine retirement . . . and now that you’re no longer doing assignments is giving you time for other things. Your reading would be one thing I’m sure you’re active with; and you’re doing quite well too, by the way, in terms of you talked about the strokes. You’ve recovered remarkably well, Bob.

Robert L. Martin: You mean I don’t talk like this? *[mumbling]*

Steven Vartabedian: Oh, come on. *[laughing]* But I do want to ask you about one of your favorite pastimes we’ve already alluded to, and that is cooking. I don’t imagine that you could possibly improve on that chili recipe of yours. For many years you were the perennial winner of our court’s chili contest, the chili cook-off. And are you going to be giving away that secret recipe anytime soon, on your chili?

(01:05:04)

Robert L. Martin: Well, anyone who wants it I will sit down . . . I don’t have a recipe.

Steven Vartabedian: As you said, you learned it from your mom: put in a pinch of this and a pinch of that.

Robert L. Martin: I learned it from my mom, then I just put it together as I go along. But I enjoy cooking. Cooking is fun, and I do enjoy eating. That’s just the fact of—

Steven Vartabedian: Well, that’s the fruits of your labor, right?

Robert L. Martin: Absolutely. But since I had the stroke I have to—not for hours and hours, but I have to go through a physical exercise routine. And then of course I love reading, and I’ve never not read. And I like watching television. There’s the History Channel; the Public Broadcasting, PBS; and there’s A&E, I think it is; and there are one or two others. I don’t mean that I don’t watch junk like everyone else does, but my priority interest is—like I love to watch the History Channel.

Steven Vartabedian: You are watching the high-class stuff. Not always, but some of the times.

Robert L. Martin: Well, it’s interesting. I was watching just the other day . . . I can’t remember what it was. Which is part of my problem now, you know; I can watch a program and a month later see it again, I don’t remember that I’ve seen it.

Steven Vartabedian: Well, that’s no different than I, so don’t worry about that.
[laughing]

Robert L. Martin: But at any rate, it was something that was just interesting to me. Nothing I would ever have occasion to be involved with or do or anything like that, but it was just interesting.

Steven Vartabedian: Have you come up with any new dishes in your cooking repertoire or anything you—

Robert L. Martin: I like to try different things, but I like meat and chicken, and fish to some degree. So I’m not a baker, a pastry maker, or that sort of thing. One of my favorite dishes is pot roast. I don’t make it like my mother used to make, but I sure wish I could. But cooking is fun.

Steven Vartabedian: I imagine you also have more time for your family. Tell us about your family, starting with your wife, Carol.

Robert L. Martin: Well, my wife Carol is a very interesting person. She is not as old as me, but within a reasonable distance, but she still wants to be 21 and spends at least six or eight hours a day trying to accomplish that. *[laughing]* Not true. Not true.

She puts up with me, and I think we get along pretty well. We’ve got a dog that she calls the puppy from hell that she says she’s going to kill, but I protect the dog. So that’s my primary job description. Carol is a good gal. I love her very much.

Then we have our kids. I have one interesting story to tell you. Carol has a son, Rick Barstow, and Rick is a real estate broker and he loves to play Texas Hold’em. And about three months ago now he went down to Las Vegas, and with Texas Hold’em winnings he had he bought an entry into the world’s Texas Hold’em tournament, \$10,000.

I'm impressed. At any rate, he played in this tournament and 8,700 and some started out and I think they reduced it by about 50 percent each day. So he was in there three or four days and it got down to where he was like the 179th person when he lost the hand in which . . . What do they call when you bet all the chips you have? There's a word for it in poker, I can't—

Steven Vartabedian: I'm not a poker player, so I wouldn't be the right person to give you that.

Robert L. Martin: Whatever it is. But at any rate he was out, but he won \$47,000 based on \$10,000 he invested. That's not bad, is it?

Steven Vartabedian: A very serious poker player.

Robert L. Martin: I'm really impressed. Rick is a very good guy, a nice guy. My daughter Lisa, who is the oldest, she's a partner with Baker Manock & Jensen, does primarily medical malpractice defense cases. My son Bob in the middle, he's a manager with Costco. He's the second man in the store up in one of the Sacramento markets. He's married and he and his wife Judy have my only grandchild, Bobby, who has just turned 12. And my daughter Amy who is with Cal Expo—was it Cal Expo, Cal, what is it, the safety? Cal OSHA. And she's not married, up in Alameda. Let's see, that takes cares of everyone.

(01:10:13)

Steven Vartabedian: Amy is an attorney as well with—

Robert L. Martin: Oh, Amy is also an attorney, right.

Steven Vartabedian: Let me ask you this, and again I might be putting you on the spot here once again. Do you have any words of advice to any new lawyers?

Robert L. Martin: Oh god. Just learn for a while to keep your mouth closed and listen. You will go a long ways if you listen and pay attention as compared to walking into an office and trying to convince them that you already know everything. Other than that I don't really think so.

Steven Vartabedian: Any advice for new judges?

Robert L. Martin: Same thing, basically.

Steven Vartabedian: Pretty basic and good advice. What would you like the legal community and the general public to most remember about you and your work as a judge?

Robert L. Martin: Oh, I never even thought about it. Well, I hope they will remember me as being a reasonably nice, understanding, helpful person. You can't always be that as a judge. You have to call them as you see them. But by the same token you don't have to be crude or rude or whatever about it.

Fortunately, in my experience at least, most judges are very well versed in the idea that the people in front of them are hurting, and a kind word, a good thought, never hurts. But here and there—and I suppose that some say that about me—you can get a little upset and maybe say something you shouldn't have now and then and feel badly about it afterwards. Try not to do that. But as far as remembering me, I hope they'll just remember me as being a good, decent judge.

Steven Vartabedian: Very good, Bob. I want to thank you so much for sharing your thoughts and recollections in a very candid way with us, and thank you also for your many years of dedicated service. Thank you, Bob.

Robert L. Martin: Well, thank you; thank you so much.

*Duration: 73 minutes
October 26, 2006*