

**Transcription of the Oral History Interview with
Roger Wolf
January 4, 2003**

Ogilvy: Well, let me just start with the question I typically ask.. That is, what was your first exposure to clinical legal education?

Wolf: My first exposure. I think – and I was trying to think about this as you sent me that sheet – was probably while I was in legal services. I was in legal services in Washington, D.C. Dick Carter went from the legal services program to do the national training program for legal services at Catholic. And I think that's probably my first encounter with clinical education.

Ogilvy: What year was that?

Wolf: Sixty-nine, seventy.

Ogilvy: And what did you do?

Wolf: I just – I talked with him at that point, because he was over doing that, and his training program – going around trying to train legal services attorneys. And so I got involved a
0:01:00 little bit in that. And then – actually, you know, I'm probably back a little bit because Dick ran the – was at Catholic University, and he hired me to run the clinical law program at Catholic – so he hired me because he was moving over to full-time to do

that. I guess he was doing both. I'm not quite sure what it was, so I sort of got a little bit of contact. And then I went over and started running the clinic at Catholic University without a great deal of knowledge or information about anything.

Ogilvy: What was the shape of the clinic when you got there?

Wolf: The shape of the clinic was an office on North Capitol Street – 1730 at the time. We got a grant actually a little later on to buy the building. Dick had a little bit of [inaudible] – I don't even think we had a semester clinic at that point, because one of the first things that I think I did was get a full semester clinic, so people got 14 credits, which was outrageous at that time, particularly given the fact that I didn't know what I was doing. And here I had to fill all this in with information. Clint Bamberger was the dean, and Clint was incredibly supportive. So I was just really sort of feeling my way.

Ogilvy: Were there other people involved in the clinic at that time?

Wolf: There were not. There were supporters. Father Broderick was very supportive at that point of clinical education and of students learning how to practice law. He was really very progressive at that point, given the rest of the faculty. It was an interesting faculty, because it was sort of divided with people who were traditionalists. And Clint had been able to bring in -- he brought in Florence Roisman, he brought in -- Roger Hartley, I guess, eventually came in there. And they all came later. Nell, whatever her last name is -- she's a dean now at some --

Ogilvy: Nell Newton.

Wolf: Nell Newton. And so people were – Ralph Rohner was very supportive also, although there were some people who were on the traditional faculty who looked at this as being really supportive and something they wanted to do, and others who were sort of resistant. And Clint sort of shoved it. So it happened.

Ogilvy: How many students did you start with? Do you remember?

Wolf: The first I think we had 14 students. Why do I think 14? There were certainly more than – there was like 12 – 14 students, I think. And, it really – we ran it – I ran it like a
0:04:00 neighborhood law office. So we were down at the office full-time. We were interviewing. We were doing – we had the kind of a caseload that I had when I was in legal services. And then on top of that I put some classroom component, which was trying to cover – because at that point it was an office which did everything. We were involved in the simple landlord and tenant cases. We brought two major federal cases. One of them was challenging the FHA 203 housing program. Another was challenging an FHA program – not in Congress Heights, but in one of the areas where they were evicting tenants, the whole place, to do renovation. And then we had consumer cases. We had welfare cases. So you're trying to cover substantive law in all of these areas as well as trial advocacy.

0:05:00

Ogilvy: What kind of materials were you using?

Wolf: I was using -- I tried to find them and I couldn't find them. I was using mostly copies of -- you would xerox a chapter from a book here, a chapter from a law review article. I remember I had Stephen Wexler's article on practicing law for poor people -- that was one of those that I used. Trial advocacy stuff that you could find from here and there -- and one of the big advancements that was helpful was CLEPR when NITA started. CLEPR gave me a scholarship to go to NITA training, the first NITA training out in Boulder -- the first year they did that -- and that improved immeasurably my teaching materials for the trial advocacy part. But the first year I was really scrambling. There

0:06:00 was a book that somebody -- Paul Dodyk -- could have been Paul Dodyk -- there was a guy up at Vermont Law School and somebody else who had written a book -- Poverty Law -- but I can't remember the name of them. I used some pieces of that. I used some of the materials that I had gotten when I was in legal services, handouts and [inaudible] materials.

Ogilvy: And was Dick Carter involved at this point in time, or was it just you?

Wolf: Dick left. Dick was full-time at the National Institute that NLSP had set up. So he was -- some of the materials that he was developing I would use, like there were negotiation materials. There were some other things on interviewing and counseling. There was a

book – boy, a guy up at Michigan who was a psychiatrist as well as a lawyer, I think,
but had written a book and I still have it in my library somewhere – used that a little bit
0:07:00 on interviewing and negotiation.

Ogilvy: At Catholic at this time, they were developing – is this the time they were developing
the videotapes for OEO and – ?

Wolf: Yeah.

Ogilvy: Were you involved in that project?

Wolf: I was a little bit involved in that, but not – well, let me back off. I was, only because I
got – I was a participant in one of the videos. It was a consumer case, and I played one
of the roles. And Bob Condlin to this day uses, occasionally, that video, although when
it was initially done, I think Bob and I didn't know each other at that point. And I heard
Bob at one point really critiquing it rather heavily about what a poor job I had done as a
0:08:00 negotiator. And now he uses it as being straight-faced and not revealing my hand, but –

Ogilvy: So you played the role of one of the attorneys?

Wolf: One of the attorneys, yeah.

Ogilvy: Do you remember the name of the case?

Wolf: I don't, but it was a truth in lending case, I think, treble damages issue. It was back when truth in lending had treble damages. It was one of those issues. I don't remember. Interesting. But that's the only one that I got involved in.

Ogilvy: Now you said you went to Boulder to the NITA training and used their materials. Did the methodology affect or influence the way you supervised?

Wolf: Oh, terrifically. I mean, in terms of the trial methodology it was helpful, and they had some cases so that they were way before where they are now. Now they've got cases on everything. But the Mauet book was an incredibly helpful book on trial advocacy. And
0:09:00 the methodology of really working through parts of it, and then getting trials and doing it and critiquing it was really very helpful for me.

Ogilvy: What kind of evolution did you see in your teaching over the time you were there?

Wolf: Well, what I saw was one of the things was, you know, I had never done any teaching, so it was really very hesitant. And here I am trying to put the materials together and learn the materials and learn teaching methodology. And I found my teaching – I became more confident in what I knew and what I didn't know, more comfortable with the materials that I was developing, so I could spend more time trying to think about

0:10:00 ways of teaching specific things better I guess. What also started happening was I got much better at using the cases from the clinic that we were working with the cases and bringing them into the classroom and teasing out pieces from there. And I think those are probably the things, the evolution I saw. And then when – as more books got – you would go to conferences and people would talk about what they were doing, and that information would be helpful. And so you'd start adopting things that other people had done.

Ogilvy: How long were you at Catholic all together?

Wolf: I was at Catholic from '71 – I think '70 or '71 – I'm trying to figure it out – until '78. I moved from the clinic. I hired Tony Cramer I think the second year into the clinic to
0:11:00 get somebody else to help – and then I'm sure we had 14, 16 students for sure, probably more. And then I moved out of the clinic and taught for I think two years, and then I ended – I taught Evidence and Professional Responsibility.

Ogilvy: Were you on tenure track when you were hired?

Wolf: No, I was not on tenure track at all. Well, I don't know if I was or wasn't – that's a very good question. I never had to write for – so that was not an issue. But I don't know whether I was on tenure track or not. I certainly decided that it was sort of mutual, I think – I didn't like doing just traditional teaching. And I decided that I was going to

move on at that point.

Ogilvy: Now, you mentioned that you picked up a few things from conferences

0:12:00 that you attended. Is there any conference that stands out in your mind?

Wolf: The one that I remember is Buck Hill Falls, which was a CLEPR conference. It was in the summer, and it was a great conference because the location was great. But there were good people there. And if you asked me to say specifically what I got from it, I haven't the vaguest. I know – I mean, I do know that I met good people there with whom I continue to stay in contact, and got some ideas and help in terms of that part of developing materials, developing where the clinic ought to go, kinds of cases – things like that. But beyond that, I don't have any real specifics. And then the one conference which was the NITA training.

Ogilvy: What was the physical setting of Buck Hill Falls?

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Wolf: Buck Hill Falls was an old, huge hotel that I think has been used for sort of like a Greenbriar or something like that. It had lovely facilities and then there was this wonderful falls nearby that most of us went off to and spent time sliding down the falls and doing whatever – we were treated well.

Ogilvy: CLEPR did that.

Wolf: CLEPR did that. Too bad they've gone out of business. I did go – and actually I went to a CLEPR conference, it was a small conference, in New York City for a day. That was helpful just talking about ethics and legal services and the practice of law and clinical teaching.

Ogilvy: Do you remember where that was physically held?

Wolf: It was held, I think, at CLEPR headquarters in New York City.

Ogilvy: On Park Avenue.

Wolf: Yeah.

0:14:00

Ogilvy: Before we move forward, I want to move back just very briefly. You graduated from Harvard?

Wolf: Right.

Ogilvy: In?

Wolf: Sixty-two.

Ogilvy: And what did you do after that?

Wolf: I went in the Peace Corps for two years to 1964 in Tunisia.

Ogilvy: What were you doing in Tunisia?

Wolf: I was supervising housing construction, living out in a town called [inaudible] which is about 100 km from Tunis in a house with two architects. So, they'd design, and I would go around the country building the houses and baths and whatever it was they would design. And then I came back and went to law school at GW from '64 to '67. In '67 I got hired to start the National Clearinghouse for Legal Services, did that for a year, 0:15:00 and then became a Reggie for two years in the Washington, D.C. program running an office out on Nichols Avenue. And then I think I went into private practice briefly before I [inaudible]. I think there was like a year break or whatever.

Ogilvy: What in your background had prepared you to be a housing/construction supervisor?

Wolf: My father owned a roofing and sheet metal business, and that didn't really prepare me to be a construction supervisor, but it persuaded the Peace Corps people. The kind of construction we were doing was just elementary. We were doing – they were making their own bricks onsite. All you had to do was sort of look at them and you could figure out what was going on; reinforced concrete – it was not hard – I would talk to the

0:16:00 architects and I learned how to use – I'd never used a surveying tool in my life and I sort of learned how to do that when I got out there. So I would lay out the buildings then [inaudible]. It was fun. It was a new experience. It was a way really for me to – I didn't want to go on to graduate school after college, so it was a wonderful way to find two years to do something productive, I think, in terms of me. In terms of the country, I think I got some stuff. I played basketball with the town team and did stuff like that. But I think I probably benefitted more than they did from my being up there.

Ogilvy: What caused you to go to law school then?

Wolf: Hard question. I'm not even sure I can answer it. At the time I graduated from college, I thought of two options, probably business school, law school. I discarded during the
0:17:00 Peace Corps I think business school. Whether one of the deputy directors was a lawyer – I'd had some conversations with him – I think that the things that were happening at that time in the world, I probably thought I had a better option to do things as a lawyer than as a business person. So I thought law was – and I wasn't even sure what kind of law I wanted to practice, I hadn't the vaguest idea – got into law school, and my wife – not then my wife – I actually met Judy when I came back to Washington and started law school. And Judy was working – had become special assistant to Edgar Cahn at OEO.
0:18:00 And through that relationship, I did a lot of work with the Cahns early on. And so while I was in law school even, I was working on projects that Jean and Edgar were doing. I went off and spent time on an Indian reservation. The hunger report, Hunger

USA, Judy and I were involved in that. And also a project that came out of – there was a court opinion, *Christ Church* case, that had to do with broadcasting. And Edgar and Jean had us all doing some research – it had to do with administrative law. I can't remember beyond those sketchy things. But it was pretty clear that poverty law was where I was headed. Legal services – it was exciting. It was new. It was an opportunity to really do some lawyering and change. And so I never even thought about going to a law firm, [I think].

Ogilvy: Was this when Jean and Edgar were at GW with – ?

Wolf: No. This was way before that. Edgar was still Sargent Shriver's special assistant. And I guess Jean was starting at – Jean was not at GW at that point. Jean had her own little whatever it was. But Edgar was Sargent Shriver's special assistant still while I was in law school. Judy left and went to Georgetown Law School. And Edgar I think was still with Shriver and then may have left shortly thereafter and they ended up at GW. But this was – when I was still in law school, Jean and Edgar were not at GW.

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Ogilvy: You mentioned you went to an Indian reservation and did some work there.

Wolf: Well, I didn't live there. When Edgar was starting his research on – and I can't remember what the name of the book he generated from this – we went out to a conference of Indian nations out in Utah, as I remember. And we sort of were there.

We arrived, whether they were expecting us or – And the first night they basically told us get lost. And we had this big meeting to decide whether we were or were not going to stick around. And we did stick around. And actually it was at that point that Bobby Kennedy got assassinated while we were at that reservation – whatever it was – or park, or whatever it was. And we stayed, and they – the fact that we stayed, I think, may have persuaded them that we were serious about it. And this was Edgar's project, researching Indian rights, and what the Bureau of Indian Affairs had been doing, and the outrage of that. So it developed. I was not involved on the Indian reservations representing those issues.

Ogilvy: Who was there other than yourself?

Wolf: Tom Trip – not Tom Trip – Tom Tureen, Steve Rosenfeld, Edgar. And there were three or four others of us.

Ogilvy: And this was while you were still a law student at GW?

Wolf: Either I had just graduated or – but I knew what I was doing. It was certainly before I took my bar exam because I was – I said it was, but maybe not. No, I'm pretty sure it was, because I went from there up to Minneapolis because I was thinking of going to Minneapolis on my Reggie. So it must have been while I was running the Clearinghouse. So I had taken the bar exam. I was running the Clearinghouse, and it

was while I was doing that that I went up to Minneapolis. And I was set to go to Minneapolis, and then something cleared up in the D.C. program so I could end up in D.C. I decided rather than take another bar exam I would –

Ogilvy: How did you get the Clearinghouse job?

Wolf: Not sure. I think Edgar probably had something to do with it. I got a recommendation from Edgar. Earl Johnson was the head of Legal Services at that point. I got called in,
0:23:00 and boom, that's what I did. And they said, "Okay. Here." I mean, it paid very little, but as I think back on it, you know, it was probably something that you'd give to a recent graduate. But it was certainly [inaudible] – but I don't know. [Inaudible]

Ogilvy: Fantastic publication. . I mean, you know, whose idea it was to [inaudible]?

Wolf: I suspect it was or I think it was Earl's or – it may have come from Earl. I know when I – once it got – they said that we were going to start, and I sort of began trying to put it together. I got a call from Norm Dorsen, whom I didn't know from anything, because his project was doing a welfare rights newsletter, and they wanted to know how this was
0:24:00 going to mesh with theirs. And then I got a call from a woman who was doing a civil rights newsletter, and I'm trying to think of what her name was – really worried, because here this was heavy federal funding, she was struggling along and Norm Dorsen was struggling along. Why was the government funding another project like

this? And not knowing very much, I said, “Gee, you know, we can all work together. This will all work just fine.” And obviously, this one survived and the other two have not.

Ogilvy: Did you do it by yourself? Did you have staff.

Wolf: I did by – I hired a secretary. A woman named Zenobia Grundy, whom I would love to find. I mean, she was just a real treasure. I can’t believe that she is not some executive somewhere by now. And I hired a woman who was the bar librarian for the D.C. Bar, I think. And she cataloged. And that was our operation. I would read all this – I called Legal Services programs, I would get briefs, I would get materials – I would read all of this stuff. I would do a newsletter. The first copies of the newsletter were basically just summarizing cases and briefs and making them available to anybody who wanted them. So they would call in and I would send out. We had a big Xerox machine, and that’s basically what we did. I think it was at that time it was really something that was needed, because we got briefs and memoranda for law to projects that didn’t have the resources to do anything. And now they could bring a major lawsuit. Or I put them in touch with who the person was. And it was a wonderful exchanging of information that was happening.

Ogilvy: What year was this?

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Wolf: I started the Clearinghouse ‘67 to ‘68-69. I think I was there for a year. So ‘67 to mid ‘68 – a year and maybe a little bit – and I hired a guy named Napoleon Bonaparte, who

went up to – who I think was with the Legal Defense Fund after that. And then I went to Northwestern.

Ogilvy: And then you went to your Reggie?

Wolf: Then I went to my Reggie.

Ogilvy: Okay, and that was here in D.C.?

Wolf: Yes.

Ogilvy: And what did you do?

Wolf: I managed an office out in Congress Heights, and did the wide spectrum of cases. I mean, I did – I represented – we did consumer and we did welfare. But mostly I got involved in housing and rent strikes. And I represented tenants, and almost every one of the housing projects that are now – well, a couple of years ago, at least up until a couple of years ago, were the centers of the drug problems. Back then I had no worries about walking through these developments. I represented the tenants organizing. At that point, OEO had a really strong community action program. And so we had organizers in the community action program that would work with us, and we worked hand in glove with community organizers putting together tenant organizations and did

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a lot of rent strikes, and I think accomplished – well, I say “accomplished” – at the time, we accomplished a lot. I have recently moved offices. We tore down the University of Maryland Law School and moved. And then we moved back into our new facilities.

0:28:00 And I kept some stuff, I guess, from the first move. But as I moved back I went through my materials again, and I looked at this stuff and I said, Why’d I bother? And these were lawsuits that we had brought 30 years ago. And the same issues are right there. And so you begin to wonder. So I say we did some things. We did accomplish some things. We got some good case law on tenants’ rights, but –

Ogilvy: One question that’s always interested me is how was being a Reggie lawyer different+ from just being a Legal Services lawyer? Is there some community there that’s --?

Wolf: Well, I’m not sure. It’s an interesting question, because I had said to Clint Bamberger at some point recently, I said, “I don’t even know that I even mentioned that I’d been a Reggie before.” He said, “Oh gosh, no. That’s a real honor, you know.” I think that one of the things a Reggie did was it paid you a little more money than just being hired.

0:29:00 You got a – certainly had a training program. I mean, the training program at University of Pennsylvania, the program that I was involved in, I think I was the second class of Reggies, but we had Tony Amsterdam, Howard Lesnik, Bender. These were our teachers. And so you really learned a lot. And I think that that part of it was something that didn’t happen for just regular Legal Services attorneys. And because the money was coming from outside you could go to programs that otherwise might not be

able to hire you. I think that's what made it possible for me to stay in D.C., because they just didn't have the budget. But I was able to do that. Subsequently I think there was a community that has sort of developed. And certainly the Reggie reunion brought
0:30:00 back a lot of people who were – and it was sort of interesting who has been [inaudible]

Ogilvy: Yeah. Yeah. Tell me a little bit more about the training. How long was it? What did you cover?

Wolf: It was in Philadelphia. It was – that's a good question – Was it a month? Was it six weeks? I can't remember. We covered a lot of substantive law. We covered some trial advocacy, but not a lot. It's interesting to try to think back on this. I know we were talking about lawyering strategies, but I'm not sure. That's a very good question what
0:31:00 we covered. I know I remember people who were there, and remembering it being good, a really good learning experience. But –

Ogilvy: How many Reggies were in that class?

Wolf: Twenty to 30.

Ogilvy: Anybody you still stay in touch with?

Wolf: Yeah I do. I stay in touch with John Cratsley who's a judge up in Massachusetts. Who

else was there? He's the one mostly. And Barbara Yanow was there. Barbara is married to Earl now. Two people who were there, Ira and Pam Goldberg – I've lost total touch with them, but they were from D.C. – he graduated from Georgetown, gone out to be a clerk in California – totally lost them –

Ogilvy: I think chronologically you were just leaving Catholic, then, in what, in 1978?

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Wolf: In 1978, I believe – yeah, I think that's about right. And I had at that point decided that I was going to just try – well, actually, we had decided to move to the country and we were going to start a vineyard. I had taken a year off in '76 to '77 from teaching, and not sure that I wanted to continue teaching. Also we were – Judy and I were not sure we wanted to stay in Washington, D.C. – we were trying to figure it out. So we decided we'd take a year and travel. And with our three kids then – three kids – we piled into our van and traveled across the country for a year working odd jobs, just ended up in California – ended up – had a friend who had a vineyard out in California and ended up there. He didn't want us working in his vineyard. It was a huge vineyard. I think he was worried we'd organize his Mexican whatever – But I ended up getting a job in Mendocino tending a vineyard at the end of the summer when we were out there. We drove out from Washington; followed the Lewis and Clark trail; ended up camping out the whole time in our tents. Our kids were at that point nine, eight and two, and we had a wonderful time, and our kids learned to read while we were – the older ones had not – we talked to their school. Their school said that's okay, you know. Ended up in

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California, in Mendocino, for four months working in a vineyard, living in a trailer in

0:34:00 Mendocino. We had friends up in the Donner Summit that summer, and we said, “Well, gee. We’ll spend the winter up there.” Got a job up there working in a ski resort. We worked in a ski resort. Ended up going up to Alaska. We went up to Alaska, drove down the Alcan highway, across Canada. We’d known we could survive. I mean, we were really worried that we were going to be able to survive, earn money and – but earning money part-time. We said, “Oh, okay. So we get a job. Are we honest with people that we really want to stay a couple of months?” They didn’t want to stay more than a couple of months. There were those part-time jobs that were just readily available. Came back and decided we were going to move from D.C. We lived on Capitol Hill. We were going to move out and start a vineyard. So I taught one more year at Catholic, left, and we during that year purchased a farm in Maryland. We were

0:35:00 going to really cut all of our ties to D.C. So we looked at Pennsylvania – didn’t want to look in the South, so we didn’t look in Virginia. We looked in Maryland, looked in Pennsylvania – ended up buying a farm in Maryland but near Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia. And that was what we were going to do, we were really going to – Judy came in to work at a law firm in D.C. while I laid out the vineyard. And then it became really clear that if our kids were ever going to go anywhere and we were going to be able to pay for our farm – even anything – then we were both going to have to work. So I started looking for a job, and someone on the train gave Judy an advertisement. They were looking for a part-time person at University of Maryland to run an evening clinic, which would work perfectly for me. So I interviewed and got the job. It was a federal

0:36:00 grant from Department of Education to do a consumer protection clinic. We were doing a clinic in conjunction with the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division in Maryland. And so two nights a week I did that. And that evolved into full-time at Maryland.

Ogilvy: And this was starting in 1982?

Wolf: Probably; yeah, I think that's about right; '81-82. So for three years, I guess, I practiced [inaudible] and started a vineyard.

Ogilvy: This must be one of the first evening clinics in the country.

Wolf: I suspect so. It was – all of the information – because when people would talk about evening clinics, I really do think nobody else had – there may have been one other one.

0:37:00 But that was it. [I think] Gary Kolb had started it, and he was full-time. He got the money to hire somebody to do it part-time with him. And then he decided he didn't want to teach. We had – Maryland has about 60 evening students a class – and this is a problem in every evening program – people want clinical experience. But how do you mesh it in? So this was a great opportunity for them. And I am, to this day, because I still do an evening clinic basically – I am amazed at how efficient full-time employed people who are evening students are, what they fit in. Their lives are organized. They
0:38:00 must not have any – and some of them manage to keep families, too. So I don't know

how they do it. But they're organized.

Ogilvy: It's remarkable, yeah. How was the clinic structured? What did you do?

Wolf: We got cases from the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office. So I was a special assistant attorney general. So I could prosecute cases. They – you know, they put a little water on you and say you are it. That's all it is, is a letter just saying, Boom, you can do it. And I would get a caseload just like any of the other staff attorneys. And I would, with the students – they would get the cases, and they'd work on the cases. They were administrative hearings on the first level, so we could schedule those pretty much convenient to us if it went to hearing. We worked within the code, which was consumer protection, the unfair and deceptive practices. We were doing things. The layaway program in Maryland is just so clear and so simple. And when things would get a little dull, we'd take some petty cash, and I'd give it to students, and they'd go out and they'd buy things on layaway. And then they'd go within – because you're allowed to get a full refund minus \$1.20, whatever it was. They'd go and ask for the refund. And when they'd deny it or they'd try and keep it, we'd bring an unfair and – And these simple cases, we had – in terms of consumer protection – in terms of the layaway – we were getting 20, 30 or 40 thousand dollars from some of these big stores, because we would take that simple little case and we'd say, Okay, well, what's the volume that you are doing, and how many years back? And we'd go back three years, and so we got some wonderful settlements. And then we did some small individual

0:40:00 ones. But it was sort of heady for students doing that. And then we got involved in some major issues. Some odometer fraud cases, some – one of the big cases that we were involved in for a long time was contour chairs – growing up, my parents had had a contour chair, but whoever owned the company now really was doing fraudulent things – and had some good hearings. They’d get a caseload of three to five cases a student. It was a full-year clinic, four credits a semester. Class Tuesday nights, and they’d meet at night an hour. I’d meet with each student for an hour or so, even though – I mean, as it developed, I was there four nights a week, three nights a week, four nights a week. But

0:41:00 I would meet with them and talk about cases. And then I moved into full-time, so some of the evening students, even though they were evening students, could meet during the day. So for office hours, you know, I’d meet with them during the day or whenever it was convenient, but classes still at night. And that continued for probably three, maybe four years. At some point – I think it was a little longer than that – the Attorney General’s Office was giving us \$10,000 toward my salary. At some point, they said things got really squeezed – and they said this is a program we can do without. So they said, “We’re not going to give \$10,000 anymore.” And, so the University of Maryland said, “Forget it. We won’t do that anymore.” And I think that actually I’m still convinced that my students and I had a caseload of probably two of their staff attorneys.

0:42:00 But be that as it may, we stopped doing it. I then did a Criminal Defense Clinic – an evening Criminal Defense Clinic for two, three years. And then I moved into doing Mediation Clinic. So there may have been something else. And so I’m not sure of the years, because I’ve been doing this about 20 years at the University of Maryland. The

Criminal Defense Clinic was still – it was taught at night, but the students had to, even though they were evening students, and there'd be an occasional day student in it, but mostly there were evening students – was a commitment that they had to be available for court hearings. So they just knew that in advance. Students would get in a semester and it was a two-semester course again – they'd get two cases at a time. So as they ran through, you know, some of them would be [inaudible] – some of them would be – if they got a trial, hopefully everybody got at least a trial – but they got certainly a lot of court exposure. But most of the cases that we were doing were misdemeanors. And so a lot of them would get pled out or they'd plead or – hopefully everyone probably got at least one trial a semester that actually went to trial.

Ogilvy: That's great. When you were doing the attorney general work, you said most of it was the administrative hearings. Did any of your cases go beyond that into court, and did you follow them?

0:44:00

Wolf: None of – well, not true. One of them, two of them, three of them – four cases went on to appeals. One case actually we did in bankruptcy court. So two of the cases went to the court of special – three cases went to the Court of Special Appeals, and my students and I argued those cases. I think I may have argued two and a student one. There was an issue of whether students could or couldn't argue in appeals court at that point in Maryland. But they certainly worked on it, and their names got on the brief, but whether they did it all or not I can't remember.

One case we got involved in was – I’m thinking two – you are stretching me. One case
0:45:00 we got involved in was a couple selling glasses through the mail on the Internet. Was
Internet in then? It was certainly through the mail. It was mail-order. I’m sharing my
memory here. This case – we brought an action against them, had a hearing. They filed
for bankruptcy. The woman was a lawyer. The guy was not a lawyer, but he was sort
of practicing as a lawyer basically, doing all this stuff. We challenged their discharge in
bankruptcy as to the clients that we had – the class that we had – and had a full hearing
before the bankruptcy judge. Bankruptcy judge found in our favor. They appealed,
went to the District Court. Federal District Court Judge Smalkin ruled in our favor.
0:46:00 They appealed. It went to the Fourth Circuit. And my student argued it in the Fourth
Circuit, and she argued it, and I filled in a little at the end. And we got an opinion, a
written opinion that in fact established a principle that the Attorney General’s Office
could act *in parens patriae* on behalf of the consumers. So we had standing, basically.
Whether we would get that ruling now given the composition of the Fourth Circuit, I
don’t know, but it’s case law – we’re there. We had another case.

Ogilvy: Before you move into the other case, do you remember the name? The case name?

Wolf: I can get. I’ll give it to you. It certainly was the *Attorney General v.* – but what was
the name of it? I can’t remember.

Ogilvy: Okay. How about the name of the student that argued the case?

0:47:00

Wolf: That's a very good question, too. Her – she's now with a law firm. I have had no more contact with her actually. She's with a law firm, or was with a law firm in Baltimore. But I've got the briefs, and I can easily get that for you.

Ogilvy: That'd be terrific. Yeah. I'm sorry. I interrupted you.

Wolf: Actually, one of the interesting things that came out of that case was we had tried to get postal authorities to go after these people too. And they brought an action against me, against – the postal authority investigator and a couple of – I mean, they went down the list. And they filed the suit in the Federal District Court in D.C. And I got dismissed, but there was a written opinion. Judge Silber wrote the opinion – I think he dissented –

0:48:00 I'm not sure. But they dismissed me. They held the others in the case. So every time I have to fill in if I ever had a malpractice suit filed against me, yes, I have. And so alleging that we had violated God knows what – but I think I got off on government immunity since I was special assistant attorney general – not that I wouldn't have won anyway, but that was the issue. We had two other – the cases that went to the Court of Special Appeals were health care cases. So we were involved in violation of the health clubs. People were not making the refunds the way they were supposed to, and so those cases went to the Court of Special Appeals – and I think two or three of those.

There were two other cases that I can think of. And one of the cases was there was a

0:49:00 brass bed dealer out of Berlin, Maryland. And we went down – I and another staff attorney from the Consumer Protection Division went down to – not Berlin – I can't remember what the county seat is down there – and filed – got a temporary restraining order against this company. And that's the first time the Consumer Protection Division had ever gone for a temporary restraining order. So that was –

And then we had a case that was a guy who was selling gold through the mail, gold chains, gold watches. And he got hit in a couple of jurisdictions. He spent time in the pokey; but we were – we had a hearing against him, a long administrative hearing. And
0:50:00 then we ended up going into court to try and enforce the stay. So those are the cases –

Ogilvy: Then after that money went away, you started doing the Criminal Defense Clinic. Why did you start a criminal defense clinic? Your background doesn't scream criminal defense.

Wolf: Good question. I wanted to learn criminal defense. And one of the wonderful things about teaching for me is that it gives you incredible flexibility to move into other areas. I had done a little way early in my life – some criminal defense. I thought it was an area I ought to know and wanted to know. A colleague who was doing criminal defense said, "You know, we could certainly use two criminal defense clinics." And so he helped me out with materials. And the first year we sort of merged the two classes. So I had a mentor at least for the first semester.

Ogilvy: Who was that?

0:51:00

Wolf: A guy named Jerry Deise, who had been a public defender in D.C. – in Maryland. Had run their death penalty program and came to the clinic and now runs our trial advocacy program and does Criminal Defense Clinic, and does a really good job. Our trial team just won a couple of big competitions. So he's doing great.

Ogilvy: And you did that for several years?

Wolf: I did that for three or four years, I think. And then I got involved in alternative dispute resolution. Maryland – I'm trying to think – '86, '87? I don't think it was '82 or '83,

0:52:00 because that's when I had just started. Maryland State Bar started an alternative – they set up a special committee to look at alternative dispute resolution in the state, and they

asked Dean Kelly, who was the dean then, if anybody on the faculty wanted to be the reporter. And so he sent out this [inaudible] and I said sure, not knowing what I was

getting into. But it sent me into the direction of alternative dispute resolution. So I

have – since then – I mean, I was the reporter while I was still doing criminal defense.

And then when criminal defense sort of – I decided that it was time to move out of that.

Actually, I know what happened. Before I got into – I got a grant from the Maryland Legal Services program to start a mediation program for CINA cases. That was it. I

0:53:00 had been doing the ADR, and I had some conversations with the court and with

Maryland Legal Services about – and with a colleague who was doing some of the

cases. We put in an application for a grant to start a CINA mediation program. I had sent –

Ogilvy: What does CINA stand for?

Wolf: CINA is Children in Need of Assistance. And I spent time – we applied for a state judicial – one of those state federal courts – state court. I’m blocking what it is – . [TESLOFF (sp)] funds it to get money from them. And they had said that they liked it. They couldn’t fund it this year. Come back next year; we’d get funded. In the meantime, I got a grant from the Maryland Legal Services program to run this CINA program. And I did that for two years. I hired somebody who was a social work student – a social worker. And the clinic combined social work students and law students. And we had an office down at the courthouse and were mediating these cases. It took us probably a year and a half before we started really getting enough cases from – because the welfare workers were – they said, “What are you doing differently than what we’re doing?” And they were resistant, and they didn’t want to refer cases. The lawyers – what was supposed to happen is we were supposed to get cases flowing from the welfare department. And just before they decided to – once they had decided the children should be removed from the home or they needed to be put in protective custody, they were supposed to refer to us to see if it was something appropriate for mediation. And certainly the lawyers in the welfare department, before they prosecuted the case, were supposed to – we’d get some. We had a good number of them actually,

but not as many as we should have gotten. I did that for about two years, and I decided this was not what I wanted to spend my life on. The model that we used was about eight mediation sessions, two hours apiece. I mean, we were moving incrementally. You've got families – we had three generations of people sitting in the room. We'd have the welfare worker. We'd have the case worker. We'd have the foster home worker. We'd have the parents, the grandparents, the whatever it was. Some of them worked beautifully, but some of them – I just decided this was not what I wanted to do.

0:56:00 So I shifted to just doing a mediation clinic. And that's basically what I've been doing since.

Ogilvy: Where do you get your cases from?

Wolf: We get cases from a couple of sources. We go down to district court in Baltimore two days a week and wander around the courtrooms. And the clerks know us. The clerks – there's now a program in place in Maryland, so we get – we just wander around the clerks, and then we say "You got any cases that look appropriate for mediation?" And then they say, "Well, we have. We'll call the people out in the hall." And if they're interested, we'll mediate it in the library in the courthouse. We get cases. Once they are at issue, what happens in Maryland is a small claims case gets filed, the other side is supposed to send in a notice that they intend to defend – although a lot of times they don't. And if they do send in the notice, then the case gets rescheduled about 60 days

0:57:00 away. One of the clerks – there's actually a coordinator who goes through those cases

and will send to us those cases that are appropriate. There's a community mediation program in our program. And so she'll divide them among the two. And we'll get those ahead of time, and we call the parties and say, "Are you interested in mediating?," and try to persuade them. If we get 30 percent of those that are willing to go to mediation, we're doing a great job.

We will get community organizations that will refer cases. We're reaching out into the law school – the campus, not so much the law school, because I'm not sure how comfortable law students would be. But within the campus we've gotten cases.

0:58:00 Students – we'll get an occasional – we get some criminal cases from the court. My students graduate, they go off to clerk, and clerking for judges they'll refer some of the criminal cases too – criminal cases being harassment, some assault, some neighborhood disputes – cases that the court isn't going to be able to resolve, whether they decide the case or not decide the case. So we're starting now. I've been working on a center. So this will hopefully grow into more than just the clinic.

Ogilvy: What's the vision for the center?

Wolf: I guess I'm still trying to refine it. What's happened – we held last year – we sort of kicked it off last year with a conference –

Ogilvy: Actually, why don't we stop right here and change the tape. I want to go a little bit

longer if we can, if you don't mind. But we're coming to the end of this tape. We were talking about the vision for that mediation center that you –

0:59:00

Wolf: It's actually a conflict resolution center. And we kicked it off about a year ago with a conference [on alternative] dispute, in which we looked at ADR in the health care area. One of the nice things about the Maryland campus is the professional schools are all sort of located together. And it clearly has a health care focus [inaudible] the campus. We have a strong health law program at the law school. And so in collaboration with the health law center program, the medical school, we got the medical school to support and the nursing school, and we held the conference. And the conference has evolved a continuing relationship with the medical school and the nursing school. And hopefully I'll be able to pull in the other schools on the campus: the social work school, the dental school, the pharmacy school. We've been working on a course that will be a collaborative course with at least the medical school and nursing school and the law school that's going to be offered next fall on conflict resolution, in which hopefully we'll get students from each of the three schools, and if we get the social work school, four schools. And we will teach them principles of conflict resolution as well as put them into simulations where they will be experiencing what they will be doing out in real life, and hopefully will be able to shift the way they resolve conflicts before they get out into those conflicts. And so hopefully one part of it would be the health care part of it, working with – and either they would be on the board, a set of representatives from medical school and the nursing school, or at least involved, so that we would do

1:00:00

some training programs for executive training programs for health care professionals on
1:01:00 conflict resolution. Another avenue is within the school. So we're going to have a
concentration in conflict resolution which won't mean creating more than maybe one
more course, two more courses at best, because we've already got it. It's just letting
people pick up a concentration and get a certificate. With that also is integrating more
into all the other courses – ADR simulations, ADR components – working with the
other faculty to do that. Then there's this whole working within the judiciary – with the
judiciary, which I have been doing for a long time on ADR, sort of being a back-up.
We've got a center that's funded through the course called MACRO, Maryland
Mediation and Conflict Resolution Organization, which has really done wonders in
1:02:00 terms of shifting the whole mystique of the practice of law – but not just the attitude of
the judiciary, because Chief Judge Bell has looked at this as society. And so he said
they're working on education areas, they're working on the government, they're
working with the courts, they're working with the police department. And I would see
this center as being a complement to that so that we can do research for the courts. We
can help become a resource for programs that the court has been thinking about in that
regard. We are doing – I have done for the last four or five years a directory of conflict
resolution practitioners. I got some money from MACRO to put this online, so we're
going to put it online. We're going to be up probably by March – it keeps getting
1:03:00 pushed forward a little bit. But it will be part of the Maryland Legal Assistance
Network Web site, which is a Web site that's supported by the Maryland Legal Services
Program. It will be a full Web site on – you click on, and it's dispute resolution. It will

talk about what is mediation, what should I be looking for in selecting a mediator. And it'll have hyperlinks to all sorts of other Web sites that are out there, other programs, community mediation. It will also have a listing that's a voluntary listing for people. You fill in the form. You get listed what your background is, what your practice is. So that if I'm looking for a mediator in Western Maryland who does divorce, I can plug in that; or if I'm looking for Sandy Ogilvy, I can plug that in, and up will come either – if I do it the first way, I'll get a list of who are the mediators. If I plug in the name, I'll get a

1:04:00 list of the name. But I can click on the name and it'll have all the information that person has filled out. So it should be a real resource. As part of that, we'll also have – and I think that the students hopefully will be able to maintain, you know, articles. So we'll put articles up on the Web site about conflict resolution and opportunities for people to do a little piece, a comment and whatever it may be. We'll see how – I'm not sure how it'll develop, but I see great opportunities there. We will continue to offer, you know, the mediation clinic, but I think also we'll be a resource for doing either trainings for state – doing systems design, doing for agencies – because we are a state agency. We may have the ability, without formal bidding on contracts, to get some

1:05:00 opportunities to do that. I don't see us doing a journal or – I mean, there are enough journals out there right now. And, I'm not – unless I can find the money to hire a number of people, there's no way we'll do a journal. The real – I think if this makes it, it's only going to be if we can get some money. And given the tight squeeze right now, I'm not sure.

Ogilvy: Yeah. I guess those are the obvious questions. Who's going to fund this, and what kind of army are you going to have behind you to do this?

Wolf: That's exactly right. I have some money right now that I used to hire a deputy that's a one-year grant. We've got to find either more grant money or get the president behind us. The dean's behind me; the associate dean, Diane Hoffmann. I've taught with Karen [Rothenberger]. We've taught a course on ADR and health care. So she's supportive, but she doesn't have money. So we've got to find some big source of money.

1:06:00

Ogilvy: That's fascinating. Good luck. Wow. When you joined the faculty at Maryland, what was your status?

Wolf: I am a contractual employee.

Ogilvy: Still?

Wolf: Still.

Ogilvy: To this day?

Wolf: To this day. I have – Maryland is absolutely wonderful in that regard – I have absolutely full privileges comparable to tenured faculty. What I can't do is vote on anybody who is above me. I am at this point a law school professor. I have five years –

in fact, I'm just up for – it's the penultimate – so they're doing my review at this point. But salary wise, I'm comparable. Committees, I'm on all the committees. I have full voting rights on all matters. I directed the clinic and I was director of the clinic for a couple of years. I get sabbaticals. But I can vote on assistant professors. I think they even get to vote on associate tenured professors, but I certainly don't get to vote on – and believe me, I don't care about that, that's not an issue that I'm – so all the issues that I care about, I'm treated on parity with everybody else on the faculty.

[Tape cuts out] We have about three or four others of us that are still on that, although most of the hires now, they are looking at tenure track. So our clinic, for example, we have – the new hires are tenure track. We just hired Michael Pinard and – why am I blocking – Sameer [Ashar] – to people on tenure track we've hired. Our director, Tom Perez, we hired on tenure track. We've got a new person, well, Mike Millemann, who's in the clinic, is tenured. Stanley Herr, who was in the clinic, was tenured. Barbara Bezdek, who's not full-time clinic, but is clinic, LTP tenured. And then we've got Rena Steinzor in our Environmental Clinic, is tenured. But we've got Susan Leviton whose family – the same status I am; Jerry Deise, same status I am; Brenda Blom, same status I am. From my perspective, I love the five-year contract.

Ogilvy: When you went to Maryland, you said that the ground was prepared. Did the vines come up?

Wolf: No, no, the ground wasn't – actually the ground wasn't prepared. We bought a farm –
1:09:00 we spent – what happened, Judy looked at about 50 farms, because I was still teaching. She came back and she didn't start working right away. And so I was teaching at Catholic. It was my last year at Catholic. She ran out looking for farms and looked at 50 farms. And finally we ended up buying this farm, absolutely gorgeous farm. More money than we really wanted to pay, and I persuaded Judy we could, of course, swing it – probably was not a wise decision, because we struggled from the time we bought it to the time we went to settlement. It was as though somebody took a vacuum cleaner and sucked all the – and interest rates. It was when interest rates just went kapooey. And we had a mortgage that was a floating mortgage. And I think our mortgage went from 9 percent up to 20 percent over the course of, you know, five years, six years, seven years – I can't remember – I know we were dying. We put in the vines. We learned about
1:10:00 vineyards, went up to New York, their extension service; went down to Virginia, which had a good support organization, started a grape grower organization. Put the vines in, started a winery. And the kids grew up. We got out of the [inaudible]. The kids grew up and moved on, and we lost our help, and it became hard work. And we decided that [inaudible]. So by now – at the end, a couple of wineries were taking care of the vineyards. But then that stopped. And so we've taken out the vines. But we won all sorts of awards with our grapes and our wines. We won a gold medal in Eastern wine tasting. It was fun.

Ogilvy: What was it called?

Wolf: Catoctin Vineyards. It still exists, although we're not – our winemaker, I think, owns it completely. There were two vineyards and a winemaker. And it was heady, but a lot of work and a lot of money. And for Judy and me, it was a major commitment. For the other two, one of our partners, the other vineyard, this was not as substantial a commitment. And the winemaker was full-time. But after about two years, I think, we just decided that in terms of the winery we didn't have convergent interests with our partners. And as I was getting out of it, I mentioned it to a friend who said, "You know, I think there's a place in heaven for partners who like each other." You think because you want to make good wine you care about the same things, that you'll be able to get along. And I think that there were a lot of other issues.

Ogilvy: Over your career in clinical legal education, you've done a lot of things. And you're now starting, at least if not a new direction, a larger role in conflict resolution. Have you thought about what the future of clinical legal education might be in this country, given all the constraints, the finances and whatnot?

Wolf: I have no worries that it's going to disappear. It is very hard to maintain the staff that – I don't want to say "staff" – the number of faculty members – fully – full-time clinical that for example we have now at Maryland. It's a constant struggle with the rest of the faculty in terms of resources. What I hope is going to happen is what we have had some success with at Maryland – we sort of stopped it, and I think we're coming back to it actually, when we started our legal theory and practice program, the initial concept

was we hired four full-time faculty members with money that was appropriated by the legislature. They – Congressman Ben Cardin did a study, and I don't know the background on any of this, but did a study for the legislature about the delivery of legal services support people. And the conclusion was it was terrible. And so the legislature provided funds for both of the law schools, and we chose to take this money and create

1:14:00 a new program that would train first-year first semester, second semester first-year, first semester second-year students in a program called Legal Theory and Practice. It would take a traditional course – so Procedure, Property, Torts, whatever – and that there would be a classroom component, and then there would be an additional couple of credits for experiential. So do we bring in – you take the theory, apply it to the practical. And the thinking when we created that was that this would be the great introduction to the clinical program, which people would end up in in the third year. And that what would happen by doing this would be that we would get other members of the faculty involved in rotating through, so that clinicians could rotate up and down this continuum into the classroom, back. It happened a little bit. And then there became tension between legal theory and practice in clinic. Am I not experiential? I

1:15:00 think that we're through that issue so that we now have a number of faculty members who are I guess you might characterize as traditional faculty members, but nonetheless are very interested in getting involved in experiential components to their classroom. So my hope is that what happens is that we are hiring people who are interested not just in writing the best law reviews and advancing the field theoretically, but that a majority – a number of them, maybe a majority – not a majority – are also interested in applying

– seeing how this theory applies so that they are going to get enrolled with the experiential part of it. I think that we are well past the stage where we can say we’re going to turn people out to be lawyers and they’ve never been involved with a client.

1:16:00 They’ve never been involved with a case. I think that that part of clinical education is firmly entrenched in the law schools. And so I can’t believe that we will end up back before clinic. I guess one of the scary parts is we’re getting into long-distance learning. So how do you keep clinical education alive through long-distance learning? And I’m not – I mean, I can think of how you would do it, but I think you’ve got to require – and hopefully what would happen eventually is that this would be an absolutely – you don’t graduate unless you have done some experiential [inaudible]. So I have no worries about that.

Ogilvy: Terrific. Thank you. Is there anything else that we haven’t touched on as yet?

Wolf: No. I think we’ve covered it all. Talked more than I thought I would.

Transcription of audio taken from video -- By: Sabrina Hilliard