

Evo DeConcini  
Oral History Project:  
Arizona Legal History

Interview with Thomas Chandler  
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THE EVO DECONCINI ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: ARIZONA LEGAL HISTORY

HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1985, James F. McNulty, Jr., former U.S. Congressman from Arizona and currently an attorney with Bilby and Shoenhair in Tucson, proposed that the Arizona Historical Society develop an oral history project to collect the reminiscences of senior judges and lawyers in Southern Arizona. As a former partner in one of the oldest law firms in the state, in Bisbee, he had long been aware of the wealth of information and experience expressed in many of his colleague's lives and careers, some of whom had been practicing law for over fifty years. In an effort to preserve and disseminate their stories and observations about the profession, the Archives Department of the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson developed a pilot program focused on Southern Arizona, with the goal of collecting the reminiscences of fifteen to twenty individuals associated with the legal profession over the last fifty years.

The project was funded through a challenge grant made by Roy Drachman and money subsequently donated by members of the Pima County Bar Association and the DeConcini family. At Mr. Drachman's request, the project was named for the late Judge Evo DeConcini, a highly-respected member of the Arizona Bar and a long-time friend.

Most of the interviews were conducted between 1986 and 1988, by Mr. McNulty. Interviews were also conducted by Robert

Palmquist, Jack August, and Adelaide Elm. Additional interviews with judges and attorneys conducted previously for other oral history projects were included with the DeConcini Project, to expand the scope of the project. The narrators, representing both rural and urban practices, were identified for inclusion by Mr. McNulty and other members of the State Bar. They included three judges, sixteen attorneys, the wife of a former state Supreme Court justice, and the legal secretary of one of the oldest law firms in the state. All transcripts and tapes are available to the public at both the Arizona Historical Society and the University of Arizona College of Law.

In addition to preserving the recollections of legal practitioners in Southern Arizona, the Evo DeConcini Legal History Project has spurred the collection and preservation of primary documents relating to legal history, such as day books, client ledgers, correspondence and photographs from law firms and individuals connected with the profession. It is hoped that the DeConcini Project will serve as a model for the collection of such memoirs and historic materials on a state-wide basis.

THE EVO DECONCINI ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: ARIZONA LEGAL HISTORY

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 43 cassette tapes (60 to 90 minutes in length), thirty-two 1/4-inch audio tapes, and twenty-one transcripts produced for the "Evo DeConcini Oral History Project: Arizona Legal History" by the Archives Department of the Arizona Historical Society between 1986 and 1988.

The collection is arranged in two series: (1) Oral interviews conducted for the project; and (2) Oral interviews gathered from other projects.

Series One consists of fifteen interviews: (1) Charles Ares; (2) Ralph W. Bilby; (3) Thomas Chandler; (4) Elizabeth Daume; (5) Ora DeConcini; (6) Gordon Farley; (7) Martin Gentry; (8) Thomas L. Hall; (9) Virginia Hash; (10) Norman Hull; (11) Ashby I. Lohse; (12) James F. McNulty, Jr.; (13) James Murphy; (14) Alton C. Netherlin; (15) Joseph C. Padilla; and (16) Wesley Polley. Interviews 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 13 were conducted by Mr. McNulty. Interviews 11, 14, 15 and 16 were done by Robert Palmquist. Adelaide Elm conducted interviews 4, and 9, and Jack August conducted interview 12.

Series Two consists of five interviews: (17) Harry Gin; (18) Don Hummel; (19) Hayzel B. Daniels; (20) Rubin Salter; (21) Rose Silver. The Gin interview was conducted by Bonita Lam for the "Chinese in Tucson" project; Don Bufkin, Acting

Executive Director of the Arizona Historical Society, conducted the Hummel interview; Richard Harris and Carol Jensen conducted the Daniels interviews; Baiza Muhammad interviewed Salter for the African-American History Internship Project; and Rose Silver was interviewed by Mary Melcher for the "Women and Work: An Aural History," a joint project of the Arizona Humanities Council and the University of Arizona.

The bulk of the collection deals with the experiences and observations of these individuals relating to the legal profession in Southern Arizona over the last sixty years. The interviews document the following topics: education preparatory to the profession (law school, reading law, the bar exam); legal practice during the Depression, and the influence of the New Deal; relationships between the legal profession and politics; the role of judges vis a vis the Bar; the increasingly litigious nature of society; the effect of social changes on the practice of law; the experiences of women and minorities in the profession; and post-World War II changes in the legal system. Of particular interest are anecdotes about particular cases and clients; histories of several old law firms in Southern Arizona; University of Arizona Law School professors and courses of study; opportunities some had to practice law without a law degree; and remembrances of the colorful individuals who influenced the profession in Territorial days and early statehood.

The collection is valuable for its comprehensive look at

the law profession in Southern Arizona over the first half of this century, and its emphasis on the changes which have occurred within the profession during that period.



Thomas Chandler Interview

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### Thomas Chandler Interview

Thomas Chandler was born in Knowles, Oklahoma, November 11, 1920. Both his mother and father were school teachers. The family moved often from town to town, primarily in Oklahoma and Arkansas, and by the time Chandler was in high school he had lived in fourteen or fifteen places. At age fifteen he came to Parker, Arizona, where he graduated from high school in 1938.

Chandler worked at various times on the construction of the Parker Dam until he graduated from the University of Arizona in 1942 with a B.A.

Since Chandler was unable to join the armed forces during World War II, he worked on the construction of Marana Air Base in 1943, until he decided to return to the University and attend law school. He graduated from the University of Arizona Law School and was admitted to the Bar in 1948.

Chandler's first job as a lawyer was for Evo DeConcini's law firm. He was next hired by the firm of Darnell, Robertson and Holesapple. In 1952 he established his own firm in partnership with Charles Dennis McCarty. The firm of McCarty and Chandler has grown over the years to the nineteen-lawyer firm of Chandler, Tullar, Udall, and Redhair of today.

This interview focuses on Chandler's experiences as a trial lawyer for forty years in Arizona. He discusses changes in the practice of law and in criminal justice procedures. He often illustrates his points with anecdotes about law cases

with which he is familiar. He gives personal sketches of many prominent lawyers and judges he has known, including J. Mercer Johnson, Evo DeConcini, and Morris K. Udall.

In this interview Chandler shows his interest in education for the law; the ways in which law schools affect the practice of law; and how law schools influence the relationships of lawyers within the communities in which they live. He also conveys his particular concern for attitudes within the profession toward public service, pro bono work, and human values, in general.

The interview concludes with a discussion of women and minorities in the law.

THOMAS CHANDLER INTERVIEW

Today is Tuesday, May 3, 1988, and I'm James McNulty. I am in the process of conducting another interview for the Evo DeConcini oral legal history project. And it is our pleasure today to be interviewing one of Southern Arizona's most widely-known and respected lawyers, Tom Chandler.

McNulty: Tom, good afternoon and welcome.

Chandler: Good afternoon.

McNulty: You were born in a place called Knowles, Oklahoma, is that right?

Chandler: That's right. [November 15, 1920]

McNulty: Have you got any memories of Knowles?

Chandler: I left at three weeks and my recollection of the town is rather fuzzy at this time.

McNulty: Did your affection for the town ever prompt you to return there?

Chandler: I returned there about three years ago. Went back, and it had grown. It was sixty-five when I was born and it had reached the population of sixty-seven upon my return. It's a little town in Beaver County, Oklahoma.

McNulty: You subsequently wound up getting a high school diploma from Parker, Arizona?

Chandler: Right.

McNulty: In between those two times, how many different places did you live?

Chandler: Fourteen or fifteen.

McNulty: Where were they?

Chandler: I went from Knowles, Oklahoma, to Texas. I went from Texas to Uncle Lou's place. I went from Uncle Lou's place to Cederdale. I went from Cederdale to the Brown place. I went from the Brown place to the Green place.

McNulty: Were these all in Texas?

Chandler: No. These were back in Oklahoma. I left from Texas back to Oklahoma. I went then to the Morgan place, which was west of Woodward, Oklahoma. Then to Mooreland, Oklahoma, a little town near Woodward. Then to Twenty-second Street to Fourteenth Street, to Eighth Street, to Third Street, to the hatchery. And now I'm in the sixth grade. And I'm out of the sixth grade and I go to Hot Springs, Arkansas.

McNulty: Did you stay there for a while?

Chandler: Four years.

McNulty: Go to school all that time?

Chandler: All that time.

McNulty: What was your dad doing while you were living in Hot Springs?

Chandler: Well, he was most of the time trying to find a job. It was right in the height of the Depression and there was virtually nothing for him to do. He worked a little bit. He could do almost anything, and he worked some. We lived on a little farm there

in Arkansas.

McNulty: How big was the family?

Chandler: Seven. Mother, father and the five children.

McNulty: After four years of schooling in Hot Springs, which was up to that time, the longest that you'd lived in any one place, wasn't it?

Chandler: Right. That was the longest stay in any one place.

McNulty: Where did you go then?

Chandler: We went to Stockton, California, up in the central valley. And there for a while, and then to a little town in, Tracy California, not far from Stockton in the central valleys.

McNulty: Was this part of the Great Depression migration from Arkansas and Oklahoma to Central Valley, California?

Chandler: Yes. And after a little while in Tracy, I learned that my line of work was not pea picking. Under conditions that were not too favorable, and for a gentleman who, I swore if I lived long enough, would sometime go back and find him and punch him right in the kisser. And thirty-some years later, I went back to the town and couldn't find him. He had died. But someone said, "If you want to talk to Mr. Gomez's son, he's standing over there in front of the police department. He is that officer." And Mr. Gomez had produced a son about six-four and two-thirty and not an ounce of fat on him, so I elected

not to discuss my beef with the father with the son.  
But I was there until I left and came to Arizona.

McNulty: When you came to Arizona, did you come to Parker?

Chandler: No. I came to--I was really coming to, trying to get to Tucson. But I had a dispute with the railroad company and I got off of their train in Salome. And I stayed there for a summer. Then I went to Parker, that being the closest place to go to school.

McNulty: What was going on in Parker at the time?

Chandler: They were building the dam.

McNulty: Davis Dam?

Chandler: The Parker Dam.

McNulty: Parker Dam.

Chandler: Yes. They hadn't started the actual dam work. They were driving the diversion tunnels. The J.F. Shey Company drove two diversion tunnels. And they were doing that. And then there had started some work on the aqueduct. The metropolitan water district aqueduct that would take the water from Parker Dam into Southern California. And other than that, that's about the size of what was happening in Parker. It was a very small little place then and most of the people who worked on the dam and the aqueduct lived in California, across the river.

McNulty: Were you by yourself, now, or was your family

together?

Chandler: Well, it was sort of an off and on situation. They were there part of the time and not, part of the time. All the time I had my two brothers with me and then my sisters sort of came and went and my mother and father came and went.

McNulty: Did you ever work around the dam or any of the . . .

Chandler: Yes.

McNulty: . . . ancillary projects?

Chandler: Yes.

McNulty: What kind of work did you do?

Chandler: Well, I was a chuck tender for a while. That is a person who works with a miner who is drilling the holes in the tunnel. And I was not old enough to work and so I had difficulty. And what I'd do, I would make up shifts for people. If a person didn't want to go in I'd take his badge and his number and--they identified you with a number, timekeepers. And then on the aqueduct, that was a project that had to do with, not only building the ditch, but it was a public works project for the district. So to work there, on the aqueduct, you had to live in the district and you had to give what we would call a card. That would entitle you to work. You had to be certified to be a resident of the district. The only exception was if they needed skilled people



that, and they didn't have enough in the pool in the district then they would let outsiders come in.

Like a powder monkey or a special master mechanic or something, but pretty generally all the help came from the district. And you had to have what they called a picture card, with your picture on it. And the people would want to take a long weekend or take time off, why, I was available for that duty. And you'd just, people didn't care, the bosses didn't care. A lot of inspectors, and you had to be sure that the card was pretty muddy when the inspector showed up, or be careful. And so you had to watch that. I didn't consider it to be bootlegging. I guess it really was, but I worked there.

McNulty: Given the economic times, those were very good jobs at very good wages, were they not?

Chandler: Yes, comparatively speaking. They paid, they only paid \$0.50 an hour in the tunnel, G. F. Shay, and you worked six hours. So you made three bucks a shift. Later the rate got a little better. But even in 1939, when they built what we called the Headgate Rock Dam there at Parker, and that was, the rate for common labor was \$0.62 1/2 an hour. That's \$5.00 a shift. And for skilled--I was an ironworker then, and ironworkers made \$9.00 a shift, \$1.125 an hour. The scale was ten, \$1.25. But it wasn't all

that great.

McNulty: How long were you in Parker?

Chandler: I was there from 1935, when I first went there, in 1935, until I left in 1938 to go to the university. And I went back and worked there in the summertimes.

McNulty: Did you graduate from Parker High School?

Chandler: Parker High School.

McNulty: How big was the graduating class?

Chandler: I think thirteen of us. About thirteen. I'm not too sure they all graduated. We had, I think, thirteen seniors and some of our youngsters would disappear after the last baseball game.

McNulty: Were there Indian children in the high school?

Chandler: Yes. Yes, quite a number. As a matter of fact, on the basketball team my senior year and other years too, but particularly in the senior year, there were four Indians, Indian youngsters, and myself.

McNulty: These were Indians from the Colorado River Reservation?

Chandler: For the most part. We had one person from, who was a Pima Indian, the Gila River, and I think we had one who was a Chimihuevi. But the rest of them were Mojaves.

McNulty: Did Parker have a regular athletic program with all the sports?

Chandler: Off and on. Yes. It had a good, a relatively good

program. But football was out for a little bit because a youngster was killed the first year I was there. And it was put on the shelf. But those in high school who wanted to play played for the Indian team. And that was a team that was sponsored by the Presbyterian church, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They helped finance it.

McNulty: Did they play just other Indian teams?

Chandler: No. No, we played high schools and town teams. Then people had town teams. Needles had one, Yuma had one. We played some Indian teams. We played Sacaton. Played Phoenix Indian School. But played other high schools. In fact we played, one rather sad event was when they dedicated the bridge at Parker--sad in certain respects--they dedicated the bridge at Parker in 1937. Had a big to-do over it because until then there had been no bridge for people to, motor vehicles to cross the river. They had a railroad bridge but nothing else. And people went by ferries across, back and forth across the river. So at the dedication of the bridge they had all kinds of events and one event was a football game against the Phoenix Colored High School. Now that was the name of the school. That was the school's name. About the same time that that game was going on, Phoenix Union High School, which was

one of the largest in the United States, seven or eight thousand students, they were in Pullman cars on their way to play Cathedral High in San Francisco. And on this very hot September or morning, into Parker came that team, in a hand-me-down bus that someone had given them. The coach was the bus driver. They got the guarantee of the money they were going to get for coming to play. They went down to a grocery store, bought some bologna, bread and milk, and they sat in the shade of the high school and had their luncheon meal, pre-game meal. Consisting of bologna, bread and milk. And then played football, and went back. And it made you sort of take an inventory of values when you saw that.

McNulty: Were you a good student in high school?

Chandler: Not particularly.

McNulty: Where did you graduate in the class?

Chandler: Oh, I don't, can't tell you.

McNulty: Top thirteen?

Chandler: (laughs) Top thirteen. I didn't spend all my time in school. During that period of time, I had a couple of brothers that were not old enough to work, so I was pretty busy keeping them up and going.

McNulty: What made you think you wanted to go to the University of Arizona?

Chandler: Well, after I got to Arizona I made a determination that it was the better, or the best of the three institutions, and that's where I wanted to go. It was a university and neither institution, N.A.U. which was in Flagstaff, or Tempe, Arizona State which was in Tempe, were universities. They were colleges, teacher's colleges.

McNulty: Had anyone in your family ever gone to any higher education?

Chandler: My mother. My mother had gone to Canyon Normal School in Canyon, Texas, which is out of Amarillo-- which is now West Texas State. And she did what so many school teachers of her day did, and that was to go teach and then go and teach and go, as you could, until--and she went, I think probably, two years after she'd gone to school. But my father had not. He didn't finish high school. But he taught school.

McNulty: Did your mother ever teach school regularly?

Chandler: Well, yes, early on. I think two years. Two or three years in Texas. And then from time to time in Oklahoma, she taught. My father taught in Oklahoma at two or three different, three or four different schools. Country schools. You would take an examination and get a certificate, teacher's certificate. And if you'd graduated from the eighth grade, you could teach, if you'd learned it, you

could teach up to the eighth grade. That's how he taught.

McNulty: Did you have any particular goal in mind when you came to the University of Arizona?

Chandler: Yes.

McNulty: What?

Chandler: (laughs) To play basketball. That's what I really came for.

McNulty: Had you played at Parker?

Chandler: Oh, yes. Yes. I played.

McNulty: You arrived here, then, in September of 1938?

Chandler: September, 1938.

McNulty: Did you go out for the basketball team?

Chandler: Yes I did.

McNulty: Who was the coach?

Chandler: Fred Enke.

McNulty: Do you remember any basketball players of that era?

Chandler: Oh, sure. Sure.

McNulty: Who were some name that stand out?

Chandler: Well, Wilmer Harper, Denny Jordan, Johnny Black, Dapper Dan Clarke, Don Gatchell, Les Westfall. Carl Berra was a very, very fine player. Dave McMillan played a little bit. Then as time went by, they had others that came in. But the year, the first year that I was there, I think that Tom Greenfield played for a while. And then he and Fred had a falling out

and he left. But Gatchell and Clarke and Johnny Black--Stewart [L.] Udall was playing that year. Yes, I remember most of them, over the years.

McNulty: How did you get the financial resources to go to the university?

Chandler: Well, I'd worked the summer before and there had been a misunderstanding between my employer and I of some substance. And so as a result I came pretty short. And that was the reason that I didn't play basketball, because I had to either work to stay in school or take the time off to play basketball. And I just had to--and I had a misunderstanding with the coach about working and playing basketball. He thought I wanted not to work. And I only wanted to work when I wasn't practicing. I couldn't do both at the same time, and we had some confusion over that issue. I just had to make a choice of whether I wanted to play basketball or go to school. And so I had no choice. I couldn't do both.

McNulty: What kind of jobs did you have?

Chandler: Well, I had the same job, or I worked for the same lady, for seven years.

McNulty: Who was that?

Chandler: Mary Adele Wood. One of the dear people who I've ever known in my life. She was a very sweet lady.

McNulty: What kind of work did you do for her?

Chandler: I was a dish washer, a glass dryer, a busboy, a fountain--a soda jerk, counter person, a banquet waiter, a butler and a cashier. I graduated to the exalted title of cashier. And that was what I did most of the time.

McNulty: This was food services program at the university?

Chandler: Right. Commons, they called it.

McNulty: Did you work there in summers as well?

Chandler: No. Every summer I went back to Parker.

McNulty: Were you normally able to find work there?

Chandler: Worked every summer.

McNulty: And members of the family were there even then?

Chandler: No.

McNulty: No?

Chandler: No. My brother was there one summer, perhaps two summers. But no, that just was a place I knew I could work and--one summer they were building the Headgate Rock Dam so there was employment there. Next summer I worked for Frank [G.] Benham who had a commissary up at Parker Dam, and then they started the power plant at Parker Dam--that was a later addition. They didn't build that at first. And I worked with the Bureau of Reclamation on that job and for him, both. So I always went back there in the summertime.

McNulty: What was your major at the University of Arizona?



Chandler: Originally political science. And then I majored in speech. Hard to believe, but true.

McNulty: Who are some of the professors of those two subjects that you best remember?

Chandler: A Dr. [Howard A.] Hubbard, who was in the history department. A gentleman named [Wilfred] Webb who was a political scientist, and he taught public administration I think. But he was a good one. I remember Dr. Houghton, Neal [D.] Houghton, who was quite a scholar and quite a provocative teacher. Dr. [Oswald H.] Wedel in the history department. Dr. [Russell C.] Ewing in the history department. But in the speech department, Alethea [E.] Mattingly, who is still around. I saw her not too long ago. Mary [E.] Huyck who left teaching and went into a Catholic order of some sort. And Professor Cable, Dr. [W. Arthur] Cable who was head of the department, who was quite an interesting gentleman. He was a great driver. He drove all over every road and on both sides and sometimes even off the road. (laughs) He abandoned the road all together and gave the road to others. But they were some of the--Webb was a little fellow whose daddy was a schoolteacher in Friendship, Arkansas. And that isn't on the map any longer, but it's still around. I checked that out, and it was a little town south

of Hot Springs. He was a very bright, interesting fellow. But I remember most of them.

McNulty: You graduated in 1942?

Chandler: In 1942.

McNulty: Did you then begin contemplating a career in the law or did that occur to you later?

Chandler: Well, I'm sure that I'd thought--growing up you want to do things. You want to play professional baseball, or you want to do a lot of things. I never had any ambition to--I'd thought of coaching and thought that was something I'd really like to do. Teach and coach. I'd thought of--but probably because for some reason you have the idea that being a lawyer, that would give you an opportunity to do some things that you couldn't do otherwise. I was mistaken about that perception, but you believe that you can really jump in and change a lot of things, which you really can't do. But probably the--it's a little fuzzy in my mind. I know that in the high school prophecy I would become another Clarence Darrow or some such thing, but I really probably decided to go to law school after I graduated. Really made that decision.

McNulty: When did you enter law school?

Chandler: In 1943.

McNulty: In the fall?

Chandler: In the fall of 1943.

McNulty: You laid out a year?

Chandler: Stayed away a year. I was in the ROTC program and I couldn't pass the physical for advanced and which was--I was going to retake it. But come Pearl Harbor I really didn't care because I couldn't see myself on a horse somewhere. And they had the horses here then. I would have preferred to have been off of a horse when the fighting was going on. (laughs) I thought they were awfully good for the Civil War, but I didn't think much of them for World War II. And I--at Pearl Harbor, you remember as well as I do, that the great feeling, almost universal feeling, was "We've got to do something about this right now." And everyone scrambled around. Took physicals. Got into programs to get into the service. I planned to go into the service and I made an attempt, several attempts, unsuccessfully. A friend of mine who I'd worked for--well I'd worked for the Bureau of Reclamation when he was the project engineer at Parker Dam. I never worked very closely with him, but I'd worked for the Bureau. And I'd worked for the contractor when he was there, too. He was at Marana Air Base--he was then in the service--Joe Fraps, a graduate of the University of Arizona. Clara Lee Tanner's

brother, the great anthropologist. He was recruiting people to go out and work at the airbase. He assumed, because I had been up at Parker Dam working with all the other engineering students, that I was an engineering student. He asked me if I had graduated, and I said I had. He offered me a job, and I said, "No. I'm going into the service." He said, "Well, if anything changes, let me know." And it changed. I didn't get in. So I thought, "Well, it would probably be as close to it as you could get if you worked at building airports." And also, I thought I had a very good chance, after talking to him, of getting in, of taking another physical and getting in the Corps of Engineers. And so I went to work for them. After a year and three months, I wasn't going to get in, and I didn't find my colleagues as nearly enthused about doing the war work efficiently and economically for the good of the cause. I was working with contractors and I was burned out.

McNulty: When you speak of the airport, which airport are you talking about?

Chandler: Marana Air Base. I went out there and was there for a good period of time when they were really putting it up. Then I left there and went to D-M [Davis-Monthan Air Base] for a matter of a short period of

time. And then I went to what we called the modification center, which was Grand Central. It was Consolidated, the old Consolidated plant out near the airport. Went out there and worked, and got fed up, quit, and worked for a contractor for a couple of weeks and then went to law school. Started.

McNulty: Did you begin in September of 1943?

Chandler: Yes.

McNulty: How big was the law school student body?

Chandler: Less than fifty. Less than forty.

McNulty: Spread over three classes?

Chandler: Three classes. I think there were four seniors. Four or five. Herb [Herbert] Mallamo I think was a mid-termer. McCarty was there. Palmer was there, I think. Gordon [G.] Aldrich was around. Not many second-year people. [Neil] Christensen, Ed [W. Edward] Morgan. Very few. And about eight or nine in the first-year class. Now we had some part-timers. We had a captain from D-M that came in; a chief of police, Harold [C.] Wheeler, would come in. Frances Roy, who became the dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and I think was a, I think he was a dean at that time. He might have been.

McNulty: Probably head of the French department.

Chandler: I think so. He was a French professor. But I think

we had about eight or ten people, regular ones.

McNulty: What professors particularly stand out in your mind?

Chandler: All of them. For one reason or another. We had, I think, a great mix. We had Feezer who taught an obscure course, taught torts and equity.

McNulty: Lester [W.] Feezer.

Chandler: Lester Feezer, and he taught some more specific courses, bills and notes. But he was a good teacher and a challenging teacher. He liked what he was doing. He liked people. He really did. Chester [H.] Smith was very good for first-year people, because he taught the property courses and the criminal law courses and the courses where you could be very positive about something. The rule is this. He was inclined to say, "This is it. You can put it down." And he got me in serious one day, telling us something and I asked, "What about this?" And it didn't help my cause. Dean [Samuel L.] Fegtly, who was a--he was older at the time and pressed back into service because of the war situation. Speight [William S.] Barnes taught in the physics department as well as the law school, because they needed people over there. J. [James] Byron McCormick was a wonderful teacher, and such a good person and such a good dean. He had all kinds of judgement and warmth and he respected everybody and everybody's position.

And it was a pretty much two-way street. And then we some people who--Claude [H.] Brown was there. Hardrock was his nickname, because his heart was like a rock, although he was a wonderful gentle soul. But he was, he believed in people learning something. And we had some visitors from time to time. We had Leland Stanford Forrest, who was a character from Iowa, came out and taught conflicts, constitutional law. And was quite a guy. He got into a tussle or two with some local people over overcharging him and he, I think he actually came to blows with one maitre d'. He was an interesting guy. Very nice fellow. Webster, Cal [Calvin] Webster, came along about that time. He taught corporations and that was most of them.

McNulty: You graduated in 1946?

Chandler: In 1946.

McNulty: With how many classmates?

Chandler: Well, I can't remember, because we had grown. Now the war is over and they're back. They're starting to come back and they came back at all levels. First year people were back. Stewart came back, Stewart Udall. And then the Watkinses came back, and the Kenny Rosengrens came back, and the Molloy's came back. Now [John F.] Molloy had already graduated at Kansas City University, but he was

eligible for a J.D. here, an earned J.D. It wasn't quite what you expect it to be, but it was at least partially earned, and he came back for that. So we had a pretty good-sized class when I graduated. But the going-in class was relatively small.

McNulty: Who were some of your particular pals in the graduating class?

Chandler: Well, I don't know if I had any. I reach that conclusion because I was a candidate for the presidency of the Student Bar Association and got no votes. So if that doesn't tell you something about who my pals were, why, nothing will. (laughs)

McNulty: You didn't go to the polls yourself?

Chandler: Yes, I went. I had better judgement than to vote for myself. (laughter)

McNulty: Was a bar review given in those days by Chester Smith?

Chandler: Yes, it was.

McNulty: Did you take it?

Chandler: Yes, I took it. I didn't go as diligently as I should, and I played games during it. It was, I wasn't very excited about it.

McNulty: Was this when he had the long-ago regimen of going at seven o'clock six mornings a week and at seven o'clock in the evening six more?

Chandler: Six more. I think so. And we called it the "Little



Bear School." It was at his home, and he went right to work. He didn't horse around. He got right with it. I couldn't, I wasn't very faithful in my attendance.

McNulty: You took the bar then?

Chandler: I took the bar.

McNulty: Passed it?

Chandler: Passed it.

McNulty: Did you know what you were going to do?

Chandler: No. Not then.

McNulty: So what did you do?

Chandler: I went to work for Evo DeConcini.

McNulty: Did he have a solo practice?

Chandler: Well, he was still on the bench, but he planned to get off the bench. And I think maybe Byron McCormick, who couldn't stand to see a person starve, probably told him, "You ought to pick up one of these young people, and we have some here that you might be interested in." But in any event, I heard that he was interested and I met him.

McNulty: Were you kind of a clerk, as we'd say today?

Chandler: For him?

McNulty: Yes.

Chandler: No. I didn't join him at the courthouse. I was admitted September 30 [1946], and he was still on the bench. He was superior court judge.

McNulty: But winding up a year?

Chandler: Yes. He was not going to run again. There were going to be two vacancies, because John [D.] Lyons intended to resign and go back to private practice. So there would be two spots open. Sidney Osborn, who was a very good friend of Evo's, and was the governor, asked Evo not to resign because it would force Sidney to appoint someone to replace Evo. And that would force him to make a choice between Lee Garrett, who had been a very strong political ally of his, and [J.] Mercer Johnson, who was very respected. And he thought it would give, and it would have given, someone an advantage in the primary [election], because you ran, everybody ran, and the first two won. And there was a Republican in the race. So Evo didn't resign until after the election. Then after the election, after it would have been determined who had won, why Osborn appointed Mercer to fill Evo's unexpired term. And Evo resigned. In the meantime I was over in his office, "practicing law alone." And that was a good description of what I was doing. (laughs)

McNulty: Where was the office?

Chandler: Valley Bank. Fourth floor of the Valley Bank.

McNulty: And the office consisted of, for the time being, only you?

Chandler: Well, I had company, because the Monterrey Water Company was in there--Evo's water company--and so we had the water company and me, and we had Romeo Cogliolo, a dear friend of mine and Evo's, who was the receptionist, and handled the phones, and-- 26409, that was the way we answered them--and Hassie Baker who was Evo's personal secretary, who'd worked for him for years and years. And so we had to keep the fort.

McNulty: But as soon as Evo DeConcini resigned did he move into the office?

Chandler: He moved in. Came into the office. And we were off and running.

McNulty: And functioned under the name of what? Law offices of Evo J. DeConcini?

Chandler: Right. I don't think it was J. Just Evo DeConcini.

McNulty: No, you're right. That's another Evo.

Chandler: Evo J. is his cousin, I think.

McNulty: So, now you and the judge together and what kinds of things do you do?

Chandler: Well, you name it, we did it. Anything that anyone wanted done, we did it. I tried a criminal case. He, being an ex-judge, and being someone who was well known, he had plenty to do. People started coming in with their problems. And, run of the mill. We didn't land any big bank or any big

utility or anything, but we had a general practice, tried cases.

McNulty: How long did that arrangement go on?

Chandler: Until 1948.

McNulty: What happened then?

Chandler: Well, in the course of events, the attorney general got indicted and convicted of a felony. That was John L. Sullivan. Which, pursuant to a statute, that was "unconstitutional", the governor attempted to remove him from his office, saying that he had to go. The statute says, "convicted of a felony, you're out." I ventured an opinion that you can't do that. I said, "If he's a constitutional officer and there's a means provided in the constitution for his removal [recall], that's the only way you can remove him." And I said, "All the cases say that." And the governor said, "Well, Mr. Chandler is a nice young man but he can't be suggesting that a felon can hold this office. I can't have this." And so they took it to the end of the street, the Supreme Court, and they said, "Of course we can't have this." And so out he went. And Evo became the attorney general. And he intended to run for the Supreme Court. That's something that Evo had wanted to do, and they were going to enlarge the court. So he intended to run.

McNulty: Who appointed Evo as attorney general?

Chandler: Sidney Osborn.

McNulty: He was still alive.

Chandler: He was still alive, and he appointed him. Then Evo was the attorney general and had all kinds of things dropped in his lap. All kinds of problems. But handled them well, as he would do. Then, when it was evident that he was going to go to the Supreme Court, I decided that I simply should not practice alone. He wanted me to keep the office open because he intended to return and he wanted to have a practice going. Not that he needed it, but just a sort of a practice going.

McNulty: Could you have gone to the attorney general's office with him?

Chandler: Oh, yes. Sure.

McNulty: Did he serve there for just a very brief period of time?

Chandler: Not too long. I can't remember the exact time. He would have been elected, I guess, in the fall of 1948. So I think he probably went in the spring of 1948. No, he went before that. He probably went in 1947 sometime. And then. . . .

McNulty: In the fall of 1948 did he run for attorney general or did he run for the Supreme Court?

Chandler: The Supreme Court.

McNulty: I see.

Chandler: And was elected.

McNulty: Yes.

Chandler: I'm sure it was then. It would have been then.

McNulty: So for a while you were back running the office again yourself in Tucson while he was in Phoenix.

Chandler: I was there alone. And then April 1, 1948, I went to work for the Darnell firm, Darnell, Robertson and Holesapple.

McNulty: Were they in the same Valley National Building?

Chandler: Right down the hall.

McNulty: Had you come to know some people in that firm while you were working in the DeConcini office?

Chandler: Yes.

McNulty: Who had you known particularly?

Chandler: All of them. But probably Larry [Lawrence V.] Robertson better than anyone else.

McNulty: Who invited you to join the firm?

Chandler: Larry Robertson.

McNulty: How many members of the firm were there at that time?

Chandler: Three.

McNulty: That would have been?

Chandler: Darnell, Robertson and Holesapple.

McNulty: And Judge Darnell, George [R.] Darnell had been a superior court judge in Pima County?

Chandler: For a short period of time. Yes. I think in 1928.  
Something like that. About that time.

McNulty: And the third member was A. V. Holesapple.

Chandler: A. V. Holesapple. Who's still around.

McNulty: What kind of a practice did the firm have?

Chandler: Oh, defense of insurance; casualty companies. They represented Tucson Gas. Represented Tucson Warehouse and Transfer. Represented Sundt Construction Company. They had a good general practice, substantial practice.

McNulty: One of the town's really prominent firms, was it not?

Chandler: Yes. Yes it was.

McNulty: Were there many other, what you would call "prominent" firms at that time?

Chandler: Well, the Bilby firm. And my recollection is that in 1945 [1946] the Bilby and Shoenhair, and they had [Ralph W.] Bilby, [T.K.] Shoenhair, and Harold [C.] Warnock, merged with Knapp, Boyle, Thompson, who had Arthur [S.] Henderson. And that was a huge firm. A huge firm. And they were the leading firm in town, in many ways. Numbers.

McNulty: They were also in the Valley Bank Building?

Chandler: They were in the high rent district. The firm of Conner and Jones was there, and they had Gerald Jones, Archie [R.] Conner, Charlie [Charles E.]

Conner, and Jimmie [James M.] Murphey. Later A.O. Johnson joined them and later other people, but that was that firm at the time. Now, Bill [William G.] Hall, who had left the bench, he had a firm, and it was Hall, Catlin, and Molloy, Ham [Hamilton R.] Catlin and John [F.] Molloy. And they were a three-person firm and active. They had a lot to do. Fred [W.] Fickett, Fickett and [William S.] Dunipace, they were. . . . But that was--and there were other firms. [Paul J.] Cella and [John W.] Ross. But those were the principal firms.

McNulty: What kind of work did you do with Darnell, Robertson, and Holesapple?

Chandler: Mainly tried cases.

McNulty: For the defense?

Chandler: Mainly. Not always, but mainly.

McNulty: And for how long did you do that?

Chandler: Four years to the day.

McNulty: What happened then?

Chandler: Well, I got fired before the four years was up, [laughs] but I stayed on little longer to finish up some of my work. And when that happened, why--as a matter of fact the firm grew. The Darnell firm grew. A year or so after I was there, I think in August a year later--it might have been the next August--but Charles McCarty, Charles Dennis McCarty,



who had been in the attorney general's office and was a local Tucsonian, wanted to come home. And he came back and joined the firm. And we got fired the same day.

McNulty: What reasons were advanced for terminating your services?

Tape 1, Side 2

Chandler: Well, it was, "It looks like that you boys want to, are thinking about leaving, or are not satisfied here, and we think you might as well just go ahead and leave."

McNulty: So, it was really kind of a close call as to whether it was a voluntary termination or an involuntary termination, wasn't it?

Chandler: Well, we had some points that we wanted them to consider. Some talking points, and they considered them and they didn't look with any great favor on our positions on these matters. And so they asked us to state our grievances. And I didn't have nerve enough to do it. I said, "Well, I think everybody knows what the problems are, and what. . . ." And I kind of beat around the bush and they kept insisting on a more definite statement and McCarty gave them one. And that was the end of that tune. (laughs)

McNulty: Did you and McCarty then go off and form your own firm?

Chandler: Yes. When they dismissed us, they said, "When do you want to leave?" And McCarty said, "Tomorrow morning." (laughs) That was a startling revelation. A lot to do, and a lot of cases. But he wanted to get started, and he said, "I won't leave anything undone, but I want to be on, I want to get started here. I have a client that would like to employ me and I'd like to get started." And then I said, "Well, I'll stay as long as I'm needed." And I stayed, that was February 1, and I stuck around February and March, two months. But after that I thought that I'd gotten most of my things taken care of, and agreed to try anything else they needed tried. There were some cases that should be tried. So we were off and running.

McNulty: Had the two of you tried cases on a fairly regular basis during that four-year period?

Chandler: Indeed. Very regular.

McNulty: Can you make an estimate of how frequently you went to court?

Chandler: Well, there were very few days that I wasn't there. Very few days during some of the time frames. Many, many cases in a year. And one right after another sometimes. Sometimes when one jury was out we'd be

picking another one. We worked Saturdays and we worked at night. Mercer Johnson would haul us back at night. I remember one case very vividly. New Year's Eve. The jury is out. Now it's not New Year, it's after midnight when they came back. They came back December 31st. We argued it on the thirtieth, finished arguing at about 11 o'clock at night, and sent the jury out. And they got a verdict real early in the morning on New Year's Eve. He worked you at night.

McNulty: Was this firm doing the vast majority of all the defense work in Pima County?

Chandler: Yes. Most of it. At that time.

McNulty: So when the two of you decided to fly by yourselves, first of all where did you go?

Chandler: Right down the hall. We went down to Evo DeConcini's office. (laughs) We stayed on the fourth floor here. We went down--Evo, in the meantime, had to have a place to light. And he had some space down there and he was thinking of coming back, now. He'd about had enough of judging. And so we talked him into letting us park in his quarters. And we went down there. Charlie went right then, and opened up.

McNulty: What did you call the firm?

Chandler: McCarty and Chandler.