David Knight: Just give me your name, spell your last name, and your title.

Joanne Parrilli: Joanne Parrilli, P-a-r-r-i-l-l-i, Associate Justice, California Court of Appeal, retired.

David Knight: Thank you. Justice Corrigan?

Carol Corrigan: Carol Corrigan, California Supreme Court. Not retired!

David Knight: All right, give me just a moment here, while I light my shot. And, I think we're all set to go, whenever you are ready.

Carol Corrigan: All right. This recording is being made as part of the Legacy Project, which is being conducted by the California Courts of Appeal oral history. And this morning we have with us retired Justice Joanne Parrilli from the First District Court of Appeal. Now, I know that your counsel has already advised you that you have the right to remain silent, but I'm assuming that you have waived that right. And as a result I am going to ask you – because I happen to know these things – you grew up, not in California, but in the Midwest as part of a big Italian family. Tell us a little bit about that.

Joanne Parrilli: This is true, Justice Corrigan of the California Supreme Court.

Carol Corrigan: Oh, yeah, I forgot that.

Joanne Parrilli: And my good friend of 34 years. I grew up in Chicago as part of an extended large extended Italian family, 14 first cousins all living within a 6-block radius of one another.

Carol Corrigan: Must have been quite a neighborhood.

Joanne Parrilli: It was quite a grammar school, I can tell you that, and we probably drove the nuns crazy at times. But, if our individual families were dysfunctioning at a particularly high level, we could always go to a cousin's house or an aunt or uncle who would take us in. It was . . . .

Carol Corrigan: And be equally dysfunctional in a different way?

Joanne Parrilli: It was a wonderful, wonderful childhood.

Carol Corrigan: And I know that you feel very strongly about the impact of your education, both in grade school and subsequently. Talk a little bit about that.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I was fortunate enough to have parents who really stressed the value of a good education, and they paid, at a time when they couldn't very well afford it, for my sister and me to attend private Catholic school all the way through grammar school, high school, and ultimately on to college. And I ended up at a Catholic University for law school as well, the 2:09

University of San Francisco. The nuns that we had in grammar school were particularly well educated for the time. They were . . . . Most of them had master's degrees or were working on them while they were teaching in the grammar schools. And it was somewhat archaic by today's standards, in that the boys' school was separate from the girls' school, and we had a bridge connecting the two. But . . . .

Carol Corrigan: With snarling guard dogs on the bridge?

Joanne Parrilli: Practically, but there was a scandal two years when they were short of nuns and they had to double up a class, and unfortunately it was mine. So, for the 3rd grade and 5th grade, I actually got to be in a classroom with boys, although they sat on the other side. But those women were particularly hard working, and imbued in us a sense of responsibility, and I think that set me on the track that I ended up following.

Carol Corrigan: What order of sisters?

Joanne Parrilli: Society of the Holy Child Jesus, which were the kind of female counterparts to the Jesuits. And it was a Jesuit environment. I lived on the campus of Loyola University growing up. I thought all priests were Jesuits until I came to California.

Carol Corrigan: That's okay, all the Jesuits think that, too. I know that you have a number of wonderful memories from your childhood. Share some of those.

Joanne Parrilli: I think probably the two strongest memories I have are of the Sunday dinners at my grandparents' house, because we would go every Sunday, and of course every holiday, to my father's parents' house. And it was, you know, packed with cousins, packed with aunts and uncles in an apartment that I find incredible to believe that this family lived in. My dad had five brothers – there were six boys and one girl – and they lived in that apartment from the time my dad was 14 years old, all of them in a three-bedroom apartment with no dishwasher in the kitchen, on those Sunday dinners. The women would go out and wash the dishes, the men would drift off to watch football, ostensibly – they'd all be snoring in short order – and then we'd all reconvene at the table at about 6:00 and start eating again. So, dinners roughly went from 1:00 in the afternoon until about 9:30 at night, when us kids had to get home. So that's a very, very strong memory, and I remember my grandfather washing all our little hands in the one bathroom in that apartment.

The other memory that I have is of working in my parents' grocery store. My parents had a mom-and-pop food shop right at the corner of Loyola and Sheridan.

Carol Corrigan: What was it called? 4:28

Joanne Parrilli: The Loyola Food Shop. And I worked there from the time I was nine years old. I loved being behind the counter. I loved the interchange with customers and getting to know the people on our block – very much a sense of neighborhood and community. And my parents became the surrogate counselors for the two dormitories that were on the street in those days – a boys' dormitory and a girls' dormitory. And I'll never forget coming home from school in September and finding one or two students – new, you know, freshmen – with tears in their eyes, as my mother would be making a sandwich for them and telling them everything was going to be okay. And my parents became the chaperones for the dances at Loyola University. And it was a great neighborhood and a great way to grow up.

Carol Corrigan: There was a time when you thought of tossing scholarship aside and pursuing a career on the stage. How did that happen?

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I was very interested in drama, both in grammar school – I had the lead in the 8th grade play – and in high school as well.

Carol Corrigan: What play?

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I played Widow Paroo in *Music Man* in high school. But I did; I had the desire to become an actress. So about my junior year I decided I would just chuck it all and head off to New York, on a freight train probably. And kindly Sister Catherine, a Benedictine nun at this point, all-girls high school, put her arm around me and took me into her counseling office and suggested that I was a bright girl and I was obviously restless – maybe we should think about college a little early. So I never got a high school diploma. I finished that . . . .

Carol Corrigan: Ahh, that explains a great deal.

Joanne Parrilli: I'm sure it does. I finished high school that junior year and started Loyola University in the fall.

Carol Corrigan: Well, just to make up for it, would you like to do a little Blanche from *Streetcar Named Desire?*

Joanne Parrilli: *[laughs]* No, but you'd have to talk to my agent about that.

Carol Corrigan: Oh, okay.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah.

Carol Corrigan: Then there was the siren song of the West Coast. How did you end up coming to west?

Joanne Parrilli: In the Summer of Love – I got here a little early, I came out in January of 1968, once again restless after only 2-1/2 years of college at Loyola – I decided it was time to come to the 6:23

West Coast and ended up out here and have never looked back. I have now been out here longer that I spent in Chicago, and although I love Chicago the West Coast is my home.

Carol Corrigan: And when you came you didn't go right into school, I know.

Joanne Parrilli: Oh no no no. I was ready to take on the world. I worked at a number of different jobs: started training with the phone company as a service representative, then I worked at the Post Office, the Fleet Post Office down at Army Street, or just off of Army Street, then I worked in several . . . two different doctor's offices as a receptionist. And finally the light bulb kind of went on that I didn't want to spend the rest of my life doing those things. And it was too late for medical school, but I realized I wanted to have a profession, and the law seemed to be the logical one. So I went back, finished my degree very quickly at SF State, and graduated like the third week of August and started law school the next week.

Carol Corrigan: Wow. The Post Office wasn't for you?

Joanne Parrilli: You know, after working at the Post Office, I remain eternally grateful for every delivered piece of mail that I get. It was the midnight shift at the Fleet Post Office during Vietnam time, so there was lots of mail coming through, but what a cast of characters.

Carol Corrigan: How did you pick USF for law school?

Joanne Parrilli: USF picked me, I guess would be the polite way to say it. I had applied at Boalt and at Hastings and was put on a waiting list at Hastings. I went to my first week at USF and decided to stay there, and unwittingly it was probably one of the better decisions I've ever made in my life. All of the jobs that I got after law school and the best friends I made at any stage of education were the friends I met at USF, and I still have close ties to the school. When I was asked to teach at Boalt a number of years later, I took great pride in teaching there for one semester and then decided to teach at USF.

Carol Corrigan: So here you are, first year of law school, the world is at your feet. How did you select your career focus?

Joanne Parrilli: Interesting – I had always been goal-oriented. And going into law school, I had a desire to figure out by the end of my first year – God knows how I was going to do this – but I made up my mind that I was going to figure out what area of the law I really liked, and that by the end of my third year, I wanted to be the best in that subject matter. And going in, I was hopeful, I guess, that it would be something like real estate or contracts – I might go down to Hollywood and negotiate for stars – or even probate in trusts and estates. The first semester we took criminal procedure, and our professor sent us down to the 9:07

Hall of Justice on Bryant Street, and I became hooked. I was fascinated by the criminal courts and what went on, the language I didn't understand, and the drama, of course, and focused on that my first year on. My second year in law school I was privileged to be part of an experimental clinic that was just being formed. The Council for Legal Education and Professional Responsibility funded it, and USF had a criminal law clinic out in the Public Defender's Office in Marin County, which I got to be in in my second year because they wanted to have teaching assistants prepared for the next class. So I took evidence in the summertime in Hastings and went into that clinic and worked probably 60-hour weeks from that point on, not showing up at law school much anymore, taking night classes. And when I came back to get ready for the bar in my last semester, some of my classmates were sort of surprised. They thought I had dropped out.

Carol Corrigan: *[laughs]* Who is that woman? So, did you find some overlap between your love of drama and presentation and your ultimate work as a trial lawyer?

Joanne Parrilli: It was the best of all possible worlds. It was drama, it was theater, but nobody gave you the script. You had to develop it as it went along with very real facts and very real people. And I loved it.

Carol Corrigan: So no central casting for the prime witness, and . . . ?

Joanne Parrilli: No, much as I wished at times that could happen.

Carol Corrigan: So, you kind of got hooked by going down and watching things at Bryant Street here in San Francisco, and then a public defender experience. How did you wander into the District Attorney's Office in Alameda County?

Joanne Parrilli: As a result of those three semesters I spent in Marin County, working in the Public Defender's Office, I perceived that the real power in the courtroom was on the other side of the table – the power to do good, the power to listen to people, and to make critical decisions. So I decided I wanted to go work in a district attorney's office. I was also probably tired of watching the public defenders lose, and I figured I'd enjoy winning more. But I went to one of the judges on the bench there – Judge Gary Thomas, also a USF grad – and I told him that I really would like to switch sides and would he . . . . I had done a number of things before him at a law-and-motion calendar and preliminary hearings, and would he be willing to write me a letter for the Marin County DA's Office? And, I'll never forget, he shook his head, he said, "There are only two offices I would encourage you to work in in this state. One is Alameda County, and one is Los Angeles, because I don't know anybody in either place, but I'll be happy to write you a letter." And he 11:43

did. And that was the beginning of my transfer across the Bay to Alameda County.

Carol Corrigan: It was quite a run you had there in Alameda County. And we should talk a little bit about it, at lots of different levels. Did you find any resistance to women as trial lawyers? This would have been what, 1973?

Joanne Parrilli: I graduated in 1974. Yeah, I took the bar in the summer of '74 and was sworn in that December.

Carol Corrigan: But you clerked in the DA's Office first, didn't you?

Joanne Parrilli: I clerked that summer. The practice then was to wait 'til people had taken the bar and then they would come to work for the summer. That summer I think there were eight of us that were hired as law clerks. I was the only girl. Several of my classmates from USF were part of that group, Rock Harmon and Mike Walsh, and we had all been in that clinic in Marin County together. But on the off-chance that I might actually pass the bar, they hired a third-year Hastings student who lived in San Francisco and didn't have a car, and we began commuting together. And that began a friendship of 34 years this year.

Carol Corrigan: Obviously, they were scraping the bottom of the barrel when they found that third-year Hastings student. But we probably should confess that that 30-year friendship is the one between the two participants here, and it's nothing short of miraculous that we both survived some of those car journeys. But we'll talk about that off camera.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I have to confess that as we drove across the Bay this morning, coming the other way – from the East Bay to here – it did bring back those memories of early-morning drives in the opposite direction.

Carol Corrigan: So women in the law, women trial lawyers . . . .

Joanne Parrilli: It was the beginning, it was really just the beginning. I had one mentor ahead of me, Alice Sullivan, who went on to be a judge in Alameda County and then down in San Diego, who was a mentor for me when I first started out as a municipal court deputy. When I was a law clerk, I clerked with a woman, Alice Rae Boeker, who was a dear, dear friend, and she set the standard for putting on law-and-motion hearings, and a motion to suppress department. And I worked with Rae as I awaited those bar results. And then you had the privilege of working with her. But, you know, I always felt, especially at the municipal court level as a trial lawyer in that era, that I had the advantage. I mean, it was so new to be a woman, the juries just were enthralled. And the judges at the municipal court level seemed to be very taken by having women in their 14:07

courtrooms for the first time, and very respectful. When I got to superior court, some of the older judges, I think, took a dimmer view of it, but again, even with the juries, there was never a doubt. I felt that I had the advantage and the guys didn't know what to do with me. I mean, I weighed about 95 pounds in those days and I . . . and they couldn't beat up on me like they would their male opponents, and so they were kind of, you know, fumbling around for how to handle this new person in the courtroom.

Carol Corrigan: I do recall there was a municipal court judge, a gentleman of the old school, who said to me one time, "You ought to emulate that Miss Parrilli. She's so terrific. When she's trying a case in your courtroom, you forget that she's a woman and you have to protect her."

Joanne Parrilli: Malcolm Champlain. Yes, he was a gentleman.

Carol Corrigan: You managed to have protected yourself reasonably well. Did you find that there was a difference in the way witnesses reacted to you?

Joanne Parrilli: I remember very vividly – and this only happened one time – when I came back to the District Attorney's Office, and I was thrown in to do preliminary hearings on the more serious cases. I was talking to a witness before the hearing, and we chatted for a good 15, 20 minutes, and he looked around kind of nervously and he said, "Well, when am I going to get to talk to the lawyer?" But that was around 1980, so – no, actually it was later than that, it was about 1982. I don't remember any difficulty with the witnesses. I think that we worked so hard in those days that the witnesses and the family of the victims really appreciated it, and I think that was true for everybody. I think the guys did, too, but I know the women – the young lawyers – were really trying to prove themselves in that male-dominated environment and so we worked very, very hard.

Carol Corrigan: In those days we used to be on call to take homicide statements, and you had something of a reputation as being able to get hardened killers to confess kind of at the drop of a hat. What was your secret?

Joanne Parrilli: I don't know, I just talked to them, and I just believed that they really did want to get it off their chest, and eventually they did.

Carol Corrigan: Confession is good for the soul.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah.

Carol Corrigan: How about presentation of self? We weren't just trying to be like the guys. How did you navigate that? 16:23

Joanne Parrilli: Well, it was interesting. Even in law school when I started working in the Public Defender's Office, you know, the question of what I was going to wear in the courtroom even came up. I've never been comfortable in high heels to this day; I loathe them. So I . . . .

Carol Corrigan: Not that you couldn't use a little elevation.

Joanne Parrilli: This is true. But I had very long hair in those days and I opted to go a route that was both economical and my calling card. I think trial lawyers all like to have something that makes them distinctive. Well, mine was to wear little three-piece suits. And I would – this was before pantsuits were in fashion – and I would go to the Brooks Brothers out on California Street, here in the city, or Saks Fifth Avenue down in Palo Alto to the boy's department, and buy these wonderful little three-piece, all-wool, boys' suits. And there was a tailor at the Palo Alto store who loved to tailor them for me who was from Cuba, and he thought . . . . He got such a kick out of it and he would make the jackets a little more flared at the waist, and . . . . So then I had a collection of ties, and I would wear my very long hair with this three-piece suit.

Carol Corrigan: Wonderful floral ties as I recall.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, wonderful – all different kinds. And I would have to have them shortened, I remember that, but otherwise they suited me well. And then the second or third or fourth day of trial I'd come in wearing a dress, just to keep them off guard. And it was a very distinctive calling card. I mean, Jeff . . . I'm blanking on his last name.

Carol Corrigan: Horner?

Joanne Parrilli: No, no, the dean out at . . . .

Carol Corrigan: Brand?

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, Jeff Brand out at USF, who is the dean now, was in the Public Defender's Office for a short while, and to this day, whenever he's introducing me somewhere, he has to bring up the three-piece suits. A couple of years after I did this, they started actually making women's pantsuits, and I remember a line called "Sir for Her" that I was able to slip into which was even more feminine. But the only heat I ever got about those outfits came from a woman in the District Attorney's Office, Rita Pollen, who was the head of the secretarial staff. One day we were in the restroom and she said, "Honey, I think those pantsuits are so cute, but you know, when you pass the bar and become a lawyer, you won't be able to wear those." I was furious, because I had interviewed with Buzz DeVega and Lowell Jensen in a pantsuit. And I went to Buzz and I said, "This is what I heard and, you know, is that true, can I . 18:39

. . .?" and he laughed and he thought it was the funniest thing he had heard in a long time. "No, of course, you can wear whatever you want."

Carol Corrigan: Ah, what does she know.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah.

Carol Corrigan: Who were your mentors as a trial lawyer?

Joanne Parrilli: Oh, boy, the first one that comes to mind is Lowell Jensen. We were fortunate to work under him. He was the District Attorney of Alameda County when I was hired, and tried cases as the District Attorney, but just set such a wonderful example. I think all of us learned from Lowell. I'll never forget when I was working in that law-and-motion department awaiting my bar results. He could see that I was really getting enamored of all these narcotics officers that were testifying in these motions to suppress and – big tough guys – and they'd come in in their undercover garb and whatever. And he called me into his office one day and gave me a book by Joe Eszterhas called *Narc*, which talked about the seamier side of narcotics officers, and Lowell and I then talked about the book after I read it. And, you know, that is just the kind of guy he was and is.

Carol Corrigan: He made that office a real family.

Joanne Parrilli: He did. He did, indeed. Yeah.

Carol Corrigan: Who else?

Joanne Parrilli: Penny Cooper was a woman trial lawyer at the time who I really admired. She did defense work, of course, but I remember watching her in the courtroom and thinking, "Boy I'd like to be as good as that some day."

Carol Corrigan: And you were. So let's talk about some of the big cases you had. You had a number of cases that were very tough ones, but also that called on your particular strengths. Talk a little bit about some of those.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I don't know if they called them my strengths. I know I got assigned to the Chowchilla case, which was the kidnapping of the busload of children and their burial in a chamber out in a Pleasanton rock quarry.

Carol Corrigan: And just for people who might not . . . . Because we're really old now, we remember those, but just give a little more background on the Chowchilla kidnapping.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, it was an infamous case – 1976, I believe, was the year. We tried it in 1977, which was fairly fast, but they went by grand jury indictment. 20:45

Carol Corrigan: Fairly fast and a fast track for a young lawyer.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, yes, I had only been in the office at that point three – barely three – years. Or two years.

Carol Corrigan: And the children ranged in age from . . . .

Joanne Parrilli: I think the youngest was about 8 and the oldest was 16. Mike Reynolds was the oldest. And they were taken at gunpoint by three guys. The bus . . . school bus they were on, with their bus driver, was driven a short distance; they were put in vans and then transported to Alameda County, where they were buried in an underground moving van with incredible heat down in that chamber – dark, frightening circumstances for anybody, but especially for children – and then ransom notes were written by the kidnappers demanding millions of dollars in ransom. And eventually the bus driver was able to get up and get some air in there, open the top of the chamber. And it was a front-page newspaper case for months.

Carol Corrigan: How long were they actually in . . . buried underground in the bus?

Joanne Parrilli: You know, it was less than 24 hours, I don't remember the exact amount of time. But initially, the thought was that, you know, kidnapping for ransom carried a certain penalty, but kidnapping with bodily harm was life without possibility of parole, and that's what we were seeking. We were able to obtain that verdict at the trial court, but it was reversed by the appellate court, so they are eligible for parole, but they're still in and haven't had any luck in getting out in spite of the fact that at least two of them have had exemplary records in prison.

Carol Corrigan: So, there were three kidnappers altogether?

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, the two brothers and Fred Newhall Woods. Schoenfelds and Woods.

Carol Corrigan: Who defended those cases?

Joanne Parrilli: You know, we had three prosecutors. We had the Chief Assistant, Dick Haugner; Dave Minier, who is the DA in the county from which the kidnapping occurred; and then on the defense side of the table was Richard Merrill, Herb Yanowitz, and a fellow whose name I don't recall who was a public defender from the county.

Carol Corrigan: Tried in front of?

Joanne Parrilli: Tried in front of a retired judge, who came out of retirement, Deegan, and it was a court trial. We went . . . . They 23:12

waived jury and we tried it to the judge himself who did find bodily harm on a theory of heat exhaustion.

Carol Corrigan: The theory always was that you were added to the team, in addition to your terrific trial skills, because you could look the children in the eye.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I think there was a bit of sexism in the assignment. I think, for whatever reason, they figured that it would be good to have a woman on the case with all these children – which seemed odd to me because there were plenty of guys in the office with kids who probably would have done just as well, if not better, than I did. But never look a great assignment in the eye.

Carol Corrigan: Absolutely. Okay, so there was Chowchilla, what else?

Joanne Parrilli: Oh, one of the more memorable cases I had was the Broadway Hustler case, where five guys had initially been charged, got to the superior court . . . . I did not put the first prelim. I got to the superior court and the court granted me a motion to dismiss. And it had to go back and be redone at the municipal court level, which is where I came in. By that time a juvenile co-defendant had been added, so there were six of them. And these young men, affectionately known as the Broadway Hustlers, were trying to corner the drug trade in downtown Oakland – marijuana trafficking.

Carol Corrigan: Things were so much more genteel then.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, and they, in their efforts, they attempted to run out of town a fellow by the name of Zane Burton who was dealing marijuana on their turf. And they did so by a pretty brutal assault, with a gun. And so here I was the lone prosecutor on my side of the courtroom with six defendants and six defense lawyers on their side of the courtroom. And I played that underdog role for everything it was worth, and it was really quite a memorable trial.

Carol Corrigan: And as I recall you were on crutches for part of it, weren't you?

Joanne Parrilli: No, that was a different case. That was a rape case where – I was trying in front of Judge Bancroft – where we took a four-day recess because the judge had to go to a conference and there was a holiday involved. So, we went to up to Tahoe, and four of us – all county employees – were hit by a truck coming down the mountain and I ended up on crutches with a couple of broken toes, I think it was, and a broken nose, as I recall. I can't remember that part vividly. But yes, I did come back to the trial on crutches and the judge had me hide the crutches because he thought it would be too sympathetic. But the first time we asked to approach the bench, the bailiff got up and jumped up with the crutches, so 25:33

Carol Corrigan: I seem to recall when you woke up in the car after the accident you said, "Oh no, I have go," because . . . .

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, I did suffer a mild concussion, apparently, because I thought I was . . . had to get back to take the bar exam.

Carol Corrigan: Well, fortunately, when you really came to your senses, you discovered you didn't have to do that again.

Joanne Parrilli: That was the best news of all.

Carol Corrigan: How about the *Hovey* case?

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, I actually charged the *Hovey* case. Hovey was initially charged just with murder, not with special circumstances. And I had another case involving Mr. Hovey which involved the kidnapping of a little girl from a park in Albany, witnessed by a 16-year-old who was particularly astute, who chased the van – got an adult and chased the van – and Hovey pushed this little girl out. She was bound and gagged in a similar way that the victim had been in other cases, and so we – along with the investigating officer from the Sheriff's Department – made Hovey on a number of murders of little girls. And I went to Lowell, and after a lot of agony myself over it 'cause of my own thoughts on the death penalty, as many intelligent people evolve, and . . . . But I went to Lowell and said if there's ever a guy for whom the death penalty existed, this is he. So we ended up charging him, and I was all set to pick a jury on the day that the Supreme Court called to say they were staying our case so they could decide the question of how you select a jury in death penalty cases. I then left the office and didn't try the case; it was tried by other lawyers.

Carol Corrigan: So I can say, although you would be too modest to, that you were an absolutely terrific trial lawyer. And there were many, many men and women for whom you were an exemplary model. And we'll talk a little bit later about your teaching. But here you had this fabulous career, you were touted by everyone far and wide as a terrific trial lawyer – why leave that for the bench?

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I . . . . After about five years in the DA's office, I left with the man that I would marry, who was also in the District Attorney's Office and had been there at that point for 13 years, I believe. And we left to go up to Tahoe and just take some time off. I wasn't sure that I wanted to continue that pace because, as you know, when you're in trial, you're in trial 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We went up to Tahoe with the intention of taking six months off. That turned into a year, and that turned into 18 months, and then we were broke, so we opened an office in Tahoe City. And it was a very different kind of practice. I was one of two women lawyers on the 28:17

North Shore at that point, and the other woman lawyer had just had a baby and didn't have a lot of time to socialize. So most of my friends were ski instructors, or skiers, and I missed the Bay Area. An opportunity came up while we had that office to come back to Marin County in the DA's Office. One of their senior trial deputies wanted to take six months off and try his hand in real estate. So they wanted someone to come in and take his place for six months. I thought, "What a kick! I could go back and try cases against people who had been my supervisor when I was a law student." Which is exactly what happened. So I went down for those six months. I . . . . They gave me four-day workweeks when I wasn't in trial, so I could go back up to the lake. And it was really . . . It was a wonderful experience. And once I did that, I knew I wanted to be back in the Bay Area. I made some wonderful women friends in the DA's Office in Marin who I'm still friends with and I knew that that climate was something that I missed. So, I went back up to Tahoe – we were not yet married – but I announced to my fiancé that I was going back to the Bay Area and I hoped he would come with, but I would understand if he didn't. Not a very diplomatic way. And at first he wasn't going to come down, but as the time got closer he decided to come down and we ended up getting married that year.

Carol Corrigan: By . . . .

Joanne Parrilli: By Justice Broussard.

Carol Corrigan: Who was then . . . .

Joanne Parrilli: On the California Supreme Court. And he had been one of my mentor judges as a judge. I learned when he was on the trial court in Alameda County – I tried a number of cases, serious cases before him, and he was always so professional, and such a good judge – that he was an Alameda County hero. So we had arranged to be married in a friend's house on that Christmas Eve of 1982. And at about 4:00 the phone rang, and it was Justice Broussard, and I answered the phone but he asked for John immediately and then I could only hear my soon-to-be-husband's end of the conversation. I heard him say, "Oh, really, judge, oh, that's too bad. Is there anything we can do?" And I assumed, well, maybe we're not getting married today. It turned out Justice Broussard's refrigerator had broken down and they had to go to Sears at 4:00 on Christmas Eve and get a new one.

Carol Corrigan: So that delayed things for just a little while?

Joanne Parrilli: Well, we ended up going to Justice Broussard's house to make it easier for him. We were married in his living room.

Carol Corrigan: Did you all install the refrigerator? 30:32

Joanne Parrilli: No, he had his dad there to help with that.

Carol Corrigan: While you were in the Marin County DA's office, you tried one case in particular that I recall that had . . . that was really cutting edge at the time. The Bunney case.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, the Marcia Bunney case, and I tried that in front of retired California Supreme Court Justice Louis Burke.

Carol Corrigan: Supreme Court justices keep rotating in and out of your life.

Joanne Parrilli: This is true. And it was a . . . he was another mentor judge. A man who was so good at the craft of judging that it was just a pleasure to try that case in front of him. And Marcia Bunney had killed her boyfriend at very close range with a shotgun, and then claimed multiple defenses of hypoglycemia, MSG poisoning, brain dysfunction. And had found a couple of doctors who hooked her up to an EKG and claimed to be able to . . . .

Carol Corrigan: Discern.

Joanne Parrilli: . . . . discern from reading of her brain waves that she lacked the capacity to form malice.

Carol Corrigan: Wow!

Joanne Parrilli: And it was rather amazing. And I just had a hunch that something was not . . . something was fishy about this defense when one of the witnesses I was cross-examining – one of the doctors – got a tic under his eye when he was answering some questions, and I could tell I was on to something. And I was asking him at that point, "Well, is there any expert in California that can tell me about this?" "No, none that I know of." "Anybody west of the Rockies?" "No, not that I know of. Well, there's a fellow in St. Louis." Well, it turned out that there was a fellow at UCSF, right here in San Francisco – Professor David Gallin – who knew all about these characters and their so-called claim to fame with the brain-wave reading, and he became one of the best expert witnesses I ever put on, who totally debunked this theory. And Marcia was convicted of first-degree murder. I should also mention that she sat down after blowing her boyfriend away with a shotgun and wrote – I think it was 19 letters or something – to family and friends about how she had just killed poor Ted, and now she was going to kill herself. Well, she never got around to *that*.

Carol Corrigan: That last part was left to glimmering.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah. Well, she called her mother over to do it, which I think was evidence of her insincerity of objective.

Carol Corrigan: Boy, that's asking to go above and beyond. "Hi, Mom . . . ." 32:48

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, once again.

Carol Corrigan: Was there DNA involved in that case?

Joanne Parrilli: No, no, no DNA, just the brain waves that were going.

Carol Corrigan: So you were such an effective cross-examiner, and the mention of the tic is terrific. Talk a little bit about how a terrific cross-examiner studies the subject during the examination.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, it's . . . . You can learn so much – even though you've been up to your eyebrows in the case for so long – by the way the witness answers questions, by the blinking of the eyes, by the squirming in the seat. And you just have to stay with it when you strike gold like that.

Carol Corrigan: Well, it certainly did work for you often.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, it did.

Carol Corrigan: So, the bench. How did that decision get made, from your standpoint?

Joanne Parrilli: Well, after I decided to come back to Alameda County, having made that announcement up in Tahoe, I was fortunate enough to get . . . be rehired. And within the first few months . . . .

Carol Corrigan: You mean, rehired in the Alameda DA's Office?

Joanne Parrilli: Correct. And in the first six months or so, I remember going to a criminal courts bar dinner. And Alice Sullivan . . . . Actually it was a little longer than that, yeah, it was probably 1984, so it was about a year and a half or so later, 'cause I really started in January of '83. And Chic Sullivan – my mentor, Alice D. Sullivan – motioned to me at a criminal courts dinner to come out in the hallway, and she referred to a conversation we had been having at the cocktail hour. And she said, "Are you really serious about wanting to be a judge?" and I said, "Yeah, I think that is something I would like to do." And she goes, "Well, now is your time. They're looking for women who have had a lot of trial experience. They're looking for women who have a background in criminal prosecution. You should put your name in." That was a Thursday night dinner, and I think by Sunday I had the form filled out and was over at Chic's house and we were going over it together.

Carol Corrigan: And anyone who's filled out that form knows that to fill out that form in that amount of time . . . . I don't even know in those days, when you couldn't get it on line, how you even *got* the form in that amount of time.

Joanne Parrilli: I think she had it for me. 34:59

Carol Corrigan: Ah.

Joanne Parrilli: She had a supply, and it was a little easier in those days. It wasn't quite as lengthy as it is today.

Carol Corrigan: But it was no mean feat. I recall that part.

Joanne Parrilli: No, it was just . . . . The strange part was for some reason I had kept a record of all my trials and all the lawyers and judges I had appeared with and before. And so I had that at my fingertips, you know. Why I did that I don't know, but maybe intuition was there in the very beginning.

Carol Corrigan: Ignatius Loyola was whispering in your ear?

Joanne Parrilli: Must have been.

Carol Corrigan: Once you went on the bench, did you miss mixing it up in the pit as an advocate?

Joanne Parrilli: You know, I did a little bit in the beginning. I would often find myself in the shower in the morning giving the closing argument that I thought the lawyer should give in whatever case I was trying, or imagining the cross-examination that I would have done, you know, and asking the questions that I would have asked. But that faded fairly quickly. And in the municipal court you are so busy. I was so busy as a muni court judge for those three years that I quickly realized how much I had to learn about judging. And . . . .

Carol Corrigan: Talk about the transition a little bit . . .

Joanne Parrilli: Oh . . . .

Carol Corrigan: . . . from advocate to judge.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I got off to a rocky start, I would say, because I remember in one of my very first trials taking over the cross-examination of not just anyone, but the criminal defendant.

Carol Corrigan: Might as well start at the top.

Joanne Parrilli: And I tried to be as neutral as possible. But I do remember a juror saying after the trial, "Boy, those questions you asked really helped, Judge," when they convicted her. So, I quickly had to learn not to do that.

Carol Corrigan: I seem to recall that the exact quote was, "We really thought maybe she was not guilty until you did *your* cross examination." Then it was very clear. 36:40

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, I could have repressed that. But I learned very quickly that was not my role as judge.

Carol Corrigan: So after a relatively brief appearance on the municipal court, you were elevated to the superior court. So three years on the muni court?

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, roughly three years, and then I went to superior for about six.

Carol Corrigan: So what was the best part about being a trial court judge?

Joanne Parrilli: I think the best part was the . . . what we referred to earlier: the drama, the excitement, the case unfolding and you're not knowing exactly how it was going to go because when the scene is set in hell, often you don't have angels for actors and actresses. So it was very exciting. And there were often new issues coming in, evidentiary issues that would arise. I did have the first DNA case in Alameda County, *People v. Barney,* and we had a lengthy hearing – a Kelly-Frye hearing – before the trial on that one. The interesting thing about *Barney* was that the DNA evidence wasn't dispositive. Mr. Barney dropped his wallet at the scene.

Carol Corrigan: Particularly bad technique.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, but . . . Which, of course, is how they found him and made the arrest. But it was pivotal in the sense that this was going to be the first DNA case, and very good lawyers on both sides. So it was that kind of excitement that I found as a trial judge that made the job worthwhile. The difficult part was pretending – or not pretending, but – everyone in the courtroom looks to you as though you are in charge and often times you have very little control over what's going on. The lengthy endless examinations you can move along somewhat, but you can't interfere with the trial.

Carol Corrigan: *Barney* went to the Supreme Court, didn't it?

Joanne Parrilli: It went to the Court of Appeal.

Carol Corrigan: Oh.

Joanne Parrilli: That was Justice Chin's decision.

Carol Corrigan: And then the justice went to the Supreme Court.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes.

Carol Corrigan: Who were some of your mentors as a trial judge?

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I've mentioned two: Broussard and 38:46

Carol Corrigan: Sullivan.

Joanne Parrilli: No . . . . No, Judge Burke in Marin County. Alice Sullivan was certainly a mentor when she became a judge herself. And Jackie Taber at the municipal court when I was a new lawyer. I liked her style of judging. So those were . . . .

Carol Corrigan: There was a man named Martin Pulich.

Joanne Parrilli: Oh yes, my dear friend Martin Pulich. He was a mentor in a different way. He gave me confidence as a lawyer, first of all, because he treated us just the way he treated the guys. He gave us wild nicknames like he gave the guys. My nickname was "Piranha." That was the nickname he gave me – a man-eating fish. He gave you "Barracuda," as I recall.

Carol Corrigan: He was in a fish phase at the time.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, he was in a fish phase at the time, and ultimately he I think nicknamed you Torquemada's Handmaiden.

Carol Corrigan: Oh, I want to thank you for putting that down on the historical record.

Joanne Parrilli: Oh, as a DA I think that was a wonderful moniker to have. And he was . . . . You know, he was so fair in what he did. I always felt that Judge Pulich set an example about how you had to do what the law required whether you liked it or not, and I admired that in him. And of course he was funny as the day is long, so . . . .

Carol Corrigan: Talk about the advice he gave both of us about structuring our career as judges. Do you remember?

Joanne Parrilli: No, I don't.

Carol Corrigan: The lunch we had where he said, "Listen, dolls, don't do what I did and get stuck in one assignment."

Joanne Parrilli: I do remember that, yeah. He encouraged us both to branch out, do some civil, and not be wedded to the criminal law forever.

Carol Corrigan: There was quite a collegial spirit in those days on that bench. Talk about that a little.

Joanne Parrilli: You're talking about Alameda County now?

Carol Corrigan: Yes. Trial court.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, it really was. I mean, there was a great camaraderie among the men and women judges, and even among the bar. I mean, I found it distinctive that we had this criminal 40:50

courts bar association that the judges would go to and the DAs and the PDs. I mean it was just very, very collegial. And, of course, in our era, many DAs found their way to the bench, and so there was that added history that we shared. But even among judges who were older and from different backgrounds, there was always a sense of collegiality.

Carol Corrigan: Okay, so yet again, you were shining in your assignment as a superior court judge. You'd been an administrative judge for the southern part of Alameda County, which was a great responsibility. So yet again you are doing terrifically well, but you are getting a little restive, now. We're thinking we should do something different.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, what happened was, over my objection, I got assigned to the law-and-motion supervising judge calendar down in Hayward, southern Alameda County branch. I had really no civil background up to that point, but that was an assignment I had for about four years, and doing civil law-and-motion where you get a tremendous volume of cases, and not a lot of time to think about the rulings you are going to make, whetted my appetite for civil law. I thought, "Wow, wouldn't this be fun if you had time to think about it, and actually read and study the law in these areas?" And once I did that assignment, I thought, "It would be really fun to have an assignment at the Court of Appeal where you could reflect on the cases, work with others who were similarly motivated, and render good opinions."

Carol Corrigan: So your first two appointments had been with Governor Deukmejian.

Joanne Parrilli: Correct.

Carol Corrigan: And the Court of Appeal nomination was made by Governor Wilson.

Joanne Parrilli: Correct.

Carol Corrigan: All right, so, no surprise, you go through the vetting process and you are appointed to the Court of Appeal. Now there has to be a judgment about where exactly you are going to be sitting.

Joanne Parrilli: Amazingly enough, you know, historically up until 1995 there had only been one woman on the First District Court of Appeal.

Carol Corrigan: From Alameda County.

Joanne Parrilli: At any time, and . . . . Well, actually, the first was from Alameda County, the second was from San Francisco County: Justice Werdeger.

Carol Corrigan: Right, right, right, right. 43:07

Joanne Parrilli: Then the third was from Alameda County: Justice Corrigan.

Carol Corrigan: Oh, her.

Joanne Parrilli: Uh huh. And so here we are, 1995, my name is in, there is a vacancy in the Fifth District – er, Fifth Division at the same time.

Carol Corrigan: And we should say that the First District is divided into five divisions with . . . .

Joanne Parrilli: Five divisions with four judges each, yeah, at this point. And so I assumed that I would go to Division Five; they had a vacancy. And lo and behold, the announcement comes and I have been assigned to Division Three, making me the first . . . second woman to serve on the court, but more importantly, serving with my friend of however many years at that point, Justice Corrigan.

Carol Corrigan: And Justice Chin.

Joanne Parrilli: So it was an Alameda County majority on the court.

Carol Corrigan: And our fourth member . . . .

Joanne Parrilli: At the time was Bob Merrill.

Carol Corrigan: Truly one of the finest gentlemen ever to serve on the bench.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes.

Carol Corrigan: So there we are, all these kids from Alameda County, and . . . .

Joanne Parrilli: All these girls in one division.

Carol Corrigan: Exactly – which made everybody very nervous. What was the best part about being on the Court of Appeal?

Joanne Parrilli: Oh, there are so many things. It is such a great job. It . . . . The best thing, I think, about . . . . The luckiest part of my career has been that within the law over 38 years I got to move from assignment to assignment, and it's . . . . Working on the municipal court was wonderful, working on the superior court was wonderful, but you get restless and then you get to move and go do something else. And so moving to the Court of Appeal suited my introverted personality much more. And just having the time to read and think and talk to other really smart people about the cases, I found incredibly enriching. And I had two wonderful . . . three really wonderful research attorneys in very short order when I came on the court – brilliant, brilliant lawyers with whom I worked: Bill Hancock, Alan 45:02

Stephens, and Jennifer Ray Smith. And so I felt like I had died and gone to heaven.

Carol Corrigan: In your time at the Court of Appeal, from which you retired in 19 . . . I'm sorry, 2000 and . . .

Joanne Parrilli: Last year, 2007.

Carol Corrigan: . . . you authored 165 cases, and when you . . . . I'm sorry, 1,165 cases.

Joanne Parrilli: That's better.

Carol Corrigan: If I'd have been good at math, I would have gone to medical school. And when you add the number of cases that you participated in authored by your colleagues, we get up to nearly 5,000 cases.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah.

Carol Corrigan: Which ones are you the most proud of?

Joanne Parrilli: It's amazing, when I think of that number; that number is staggering. Well, I published, I think, around 142 cases, and those are the ones you remember the best. Certainly the *Peterson* case, on which I dissented fairly early on – that was the second year after I came on the court – having to do with the accrual of damages for purposes of Prop 51. I dissented in that case; you and Ming wrote the majority. And I remember arguing with you on the street corner of 2nd and Howard, I think it was, as we were headed to lunch.

Carol Corrigan: We always managed to find opportunities to argue at every opportunity.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah, raising our voices, actually, a bit. I really enjoyed working on that case, and ultimately the Supreme Court adopted pretty much what I had written in the dissent.

Carol Corrigan: So this is the way trial lawyers are – you only talk about the cases you've won.

Joanne Parrilli: Exactly, exactly. Then the other one I remember, will always remember, is the *Kroncke* case where . . . . That was several years later, I think it was '99 when we filed that one, and you were in the dissent on that, and Wes and I were in the majority. And that took . . . and we had stacks of versions that had . . . . And for a while I thought it was going to tear our 30-year friendship. But it was wonderful how it worked out, because it's exactly how the law should work: we ended up constructively criticizing each other's versions, and making positive changes in each other's drafts, and we ended up friends. So we must have done something right. 47:06

Carol Corrigan: Amazing, yep. And I remember when we were all on the Court of Appeal, when there was an issue it was not at all unusual for one or the other of us to just wander into the other's chambers and say, "Can we change this sentence?"

Joanne Parrilli: Absolutely. Yeah, that was the way it was done. And . . . . So those two cases stand out in my mind. And of course the *Marriage* cases, working on the *Marriage* cases a couple of years ago, that was again how the law should work.

Carol Corrigan: Some day, someone will be viewing this from some dusty archive, and they'll go, "The *Marriage* cases – what's the deal on those?" Maybe you need to give just a little more context.

Joanne Parrilli: The *Marriage* cases were the cases consolidated for trial before Judge Kramer that dealt with the issue of the right for gays and lesbians to marry – was there a constitutional right to marry? And we got it when it first came up on a writ from – our division got it, Division Three – when it first came up on a writ, which meant that it was going to be with us for the duration. And it did remain there. And we knew it was in a strange kind of place to be, because you knew that whatever you decided had a shelf life of about five minutes until they could get a Notice of Appeal filed in your court, the Supreme Court, to seek review. But you also knew that what you were going to say would have value in terms of the discussion that was going on on this very vital issue. So it was a wonderful case to work on, and I'll never forget the oral argument which took the better part of the day – I think it was about 5 1/2 hours. Coming out, the three of us – it was Justice McGuiness, Justice Kline, and myself – and just looking at one another and all agreeing what a wonderful day it had been. The quality of lawyering, the argument, the intensity of the beliefs, it was just . . . it was a fabulous experience to be part of.

Carol Corrigan: So Justice McGuiness wrote the lead opinion in which you joined but then you wrote your own concurrence.

Joanne Parrilli: I did.

Carol Corrigan: And that has been described in many writings as being a more philosophical treatment of this subject.

Joanne Parrilli: Right.

Carol Corrigan: When you . . . . Occasionally on the courts of review you have an opportunity to wax philosophical. Talk a little bit about that aspect of the job.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, especially on a case of this type, where so many of the underlying issues people aren't willing to talk about out right out loud, it seems. The intersection of matters of faith in 49:37

culture. And I just felt it was important in that case to put some of those things on the table. And I do think in other cases, there is often an opportunity for a judge to go a little bit deeper than the surface issues – without avoiding those issues, of course, but to get some more development of the ideas out there for their audience.

Carol Corrigan: In addition to your work as a judge, you have made a number of other legally related contributions. You've been a teacher, an author, you've sat on the Judicial Council, you've been involved in the California Judges Association ethics panel, you served as a special master, I think, for the CJP – the Commission on Judicial Performance – all on top of a very demanding job. What motivated you to get involved in some of those things?

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I think it's part of our job. I think judges should take on . . . should come out from behind the bench and be involved in activities that aren't just court-related. The judiciary has to get out there and be known, and we have a wealth of experience and education that we should share with those behind us coming down the track in the law schools, and judges who are new, and so I just always considered it a part of the job.

Carol Corrigan: And beyond the job and beyond the law, you've also been very active in your community. You have sat on the boards of directors of Chanticleer and A Friendly Place; you've been very active at the Newman Center at the University of California, Berkeley. Talk a little bit about that more broad involvement in the community.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, again, they were just things that I found interesting. I attended a Chanticleer concert many years ago and fell in love. I thought I understood the phrase "sound of angels singing" when I heard their voices, and started going to concerts, and was eventually asked to be on the board, which was a great honor. A Friendly Manor is a woman's day care – started as a woman's kind of day shelter where women who are living on the street could come in and find a clean shower and a cup of tea and warm up. We eventually expanded and now have 25 rooms where women can stay for up to a year. Things that are, you know, rewarding, and expose us to a different view of life and culture.

Carol Corrigan: You . . . . Beyond all of that responsible stuff, what about the fun stuff? I know that you are a woman of many, many interests. Talk a little bit about some of your hobbies.

Joanne Parrilli: I know you want me to talk about my trapeze experience.

Carol Corrigan: I do!

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, well, I took up trapeze. 52:11

Carol Corrigan: I mean, how many justices on the Court of Appeal get involved in the trapeze, or at least are willing to talk about it?

Joanne Parrilli: As a child that was my one recurring dream, was of flying. And I thought trapeze would be the closest I could get to it. So I signed up at Sam Keen's farm up in Sonoma County and the City Art Center here in San Francisco, the City Circus Arts, and took probably about eight lessons. Never could make it to the catcher. Did more than I ever thought I could do, and I loved jumping off the bar, but I saw these young kids behind me that got to the catcher on the first try and I thought, "Hmm, maybe it's age." So I did that in about 1996, I think it was, and enjoyed it, but . . . .

Carol Corrigan: All the rest of us were in fear and trembling thinking you were going to show up on some Monday encased in plaster of Paris.

Joanne Parrilli: Never happened. Photography is another interest of mine. I started taking pictures when I was 20 years old and I . . . . There have been many years where I haven't taken any, but I am getting back into taking it now, and I enjoy this new . . . this whole new technology of Photoshop and what you can do with it. And even though I don't trust any photograph I see anymore, I have enjoyed playing with that.

Carol Corrigan: And you were a horsewoman for a while.

Joanne Parrilli: Oh, yes. I rode horses as a young girl and I was lucky enough to have a fellow on our street who had several horses and he had an injured back and couldn't ride so he gave me the privilege of riding and showing his horses. So that was great fun.

Carol Corrigan: Relatively well into your career you decided to study theology.

Joanne Parrilli: Mm hmm.

Carol Corrigan: Talk a little bit about that.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, I remember saying when I was a young lawyer – probably in my first eight years or so of practicing law – that when I finished with the law I wanted to study world religions, and that desire kind of grew. I went through a very difficult strained divorce in 1995 and was alone for the first time in my life. And I've heard this described by many people – that for many people, mid-life, something cracks open. And that certainly happened in my life. And I found myself drawn into the mystery of God more, and so that seed that had been planted many, many years ago about studying religion resurrected, if you'll pardon the expression. And I began taking classes.

Carol Corrigan: Where? 54:26

Joanne Parrilli: Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. I matriculated a course through the Jesuit School of Theology.

Carol Corrigan: Naturally.

Joanne Parrilli: And remain a student there and will probably be a student there for the rest of my life. I'll be their perpetual student that just takes a class here or there, and enjoys the environment.

Carol Corrigan: Your faith is particularly important to you. How do you see the role of an individual's faith on their job as a judge in a very diverse and secular society?

Joanne Parrilli: It's a difficult job. I mean, I think that it can pose problems. I never – in spite of the fact that I had the *Hovey* case charged – I never had a death penalty case, either as a lawyer or a judge. And I guess I consider that a blessing, because I don't know how that would have rubbed up against my faith on that. On the other hand, I think if judges take an oath to defend the Constitution and apply the law of the state, that's their job. And personal beliefs or concerns have to be set aside.

Carol Corrigan: You have been part of the jurisprudence of California for a disgustingly long time.

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, I am very old. Thank you for reminding me.

Carol Corrigan: How would you like to be remembered as a judge and lawyer?

Joanne Parrilli: I think I'd like to be remembered as somebody who tried. Somebody who tried to get it right, who wasn't afraid of the difficult cases, who took them and who tried to get it right under the law.

Carol Corrigan: Fair enough. We'll see how that turns out. You have been honored a number of times, and quite rightly so. You received the President's Award from the California Judges Association, you've been honored by Volunteers in Parole, and I know – importantly to you – you were awarded the Saint Thomas Moore award, which is awarded to . . . primarily to Catholic lawyers. Which of those are you most proud of?

Joanne Parrilli: Well I think the President's Award from the California Judges Association. I was on the Executive Board for a number of years. I was always active in CJA events and educational programs. But the award came as a total surprise. I was at home, not even planning to go to the luncheon, when I got a call about 11:00 in the morning from Connie Dove. And she said, "Joanne, are you coming to the luncheon?" and I said, "You know, Connie, I wasn't going to come," and she said, "You'd better come." And just the tone in her voice, I knew I'd better get there. So I flew across the Bay Bridge – I was 56:59

living in Oakland at the time – I flew across the Bay Bridge . . . .

Carol Corrigan: Oh, you make that sound like that was unusual. You used to fly across the Bay Bridge all the time.

Joanne Parrilli: And slipped into my seat beside Bernie Witkin, and the next thing I knew I was being called up and handed the award. So it was really quite a surprise and honor.

Carol Corrigan: Is there anything you'd do differently?

Joanne Parrilli: Wow.

Carol Corrigan: Except the trapeze part, maybe.

Joanne Parrilli: Oh no, I'd start that earlier. I don't think there is. You know, I have been blessed with a wonderfully interesting life. I regret that my marriage didn't last – that is a regret that I have – but I am happily married again to a wonderful man, so that's a blessing. John Faggi is a…

Carol Corrigan: It's a blessing for you, poor John labors into that from time to time.

Joanne Parrilli: He's a high school teacher, and I figure anyone who has spent 30-plus years dealing with teenagers can deal with me. So . . . . And I've recently became a grandmother without having to go through the parenting stage, which somehow made me feel guilty initially and then I realized, no, I probably wouldn't have been a very good mother, but I can be a decent grandmother.

Carol Corrigan: So, what are you up to these days?

Joanne Parrilli: I am doing some private work with ADR Services, here in San Francisco. And I am continuing my studies at the Jesuit School in Berkeley. I am spending a lot of time with the granddaughter and looking forward to more, and enjoying every minute of retirement.

Carol Corrigan: I'm betting that there aren't that many retired Court of Appeal justices who also conduct retreats.

Joanne Parrilli: This is true. I've been on a number of retreat teams. My favorite is the Judges and Lawyers Retreat, a silent retreat for judges and lawyers which happens every spring down at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos. A miracle of . . . .

Carol Corrigan: Did you say . . . ?

Joanne Parrilli: Yes, the miracle of that retreat – now, how often do you get to witness a miracle? – is that judges and lawyers actually maintain silence for about 48 hours. Miraculous in itself. 58:56

But last year I was asked to be on the team for that retreat, and this year I have been invited back to lead the retreat with one of the Jesuits down there. So . . . . And I've done many other retreats with Jesuit Volunteer Corps, with returning students for JSTB. It's a wonderful balance.

Carol Corrigan: On the happy note of silent judges and lawyers, we are going to end our interview, and thank you very much, Justice Parrilli, for your time, and your wisdom, and your insight. And – if I may say – for your friendship.

Joanne Parrilli: And for yours. Thank you.

Duration: 60 minutes
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