Joanne Parrilli: Joanne Parrilli, P-A-R-R-I-L-L-I, Associate Justice, Division Two.

Herbert W. (Wes) Walker: Wes Walker, Retired Associate Justice, Court of Appeal.

David Knight: All right, Justice Parrilli, we're all ready to go, if you just want to give a sentence introduction here.

Joanne Parrilli: This interview is being conducted as part of the Appellate Court Legacy Project. The purpose of the project is to preserve an oral history of the appellate courts in California through a series of interviews of the justices who have served on our court. We are pleased to have with us this morning the Honorable Herbert Wes Walker, who served on the First District from May of 1996 through March 2001.

Wes, you are a native Californian. Tell us a little bit about your childhood, especially what it was like to have a father who was a judge and how that might have influenced your decision to study law, and ultimately to seek a judicial appointment.

Wes Walker: Okay. I grew up in Glendale, California. Actually, as a child Dad worked early on as a . . . for the Division of Corporations doing corporate law. He went on to be chief deputy district attorney of Los Angeles County under Fred Howser in the mid to late '40s and then went on the bench in early 1950, appointed by Earl Warren at the time. So I was really grown by the time he went on the bench but of course was very familiar with his work prior to the time that I took off for college.

Joanne Parrilli: Did you attend high school in Glendale then?

Wes Walker: Went to high school in Glendale, Glendale High School.

Joanne Parrilli: When you were in grade school or high school, did you ever think you would end up as a lawyer?

Wes Walker: You know, I didn't. In fact, I probably didn't want to be a lawyer because I saw how hard my father was working most of his work life. When I got to Stanford I was majoring in geology for about three and a half years, and the career opportunities in the early '50s or in the mid-'50s when I graduated were primarily with oil companies going to Saudi Arabia looking for oil, which didn't appeal to me too much. So at that point in time I convinced myself that law would be a good career.

Joanne Parrilli: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Wes Walker: Two sisters, one younger and one older.

Joanne Parrilli: Are they still in California?

Wes Walker: My older sister is deceased and my younger sister lives in San Francisco.

Joanne Parrilli: Did either of them consider law as a career, if you know?

Wes Walker: I don't think so. Both of them . . . this is back in the days when people got married, had children, had families, and then took care of their families. My younger sister Elizabeth lived in Los Banos for years. Her husband . . . they had a farm implement business in Los Banos, and then she raised a whole bunch of kids; so that was her life.

Joanne Parrilli: How many generations of native Californians had there been in the Walker lineage by the time you arrived?

Wes Walker: Oh, boy. My grandmother was born here in San Francisco in the 1860s. I'm not sure of the exact date. My father was born in San Francisco in 1898 or 1899, I think. My mother was born in Los Angeles in early 1900. So that would be, what, three generations?

Joanne Parrilli: You've already told us you graduated or you attended Stanford. When was it that you graduated?

Wes Walker: Nineteen fifty-five.

Joanne Parrilli: Did you go directly into law school?

Wes Walker: Went directly to USC to go to law school, yeah.

Joanne Parrilli: What was USC like back then in the '50s?

Wes Walker: You know, I've sort of been torn over this issue all of my adult life. At the time, I really wanted to stay at Stanford to go to law school. My father, my mother, and my two sisters all graduated from USC, and Dad convinced me that it was really imperative that I go to USC, what is now Law Center. At that time, in the late '50s, probably two-thirds of the lawyers in Los Angeles were SC grads. East L.A. really didn't get started until early, mid-'50s, and a good portion of judges were USC grads. And that was important, so—

Joanne Parrilli: Was it pretty much an all-male environment back then?

Wes Walker: Pretty much. We had three or four women in the class, out of like . . . The entering class was around 140, and we'd end up with about 80-something, and there were probably two or three women who graduated.

Joanne Parrilli: How about minorities? Any minorities back then?

Wes Walker: A few, not a lot.

Joanne Parrilli: Most of the graduates in your class, did you ever keep track of how their careers went or where they ended up?

(00:04:51)

Wes Walker: You know, a little bit. Of course, we had reunions periodically, the last one being our 50th year, several years ago. Surprisingly, most of them stayed in the Los Angeles area. Most of them were very successful in larger law firms down there and pretty much stayed close to home.

Joanne Parrilli: And then after law school, what was your first venture as a practitioner?

Wes Walker: When I was actually in law school, I worked for the L.A. County Counsel gofering in the afternoon after classes. I'd go down and pick up papers and run them down to the presiding judge, who at that time was Stanley Mosk. And this was back in 1956, 1957. So after graduation I stayed with the county counsel as a deputy for not quite a year; at that point I wanted to get out of the big city and frankly wanted to get out my father's shadow, which was fairly large in Los Angeles at that point.

Joanne Parrilli: Was he on the bench by then?

Wes Walker: He was on the bench by then and ended up trying most of the high-profile criminal cases in Los Angeles County, including the *Sirhan* case later on in the '60s. So in any event, I had a classmate that was with a firm in Santa Ana and I after about a year at the county counsel hooked up with him and stayed there over 20 years.

Joanne Parrilli: Any noticeable changes from the legal environment in L.A. County moving to Orange County?

Wes Walker: Totally different. You go from the big city to basically a cow county.

Joanne Parrilli: Back then?

Wes Walker: Well, back then it was all bean fields and orange groves. There was some merger of the population of Buena Park and Garden Grove in the northern part of the county, but the rest of the county was still agricultural and fairly rural.

Joanne Parrilli: And the firm that you worked with?

Wes Walker: Rutan and Tucker, which went from . . . I think I was the ninth attorney with the firm. When I left in the late '70s there were close to 90 and now there's I think 150, so it's grown substantially.

Joanne Parrilli: What kind of a practice did you have there?

Wes Walker: Initially I was doing insurance defense work. I was doing misdemeanor prosecutions for two other cities. I was city prosecutor for what was then Cypress and Dairyland, cities on the western side of the county, which was still dairy farmers and hadn't really been developed at that point. So I did insurance defense, city prosecutorial work. I worked from that into really complex civil litigation over the years.

Joanne Parrilli: You eventually became managing partner there?

Wes Walker: Managing partner for several years in the mid '70s, right.

Joanne Parrilli: Was that before the billable hours or was that—

Wes Walker: *[Laughing]* That was at a time when, at least in the firm I was in, I think all firms very typically . . . where you still had to maintain your billable hours and do the administrative work. So I was putting in, I guess in the mid-'70s, somewhere around 2,500 to 2,600 hours a year, including perhaps 1,700, 1,800 billables at that time. So that was one of the reasons I think I burned out and decided to go to Napa.

Joanne Parrilli: After Rutan and Tucker and those years in Southern California, what was your next job in the legal field?

Wes Walker: Actually, I moved out of civil practice and was associated with two or three other attorneys for about a year. Two of my ex-partners at Rutan and Tucker moved to Napa in the early '70s. So they came after me to rejoin them, which I did.

Joanne Parrilli: When did you make the move then from Southern California up to the north?

Wes Walker: Actually I bought property in 1979 and moved up there in early 1980.

Joanne Parrilli: What was that like? You've gone from a big city of Southern California to the countryside back then, and then to the wilderness, I guess, by then. *[laughing]*

Wes Walker: *[Laughing]* The countryside had grown. By the time I left, in the early '80s, it was a big city.

Joanne Parrilli: What was Napa like when you first came up?

Wes Walker: Napa was a very small town. I still had a number of clients in the Southern California area, and for the first year or two I did a lot of commuting and then maintained that client base down there. But that was a small town. There were three superior court judges and three municipal court judges. The firm I joined there—or rejoined, with two of my partners—I think there were eight or nine of us at that time.

Joanne Parrilli: How long were you with that firm?

Wes Walker: About five years from when I was appointed.

Joanne Parrilli: During the time that you were practicing law there, was your practice pretty much civil?

Wes Walker: Pretty much the same thing, civil litigation. The complexity of it changed dramatically. I was hanging on to a lot of the statewide practice for a while and I got tired of traveling and it became more of a small-town civil practice—although we had a lot of very good clients here in the winery business, vineyards, the industry in Napa Valley.

Joanne Parrilli: And that became a personal interest of yours at some point, that growing of grapes.

Wes Walker: We planted a small vineyard in 1990, actually.

(00:09:59)

Joanne Parrilli: What made you decide to put your name in for a judgeship, Wes?

Wes Walker: I think a number of reasons. I think that the fact that I had always admired my father and felt that he really had done a great job at being a judge. I found it to be at that point in my career something I felt would be more rewarding than the constant battle in court, which I think has proven out pretty much.

Joanne Parrilli: You were directly appointed to the superior court by Governor Deukmejian in 1985. What were your first trials? I mean, did they put you right into civil, having had all that wealth of experience?

Wes Walker: Typically in small counties I did go right into trial work, into civil trial work. But in small counties, you do everything. You do criminal, you do domestic, you do family law, you do probate; nobody is really specialized. But we were rotating on a yearly basis. My first assignment in the first year was civil, which included family law, which I had very little background in at that point.

Joanne Parrilli: And I see that you were active in the delay, a reduction effort which was coming into importance in all the trial courts about that time. What sparked your interest in trial delay reduction?

Wes Walker: Oh, boy. I think the principal reason was at that point in time, the court that I was with, Phil Champlin and Scott Snowden, really felt that we should be more active in administrative, in management of the cases, in management of the court. Up until that point in time, I think typically the courts were very

much laid-back and would allow the litigants to pursue their own timing. And cases in the southern part of the state were taking four to five years or longer to get to trial. So we felt we had an opportunity in Napa County to set up a delay reduction process. Actually, other than Ventura and San Diego counties, I think we were the third to really adopt the delay reduction procedure, and we were very successful at it. We also at the same time were able to administratively consolidate the municipal court and the superior court, which was unique. So we had both the consolidation and a delay reduction program that came in probably in the late '80s, 1989, somewhere in that time frame.

Joanne Parrilli: And having practiced as a lawyer, did you experience the frustration when you were a lawyer of having your cases delayed?

Wes Walker: Obviously, more than frustration, but the feelings of the clients of just not getting . . . being able to get to court; and particularly in the business area, which I was involved very heavily in, where you're dealing with contract law, you're dealing with real estate law. Problems need to be resolved timely and they weren't being resolved timely, so we became very active in administering cases and very successful. We were in the first year able to process over 90 percent between filing and disposal or disposition of them, so . . . and that ratio, I think, pretty well maintained itself to the day, so—

Joanne Parrilli: How did the relationship maintain between the lawyers practicing up there on the bench, which was a small bench, as you've said?

Wes Walker: You mean as far as the acceptance of the delay reduction? I think it was very good. I worked very closely. I set up a committee with the bar, local bar, and I worked very closely with them in really adopting the rules and bringing them into the process, which I think worked very well. And so we got down to the point where we really cut into the delay reduction. They were, I think, many of them eager to get into it because of the time and because of the fact that we'd get cases tried and get them disposed of.

Joanne Parrilli: Sure—and they could share in the credit along with the court.

Wes Walker: Some very interesting results we had, at least in Napa; I don't know about the rest of the state. But we found that after we instituted the delay reduction, we had about a 50 percent drop in civil filings. So all the junk filings that had been going on for years, with people filing and then sitting on them and hoping to settle, disappeared. So our civil filings went way down and we were able to obviously process cases a lot faster.

Joanne Parrilli: Any cases from your time on the Napa Superior Court that are particularly memorable, or any trials you had?

Wes Walker: Nothing really. You know, we did everything from murder to family law, and processed a lot of cases.

Joanne Parrilli: After more than 10 years, then, on the Napa Superior Court, you joined us in Division Three in 1996, after Justice Merrill passed away. At the time the division consisted of Justice Phelan, who had just been appointed presiding justice of the division in April of the same year, and Justice Corrigan and myself. Justice Chin had gone on to the Supreme Court on March 1st, the year that you joined us. Do you remember any first impressions you had of our division or the court here in the First District as a whole?

(00:14:54)

Wes Walker: Oh, boy. *[laughing]* You know, it was a nice change. I enjoyed, I think, moving from the activity of the trial courts, which I thoroughly enjoyed and still thoroughly enjoy, into a more academic atmosphere. I think it was more creative. I felt more challenged, I think, mentally as far as applying the law and then deciding cases. So it was a big change, as I'm sure you recall.

Joanne Parrilli: And we were still over at Marathon Plaza back then.

Wes Walker: Still in the temporary court, yeah.

Joanne Parrilli: So it was an easier commute at that stage probably coming to . . . if you came down 80 in those days.

Wes Walker: Actually it wasn't bad then, because I could take the ferry down from Vallejo and then walk over to the court, which worked out real well.

Joanne Parrilli: How did the work compare with what you had done as a trial judge? Did you find it as interesting?

Wes Walker: As far as the quality of the cases, I think it was very similar. As you know, we have a mix or had a mix about 50-50 civil and criminal. And that was pretty much what we had on the superior court; I mean, the cases were pretty much identical. There were a few cases that obviously came out of San Francisco and Oakland, Alameda County—which were larger cases than what we would have tried at Napa—which were more challenging but pretty much the same overall.

Joanne Parrilli: Do you recall any cases that were your favorites or that kept you up late at night? *[laughing]*

Wes Walker: *[Laughing]* I guess a number kept me up late at night, but several I found interesting. I don't know if you recall the little old ladies from Beardstown, which I think you were on that decision; that was a fun case to try.

Joanne Parrilli: Tell us a little bit about that.

Wes Walker: That was one where a group of little ladies in their 60s and 70s formed an investment group in Beardstown, Illinois; became very famous because of the rate of return they were accomplishing in their investment club. Published a book which was very successful, and on the cover of the book they were indicating they were returning 23, 24 percent investment return and three to one what Standard & Poor's were doing.

It turned out that basically they were including a lot of things accounting-wise that really didn't, weren't normally included by investment bankers, including their annual dues, which were accumulated. So there was a suit brought for false advertising under Business & Professions, I think 17200 or 17500, one of the two.

The trial court, as I recall, either sustained a demurrer without leave or granted summary judgment. We reversed it and held that basically it wasn't violative of the First Amendment free speech because it was commercial speech. The cover of the book really was a commercial, it was an advertisement; even though it was in the content of the book itself, we held that it did state a cause of action. So it was an interesting case.

Joanne Parrilli: Any others?

Wes Walker: You know, another one that I think you were on was the *Souza v. Antioch* case, the one where the child was killed by its father and the mother brought a wrongful death action and we—

Joanne Parrilli: Against the police department.

Wes Walker: Against the police department; we found that there was a duty because of the control that was taken by the police department, Antioch. I thought it was a fascinating case, although it was cutting-edge at that point. And as you recall, the publisher of opinions decided they didn't want to perpetrate what we decided in the case. *[laughing]* It was interesting.

Joanne Parrilli: The great eraser in the sky. *[laughing]*

Wes Walker: Yeah, exactly.

Joanne Parrilli: Any others?

Wes Walker: You know, the other one that I really got into . . . and then there was one that . . . In fact, the only case I was reversed by

the Supreme Court on, that you joined the reversal . . . and that one was the *Norgart v. Upjohn* case, the drug case—question of whether or not the family of the decedent knew or should have known the dangers of the drug she was taking that ultimately caused her to commit suicide. And we held that actually that the statute had not run, and the Supreme Court disagreed with us. But I found that to be a fascinating case, one that I still think we made the right decision on.

Joanne Parrilli: I remember one where I was a little worried, where Justice Corrigan and I were on opposite sides of an issue and, depending on who you agreed with, the majority would be formed. As I recall, discussions between Justice Corrigan and myself got a little heated from time to time on that case. Did we have you worried?

Wes Walker: *[Laughing]* Not worried so much; I enjoyed watching the two of you work and disagree, and I think both of you had excellent arguments. And again, it was a case that could have gone either way, and I was convinced by Carol's logic that I should go with her, so—

(00:20:03)

Joanne Parrilli: Over the more than 40 years in the law that you served did you observe any significant changes to the court system, positive or negative?

Wes Walker: Yes, both. I think the courts, in a way—and I think my experience of Napa really went along this—really became more aggressive as far as managing and administering the courts; in administering their cases were not as laid-back. I think the judges—at least when I was on the bench in my area and I think in California—were very conscientious, were very hard-working, and did an excellent job. But I saw a shift from really in the '60s and '70s with the judges really not asserting themselves in controlling the course of litigation to a situation where—at least when I was on the bench—it was very . . . we were very careful to manage the cases, make sure that cases did get resolved timely. That's the plus side.

On the negative side, I think judges today don't control their courts like they should. I think litigants and attorneys are getting away with a lot more than they should be getting away with. There's a lot of gamesmanship now that I don't think existed 20, 30, 40 years ago, which I think is unfortunate. I think it really impacts the ability of the trier of fact, whether it be a jury or judge, to really resolve the case in a fair fashion.

Joanne Parrilli: Is there anything that you attribute that to?

Wes Walker: A lot of it I attribute to the judges not really controlling the courtroom. I think that many of the younger judges that I see today want to make everybody happy, and you can't do that. And I think that things get out of hand, through just lack of control.

I think the discovery process . . . you know, when I first started practicing law, in the early '60s, discovery was brand-new. And that's become a game in and of itself, which I think is generating a lot of the gamesmanship that now goes on in lawsuits. I think that's unfortunate; discovery is necessary, but at the same time I think it gets way out of control.

Joanne Parrilli: I know you've done many interesting things apart from the law, both while you were on our court and certainly after you left, and we're going to talk about those in just a few minutes. But since retiring, Wes, have you done any assigned judges work or private judging?

Wes Walker: You know, I started out doing assigned judges, and I joined the American Arbitration Association and was doing both assignments statewide and also arbitration work with AAA. As you recall, the Chief Justice decided that was not a good idea, it was a conflict of interest, which I disagree with, by the way—but nevertheless I gave up the assigned judging and then stayed with arbitration.

Joanne Parrilli: And are you still doing that?

Wes Walker: Still doing that.

Joanne Parrilli: About what percentage of your time would you say you spend doing that?

Wes Walker: Oh, boy, it's hard to judge; as in civil trials, many of them settle. I probably have e-mails or phone calls two, three times a week; actual trials last year, probably somewhere between 40 or 60 days, so maybe a quarter of the time, a third of the time.

Joanne Parrilli: You've been retired now for about six years?

Wes Walker: Just about.

Joanne Parrilli: Can you tell us how you're spending the time that you're not spending doing private judging, in this so-called retirement?

Wes Walker: I'm still growing grapes; I planted a small vineyard on our property. We have 25 acres in Napa. In 1990 I farmed that pretty much myself, up until a couple of years ago, when we started traveling quite a bit, and then had some help since then. And this year I'm actually turning that over to a vineyard manager under a land lease, so pretty much for the last five,

six years I've been heavily involved in the vineyard and been keeping that going.

Joanne Parrilli: What do you do with those grapes that you grow on your place?

Wes Walker: Well, we sell them to Silver Oak. I've been under a 10-year contract with them for just about 10 years now, so all the crop goes there. It's a small vineyard; we only have three acres and produce about 12 tons of Cabernet. But it's been fun.

Joanne Parrilli: You also, even when you were here on the court, I know had a devoted hobby in photography. Are you pursuing that?

Wes Walker: We've gotten off quite extensively in that in the last several years. So I was very fortunate to have been picked up by a publisher in New York. I did initially a calendar on Napa Valley, and then I've done seven of those now. But that led to a small book on Napa, and I did another small book on Sonoma and just last week published a book on Tuscany. So I've been doing a lot of photography and a lot of publishing.

(00:25:08)

Joanne Parrilli: You have another book coming up, so you're going to be doing some traveling?

Wes Walker: We'll be doing China this year; in the fall I'm going to be on the Silk Road for about 30 days, taking pictures over there.

Joanne Parrilli: When did your interest in photography begin?

Wes Walker: I think as a kid I always loved taking a camera with me wherever I went; but in the '60s and '70s I did a lot of backpacking in the Sierras, and then took the camera with me, just to take landscape stuff, for years.

Joanne Parrilli: And in addition to your books, I noticed when I was just looking on the Internet this morning that there is actually a website that has about 200 of your photographs available as posters in all different sizes, and some beautiful images.

Wes Walker: Well, thank you.

Joanne Parrilli: Should we give them a plug and tell them—

Wes Walker: *[Laughing]* Actually, I have two agencies that have my photographs on their Web sites. One, I started out with a small agency here in San Francisco, with Ted Streshinsky of Photo 20-20. He sold to Lonely Planet in Australia, and I've got several hundred images with them. They were the ones that actually sold to AllPosters, which has the poster site. And now I've got also an agent in Europe, in Spain, and then Age Fotostock, who handles my photography over there. So I'm

selling images really on the Web for all kinds of things: editorial, books, whatever.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, and you've certainly seen photography change. When we were talking before we started on the video this morning, you were telling me that up till fairly recently, you've been using film in a Hasselblad camera for your photography. Now you've made the shift to digital, right?

Wes Walker: It's been a quantum leap; believe me, I've had the Hasselblad TuneCore since the mid-'60s, so I've been using that over 40 years now. And everything's gone digital; the stock agencies I'm working with require digital now, and I had to take the negatives and digitize. And so, yeah, I've gone digital. It's been I'd say a quantum leap here in the last several months.

Joanne Parrilli: Do you think you'll get interested in the actual Photoshop, working with the images?

Wes Walker: I have so far to the extent that I'm using Adobe Lightroom to not really manipulate the images, but to what they call development: change the colors, the contrast, bring out the shadows, things of that type; but without layering, without adding or taking things out of the image. I may get there someday.

Joanne Parrilli: Do you enjoy that?

Wes Walker: I do enjoy it; it's very time consuming. I enjoy more being out taking pictures.

Joanne Parrilli: Did you have any particular heroes in the photography world, or mentors?

Wes Walker: I guess definitely yes—Ansel Adams is someone I've always admired. His son and I were at Stanford together, fraternity brothers, and we used to come into the city after the big game and have cocktails at his home here in San Francisco. This would be back in the mid-'50s, I guess, or early '50s. I'd been in his studio a number of times in Carmel before his death and always admired . . . In fact, all of my early photography was black and white, and the stuff I did in the Sierras was all black and white; didn't really switch to color until probably the late '70s.

Joanne Parrilli: That's a pretty impressive mentor to have.

Wes Walker: Yeah, he was great, wonderful.

Joanne Parrilli: And you plan to continue your photography?

Wes Walker: As long as I can function.

Joanne Parrilli: Any other hobbies? I know you were raising alpacas for a while up there in Napa also.

Wes Walker: We finally sold the herd, after my wife Susan passed away here several years ago. It was just too much. Her mother lives on the property. And then it was Susan and Merle's project, really; I was involved in it, but—

Joanne Parrilli: And Merle is her mother.

Wes Walker: Her mother.

Joanne Parrilli: Yeah.

Wes Walker: So we sold them off probably a year ago.

Joanne Parrilli: I know you have one son from that marriage—Brett.

Wes Walker: Brett. He's still at UC Davis. He's on a 10-year program, I think, at this point.

Joanne Parrilli: Any other children from your early marriage?

Wes Walker: I have five other children, all of them grown and scattered all over the western United States.

Joanne Parrilli: Anything else you would like to tell the viewing audience on this tape that I may not have covered, we didn't talk about?

Wes Walker: That's hard to answer. We've pretty much covered a lot of things. I know one of the issues that was raised in the materials that were sent to me was my judicial philosophy, and maybe I could touch on that a bit.

(00:29:57)

I guess I'm conservative in the sense that I really feel that the law's structure should be followed and should be applied in cases to resolve legal problems. I see in our society a drift away from really strict construction of the law and application of the law, primarily in the trial courts. That concerns me.

Joanne Parrilli: Is there anything that you would like the legal community and the general public to remember about you and your work as a judge, both in the trial court and here?

Wes Walker: That's a tough one to answer. I guess I've always prided myself in being thoroughly prepared, spending the time really necessary to arrive at a decision I felt was a valid and good decision. I hope I can be remembered for that; I hope I can be remembered for being fair as far as applying the law and resolving legal issues.

Joanne Parrilli: And if you had to do it all over again, would you?

Wes Walker: I certainly would, no question about it.

Joanne Parrilli: Is there any particular phase of your legal career that was more satisfying than any other?

Wes Walker: That's really difficult to answer because they're so different. You know, I thoroughly enjoyed being a trial lawyer and trying lawsuits; it was more difficult than being a judge, I think, in a lot of ways. I enjoyed the trial work as a judge; it's very different, of course, than being a trial lawyer in a court. And I enjoyed thoroughly being on the bench here; again, very different than being a trial judge. So I enjoyed each one of them, honestly.

Joanne Parrilli: I've often felt that it's just a wonderful kind of transition of careers, from one career to another, all within the umbrella of the law—that each one had its own benefits and headaches.

Wes Walker: *[Laughing]* You know, I guess one of the things that I've always felt very strongly about is that you really need to lead a balanced life. I've committed myself to the law, but not so totally that I haven't enjoyed a lot of other activities in my life—in travel, photography, vineyards. But I think it's essential for people, and particularly people in the law profession, really to strike that balance; not to be so totally consumed in the law that they have nothing else in their life. So that's been a struggle and something I've always tried to maintain.

Joanne Parrilli: And that's a wonderful message to give to anyone who may be viewing this tape.

Wes Walker: I think it's important today, particularly in the larger law firms in the metropolitan areas where attorneys are required to bill an enormous amount of hours and their whole life really is their profession. I think that's a mistake.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, we wish you the best in your travels and photography and practice of private judging. Is there anything else you wish to say as we conclude today?

Wes Walker: That's about it.

Joanne Parrilli: Well, thank you.

Wes Walker: Thank you so much, Joanne.

Joanne Parrilli: Thank you for participating in this interview.

Duration: 33 minutes
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