

University of Virginia School of Law
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Oral History Interview Transcript
Cover Sheet

Narrator: Michael Allen

Interviewers: Addie Patrick, Randi Flaherty, Gregory McKnight

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Project Abstract: Lambda Law Alliance 40 is a multimedia project produced by Law Special Collections to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the University of Virginia Law School's chapter of Lambda Law Alliance (1984-2024). In collaboration with current UVA Law Lambda members, Law Special Collections conducted oral history interviews with past UVA Law Lambda members and officers from the organization's four decades to highlight individual experiences and document the organization's forty-year history.

Interview Abstract: Oral history interview with Michael Allen, class of 1985, via Zoom, on February 29, 2024. Allen discussed the formation and early activities of UVA Law's Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association, which later became UVA Law's chapter of Lambda Law Alliance.

Beginning of interview

Addie Patrick: Okay. Hi, today is Thursday, February 29, 2024. My name is Addison Patrick, and I use she/her pronouns. I'm the library coordinator at the UVA Law Library. And today, I'm Zooming in from Charlottesville. We are conducting an oral history interview with current and former members of UVA Law's chapter of Lambda Law Alliance, both to document the group's history in our archive and to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the organization. So, to get started with this oral history, we're going to go around the room and have everybody introduce themselves, starting with my colleague, Randi.

Randi Flaherty: Hello, I am Randi Flaherty. I use she/her pronouns and I serve as Law School historian and head of Special Collections at the UVA Law Library, and I am Zooming in today from Charlottesville, Virginia.

Addie Patrick: I'll pass it off to Greg.

Gregory McKnight: My name is Gregory McKnight (class of 2026). I am a 1L here at UVA. I'm a Lambda member. And I'm Zooming in from the second floor of the Library.

Michael Allen: And I'm Michael, excuse me, Michael Allen, 1985 graduate of the Law School. I use he/him pronouns. I am a civil rights lawyer in Washington, DC, and am Zooming in from my home there.

Addie Patrick: All right, Greg, whenever you're ready.

Gregory McKnight: So, Michael, I was wondering, why did you decide to attend UVA Law?

Michael Allen: Well, I'll be honest with you. So my upbringing was fairly conservative. I got about halfway through college and realized that my politics and my family's didn't entirely align. Thought all along that I might go to law school but decided to take off two or three years in between college and law school. Did some work out in the world, worked for a while in a union position in a hotel in Washington, DC, worked for a law firm. By the time I was ready to apply for and accept, you know, to go to any law school, I was convinced that I would have to go for good things, if you know what I mean. It's not that UVA had a particular reputation for being progressive, but I was an in-state student, and I had my eyes probably on the legal aid job. And I realized I could go to a good law school at in-state tuition rates, not have to sell my soul, and could be a public interest lawyer on the back end. So, I have to say, those are all kind of the influences on me. You know, certainly students in the present day, because things have changed significantly over the last forty years, don't have those luxuries that I had. And, obviously, I talk to students all the time and the current tuition framework in a place like UVA would make it impossible to make the choices that I have in my career.

Gregory McKnight: Did you—could I ask you where you went to undergrad?

Michael Allen: I went to Georgetown.

Gregory McKnight: Georgetown. Okay. And would you say—how were things going from Georgetown to UVA, in terms of like, culture, because you said you grew up rather conservative, and my ideas of Charlottesville were not, you know, it was just a liberal paradise before I came here, either. So—

Michael Allen: [Laughs.] I guess I would say the following, that what really attracted me to UVA, in contradistinction to Georgetown, is that there appeared to be some real care and attention to—I guess they brought what I might call like work-life balance issues. And much more attention at the school to the individual needs of students. At Georgetown I always felt like I was kind of a number. At UVA at least I felt like there was an opportunity to, you know, even though my interests and needs as a student there may be different than the vast majority of people, felt that there were enough supportive faculty and staff that I could find kind of a home there and not feel like the complete oddball, so to speak. As to the politics, you know, clearly forty years ago, it'd be fair to say that Charlottesville was a purple dot in a red ocean. There were enough progressives in town. You know, the grown-up lawyers at the National Lawyers Guild local chapter clearly provided a space to do progressive work. There were Central America solidarity groups in town. It made me feel like I could use the platform at the Law School, and anybody at the Law School I could convince, to be involved in not only Charlottesville community activities, but sort of broader world, broader national issues as well. So I found that there was enough comfort level—I'm actually reminded, Greg, of the fall of my first year at UVA, or maybe it was the early spring, a bunch of us sort of found each other. A bunch of us interested in progressive or public interest-oriented work. And we decided to have a happy hour. And we did it somewhere kind of off campus, I can't remember exactly where it was. We worried that, you know, only two or three of us were going to show up. So we called it the "we are not alone [McKnight: Aw.] happy hour." And we got fifteen people. So [McKnight laughs] yes, not a huge groundswell. But I felt like that, those were my people. And I felt that throughout my time at Charlottesville, it was, you know, gatherings like that that sustained me.

Gregory McKnight: So I'm guessing your impression of Charlottesville or law school was that it was more welcoming than, say, DC was, or more welcoming than you thought it would be?

Michael Allen: More welcoming than I thought it would be. You know, again, it was clear to me, I mean, the way the placement office operates, you could fall out of bed and have six offers to big law firms back in the days that I was there. I didn't do a single on-campus interview because I was—my values lay in different places, let's put it that way. And there were very, very few public interest offerings. But again, I felt like I could kind of go my own way and find enough allies and fellow travelers to feel comfortable.

Gregory McKnight: What would you say was the sentiment toward LGBTQIA+ individuals while you were a student?

Michael Allen: Well, and let me just be clear, so that, you know—and I've certainly talked with others in the Lambda Law Alliance in the last several months. You know, I had the privilege of being, then and now, a cisgender, white man who was interested in progressive causes. And I felt like I had a lot more latitude to speak forcefully on a whole range of issues because of all of those elements of privilege. I, you know, my friends in the LGBTQ community, when I was in Charlottesville, were largely very quiet about their identities. It was perhaps not stifling, but certainly it was not comfortable in the Law School community, except in those small private gatherings, to come out to the broader world. I remember having multiple conversations on campus, but they were always one on one or just a small group of people. And, in fact, it was the—I think it was the discomfort that many people felt about being out at that time that gave rise to this thought that those of us who identified as straight or cis would help provide some cover, so to speak. You know, I've seen a couple of recent articles that have credited me and Richard Avidon, who was class of '84, with being founders of what was then known as the Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association [GALLSA]. I don't think we were founders; I think we were just people who didn't feel like we needed to shield ourselves in any way. And were proud to be allies.

Gregory McKnight: So, would you say the club kind of started as more of these informal happy hour gatherings than—I mean, now we have like a president, vice president, treasurer, all these, you know, roles that you can sign up for, but I'm guessing back then it was a lot less structured?

Michael Allen: I would say a lot less structured. I mean, we certainly had a couple of meetings at the Law School, you know, in some small classroom, in one of the back wings of the Law School. I'm not saying we were hiding, but it's just, you know, it was the place that we convened to talk about sort of issues and programs. You know, one of the things that we did that spring of 1984 was just to sort of try to make visible our discomfort with the Law School inviting employers onto campus whose policies explicitly or implicitly discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. And so that was something that we organized around and then had in the main hall of the Law School, back in the days before it became the quad, but just on that one hall of the Law School, just had tables and asked people to sign the petition that we were going to turn in to the administration saying, Listen, you've got to change your policies, you've got to put pressure on these employers. But yes, aside from organizing a specific activity or program, I think that much of the conversation did take place in smaller social settings.

Gregory McKnight: Given that you were kind of like a trailblazer in asking the school to not let certain employers with those prohibitive policies on campus, there are definitely still events that happen that affect students that are divisive. And I was wondering if you could give advice to students who similarly, like you, want to mobilize around these public interest or social issues?

Michael Allen: Well, I'm going to step back a second and reflect on the UVA form of legal education for a moment, and then speak more directly to your point. I can't remember if somebody actually said it out loud, or it was just the received wisdom, but—. So, I arrived in the fall of 1982, I'm there through the spring of 1985. We organized around a whole bunch of stuff while I was there, including faculty diversity, Central America solidarity work, diversity in curricular offerings, not only just didactic versus clinical, but also subject matter-wise in terms of classroom lectures and seminars. And somebody said, at some point, you know, sort of complaining about why we didn't have more of a diverse set of offerings in the curriculum, UVA doesn't teach you how to be a lawyer. It teaches you how to think like a lawyer. And I was just more interested in using advocacy skills, practicing advocacy skills. So, I got involved in the Legal Aid Society, I got involved in organizing around some of these issues that we just talked about. And it strikes me that while UVA never saw itself as a trade school, they always figured you'd get hired by a big law firm and they'd teach you how to do the lawyer skills, it felt to me like there's a real opportunity to get involved and to figure out how to do advocacy. And no better way to do it than in the setting where you're learning the law. I guess the encouragement that I would give to students is—you arrive at UVA already sort of blessed with lots of talents. And if you can get into UVA, you've done fairly well academically. Use that for good things. I mean, use it literally to question whether the offerings that you're getting are enough to make you a well-rounded person, a well-rounded lawyer. And I've had the good fortune to spend almost forty years since I graduated in exclusively poverty law, civil rights issues. I would say use your law degree for good things. And if you've committed to going to a law firm, because, you know, law school debt is so crushing or because that's where your values are, break off a little piece of that and do something to improve the community that you're living in while you're in Charlottesville.

Gregory McKnight: I can only speak to it from where I'm at now in the 2020s of LGBTQ culture being kind of everywhere you want to find it, but I'm curious what you would do, you know, going out in Charlottesville, what did that look like if you were with friends you were comfortable with? How did you guys, I guess, go have fun out in town?

Michael Allen: Well, I have to confess I was more bookish. [McKnight laughs.] Lots of people at the Law School generally and in GALLSA at the time—but I think, you know, there are bars and restaurants and clubs and places to go dancing. I have to say that I don't have deep memories of any of those, because I spent an awful lot of time either catching up with schoolwork or out doing activism sort of stuff. So, there were lots of outlets for that. I wasn't necessarily the aficionado.

Gregory McKnight: That does sound like a typical law school experience. I wonder, going from being a student to practicing. I mean, now firms love to tout their diversity and all that. But I'm wondering, were there any challenges with your identity, sexually wise, while you were working? Because I know back then it must have been still difficult to be out in any employer.

Michael Allen: But yes, so and again, you're asking sort of interview questions that might work more naturally for people who identify as a member of the LGBTQ community. And, you know, let's say the following. One of the reasons I didn't spend a lot of time in Charlottesville is because I'd met Janice just before I arrived there. She was in Washington, I was visiting her quite often, we've been married now forty years, we've got three grown kids. So, as I said, I had the luxury of being an ally in a way that I didn't have to sort of hide, apologize for, my identity. I will say that there were certainly colleagues of mine who felt like they had to keep that part of their lives absolutely quiet, in the on campus interviewing process, in jobs that they had for years after law school. You know, there are certainly examples of law professors at UVA, in the time that I was there, who were either openly gay or thought to be gay, who felt it was a very hostile atmosphere. And who moved on precisely because of that. So, I don't know if, for instance, [Professor] Bill [William Nichol] Eskridge [Jr.] has any interest in talking about those issues. But he was there during the time that I was there. I think he stayed until '86. But I think it was very, very uncomfortable in that era to be in either the legal academy or particularly in mainstream law firms. And people as a consequence hid big parts of their lives.

Gregory McKnight: Speaking in, on the ally experience, how would you reflect upon your time in Lambda Law Alliance?

Michael Allen: Let's say a couple of things. One, I obviously felt comfortable with advocacy, and felt like there were chances that I could take. And to the extent that being a more visible face of the organization, not the face, but a face, you know, I was pleased to do it. I think that I clearly was very interested in changing people's minds and attitudes about any number of issues on campus. I think at the time, '84-'85, that my approach to those issues was a little more aggressive, or a little more radical, than others within the Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association would have felt comfortable. I mean, a couple of members referred to me as the Marxist in the group, and thought maybe, you know, I was tainting the brand a little too much. I think organizations evolve. And let me just celebrate the fact that I've certainly heard the numbers at UVA in terms of representation in the class and in leadership positions, on many organizations. And then, obviously, the vitality of Lambda itself. I don't know whether the officer positions are contested or not contested, but let's just say it's a much more comfortable time to do activism. And my guess is that across the broad spectrum of sort of cultural and ideological beliefs that you probably go from Marxists to Libertarians, to conservatives within the organization. And it's exactly as it should be.

Gregory McKnight: What would you hope for the future of Lambda?

Michael Allen: You know, I think probably the most important thing is to continue to make the environment at UVA a welcoming, affirming—not a place where you could survive, I mean, in the old days, that's I think what we aspired to, but a place where you could really thrive and where you feel welcome. And if UVA becomes a leader in

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welcoming folks from the LGBTQI community to Charlottesville, I think that would be fabulous. And if Lambda could help with respect to the placement and recruitment process on campus. Not just the first-generation issues that we fought about way back when, and not just a position where the LGBT community becomes just like another diversity metric for law firms, but where law firms begin to take on rights issues, LGBTQI rights issues, in a way that's not just sort of a cameo appearance. I mean, there's so much terrible stuff going on these days in the legislatures all over the country, particularly for the trans community. And so to be out front, and to be calling those things out as morally, legally, ethically wrong. And to the extent that that then feeds more people from law schools, whether they identify as being part of the community or not, to work on those issues, I think that's the second big thing that Lambda could help facilitate.

Gregory McKnight: That's a beautiful answer, definitely inspiring. And going off of that, what advice would you have for the current and future LGBTQ+ students?

Michael Allen: Do work that you believe in, take your time in law school to prepare yourself for that work. Again, just to sound that earlier theme, if your law school debt is going to require you to go someplace that's going to pay you a lot of money, at least for a little while, find every opportunity you can, within that, whether it's a law firm or a company, to do work—not token pro bono work, but to do work that really affirms your values, which may be in the LGBTQI space, or maybe somewhere else. But insist on that as you go to do those jobs and to do that work.

Gregory McKnight: Another very good answer. Very beautiful. I don't have any more questions for you, Michael. You've been very succinct and poetic.

Addie Patrick: I think, Greg, Randi and I have some follow-up questions just about like law—few more law school experience specific ones that—some stories that, Michael, I think you mentioned, that I think we want to pull the thread on a little bit more. Randi, I can pass it to you, or I can go ahead if you want. But I think the first one is, Michael, you mentioned that there's been some articles about you and Richard Avidon and the founding, or being noted as founders, of the organization. And you sort of said that that maybe wasn't 100 percent correct. But could you talk a little bit more about how the group was founded, or the first meetings that you can recall, to the best of your knowledge?

Michael Allen: Okay, so my memory has been refreshed, as a witness might say on the stand, [McKnight laughs] but fairly recently. So, I've seen the [*Virginia Law Weekly* ad ["Law School Briefs," 3 February 1984] that was maybe five or six lines long, that talked about the formation of the group in February of 1984. In fact, I had a conversation with a Lambda member, I think it was—if the ad showed up on February 7, I was talking with this Lambda member on February 6 of this year. And we were noting that literally it is forty years this month. So, the initial meeting, as I recall it, you know, in a small classroom, maybe fifteen people showed up. For the most part, they were people that I

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knew, either because they were in my section, or in my year, or had been in classes with me. And there were some people I guess in other years that I didn't know, but for the most part, familiar. And so, I think at that initial meeting, or the initial couple of meetings, there was no sort of discomfort in the room about, Oh, who are you? And what are your motives? And that sort of thing. And, as I had with just about every bit of activism that I had when I was on campus, I was very clear about what I thought and how I felt, and I still have a—I wore political buttons quite often in the halls of UVA. Not to poke people in the eye, but to sort of provoke thought. And so I have this big yellow button that says, "How dare you presume I'm straight?" And it was a way to start conversation in this group. So, again, I don't recall maybe more than three or four meetings in the spring of '84. None of them terribly big in terms of numbers. I mean, we did talk about this petition asking the administration either to boycott or at least to require other assurances from potential employers interviewing on campus. But for the most part, there was a potential very big scope of work to be done on a whole bunch of issues. And I think we probably just talked about, you know, what time we had, and who might want to take leadership on this or that. I don't have, again, any sharp memory of it. I do remember sitting at that petition table in the hallway. And, you know, in the spring of 1984, I think the people who thought of themselves as progressives walking up and down the hall felt like they should stop and sign, or maybe we hectored some people into stopping and signing. I think for the most part, the student body would have preferred to just sort of avert their eyes as they went by. So again, that's, I think, just the process of evolution. I think there might have been some small peril for people stopping at that table and being seen by their friends and colleagues as somehow connected to that community. But, again, to reiterate a point I made earlier, I think there were enough supporters and allies for most progressive things, including this effort, that I think we made a dent. And in the year that followed, the school then did a sort of halfway measure in terms of assurances by interviewers. And again, I think it's evolved since then.

Addie Patrick: I have multiple follow-up questions, but I guess my immediate follow-up question to that is just, do you recall the im—what happened when you submitted this petition to administration? What was the result?

Michael Allen: I'd like to say that the dean called me on my cell phone. [McKnight laughs.] Nothing about that sentence would be accurate. There were not any cell phones, and the dean did not call me. As with most student activism, my guess is that the School acknowledged no link between our request and its change of policy. That the following year, which would have been 1985, that—the '84-'85 school year, that the policy had changed, but I think the School did it with little fanfare. If I recall, the organization then known as GALLSA noticed it and celebrated it in some way or other. I don't recall precisely what the nature of that was. But so anyway, no, it wasn't like a lightning bolt hit and this organization and its activism were credited with the change.

Addie Patrick: Randi, do you want to—do you have any questions? I have more, but I won't hog the microphone.

Randi Flaherty: I had one. I was wondering if GALLSA, in these years, was at all involved with Main Grounds groups like the Gay Student Union, the undergraduate groups, or are you really functioning sort of on your own up at the Law School?

Michael Allen: I don't know the answer to that question. I would put it this way. I don't know of any formal or even informal reach out to Main Grounds ally groups, or allied groups, I should say.

Randi Flaherty: What about the environment within the Law School and student organizations? Was that a collaborative environment with GALLSA?

Michael Allen: I don't—so let me say that my perspective as to what happened—so, spring of '84, I have a very sharp memory. That summer I went off to do a public interest job in Washington. I had an externship in the fall of '84, which kept me in Washington full time. So, I don't know much about what was going on in the fall of '84, which is to say just like a big hole in my institutional memory. I will say that, and maybe this is more than you're asking, but I'll go ahead and say it anyway. You know, there were a handful of established groups that were thought to do progressive things on campus. So the Black Law Students Association [BLSA], Virginia Law Women, I'm sure there was a sort of College Democrats [of America] chapter, and they all talked with each other and supported—with all the diversity efforts, they supported one another. Let's just say that the Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association didn't show up in the yearbook in '84 or '85. I don't know whether that's because it was still a time when people wouldn't have wanted to be photographed as being members of such a group, or whether it wasn't possible. I don't have any clear memory of BLSA or—and there were both Black and white members of GALLSA. I don't remember any explicit sort of reach out, or rallying together. But again, that may have happened once I was sort of either off campus that fall or after I had graduated. I don't know whether Ken [Kenneth] Williams (class of 1986) is on your list of people to interview. Ken is now a law professor in Texas.

Addie Patrick: He is on the list.

Michael Allen: He was a year behind me. And my guess is he will add at least a year or a year and a half of knowledge that I seem to lack.

Addie Patrick: I had another question. You mentioned—so you talked about this local activism that GALLSA was doing in terms of the policy, discrimination policy. I was wondering if GALLSA was in any way having discussions about statewide or national political issues related to sexual identity or anything like that at the time?

Michael Allen: I mean, not in terms of any kind of policy effort. I mean, this was when "Don't ask, don't tell" was thought to be kind of over the horizon. So, I mean, this was really the old days. I can't recall any specific effort. Politics in Virginia, in those days, even when there was a Democratic governor, or a Democratic majority in the General Assembly.

Assembly, was not all that progressive. So I don't think there was anything there. Yes, I just I—again, Ken or people who came after us, they'd be able to say more about that. But I don't—I think the answer is I don't think so.

Randi Flaherty: Were you on campus when Jerry Falwell came to visit, or was that part of the time when you were gone?

Michael Allen: Yes, I was there for Falwell. I was there for the other—why am I blanking on his name, [US President Ronald] Reagan's civil rights chief, William Bradford Reynolds. Yes. And yes, there were protests. I don't recall whether GALLSA as GALLSA protested, or whether it was kind of in a much larger group of people without the organizational affiliation.

Randi Flaherty: Can you talk a little bit about those moments as a student and what the student experience was like, and the discussions you guys were having?

Michael Allen: I actually—I went back and looked at the yearbooks in order to confirm what I'd said earlier about GALLSA not being in the yearbook. And there are some pictures of the protests of Reynolds and of Falwell. I recall those times where there seemed to be an awful lot of people willing to gather and rally and sort of counter program around those things. Again, I don't have a memory of it through the GALLSA lens. It was more just, you know, there were enough activists to sort of make a stink when people came. Not in the sense that they shouldn't be coming to campus, but if you're going to listen to him, you should also listen to what we think about him kind of rallies.

Addie Patrick: I think another thing—sorry, we're sort of jumping around. But I think another point that you brought up earlier that I wanted to follow up on was you mentioned faculty, and there being some faculty who were maybe out, or people presumed them to be gay and the environment that they felt there. I was wondering if there was any relationship between GALLSA and faculty, or whether that was just more general student body knowledge of faculty that might—may or may not be allies?

Michael Allen: Yes, I think it was probably the latter. I don't remember us—I mean, we certainly didn't have a faculty advisor. I think lots of things were whispered back then, including even among us. So, I don't remember anything formal. I mean, we knew who might support us based on politics. And whether that aligned with their own identities or not—you know, I'm not sure we were interested in making anything other than sort of private information.

Randi Flaherty: On the topic of faculty and teaching, you meant—so I'm wondering if discussions about nondiscrimination and sexual identity is something that was extracurricular, or were these discussions—did they come up in class? Were you talking about these in a curricular sense?

Michael Allen: So, I think I can only speak for myself, again because it wasn't like GALLSA members predominated in any class. I had certainly—back to college when I got interested in constitutional law, was writing about why the Supreme Court's sodomy decisions were wrong, sort of dissecting them from a privacy, Ninth Amendment, perspective. So, I'm sure that in my con law class, and in my con law two class—actually, I had [Professor] Lillian [R.] BeVier for con law two. She's rather more conservative than I am, although I found a delightful picture of the two of us talking in the 1985 yearbook. I'm sure that I raised it, I'm sure that others raised it, but not in a—it wasn't like there was any classroom, there wasn't anything on the syllabus about it, if you know what I mean. It had to be inserted, so to speak. And it did not, you know, it didn't feature widely, let's just say. It wasn't like somebody in class said, Oh, but you're not understanding the definition of sex in a way that would also protect people in the LGBTQI community. Why don't we talk about that more? And then there was a chorus of people saying, Yes, how about that? It was more like, Oh, that's an interesting observation, now let's go back to the main topic. I will say we find ourselves today in a completely different environment. I, again, haven't been back to the Law School in a number of years. But just from the perspective of somebody who was out and practicing in the civil rights space, I mean, to have [Supreme Court Associate] Justice [Neil M.] Gorsuch write the *Bostock v. Clayton County* (590 US __ (2020)) decision, and to say that the traditional protection against discrimination on the basis of sex includes the entire LGBTQI community, is a remarkable thing. You know, my firm has done a handful of cases, maybe four or five cases, around things like—I mean, I hate to say this, but you know, access to bathrooms, cases that have to do with access to medical services on the basis of transgender status, or the ability of a lesbian couple to live together in a retirement community in Missouri. So, I mean I feel like things have really significantly changed in the last few years. Not that there won't be a backlash or that there isn't a backlash now. But there are some foundational things that have changed that I think make it more likely that these conversations will have to come up in the regular curriculum in some of these classes.

Addie Patrick: I had one last question, but Greg I wanted to pass it to you in case you had any other follow ups in the interim.

Gregory McKnight: I can't think of any now.

Addie Patrick: Okay. Then my last question is just, Michael, if there's anything else that you want to speak to about your law school experience that you haven't had a chance to mention so far?

Michael Allen: Well, let me say I'm eternally grateful to UVA for having—on the basis of, in the old days, that great in-state tuition rate allowed me to come out of law school with \$18,000 of debt, and thereafter to be a legal aid lawyer for ten years and to stay in the public interest community well beyond that. While still being able to like have some kids and have a car that worked and buy a house and all that sort of thing. So, I'm grateful for all of that. I do feel like I spent an awful lot of time inventing opportunities for UVA Law Archives

myself. I know that when Mortimer Caplin (class of 1940) gave money to the Law School, years after I left, to create the public interest center [Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center] and have a real focus on placement, that opportunities opened much more widely for people with interests like mine. So, I think I got a strong legal education, even if it wasn't always kind of the curricular diversity that I wish I had had. And there were obviously some fabulous teachers as well, who I still think of from time to time when I realize that I've ended up, almost forty years later, having had a legal career, not one day of which I've regretted. So anyway, I'm grateful for all of those things. I think grateful also that there was just enough room for me to swing my advocacy elbows while at law school without being shut down or thrown out. And made a fairly smooth transition to the workforce.

Addie Patrick: Well, thank you very much for sharing your recollections with us. I'm going to stop the recording now and then we'll have a few minutes to say our goodbyes.

Michael Allen: Sure.

Addie Patrick: Here we go.

End of interview