

## **Tina Tate**

### **Live TV and its Impact on the House Radio-TV Gallery**

Detailed explanation of how the evolution of the 24-hour news cycle changed the day-to-day operations of the House Radio-TV Gallery.

*Interview recorded August 28, 2008*

Well, the big change was when you got live television. I mean live, 24-hour news coverage. The big change was when you—CNN did a lot of coverage and was competing with the networks, but not directly. They had 24 hours, and you would have to make arrangements not just for the networks to be there, but that you've got this other group. Things that the networks wouldn't have covered CNN would. So that extended it a little. Where the big change came was when MSNBC and Fox came online. So now CNN had competition for 24 hours. So it wasn't just more stories. Now all those stories, in order to be compelling, had to go live. And that's the big change for us. It's one thing to set up a stakeout; it's another thing to set up a live stakeout. And that expanded. Now we'd been gradually increasing the number of places in the building where live capability was possible. That has been a progression. And we thought, in terms of any construction, we've got to be sure that we've got live coverage, even though we didn't know how much room we were going to have. We went ahead and wired anyplace that they opened up the walls.