

Muftiah McCartin
Staff Director, House Committee on Rules

Special Exhibit: Women in Congress

Sharing a Desk

Muftiah McCartin remembers sharing a desk with the only other woman in the office, Gay Topper.
Interview recorded January 29, 2016

Oh, Gay was like my best friend. Yes, she was hired—she was on the rostrum, Gay Topper. She, she was on the rostrum as a—she was one of the clerks to the reporters. And so, when, when Dallas Dendy left, they kind of promoted me to, like, assistant clerk, knowing that I was going to go on to law school. And—but—and not stay in that position. So, they brought Gay in knowing she would stay, and she just retired a couple years ago. She was in the office for a long time. So, there was no desk for her. So, she and I had to share a desk. We shared a desk for like two years. She planned my wedding. You know, I mean—no, she was like my—I, I just love her so much. But finally, she put her foot down. She's like, "You know, I think we're the only people in the universe that share a desk, and have shared a desk for two years. Like, this is just ridiculous." So, she put her foot down, and we did a little reconfiguring. And, you know, we had little intern desks brought in, and I mean, we were literally sitting right on top of each other. But yes, yes. No, it was great having Gay.