

Linda Melconian

Assistant Counsel and Legislative Assistant, Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, Jr., of Massachusetts

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Advice from Representative Ella T. Grasso of Connecticut

Linda Melconian remembers the sage professional advice she received from Representative Ella T. Grasso.

Interview recorded June 7, 2018

She was very frustrated with the tediousness, the slowness, in terms of the ability of women to seek opportunity and rise to the top. And so she decided that she didn't want to be a Congresswoman. She wanted to run for governor. And she ran and became the first woman in the country elected to governor—the governor of Connecticut—in her own right, not succeeding her husband. So she was a model. She's the one who encouraged me to go to law school. She's the one encouraged me to run for public office. And she said, "If you're going to run, you've got to get a law degree," because that's how you will be treated—you know, in terms of the law degree, it will give you—it's a professional degree. It will give you more equal status in the perception of men.