

**Deborah D. Pryce**  
U.S. Representative of Ohio (1993–2009)

## **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

### **Legal Background**

Representative Pryce explains how her background as a lawyer and a judge helped her as a Member of Congress.

*Interview recorded August 9, 2018*

It was a wonderful background to have, being first a lawyer and then a judge. First, when you're, when you're legally trained you learn that there's usually merit in both sides of the issue and you learn how to argue both sides of an issue. Being a judge, you know for sure that until you hear the second side, don't make up your mind. And I think that's really important as a legislator because you're always bombarded with so many people who know the truth and are going to tell you how it is and, and lobbyists, and activists, and, and special interest groups, and, and, and people who think they know it all or at least their, their portion of it all, but you always have to search for the other side and understand both sides before you make up your mind. And I think being on the bench was a wonderful way to learn that, that even though you might not hear it there's always, you know, another side whether it's a downside or an upside or a— there's, there's always more to the story than you're going to hear out of the first person who talks to you.