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## Judith Cohen interviewed by Ruth Campbell in the Law in Australian society oral history project [sound recording]

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**Repository** National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

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**Reference** [ORAL TRC 3384](#)

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**Date Range** 21-Dec-95 - 4-Jan-96

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**Access** Access open for research, personal copies and public use.

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**Finding Aid** Uncorrected transcript (typescript, 120 leaves)

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### Details

3 digital audio tapes (ca. 241 min.)??Hon. Judith Cohen, solicitor, speaks on her Jewish family background; childhood and schooling; family encouragement; arts/law at Sydney University; difficulties facing women lawyers post-World War II; memorable class members and lecturers; early experience of law; boat cruise to Europe; meeting husband and moving to Melbourne; her husband Sam Cohen; Alf Conlon's think tank; Sam's legal and political careers and Jewish activities; 1950s Labor Party split; period off work with small children; her return to work; Diploma of Education and teaching experience; death of her husband; return to her law career; appointment to the Arbitration Commission; the importance of positive discrimination; issues raised during her period as a Commissioner (introduction of maternity leave, parental leave and part-time work, bringing nurses into a uniform federal award, superannuation); working in the Northern Territory; various appointments; the General Insurance Claims Review Panel; her pioneering position; contemporary women lawyers; the problems associated with megafirms; the role of alternative dispute resolution; the differences between being a lawyer and a judge; Doc Evatt; Arthur Calwell; Bill Hayden; meeting Harold Wilson; Anthony Mason and her travels.

### Author Details

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