



EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer's Briefing Materials **Ron Weich Interview, 03/30/2007**

Robert A. Martin, Research Director

Miller Center Documents¹

- Ron Weich Fact Sheet.

Secondary Source Materials

- "ACLU Expresses Significant Doubts about New Draft of Medical Privacy Bill," ACLU press release, 06/15/1999.
- Ron Weich article on the Innocence Protection Act, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2001.

Oral History Interviews

- William Taylor interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 01/25/2007.

¹ These are original documents created by Miller Center researchers for the Edward M. Kennedy Oral History Project. Please acknowledge credit for any use of these materials.

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Prepared by Rob Martin

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/05/2007

Ron Weich (1989-1997)

Positions w/ EMK:

- Chief counsel to Judiciary Committee (returns to work for EMK briefly in 2005-2006?)

Other positions:

- Chief counsel to U.S. Senate majority leader Harry Reid for 110th Congress; previously senior counsel and point person on judicial nominations and Judiciary legislation.
- Also serves as counsel to LCCR
- General counsel to the Labor and Human Resources Committee
- Also worked for Senator Arlen Specter before EMK on the Judiciary Committee
- Former special counsel to U.S. Sentencing Commission from 1987-1989

Issues that Weich worked on for EMK:

- legislation from 1989-1997 related to federal sentencing, in which he worked to oppose racial disparities in the criminal justice system
- 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, amongst other pieces of legislation, to fight capital punishment
- 1994 amended a cigarette-smoking ban in schools to an educational overhaul bill
- After leaving the Judiciary, Weich worked on 1999 EMK-proposed legislation on medical records privacy as an ACLU legislative consultant

Issues that came up during his time with EMK at Judiciary:

- 1990 ADA
- 1990 Souter nomination
- 1991 Thomas nomination
- 1991 Civil Rights Act
- 1991 crime bill
- 1992 VRA extension (language minorities)
- 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (struck down by Supreme Court in 1997)
- 1994 crime bill authorizing capital punishment for more than 50 additional offenses
- 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- 1996 Defense of Marriage Act
- 1997 Individuals w/ Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) reauthorization
- 1997/1999 Ronnie White nominated/re-nominated to federal district court