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Biographical Note

Judge, United States District Court, Massachusetts, 1950; Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court, Boston, 1962-1978; Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court, Worcester, 1978 – 1986. In this interview Glennon discusses his participation in the 1952 and 1958 Senate campaigns, and the presidential campaign, among other issues.

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Oral History Interview

Of

Paul W. Glennon

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Judge Paul Glennon
JFK #1

Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Meeting John F. Kennedy [JFK] during the 1952 Senate campaign
2	Organizing Worcester, MA during the campaign
4	Running a common campaign office for JFK and Paul Dever in 1952
5	1958 Senate campaign
7	JFK in Worcester during 1958 campaign
9	Worcester's role in the presidential campaign
11	JFK's election
12	Literature about JFK
13	Glennon's professional life
14	Reflecting on JFK's assassination

Oral History Interview

with

JUDGE PAUL GLENNON

October 17, 1977
Boston, Massachusetts

by William Hartigan

For the John F. Kennedy Library

HARTIGAN: I'm in the office of Judge Paul Glennon in the John McCormick Building in Boston, Massachusetts. The purpose of my visit with Judge Glennon is to interview him on behalf of the John F. Kennedy Oral History Department of the Library. And Paul will start off our interview with the recollection of the first time he met the late President Kennedy [John F. Kennedy].

GLENNON: Bill, I joined the faculty of Northeast University here in Boston, Massachusetts, in September of 1946. I was teaching courses in accounting and business law, and this, of course, was shortly after I had gotten out of the Army in World War II. And in the fall of '46 I first met the late president John Kennedy. But I had seen him, perhaps, only on isolated occasions until he became an active candidate to the United States Senate in early 1952. It was early in 1952 when my late and dear friend Kenny O'Donnell [Kenneth P. O'Donnell], whom I had gotten to know because we had lived in Worcester all our lives, came to me. I think it was perhaps in April or may have been May 1952, Bill, that he came to me he said, "Paul, would you like to work in the campaign of congressman John F. Kennedy, who is a candidate for United States Senate, and his opponent being Senator Henry Cabot Lodge?"

I laid a speech out on the fact that I had gotten to know Jack Kennedy through the fact that I had been teaching and was still teaching at Northeast University, my original acquaintance

with the late president dating back to the fall of 1946. I told him that I was very much impressed with the late president, who, as I say, had been in Congress in _____, I should say since he had been elected as congressman. And I told Kenny that I was very much impressed with the qualities that he possessed and as I felt ought to be had by candidates for the U.S. Senate. And I called him without having to use any further amount of time to think about it, that I would be happy to serve in any capacity in which Jack Kennedy and he, Kenny O'Donnell, felt that I could serve.

He soon made mention of the fact that they were setting up secretaries throughout the state of Massachusetts, and that he would like to have me serve as the secretary in Worcester. I told Kenny I would take on that responsibility and do everything that had to be done to meet that responsibility. That really marked my first, shall we say, Bill, first official identification with the campaign of Jack Kennedy in times when he was seeking the senate seat here in Massachusetts.

HARTIGAN: Paul, my recollection of that campaign brings to mind the reputation that you had amongst the other secretaries in the state ... that it was considered to be the model for all of us. I recall many times being told by Kenny and Bobby [Robert F. Kennedy] that Paul Glennon had worked out this particular problem and mentioned how he was doing it. Could you tell me about some of the innovations you put into organizing in Worcester that we all more or less looked upon as a model for secretaries in the state?

GLENNON: Worcester, Bill, our city at that time had the mayor, aldermen, council form of government. There were ten wards....Let me figure out-- At the time to which that referred, Bill, was 1952. Worcester had ten wards, and I thought it best that we should organize on a ward basis. And we proceeded to establish an organization in each of the ten wards. And a key person was selected in each ward to coordinate the ward activities. And that person was approached on some point of view of assuming responsibility and feeling dedicated toward his job, so to speak. It was a selection by myself as secretary.

And we had extended discussions after setting up our city-wide organization with a number of very prominent labor leaders: Dan Murray [Daniel Murray] from Wilbraham, Massachusetts; Jim Lavin [James Lavin] from Worcester, Massachusetts; Don Hewitt from Worcester, Massachusetts. In addition, of course, chairman of the Democrats' city committee, Tom Early, and the late mayor, Larry O'Brien [Lawrence F. O'Brien] and _____ who was very much in the forefront of Democratic politics in Worcester, and Bill Buckley [William T. Buckley], our _____ attorney ... a number who were brought in, one might say, in sort of a board of directors capacity, to work with the ten individuals, each of whom served as a director of ward activity during the campaign.

And we met regularly as a group; we sought to assume the best ideas from the group as to how the campaign of Jack Kennedy for the United States Senate could be best carried forward and how the activities might be best implemented, so to speak. We felt that we had an active organization ... that there was a goodly amount of input on the part of leaders in our political life, on the part of leaders in our _____ rank, on the part of those individuals who

were to be responsible for organizing each of our ten wards. And at all times they would tell us that we had one happy, harmonious approach to getting the job done with ____ to accomplish on behalf of Jack Kennedy ____ senate seat in 1952.

HARTIGAN: Well, your team had contact with the Headquarters through whom ... your daily contact with the....

GLENNON: Well, we of course established a main headquarters in Worcester and met with staff by voluntary press mail _____. And that served as a focal point for regular meetings we had on behalf of Jack Kennedy...regular meetings which were attended by our ten ward leaders, so to speak, and by those who represented the special groups.

HARTIGAN: Well, I think what I'm getting at, did you report to Kenny O'Donnell directly, on a regular basis ... and Bobby Kennedy?

GLENNON: I reported to Kenny O'Donnell on a regular basis, and Larry O'Brien quite frequently.

HARTIGAN: Frequently. And Bobby?

GLENNON: Yes, I saw Bob quite frequently in _____ the campaign in central Massachusetts.

HARTIGAN: Any remembrances or recollections on exhibits to your city during this campaign?

GLENNON: Yes, Bill, I have particular recollections in that respect, because the late president made numerous visits to Worcester ... greater Worcester, starting in 1952. He came there in connection with _____ that we had formalized at our headquarters. He came there with all the _____ in Worcester and the suburban area of Worcester, accompanied as well by personnel who served out of our Worcester headquarters. And the late president would come to the city of Worcester and the surrounding area and spend all day...a lot of the time at our headquarters _____ to our working. He would make visits which were prearranged by our Worcester staff...visits to our schools and colleges, industrial plants and offices, and hospitals of the Worcester area. He left no stone unturned, so to speak, Bill, in establishing the core of friendly relations with all groups within our city and the town contiguous to Worcester. And these visits were several in number, and _____ speaking of the Senate priorities on the first _____.

HARTIGAN: In most of the campaign activities, or most cities during the campaign activities, women's groups organized. Did you have such a group in

Worcester?

GLENNON: Yes, we did, Bill. As a matter of fact, President Kennedy's sister Patricia Lawford [Patricia Kennedy Lawford] ... Patricia Kennedy Lawford and his sister Jean Kennedy Smith came to our house, 31 Bellingham Road in Worcester, in I believe it was either May or June of '52 and made plans for a coffee party to be attended by the women in Worcester. And we had these meetings at our house...a number of girls who were active in Democratic, independent, or even Republican politics...came to the house. And I think the arrangements were being made for the contents of these coffee parties.

I well remember the ____ and how well those coffee parties were attended! There were many hundreds of people that turned out, if not thousands, that were actually a result of the arrangements made ____ to the late president ____ these women at those coffee parties, because it really was, one might say, the highlighting ____ to the campaign of the late president when he sought the senatorial seat, that took on something other than just what one might say was just a political aspect...took on a very pleasant social aspect.

HARTIGAN: I think probably somebody stated it well when they said, "Not only was he a good candidate, but he was also a celebrity besides." And that in itself lent to that social aura that it took on instead of a campaign.

GLENNON: Yes, I think Senator Hewitt said of the late president that he had a way about him that was ... one might say, just rubbed off on people so overwhelmingly other than in just a ____ way. It was a social ____ ability and a desire to want to meet people. And this is apart from the fact that he was a candidate for the senatorial job. And he had a charm that was ____, and he brought something that those that would start office, to my knowledge over the years, just didn't bring _____. And that was something, Bill, which I had, as I say, recognized as being a quality had by Jack Kennedy back as far as 1946, '47. When I first met him, I _____. It was his charm, his affability, and habits, and overall attitude on his part to be close to people.

HARTIGAN: During this 1952 campaign, the former governor of Massachusetts, Paul Dever, was also running for reelection against Christian Herter, who later became Secretary of State under Eisenhower [Dwight D. Eisenhower], I believe. And did your organization run into any problems or difficulties that other organizations ... or were they one in the same? Did they run separately, or were they one in the same?

GLENNON: No, we ran a common campaign, Bill. I don't recall, and I say this with the greatest of sincerity, that there was any division of any kind had among candidates for any office and those who were working for the Kennedy campaign. The campaign staff worked very closely with the Democratic _____. And my good friend Tom Early, who was chairman of the Democratic State Committee, was really active in

the senate campaign. I recall numerous instances where Tom Early, the Senate Democratic Committee, and myself worked very closely when the late president came to Worcester on numerous occasions ____ campaign.

HARTIGAN: Did the late president, while running in this particular 1952 campaign, appear with Governor Dever at any rallies or functions?

GLENNON: ____, Bill, that the late president in his trip to Worcester and the late governor Paul Dever would cover the state ____ occurrences. They would seek to cover the state on separate occasions. And I think that was ____ what had happened ____ during the campaigns of Senator Kennedy and Governor Dever, that they thought to bring about the greatest comparable coverage of the Democratic campaign ____ by as many appearances being had by each of them throughout the state as could possibly be had.

HARTIGAN: Do you recall how well Kennedy did in Worcester? I don't happen to remember that much. I know he won, he carried.

GLENNON: He carried the Worcester County area by a very considerable majority over Senator Lodge, the incumbent. As a matter of fact, Bill, when the returns finally were in, the key local political leaders, Democrats and Republicans, they were greatly surprised that Jack Kennedy carried the Worcester County area by as large a majority as he did, considering Senator Lodge had been the incumbent, and Jack Kennedy was seeking the office for the first time.

HARTIGAN: I don't suppose that Worcester was any different from the rest of the Democratic stronghold in the state. Lodge was not a disliked man among Democrats, as I recall, was he?

GLENNON: No, he was very well liked by Democrats. And it might be that observation carried for the state, Bill.

HARTIGAN: Was he always ____ so well?

GLENNON: It was Senator Saltonstall [Leverett Saltonstall]. They were cut from the same mold, so to speak, from the point of view of having a vast array of friends from the Democratic ____.

HARTIGAN: In the 1958 campaign you were.... Were you still the secretary to Worcester in the next campaign also?

GLENNON: Yes, I certainly was, Bill. And our organization had taken on a great deal of strength in experience and in numbers of active workers in the intervening

time. In the intervening time the time Ted Sorensen [Theodore C. Sorensen] would be in rather constant touch with me from the point of view of the conduct of polls. And it was the feeling of Ted Sorensen and those participating in this type of activity, together with some advice on my part, but the ward in Worcester had the typical ethnic balance, the typical economic balance, the typical work activity balance to form what one might say to be a ____ poll could be most reasonably shared. And from time to time I got together a number of college students.

At that time I was teaching. I was dean of the College of Business. It was ____ my second ____ college. And a number of the students were ____ poll _____. And the result of the poll was....The poll really took several days to complete. The results of that poll were forwarded on to Ted Sorensen for further analysis. This was always a pleasant task. The students enjoyed it. It helped to mature them. I often said to them it would help to knock off the rough edges which might otherwise be had by you. But the faculty were on the firing line. They were ____ would be another experience that would prove valuable in a later life, which... .

As a matter of fact I've seen some of these young people, Bill. And they state now that the 1956-57... . I've seen some of these young people ____ ten or fifteen in number, and they have called, having participated in the poll. And my observations to them that that would tend to be meaningful in their later life... . And they have since remarked to me that would seem to be an apt observation. So the years between the president's first election as a senator and his seeking reelection to that position were years which were fortuitously used well concerning the senator's days in office.

HARTIGAN: Did that board prove to be a well balanced board from a full point of view?

GLENNON: Surprisingly so. The ward reflected, or the analysis later passed on from the ward, reflected the results very closely to that which was adjudicated by the original poll taken.

HARTIGAN: I think that....Do you think it still holds good today? A lot of changes since those times.

GLENNON: Well, you've seen this, Bill, what's taken place in the area of Worcester at Clark University and has _____. [Very difficult to hear; several phrases inaudible] And _____ by Clark University has caused some _____ population wise to a mix of more _____, so that I wouldn't be prepared to say that the same mix exists today that existed back in 1957, 20 years ago, Bill.

HARTIGAN: Paul, after election 1952, if you recall, there was an effort on the part of the new Senator Kennedy to reorganize the Democratic Party in the state. Were you involved in that at all? Do you recall the conflict between.... No, it wasn't a conflict. The contest between _____ and Bill Burke [William H. Burke, Jr.] for the senate seat?

GLENNON: Yes, I do recall that activity, Bill. I wasn't directly involved in any way. It ____ familiar, however. I ____ real well. But I played no active part.

HARTIGAN: You weren't called upon to get involved in that?

GLENNON: I don't recall that I played any active part, Bill, in that particular campaign.

HARTIGAN: In the 1958 campaign, do you recall any occasions that would be ____? It was not considered to be a tough one, but I think the candidates campaigned like it was!

GLENNON: Yes, Senator Kennedy came to Worcester several times in the campaign with the reelection. I remember mostly decisions between ____ Worcester and ____, along with Mr. Kennedy, that would be a cause where ____ and spoke to our student body. We had a faculty and a mainstay staff set for four in the afternoon when he made a number of visits ____ college-wise and ____ come to the college typically. And it would seem the same thing for hospitals, ____ insurance, the Norton Companies, the _____. I remember an evening when we had an enormous rally at the Worcester Armory. And that was conducted by the late mayor, Jim O'Brien [James D. O'Brien] and Tom Early, who was ____ Democratic National Committee, and myself as the ____ secretary.

We had a wonderful outpouring of people at that rally ... stands out very vividly in my memory. And the armory was prettily decorated, and there was a goodly outpouring of women, and we had a very festive occasion. I can well remember there were hundreds of people who were literally lining the streets outside of the Worcester Armory and the participating senators arriving at the armory along with Mr. Kennedy. It really was a very memorable occasion. I remember the late president coming to Worcester on other occasions would ____ at Our Lady of Roses Church. And we sat on a platform together, and he was talking about a number of matters, and a short time prior to this he had been at New York University.

And he was on what we call a great books panel at the School of Law, New York University, just shortly before his visit to Worcester. And on that panel program was the late Judge Jerome Frank, who was a judge on the United States Circuit of Appeals, the second circuit. Judge Frank was a prolific writer. He wrote books, for example, _____. I remember Senator Kennedy saying to me how much he enjoyed being on that great books panel at New York University and how impressed he was with Jerome Frank, the fact that he had such a great grasp of the events of world significance ... events that concerned our own country, how concerned he was with the values in the world of education. And I remember that he was tremendously impressed with Judge Jerome Frank, and he recalled several occasions when Senator Kennedy was seeking reelection.

And I can recall the walking trip that he took on ____ Street on very sunny days, walking on

____ Street, and people would come from their homes and stores to _____. Then I remember how he seemed to want to say hello to young people. I have in mind the _____ three or four children who were outside the market, two of them, I recall, were signing _____ American birth. And he _____ United States senator 50 times in the course of that trip. _____ most of whom were about 45, 46, or 47 years of age, and chatting with them. He had a quality which was so devoid of what we ordinarily think of as not being part and parcel of the life of a United States senator. Some of them were _____. I can recall that after all these years have thought that _____.

HARTIGAN: Tell me _____. I believe it was 1956 there was a convention in Chicago. Do you recall? First, were you at that convention at all, Paul?

GLENNON: _____.

HARTIGAN: The 1956 campaign when Kennedy's name was put into nomination for the vice president. Were you in Chicago at that time?

GLENNON: Yes, I was, Bill. I attended that convention, as well as the convention in 1952.

HARTIGAN: Do you recall any incidents that would be of interest?

GLENNON: Well, I remember the Senator's name being put forward as vice president. That I recall very vividly, Bill. And I know how enthusiastic all of us were from central Massachusetts and, of course, from the whole state, in that respect. I recall that they were _____ contingents on the floor when this particular event to which you referred did occur, Bill. And I do recall the enthusiasm that ran through the ranks of the people.

HARTIGAN: Did your delegation make any effort to promote the campaign, or was it done so fast, that you were taken by surprise by it?

GLENNON: Well, I don't think there was any great amount of time had to _____ the vice presidency candidacy. We weren't permitted any amount of contact we had, Bill, _____.

HARTIGAN: We have to get right to the big ball game, the campaign for presidency.

GLENNON: Yes, Bill, I know.

HARTIGAN: Did you participate, by any chance, in any of the primaries, the Wisconsin or the Virginia, West Virginia?

GLENNON: Well, let me say first, Bill, that I went to the convention, my wife and I. I was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. And I recall to get there, we went there by train. Went to Chicago, and then from Chicago to Los Angeles. And I was at the convention every minute of every hour of every day, and was at the coliseum, my wife and I, when the president delivered his acceptance of the nomination speech. And after he pretty well concluded _____, took a ride from Los Angeles to San Francisco, to see a friend of ours in San Francisco. And then we took a train ride back from San Francisco, to Chicago, to Worcester.

Then I made arrangements at _____ Junior College where I had been teaching to spend time right up to election day at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters in Washington, D.C. _____ that I recall. And I'd go down to the headquarters and work from Monday to late Friday evening. And regularly, Bill, I would drive from Washington, D.C. Friday and get home the early hours of Saturday morning to spend the weekend in connection with our Worcester activity. Of course, I went back _____ to _____, to harmonize with the ten ward chairmen. And they were very active committees in each ward, they were very well staffed, active, organized headquarters. We had the work to be done by Tom Early, who was chairman of the Democratic State-City Committee. And the late General _____, who made decisions _____, as I mentioned, Jim Lavin, Tom McQuin, and John Merriam and many others.

So I always felt that things in Worcester were going to move ahead and that I ought to do as much as I could at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters. Now, this may be getting a little bit ahead of time. You said, essentially, you asked more _____ activities leading up to the Democratic National Convention. And at that time I discussed with Ken O'Donnell _____. And he said, "Paul," he said, "We'd like to _____ to keep in close touch with Worcester. He asked whether or not there might be some local people who could participate in the president's national campaign. And several Worcester people were approached by me in that respect, and did work in the Midwest and other areas of our country. I have in mind... .
[Change to Side B of Tape]

HARTIGAN: ... in Worcester that participated on the national level.

GLENNON: Yes, I have in mind attorney Dick Wald, the attorney Dick Siroccos, and there was Joseph Statuda[sp?]. And these three left Worcester for extended periods of time to help out in the campaign in a national way.

HARTIGAN: With reference to your activities, I personally recall seeing you down there all the time, and I knew you were commuting some distance to participate. Would you care to go into the activities that you undertook down at the headquarters?

GLENNON: Well, I took on whatever tasks I was asked to take on. I know I was in continuous touch with Bob Caddy in connection with the matter of materials, materials distribution. I was in touch with the scheduling aspect and in

touch with people throughout the entire country who wanted help in connection with the prospects of the late president being about to come to their area on a given date, in connection with the matter of getting certain materials to their area, and whatever administrative tasks. And there seemed to be no end. So much had to be done, Bill, in such a relative short period of time. But there were many tasks that were continuously coming across my desk, personal contacts, telephone calls, all of which I greatly enjoyed. Each experience was a new experience in my life, and opportunity to meet people, Bill, and an opportunity to be of the greatest possible help to the late president in connection with his candidacy for the presidency.

HARTIGAN: During the campaign, of course, everybody had to ... I guess nobody had a specific job. Everybody had to be able to do everything, particularly the people we took down from Boston. And I know that you did a very fine job on that.

GLENNON: Yes, I felt that flexibility had to be had plus imagination, creativity, Bill. And it was only as a result of combining all three characteristics that you get the best possible result from your staff.

HARTIGAN: Were you impressed with his handling of the campaign, the president?

GLENNON: I was greatly impressed, Bill. I thought that the organization in Washington, D.C. and being in the headquarters for an extended period of time gave me an opportunity to learn about the organization, the activities of the organization on a nation-wide basis. And I was truly impressed with the line activity they had around the country, so to speak, and well as the alliance to ____ activities in Washington.

HARTIGAN: I know that during the bulk of the campaign, Senator Jackson [Henry M. Jackson] from the State of Washington was the chairman at the time. Prior to that it was Paul Butler. Was he there when you first started going down?

GLENNON: Both were there, Bill. I really wasn't in continuous contact with either, but I had met both, and I listened to them speak on several occasions. I also remember, for example, Professor Galbraith [John Kenneth Galbraith] of Harvard. I remember Averell Harriman [William Averell Harriman]. And all these people were on the scene, and I felt so enthused to be part of an organization of that stature.

HARTIGAN: Well, we're up to the daily campaign. What did you do to ____ the daily election?

GLENNON: I believe I spent that day... . Of course, I had to vote myself, Bill. And like myself, I believe I spent that day at our Worcester headquarters. We had organized a very elaborate transportation setup and telephone

communication, so that the transportation itself would go smoothly. And I believe I spent that entire day at our Worcester headquarters, making certain that the best possible efficient approach result would be had, thanks to our Worcester efforts.

HARTIGAN: After the election you had made many trips to the White House. Would you care to discuss any of those?

GLENNON: Well, I believe I probably made three or four, Bill, to the White House, plus my wife and myself and my many friends in Worcester and the surrounding towns were so greatly enthused with the election of President Kennedy. We'd go to the White House, the north wing, so to speak. And I had the happy occasion to meet the president on two of those four occasions, as I recall, Bill. I remember how touched I was, my wife and myself and our friends, who went into the Oval Office and were given pictures of President Kennedy which bore a little message and his signature, which I so greatly treasure today and occupies, of course, a very important place in my home. My friends, too, who had gone to the White House with me on occasion, have obviously similar memories of these occasions.

I do remember how enthused we were in connection with the inauguration day activities. Many of us from Worcester, we organized several cars of people to go down to the inaugural ceremonies. The girls were so enthused about going to the inaugural ball and the other activities. These are all such vivid memories, Bill, in connection with the campaigns dating as far back as 1952 right through the day in which the president took the oath of office. And the spot that he delivered his acceptance speech, so to speak, was really overwhelming, Bill, the force of the language, the ideas put forth.

Not too long ago I was reading a....I say not too long ago, Bill; I guess perhaps it was a little longer than I would want to admit. But I remember reading a book written by Stimson Bullitt and the title of the book is *What It Means to Be a Politician*. That book came out, Bill, I think around 1955, '56, '57. And he asked the question, "What are the rewards of this profession?" And he answered by saying, "It gives the pleasure of dealing with people, the fascination of work with ideas, the challenge of problems and _____ all the world, and the satisfaction of fulfilling a central function of human society." I can't help but from time to time think about how magnificently the late president met what Mr. Bullitt talks about, the rewards of the profession which I have just mentioned to you. He certainly, in a magnificent way, met what Mr. Bullitt sets forth as being the rewards of political life in our country. And all this, I think, took on new and greater importance in connection with his inaugural address.

HARTIGAN: In the course of his holding office, both in the senate and in the White House, did you ever have the occasion to meet with him on any official business?

GLENNON: No, I never had such an occasion, Bill. The times that my wife and I went to the White House was to see the president, Larry O'Brien, Ken O'Donnell,

Dick Donahue [Richard K. Donahue], and yourself, Bill. I don't recall ever being there except on a social occasion.

HARTIGAN: And he was always happy to see somebody from home.

GLENNON: He loved to see people from home, Bill. I say that I know how enthused he was when we went into the Oval Office, the glad handshake, and the fact that he could talk language peculiar to home people and home activities.

HARTIGAN: It's no big secret that you're probably the best read man about President Kennedy that I know of, and I don't know of anyone else that knows, has read more about President Kennedy from more authors. Is this a true observation?

GLENNON: Well, I've read, both newspaper-wise and periodical-wise and book-wise, everything I could place my hands upon that might have concerned the late president as a senator, as a reelected senator, and as president, Bill.

HARTIGAN: Well, that's what I'm getting at.

GLENNON: I think, of all books, the one which has had an outstanding impact on me, perhaps, was *Profiles in Courage*. That book, which was written by the president when he was bedded... . It was actually a serious bet in operation. But that book *Profiles in Courage* is one which ought to be read and reread by people all ages and in all years which lie ahead, because it does present to us the best of our life in the world around us, Bill.

HARTIGAN: Your impression of some of these authors who have attempted to capture the image of President Kennedy, generally speaking, is there any way of giving it a capsule ... your impression you might have had of what they thought of this man? Or is that too big a... .

GLENNON: Well, I assume you have in mind that which has been written concerning the late president since his most untimely assassination, you ask your question in the light of bringing everything right down to this moment, so to speak, Bill?

HARTIGAN: Well, I think you're one of the very few that has been reading him long before he was president, reading about him.

GLENNON: Yes, I still have, Bill. I can go to ____ my home, and everything that I came across, I'd pride myself on trying to read five or six newspapers every day and periodicals of significance in the business, economic, education world.

I'd try to keep abreast of those, Bill, and books in the educational, economic, political affairs of our country and the world. I try to, at least in a general way, know the thrust of those materials, Bill.

A book that I particularly enjoyed, other than the one which I spoke of, *Profiles in Courage*, written by the late president, perhaps was the book written by Professor Burns [James MacGregor Burns] of Williams College, James MacGregor Burns, who was a great student of the life of President Kennedy. And whatever Professor Burns wrote, be it for the New York Times or magazines or in book form, I sought to avail myself of. And these materials, Bill, I still have in my home. As a matter of fact, even the polls which were taken with every appearance of my remarks, I believe I still have those in my home.

HARTIGAN: You're in a unique position, having been close to the president when he was a senator and a president, and being a very vivid reader of him by various authors. Did they, in general terms, capture the man that you knew?

GLENNON: Yes, Bill. I would say that was true invariably. But my recollection is that which had been written about him, that is, that which was written about him, and which I wrote, was written in an objective, forthright way, Bill. And I have in mind materials which were written by people often labeled as political scholars, whose writings found their way into either book form, magazine form, or our leading dailies, Bill.

HARTIGAN: I don't recall. I may have missed it, but I don't you ever having accepted a position in the Kennedy administration office.

GLENNON: No, I did not, Bill. The late attorney general, together with Ken O'Donnell, had made mention of whether or not I'd be interested in the Small Business Administration on one occasion, the Federal Housing Administration on another occasion, Bill. But it was never carried to a point where I thought seriously of accepting. I enjoyed what I was doing, Bill. I was dean of a junior college, I liked being with young people. I was teaching, as well, in a graduate school of business at Northeast University and Boston College. I enjoyed the field of law, accounting, finance, taxation, Bill. I enjoyed being in a world of politics, so to speak. I liked being with people.

I think that the years I had spent on the campaigns of President Kennedy when he sought the position of United States senator, the position of the presidency helped, I guess, develop an attitude on my part which I just didn't unload with the fact that President Kennedy became president. I was happy doing what I was doing, Bill. And I never gave any serious thought to question for a position in the administration when the president was elected. And the very day after the election was had, I went back into the college classroom. I had taken a leave of absence for the duration of the campaign. And the day after the election, Bill, I went back to the classroom and carried on my usual activities, and it was ever thus.

HARTIGAN: When were you appointed to the position of judge of the probate?

GLENNON: Judge in the bankruptcy court, Bill. I was appointed March one of 1962.

HARTIGAN: Was that an appointment by the attorney general, or by the federal judges?

GLENNON: No, a bankruptcy judges are appointed by a majority vote of the judges of the United States District Court.

HARTIGAN: Paul, this is usually the question that invariably has to come out. Some people appreciate answering, and some people don't. But where were you the day that the president was assassinated?

GLENNON: Well, Bill, I'll never forget that day. I was sitting in a session of the bankruptcy court being held in County Court House in Greenfield, Massachusetts. I had gone out for lunch and came back to the courtroom at five minutes of two. And I remember so well attorney Ed Shay. He is now a state district court judge, Judge Ed Shay, came to the bench just about five minutes of two. We were about ready to resume. And he said, "Judge Glennon, I just heard that President Kennedy was shot!" I asked him, "How seriously was he wounded?" And Attorney Ed Shay didn't know the answer to that question.

I was so bothered during the course of the hearings, which had been marked for two o'clock. They were looking ahead, I thought they might very well take an hour and a half or two hours at least to complete. But I don't think of other incidents in my life where I was as disturbed as I was on that occasion, that period of from five minutes of two until I could leave the bench to get further information.

I left the bench, I believe, around half past three or quarter to four, Bill, and went to the parking lot and turned on my car radio, and heard that he had passed away. I come back over the Mohawk Trail. That's Route Two, which goes from Greenfield down toward Worcester. And the entire trip, Bill, I just was absolutely overwhelmed all the way back to Worcester. I just couldn't get home quick enough to talk to my wife about the terrible tragedy. And, of course, I went to Washington, Bill, on Sunday to the wake, so to speak, at the rotunda. Congressman Harold Donohue [Harold Daniel Donohue] had made arrangements for Jack Shay, my very close friend in Worcester, and myself to be able to go to the rotunda. It was on Sunday, and we were at the... Jack Shay and I and Congressman Donohue were at the funeral procession and at the Mass and at the Arlington ceremony. And _____, Bill, my life had been so tragic. Just as the many pleasant days were experienced, and of course the successful campaigns leading to the presidency, I couldn't believe that those joyous days would be more than offset by the terrible sorrow since.

HARTIGAN: Paul, _____ personally on behalf of the Kennedy Library, we do want to thank you for taking time out of a busy schedule and allowing us to tape your

recollections of our good friend President Kennedy. And we will transcribe this and send it to you. And you can feel free to, if you wish, put any restrictions you want on it or allow it to be used by students coming into the library in the very near future, using this material for their research on the era that we've enjoyed so much, both of us.

In addition to that, Paul, the library has a program of acquisitions. And I know a couple of instances during this interview that you mentioned some material that you had. The library is quite anxious to receive as much material as possible connected with the Kennedy era. They do provide adequate space for it. They do provide security for it and care for it, so that it might be available to posterity coming in, going over the era. Materials have been a very, very valuable thing for the library in terms of rounding out the purpose of the whole library to really give students a chance to see what government is all about and then, more specifically, how it was handled in the Kennedy era. So, if you would sort of put some thought into the materials you have, and any that you would care to will to the library or to donate to the library, I'm sure that we could have somebody in the ____ go over your materials for you and let you know what they think would be of value to them. And whatever you feel as though you'd like to donate in your name, and we'd appreciate that.

GLENNON: Yes, Bill, I shall review my collection and see what I feel that the library might be interested in. I do want to say, Bill, that it's been a great pleasure for you to come to see me in connection with my thoughts going back over the years. I would say it's a combination of great enthusiasm on the one hand, but overwhelmed by great sorrow on the other. But to see you, Bill, again after the years we spent together in the campaign, in Washington, D.C., it's certainly been a great pleasure. The old saying "Out of sight, out of mind," Bill, has never been true in connection with fellows like yourself and Larry O'Brien, my great good friend Ken O'Donnell, and many others whose names come to my attention regularly, Bill. So I truly appreciate your kindness in coming to see me, Bill, to place on the record some of my thoughts in connection with the prior years in the life of our late great president and the years that we spent, as well, in the ____.

HARTIGAN: Well, it's been an equal pleasure for me, Paul, to be with you again, and hope maybe it won't be long between visits again.

GLENNON: Yes, thanks a lot, Bill.

HARTIGAN: Thank you. Judge Glennon's office in Boston, thank you very much.

[End of Interview]

Judge Paul Glennon Oral History Transcript – JFK #1
Name List

B

Buckley, William T. 2
Bullitt, Stimson 11
Burke, William H., Jr. 6
Burns, James MacGregor 13
Butler, Paul 10

C

Caddy, Bob 9

D

Dever, Paul 4,5
Donahue, Richard K. 12
Donohue, Harold Daniel 14

E

Early, Tom 2,4,7
Eisenhower, Dwight D. 4

F

Frank, Jerome 7

G

Galbraith, John Kenneth 10

H

Harriman, William Averell 10
Hewitt, Don 2,4

J

Jackson, Henry M. 10

K

Kennedy, John F. 1-8,11-15
Kennedy, Robert F. 2,3

L

Lavin, James 2,9
Lawford, Patricia Kennedy 4
Lodge, Henry Cabot 1,5

M

McQuin, Tom 9
Merriam, John 9
Murray, Daniel 2

O

O'Brien, James D. 7
O'Brien, Lawrence F. 2,3,11,15
O'Donnell, Kenneth P. 1-3,9,11,13,15

S

Salsonstall, Leverett 5
Shay, Ed 14
Shay, Jack 14
Siroccos, Dick 9
Smith, Jean Kennedy 4
Sorensen, Theodore C. 6
Statuda, Joseph 9

W

Wald, Dick 9