

Transcript – Lillian Lim, class of 1973

Narrator: Lillian Lim

Interviewer: Amanda Knox, Pembroke Center Assistant Archivist

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Amanda Knox: Good evening. My name is Amanda Knox. I'm the Assistant Archivist at the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women at Brown University. Today is Monday, February 7, 2022. It is 5pm Eastern time. I'm zooming from Attleboro, Massachusetts, and our listeners are here for another Pembroke Center Oral History interview with our newest interviewee who I'd like to have introduce herself now.

Lillian Lim: All right, my name is Lillian Lim, class of 1973. So, I entered Brown in 1969. So to get the math right, I know my 50th reunion is coming up in a couple of years. I entered Brown as a 17 year old and now I am 70. So the seven is still in there. And [1:00] that's about it for my introduction. I don't have a lot of titles.

AK: Do you mind sharing where –

LL: I'm retired! I'm retired! That's the best title ever.

AK: Right. Do you mind sharing where you're zooming from today?

LL: Oh, Hawaii. Now, this is, this is the goal of a brown graduate, right?

AK: Right.

LL: We, we work hard, we study hard, we hopefully do service for our community, and then we find a little bit of paradise before we ultimately reach paradise. And that's in Hawaii, where I get to live looking at the ocean. I get to paddle canoe among the whales as they migrate. I get to play

the ukulele, and just enjoy and give credit to my education [2:00] for getting me to this particular place. Certainly a dream, certainly for my parents and my grandparents, that, a gift they gave to me and my brothers that we would be able to enjoy our lives at this point, in this particular way after our careers.

AK: That's fantastic. Can you tell me a little bit more about them, about your grandparents and your parents? Where they came from, a little bit about their story, and your kind of early life?

LL: Okay. Both my parents were born in the Philippines. I was the first of our family born in the United States. So, my two older brothers were actually also born in the Philippines. I'm going to show you a picture, I have a picture. Okay, let's see. This is, right. This is me. This is me. And then my two older brothers [3:00] are in the background here. Let's see if I can get them in there. But these are my older brothers and my little brother who, the little one was born after me in the, California as well. And then I'll show you a picture of my mom. This is my mom, after she immigrated.

AK: We see a pop up there.

LL: Oh a pop up. Done. There you go.

AK: Oh, my gosh.

LL: There's my mom. And here's my dad. This, this picture would have been in the Philippines with my old, now oldest brother when he was just a little baby. So those are my parents. So they were born in the Philippines. My mom, and you have to remember, during a very relevant periods of time in their young lives, there was a [4:00] depression. So the depression wasn't just in our country. It was a worldwide depression. So they grew up during that particular time period. My mom left school at the end of her elementary school education, and that was to help support the family working. And my dad who has a very, very interesting life story, but his, his mom passed away on one of the islands in the Philippines. And he was like a young teenager. And then he needed to go find his father, who was in Manila. And he found his father. And then

his father, I think, having difficulty connecting with a young boy, but knew it was his son because my father brought his baptismal paper and he also looked like it his dad. [5:00] He actually sent him to China for some additional education and lived with an uncle, and then later with some wives, because back, back in the day, alright, some people might think that's better, a better day, but I don't think so. You could have, if you could support more than one life, you had more than one wife. And so, they had him for a few years in China, where he learned the Chinese language. Then he came back to the Philippines, then his dad, I get thinking, you know, maybe it was difficult to raise him, sent him to the United States to live with a relative. So those were my parents.

They met, this is very romantic, if you like romance. But I'm sure it sounds romantic, but maybe it was really a question of necessity. [6:00] They met during World War Two, my dad was in the US Army, right, because by then he was a resident of the state of California and the United States. And by being in the US Army, he received his citizenship. That's what happened during World War Two. And, and prior to that, you know, there was in existence a Chinese Exclusionary Act, which very, very much limited the rights of immigrants from China. And he initially, when Pearl Harbor occurred, he tried to enlist, because you have to understand, although he was half Chinese, he was also very much Filipino, and raised in Philippines. [7:00] And so he tried to enlist, but could not enlist because of the, I believe, it's because of the Chinese Exclusionary Act, and whatever the rules were, they would not permit him to be released – to enlist. And, and he actually had saved a letter from a federal judge, which is kind of ironic since I ended up being a judge, right? Saying, well, you, you can't enlist, right, because you are of Mongolian descent or something like that. So, a little time passed and as the war progressed, they permitted, the law changed so he could be drafted. Okay. He wanted to enlist in the Navy, because he said his thought was, oh, the food will be good, the service will be clean; I'll be on a ship, instead of, you know, doing more active hands-on combat. [8:00] Well, no, so he was drafted into the US Army, right. And at the time, there was a, it was segregated, you know, the races were segregated, even though they're all Americans. And so, he was in an all Filipino-American battalion that was organized out of the Bay Area in Northern California. So everyone was a Filipino American, except the officers who were white Americans. And, you know, you shake your head, but you know, that was the real reality of it. And I, and I, you know, I kind of

tell these stories, because, I mean, it did have a lot of impact on my brothers and I, that we understood what was a very present history that had affected my parents.

So, [9:00] so he was there. This, now here's some romance, okay. As my dad told it, he was, there was a lot of training going on. They were doing a lot of training and he was getting bored. And so he said, "You should never do this," he said. But he volunteered for, they didn't describe the mission, but they said it was special. And what the mission was, was they, they took native, people who could be in the Philippines, and blend, gave them additional training, and then they sent them back to the Philippines while it was still occupied by Japanese forces. Because you were – the mission ultimately, my dad has a little letter to this effect, asking for people to help him in the Philippines. He was on a mission from basically General MacArthur – he and others I mean, it wasn't just him – [10:00] to prepare for general MacArthur's return to the Philippines, and, and I'm still trying to get to the romance. So, he lands in the Philippines, by submarine, they let him off and he meets a local resistance people and leaders. And the second in command of the provincial local resistance, they were like native gorillas, or they were the, the people who were still fighting. The second in command to the general who was in charge of all that, well, that was my mother's oldest brother, or brother. And that, and that brother – So my mom met my dad in the process because they were hiding the all the munitions and demolition and all that [11:00] kind of stuff, and weapons, at my mother's family home.

AK: Oh, my God. This isn't romantic, this is scary.

LL: Well, it's romantic, it's romantic in a sense. This is the way they describe the courtship to me, but you have to understand, I'm sure there's some amount of self editing going on.

AK: Right.

LL: They said, or it was described to me it was kind of like The Godfather movie. They would be walking along, they couldn't like hold hands or anything. And you know, the aunts and uncles would be trailing behind. So it is kind of romantic. They met, they met that way and in that context. I think maybe part of the reality of it all was there's my mom and here's the dashing American soldier. And, and by getting married, [12:00] there was a benefit to the family because

they had American, he had American dollars. After the war, he stayed in the Philippines and so by the Filipino standards at the time, they were wealthy, you know, with his, he discharged there, he had a civilian job working for the Air Force. So that was probably a practical part of it, right? There's some romance and there's a practical part, that even though he's from another country, really, you know, he brings, you know, a good reputation, because he fought with the local people, and, and he also was economically stable. I mean, what more could you want than that, right?

So to fast forward. My parents came to the United States. My mom thought they were going on a vacation [13:00] with my two brothers who had been born in the Philippines. But once they got there, my dad goes, "You know, we need to stay." Because this is going to be, as it was explained to me, he truly believed and I'm sure it was true, that this would be a better environment, and a place of opportunity for his children, for me and my brothers. So I think my mom would have disagreed at the time because it's a very difficult transition to come to another country where, although you speak English, because English is the second official language of the Philippines. So you know, if you had any kind of education, you had both the main dialect and you also have English. You're still speaking it [14:00] like a second language, so that was difficult. Where once there, the economics of living in the Philippines made them upper middle class, for the few years they lived there, to come to United States now they're, you know, economically in a lower class, working certainly, certainly middle class, but different, you know, so that every penny you make, you know, is budgeted. So, I still remember that. Them putting their paycheck every month because my dad worked for the federal government, you get a paycheck once a month instead of every two weeks interesting trivia. He'd get the paycheck, they would cash it, and they'd have a little envelope for every little thing. There's an envelope for food, an envelope for gas, an [15:00] envelope – a little envelope for an annual vacation, which was Disneyland. And they had, you know, they had these little envelopes. I remember, I'm a little kid, I'm like leaning down here shorter than I am now, much shorter. I'm looking at the table, which is table height, I'm looking at that and I'm going, you know, I don't want to live like that. I don't, you know, that's my goal. I don't want to live like that. They have to watch every, but they had to do it. They had one income, my dad was very traditional, his wife would not, you know, shouldn't work, wouldn't work. She wanted to, but not from his perspective. So, he worked two or three jobs in order to support our family, you know, so.

AK: And so can you tell me a little bit more about how kind of their World War Two experience is potentially playing into your childhood and the [16:00] way you're being raised? Maybe even kind of the values that they're instilling in you?

LL: There's no question that just looking at their life experience once they came to the United States. You could see my mother in particular, because she hadn't lived here as many years as my dad who had been here for quite a while before World War Two. She was very disappointed. She, she used to say, you know, when the white American soldiers were in the Philippines, and, and my mom's family sheltered them, you know, really risked, risked their lives for them like they were risking their lives in turn. She said, "We," she, she said to me, "We treated them like kings, kings and princes." And then when they [17:00] got to the United States, my mom could see that they were being discriminated against. I was with them, I must have been maybe 10 years old, when they went to buy another home, they had a home that I, they had, they owned a house in Berkeley, California, when I was born, but they were hoping to, you know, upsize a little bit to a better neighborhood, better schools and that kind of thing. And I was with them when they went to go look at a house that was having an open house. And then they came back to the car. And, and you know, they're so sad and angry, sad and angry. But my mom, my mom had a little edge to her so she was probably a little more angry. She goes, they, they wouldn't even let them in to look at the house because [18:00] it was, you know, so many neighborhoods back then. And this wasn't like a, like an elite neighborhood or anything, but had either racial covenants that would not permit you to sell to a person of color, or if, if not an actual written restriction in the deed, it was just, you don't do it, right. And then, so my mom was, I still when she spoke of it, you know, years and years later, she was angry, because she said, you know, she didn't, she, they had the money to buy the house, you know, and the financing and all of that, but they were turned away. And I know that was more than one experience like that. And I think you know, there were, as they would go about their days going to grocery store, shopping, just being out and about, there was [19:00] overt and maybe less than overt acts of prejudice against them. And, and it did not make them bitter, or like that, I mean, but they were just little examples. And I would say the most, the overriding thing was disappointment, disappointment.

Although I have to say later when I was at Brown, and I was taking some political science courses, I brought home some books that talked about the Maoist – I was studying in this

field, right? They talked about Mao and talked about you know, these little books. I brought them home and then my mom was looking over and saw these books and she goes, she said, “Why Are you reading this stuff? You should, if you read this [20:00] stuff, you should just go back to Russia.” I go, “Wait a minute!” In fact, years later, a friend of mine, who was in graduate school at Brown, in the Department of Economics, he was writing some kind of thesis or something. And he was interviewing people of my parents’ generation, he goes, “Oh, can I can I interview your mom, right?” I said, they were visiting, I said, “Sure go at it, right.” I wasn’t there for the interview, but afterwards, it looked like she must have beat him up. She has very, she has very strong viewpoints. And then he goes, it’s to be expected when your life experience keeps you so – you know, they didn’t have the internet back then – so in the home, [21:00] so that what you’re experiencing is a very limited contact with people. The breadth of any reading – and my mom was a big reader, but she would read things like the newspaper and mystery novels and things like that – the breadth of what you’re reading doesn’t give you much experience. And, and so he was like saying, “Don’t worry about it, Lilian. I’m used to that kind of abuse. So. So dialing back, keep me focused now.

AK: Yeah, yeah. Well, so then kind of to start moving toward Brown, did your parents have this idea that their children should go to college and that would potentially improve any number of situations that you were experiencing? Or were you sort of breaking away when you decided to make that step?

LL: There was no question that [22:00] education was so important to my parents. Although I’m trying to think. There may have been like two generations behind them of fairly educated background, their great grandparents or grandparents. They, they really, they respected both the idea of education, and then the idea that it is way of obtaining more opportunity. And my dad would, on occasion, say, “You know, Lillian, if you’re going for the same position or opportunity as the person next to you who happens to be a white man, you’re going to have to be at least 10 times better than that fellow, at least, to have a chance.” Right. And that was his experience in, in both, [23:00] well, in the United States, that was his experience, certainly, so.

AK: And how did that kind of color your experience? Or, like, is that something you had been experiencing already and your parents were just kind of giving words to it? Or, like, how, what were you feeling when you heard those words?

LL: Well, that in terms of how good I would have to be in order to compete that, that was kind of like, oh, surprise. I was surprised. But there were a couple of things. One, I, you know, when you're like a little toddler, you kind of parent, parrot what you think your parents want to hear. And so, their friends who were also, most of their friends were also Filipinos who had served in the US Army with my dad, and hid. And so they had a circle of friends from that group. They'd come over the house, and you're standing in the corner, like a little toddler, [24:00] and they kind of like you want you to perform, perform right? And they go, "What do you want to be?" Right? And I'd say, "I want to be either a brain surgeon. Yeah, I want to be a brain surgeon." I think that's what I said. They'd say, "Oh, okay. That's good." So very early on I know my parents must have been saying or doing something to make us so ambitious.

But my oldest brother, he, who is five to six years older than me, six years older than me. He went, when it was time for him to go to college the Vietnam War was an ongoing issue. And so, my, my dad was saying, well, there was no question in my dad's mind that, that, that not that he wanted his son to serve, but that it was his only choice. [25:00] "You're going to have to serve, so you can either serve by enlisting, you can serve by waiting to be drafted." But certainly, as was a choice, some people of my peer group made, you could try to be disqualified by some – I was going to say trumped up, but I'm not going to use that word – you could choose to be disqualified. And I can't criticize it. I had classmates at Brown who were looking, facing this issue by starving yourself and bringing your weight down to where you were not physically fit to serve. This was my, my classmates, right? Or, you know, coming up with some other reason. Okay. So that would not have been acceptable to my dad, that you come up with something like that. And certainly, leaving the country, [26:00] which was an option people took, was not a choice. And so that oldest brother again, you know, education was very important to my parents. So, he ended up getting a, an appointment to the Air Force Academy, which is a congressional appointment. He's a very bright guy. He's very presentable. And, and that was his way of serving, although what he really – it is kind of sad – what he really wanted to be was a dentist at the time, right? But you know, you have to kind of – war does things right.



AK: Right. Right.

LL: So he, his career path was defined for him. So, education, certainly for him, my other brother, again, he came to, who is four years older than me, he, his time to go to college was also during the Vietnam War, which went on for a long time. He ended up at the Maritime Academy, where you can serve as a form of service. [27:00] And then I went to – as a woman, I was not under the same stress of choices that had to be made. Since we were not at the time eligible for the draft. I guess we still aren't. And so I was lucky enough to go, go to Brown. And my little brother went to Yale.

AK: Oh, did he?

LL: My little one, yeah.

AK: Wow. Those are big schools, and not anywhere near California.

LL: I was running away from home. It was the only recognized way to get out of the house.

AK: Yeah, right.

LL: Legitimate.

AK: So how –

LL: Because I should have stayed in California but I didn't, I wanted – So I headed east to Brown. I had never visited the campus, had never actually heard of the school.

AK: So how did you find it to apply?

LL: They, [28:00] Brown sent me a letter, someone there. They sent me a letter. I think it might have had some of the do they probably sent the same letter to you know, that National Merit

thing that you do you take an exam, you score high enough? Yeah, so you're in this pile of people. They may have sent a like a recruitment letter for you, because I got some from a few schools. And, and I don't know if Brown was actually doing active recruitment for people of color, or, or for geographic diversity. I don't know if they were doing that. That letter may have just kind of been a form kind of letter they sent out to a lot of people. But I think once they expressed, once I expressed an interest, I think the, the pluses were that I was a person of color. [29:00] I would like to think that was a plus. And that I was from California, which it brings you a little more people from different parts of the country. But, and then otherwise, I met, you know, I think the profile of what you would like in a student at Brown. I don't know if I would have gotten in if I applied with those same credentials and everything else I had today, because it's so, so wide open to merit. But you know, I was a good test taker so I had good boards. I had done what used to be the traditional way of getting to college, you know, a certain number of activities. You know, I was, student, like, a, [30:00] I did, what's it called? Forensics, you know, debate in high school.

AK: Oh, cool.

LL: Right. And, and so I was like, student speaker of the year, something like that. And that and music, I had music. Which I did neither of those things to get into college, right? It's just that was the things I did. I was kind of like, kind of, certainly not an athlete, but I was that, the profile of the achieving, nerdy student. That was me. And plus, I came from California. And maybe I met some other goals. I'm not sure, although I think, at the time, Brown was kind of doing what was told to me later was somewhat of a reverse discrimination thing, at the time, where you only had a certain number of [31:00] Asians, a certain number of students of Jewish background. And if you and they didn't want to exceed that number, so that they would have an overall look to the university that they cared for. That is just gossip, you may know as an archivist, what the truth is, but.

AK: Well, I've certainly heard that from more than one person, that is the word. I can't say that I ever saw, like a letter from one of Brown's presidents that said, here are our numbers. But it would not altogether surprise me that Brown and many universities did that.

LL: Well, I can show you the totally, this is totally unreliable, hearsay, totally unreliable, probably not true. But there was an effort under the Freedom of Information Act at a certain point, to see what the criteria was being used. And not just Brown, but other schools as well. And that [32:00] out of that, look, or response to that request, things changed. There may have even been a little litigation involved, I'm not sure. Things changed so that certainly when I entered Brown, there were 50 Asian American students, approximately, in the whole university, including the graduate school, and including students who were foreign students from China, for example. So just about 50, out of maybe 5,000, total undergraduate and graduate, maybe a little more.

When I came back for our 20th reunion at Brown, okay, which would have been whatever, 20<sup>th</sup>, my 50<sup>th</sup> is coming, back 30 years ago, let's say. My [33:00] husband and I, we stayed, which was very kind of Brown, the offered alums returning to stay in the dormitories, right, which is good for us budget minded people. Right. And then, I think people from band or singing groups or whatever, came around to serenade us at the dormitories, right. And I looked at this group, and it was certainly much more representative of all our communities, and I was just looking at it saying, look at that. There's not just one. Oh, my goodness, there's like, six, seven. Certainly, progress has been made.

But back when I entered the school, we were really just a handful, and, and of that group, most, I don't know if this is a survival thing, or what it is, but would kind [34:00] of connect. You would see each other and say, oh, you know, maybe there's something we have in common. And, and, and in a way that was I think, why the Asian American Students Association, Brown's, formed which would have been in the second year I was at Brown. So, most people, you're kind of walking down the street and you see a person of color, not just Asian but a person of color. And you go, I don't know you give each other a look or a smile or whatever. That was very common, right? But if you, but on occasion, there'd be, run across some person who instead of looking at you, they would like look away and look down at the ground. And I remember thinking, what? Are you ashamed of what you are? Come on. Do I remind you what you look like? Right? So. [35:00] That was rare. That was rare. So.

AK: So before we get to year two at Brown, let, let me step back and ask for some of your very first memories of getting to campus, being a student on campus, like moving into your dorm, like, what are some of those initial memories of being a Brown student?

LL: Okay, well, taking the flight was probably my first time on an airplane. I came to Brown, and it was like the red eye flight. And then I landed in Boston.

AK: Were your parents, did your, did your parents go with you?

LL: No. They couldn't. No. You have to understand, right, there was, there's no money there.

AK: Right.

LL: So, and Brown was, was generous in terms of providing me with financial assistance, which we definitely needed. [36:00] We, you know, need. I think, I think probably that's what Brown does today, now. You accept, you, you accept someone and you offer them whatever their need is. But that need doesn't mean it's going to include everything, right? So, it anticipated you would be working as a student, as well, there'd be a component of that.

So, I'm on that plane. Came landing in this strange city, Boston. It's like, cold. It was cold. There was like ice on the ground, something was going on. The weather was – and I had, like, everything with me, which was probably about two suitcases, basically. So I take a taxi from the Boston Airport to the Boston bus station.

AK: Oh, God.

LL: Okay. And there's a taxi driver. He drives me to the Boston bus station, [37:00] but there's no parking near where you would enter. And he carries my luggage and he was like an older guy, at least in my mind he was older. Maybe he was 30, I don't know. Probably 50. But he was, to me he was an older guy. Little heavyset, I still remember this. Because the weather was, I forget if it was raining or something. He's carrying all my luggage from this parking, remote parking

place, all the way to the ticket line. And then he puts my luggage down. And I say to him, “Thank you.” I had no idea that there was a custom called tipping.

AK: Oh no.

LL: That was not, that was very foreign, tipping. I didn’t understand that. Nobody told me about that. So I just said, “Thank you.” And then he kind of looked at me and went, [38:00] He, he you know, he wasn’t unkind. He didn’t frown. Then he just kind of trudged – I think he had a limp, too. He trudged back. But I always like to think that this fellow and from how he spoke to me, and you know, when we were talking, was himself either an immigrant or the child of immigrants, because he still had a European accent. And I would like to think that he would think even though, you know, certainly we didn’t look like each other, that he was thinking, oh, you know – because I, you know, I told him I was going off to school – you know, that could be my kids someday. And they’ll be like trudging and won’t know about tipping. Or maybe he ran home and said, “I gotta tell my kid about tipping.”

AK: Right.

LL: So, [39:00] I got on that bus, I showed up at Brown. And I have to say that first year was kind of like being in a coma, which I think is my way of dealing with stress. I kind of like, numb down so that everything was somewhat dull in terms of emotions, and that kind of thing. I think if I had, that was a way of dealing which could, with what could have been depression, you know. I could have been depressed. But there were a couple things that, that were worked out so well for me at Brown. They have that freshman week at Brown. And at the time, and I don’t know if they have this custom, you have a faculty advisor, and he’s assigned, I know it was enough to kind of fill a luncheon table. There’s like 10 of us and him. My, my faculty advisor, because I was, [40:00] I was an organic chemistry major. Okay.

AK: Oh my.

LL: Organic chemistry major. And I was going uh-oh, because, you know, I wanted to be a brain surgeon. Who knew?

AK: Right.

LL: So he's there. We're at that lunch where there, they actually have wait staff serving you, okay. And I remember it was like Lobster Thermador. And they were all seated, we were all seated around the table. My, my advisor was Leland Clapp who was the Chair of the Organic Chemistry Department, or Chair of the Chemistry Department, the whole thing, maybe. And he's sitting there very distinguished, kind person, sitting there. And, and so he says, "We're going to go around that lunch table and each of you can introduce yourselves," right? So, I think the first few, like, got halfway around before you would ever get to me. I did what you might expect, you know, I'm, this my name, this is where I'm from, [41:00] you know, that kind of thing. So came around to me. And I said, Oh, you know, "this is my name. I'm looking for a job." Yeah, I said, "I'm looking for a job." And he goes, he says, he gives me later, he gives me a card with the name of the head of the, you know, like the support staff that supports the Chemistry Department. They're like, in charge of all the chemicals, making sure the labs are set up, and that kind of thing. He said, "Talk to this guy." Okay. I said, "Oh, alright." So that was one of the big things that being at Brown that was so wonderful for me, wonderful for me, when I got this job. I met someone and he says, "Well, Professor Clapp sent you. Of course you're hired as a student worker." I didn't have to worry about that extra little money that would help pay for things like being able to go home, you know, airfare and that kind of thing. And, [42:00] and then I met what is such an important part of the Brown community. Not, the faculty are very important, obviously, students are very important. But I met all those people who support the university, and particularly in that department. And they were not kind just to me, there was another student worker who's working, who was working because he also needed to work. You know, that, this money was like, important. He was a guy so they made him do the heavy work, where I got to do the light office and light lab work, right. But they were like another family for me at, at Brown. They, well they were there, they were good to talk to, they give me advice, they had funny stories. They, they lent me their car, when I needed a car. They gave me furniture when I needed furniture when I eventually [43:00] moved off campus, and they were just, showed me what a

wonderful part of the university that some people maybe never really get a chance to connect with. But, and absolutely loyal to the university, you know, loyal. Anyway. So that was one big, big part of coming to Brown.

The other big thing that was happening at Brown, of course, was we were kind of coming to that part of the Vietnam War, where the protests were just massive around the country. And Brown, like much, like many university communities at the time, both the faculty, student, and the student body, administration, voted to go on a strike to, to demonstrate opposition to the war. Okay. So, in a way, that's an easy way [44:00] for someone like me, if you've got the faculty behind you and the administration behind, you say, oh, yeah, I'm a protester. It's not like the people who really, they risked their careers, they risked their academic goals, they risked all of that because they don't have support. So, but it was, was big. I think the university, we took off for like a week as I recall.

AK: Wow.

LL: But you have to remember, I'm not vouching for anything I recall as being accurate. My memory, okay. But there was campus wide demonstrations and educational things going on. There were things going on just not your classes. And you had a choice, as you probably know, at that time, you could either take the grade you had, at the time I was still a science major. You could take the grade you had at the moment [45:00] the university went on strike, or you could take finals. You know, so you had an opportunity to improve if you, if that's the way you wanted to go, or if your academic goals were such where you thought, at the time I thought, you know, you needed to take all your courses for grades and then you could do that, as well. So it was, in a way, it was like, what a gift, you know. So, I suffered nothing from protesting.

AK: Yeah.

LL: It was a gift. Okay, I can let that class go, that one looks good. Or this one, maybe I better take an exam. So, but there were these mass gatherings where there'd be like a series of speakers. The student body would be assembled. People weren't out, you know, playing frisbee on the green or anything like that. I mean, this was a true, I, at least my impression of it was [46:00] the

entire student body was involved. So it was not a oh, an excuse to go on holiday or something. So being one of the – this shows you how silly things can be – being one of the few Asian students of color on campus, all of a sudden, I became like a spokesperson, you know, at these little gatherings and things because it's kind of like, oh, let's roll the Asian out. Okay.

AK: Right.

LL: You know, when I became a judge, I was, I was young to be a judge. I was like, 34, and typically, you're maybe in your late 40s or 50s when you get a judgeship. I remember thinking at the time, oh, you know, you know, I'm smart. I know, the law, blah, blah, blah. Life experience is not all that important. [47:00] What a mistake. Life experience is everything. And so for me, my life experience was so limited, right? But it was just like, you know, you look the part.

It's just like my brother when he was at the Air Force Academy. They, they would make him, not make him, but they'd have war exercises, that kind of thing in the Academy. And they would, they would always have him be the Vietcong. And they would also – because they could spot him because he looked different from a distance. They could, from a distance they could see if he violated some rule, like you're supposed to walk, some rule like walk on the horizontal line and not step in the square or whatever it is. They thought like, well, who, we know who that is, right? Just because, you know, he was, [48:00].

But anyway, but it gave me an opportunity to, to try and become more informed. Because I think, well, if I'm going to be speaking as if I have a reason, a basis for speaking, I should know more. So that gave me an incentive for that. And then during that time period I had another experience, which probably is why, one of the reasons why I ended up ultimately going to law school. During one of these protests, students, were lying on the steps, I can't remember, City Hall or the Courthouse, as a kind of act of civil disobedience. So they're lying down on the steps. I did not because heaven forbid I should risk anything, right? I was so self-centered. But they're lying on those steps [49:00] and people were actually walking on them, you know, some big guys too, like, and to get into whatever that government building was. So there was this, that was going on. I was there kind of like as one of the speakers. Okay, so there were like four or five people like that. But so, at that, when that protest was concluded the police were there watching this whole thing after that protest was done they detained me, another, and two other, at least two



other classmates. I think there were three or four of us. And we hadn't actually done anything. Except we were there, right. So they detained us, took us to the Police Department, [50:00] and one was a classmate who was the most apolitical person in the world. She was just there because maybe we were there. You know what I mean?

AK: Yeah, right.

LL: We're friends, right? So they're like interviewing each of us separately. And then you know, there was nothing there and then they eventually let us go. Maybe they were going to call somebody's parents or something. And so, then later, I was contacted by the ACLU. And they said, you know, this law they detained you under, it was a law at the time in Rhode Island, which permitted you to detain someone with less than a reasonable suspicion, right. To arrest someone, you have probable cause. To detain someone, you have to have reasonable suspicion that a crime is being committed. And then anything less than that, in [51:00] most normal jurisdictions, you, you don't, you can't detain someone, you're free to leave. Instead, they threw us in a car, whatever, and drove us away. So they, they said, "Would you, we want to file a lawsuit against," this is the ACLU, "We want to file a lawsuit against this particular law and the Police Department and the use of this law. And it's not because you as Brown students have suffered any harm. It's because this law is being used against other marginalized community, communities, so you know, other people in the community, who are very vulnerable to further police harassment. So, we want to contest the constitutionality of that law. And you being Brown students are protected. [52:00] You see, you don't have to feel like you're going to be picked up and detained again. You know, or they'll hunt you down, you know, they know where you live, or whatever. So, you don't have to. So, will you be the named plaintiff in this class?" It was a class action suit. So, I said, "Absolutely." Because it was wrong. It was a wrong thing. Right. And so then it went through the court and all of that, and it's, but it did give me the belief in how lawyers can make a difference, people standing on behalf of others. Because you know, as a Brown student, you're, you're kind of living in a very privileged area. But everybody else, they're using his law against was not. So that was kind of like a little inspiration point.

AK: Can you tell me the [53:00] name of that case and what the outcome was?

LL: Well, all you have to do is look under my name, and it'll show up. It's a, it's a federal court case. I know, I had to look it up myself because when you stand for the bar exam to get your license, you have to disclose any piece of litigation you might have been involved in.

AK: Interesting.

LL: You know, the smallest, because they look, before you can get a license, at least in California to be an attorney, they do a character assessment. Right. And so, if you've been arrested or, or convicted, and things like that, they ask you questions like that. So I, you know, I've been involved in a kind of case. And so, I put that case down. Right, and didn't seem to have any problem with it. And then, you know, years later, in applying to be a judge, you're scrutinized even more [54:00] carefully. And they ask for any case where your name showed up. Small claims case, you know, are you some kind of credit card deadbeat or something? In any case, they want all of that. Did someone sue you because they slipped on your property? They want all of that. And so, you know, I disclosed that case as well to the Governor's office at the time, and it didn't seem to create any issue. I don't think. Maybe they didn't notice.

AK: Right. So that's fascinating.

LL: Oh, the outcome of that case. So now we're, it's in, it's in Federal Court. They actually took testimony. And, and then this is what the Federal Court decided, they decided that the issue was not ripe in this set. The Rhode Island Supreme Court or the appellate court system had not looked at the law itself. So, they said really, the state court needs to look at it first, [55:00] and they can tell us whether they think it's constitutional. And maybe they'll say it's not, right? Or maybe they'll give it an interpretation that makes it constitutional. And so that case basically went nowhere. Other than it might have prompted, you know, some reexamination by people who can make a difference in those kinds of things to how that law was interpreted. So, I think it was an okay experience, right.

AK: Yeah. And did that give you the impetus to change your concentration to political science?

LL: No, no, this is, I think it was a kind of in the back of my mind for deciding to go into law. But when, what, this is what happened. I, like I think many students who come into the competitive schools, all of a sudden, you know, we look over here to the left and look over to the right and say, [56:00] “These guys are brilliant. My classmates are absolutely brilliant.” And I said, I will never be that. I will never, I will be like the, the, the working little grunt in the lab, who does all the work and deservedly gets hardly any credit. Because I mean, my classmates really, they were, they were good. They were smart. And I said, that’s not, that’s not me, you know, I can’t do it. So, why did I change? Because I was just no good. I was no good in the sciences, I was not good enough. But because Brown had this wonderful, which was the new curriculum at that time, which I think is the current system, the open [57:00] curriculum, you can take something for a grade and no record, or you can pick it for a pass and no record, right. So even though I made that decision, I think entering into my junior year, my grade point was still pretty good because I had taken, and this is what’s so wonderful about the curriculum at Brown, I actually had an opportunity to become educated by taking any course that was of interest to me. I took art classes, I took writing, I took political science. I took those, those kinds of courses, and I said, wow, you know, this is, for me a great option to go that way. Plus, I had an inspiring advisor, [58:00] who became my advisor in political science that was last name Kau, K-A-U, first name, Ying-Mao. And he was like, just a great professor and, and although born overseas, he was really on top of things. And, and it’s not like he it’s not like he had any kind of agenda, you know. And it’s, and it’s not like, if anything, he was kind of neutral. But he just exposed you to so many ideas. And I know he was, ultimately he was, I met him later after I graduated and became a lawyer, later after that, after law school, was back at Brown, and we had like lunch together or something and he said, “Yeah, you,” – It surprised him [59:00] because he just never quite saw me as a – because I was a state prosecutor maybe at the time, maybe I was a judge. But either way, he just didn’t see me going that particular route, you know. But so, I did the switch because if, maybe if I had been a brilliant future scientist, I would have stayed. But I was always, my way of looking at things was when I was growing up, you know, I wanted to be the priest and not the nun. Then I found out oh, you can’t be a priest in the Catholic Church, that’s for guys. I always wanted to be the doctor and not the nurse, right. And so, for law, you know, I’ll say and I

tell young students, I say, you know, if you're doing the work and you're good, you should be the lawyer, don't be the paralegal. Just get credit for it, right?

AK: Yeah.

LL: So, then I actually ended up, [1:00:00] I applied to and I was accepted at the Department of Political Science graduate school at Berkeley. And then when it came to actually committing to do it I said, I can't do it because I don't want to be an academic. And that's the way that route would have carried me. I don't want, I don't want to have my environment – at that time my thinking was that could be very, a more limiting environment in the university and all the politics about how you move forward and academics. And then I kind of rethought things and my then-husband decided he was going to law school. And I would never be the wife who supports the husband through school, watching while working, which is classic, traditional thing that was being done by my generation. You want to be a doctor? I'll work, work, put you through school. No, I said, No, if we're going to do this, [1:01:00] we're both going.

AK: So that was enough for you?

LL: That was nothing. He was going. I took the, he took the LSAT. I took it as a lark. But like I said, you know, I've been like, I'm a great test taker. Right.

AK: So, I have one more question about Brown, if I may. You entered in '69 and the Pembroke-Brown merger happened in '71. So, when you first went –

LL: Oh, I thought it was sooner than that. Nope. Go ahead.

AK: That, that almost answers my question, though. So were you going under the guise of like being a member of Pembroke College or I, my understanding from students who had been there for you know, two or three years [01:03:00] by the time that happened is everything was fairly integrated anyway. Was that sort of the experience that you were having?

LL: Ok. When I entered there was Pembroke, which was strictly administration. There were no Pembroke classes. So, everything in terms of me being a student was one, we were one university. And then I actually thought sooner than the date you said that, that they merged the administration for the school. I know, at some point I was like, on like the Dean Search Committee, you know, they have a student representative on that. I remember doing that. And that was certainly for the whole university. So, I'm not sure if that would be my junior year, my senior year at Brown.

AK: And then I obviously just lied to you, I have one more question. You were, [01:04:00] correct me if I'm wrong, you were one of the founders of the Asian American Students Association or Organization. Is that true?

LL: Well, this is, this is what's true based on my memory.

AK: Okay.

LL: So, like I said, there's like a handful of students and, and that picture I sent you was probably the whole group, the whole group, and maybe I should flash that picture up here.

AK: Sure.

LL: I can find it. So, there was, oops, a, where'd it go? Okay, so we were a group of about that size, okay. And I'm the long haired Asian with a guitar in the center. [01:05:00] Okay. And as I look at this group, I see up here, Professor Lee who's, I think, still with the university. He was a graduate student then. And I see an economist, I see a lawyer, I see, you know, another lawyer, a couple of medical doctors, because ultimately, we grew up, you know, but. So, there's this group, so it's not a big group. And I have to say, the energy to found the organization – it didn't exist when I came to Brown – was from the year ahead of me. So, they would have been at Brown the year before. But when we came, our freshman class, it was kind of like, now there's enough people to actually think about [01:06:00] forming an organization. And this organization would include the graduate students to who would choose to, to attend. And so was I, a founder,

I was part of the founding group. Was I an officer, I might have been, I can't remember. I was definitely the editor of our newsletter. And I maybe, I think, one of our first big parties, I think I cooked about 200 lumpia for our students, our student friends, and our faculty guests, on a little frying pan, on top of one of those little –

AK: Oh my gosh.

LL: On top of one of those little electric cooking things over in one of the halls that Brown was kind enough, you know, we were the University certainly was very supportive of the organization. And what it did, like a lot of organizations, when you get enough people, it gives you more of a voice [01:07:00] in what's going, going on. So, my memory is it formed my year, but the energy behind it, saying "let's do this," was from the class before mine. And then the two of them we just came together. Good group.

AK: Well, it does seem that you sort of generated a history of forming groups and associations.

LL: Well, you know, it's just a time of my life, right? The same kind of thing. I'm at, I'm a lawyer now. I'm at the State Bar Convention for California and we happen to be meeting at the Town and Country Hotel in Mission Valley, San Diego. And we're in a room, somebody said, "Oh, let's go we're all meeting in the room." They, the Asian American [01:08:00] lawyers who are attending the statewide conference. So, there obviously were not a lot of us, because we're just in a room, a little hotel room at the Town and Country. And a couple of people are sitting on a bed, some on the furniture, so there's not a lot, maybe 10 people or something. But you know, statewide, there's certainly more lawyers it's just we're the ones who will come to the State Bar Convention. And I said, "You know, we need to form an organization so we have input on appointments that our governor's making, not just to the bench, but to committees, so that we have a voice as issues come up to," and so yes, so I was in that. I was in a, one of the founding members of the California Asian Pacific Bar Association. That's true.

And then, then there are a couple of organizations who formed thereafter in San Diego, Pan-Asian Lawyers, and then [01:09:00] Filipino-American Lawyers. Filipino-American lawyers, there was like when we met there were maybe six or seven of us and we met in a little

coffee shop. And we said we should, you know Pan-Asian Lawyers is not addressing the specific issues, some specific issues that are very important to Filipino-Americans. San Diego had the highest concentration, still does, of Filipino, ethnic Filipinos who are living outside the Philippines. So they've got maybe 250,000 Filipinos, Americans of Filipino descent living in San Diego, maybe 200,000. And that community had a lot of needs. They, they, they certainly had legal advice needs and health needs, all kinds. So, we, we really should organize to assist this community and it's not the number one priority for Pan-Asian Lawyers because they have other priorities, [01:10:00] which is a group I also belonged to, right. So, here's like the six or seven of us in this coffee shop. And then they go, oh, we should decide, should, do you have to be 100% Filipino to belong to this group? And I go, I look at them and say, "If you make that rule, you're going to lose half the people in this room. And then what are the three of you going to do?" Right?

So, no, it was, those are certainly interesting times, and certainly since then, other I guess you'd call us special interest bars, have formed addressing different, you know, different needs, different communities, and it's all good. And, and, and it like, it's good to work together to represent the, the wonderful – the wonderful part of this country, of course, is that [01:11:00] we have so many different kinds of people. I say, we're rich, culturally. And certainly, you know, as people come, and I'm a great believer in this, I'm kind of idealistic, I guess, you know, different immigrant communities come, it's, it's just a wonderful thing to, to have that. And, and certainly, these are very challenging times now. There's kind of what I would call tribalism, nativism, all of that, you know, is kind of not just in this country, but other countries, as well, you know. But I like to think that most people, most people, most people are quiet. But most people are good hearted on these issues. They just may not be as vocal as [01:12:00] other people.

I remember when I was at Brown, there was a, a Chinese student who had fled China, mainland China. And in my mind, I had this picture, I don't know if it's true, he swam across some river to get to safety or whatever. He'd come to Brown and Brown was going to admit him, I think they were thinking of admitting him. Or they weren't, or they were going to admit him, but they weren't going to give him the financial support he would need because basically, not that he was an orphan, but he had no, no, no one in the United States to help him. So, you know, he came to our organization, right. Right? Because we were there, we were there. And we talked to him. And I remember we went and had a meeting with I can't remember the dean or who, and

I, this would have been my last year at Brown and, and we said, [01:13:00] you know, this guy is special. You know, he's not like the rest of us. He really is special. And they go, "Well, we've already given out all our financial aid," and whatever. And I remember saying, you know, "You can give him mine," I said. I don't know why I said that. How crazy is that? You can give mine. That's called not thinking ahead. Just, just, just give him my financial aid to support it. And then, and then I remember, she looked puzzled. How would we do that? We can't do that. Or whatever. And I can't remember the outcome of it. But the beauty of having an organization is it's not just a student, coming up to people in authority and decision makers, but it's an organization that has a constituency, and they come to the, the administration saying, you know, we're advocating for [01:14:00] this, right. So much like the way I got my judgeship, kind of like the way I got the Brown. You know, on paper, I look pretty good, but there were plenty of people who looked pretty good for an appointment. But they were throwing this name out, somebody, and people were saying, "Who is this guy?" Right? Because that was going to kind of be oh, that's going to be an Asian American appointment to the bench, right? But he, nobody knew him, he had done nothing in the community other than that he's smart, he's got good grades and great credentials, right. So, so people said, "Oh, you know, you should put your name in because at least we know who, who you are. And when when I got my appointment, which was unusual in the sense that it was cross party – it was a republican governor and a [01:15:00] registered democrat, at the time. Unusual at the time for that administration to do cross party appointment. But he did. And the one reason, I think there are a couple of reasons. One, there were, there were a lot of people who didn't even know me who advocated on my behalf. And organizations because these were, these organizations were formed, right. The other you know, on paper, I look good from his perspective in the sense that he was certainly looking to appoint a woman, there are very few on the bench, and gosh, a couple? And, and then the fact that I was coming from an immigrant background, this particular governor was a great believer in the, the immigration story of coming to this country, because he himself, I think that was his own background too. [01:16:00] Great believer that he could empathize, even though it wasn't from his particular ethnicity, he could empathize and say, "Yeah, that's, that story, we come to this country and, and, and you can do well," right. And then, and then being a kind of law and order type, the fact that I was as a state prosecutor at the time. That probably kind of ticked that little box off as well so.



AK: And so I –

LL: And I went to a great school like Brown University. I mean, that's – I had, I think Brown certainly, I think, as I remember, Brown's prestige has increased over the years so that I think the school should be proud of itself, of what it's done. I recommend it all the time to students. Brilliant students.

AK: I recommend it and I didn't get to go as a student. Just talking to the alums who did go, I wish I had gone. [01:17:00]

LL: It's just the freedom to, to have so much input into your own education, you know, and not get all tied up into this core curriculum that's required in many schools. For a moment, I had thought about transferring after my first year from Brown back to Berkeley as a biochemistry major, and partly because I had a boyfriend who was in California. See how men kind of move us in these directions?

AK: Yeah.

LL: So, and then, and then my parents were very, and my brothers, were very opposed. Why would you do that? Because they're realistic. Why would you do that? Right? For this, whatever, romance, right? Why would you do that? And then I said, well, no, I want to, I want to, right. And then, and then then they said, "oh, well do whatever you want," [01:18:00] basically. Just do what you want. And once they said they were not opposed I felt free to choose.

AK: Yeah.

LL: When I have opposition, I just want to fight it.

AK: Yeah.

LL: But now, I am free to choose. And then I took a look at what was required to graduate in biochemistry at Berkeley in terms of all the requirements. And I said, I'm not going there. I want to take the classes, I liked the ones that mean something to me, the ones that at the time would build where I want to go, which at that time was in the sciences. And the fact that Brown at the time, I don't know that if that's still true, the, one of the big selling points of Brown to me at the time, was that every faculty member taught undergraduates. They had an undergraduate responsibility. So, you know, I had, you know, chairs of departments, you know, the extremely accomplished scientists, [01:19:00] teaching. You know, at other universities, they would never teach a sophomore class or a seminar or whatever. Modes of Thought I had, do they still have Modes of Thought?

AK: I'm not sure, but I've heard that class mentioned by many of our interviewees.

LL: Right. Well, wonderful concept. I got into the, an eight-person Modes of Thought on German poetry, or German ballads. And I'd taken German in high school because I thought that was the language of scientists, right? But I learned it, I didn't learn it, I learned it well enough to get A's in it. But not like you should, really should learn a language. Just good enough to take a test. It was just all memory and whatever. So, then I'm in this eight- person [01:20:00] class where all you speak is German. And we're reading German ballads in German. And we're talking about it in German. And I'm going this university, what a great school is this? I mean, what a wonderful experience. Because before I came to Brown, I'm just spinning around through high school taking classes that will build a resume, I guess. And looking over my shoulder at the other people who are getting good grades to see what my competition is. Here, I said, well, I can like, really learn and enjoy, you know, this stuff. I'm a big fan of our school.

AK: So I don't want to take too much of your time tonight, I just have kind of one more –

LL: I've gone on forever. [01:21:00]

AK: And yet, it feels to me like not enough time. But I've got one more, a couple more kinds of questions for you that are big. What advice would you give to either an incoming Brown student

today or a young lawyer today? Like, what would your piece, like what kind of information would you want to impart to them as they embark on these early journeys?

LL: Well, if you're fortunate enough to go to Brown, I mean, it is a unique school in terms of its curriculum and its reputation. I mean, what a dynamite combination as you go forward, and whatever your career, academics are. Take full advantage of experimenting and taking courses outside your comfort zone. I mean, enjoy it. The other thing is, get to know your faculty. You shouldn't [01:22:00] be shy. I mean, these are – any school. You should, you shouldn't just like, take a class and walk away from it, if you're able to connect on a personal basis with any faculty person or seminar leader, or going back to what I said earlier, any member of the support staff, I mean, those are wonderful connections. And so that's what I would say just take full advantage of what Brown has to offer and form some good relationships, not because you're trying to get a reference letter for something else, or a recommendation for something else, although those can be useful. But because like I like to tell young lawyers and law students, you know, I'm kind of lonely. I really like if you want to, like come and get together and [01:23:00] be my friend, right? Like I had, I have like young lawyers now who are like, they're young, but they're maybe old, but they were young when I met them. They you know, they call me auntie, which is certainly a custom in Hawaii, but also a custom within the Filipino culture you call any adult auntie or uncle, right, because you bring together like a family connection. Just do that. It's just, you know, they may, you know, be a little older or whatever, but they, they really have a lot to offer in terms of advice and friendship and support, you know. Support both on the ups and downs.

For a law student, I would say you need to, sometimes going to law school, if you have some bad quality characters, qualities, they can make it worse, becoming a lawyer can make [01:24:00] some of your weaknesses worse. If you're like, maybe a little egotistical, or maybe a little judgmental and stuff, going to law school, or maybe a little aggressive, becoming a lawyer can make it worse. So, you have to kind of guard against that. The other thing is if you're looking to apply to a law school, don't, there is no in my mind, no law school, pre major undergraduate. What you should look for, is the most challenging undergraduate major you can put together that's within your interest, right. Because law schools, I think would pick an engineer, undergraduate engineer person, philosophy, someone in philosophy, math. [01:25:00] Those are like, they can look at that and say, yeah, this person is good, right? Come to my law

school. And so, one, two, I said two things. Third thing is you need to be true to yourself. So, there's no like one way to look or be like a lawyer or a law student. So, you should like, work on your best qualities and be that, and be that. So that's my advice. There you go.

AK: So then finally, before we close tonight, I would just like to leave any open time for you to share anything else that you would like to get into the historical record. Something maybe that you were hoping I would ask you about today and I didn't. Any final thoughts before we close.

LL: I have to say I hadn't thought on an open ended [01:26:00] question like that, on things I have not already expressed. You know, Brown really did give me, I can almost in a way inadvertently kind of stumbled into Brown, you know, because there was a letter and there was the offer of financial assistance, and I didn't want to live at home and attend UC Berkeley because heaven forbid you would live on campus when your home is right there. Right? So, I was just really fortunate to be at Brown. And, and take, and I certainly did not take advantage of everything I should have, in retrospect, you know, I could have, there was a breadth of courses so you can come out are Brown and be truly, truly educated. You know, I'm nowhere like that. But at least I was able to do some, some things [01:27:00] that didn't meet at the time for Asians, American students. You, if you're, you know, halfway decent in math or whatever, or you're going to be, you know a scientist or a doctor maybe. But the fact that you might actually be able to speak on behalf of someone else, hold positions of responsibility in the government. Any, any of that, you know, was not thought of.

Well, let me close with saying this. I've been watching the Olympics. Okay. This is going off into some little historical sinkhole. This is 2022. Right? 2022. So, I'm watching the Olympics, and then this fellow, I think he's a figure skater, is skating and then somewhere in there, they, they, I hear the word Brown, Brown in there. And my husband [01:28:00] who went to Stanford, right, we have a little thing. I go, I go, I go, "Look! Look! He went to Brown University!" I said, "A typical Brown student," I said. "So absolutely accomplished. What a, you know, the discipline, the creativity, the you know, he's at the summit," okay. And he goes, my husband goes, "Oh, yeah. Blah blah blah." Then that next event we were watching the other day was snowboarding, okay. There was a young woman about I think she's the, maybe the United

States, the hopeful for that. And they're going around, then they're, then they all go, "Stanford." And then my husband goes, "Oh, look! Stanford."

I think universities like Stanford and, and Brown, they do their best when they pick a student. And if they're lucky enough to predict [01:29:00] that student is going to be a leader in whatever they're going to do. You know, whatever they endeavor at. Athleticism, the arts, something academic, law, government, whatever. If the university picks someone like that, you know, then the school has been successful, right? And I think schools like Brown, Stanford and others, they're at their best when they can find a student. And I guess it's the whole person approach. So, it's not a question of color, or where you're from or any of that. But you just look at that person and say, what do we know about them and what does it predict? Right? What Does it predict? So, that reminds me of some pending litigation that I don't want to comment on. I'm very judicial, I'm very discreet. [01:30:00] I'm not going to talk about those. That's ideal, right? That's ideal.

AK: Well, thank you so much for your time today and sharing with me just a tiny sliver of all of the fascinating things that make up your life. Your interview will be added to a corpus of over 300 other interviews of Brown alums and I thank you so much for being willing to share your story with me today.

LL: And I, and I hope maybe you're able to get us down to something – less is best. Right? Less, less is always best.

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