NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

H. Karl Mangum
Partner, Mangum, Wall, Stoops and Warden

An Interview Conducted in 1987
by Douglas H. Frazer
Flagstaff, Arizona

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DOUGLAS FRAZER
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SOCIETY

INTERVIEW WITH
H. KARL MANGUM of FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA
December 30, 1987

FRAZER: Karl, we may as well start at the beginning -- that means the beginning of your life. Maybe you could tell me when and where you were born.

MANGUM: I was born in Pima, Arizona on December 3, 1908. During my childhood my father was a businessman in Pima, operating a grocery store and butcher shop. I attended grade school in Pima.

FRAZER: Where exactly is Pima, Arizona?

MANGUM: It is six miles west of Safford, Arizona, the county seat of Graham County.

FRAZER: And how did your folks get to Pima?

MANGUM: Well, you would have to say it was a part of the Mormon migration from Utah into Arizona as ordered by Brigham Young in the 1870's. My father was born in Springerville, Arizona, and my mother was born in Concho, Arizona, which is fifteen miles west of St. Johns, the county seat of Apache County.

My mother was one of the children of a Norwegian Mormon convert named Kempe. Her mother was converted in Denmark by Kempe, who married her and brought her to southern Utah, and they migrated down into northern Arizona.

My father's origins were through the Mangum and Hamlin lineage. Jacob Hamlin, the missionary to the Indians, had a brother named William, who was my father's lineage. The Mangum family goes back into the seventeenth century, when a young seventeen-year-old boy ran away from home in England as a stowaway on a ship that landed in South Carolina. So I guess you could say the Mangum roots began in South Carolina. There are a number of Mangum families in the south, and two towns in Oklahoma and Texas named Mangum. A part of the family joined the Mormon church when it was active in the Missouri area and came to Utah during that earlier migration.

FRAZER: So your father's family migrated from Utah down to Northern Arizona. How did your father meet your mother?

MANGUM: Their families had moved down into the Graham County and Pima area and they met in Pima. I might say that Pima was a very small town of about 400 people at that time. I believe my parents were both teaching school in Pima, where they met and later married. My mother had indentured herself to a wealthy family in Provo, Utah, and as a maid she paid her way through two years at Brigham Young University. At that time my father only had a high school education, but he was allowed to teach by passing an examination.

FRAZER: And you went to grade school and at least part of high school in Thatcher?

MANGUM: I went to grade school in Pima. Then, during the depression that followed World War I, my father gave up his business in Pima, and even though they were desperately poor, my parents decided to go back to college. They packed up and put five of their kids in an old car and headed to Tempe, Arizona, where they enrolled as students in what was then a teacher's college and is now called Arizona State University. And so I attended two years of high school in Tempe while my parents went to college. The saga of those two years is a story in and of itself.

I spent my junior and senior years at Gila High School in Thatcher. While I was attending that school, it was converted into a junior college, so I attended two years of high school and two years of college at that institution.

FRAZER: Now, your parents had decided that in order to continue teaching successfully, they needed some kind of an advanced degree?

MANGUM: Well, having lost their business, and after spending a year in an unsuccessful farming venture, they decided the best course for the family would be for them to go back to college and obtain their teaching certificates, which could be accomplished in two years. They spent the next two years scratching out a living and getting an education. After obtaining their teaching certificates, my parents were hired to teach in Thatcher. My father was a teacher and principal at the Thatcher High School, and was later elected as Graham

County School Superintendant. My mother taught for a few years in the grade school at Thatcher, until the depression produced a ruling that two members of a family could not teach in the same school.

Later my father died in office and my mother was appointed to his political office and served an additional term.

FRAZER: What was your father's name?

MANGUM: James Harvey Mangum.

FRAZER: And your mother?

MANGUM: Her name was Charlotte Kempe Mangum.

FRAZER: I understand that when your mother attempted to enroll in the Tempe teacher's college, she talked her way into two years of credit.

MANGUM: That was because of her early teaching experience and the two years of schooling she had received from Brigham Young University.

FRAZER: When your family lived in Tempe, this was in the early 1920's?

MANGUM: Yes, I think about 1921, 1922.

FRAZER: What was Tempe like in those days?

MANGUM: It was a small farming town which was augmented by the college. I would imagine that Tempe was probably a town of 2,500 to 3,000 people at that time.

FRAZER: Was the bridge built at that time?

MANGUM: No, not the current bridge. There was a narrow bridge that was parallel to the railroad bridge that we used in crossing the Salt River when we went from Tempe to Phoenix.

FRAZER: After two years in Tempe, your family returned to Thatcher and you completed high school in Thatcher?

MANGUM: I enrolled at Gila for my junior and senior years and continued on at that school through my freshman and sophomore years in college. I think the college enrollment was about 60 students, and it was supported by the Mormon church. Two years after I graduated, the church donated facilities to a new junior college district. Gila was the second junior college established in the State of Arizona; I believe Phoenix Junior was the first.

FRAZER: I understand you were a good athlete in high school.

MANGUM: Yes I was. I played basketball and football in both high school and junior college. We had an outstanding basketball team. I have always said that I had seven years of college football because I was playing at the junior college level when I was a high school junior and senior, then I played two years in junior college, and then three years while I attended law school at the University of Arizona.

FRAZER: Maybe you can tell us that story. How were you recruited by, "Pop" McKale, was it?

MANGUM: Yes. After I got out of junior college, I spent the summer working at the Miami Copper Company in Miami, Arizona. In the 20's, prior to the Depression, a student could always get a job in the mines. That summer I had made up my mind to join an old chum who got out of junior college a year ahead of me and went over to USC. His name was Jess Martenson, and he was both a track and football star. He later won the decathalon in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, setting a new point record in that event. He later became the track coach at USC.

FRAZER: And he was a colleague of yours at junior college?

MANGUM: Yes, he was a compatriot in basketball and football in junior college. As I mentioned, we had quite a basketball team. We were invited to the AAU Tournament, which was then THE big nationwide basketball tournament. It was a mixture of college and amateur teams sponsored by industry. We went back to Kansas City as one of 54 teams and managed to place 8th in that tournament. This was quite a credit to our little school that year.

Martenson was probably the best player on our team. He had arranged a scholarship for me at USC. In those days, football scholarships as offered today were unknown, and a scholarship consisted of a remission of fees. So, I was planning on going to USC to school and my goal was to follow in my parents' footsteps and become a teacher, perhaps doing some coaching as well.

However, that summer "Pop" McKale and Louis Slonaker, the athletic director at the University of Arizona, came down to Miami to see me. My shift boss gave me time to talk with them, and standing out on the bridge over the crushing plant, the three of us discussed my future. They strongly encouraged me as an Arizonan to stay in Arizona for my college education, and I let them know that Arizona was really where I wanted to be. McKale asked if I'd ever considered becoming a lawyer. I replied that no, I hadn't. He then said, "Well, I've checked your records at Gila. You won both debating and extemporaneous speaking contests, and you have a good grade average. I think law school is something you should consider." I told him I had just never even thought about it. We discussed the matter a little further, and in that half hour I made a decision to attend the University of Arizona, and I committed myself to a career in the law. I didn't realize it at the time, but McKale's primary purpose in suggesting that I become a lawyer was to secure my services on the football field for the three years of law study instead of two years if I had gotten a liberal arts degree.

And that is how, on the inducement of Coach McKale, who wanted a football player for three years, I changed my career to the law, an action I have never regretted.

FRAZER: What position did you play at the University of Arizona?

MANGUM: I played right tackle and was first string all three years I played there. I was severely injured in a game with Cal Tech, which made me unable to play the next week in the game with Pomona College. We lost that game, ending our hopes for an undefeated season.

We played in the All Border Conference, which included Occidental, Pomona, Cal Tech, Whittier, University of New Mexico, and El Paso School of Mines. I made the All Border Conference team one year.

My three years at law school were pretty tough, as I was carrying a full load and holding down a janitor's job for the college and a dishwashing job at my fraternity, in addition to football practice. In short, it was not a picnic.

FRAZER: What years were you in law school at the University of Arizona?

MANGUM: 1928, 1929 and 1930. I graduated in June of 1931.

FRAZER: Who was the Dean at the law school at that time?

MANGUM: Samuel Fegley. He was the Dean that organized the law school in the beginning, and he was there for many years.

FRAZER: What was law school like? How big was it? What were the classes like? How many professors? Any particular ones you remember?

MANGUM: The teaching staff was small, consisting of Dean Fegley, Professor Curtis and Byron McCormick, who later became president of the university. That staff was augmented by praticing lawyers from downtown Tucson. In my second year, the law school was enlarged and Professor Chester Smith and a Professor Thomas became full-time teachers. I thought Professor Smith was a great teacher, and I enjoyed studying with him. He was creative and gave his students quite a challenge. Before his arrival, all teaching was done by the case book method. Professor Smith broadened our horizons, much to my future benefit.

FRAZER: How many people were there in your class?

MANGUM: I think probably about fifteen; the school was small. The last year I was there it doubled as far as the instructional staff was concerned. It seems to me that we all turned to a more creative approach in our study of the law during my senior year, and Dr. Thomas made a fine improvement to the curriculum with the addition of a Moot Court experience.

FRAZER: Who were some of your fellow students? Does anyone stand out in your memory?

MANGUM: I would say that my best friend was Henry Stevens, who later became a Superior Court judge and was on the Court of Appeals for several years before he retired.

Evo DeConcini was also a classmate. He later served on the Supreme Court of this State for many years. He was a good lawyer as well as politician, and we maintained a good friendship over the years.

Another good friend was Elias Romley, who was a prominent Arizona lawyer for years.

1931, the year I got out of college, was of course during the depth of the Depression, and none of us were getting any job offers. I remember being very envious of Ivan Robinette, who got out of law school in 1930, the year before I did. He got a job with the firm of Gust & Rosenfeld at $100 a month, and we were all very envious of him for securing such a prosperous deal for himself.

FRAZER: You mentioned earlier that you had four siblings. Did any of them go to law school too?

MANGUM: Yes. I have a younger brother, Eugene Mangum, who graduated in about 1937. He practiced in Casa Grande for awhile and then moved into Phoenix and was appointed Chief Magistrate of the Phoenix court system. He served for several years in that capacity, and he made quite a reputation for his work with DWI and drug-related cases. His work gained him national attention and he has spoken in many states about these issues and has received many awards.

My older brother, Otto Mangum, who was also my closest friend throughout his life, was an electrical engineer. I relied on him in many ways, including his aid in helping me to transfer to the University of Arizona. He had gone there the year before me and paved the way for me. He tried to play football the year that I enrolled, but gave it up after a month or two, deciding it just wasn't for him. Otto later became the supervisor for the Bureau of Reclamation of the power distribution for the Hoover Dam into Arizona.

I lost one sister, Lydia, who died of spinal meningitis during my second year of law school. It was very tragic. My younger sister, Zona, was the only one of us who didn't immediately pursue a college career. She preferred marriage to a man named Joseph Stewart, who came to Safford from Texas with the CC camps in the Graham County area. She later secured both her bachelors degree and masters degree at Arizona State University.

All of us children, however, acquired our desire for a college education from our parents, who had set quite an example when we were small children.

FRAZER: When you were still in high school and junior college in Thatcher, did you work for the mines during the summers?

MANGUM: Yes, I worked for two years for the Miami Copper Company; one year in the crushing plant and one in the boiler plant. Those were pretty rough jobs for a sixteen, seventeen year old kid, but I guess I matured rapidly. I was only nineteen when I enrolled in law school.

FRAZER: When you got out of law school, what exactly did you do, since the job situation was so bleak?

MANGUM: Well, my entry into my law career is an interesting story. I had taken the bar exam before my law school finals -- we had to take the bar exam in mid-May and still had to go back to college for our final exams. That put quite a burden on us students, but I was third high on the bar exam that year. Professor Smith took the bar exam with us and he was the high man, and Henry Stevens was second highest.

I had no prospects for a location, but knew I didn't want to go back home to Safford. There was nothing to attract me there. For some reason, I wasn't particularly attracted to Tucson, and I spent most of the summer interviewing in different firms in Phoenix, but was was offered no opportunities. I did receive a tenatative offer from Charles Young, then an insurance defense lawyer. He was leaving for an August vacation, and suggested I see him at the end of that month. I spent that month travelling to a fraternity convention in Seattle, and feeling quite hopeful that I might find an opening. By the end of August I knew that I had passed the bar, and we were sworn in on September 19th of

that year. When I got back from Seattle, I went to see Mr. Young, who told me that he had met up with an old school chum while he was on vacation. It turned out that his friend wanted to move to Arizona, and Mr. Young had made arrangements to take his friend into his practice, leaving no room for me.

I walked out of that meeting, and down on the sidewalk I ran into Terrence Carson, an attorney who gave the bar review courses. He suggested I go up to Flagstaff. Carson said that he had met up with a Tim McCarty, a lawyer from Flagstaff, and he understood that McCarty was thinking of moving to California for 6 months to try and pass the California bar exam. If he passed the oral exam, he would be admitted to practice in California, but if he wasn't successful, he wanted to be able to come back to Flagstaff. So he needed somebody to take over his office while he was away.

I immediately went to Flagstaff; I didn't even try to contact the man ahead of time. The upshot of our meeting was that McCarty and I did make a deal, and I took over his office while he was gone. The office consisted of a small room located on the second floor of the Babbitt Building in the middle of town, and he was keeping the judges' law library, so the place looked like an office. There was also a room in the back where I was able to put a cot for sleeping, and that became my living quarters.

McCarty had a meager practice, and that winter was a rough one. I handled a few little collection matters, and one case that provided me with a $75.00 fee, which was a lot of money to me at the time. I ran out of money completely on a dreary day in November, and I was going to have to request credit from the boarding house where I ate my meals at a family table. (I knew I had a $2.00 to $3.00 fee coming on Friday.) As I went down the stairwell, a man came through the door and headed upstairs. I watched him go, and saw that he went back towards my office, so I scrambled back up. As it turned out, he was a man from Winslow who had a partnership in a dress shop. Business was poor, and he told his woman partner she could have his share of the business. He put everything he owned in his car and was on the way to California. Before he reached Flagstaff, he realized he should have had some type of dissolution agreement with the woman for his protection. He drove into town looking for a lawyer, saw my shingle and chose to use my services. In those days I did my own typing, so I sat down and typed out a short partnership dissolution and charged him $5.00 for it. That fee saved me from having to ask for credit, and in all my years of legal practice I have never received a fee for which I have been more grateful.

FRAZER: Is it true that when you came to Flagstaff from Tucson you hitchhiked to Williams and then took a train?

MANGUM: Yes. It wasn't the most direct route, but I just didn't want to hitchhike into a town where I expected or hoped to make my future. I wanted to arrive with some dignity, and it only cost 35 or 50 cents for the train fare. I rode into Flagstaff on the Santa Fe, and you could say that was the beginning of my practice, September 25, 1931.

McCarty was successful in securing admission to the California Bar, and in early May of 1932 he came back to Flagstaff to retrieve his effects. It was then that he suggested I run for County Attorney. He helped me prepare a resume and gave me the $15.00 with which to secure publication in the Coconino Sun, the local newspaper. That had been a rough winter, and I wasn't even able to pay the $40.00 monthly rent to Babbitts. So, even though I knew nothing about politics, I was ready to follow any suggestion. With McCarty's stimulus and encouragement, I started my venture into politics. McCarty felt I could beat the incumbent, Hugh Russell, who had beaten McCarty in the previous election.

FRAZER: What political party were you?

MANGUM: I was a democrat, solely I guess because of my father, although Arizona at the time was strongly democratic. That summer I made a resolution to knock on the door of every house I could find in Coconino County. I hitchhiked to Williams and Fredonia, and would cover the rural vote with other politicans doing their campaigning. I learned what it means for Coconino County to be the second largest in the United States.

FRAZER: You mentioned Fredonia?

MANGUM: Yes. Fredonia was a small town of about 250 at the time located in the Arizona strip country. There was also Sedona, but it was very rural at that time; all they had was one grocery store and a service station at a wide place in the road. Sedona didn't become famous until years later.

My efforts proved to be fruitful, because a number of men later told me that they didn't vote for me, but their wives did because they had met me at the door of their home or at the store. I guess this may be bragging, but I was a tall, rugged, good-looking young man, and fortunately the women voted for me. I won that first election by 93 votes.

FRAZER: Out of how many?

MANGUM: Oh, about 3200-3500. I think the 1930 census showed Flagstaff to be about 3500 people and Williams was about 2000.

FRAZER: What year was this when you were first elected?

MANGUM: That was in 1932. The primary was in September. I didn't have any opposition in the general election that year. The County Attorney's job paid $2,500, and that was really the beginning of my career, because if I hadn't won that election, my days as an attorney in Flagstaff would have been over.

FRAZER: What was Flagstaff like when you got here? What was going on? What were the major industries?

MANGUM: Well, the town was pretty well closed down. Flagstaff had two mills for quite awhile, and Williams had a good-sized lumber operation with the Saginaw Monistee Lumber Mill. When I got to town, though, they were all shut down.

Flagstaff had a Spanish/American population that had been brought in by Joseph Dolan and his predecessor to work in the lumber mills. The workers in the woods at that time were mostly Swedish-Norwegian -- a rugged lot. In the 1930's Flagstaff was also a center for the cattle industry. Flagstaff Teachers College was here; I think they had something like 250 students. The tourist industry was important: there were a few motels, restaurants, and the Grand Canyon was of course always an attraction.

FRAZER: Who were the leading attorneys in Flagstaff in the early 30's?

MANGUM: When I came here I believe there were six attorneys in town. C.B. Wilson, the old patriarch, had come to Flagstaff in about 1912. His partner, Orrin Compton, had studied in C.B.'s office and was a legal secretary for awhile before he passed the bar.

The County Attorney was Hugh Russell, and his deputy was Frank Gold. There was also an attorney by the name of W.E.S. Thompson, and then there was me. That was it. The judge at the time was Frank Harrison, who had been elected in 1930.

FRAZER: How many years did you spend as County Attorney?

MANGUM: Six years, or three terms. In 1934 I felt affluent enough with that $200 a month salary to get married. I married my present wife, Jessie Mae Lee, who was born and raised in Thatcher. Two of her sisters were married to Jesse Udall and Levi Udall. They were children of a rather prominent cattleman, John Lee. My wife is a descendant of John D. Lee of the Lee's Ferry and the Mountain Meadow Massacre.

In 1938, after I had been County Attorney for 6 years, at the urging of the majority of the Bar and some of the prominent citizens in town, I ran against Frank Harrison for his seat on the Coconino County Superior Court. Harrison, although he was a fairly popular judge, had a history of alcoholism and was involved in several rather disgraceful antics.

In that time frame, one other attorney, William McQuatters, had moved into Flagstaff, increasing the ranks of practicing attorneys. It was quite a risky decision to give up the security and salary of the County Attorney's office, because business hadn't recovered much in Flagstaff and civil law business was slow. The election was bitter, and again I won, this time by 83-84 votes. As you can see, my elections to office were both close calls.

FRAZER: While you were County Attorney, do you recall prosecuting any significant cases?

MANGUM: Yes, I had one quite famous case. This was in 1934. In June I married Jessie Mae, and on November 11th of that year her brother, Rex Lee, a lawyer from St. Johns, was killed in the Kaibab. His death was first labelled an accident, but we determined through investigation that it looked like a deliberate act on the part of a man named John Chiono.

Rex had married into the Whiting family, which is a large and well-known family in Arizona. Arizona Kaibab Industries is their chief business holding. The Whiting family and Rex went to the Kaibab on a hunting trip, and this fellow Chiono somehow edged his way into the party. The evening they arrived, within a mile or so of the camp, and less than an hour after they arrived, Rex was shot in the forehead with a rifle and killed. The hunting party spent several days looking for him, not knowing what had happened. We felt strongly that Chiono spent most of his time disclaiming knowledge of the death, and during the search for Rex, Chiono tried to lead the search party away from the area where the shooting occurred. When it became inevitable that the search party was going to run across the body, Chiono tried to make himself a hero by dashing through the forest and finding the body. That, and the circumstantial evidence in St. Johns and at the scene, caused us to file a murder charge against Chiono.

Chiono was of Italian lineage from the Globe area and was quite a popular student at the University. He was also a good athlete, and I ran into lots of opposition from the local populace in filing and pursuing the case. The Board of Supervisors ordered me to stop the prosecution, but with help from the Attorney General and the family's hiring of a special prosecutor, Ralph Bilby of Tucson, I proceeded with the case.

The trial was quite notorious. I think for the 13 days of the trial, the chief headline in the Arizona Republic concerned the events of the trial the day before. Had I not been fortunate in obtaining a conviction for manslaughter, I don't know what might have happened to my career as an attorney in Flagstaff. That was the most famous case I was involved in.

I also successfully prosecuted the first cow thieves ever convicted by a jury in Coconino County. Obviously, there are numbers of men who had pleaded guilty in the past, but to secure a conviction from a jury in a cow theft case was rather difficult in those days -- it just didn't happen. The defendant was from a large local family named Heckathorn. The Sheriff of Coconino County was one Arthur Vandevier, who had been trying to catch Heckathorn and stop his operations, but he had never been successful in pressing anything against him

except for several sale of beef cases. Heckathorn made a mistake, however, in stealing an animal that belonged to an elderly couple who lived a few miles out of town. This cow, Rosie, was a pet of the couple, and would come to them when they called her name. She disappeared one Fall and the couple didn't know what heppened to her until she showed up as part of Heckathorn's herd the next Spring. They recognized her and she still answered to her name, so I had a pretty air-tight case against Heckathorn.

After the conviction the case took an amusing turn. Heckathorn appealed to the Supreme Court; we didn't have a Court of Appeals in those days. All decisions of the Supreme Court were issued on Mondays. The only daily newspaper in the area was the Winslow Mail, and when the conviction was confirmed, the Monday issue picked up the story. Therefore, Heckathorn learned of his conviction before I did, because I didn't receive notice until Tuesday's mail. On Tuesday morning, I received a call from the warden of the State penitentiary asking me what he should do. There was a man there by the name of Heckathorn wanting to get into the prison! Since no commitment issued until 15 days after the decision, I had to tell the warden to send him back home. Once the commitment was issued, I was curious to know why Heckathorn had transported himself to Florence and why he was so anxious to get into the penitentiary. He told me that he

wasn't going to give that "four-eyed son-of-a-bitch of a sheriff" the satisfaction of taking him to the pen.

FRAZER: I understand that when Frank Harrison was judge and you were County Attorney, he once made a completely contradictory ruling within the space of a few days, based on one of his shenanigans?

MANGUM: Yes, and that is an interesting story. In those days, there was an attorney by the name of Isaac Barth practicing in St. Johns. He was a pretty sharp lawyer of Jewish and Spanish descent who had been disbarred in California and New Mexico and was later disbarred in Arizona. St. Johns was his family home and so he practiced there but would spend his summers in Flagstaff. He would rent a home on the south side among the Spanish/American population where he would pick up a few cases, and it was also his habit to comb the jails. The only two jails at that time were the county jail, which had probably 10 cells, and the city jail, which was an utter abomination and disgrace, and consisted of 2 cells located in the old City Hall.

This case involved a prostitute who was spending a 30-day jail sentence in the city jail. The former County Attorney, Hugh Russell, had filed a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of the woman to secure her release. In those days it was my practice to assist the City Attorney in such cases, and we argued the writ before Judge Harrison, who denied the same. So, about 10 days into the woman's sentence, Barth ran across

her while he was combing the jails. He filed a writ of habeas corpus on exactly the same grounds that Mr. Russell had used. The City Attorney, Mr. Compton, and I went into court that morning feeling rather confident of success against Barth because of the duplication of the writ. Mr. Barth presented his argument, which I tried to intervene a couple of times. Judge Harrison motioned to me to sit down and I wasn't allowed to talk. When Barth finished, I got up and tried to argue, using the prior petition and ruling as the basic reason for denying the writ. "Mr. Mangum," said the Judge, "I don't need to hear anything more. I'm going to grant this petition," and he did so. Both Compton and I were startled, and we left the courtroom in a daze. We went to the Judge's chambers for an explanation, and he met us at the door, blurry-eyed and with the smell of whiskey on his breath. He put his arm around Compton's shoulders, and said, "Orrin, I hated to do this to you. You are like a son to me. But I spent last night in that jail, and it isn't a fit place for a dog, so I issued the writ." We accepted our defeat, knowing the judge was capable of things like that. On more than one occasion, I'd have the sheriff pick him up and hold him in the county jail overnight so he'd sober up enough to come in the next morning and sentence prisoners with whom he had spent the night.

FRAZER: So he got to know them personally?

MANGUM: Yes. Well, he was quite a character, and a brilliant fellow. I took considerable risk in quitting a salaried job as County Attorney to run against him, but it proved successful and I went on the bench in 1939. I think at that time I was the youngest attorney elected to the bench in Arizona. I resigned the 20/30 Club because I needed to get away from its connotation of my age and joined the Kiwanis Club. I was pretty much of a neophyte, but I worked hard at the job and that experience was a good education. The public was very good to me.

FRAZER: How old were you when you got elected to the bench?

MANGUM: I was 30 in December and went on the bench the first monday of January, 1939.

FRAZER: And did you enjoy being a judge?

MANGUM: Yes. During my term, we handled all of our jury work in a 30-day to 2-week period in December. We would collect cases throughout the year and set them all on the same date or the same time in December, trying each case in succession. This kept the defense attorneys on their toes to be in court at the allotted time. I was not very busy in the local court, so I made myself available to other courts in the state at any time. This enabled me to become well acquainted with the Superior Courts in St. Johns, Holbrook, Prescott and Kingman. I also served a number of times in the courts in Phoenix, which had only 4 Superior Court judges at the time.

FRAZER: Do you remember who the judges were at that time?

MANGUM: Arthur LaPrade, Marlin Phelps, Howard Speakman, and the fourth judge was named Rogers. At that time, Levi Udall was the judge of the St. Johns court, Phil Sawyers was the judge in Holbrook, a fellow named Lyman was the judge in Prescott, and the judge in Kingman was D.A. Bridges. I'll never forget him because he performed our wedding ceremony. He was followed shortly by J.W. Faulkner. I gained knowledge and experience by going into the courts around the state, and presided before many lawyers in many different situations, all of which furthered my education.

FRAZER: How much did you make as a Superior Court judge?

MANGUM: $4,800 per year. I went from $205 a month to $400 a month, and I felt quite prosperous. You could support a family nicely on that salary in those days. There is no doubt that I got a lot more out of that experience than the people received back from me, since I was such an inexperienced young man.

FRAZER: Are there any significant cases you remember trying as a judge?

MANGUM: On, not in particular. They were fairly routine. I wouldn't classify any case that I tried as being of any real moment in the state's history.

FRAZER: And you continued as Superior Court judge through most of the Second World War?

MANGUM: Pretty much, yes. I went on the bench in 1939. The war broke out in 1941, and I was re-elected for a second term. By 1944, even though I was exempt from the draft by reason of being on the bench, they started calling up men in my classifcation -- that of a married man with children. I was not subject to the draft, and was not happy about it. Business was slow in those years, and I became bored. I would sit up there in the courthouse, sometimes as much as a 10-day period, without signing even an ex parte order. I set out to educate myself as much as I could by the trial experiences I mentioned and by reading. I found it very difficult to retain the material studied, but it did help broaden my knowledge.

In early 1944 I made application for a commission in the U.S. Navy. They accepted me in early summer, and on the first day of August I left the bench. I was sent to Tucson, of all places, for the indoctrination training, and spent 60 days there. I was a regular line officer, which meant I would be called for combat duty, and in fact made application at the end of the course to serve as an officer over marine contingents aboard merchant ships. The 60 days involved a cram course in Navy lore and other aspects of my coming career. I didn't realize the danger of my choice of assignments until I lost a couple of indoctrination school classmates by death at sea.

However, the Navy somehow saw fit fit to take advantage of whatever talents I had and assigned me to the command at Great Lakes Naval Station. I was involved largely in disciplinary matters and domestic and personal affairs. My first assignment at the discipline office was handling young men in trouble with the Navy. They would hit the west coast and head to the east coast, or hit the east coast and head to the west, and most of them would be picked up in the middle of the country and would end up at the 9th Naval District at Great Lakes. I was involved in interviewing men with disciplinary problems who had been picked up and were in the brig, and it was a very confusing experience. I had a broad experience with different types of cases, lots of divorces and estate problems, and supervised an office force of 11 officers and 15 civilians.

After my duty at the 9th Naval District, I was sent to Saipan in the Mariana Islands and I spent seven great months on a glorious vacation. I left the United States just as the war ended; V-J Day in Japan. In fact, I was amazed that we were sent overseas. I found I was a member of a legal unit consisting of five officer lawyers. We were accompanied by eight yeomen who were trained chiefly in secretarial work. We arrived in Saipan on August 20, 1945. We found that we were sent there to replace two officers and one yeoman who hadn't done anything since May. We had a lot of spare time on our hands and I spent a lot of time skeet shooting,

playing volleyball, lying on a beautiful white beach, and attending movies. There were many ships lying in the harbor awaiting assignment, hopefully back to the States, and naturally there was a good deal of trouble with so many men with nothing to do. During the last two months of my assignment there I conducted Captain's Mast, handling disciplinary problems.

FRAZER: When did you get out of the Navy?

MANGUM: February 6, 1946 at San Bruno, California. I was faced with the supporting of a family as well as starting over professionally, because I really had nothing to come back to in Flagstaff. We had sold our home when I went into the Navy. I was debating about what I should do and where I should do it, and scouted Phoenix as well as Flagstaff, which we had grown to like very much. I visited the Supreme Court and talked with Chief Justice Joseph Morgan, a lawyer I had known from Prescott. He told me, "Karl, you will be a fool if you don't go back to Flagstaff. You hang out your shingle and I will guarantee you will make at least $10,000.00 the first year." I couldn't believe him; I had never made more than $4,000, and my wife was living in a small rental in the center of town.

I followed his advice, though, and the very first morning there was a knock on the door of our rental home. It was a Mexican couple whose son had been jailed and they were looking for an attorney. I don't even know how they knew I was in town, but I took their case and made a $75 fee, and that was the start of my private legal practice. I can honestly say my practice has proven to be very satisfctory. From that first small fee, I went on to improved business every year until my retirement in the early 80's.

FRAZER: I understand you represented the Attorney General, John Sullivan, in a famous bribery case.

MANGUM: Sullivan was mixed up in a conspiracy with a California retired highway patrolman and some gamblers. They established a string of zoos in trading posts along U.S. Highway 66. In back of the trading posts were gambling operations where tourists were enticed into con games.

The highway patrolman was charged first, and he hired me to represent him. The trial was held in Holbrook. He was acquitted on a fluke, really, because they had a lot of evidence against the man. The group was then emboldened to actually offer a bribe to Marion Gibbons, the Apache County Attorney. He rejected the bribe and the county attorney immediately filed charges against the patrolman and John Sullivan, then a popular attorney general. Sullivan hired a famous Arizona criminal attorney, Fred Struckmeyer, who was the father of the Fred Struckmeyer who served on the Supreme Court for so many years.

We removed the case to Safford, and in the first trial secured a hung jury. On the retrial, there was a conviction on a lesser offense, which resulted in Sullivan's resignation from the office of Attorney General.

FRAZER: I understand you also defended somebody accused of a triple murder?

MANGUM: Yes, a man by the name of Singleton, who lived about 20 miles west of Flagstaff. He was charged with the murder of three men and the serious wounding of a fourth, all brothers. Singleton was defending his home against the four, who were demanding that he produce the wife of one of the men, who was secluded in the home. Singleton fired his shots from the door of his home. Unfortunately, one death was caused by a shot in the back of one of the men at a distance of about 150 feet. The wounded man lost a considerable part of his jaw and face. The City Attorney filed both attack and murder charges against Singleton.

There were two trials. In the first, Singleton was convicted of second degree murder, but on appeal I secured a reversal. In the second trial we secured a not guilty verdict.

I learned a lesson from this case. The first jury I managed to secure was mostly white collar businessmen, and I felt they would understand that a man standing in the doorway of his home would have the right to defend the same against assault by four notorious trouble-makers. As I have said,

that jury convicted my client. In the second trial, I was able to secure a blue collar jury (men only in that period), and they fully acquitted Singleton.

FRAZER: What year was that?

MANGUM: Oh, I think the first trial was in 1947, and the second one was in late 1948.

FRAZER: In your years at practicing law after the second World War, did you like one area of law more than another? Practicing in a small town, you probably didn't specialize too much.

MANGUM: That's true, we pretty much handled whatever came in. I did gain quite a reputation as a criminal lawyer in that period of time, though. Besides the Singleton case, I defended a man acused of shooting the Chief of Police of Williams. Over much opposition, I managed to remove the case to Prescott for trial because of the adverse sentiment in Williams. My then partner, Mr. Flick, and I were able to secure a second degree murder conviction, for which the public was quite indignant. The man was given a very light sentence and served less than 5 years in the penitentiary.

Another case involved 3 brothers from Casa Grande who were in Flagstaff on a hunting trip when one man shot his brother. I defended on the basis that it was completely an accident, and I managed to secure an acquittal of the defendant. I later learned that the wife of the deceased man was pregnant at the time of the killing, and it was strongly felt that the defendant, rather than his brother, sired the child. From

this case I learned that you can't always believe the testimony of your own client.

Another murder case, famous in the Navajo County area, was one in which Art Penrod of Pinetop had killed a man. I was successful in securing an acquittal. My recollection of that case, though, is dim at this time.

Another case involved a black shoeshine man in Flagstaff and a similar shoeshine man in Williams. I was really taken aback in this case. Guy Axline represented the defendant and offered to plead him to second degree murder. I rejected the plea and confidently went to trial. The testimony involved witnesses attending a party in one of the small bars in South Flagstaff. A considerable argument ended in a fight and the man from Williams left the bar. He then drove home and got his gun, and went back into the bar and killed his adversary. I produced several witnesses who were involved in the party, as did Axline in his defense. The jury returned only a verdict of manslaughter, and one of the jurors told me after the trial that the jury felt no one was telling the truth. The facts testified to could not possibly have happened in such a crowded area.

This prosecution occurred when I was back in the County Attorney's office for 3 years in the early 50's. I was serving in the office on a fluke, having agreed to seek election again to oust an unpopular incumbent. I resigned after 3 years and recommended to the supervisors that they appoint Larry Wren as County Attorney, which they did. Wren later became a judge here and from there went to the Court of Appeals, where he served until his unfortunate early death. It was never my intention to seek public office again, but I did run on that occasion, feeling that I owed service to the people for their prior years of tolerance while I was gaining my experience as a new Flagstaff lawyer.

FRAZER: You mentioned that you practiced for awhile with Ted Flick?

MANGUM: Yes. Ted was a Navy veteran who joined the Navy from Kansas, where he was an ex county attorney. He didn't want to go back to Kansas, and he came to Flagstaff on the recommendation of Eli Gorodezky in Phoenix. Ted and I formed a partnership in late 1946, which existed until about 1953. He was a good lawyer with some personal problems that caused me to terminate our partnership. He was the father of one of Flagstaff's current practitioners, Bill Flick.

In 1955 I was practicing on my own. Neil Christensen, a popular attorney, was practicing with Jack Anderson, an attorney now in Phoenix. We mutually agreed to try a joint practice. Mr. Anderson didn't work out too well. He did not work diligently enough to satisfy Mr. Christensen and myself,

and after one year he withdrew. Then, in May of 1957 we invited Douglas Wall, who was then a trust officer here for the Valley National Bank, to join us. The three of us practiced together until 1961 when my son and his wife, who was also a lawyer, joined our firm.

FRAZER: That's Richard Mangum?

MANGUM: Yes. We practiced together, although Joyce took some leave to give birth to a couple of children. Then, when Neil Christensen died suddenly of a heart attack in 1966, the firm took Joyce Mangum back in and the five of us continued the partnership. In 1967 or 1968, Dan Stoops, who was unhappy in the Wilson, Compton law firm, left them and joined us, and we practiced together until 1972. In this time span we constructed our building, which we are still using today.

One William Meyers had been appointed to the local bench when Wren moved to the Court of Appeals. His tenure was a troubled one, and most of the attorneys desired a change. Therefore, most of the Bar got behind Joyce Mangum, and we helped her run for the job of Superior Court Judge. She was successful in this endeavor, and was elected in June of 1972.

There was a yearly course given in Reno, Nevada for neophyte judges, and Joyce was sent there, where she spent a month or so. One of the instructors was a Superior Court judge from Alburquerque, now Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of New Mexico. He and Joyce became enamored of each other, and in

November of that year she resigned from the bench, took Richard's children to New Mexico, and married the man. Raul Castro was governor at that time, and I had been his campaign manager for northern Arizona in the campaign. Therefore it wasn't any big problem to get my son Richard appointed by Castro to Joyce's seat on the bench.

At that time Robert Warden joined the firm. He was practicing with Stevenson and Smith, who were breaking up because of the retirement of Stevenson. Warden took over the vacancy left by Richard's move.

That's the major scenario and history of our firm. Douglas Wall and I both have retired and taken on the status of counsel, though, so at this time the firm is completely restructured, with several attorneys coming and going over the years.

FRAZER: How many attorneys do you have now?

MANGUM: We have 11, including the two of counsel, and we will have 12 on February 1st, when a young man from Wichita, Kansas, who had gone to NAU, will join us.

FRAZER: In your estimation, has the practice of law changed in Flagstaff over the years?

MANGUM: Oh yes, remarkably so. We have something like 80 or 85 lawyers in Flagstaff now. In those days pleadings rather consistently followed old common law practices and agreements were made and kept on a handshake. We never doubted anybody's commitment if they gave it to you.

The biggest change has been in discovery. During those early years of my practice I never had occasion to take a deposition or even participate in one, and often facts were produced at the time of trial that came as a complete surprise. It was only in the mid or late 50's that the process of discovery became a part of the law practice.

Another great change has occurred in probate practice. Appearances in court were always required to secure court approval, in even the simplest decisions. This in part no doubt led to the charging of fees that are no longer imposed. Even small estates held as community property involved payment of at least $500 in fees, whereas today most property holdings in small estates are held in joint tenancy. In those days an attorney always figured when he got old enough to where he was outliving his clients, he could rely on the probate practice to provide substantial income in his declining years.

I recall one probate of an old rancher where I took a $125,000 fee simply on the basis of matching the executor's fee, being a percentage as fixed by law. In my opinion it wasn't fair to the client to take 4% of the estate's value. The hourly fees presently assessed are much more fair to the client.

I have not been active in the courtroom for the last seven or eight years, and I would be utterly lost at the present time finding my way through the paper maze that is imposed.

There has also been a remarkable change in criminal law. Discovery then was largely unknown, and Miranda rights did not exist. The right to counsel was rarely imposed as a condition of the criminal's rights, although occasionally the courts would supply an attorney. Then, however, it primarily became the burden of the lawyer to contribute his services -- State money was rarely paid for criminal fees.

The age of specialization is relatively new and long overdue. Most attorneys were general practitioners and too often work was undertaken to the disadvantage of the client. In this office we have attorneys who do nothing but school work; we have one attorney doing very little but medical and hospital work; and another dealing only with insurance defense work. In the old days we just did it all.

FRAZER: Do you have any regrets about becoming a lawyer?

MANGUM: No, none whatsoever. I have enjoyed every minute of it. I've had good financial success; I've had the respect of the community; and it's just been a great life. I couldn't ask for anything better.

FRAZER: Karl Mangum, thank you very much.

MANGUM: Well thank you. I'm sorry my physical condition isn't a little more amenable; sometimes I get a little foggy in my thinking.

FRAZER: Well, it was a great interview, and I have enjoyed talking together.

MANGUM: Thank you. This has been a great experience.