

**Patricia (Tish) Speed Schwartz**  
Chief Clerk/Administrator, House Committee on the Judiciary

## **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

### **Women's Perspective**

Patricia Schwartz describes taking initiative on the job and bringing a women's perspective to the legislative process.

*Interview recorded June 22, 2015*

Women looked at things a little differently. And I'm just relating to myself. I look at things as being organized and functioning correctly. And if something's not going right, you figure out what it is and how to fix it. And that's kind of what I had found, that I seemed to be very good at. I could anticipate where something was going, and I could jump on it. Or I could say, for instance, like we were talking about leave policy, we need to do something about that. So I'd be like the, the nudge in the side of my boss, who was the staff director, and I'd say, "We really need to do something. I know you're busy, but—" And I know what he, would then what he would do is he'd turn to me and say, "Why don't you take a shot at it? Why don't you pull something together, and I'll look it over." Ah, an entrée, right? So, you kind of ran with it. And the more you did, the more you were expected to do. And it felt good. It felt really good. So I was in that role, but I was also in the minority, there were so few of us, that we got involved in somewhat of a legislative process too, not drafting bills, but researching them, and tracking them through the House and the Senate, and feeding that information back to our staff.