

Hello Mr. Sunderland,

As you requested, I have summarized the seven phone interviews I conducted last year for my Title IX History Fair Project. I enjoyed talking to all seven interviewees and learned so much from each one. Title IX affected each person in a unique way, and had a significant impact on their lives. I was happy to hear each person's perspective of how this law had affected their lives in the most positive way. Here's my summary:

1) **Gwendolyn Mink** - Daughter of U.S. Representative Patsy Mink; Independent Scholar; Gender Studies Professor, Smith College and Univ. of Calif. -Santa Cruz.

Congresswoman Patsy Mink was one of the principal legislative proponents of Title IX and was its chief legislative defender until her death in 2002. Ms. Mink gave me background details of how her mother got involved with the enactment of Title IX. She told me that her mother had seen many cases of gender discrimination and had experienced it herself. Patsy Mink dreamed of becoming a doctor, but 12 medical schools rejected her because she was a woman. She decided to go to law school, and was admitted to the University of Chicago Law School only because the school thought she was an international student. Ms. Mink told me that in 1970, she received a letter from Stanford Univ. explaining that although she was qualified she was denied admission because Stanford had reached its quota for women undergraduates. She believed that this incident spurred her mother into action. Patsy Mink had been in Congress since 1964, and after the Stanford incident she introduced the Women's Equality Act seeking to prohibit sex discrimination and promote gender equality. Ms. Mink talked about how hard her mother worked on Title IX and how satisfied she was when it was finally enacted. Although Ms. Mink is proud of her mother for all her hard work on Title IX, she feels that there is still a lot of work to do to secure equity and equal opportunity for girls and women. From my conversation with Ms. Mink, I could hear in her voice how vested she is in pursuing her mother's goal of ensuring equality for women. She gave me a good framework of how the legislative process worked, and how important her mother's role was in the passage of Title IX.

2) **Dr. Bernice Sandler** - Senior Scholar, Women's Research and Education Institute, Wash. D.C.; Appointed by Presidents Ford and Carter to the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs; Recruited by U.S. Representative Edith Green to compile data for Congressional hearings leading to the passage of Title IX; Former Deputy Director of HEW's Women's Action Program; and Former Chair of Women's Equity Action League.

Dr. Sandler is known as the "Godmother of Title IX" because she has been associated with Title IX longer than any other person in American history. Dr. Sandler told me that she played a significant role in the development and passage of Title IX. She told me about the first time she experienced sex discrimination. She was a professor at the Univ. of Maryland and was told that she was bypassed for a promotion because she came on "too strong for a woman." She told me that her initial reaction was that she went home and cried, lamenting all the times when she had spoken up. It was her husband who told her that what she encountered was sex discrimination. She said that at the time there was no name for it, so it was difficult to identify as something wrong and offensive. But once you put a name to it, it becomes identifiable, and you can do something about it. She told me that at the time, women were supposed to be docile and compliant, and not to speak up for themselves. She found it difficult to conform her behavior to this standard, because she felt that in a democracy women need to be as strong as men. It was amazing to me to listen to and comprehend her words, because I personally have never been subjected to such a rigid social standard. She also told me that she never envisioned that those five words ("too strong for a woman") would lead her to become involved in something as ground-breaking as Title IX. She said that while working tirelessly on Title IX, she knew that she and her colleagues could end up with absolutely nothing and no progress made (Title IX defeated), but they remained dauntless and pressed on. She watched the 2012 Summer Olympics and was thrilled to see that more women than men participated and women won more medals than men. Dr. Sandler spoke with me for over an hour, and our talk gave me tremendous insight into her role in the enactment of Title IX. She patiently responded to my questions with thoughtful answers, and I was so grateful to have spoken with such an icon of Title IX. She seemed enthusiastic that I was doing my project on Title IX, and encouraged me to contact her if I had more questions.

3) **Karen Blumenthal** - Author of *Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX: The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America*; Former Editor and Reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*; Winner of 2003 Silbert Honor Book Award for *Let Me Play*.

When I spoke to Ms. Blumenthal, she said that she wrote her book because very little had been written about Title IX and she wanted the younger generation of girls to understand how far our society had come since its enactment. She said she was impressed with the women athletes she interviewed for her book because they were confident, mature, and focused on achieving their athletic goals. She said they were not afraid to go out and get what they wanted in terms of career, sports, or education. She strongly emphasized that the legacy of Title IX is

that it provided women with opportunities that were previously non-existent. She felt that opportunities nurture confidence and allow women to enter fields previously closed to them, such as law and medicine. She feels that our society has come a long way, but we still have more work to do to achieve gender equality. Her advice is for women to take nothing for granted, and to continue to fight for the rights already gained. My interview with Ms. Blumenthal made me realize that while she did not directly benefit from Title IX (enacted when she was 13 years old), she has made a meaningful contribution to the cause of gender equality by publishing her book. Ms. Blumenthal responded to my request for an interview promptly and went out of her way to set up a phone interview. She answered my questions thoroughly and made sure I understood what was covered in her book. She was thrilled that I chose Title IX as my History Day project, and that I was using her book as one of my secondary sources. As I did research on my Title IX project, I found that this was the only comprehensive book written on Title IX, and it provided a lot of good information on Title IX..

4) **Arthur Bryant, Esq.** - Executive Director of Public Justice, Wash. D.C.; Lead Attorney for Amy Cohen in landmark Title IX case Cohen v. Brown.

Mr. Bryant is the Executive Director of Public Justice, a national public interest law firm that has successfully represented more women athletes in Title IX litigation than any organization in the country. His office is in San Francisco, but he was in Washington D.C. when I contacted his office requesting an interview. To my surprise, Mr. Bryant returned my call and arranged a time to be interviewed before returning to San Francisco. He told me that he has been the Executive Director for 25 years, having helped build Public Justice into a nationally-influential public interest law firm. He represented Amy Cohen in her Title IX lawsuit against Brown University. My questions to Mr. Bryant were limited to the legal issues raised in the Cohen case. Mr. Bryant helped me understand the legal issues and his role in that landmark Title IX case. When I asked him if he felt that our society has moved towards greater gender equality since Cohen, he said yes, citing the large number of women today in the legal profession. While he couldn't remember all the specific details of the Cohen case, he did help me understand how the court came to its decision.

5) **Colleen Doyle** - All American Captain of SUNY Cortland's women's varsity lacrosse team; Former Coach of University of Rochester's women's varsity lacrosse and field hockey teams; Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, Sports Studies and Physical Education at SUNY Brockport.

A former Univ. of Rochester women's varsity lacrosse and field hockey coach, Professor Doyle is now an Associate Professor in Gender Studies at SUNY Brockport, who specializes in Title IX. She told me that there have been many times when opponents tried to strike down or weaken the provisions of Title IX or its enforcement. She is clear that women have had to fight for every right they have gained. Prof. Doyle was a four-sport high school athlete in tennis, basketball, volleyball and softball. She switched from tennis to field hockey when her coaches felt her tennis tactics were too aggressive. She felt that had she been a boy, aggressive tactics would not be an issue. Prof. Doyle said that athletics offered her post-high school educational opportunities, as her family did not have the financial means to send her to college. She feels that the success she achieved in sports helped her to gain confidence, to become an intelligent risk taker, and to believe in herself. As for gender equality, she feels that while she has seen tremendous progress, there is still more work to be done. By talking with Prof. Doyle, I gained a better understanding of the social and political climate for women who wanted to pursue sports in the 70s. She said that the environment was often hostile, discouraging and non-supportive to women athletes. Prof. Doyle spoke with me for about 90 minutes. She was very knowledgeable and I could hear the sincerity in her voice and I knew that she wanted to be helpful in any way she could. I came away from this interview with great admiration for those women who, like Prof. Doyle, persevered and played their sport because they believed that they were entitled to the same athletic opportunities offered to boys. I identified most with Prof. Doyle and felt personally grateful for women like her who have made it alright for young women like me to go out and play the sports we love, and never have to apologize for our aggression on the field.

6) **Martha Winter-McKenna** - All American and 1986 Soccer Player of the Year; Winner of 2 Division 3 National Championships in soccer for Univ. of Rochester.

Martha McKenna was a four-year member of the Univ. of Rochester varsity women's soccer team that won two Division 3 national championships in 1986 and 1987. She was named All American as well as Player of the Year for her conference division. In high school, she earned varsity letters in track, volleyball and soccer. Recruited by Princeton and Cornell, she chose Rochester because they offered her a substantial financial aid package, and she would not have been able to attend college or play collegiate sports without it. Shy by nature, McKenna stated that being a member of a competitive university sports team allowed her to gain confidence and to develop leadership skills, and those skills have carried over into other areas of her life. McKenna told me that she saw the affects of Title IX when she was in college. When she started college, men's teams had better maintained fields

and better practice and game times. But she saw that change for the better by the time she was a senior. She advocates for greater awareness of the women (like Patsy Mink and Bernice Sandler) who labored for Title IX's enactment and for greater appreciation of their efforts. McKenna told me that the highlight of her soccer career came in 1997 when her semi-pro team played an exhibition game against the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team. As a defensive mid, she covered both Michelle Akers and Mia Hamm, and while she found it a daunting task, she was thrilled at the challenge of covering players of the highest caliber. Both Akers and Hamm went on to win the World Cup just two years later. This experience of talking to a former collegiate athlete who feels she directly benefited from Title IX was invaluable. Talking to Ms. McKenna helped me realize how important Title IX was in her athletic and academic career. She feels she would be a completely different person if Title IX had been defeated or rescinded. I really enjoyed interviewing Ms. McKenna. I could tell she is fully committed to her sport, and she reminds me of my sister Louisa. For both of these women, sports are such an integral part of their lives and their identity.

7) **Rachel Bachman** - Sports Journalist for the *Wall Street Journal*.

Rachel Bachman is a sports Journalist for *the Wall Street Journal*, and grew up playing soccer, tennis, and skiing. In high school, she played on the tennis, track and softball teams. She was the veteran sports journalist for Portland, Oregon's *Oregonian* for 16 years before moving to New York last year. In 2009, she received Oregon's Sportswriter of the Year Award. In 2010, Bachman wrote an article about former U.S. Representative Edith Green's involvement in Title IX. When I asked her why she wrote that article, she said that she found Edith Green's story so compelling that she felt it was important to write about her. Ms. Bachman felt it was very important that the public know about Edith Green and her involvement with Title IX. Bachman acknowledged to me that she is a direct beneficiary of Title IX. As a double major in English and Communications at the Univ of Michigan, Bachman knew that (as a life-long sports enthusiast) she wanted to become a sportswriter. As a young athlete, Bachman enjoyed team sports, and felt it was a unifying force building trust, respect and camaraderie among her teammates. She told me that sports helped her develop critical thinking skills and allowed her to become a strategic thinker. She uses these skills as a sports journalist today as she enjoys the challenge of explaining game patterns and strategies, as well as identifying the playmakers and how things happen on the court or playing field. She feels she would not be able to do what she loves with having played sports. And she could not have had the opportunity to play sports without Title IX. My interview with Ms. Bachman allowed me to see the benefits of Title IX from the perspective of a sports journalist. I enjoyed interviewing Ms. Bachman and was grateful for her time and her insightful perspective into the world of sports journalism.

Mr. Sunderland, I hope these summaries of my seven interviews help you in writing your letter of recommendation. Thank you so much for all your help and support.

Sincerely,

Hayley Bauer