Sample Questions for St. Mary’s Law Stories

Introduction to process. State the following:
 The date is___________
 This interview is by____________________
 It is an interview to collect the stories of____________________
  for the St. Mary's Law Stories Video History Project.

About your life now:
 Where do you live?
 Please, tell me about your family?
 What do you do for a living?
 What other activities interest you?

Your early life in general:
 Where and when were you born?
 Can you tell me a bit about your family? Your parents?
 Where was your childhood?
 Where did you attend school?
 What stories from then seem important to you now?
 Where did you go to college? When, and what did you study for your degree?

Life in law school:
 What made you decide to come to law school?
 When did you start?
 How did you choose St. Mary’s for law study?
 Who were your closest friends in law school?
 Who were your favorite professors in law school?
 Where did you live during law school? What was it like?
 Did you work during law school?
 What stories do you remember from law school? Your professors? Your fellow students?
 What was the most helpful thing that happened in law school?
 What was the funniest thing that happened in law school?
 What was the hardest thing about law school?
What was the best thing about law school?
Who were your favorite teachers? Why?
Who were your closest friends or allies? Tell us a story about them, please.

Life after law school:
Can you tell the story of how you started in practice, please?
What case or client have you most enjoyed?
What do you think was your greatest achievement in practice (or on the bench), so far?
What do you think was the best story of a mistake you’d like law students to learn from?
What lessons do you wish you’d known from the start?
What story from your career taught you the most about being a lawyer?
What story from your career depicts your greatest challenge to you as a lawyer?
What story from your career as a lawyer do you think is the most interesting?
Today, what does it mean to you to be a St. Mary’s lawyer?

The Future:
What is next for you?

Wrap-up Questions:
Is there anything you would like for me to ask?
Is there anything you would like to say you haven’t said?
Is there anything you really don’t want to talk about or for me to raise on tape?