

Consider

Our stories are the weaving together of myth and history. They tell us about the ways we perceive the world. Why are some stories perceived as **fact** or **real**, while others are **hearsay** or feel **anecdotal** and **embellished**?

EXCERPT FROM JUDGE
STEVEN PERREN'S
ORAL HISTORY

Judge Steven Perren: I have been a judge for 34 years. In '82 I was appointed to the bench and then trial court from '83 to 1999. From '99 to now I have been sitting here. This is exactly where I have been sitting the last 17 years or so.

I went into the service in 1968. Graduated, married, took the bar, then entered the army in the space of four months. I flew off, came back. Started my practice. That's the big survey...

And the army was hardly arduous duty until I went overseas, and it still wasn't terribly arduous over there. I was with a unit that was based 18 miles northeast of Saigon. I defended and prosecuted criminal cases in Vietnam in addition to the duties I had with my unit. When I finished the army and moved to Ventura, I rented a place in The Keys when it was only 180 to rent an apartment down there. It was a duplex and I had money. A little bit. My expenses had been pretty minimal in Vietnam. I had the money from my discharge, and I had saved money during the army.

ORAL
HISTORY

LISTEN TO THE FULL ORAL HISTORY AT WWW.ORALHISTORYGROUP.COM

What is Perren’s tone and mood?

What feelings are you experiencing while listening or reading Perren’s life survey?

What is Perren focusing on? What is he not sharing?

How do you think your subjectivity plays a role while perceiving his story?

How does the current social and political world impact how you are perceiving his story?