

Faith Maqubela/Mandiwana

LRC Oral History Project

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Int This is an interview with Faith Maqubela. Faith, thank you ever so much for agreeing to be part of the LRC Oral History Project, we really appreciate it. I wonder whether we could start this oral history by...talking about...your early childhood memories, what was it like growing up in South Africa, where did your sense of social justice...injustice develop and also if you could talk about some of the formative influences that may have led you down the path of working in the legal profession for so long?

FM Thank you. I was Faith Maqubela when I worked at the Legal Resources Centre...

Int Ok

FM I'm now Faith Mandiwana.

Int Ok, Mandiwana.

FM Either of the surnames works.

Int Ok.

FM My childhood memories.....I think I was a born leader. I did a lot of youth club work.

Int Where were you born?

FM I was born in the township of Pimville, in Johannesburg.

Int In?

FM Pimville, Pimville is one of the oldest townships in Soweto. In fact before Soweto was built, there was Pimville, Orlando and there were a lot of shacks or informal settlements around, I grew up in Pimville. I did a lot of youth club work... In fact my parents wanted me to do social work, but most unfortunately after Matric I could not continue. But anyway, after that I did an advanced course on youth leadership, and then, when I finished that, I was offered a post as an Assistant Organising Secretary with the Girl Wayfarers Association, that was in 1964, Ever since then I've worked with organisations and I've enjoyed working with people. From Girl Wayfarers Association, I got an offer for a post with the world-affiliated YWCA. Even there I worked with the youth. After that I worked at the South African Institute of Race Relations for seven years as a Publications Officer.

Int Compulsory.

FM After the Institute of Race Relations, I then got a job with Legal Resources Centre. That was the first legal organisation that I worked for. And I must say, much as one didn't know anything about law, one learnt a lot. I worked with Mr. (Morris) Zimmerman; he's since passed on. He was the most interesting person to work with. I worked as an interpreter and some administration work. This was at the Hoek Street Law Clinic. Mr. Zimmerman, like I said, was an interesting person. You would interpret for him and after that, he would say to you: ok, you took your statement because you were interpreting, and I took my statement, now let's hear yours, you tell me your version of the whole case. We would discuss the case together and then after that he would say: Faith, now what do we do with this case, where do we start? And you would think and say: oh my God, what is Mr. Zimmerman doing to me? And you say: I think we should start by writing a letter of demand, or something, the way you thought it, your opinion. If we don't get a response we take this person to court for not paying whatever, or refunding money that he took from client, and he would listen to you. And in the end Mr. Zimmerman would then give you his version of what should be done and then he would combine the statements.

Int Mm, interesting...

FM And you would work on that case until it got finished, I also did a lot of diarizing for him, he said to me: Faith, never diarize anything that has not been dealt with. He taught me a lot most of which I'm using in my present job.

Int When you say, "don't diarize anything..."

FM If the file was diarised for a certain date, before rediarizing after that date it meant you were to make sure that there was progress in that file. If that attorney hasn't done anything on that file, you were not supposed to re-diarize it for another date, but to return to the attorney in charge of that case.

Int Ok, I see.

FM He actually said to me: you must read everything in that file and make sure that particular attorney has done anything. If nothing has been done, make a note and send the file right back to that attorney, and that was Mr. Zimmerman. He also taught me, about expiry dates for cases, he prepared you for diarising. And at times we would go to the opponent...if it is a case, for instance, of a shop owner who sold a pair of shoes to somebody, with defect and when that person takes them back to the shop, the shop keeper refuses to either change them or refund, Mr. Zimmerman would say: Faith, let's go. We used to go to these places and get chased out by shop owners and you would come back to the office and you would laugh about it all and he would say: ok, now write a statement about what happened in that shop. What did that person say? You had to be on the alert at every time. That was the type of person he was, he was the most wonderful person. He was very strict with the people who worked at the Law

Clinic, the attorneys who worked there; were **Lizelle Power, Gugu Baqwa, Charles Nupen**, who did training of students from Wits. So they would come mostly when the students came, he did labour cases. We had quite a number of other attorneys who used to come to take cases but were not based at the Hoek Street Law Clinic. We had Mahomed Navsa then, who is now, a Judge, in the Appeal Court...*(laughter)*...let's break.

(Break –recording stopped. Recording resumes on next track...)

Int So, you were talking about your experiences at Hoek Street and people such as Mahomed Navsa, who is now a judge, coming in...I wanted to...

FM A judge in the Appeal Court and then in the admin staff we had Pinkie Madlala, she was a remarkable person, but unfortunately she died of the cancer. And then we had Ida Motsoeneng, I don't know whether Cecilie (Palmer) told you about Ida?

Int No...

FM She's now with the Rand Water Board, she was a legal secretary. And Gugu Baqwa is an acting judge now in Durban. I don't know if she is still acting but the last time I heard, which was, earlier this year, she was acting.

Int Right.

FM And, you know, surprisingly, most people that worked at the Legal Resources Centre, sort of, climbed the ladder. We had, I think his surname is Francis, Ellem Francis.

Int Ellem Francis, yes.

FM Ellem Francis is a Judge in the Labour Court. And, I'm trying to think who else we had there among the attorneys, we had Advocates Paul Pretorius and Karel Tip, but those were based in the Head Office but would come, you know when the students at Hoek Street Law Clinic, so they would come for supervision and take some cases. Amongst people that were actually trained at the Legal Resources Centre as students, were Advocate Gumbi, I don't know whether you know Advocate Gumbi, she's now...she's presently the legal advisor to the country's President Thabo Mbeki.

Int Oh right, ok. I hadn't heard this. This is good to know.

FM And then we had Faith (Pansy) Tlakula who is now CEO of the Independent Electoral Commission. Then we had Nomonde Mnqibisa, Nomonde...the last time I spoke to her she was with NPA, National Prosecuting Authority. You know, I'm stating them because these are some of the people who benefited from the Legal Resources Centre.

And of course, when I left the Legal Resources Centre I got involved with them again in my new job.

Int You moved to the Black Lawyers Association?

FM Yes the Black Lawyers Association.

Int Right. Faith, I wondered so...do go on...

FM No, no, no.

Int I wonder whether we could, I'm taking you right back...growing up in Pimville in Soweto, before it even became Soweto, and what was that like? ...Did you from early on have a sense that there were different lives for white people and black people, did you from early on realise that there was something wrong with the society you were living in?

FM At that stage, you know, when I grew up I didn't see anything wrong. You know, you grow up in certain... situation, you get used to the situation, but as time goes on then you realise there's something wrong.

Int Right.

FM Like I say, you know, when I grew up, Pimville was a beautiful place to grow up in. The one thing that the government that I didn't favour when we were in Pimville when I grew up, it was all tribes, you know, you would find Xhosa, Sotho, Venda, Shangani, you name them, we all stayed together. And, poverty at that stage, you didn't realise it, because you'd find that you are staying in a place, say in a yard with different rooms, and those different rooms had tenants, you know, and come supper-time or even lunch-time, the ladies from the each family, cooked, they wouldn't cook a small pot just for the family, one would cook a big pot of 'pap', and the other one would cook a big pot of 'morogo', which they call spinach in English, wild spinach, and then somebody else would go and cook chicken feet whatever you want to call it, and, you know, every household, has cooked something, and they would dish it in huge dishes and put it in the yard, call all the children, and everybody ate. So, in that way, you didn't realise that there's poverty in one of the houses. Even if that family didn't cook, the children would definitely get something to eat. And when Pimville now was, sort of, developed, you know, I would say quote, unquote, because that was what the government felt that these people should get proper houses, it was developed into ethnical groups and named Klipspruit they started now, dividing people, there were areas for instance for Nguni area would be for Xhosas and Zulus, you know, everybody who spoke in clicks, and then they would take Sothos and put them in one area, and we no longer lived as one community, whereby we would be ten families in one yard. It was good, but now, poverty showed, worse than what it was when we stayed in one yard. That's one of the things that I experienced. People who grew up

in Pimville, like myself, for instance, or in areas like those, spoke almost every language, because you'd find that in that very yard, there would be a Sotho family, a Xhosa family, a Zulu family and the children picked up the different dialects and finally they spoke quite a lot of languages, for instance, if I start speaking, much as I'm Xhosa, my father is Xhosa, but if I start speaking Sotho or Zulu, or Pedi, you won't even notice, there isn't even an accent, because I grew up in that situation, I played with those children.

Int Sure, sure.

FM And now, you'll find our children no longer speak the different languages, you'll find the child speaks strictly Zulu, because of the environment in which the child is, it's a Nguni area they will speak that particular language. So we lost that community life. And, the one thing that I did not like there, was influx control. Influx control, you know, you would have had to have permission to go anywhere. If I want to come and visit you and you are about twenty kilometres from where I stay, I would need permission from the central municipal office. If I went to Orlando, for instance, Orlando was just a division of an Avenue from Pimville, but if I wanted to go and sleep there, I would have to get permission. Those people that I would be visiting would have had to get permission from the municipal; they would have a piece of paper that was called a permit. And, you'd have municipal police raiding all the time and checking who's there, who was not supposed to be there. But, in a way, you know, now I'll be drifting from that just a bit, in a way I think that helped...

Int You mean influx control?

FM Influx control, where at that time I didn't think it was helping, but now I will think it could help.

Int In what way?

FM It could have helped. Because it would have monitored, you know, for instance, everybody had a job during influx control. People from Pimville would only work in Johannesburg, but somebody from Pretoria would not come and work in Johannesburg, but you would find that there is employment everywhere. I don't know if other people will differ with me, but, that's my way of thinking. You'd find we didn't have people from Pretoria coming to work in Johannesburg because there were sufficient jobs in Pretoria, and also because they would have to get work permits, you know, people sort of, worked where they stayed. And, I mean, they catered for almost everybody. Much as the good jobs, for instance, were for certain nationalities. They then named coloured people got good jobs and next would be Indians and last Africans/ Blacks.

Int No, not at all. What's interesting is that you describe this wonderful community atmosphere, a communal atmosphere, really, of different people coming together and

living. At what point did that change for you, as a young person, growing up in that situation where that sense of community started disintegrating?

FM Like I say, it changed after ethnic grouping and people were moved to so called better houses.

Int ...so forced removals...

FM ...to different areas, and you know, you sort of lost touch, much as it is still there you still find some of it, in areas like Soweto for instance, and especially in areas where you still find people who grew up together. You find people from Pimville, some of them got married and got houses in Pimville, and so they're comfortable there but in marriage for instance, you'll find you would get married in some other place, and you've moved away from the area you grew up in that and you've lost touch with that type of community living that we had.

Int In terms of your family, you know, you mentioned that your parents wanted you to become a social worker, why a social worker?

FM It's because I always worked with people, I love studying human nature. For instance even now, I never want to blame a person for something before I get into that person's background and find out what went wrong somewhere, you could be blaming a person for doing something or for acting, you know, funnily, at this stage, something could have happened to that person at an earlier stage. So I still enjoy doing that. And, that's what my parents thought, I was very much into that and I was always very concerned about a person's behaviour changing ...what is happening? And you'd find some of them were abused, but it wasn't called abuse then, and you'd find, you know, maybe that child has got family problems where the parents are fighting and, you know, looking at it now, you find that a child who has grown up in that situation, much as that will not show then, it might surface...it will have settles somewhere in the subconscious mind, and then it surfaces as the person grows up, or at some stage.

Int Right.

FM You find the person having some type of behaviour that nobody understands, but if you go back you find that something happened in this person's early life, and now it is surfacing. Maybe that person is angry with what happened at that stage, and you do not know. Anyway, I loved doing that, I wanted to find out what is happening and why.

Int So what happened...you were growing up, you had a...you had, from what it sounds like, quite an 'idyllic' childhood, because there was this community atmosphere and then you didn't want...you finished Matric, and for some reason, you didn't want to continue. What happened?

FM Like I say, drifting away, it's growing up and you find something else of interest. I think I started working at the age of about twenty-three or twenty-four and I worked with people again.

Int This was at Girl...?

FM That was at Girl Wayfarers Association...

Int And what did you do specifically at the Girl Wayfarers Association?

FM I was an Assistant Organising Secretary, like I say, I still worked with people and I, funnily enough, I worked a lot with adults. I sort of related to adults more than I did with my own...

Int ...peers...

FM ...age group, I felt it was very interesting working with them, you learnt a lot, and even when I went to the Girl Wayfarers Association...I mean to YWCA, I was still working with people. It's only when I went to the Institute of Race Relations the change came.

Int You were working with paper?

FM Yes, I worked with publications. Legal Resources Centre, I worked with people but not at a large scale, like I did in my two previous jobs. Even here, much as I work with people, it's only organising training. So I think I drifted as time went on, as I became older and with changes of jobs.

Int Faith, you were involved with the Legal Resources Centre at a very crucial time, because it had just started...1979...in fact you joined then...I'm wondering how you came to hear about the Legal Resources Centre and what made you leave, I think you were at the IRR, Institute of Race Relations by that time?

FM No, it was interesting working at the Legal Resources Centre, and working with people and listening to people's cases, because, you know, when you interpret, you have to listen and talk to people thereafter. Mr. Zimmerman used to say to me: Faith, we'll take in a statement but, you know how people clam up when they speak to an attorney, and then when they leave an attorney, you find there is such crucial information that they didn't give, so he taught me to talk to people again. Maybe he saw the way I related to people, he realised that I could maybe, do something else. And you'd find you'd get information from a client, very important information, that that client did not give to the attorney because they are not comfortable, you know, for instance you are interviewing me here, I'm sitting here, I might find after you've

left, I sort of say: oh, oh, oh, I forgot to tell her this. It's just that you take it as an interview and you forget some other things.

Int It's ok, Faith. I'll come back. (*Laughter*). I'm wondering how...where were you, were you at the Institute of Race Relations before you came to the...

FM ...before...

Int ...Legal Resources Centre...

FM ...Legal Resources Centre...

Int ...so, how did you hear about the Legal Resources Centre and what made you leave and come to the...

FM I had friends there, Cecilie Palmer was my friend and Vesta Smith was like a mother to me.

Int Ok.

FM And, they sort of felt: why don't you join the Legal Resources Centre? And then when there was a post, they told me, I applied and got it.

Int Right. In terms of someone like Felicia Kentridge, what was the level of contact you had with Felicia?

FM I didn't have much contact with Felicia (Kentridge) because she was at the Head Office; I was at the Hoek Street Law Clinic. We would occasionally; they used to have lunches, weekly lunches for staff at the Hoek Street Law Clinic and Head Office. And Felicia (Kentridge) was ok, but you know, there are those people that you think: oh, my God what am I going to start saying if I were to talk to her? But she was a nice person, and like I say, I didn't work with her much, to be able to say anything about her.

Int What were your experiences of Arthur Chaskalson?

FM He was the most warm and understanding person. You know, you could go to Arthur (Chaskalson) for anything, you could talk to him and he would understand. I mean, even now, you know, we still talk. If, for instance I need something here, that Arthur could explain to me or talk to me about, I still 'phone him occasionally and we still meet. You know, he looked very stern, but he was a soft person and very easy to talk to, and helpful.

- Int Right.
- FM I mean he was like Mr. Zimmerman, when you looked at Mr. Zimmerman...the first impression would be that he was unapproachable. And you'd find that as you talk to these people they...you relate, you're able to talk to them. And with work-related things, you could talk to Arthur any time. He wasn't the type of person who would shut his doors and say: you staff have got to talk to him through some PA. I didn't even know Arthur's PA, I don't even know if he had one, but he was that type of a person. In fact most of them, because even Mahomed (Navsa), and Geoff Budlender; Geoff you could talk to about anything, and he was quite an understanding person, he was very keen to educate, if you wanted anything or know about anything, he would be willing to talk.
- Int I'm also wondering, Faith...you had this very good working relationship with Morris Zimmerman,...I'm wondering what were some of the difficulties though, of working with someone like that, he sounded to me like someone who was very caring and he wanted to see every single person that came through the door...?
- FM Yes, he was a very strict person. He would actually shout from the door: Faith, I haven't got my file, I haven't got this...But you'd know he didn't mean that. He was a very stern person and he wanted everything to be done on the dot, by the book. With Morris Zimmerman you wouldn't say: Mr. Zimmerman, I forgot. You went and filed and diarised a file that he hadn't, done any work on, he would have maybe sent a letter of demand, and for some reason or the other you've diarised a file and you took it back to him, and for some reason or the other, he rediarised it and then you go and file it away. Then the next time when you bring it back he'll ask you: why did you file this? Why did you diarise it? You must have realised that the only thing I did in this file was a letter of demand. Then he would tell you in a very stern way, the repercussions of your action. The person would probably lose his case.
- Int Ok. I'm wondering, Faith, you know, there's always...when I interviewed Mahomed Navsa, he spoke so fondly of Morris Zimmerman, there was a sense that Morris in a way, played a very important role in his life and I wonder whether you could talk a bit about that relationship?
- FM Well, I wouldn't know what he did in his life because I met him at Legal Resources Centre...
- Int Sure, sure, sure.
- FM ...and...
- Int ...no, I mean at the Legal Resources...

FM At the Legal...what I know is that he was a volunteer worker, and he did a lot of work. He trained a lot of attorneys. All the Fellows...

Int ...this is Morris you're talking about?

FM Yes. All the Fellows at the Legal Resources Centre, got a lot of training from Mr. Zimmerman. He was the most patient person, you could learn a lot from him. I learnt a lot from Mr. Zimmerman, he would very angry with me for signing any document before reading it. He would say "How do you sign anything that you haven't even read, you could be signing your death warrant". Those were his favourite words. He would shout, but he didn't mean it, he spoke loud.

Int Right.

FM You know, you had to get used to him. He looked a very stern person and a very strict person, he was strict, yes he wanted his work done, but if he shouted, he didn't mean it.

Int What was...your working relationship with Black Sash, when you were at Hoek Street, what was that like?

FM You know, I wouldn't remember much, to tell you the truth, but they did bring quite a number of cases to us. So, to my knowledge, there were no problems between them. They sort of related, they worked together.

Int Of course. I'm wondering also...when you were there at Hoek Street. The National Office, the Johannesburg office, they also had the Rikhoto case...

FM ...they had?

Int ...the Rikhoto, Tom Rikhoto case, and then they had Komani case which were the ones that overturned Influx Control, those were the key cases...did you get to do any of that work or you weren't involved?

FM No, no.

Int Ok,. You know Felicia Kentridge was very much the key person behind starting the Legal Resources Centre, and Arthur Chaskalson, as well, and Felicia Kentridge managed to get huge sums of funding from overseas...

FM ...I know, she did the fund-raising for the Legal Resources Centre...

- Int ...exactly, and...but...there were some, I think, some tensions because Black Lawyers Association for example, also was trying to get funding at the same time, did you know much about that?
- FM No, no, no. Black Lawyers Association Legal Education Centre started at a very small scale.
- Int Right, uh huh.
- FM They started later than Legal Resources, in fact in 1985. They were also funded by the Ford Foundation.
- Int Ok.
- FM They started in 1985, at that stage they did mostly litigation, they had Educational projects in mind but they hadn't started them yet. For instance I know they opened a litigation department but they got help from the Legal Resources Centre. I remember Mr. (Godfrey) **Pitje** came to the Legal Resources Centre...
- Int ...this is Godfrey?
- FM ...to Hoek Street Law Clinic...Godfrey **Pitje**...he came to the Hoek Street Law Clinic, to see how it works.
- Int I'm wondering, Faith, what made you...I mean, it sounds like you really enjoyed your job, enjoyed working with Morris Zimmerman...what made you leave?
- FM The Hoek Street Law Clinic closed down.
- Int In 1984?
- FM In 1984.
- Int Ok. So you didn't leave because of any other reason?
- FM No.
- Int Right. So you left...
- FM ...I would have loved to work with Morris Zimmerman, it's a pity that he went...Hoek Street Law Clinic was doing quite a lot of work and good work...

- Int Right, right. What were the reasons for closing?
- FM It dealt with a number of cases with blacks and they needed that and they were given free legal...
- Int ...aid...
- FM ...aid...and like I say, they did a lot of good amongst blacks.
- Int Right. Why did the Hoek Street close, do you know?
- FM I was told then, it was funding problems, but I wouldn't say, you know funding fluctuates, we've got the same problem here, so I wouldn't have a reason to think that they wouldn't tell me the truth.
- Int Sure.
- FM You find some funders were funding a certain project, sort of, change their focus and say: ok, and give money for a different project. So you are now self-sustained. And funders would do that and you find that a lot of good projects that we were doing, fall off.
- Int Right. So...you moved to Black Lawyers Association at the end of 1984 and you've been here now...until now, so that's twenty-three years?
- FM Yes.
- Int That's a long time.
- FM It is, it is. I wanted to retire, I gave them my notification of retirement in 2006 and I told them that at the end of the year I'm going, but they requested me to work another year. And I worked 2007 and they came back and said: can you give us another six months? And it's still six months that's going on.
- Int What do you do here?
- FM I coordinate a program called Trial Advocacy. It's a program for lawyers who wish to improve their trial skills and confidence in the court room. This program was introduced in South Africa, through Black lawyers Association Legal Education Centre by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy in Denver Colorado. It started 1986. The first instructors to come and teach Trial Advocacy from the US in 1986

were Prof. Ken Broun and Mr James Ferguson both from North Carolina. We are to date conducting this training. As I mentioned to you earlier, Advocates Mojanku Gumbi, Nomonde Mngqibisa and Faith Tlakula did some training at the legal Resources Centre, later became professional staff members at the BLA Legal Education Centre.

Ok.

FM But basically, that's the project that I'm doing, I'm still doing it even now.

Int Does the BLA function in the same way that the LRC does? Does it see people, or is it a different type of...is it advocacy mostly?

FM No, It's mainly an educational project. BLA has got a project which they call the Legal Education Centre. The Legal Education Centre is an educational project of the Black Lawyers Association. Black Lawyers Association is the mother body and the centre does the education part of that.

Int Ok. And this is to educate people in the townships?

FM Not necessarily. Educate anybody in the legal fraternity.

Int Right.

FM We hold seminars, we've got a continuing legal education department which does among others your commercial law training.

Int It's for lawyers?

FM It's for lawyers, like I say anybody in the legal fraternity.

Int Right. And what has the relationship been between the LRC and the BLA since it started in 1984?

FM To my knowledge the relationship has been good. If there's any bad blood then I don't know about it. I remember because one time when we lost contact with our funders, when Godfrey Pitje left, we didn't know how to contact Ford Foundation, which was one of our funders, Arthur (Chaskalson) helped us.

Int There were lots of...

FM So there was no bad blood.

Int Right.

FM I mean we were doing mainly educational projects and they do mainly cases, so there was nothing that could cause friction between us.

Int Ok. There were also some problems around Godfrey Pitje leaving the BLA. Do you know much about that?

FM Godfrey Pitje was like a father to me. Well he had his own private practice and he had to go back to it. He just set the foundation and went back to private practice.

Int Right, that's the view on it, ok, alright. Do you still have contact with him?

FM The family, yes, you know he died...

Int Oh, he passed away?

FM But I have a lot of contact with the family.

Int Oh, ok, right, that's great. I'm also wondering..you...as you told me...you came across a lot of key people at the LRC, and because of your work here at the BLA, you continue to have contact with them. I wonder whether you could talk a bit about the people that have...you've really stayed in contact with and some of the work that's been going on?

FM In what way are we talking about?

Int For example, you know, you said to me, you named a few people, Advocate Gumbi, the people that you mentioned, and I'm wondering whether there's kind of, work with...still people who've been at the LRC and then left, but there's still contact because...

FM Yes, we still have a lot of contact with them. Advocates Gumbi and Tlakula were once directors at the BLA- LEC.

Int Right.

FM We still meet occasionally, we still talk to each other on the 'phone and it sort of built up that relationship Pinky for instance, Pinky Madlala who I used to work with, unfortunately like I said, she passed on, we used to 'phone each other quite frequently, and it was a type of working situation whereby you became sisters and brothers.

- Int Right. And Morris Zimmerman, when did he pass away?
- FM You know, I heard about it when he had already passed away. I don't remember which year it was, unfortunately.
- Int Ok, right.
- FM Maybe it's one of those things that I would like not to think about.
- Int Sure, sure, sure, I understand. I'm also wondering, Faith you have worked in the legal profession for a very long time and you...1994 came, the country changed, well, 1990 onwards, there's a very strong Constitution that was put into place. I'm wondering what you think are some of the dangers now, that there are arguments that the Constitutional Court is under attack from certain quarters, there are also some concerns about rule of law issues. I wonder what's your sense, as someone who works so closely with lawyers, about those concerns?
- FM I don't know if I think much about that.
- Int ...but what is your sense...?
- FM ...you know, you sit down and say: what is it, have the people gone mad? People are being able to talk about the President the way they want to and that was unheard of during the past, and the press, of course, is having a royal time with the Constitutional Court and, you know, I think democracy has let loose a lot of tongues, people no longer even think, people just talk and say anything before they start even thinking properly. I don't know, maybe I could say they are becoming disrespectful, but I might be talking from my age. (*Laughs*). And that is not what it should be in the first place, democracy could just be fine.
- Int I'm also wondering...I've asked you a lot of questions, I'm wondering is there a particular case that you remember that you worked on at Hoek Street, that was very...maybe...may have been very meaningful and in some ways left an impact on you, at Hoek Street?
- FM A case with?
- Int Which you worked on with Morris Zimmerman, maybe?
- FM You know there's one case that...the case that had an impact on me was that one that I told you about, about these people who claimed from the Road Accident Fund.
- Int ...the road accident...

- FM ...the Road Accident Fund, because now somebody else claimed on their behalf. And they didn't know...they could have lost, there was a lot of money involved, I think there was about thirty thousand Rand which went to those attorneys, which those people didn't know about...
- Int ...and they got the money eventually?
- FM Eventually they got the money.
- Int That's wonderful.
- FM So, I'm thinking that, you know, if that was happening all over, around us, and people are not aware of these things, you find that people still need education, needed education then, and they still need education even now. You find there is some attorney has taken on their case, especially, particularly with Road Accident, and that attorney gets the money and goes back to the client and says: uh, uh, because you were not married to that person, the Road Accident Fund has declined your claim. And you find that the truth of the matter is that the fund did pay. So I'm thinking that that money, those people wouldn't have known, and there was a baby who was involved in that type of claim who would have grown up without proper education, that money could have helped some way, in bringing up that child.
- Int Sure, sure. I'm also wondering...if you had to look back on your time at the Legal Resources Centre, it was...much ...less time than your time at the BLA, but what do you think, how do you think the Legal Resources Centre's experience shaped you for the work you're doing now?
- FM What...the Legal Resources Centre could have shaped me?
- Int Yes, in terms of how did it influence you?
- FM Well, it did shape me in the sense that I worked with an attorney...I worked with attorneys and I got to know a lot of people and I got to know something about law, which I didn't know then, and which has helped me even today. I'm in contact with attorneys which I met when I was at the Legal Resources Centre, if for instance, we need training to be done, I'm able to go to Ellem Francis and say: we've got a seminar on this, can you help, come and give a lecture, or something, so I still have that contact with them and it really...it built me. I also got a lot of experience from working there.
- Int Ok, great. I wonder whether we could end....I've asked a lot of questions and I wonder whether there was things I neglected to ask you, which you think really should be included as part of your Oral History.

FM Well, I think you've asked most relevant questions have been a good combination. It's good to talk about some things at times and things that happened in the past, which you don't even think of as time goes on, and when you talk about them they bring back certain memories.

Int What memories did this experience of doing this interview...what did it bring back to you?

FM You know, you think of memories of your life, for instance I haven't thought about what I used to do in my youth, and the youth club work that I did, and the YWCA what one did there, help...working with the youth again. And, you know, we had good teams when we grew up, we had youth clubs, and the Transvaal Association of Youth Clubs, and our leader, that was the late Ellen Kuzwayo a social worker, she was also like another mother. You know, you would go to Mrs Kuzwayo and say: at that house that child has no money to go to school, or she hasn't got school uniform, or something. And she would make means to help, she did a lot, a lot, a lot. In fact we lost a great person, I mean I knew her during my youth days and I worked a lot with her; that's another person that I worked a lot with. And you realised in life that there are certain things that shouldn't be done and should be done, regarding the youth. In fact I got my inspiration of studying human nature from Ellen Kuzwayo, because she always used to say to me: before we start blaming that person, or that child who stole some money, let's go to the background and see what it is that made that person steal. Why did she do it, let's not blame that person.

Int Right. Thank you very, very much, Faith, it was very good to speak to you and very good to meet you as well.

FM I should thank you.

Faith Maqubela/Mandiwana –Name Index

Baqwa, Gugu, 3
Broun, Ken, 13
Budlender, Geoff, 9
Chaskalson, Arthur, 8, 13
Francis, Ellem, 3, 16
Ferguson, James, 13
Gumbi, Mojanku, 3, 13, 14
Kentridge, Felicia, 8
Kuswayo, Ellen, 17
Madlala, Pinky, 3, 14
Mbeki, Thabo, 4
Mnqibisa, Nomonde, 3, 13
Motsoeneng, Ida, 3
Navsa, Mahomed, 3, 9
Nupen, Charles, 3
Palmer, Cecilie, 3, 8
Pitje, Godfrey, 11, 13, 14
Power, Lizelle, 3
Pretorius, Paul, 3
Tip, Karel, 3
Tlakula, Faith (Pansy), 3, 13, 14
Smith, Vesta, 8
Zimmerman, Morris, 2, 7, 9, 11, 15

Cases:

Road Accident fund case, 15-16

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