

Harvard Law School | Cindy Dyer Nomination

BECCA: Hi, this is Becca, and I nominated Cindy Dyer, who is currently at Vital Voices Global Partnership. I met Cindy when I started working with Vital Voices, and immediately the first thing you notice is, well, she's a tall and amazing Texan so she really-- her presence always fills a room when she's there, but I had the chance to sit down with her when she was willing to take a few minutes from her day and just talk with her.

She is the Vice President for Human Rights there, and honestly, before I'd met Cindy and their human rights team, I had genuinely not thought about the intersection of women and human rights and how that's actually possible-- how that's actually a career. And Cindy had started off as a prosecutor in Texas, and she realized in the early '90s that it was really tough to start prosecuting cases for women who were coming in with claims about domestic violence. It just wasn't-- the systems weren't in place, the culture in her prosecutor's office wasn't necessarily there.

And Cindy slowly, surely started really building her own office around that, and there was a huge movement at the time. There were grants becoming available to improve those services and so Cindy was really a pioneer and a leader in that respect, but hadn't really done things internationally. And then when she started working for Vital Voices, one of the things that I noticed, the other amazing thing about her in addition to being a pioneer is that she has such an amazing sense of humor. And this is part of what I think actually helps her to do her work really effectively is that she is able to talk about a really sensitive topic in a way that makes people really comfortable. So for all of those reasons, she really inspires me and I try to channel my inner Cindy on a regular basis.