

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carmel Marr

PERSON

Marr, Carmel, 1921-2015

**Alternative Names:** Carmel Marr;

**Life Dates:** June 23, 1921-April 20, 2015

**Place of Birth:** New York, New York, USA

**Residence:** New City, NY

**Occupations:** Lawyer; Legal Advisor

## Biographical Note

Attorney, retired energy consultant and former member to the United States Mission to the United Nations, Carmel Carrington Marr was born June 23, 1921 in Brooklyn, New York. Her parents, William P. and Gertrude Carrington, immigrated to the United States from the island of Barbados. She attended PS 35 in Brooklyn and went on to Hunter College, graduating with a B.A. (Cum Laude) in political science in 1945. Marr earned a J.D. from Columbia University Law School in 1948.

After a period in private practice she was appointed to the United States Mission to The United Nations as a legal advisor in 1953. Marr joined Dr. Ralph Bunche, Marion Anderson, Robert L. Brokenburr, Dr. Channing Tobias, Frank Montero, Edith Sampson, Charles Mahoney, and James Nabrit as African Americans associated with the United Nations in its formative years. Marr served as senior legal officer to the United Nations Secretariat from 1967 to 1968, during which time she wrote a book on United Nations procedures. Appointed to the New York State Human Rights Appeal Board in 1968, Marr was the first black woman appointed to the New York State Public Service Commission as a regulator of utilities. She served as chair of the advisory council to the Gas Research Institute from 1979 to 1986, chairperson of the United States Department of Transportation's Tech Pipeline Safety Standards Commission, 1979-85, and chairperson of the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners, NARUC, and Gas Committee, 1984-86. Marr was also president of the NARUC's Great Lakes Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners. She was an energy consultant until her retirement in 1990.

Marr, honored on numerous occasions, volunteered for many organizations including: Friends of the Billie Holiday Theatre, the National Arts Stabilization Fund, the Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Alpha Phi Alpha. With

her husband, Warren, she was intensely involved in the Amistad Research Center, which he co-founded in 1976. Marr was president and chair of Amistad from 1982 to 1995. The Marrs, lived in Valley Cottage, New York, and had two adult children, Warren Quincy Marr III and Charles Carrington Marr.

Marr passed away on April 20, 2015.

## Related Entries

**Hunter College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Columbia Law School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**P.S. 35 Stephen Decatur School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Dyer & Stevens Law Firm** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1948 to 1949]

**U.S. Mission to the United Nations** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1953 to 1967]

**United Nations Secretariat** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1968]

**New York State Human Rights Appeal Board** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1971]

**New York State Public Service Commission** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1971 to 1986]

**Gas Research Institute Advisory Council** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Transportation Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Billie Holiday Theater of the Performing Arts** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Brooklyn Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**New York School for Girls in Hudson, New York** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Citywide Republican Women's Club** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Harlem Lawyer's Association** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**International Federation of Women Lawyers** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**National Republican Committee** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]