

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Teri L. Jackson

PERSON

Jackson, Teri L., 1956-

Alternative Names: Teri L. Jackson;

Life Dates: November 10, 1956-

Place of Birth: Berkeley, California, USA

Work: San Francisco, CA

Occupations: State Superior Court Judge; County Attorney

Biographical Note

State superior court judge and county attorney Teri L. Jackson was born in 1957 to Beatrice and Alson Jackson in Berkeley, California, where she grew up with her sister, Portia Collins. After watching the movie *To Kill a Mockingbird*, she developed an interest in the justice system. Jackson graduated from Jefferson High School at the age of sixteen and began her studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she earned her B.A. degrees in politics and history in 1977. She then went on to earn her J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law School in 1980.

Upon passing her bar exam, Jackson was hired as a deputy district attorney of San Mateo County, where she works as a trial attorney. Three years later, she began work as a prosecutor for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, serving in the domestic violence unit, the felony charging unit, and the felony sexual assault unit. Throughout her career, Jackson has worked to combat domestic abuse in the Bay Area. In 1988, she became the first person to successfully introduce expert testimony regarding elder abuse syndrome in a court case. In 1995, she co-founded the First Offender Prostitution Program (FOPP), a rehabilitation course for individuals arrested for their involvement with prostitution. The program was replicated in other American cities within years of its founding. Jackson became the first woman to head up a homicide unit in the state of California upon her promotion to head district attorney's homicide unit in 1997.

After working in private practice with the law firm, of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, Jackson was appointed to Superior Court Judge of California for the County of San Francisco in 2002. She was the first African American woman to serve in this position. She worked with an assortment of cases, including litigation in employment, trade secrets, the environment, real estate, and bankruptcy. Jackson has worked to increase the number of minorities working within the legal system, serving as an

adjunct law professor at Hastings School of Law. Jackson is the recipient of the 2006 Rosina Tucker Award from the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the 2007 Community Service Award from the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

Jackson is married to Imro Shair-Ali.

Teri L. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 6, 2011.

Related Entries

University of California Santa Cruz [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Georgetown University Law Center [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

JD

University of California, San Francisco Hastings School of Law [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 200601 to 201103]

Adjunct Law Professor: Trial Advocacy

County of San Francisco [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 200209 to 201103]

Judge of the Superior Court of California

University of San Francisco School of Law [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 200501 to 200612]

Adjunct Law Professor: Trial Advocacy

Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, LLP, San Francisco [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199711 to 200208]

Engaged in complex litigation practice which included environmental defense of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, employment defense, real estate, trade secrets, bankruptcy litigation's and white collar defense in federal and state courts.

Office of the San Francisco District Attorney, San Francisco [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1998 to 2002]

Assistant District Attorney

San Francisco Law School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2002 to ?]

Law Instructor

Office of the San Mateo District Attorney [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198107 to 198405]

Deputy District Attorney

California Judges Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Northern California Association of Business Trial Lawyers [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

American Inns of Court [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

American Inns of Court [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

University of San Francisco Intensive Advocacy Program [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

State Bar of California [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chairman

California District Attorneys Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

California Court Reporters Board [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chairman of the Board, Department of Consumer Affairs

Northern California Black Women Lawyer's Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

President

California Association of Black Lawyers [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Charles Houston Bar Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Association of Black Women Lawyers [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]