

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charlynn Goins

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Goins, Charlynn, 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins,
Dates:	October 21, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:51:04).
Abstract:	Lawyer Charlynn Goins (1942 -) was the first African American woman chairperson of the board of directors for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Her career spanned over thirty-five years in the fields of law, corporate business and philanthropic charity. Goins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 21, 2013, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_260
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader and business executive Charlynn Goins was born on September 15, 1942 in New York City, New York. Her mother was Charlotte Wilson, a model and book seller; her step-father, Clifford Wilson, was a United States Army captain and postal worker. Growing up in New York, Goins graduated from Briarcliff Manor High School in 1959. She then attended Barnard College, where she received her A.B. degree in government studies in 1963. From 1963 to 1964, Goins completed graduate courses at the Teachers College at Columbia University. In 1976, she received her J.D. degree from Columbia University Law School.

Goins was hired as a tax lawyer in 1976 at the law firm Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn, now Proskauer Rose LLP. Then, in 1982, she left the practice of law and joined Integrated Resources, Incorporated, as the assistant to the president. In 1986, Goins was promoted to chief operating officer of a new Integrated Resources subsidiary. She worked in that role until 1990, when she was hired as the senior vice president and director of international marketing at Prudential Mutual Funds and Annuities. In 1997, Goins retired from Prudential and began serving as a consultant to the United States Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency. Then, in 2004, New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, named her the first African American woman chairperson of the board of directors for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Goins has served as a board member of numerous organizations. From 2001 through 2004, she served on the boards of the Community's Bank and its holding company, the Urban Financial Group. From 2001 through 2006, Goins was a member of the board of Mainstay Funds. In 2002, she was elected to the New York Community Trust's Distribution Committee, where she went on to serve as chairman. In 2006, Goins was named to the board of directors of AXA Financial, Incorporated, and its subsidiaries AXA Equitable Life and MONY Life. Then, in 2008, she was elected to Fannie Mae's board of directors. Goins has also served on various other boards including Continuum Health Partners, Beth Israel Hospital, St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, FOJP Service Corporation,

New York City Global Partners, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the Gracie Mansion Conservatory. She was honored in 2008 by Mayor Bloomberg with the installment of “Charlynn Goins Day.” Goins was also awarded the United Hospital Fund Trustee Award in 2008.

Goins lives in New York with her husband, Dr. Warren Goins. They have two children: Hilary and Jeffrey.

Charlynn Goins was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 21, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Charlynn Goins was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on October 21, 2013, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Charlynn Goins (1942 -) was the first African American woman chairperson of the board of directors for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Her career spanned over thirty-five years in the fields of law, corporate business and philanthropic charity.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Goins, Charlynn, 1942-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Goins, Charlynn, 1942- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, October 21, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, Section A2013_260_001_001, TRT: 1:30:03 ?

Charlynn Goins was born on September 15, 1942 in New York City, New York. Her mother, Charlotte Wilson, was born on a farm in Arkansas in 1907 and was the daughter of a teacher named Lilly Mae Wright (ph.). Wilson became a model in Europe and developed a relationship with Goins' father, a prominent white man. When Goins was five or six, her mother married her stepfather, Clifford Wilson, a former officer in the U.S. Army during World War II who became a postal worker. Goins' father continued to support the family until he died when Goins was fourteen. Goins was raised as an only child in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan, New York City. She attended the Professional Children's School, and was in the play "The Climate of Eden" with The Blackfriars Guild and in an episode of "General Hospital" before she was ten years old. Her classmates included Josh White, Jr. and Leslie Uggams. In 1952, Goins moved to White Plains, New York. She attended Valhalla Junior High School and Briarcliff High School.

Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, Section A2013_260_001_002, TRT: 2:29:54 ?

Charlynn Goins was raised in White Plains, New York. When she was fourteen, she became friends with Toni Parks-Parsons, the daughter of HistoryMaker Gordon Parks, and through her met African Americans from Brooklyn and Manhattan, New York such as future Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and her future husband, HistoryMaker Dr. Warren Goins. At Briarcliff High School, Goins excelled in her studies of Latin and the humanities. She reflects on her childhood personality and her experience growing up in a mostly white environment. After graduating from high school in 1959, Goins enrolled at Barnard College in New York City, New York, where her classmates included Martha Stewart and Pola Rosen. In 1962, Goins married Dr. Warren Goins, who was a student at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. For two years, they lived in her aunt's basement in Queens, New York. Goins received her A.B. degree in 1963 and managed the language lab at Barnard before moving to Essex, England with her husband in 1964.

Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, Section A2013_260_001_003, TRT: 3:30:51 ?

Charlynn Goins and her husband lived in a village called Castle Hedingham in Essex, England from 1964 until 1967, while he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed at RAF Wethersfield. Goins recalls her experience with other military families, the social stratification of England and their vacations to Paris, France; Oslo, Norway; Naples, Italy; and then to Bavaria, Germany with an elderly woman and her friends. In 1966, Goins gave birth to her daughter, Hilary, in England. Goins shares her observations of England's class structure. She also reflects on how Europeans and Americans were confused or surprised because of her light color of her African American identity. In 1967, Goins returned to New York City, New York with her husband and lived in The Bronx where he did his medical residency at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, New York. In 1968, Goins' mother died while talking to Goins on the phone; and, in 1969, Goins gave birth to her son, Jeffrey Goins.

Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, Section A2013_260_001_004, TRT: 4:28:18 ?

Charlynn Goins talks about her strained relationship with her mother after learning the identity of her "real" as well as her regret about this upon the death of her mother in 1968. After her son, Jeffrey, was born in 1969, the Goins moved to a house in New Rochelle, New York where they enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle in a community that Goins described as idyllic and well-integrated. Here, the wife of a prominent doctor, Goins became active in local

politics as a district leader for the Democratic Party while also serving on the board of directors of the Negro Ensemble Company. In 1973, when her children were ages four and seven, Goins enrolled at Columbia Law School where she balanced her law school studies and family obligations with the help of her husband and her in-laws. Goins also reflects on the positive reactions from both the white and black communities of her law school aspirations due to the pro-feminist movement of the early-1970s.

Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, Section A2013_260_001_005, TRT: 5:30:26 ?

Charlynn Goins became interested in international tax law as a 1974 summer legal intern in the law firm of Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn. After receiving her J.D. degree from Columbia Law School in New York City, New York in 1976, Goins returned to Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn where she continued working for six years. In 1982, Goins was hired by an international tax shelter company named Integrated Resources, Inc. as assistant to the president, Arthur Goldberg. From 1986 until 1989, Goins headed Integrated Resources' subsidiary, Integrated Resources International, where they worked to increase their Hong Kong presence. Reflecting on the Tax Reform Act of 1986's adverse impact on her company's business, Goins describes how her company was forced to file for bankruptcy in 1990. Goins then describes the international nature of her work as well as the racism and sexism that she encountered including being confused for a flight attendant and a tea lady and being asked about her husband.

Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, Section A2013_260_001_006, TRT: 6:31:40 ?

Charlynn Goins talks about the 1990 bankruptcy filing by Integrated Resources International. In 1989, Goins and her husband sold the family home to her daughter and son in-law and then moved from New Rochelle, New York to Manhattan, New York. She describes their difficulties in locating an apartment in Manhattan as an African American couple. They also built a vacation home in Sag Harbor, New York in 1980 after having rented there for years. In 1990, Goins went to work for Prudential Securities as chief of staff under President W. James Tozer, Jr. where she helped to build Prudential's offshore mutual funds business. She reflects on what she learned about the international mutual fund business. Then, in 1998, Goins retired from Prudential; and by 1999, she had open heart surgery. Later, she joined the board of directors of Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York City, New York, consulted for the Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, and joined her first corporate board in 2001.

Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, Section A2013_260_001_007, TRT: 7:29:45 ?

Charlynn Goins joined the board of HistoryMaker Peter F. Hurst, Jr.'s The Community's Bank in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 2001. From 2001 through 2006, Goins served on the board of Mainstay Funds, part of New York Life Insurance Company. In 2006, she joined the board of AXA Financial Incorporated and two of its subsidiaries. From 2004 until 2008, Goins was chair of the board of directors for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation having been appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. In 2008, Goins joined the board of directors of Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association), where she chaired the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. In 2009, Goins also began chairing the New York Community Trust's Distribution Committee. She reflects on her experience on corporate boards and balancing her careers with civic engagement. She also reflects on her accomplishments, her plans for the future, her hopes and concerns for the African American community, her art collection, and her marriage.

Video Oral History Interview with Charlynn Goins, Section A2013_260_001_008, TRT: 8:20:07 ?

Charlynn Goins reflects on how she would like to be remembered and her legacy. She ends the interview by narrating her photographs and those of her husband, HistoryMaker Dr. Warren Goins.