

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jimmie Lee Solomon

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Solomon, Jimmie Lee, 1956-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jimmie Lee Solomon,
Dates:	March 7, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:27:30).
Abstract:	Sports executive Jimmie Lee Solomon (1956 - 2020) was partner at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Baker and Hostetler and served as executive vice president of baseball development for Major League Baseball. Solomon was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 7, 2017, in Miami, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_032
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Sports executive Jimmie Lee Solomon was born on March 11, 1956 in Thompson, Texas to Jimmie Lee Solomon, Jr. and Josephine Solomon. In 1974, Solomon graduated from Lamar Consolidated High School in Rosenberg, Texas and received an academic scholarship to attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, where he played in the position of wide receiver on the Dartmouth football team. He earned his B.A. degree in history from Dartmouth College in 1978. After he was cut from the Houston Oilers' NFL training camp, Solomon attended Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts and earned his J.D. degree in 1981.

Solomon joined the law firm of Baker and Hostetler in Washington, D.C. as the first African American attorney, where he specialized in sports and corporate law. After nine years of service to the firm, he was promoted to partner. In 1991, Solomon became Major League Baseball's (MLB) director of minor league operations before being promoted to executive director of minor league operations and then to senior vice president of baseball operations, where he was responsible for over 170 teams and 4,500 players, and he also established the Major League Baseball Futures Game, as well as the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy, which provided baseball facilities and training to inner-city children and teenagers. In 1997, Solomon negotiated a ten-year agreement between MLB and the Minor Leagues, generating an economic benefit of \$170 million to the Major League. In 2005, Solomon was named executive vice president of baseball operations by MLB Commissioner Bud Selig. In that position, he created the Civil Rights Game in honor of baseball's position at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement as one of the first integrated organizations in the country, and the MLB Urban Invitational. Solomon became the executive vice president for baseball development in 2010. He retired from Major League Baseball in 2012.

Solomon was known for his work in bringing more African Americans to the game of baseball and was honored by *Sports Illustrated* as one of the magazine's "101 Most Influential Minorities in Sports. He was also named as one of the "40 Most Powerful African Americans in Sports" by *Black Enterprise*.

Solomon has one daughter, Tricia.

Jimmie Lee Solomon was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 7, 2017.

Solomon passed away on October 8, 2020.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jimmie Lee Solomon was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 7, 2017, in Miami, Florida, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Sports executive Jimmie Lee Solomon (1956 - 2020) was partner at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Baker and Hostetler and served as executive vice president of baseball development for Major League Baseball.

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:

Solomon, Jimmie Lee, 1956-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Solomon, Jimmie Lee, 1956- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Sports Executive

Lawyer

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers|SportsMakers

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 Jimmie Lee Solomon, March 7, 2017. 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 Jimmie Lee Solomon, Section A2017_032_001_001, TRT: 1:28:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jimmie Lee Solomon, Section A2017_032_001_002, TRT: 2:29:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jimmie Lee Solomon, Section A2017_032_001_003, TRT: 3:28:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jimmie Lee Solomon, Section A2017_032_001_004, TRT: 4:29:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jimmie Lee Solomon, Section A2017_032_001_005, TRT: 5:28:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jimmie Lee Solomon, Section A2017_032_001_006, TRT: 6:30:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jimmie Lee Solomon, Section A2017_032_001_007, TRT: 7:33:25 ?