

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Phoebe A. Haddon

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Haddon, Phoebe A.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Phoebe A. Haddon,
Dates:	August 21, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:50:55).
Abstract:	Academic administrator Phoebe A. Haddon (1950 -) taught law courses at Temple University before becoming the first African American dean of the University of Maryland School of Law. In 2014, she was named the chancellor of Rutgers University - Camden. Haddon was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 21, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_137
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator Phoebe A. Haddon was born on August 29, 1950 in Washington, D.C. to Ida Bassette Haddon, a public school teacher, and Dr. Wallace J. Haddon, a dentist. Haddon was raised in Passaic, New Jersey and graduated from Passaic High School in 1968. She attended Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Haddon was a founding member of the college's Black Students' Alliance in 1969 and majored in government. She graduated from Smith College in 1972 and earned her J.D. degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1977. Haddon received her LL.M. degree from Yale University.

Haddon practiced law at Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering in Washington, D.C. from 1979 until 1981. During this period, she also clerked for the Honorable Joseph F. Weis, Jr., a justice on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In 1981, Haddon joined the faculty of Temple University's Beasley School of Law, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she taught courses on constitutional law, torts and product liability, equality, and the jury. In 2009, Haddon joined the University of Maryland School of Law and became the first African American dean of the school. While dean of Maryland's law school, she was responsible for the allocation of the W.P. Carey Foundation's \$30 million gift to the school.

In 2014, Haddon was named as chancellor of Rutgers University-Camden in New Jersey and has led the growth of that public urban research university. Under her leadership, Rutgers University-Camden launched Bridging the Gap, a national model for college access, affordability, and completion that supports New Jersey families by greatly reducing (and even eliminating) tuition costs. Through this program and other initiatives, the campus grew significantly on all fronts. For example, Rutgers University-Camden enrolled approximately three times more first-time undergraduate African American students over a four-year period.

Haddon was named the recipient of the 2019 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award from the

Association of American Law Schools and the 2019 Smith College Medal. She was named among the “Women of Distinction” by Philadelphia Business Journal; as one of the “25 Most Influential People in Legal Education” by National Jurist; and as one of the “Top 100 Women in Maryland” by the Daily Recorder, which is located in Baltimore, Maryland.

In addition to her career in law and education, Haddon served in advisory and leadership roles for numerous organizations, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, HERS (Higher Education Resource Services), Cooper University Health System, William Penn Foundation, the Samuel S. Fels Fund, the Delaware Valley Community Reinvestment Fund, and the Philadelphia Education Fund. Haddon also served as deputy chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and as vice chair on the board of trustees for Smith College. Haddon authored the article, “Rethinking the Jury”, which was published in the William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal in 1994.

Haddon and her husband, Frank M. McClellan, have three children.

Phoebe A. Haddon was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 21, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Phoebe A. Haddon was conducted by Randall Pinkston on August 21, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Academic administrator Phoebe A. Haddon (1950 -) taught law courses at Temple University before becoming the first African American dean of the University of Maryland School of Law. In 2014, she was named the chancellor of Rutgers University - Camden.

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:

Haddon, Phoebe A.

Pinkston, Randall (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Haddon, Phoebe A.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Academic Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Phoebe A. Haddon, August 21, 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 Phoebe A. Haddon, Section A2017_137_001_001, TRT: 1:28:30
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Phoebe A. Haddon was born on August 29, 1950 in Washington, D.C. to Ida Bassette Haddon and Wallace J. Haddon. Haddon's paternal grandfather, James Haddon, worked as a railroad fireman and died of pneumonia at a young age, leaving her grandmother, Ursula Gray Haddon, to raise their three children in Abbeville, South Carolina. After college, Haddon's father attended the Howard University College of Dentistry. He also served as a U.S. Merchant Marine, and was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II. Haddon's mother came from a prominent family in Hampton, Virginia, where her maternal grandfather and great-grandfather, Andrew W.E. Bassette, Jr. and Andrew W.E. Bassette, Sr., both served as lawyers. Haddon spent the first four years of her life with her mother in Hampton. When her father completed dental school, they joined him in Passaic, New Jersey, where he opened a dental practice and became the president of the local NAACP branch.

Video Oral History Interview with Phoebe A. Haddon, Section A2017_137_001_002, TRT: 2:28:14
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Phoebe A. Haddon's maternal great-grandfather, Andrew W.E. Bassette, Sr., attended the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Hampton, Virginia. He and his brothers were all trained in professions like law and medicine, as were their children. Haddon's maternal aunt, Rachel Noel, became an educator, and was instrumental in the desegregation of the Denver Public Schools. Haddon's mother, Ida Bassette Haddon, had a mathematics degree, and worked as a computer at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in Hampton, Virginia while Haddon's father, Wallace J. Haddon, attended the Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington, D.C. During this time, Haddon lived in Hampton with her mother and maternal relatives. After her father's graduation, her family moved to Passaic, New Jersey. Her father founded a dental practice, and her mother became involved with The Links and Jack and Jill of America, in addition to working as a teacher and guidance counselor in Passaic's public schools.

Video Oral History Interview with Phoebe A. Haddon, Section A2017_137_001_003, TRT: 3:31:28
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Phoebe A. Haddon grew up with her extended maternal family in Hampton, Virginia while her father completed his training at the Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington, D.C. During this time, she and her mother, Ida Bassette Haddon, lived with Haddon's maternal aunt and uncle, Julia Bassette and Andrew W.E. Bassette III, who worked as a surgeon in Hampton. After Haddon's father graduated from dental school, she and her mother joined him in Passaic, New Jersey, where Haddon's father opened a dental practice and became president of the local NAACP branch. They lived in a predominantly white neighborhood, and Haddon was one of the few African American students at Passaic High School. She experienced little discrimination from her peers and

teachers, although she was once accosted with racial slurs by a neighbor. With her family, she often vacationed in the segregated South, where they attended the annual meetings of the all-black National Dental Association.

Video Oral History Interview with Phoebe A. Haddon, Section A2017_137_001_004, TRT: 4:27:50
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Phoebe A. Haddon attended the predominantly white Passaic High School in Passaic, New Jersey. She socialized with her white peers at school and in the neighborhood, and met African American friends through organizations like The Links, where her mother was a member. Haddon aspired to become a lawyer; and, after graduating, matriculated at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where her classmates included her cousin, Angela Noel. Haddon was involved in civil rights activities on campus; and, through the African American Studies Committee, was instrumental in the creation of the school's African American studies program. She also served as a summer intern for Congressman John Conyers, Jr. in Washington, D.C. Upon graduating, Haddon worked for the National Labor Relations Board, and then enrolled at the Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she served as the editor in chief of the law review. From there, she obtained a clerkship with Judge Joseph F. Weis, Jr.

Video Oral History Interview with Phoebe A. Haddon, Section A2017_137_001_005, TRT: 5:28:57
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Phoebe A. Haddon served as a judicial clerk under Judge Joseph F. Weis, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She then worked for two years at the law firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in Washington, D.C., before joining the faculty of the Temple University Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1981. While teaching, Haddon took a three-year leave of absence to become the deputy director of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. Around this time, she married fellow law professor Frank M. McClellan, with whom she raised one daughter, Cara McClellan, who went on to become an attorney. In 2009, Haddon was named the dean of the University of Maryland School of Law. During her tenure, the school received a large gift from the W.P. Carey Foundation, and was renamed the Francis King Carey School of Law. Haddon also participated in the American Bar Association's Commission on Multidisciplinary Practice, which focused on the problem of student debt among young lawyers.

Video Oral History Interview with Phoebe A. Haddon, Section A2017_137_001_006, TRT: 6:25:56
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Phoebe A. Haddon served on the American Bar Association's Commission on Multidisciplinary Practice, which aimed to decrease law student debt and to provide access to legal services for poor and minority communities. Wanting to supplement her J.D. degree, Haddon completed an LL.M. degree at the Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. She also taught for one semester at Temple University's Japan Campus in Tokyo, Japan. In 2014, Haddon left her position as dean of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in Baltimore, Maryland to become the chancellor of the Rutgers University-Camden campus in Camden, New Jersey. There, Haddon oversaw the growth of the student body and faculty, the merger of the Rutgers Law School campuses in Camden and Newark and the construction of a new nursing and science facility. She reflects upon her life and legacy, and concludes the interview by talking about her values.