

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lisa E. Davis

PERSON

Davis, Lisa, 1960-

Alternative Names: Davis, Lisa, 1960-;

Life Dates: February 6, 1960-

Place of Birth: Flushing Queens, New York

Residence: (from ? to ?)

Occupations: Entertainment Lawyer

Biographical Note

Entertainment lawyer Lisa Ellen Davis was born on February 6, 1960 in Queens, New York. Her parents are Gwen Webb, a retired educator and Nat Davis, a jazz musician. She graduated from New Rochelle High School in 1977. In 1981, Davis received her B.A. degree from Harvard University and her J.D. degree from New York University School of Law in 1985.

Davis worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Constance Baker Motley in the United States Federal Court from 1985 to 1986. In 1986, she began working as an associate with the law firm of Kramer Levin. She joined Frankfurt Kurnit, Klein & Selz where she became a partner in 1995. Davis' duties include negotiating financing, production and distribution agreements. Davis' special expertise is in advising clients on exploiting potential markets. She has helped entertainment clients expand into complimentary business, including book and magazine publishing, concert promotion, music, celebrity endorsements and merchandising. Her clients include Spike Lee and Terry McMillan.

Davis often speaks on entertainment and legal ethics. She has presented at the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, the Corporate Counsel Women of Color Conference, the Copyright Society, the Internet Conference; and the National Bar Association Convention.

Davis has been quoted in 'Elle' magazine, 'The New York Times' and 'Black Enterprise' magazine. She has been noted as one of America's top black lawyers and one of the top 50 Power Brokers in entertainment by 'Black Enterprise'magazine.

Davis is a member of the New York City Bar, the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association and the National Bar Association.

Davis was interviewed by 'The HistoryMakers' on January 8, 2007.

Related Entries

Davis, Sr., Arthur Reid [GRANDCHILDOf]
Great-grandfather (P)

Davis, Sr., Nathaniel [GRANDCHILDOf]
Grandfather (P)

Davis, Jr., Nathaniel [CHILDOf]
Father

(née Webb), Gwen [CHILDOf]
Mother

Martin, Iris [GRANDCHILDOf]
Grandmother (M)

(née Reid) Davis, Earner [GRANDCHILDOf]
Grandmother (P)

Davis, Marcus [PARENTOf]
Son

Davis, Noelle [PARENTOf]
Daughter

Jameson, Anthony [SPOUSEOf]
Husband

New York University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to 1985]

Juris Doctor

Albert Leonard Middle School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to 1973]

New Rochelle High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to 1977]

Harvard University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to 1981]

B.A.

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1984 to 1984]

Summer Associate

Judge Constance Baker Motley [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1985 to 1986]

Clerk

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1986 to 1988]

Junior Lawyer/Litigation Associate

Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to ?]

Attorney

East Harlem School at Exodus House [MEMBEROF]

Board Member/Board Chair

Hurston-Wright Foundation [MEMBEROF]

Board Member