

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable William Sylvester White

PERSON

White, William Sylvester, 1914-2004

Alternative Names: The Honorable William Sylvester White; William White

Life Dates: July 27, 1914-February 16, 2004

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Juvenile Court Judge; Military Officer

Biographical Note

Judge William Sylvester White was born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 27, 1914. He attended law school at the University of Chicago after graduating from Hyde Park High School. Upon graduation, he was hired as the assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, where he tried a myriad of cases and enjoyed the experience thoroughly. After fifteen years at this position, he became assistant state's attorney for Cook County.

Interested in becoming a judge, White involved himself in local politics, and his stellar performance earned him three separate appointments between 1961 and 1964. In 1972, White was honored by the Cook County Bar Association as Judge of the Year. In 1990, he began his tenure as a Juvenile Court justice and his expertise in this area garnered him several awards and honors over the years. In addition to these credits, White has also authored and co-authored several articles.

Prior to his judicial career White joined the United States Navy in 1943. White became one of the Navy's first commissioned African American officers in March of 1944, along with twelve other African American men. These men were later known as the "Golden Thirteen." Although nearly one hundred thousand African Americans were enlisted in the Navy, none were considered officers until this date.

White passed away on February 16, 2004.

Related Entries

University of Chicago [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Hyde Park Academy High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Emmett Louis Till Math & Science Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Northern District of Illinois [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Assistant U.S. Attorney

Cook County States Attorney's Office [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to 1971]

Assistant State's Attorney