

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Clayborne, James Franklin, Jr., 1963-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr.,
Dates:	August 30, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:15:18).
Abstract:	Lawyer and state senator The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr. (1963 -) Hon. James Clayborne was appointed to complete Senator Kenneth Hall's unexpired term when he died in 1995. Clayborn was then elected in 1997 and sat on the Committees of Appropriations, Commerce & Industry, and Revenue, for which he is the Minority Spokesperson. Clayborne was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 30, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_046
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

James Franklin Clayborne, Jr., was born in St. Louis, Missouri on December 29, 1963, to James and Janet Clayborne. He attended Paul Lawrence Dunbar Elementary School, Lansdowne Junior High School and East St. Louis High School, where he played football. After graduation, Clayborne enrolled at Tennessee State University before attending the University of Miami Law School. While at the University of Miami, he served as a law clerk for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. There, he interned with Janet Reno, then Dade County States Attorney and future U.S. Attorney General. While residing in Florida, he met and married his wife, Staci.

Clayborne returned to Belleville, Illinois where he found employment in the States Attorney's Office. Two years later, he joined the law firm of Hinshaw and Culbertson. When Illinois Senator Kenneth Hall died in 1995, Clayborne was appointed to complete Hall's unexpired term. The following year, Clayborne was elected to the Illinois Senate where he currently serves. Clayborne sits on the Committees of Appropriations, Commerce & Industry and Revenue, for which he is the Minority Spokesperson. A finalist for U.S. District Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Clayborne was one of fifty attorneys selected nationwide to participate in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Law Institute.

In 1997, Clayborne received the "Friend of Education" Award from the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, for his "outstanding commitment to education." In addition, he spearheaded a resolution to name a state office building in East St. Louis after his predecessor in the Senate, Kenneth Hall. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Wesley Bethel Methodist Church, Clayborne and his wife are the parents of four children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr. was conducted by Adele Hodge on August 30, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Lawyer and state senator The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr. (1963 -) Hon. James Clayborne was appointed to complete Senator Kenneth Hall's unexpired term when he died in 1995. Clayborn was then elected in 1997 and sat on the Committees of Appropriations, Commerce & Industry, and Revenue, for which he is the Minority Spokesperson.

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:

Clayborne, James Franklin, Jr., 1963-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Haynes, Frank (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Clayborne, James Franklin, Jr., 1963---Interviews

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews

African American lawyers--Interviews

African American legislators--Illinois.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois

Occupations:

Lawyer

State Senator

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers|PoliticalMakers

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 The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr., August 30, 2000. 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 The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr., Section
A2000_046_001_001, TRT: 0:29:05 ?

James Clayborne talks about his family history. He was born to James and Janet Clayborne. Clayborne's father was a school teacher and administrator; his mother worked as a secretary. His parents divorced when Clayborne was six years old and he was raised by his mother. Clayborne grew up in an integrated neighborhood in East St. Louis, Illinois, participating in the Follow Through program in elementary school. He is a graduate of East St. Louis High School (1981), Tennessee State University (1985), and the University of Miami School of Law (1988). After receiving his J.D. degree, Clayborne went to work at the Illinois State's Attorney's Office, and at Hinshaw & Culbertson law firm before being appointed to the Illinois General Assembly after Senator Kenneth Hall's death in 1995.

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews.

African American lawyers--Interviews.

African American legislators--Illinois--Interviews.

Head Start Program (U.S.)--Missouri--St. Louis--1960-1970.

Follow Through Program (U.S.)--Missouri--St. Louis--1960-1970.

Education, Primary--Missouri--St. Louis.

Illinois – Politics and government.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr., Section
A2000_046_001_002, TRT: 0:29:59 ?

James Clayborne was appointed to the Illinois General Assembly on April 14, 1995. During his first term, he successfully fought for the city of East St. Louis, Illinois to keep its own election board; Clayborne was re-elected in 1996. As a senator, Clayborne supported the Illinois FIRST bill, secured funds to build a youth facility in East St. Louis, initiated a bill supporting the development of affordable housing, and awarded college scholarships. He has helped to improve medical coverage and provide housing aid for his constituents. Clayborne also talks about teaching students about voting power, the legislative process, and his role models, which include a grade school teacher, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., W.E.B. Dubois, and Carl Officer.

Elections--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

Elections--Corrupt Practices--Illinois.

Health care policy in the United States--Illinois.

Bills, Legislative--Illinois FIRST (program)

Voting--Illinois.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable James Clayborne, Jr., Section
A2000_046_001_003, TRT: 0:16:14 ?

James Clayborne talks about how his mother inspired him to fight for a small community college's survival. He is proud of his success as a lawyer, senator, and family man. As a state senator, Clayborne works to keep his constituents informed through various media. Clayborne also talks about the rise of African American leaders in the Illinois General Assembly, the impact these leaders have on the African American community, and the need to support black

businesses.

African American legislators--Illinois.

African American business enterprises.

Community colleges--Illinois.

African American business enterprises.

Southern Illinois University (System).