

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Moseley-Braun, Carol, 1947-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 19, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:41:23).
<b>Abstract:</b>	U.S. senator The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun (1947 - ) was the first African American woman to serve as a United States senator, and the first woman to serve as a senator from the State of Illinois. In 1999, President Clinton appointed Moseley Braun United States Ambassador to New Zealand. Moseley Braun was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 19, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_024
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Carol Moseley-Braun was born in Chicago to Edna, a medical technician, and Joseph Moseley, a Chicago police officer, in 1947. Her parents emphasized the importance of education and the necessity of hard work throughout Carol's childhood and she learned these lessons well. A self-motivated individual even as a youth, Carol Moseley-Braun worked in the post office and in grocery stores in order to finance her own education after high school. Her diligence earned her a law degree from the University of Chicago, which the ambitious young woman received with honors.

Carol Moseley-Braun worked for three years as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Her success as a prosecutor earned her the United States Attorney General's Special Achievement Award. Then, in 1978, Moseley-Braun was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, where she immediately earned a reputation as an uncompromising stateswoman. Her legislative legacy has been her ability to build coalitions comprised of people of all races who are committed to the same principles of efficient government. During her first election for State Representative, Carol Moseley-Braun pledged to make education her top priority. She was the chief sponsor of the 1985 Urban School Improvement Act, which created parents' councils at every school in Chicago. Other education legislation sponsored by Moseley-Braun included a 1980 bill that provided higher salaries for teachers and professors. After only two terms in the House, Carol Moseley-Braun was selected to become the first woman and the first African American in Illinois history to serve as Assistant Majority Leader.

As the late Mayor Harold Washington's legislative floor leader, Carol Moseley-Braun was the chief sponsor of bills to reform education and to ban discrimination in housing and private clubs. For each of her ten years in the legislature, Carol Moseley-Braun received the "Best Legislator" award given by the Independent Voters of Illinois - Independent Precinct Organization.

On November 3, 1993, Carol Moseley-Braun was elected to the United States Senate. Her victory represented the opening of a new world of opportunity to African Americans, as she was only the second African American elected to the U.S. Senate. Upon taking office, she was named to the Judiciary Committee; the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; and the Small Business Committee. During her term, Carol Moseley-Braun was a strong champion of health care and education reform. In 1994, she authored the Educational Infrastructure Act, which was designed to channel education funds into the areas most needed by low-income communities.

Such measures emphasize Carol Moseley-Braun's tireless fight for the creation of social programs that directly address the needs of a district rather than those that merely promote a political agenda. In 1999, President Clinton appointed Carol Moseley-Braun United States Ambassador to New Zealand. Currently, Moseley-Braun teaches at DePaul University in Chicago and Morris Brown College in Atlanta, where she also serves as vice president of the consulting firm GoodWorks International.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 19, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 8 Betacame SP videocassettes. U.S. senator The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun (1947 - ) was the first African American woman to serve as a United States senator, and the first woman to serve as a senator from the State of Illinois. In 1999, President Clinton appointed Moseley Braun United States Ambassador to New Zealand.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Moseley-Braun, Carol, 1947-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Moseley-Braun, Carol, 1947---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Illinois

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## Occupations:

U.S. Senator

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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## 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 Carol Moseley Braun, March 19, 2002. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:31 ?

Carol Moseley Braun recalls her family background and her early childhood in Chicago, Illinois. She describes in particular her exposure to people of different race, class, and religious affiliations.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:11 ?

Carol Moseley Braun recalls her parents' divorce and its impact on her family. She then recounts her higher education and her early career with the Chicago Housing Authority.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:42 ?

Carol Moseley Braun details her career and family life. She discusses family opposition to her interracial marriage, and her decision to have a child. Braun also remembers her path from the U.S. Attorney's Office to the Illinois state legislature.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Carol Moseley Braun recounts her work in the Illinois state legislature. She discusses Cook County politics under Harold Washington and in the wake of his death. Braun then explains how she became the Cook County Recorder of Deeds.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:48 ?

Carol Moseley Braun remembers Clarence Thomas' confirmation to the Supreme Court. She then details her Senate campaign up through the primary.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_001\_006, TRT: 0:30:57 ?

Carol Moseley Braun recounts some of her challenges and successes as the only black female member of the United States Senate, such as her debate with Jesse Helms over the Confederate flag. She also recalls her 1998 reelection campaign.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_001\_007, TRT: 0:31:04 ?

Carol Moseley Braun recalls her experiences as ambassador to New Zealand. She then reflects on her career and family life, and shares her hopes and concerns for the African American community.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_001\_008, TRT: 0:10:40 ?

Carol Moseley Braun narrates her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_BRAUN\_CAROL\_MOSELEY\_06\_MED\_003, TRT:

This tape contains a 1998 debate between United States Senator Carol Moseley

Braun and her Republican opponent, Peter Fitzgerald, from SCTN Teleproductions.

This is tape one of two from camera one.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_BRAUN\_CAROL\_MOSELEY\_06\_MED\_004, TRT:

This tape contains a 1998 debate between United States Senator Carol Moseley Braun and her Republican opponent, Peter Fitzgerald, from SCTN Teleproductions.

This is tape two of two from camera one.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_BRAUN\_CAROL\_MOSELEY\_06\_MED\_005, TRT:

This tape contains a 1998 debate between United States Senator Carol Moseley Braun and her Republican opponent, Peter Fitzgerald, from SCTN Teleproductions.

This is tape one of three from camera two.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_BRAUN\_CAROL\_MOSELEY\_06\_MED\_006, TRT:

This tape contains a 1998 debate between United States Senator Carol Moseley Braun and her Republican opponent, Peter Fitzgerald, from SCTN Teleproductions.

This is tape two of three from camera two.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_BRAUN\_CAROL\_MOSELEY\_06\_MED\_007, TRT:

This tape contains a 1998 debate between United States Senator Carol Moseley Braun and her Republican opponent, Peter Fitzgerald, from SCTN Teleproductions.

This is tape three of three from camera two.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_CAROL\_MOSELEY\_BRAUN\_06\_MED\_001, TRT: 1:00:00

This tape contains a 1998 debate between United States Senator Carol Moseley Braun and her Republican opponent, Peter Fitzgerald, from SCTN Teleproductions.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, Section A2002\_024\_CAROL\_MOSELEY\_BRAUN\_06\_MED\_002, TRT: 0:23:10

This tape contains footage of interviews with Willie Barrow and Carol Moseley Braun, along with footage of the DuSable Museum. It is roll 15 of the Tanqueray project from 1992.