

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Allie B. Latimer

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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>	Latimer, Allie B., 1929-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Allie B. Latimer,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 20, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:01:37).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer Allie B. Latimer (1928 - ) is the founder of the Federally Employed Women organization and has served as counsel for various government agencies, including NASA. She became the first woman and African American to serve as general counsel of a major federal agency during her tenure with the General Services Administration. Latimer was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 20, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_055
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Attorney and social justice activist Allie Latimer was born on February 16, 1928 in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. Growing up in Alabama, her mother was a schoolteacher and her father was a builder. She attended the Alabama State Lab High School where she earned her high school diploma in the 1940s.

Latimer attended Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina, for a year and then transferred to Hampton Institute in Virginia where she earned her bachelor's of science degree. While at Hampton, she was active with the drama club and dance team. Upon graduation Latimer joined the *American Friends in Service*, which is part of the Quaker International Volunteer Service program and worked at a women's prison in New Jersey. She later traveled to France with the same group as part of a peace rebuilding mission.

In the 1950s, Latimer attended Howard University Law School where she earned her law degree. She has also received a LL.M degree from Catholic University and M. Div. and D.Min from Howard University School of Divinity. In 1969, she became an Ordained Elder at Northeastern Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

In 1968, Latimer organized and founded Federally Employed Women, a national organization, which has more than 200 chapters today. After working in private practice for several years, she joined the General Services Administration (GSA) in the early 1970s as an assistant general counsel. In 1976, Latimer left GSA to serve as an assistant general counsel for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In 1977, she returned to the GSA and made history when she became the first woman and African American to serve as general counsel of a major federal agency. She held that post for ten years until she moved on to serve as Special Counsel for Ethics and Civil Rights at GSA from 1987-1995.

In 1998, Latimer was awarded the prestigious Ollie May Cooper Award for her legal and humanitarian

achievements.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Allie B. Latimer was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on May 20, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Lawyer Allie B. Latimer (1928 - ) is the founder of the Federally Employed Women organization and has served as counsel for various government agencies, including NASA. She became the first woman and African American to serve as general counsel of a major federal agency during her tenure with the General Services Administration.

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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:

Latimer, Allie B., 1929-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Latimer, Allie B., 1929---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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United States. General Services Administration.

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## Occupations:

Lawyer

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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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 Allie B. Latimer, May 20, 2004. 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 Allie B. Latimer, Section A2004\_055\_001\_001, TRT: 0:31:11 ?  
Attorney Allie Latimer details her family background, describing her mother,

father, siblings, grandparents, and other ancestors, explaining how her family arrived in Alabama from Pennsylvania and Georgia. Latimer also shares memories of her childhood household and describes her childhood hometown in Alabama.

Video Oral History Interview with Allie B. Latimer, Section A2004\_055\_001\_002, TRT: 0:31:13 ?

Attorney Allie Latimer describes her childhood neighborhood in Montgomery, Alabama and recalls childhood friends and pastimes. Latimer then details her schooling from elementary through high school, and explains her decision to attend college. Latimer describes her time at Barber-Scotia College and Hampton University, and talks about her career aspirations after graduating from Hampton.

Video Oral History Interview with Allie B. Latimer, Section A2004\_055\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:14 ?

Attorney Allie Latimer details her time spent as a volunteer in Europe before attending law school at Howard University Law School. Latimer explains the difficulties trying to take the bar exam in North Carolina following her degree, detailing her struggle with racial and gender discrimination. Latimer then describes her career as an attorney for the federal government, including her founding of the Federally Employed Women organization, dedicated to helping women overcome gender discrimination in federal employment.

Video Oral History Interview with Allie B. Latimer, Section A2004\_055\_001\_004, TRT: 0:28:59 ?

Attorney Allie Latimer details her accomplishments while working for the General Services Administration and explains how she helped to combat race and gender discrimination in the federal government. Latimer then talks about the time she has spent volunteering for various social organizations, including the Links. Latimer also reflects on her career, the meaning of being black in America, and shares her hopes and concerns for black Americans.