

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Patrick, Deval
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick,
Dates:	October 14, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	8 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:47:02).
Abstract:	Corporate general counsel and governor The Honorable Deval L. Patrick (1956 -) was appointed by President Bill Clinton to be assistant attorney general in charge of the Civil Rights Division. Patrick has since served as general counsel to Texaco, as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary to The Coca-Cola Company, and as the 71st governor of the State of Massachusetts. Patrick was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 14, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_202
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Deval Patrick was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 31, 1956. His father, a musician, left the family while Patrick was young. Patrick was raised by his mother near the Robert Taylor Homes on Chicago's South Side. While in the eighth grade, Patrick was recruited into a program called A Better Chance, which provided scholarships to inner city students. After attending an elite private school, Milton Academy outside of Boston, Massachusetts, Patrick was accepted

to Harvard University, where he earned his A.B. degree in English and American literature in 1978.

After graduating from Harvard, Patrick was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship, where he worked for the United Nations, traveling and living in the Sudan. He returned to the United States in 1979, and enrolled in Harvard Law School, and earned his J.D. degree in 1982. After working as a clerk in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Los Angeles for a year, Patrick moved to New York City and joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. There, he met, and filed a lawsuit in a voting rights case against then Governor Bill Clinton. He remained with the NAACP until 1986, when he joined the Boston law firm of Hill & Barlow, P.C. as a partner. He continued his civil rights work, and in 1994, President Clinton appointed Patrick to the position of assistant attorney general in charge of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. In this role, Patrick worked to ensure that federal laws banning discrimination were enforced. He also oversaw an investigation into a series of church burnings throughout the South.

In 1997, after three years with the Clinton Administration, Patrick returned to private practice with the Boston law firm of Day, Berry & Howard, where he focused his efforts on major commercial litigation and civil rights compliance issues. Patrick then joined Texaco in 1999 as vice president and general counsel, and in 2001, he became executive vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Coca-Cola Company, where he was responsible for the corporation's worldwide legal affairs. Patrick left Coca-Cola in December of 2004.

Patrick serves on the board of directors of Reebok International, Inc, Coca-Cola Enterprises, and A Better Chance, Inc. He is a trustee of the Ford Foundation, and sits on the board of overseers of Harvard University and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Patrick is also the recipient of numerous awards and seven honorary degrees.

He and his wife, Diane Beamus Patrick, have two children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on October 14, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 8 Betacame SP videocassettes. Corporate general counsel and governor The Honorable Deval L. Patrick (1956 -) was appointed by President Bill Clinton to be assistant attorney general in charge of the Civil Rights Division. Patrick has since served as general counsel to Texaco, as executive vice president,

general counsel and secretary to The Coca-Cola Company, and as the 71st governor of the State of Massachusetts.

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:

Patrick, Deval

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Melnick, Coy (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Patrick, Deval--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Corporate General Counsel

Governor

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 Deval L. Patrick, October 14, 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 2/5/2020 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 Deval L. Patrick,
Section A2004_202_001_001, TRT: 0:29:12 2004/10/14

Deval L. Patrick was born on July 31, 1956 in Chicago, Illinois. His mother, Emily Wintersmith Patrick, was born and raised in Chicago. Her father worked as a custodian for South Shore Bank for forty-five years and her mother was an accomplished gardener. Emily Patrick suffered from lupus for many years. Patrick's father, Laurdine "Pat" Patrick, was born in East Moline, Illinois and was a jazz musician who specialized in the baritone saxophone and had a particular gift for listening. Patrick's parents first met at DuSable High School in Chicago; they divorced when he was four, after his mother learned that his father had a child with another woman; his father struck Patrick when he tried to stop him from leaving. After the divorce, Patrick lived with his mother and sister at his maternal grandparents' apartment in Washington Park, Chicago. There, Patrick attended Cosmopolitan Community Church with his family, played stickball, rode bikes, and avoided rising gang activity in the neighborhood.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick,

Deval L. Patrick was raised in Washington Park, Chicago, Illinois where he played with makeshift toys he and his friends crafted. Patrick attended Mary C. Terrell School in Chicago for most of his elementary education. His sixth-grade teacher, Eddie Quaintance, taught him German and took his class to the opera and the movie theater. Patrick was a shy child, partly because of his absent father and the family's poverty. He excelled in school, although he was scorned for this by classmates. Patrick had a drum teacher who played timpani for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and was also a draftsman. He inspired Patrick to dream of being an architect. Patrick lived near the Robert Taylor Homes, to which his mother once considered moving. During Patrick's adolescence, gang activity increased in Washington Park, which led his grandparents to send him to Bible camp during the summers. Patrick explains the origin of his first name, which his father created as a compromise from his band Sun Ra's suggestion of "Devil."

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick,
Section A2004_202_001_003, TRT: 0:29:27 2004/10/14

Deval L. Patrick attended one of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches while growing up in Chicago, Illinois. He saw his grandfather cry for the first time after the death of President John F. Kennedy, and his family had to stop using their living room due to stray bullets during the Woodlawn riots of 1968. Patrick's seventh-grade teacher at DuSable Upper School, Darla Weissenberg, encouraged him to apply for a scholarship through A Better Chance, and he was accepted into Milton Academy, a boarding school in Milton, Massachusetts which was originally a preparatory school for Harvard University. At Milton Academy, Patrick enjoyed having his own room for the first time, but was self-conscious about feeling academically underprepared. His ninth-grade English teacher, A.O. Smith, mentored Patrick. Patrick also interacted with classmates from different backgrounds. During the summers, Patrick returned to Chicago to work at a machine shop, but he felt distanced from his old neighborhood friends.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick,
Section A2004_202_001_004, TRT: 0:28:50 2004/10/14

Deval L. Patrick entered Milton Academy, a private school in Milton, Massachusetts, on a scholarship in the fall of 1970. At Milton, he met his lifelong best friend, Will Speers, and developed a commitment to public service. Upon graduating in 1974, Patrick enrolled at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts upon the recommendation of his teacher, A.O. Smith. At Harvard, he was active in the community of his residence hall, Dunster House; its headmaster, law professor James Vorenberg, became his mentor. Patrick graduated from Harvard in 1978, and then received a Rockefeller Fellowship to live and work abroad in Sudan. Patrick's travels to Sudan were fraught with vehicle failures and abandonment by the official who was going to supervise him. Eventually he traveled to the Darfur region where he operated a job training program for local residents. During his year in Sudan, Patrick visited Egypt for the first time and saw the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Egypt.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick,
Section A2004_202_001_005, TRT: 0:28:55 2004/10/14

Deval L. Patrick was accepted to Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts while living abroad in Sudan. Patrick enjoyed his law school classes and won the Ames Moot Court Competition. During the summers, he interned with corporate law firms, including Winston & Strawn LLP and Heller Ehrman LLP. After graduating law school in 1982, Patrick was appointed as a clerk for Judge Stephen Reinhardt on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Los Angeles, California where he met his wife, Diane. The couple moved to New York City, and Patrick joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where his casework included defending Selma, Alabama marchers against voter fraud allegations, procuring a stay of execution for an Alabama inmate, and suing the State of Arkansas in order to improve voter registration standards. After the birth of his first daughter, Patrick joined Hill and Barlow, a law firm based out of Boston, Massachusetts, where he worked

with his friend Reginald C. Lindsay.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick,
Section A2004_202_001_006, TRT: 0:29:51 2004/10/14

Deval L. Patrick became the first African American partner at Hill and Barlow in Boston, Massachusetts in 1990, after working there for four years. At Hill and Barlow, he stayed active in public service through pro bono work and tried to push the firm toward greater collaboration in work with clients. After President William Jefferson “Bill” Clinton was elected in 1992, Patrick was one of three finalists for the job of U.S. attorney for Massachusetts. Although he was not chosen for this post, this consideration led Clinton to nominate Patrick as assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1994. With assistance from Senator Ted Kennedy, Patrick was easily confirmed for the position. With the civil rights office, Patrick worked on setting affirmative action policy and also accompanied President Clinton to numerous events. At one commencement speech, he advised the president to nominate Stephen Breyer to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Clinton heeded this advice.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick,
Section A2004_202_001_007, TRT: 0:31:13 2004/10/14

Deval L. Patrick investigated a series of arsons at rural black churches and formed the National Church Arson Taskforce to solve these cases while serving as assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, he also advised President Bill Clinton in favor of affirmative action policy, which culminated in Clinton’s speech at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. in 1995. Midway through his term at the Justice Department, Patrick began commuting from Boston after his family moved back there. He left the Justice Department in 1997 and became general counsel for Texaco, Inc. where he managed a racial discrimination case that Texaco was settling and oversaw the company’s merger with the Chevron Corporation. After the merger, he joined The Coca-Cola Company, which was facing sales pitfalls at the time, as its general counsel. Patrick reflects on the ways in which

African American leaders are tasked with representing historical progress.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Deval L. Patrick,
Section A2004_202_001_008, TRT: 0:20:17 2004/10/14

Deval L. Patrick reflects on his experiences as general counsel for Texaco, Inc. and The Coca-Cola Company. He shares his belief that a general counsel is most useful to a company when he or she acts as an advisor rather than a mere legal technician. Patrick considers the present condition and future goals for African Americans in the corporate sector. He describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community and reflects upon his life and legacy.