

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with U. Lawrence Boze

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Boze, U. Lawrence, 1949-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with U. Lawrence Boze,
Dates:	November 3, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:27:19).
Abstract:	Lawyer U. Lawrence Boze (1949 -) founded U. Lawrence Bozé and Associates, a firm which specializes in environmental law, real estate, and commerce litigation. In addition, Bozé served as a closing attorney and tort litigator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and is an AMI certified mediator. Boze was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 3, 2004, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_225
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Houston attorney U. Lawrence Bozé, was born November 1, 1949, in Houston, Texas; his mother Iva Stewart Bozé's family operated Stewart's Grocery, and his father, U.L. Bozé, founded Riverside Bank, Houston's first African American controlled bank. Bozé graduated from Phyllis Wheatley High School in 1967. From there, Bozé went on to attend the University of Houston on a football scholarship, where he earned his B.S. degree in 1973. In 1978, Bozé became the first student to receive a master's in finance degree and a J.D. degree from Texas

Southern University in their joint degree program; he graduated Summa Cum Laude and was valedictorian of both programs.

Bozé served as the bankruptcy counsel for Chevron U.S.A./Gulf Oil Corporation from 1978 to 1987. As vice president/bankruptcy counsel for Allied Bankshares, Inc., Bozé formulated the bankruptcy section of Allied Banks of Texas, which consisted of fifty-two banks and handled a docket of over 700 pre-bankruptcy cases. Later, Bozé founded U. Lawrence Bozé and Associates, which specialized in environmental law, real estate, and commerce litigation. In addition, Bozé served as a closing attorney and tort litigator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and is an AMI certified mediator. In 1994, Bozé became the first black fee attorney for Fidelity National Title.

Active in the National Bar Association (NBA) since 1987, Bozé served as the president of the affiliate, Houston Lawyers Association, in 1987. In 1991, Bozé founded and became the first president of the Texas Association of African American Lawyers. Bozé was elected the NBA's 54th president in 1996; he served as a State Bar Examiner for the Texas Board of Law Examiners from 1997 on. Bozé is a recipient of the NAACP Distinguished Service to the Houston Community Award.

U. Lawrence Boze was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November, 3, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with U. Lawrence Boze was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 3, 2004, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Lawyer U. Lawrence Boze (1949 -) founded U. Lawrence Bozé and Associates, a firm which specializes in environmental law, real estate, and commerce litigation. In addition, Bozé served as a closing attorney and tort litigator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and is an AMI certified mediator.

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:

Boze, U. Lawrence, 1949-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Boze, U. Lawrence, 1949---Interviews

African American executives--Interviews

African American lawyers--Texas--Houston--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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 U. Lawrence Boze, November 3, 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 U. Lawrence Boze, Section
A2004_225_001_001, TRT: 0:29:00 2004/11/03

Evans Crawford was born in 1923 in Temple, Texas. His mother, Mary Enge Crawford, died when he was three years old, so he knew little about her family and was raised primarily by his father, Evans Crawford, Sr., and his paternal grandmother, Rosie Crawford. His grandmother was born in Kentucky and, with her family, relocated to Texas. Her mother was a former slave who may have had Native American ancestry. Crawford's paternal grandfather came to Texas from Louisiana and may have originated from Jamaica; he was known for his heroism. Crawford's father grew up in Troy, Texas where a lynching took place in his youth. He completed the eighth grade, worked in service and was able to help with his siblings' schooling. Crawford was raised in Temple, a railroad town where his father took part in unionizing efforts and was a preacher at Methodist Episcopal Church South. Crawford was influenced by his father and developed an interest in religion at an early age. His family celebrated Christmas and Easter at the church.

African American executives--Interviews.

African American lawyers--Texas--Houston--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with U. Lawrence Boze, Section
A2004_225_001_002, TRT: 0:29:50 2004/11/03

U. Lawrence Boze's mother died when he was sixteen. Her musical career was later honored when the choir she headed in West Texas was renamed the Iva Boze Spiritual Forces Community Choir. Boze, inspired by his mother's

love of music, sang, played cello and upright bass, performed in 'Aida' at Phillis Wheatley High School in Houston, Texas and toured the Chitlin' Circuit after high school. He turned down a music scholarship at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute to attend the University of Houston on a football scholarship. There, Boze encountered future stars, such as Cliff Branch, and was coached by Bill Yeoman, who he was fond of; he disliked the pressure placed on black athletes to avoid black student union meetings, though. Despite these restrictions, Boze continued playing football, even when demoted to third string. Ultimately, the demotion led him to focus on school, which helped him succeed outside of football. Boze describes the football culture of Texas and the exploitation of college athletes.

Video Oral History Interview with U. Lawrence Boze, Section A2004_225_001_003, TRT: 0:28:00 2004/11/03

U. Lawrence Boze attended the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston in Texas. After being fired from a hotel job, he entered a dual degree program in law and business at Texas Southern University in Houston. In law school, he met a good friend who later helped him rent the Astrodome for a black college All-Star football game. Boze was hired by Gulf Oil in 1978. As a lawyer for Gulf, he saw how big oil companies profited by taking land from black families, and he also experienced racism, which led him to file a discrimination suit against the company in 1987. Though he lost the case, the company began hiring more black lawyers after it. After a brief tenure with Allied Bancshares, Inc., Boze started his own private practice. He represented the Pleasantville Civic League of Houston after the area was exposed to hazardous waste. Boze remembers meeting Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill through Gil Hardy in Washington, D.C. and narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with U. Lawrence Boze, Section A2004_225_001_004, TRT: 0:29:20 2004/11/03

U. Lawrence Boze encountered strong mentors in his law school and in his professional life. As president of the National Bar Association, Boze traveled to Jamaica, where

he supported a banana boycott, and Brazil. He also met many prominent African American attorneys, including HistoryMaker Charles Ogletree, and witnessed President Bill Clinton's apology to the Tuskegee syphilis survivors. In his practice, Boze focused mostly on environmental cases, though he also took up some entertainment cases. At the time of the interview, He was most proud of representing the African American community of Pleasantville, Texas in a hazardous waste lawsuit. He also hoped to win a case for railroad workers who were exposed to hazardous materials on the job. Boze explains his legal philosophy, recounts his family's accomplishments, remembers meeting Thurgood Marshall and the controversy in the National Bar Association over the decision to invite Clarence Thomas as a speaker. He concludes by narrating his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with U. Lawrence Boze, Section A2004_225_001_005, TRT: 0:31:09 2004/11/03

U. Lawrence Boze was profiled at an airport in 1997. He contacted HistoryMaker Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, appeared on 'The Tavis Smiley Show' and USA Today about the experience and eventually launched a suit against U.S. Air to address the discrimination that was coined 'flying while black.' In this section of the interview, Boze shares his concerns for the African American community, his thoughts about the role of historically black colleges and universities and his praise for earlier generations whose achievements inspired his efforts and accomplishments. He remembers his parents, reflects upon his life and legacy and describes how he would like to be remembered. Boze also sings a song and concludes by narrating his photographs.