

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Patricia Mell

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Mell, Patricia, 1953-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Mell,
Dates:	December 15, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:20:31).
Abstract:	Academic administrator Patricia Mell (1953 -) was the first woman and first African American dean of the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. Mell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 15, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_264
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

John Marshall Law School Dean Patricia Mell was born December 15, 1953 in Cleveland, Ohio. Her father, Julian Cooper Mell, was one of Cleveland's first black homicide detectives and her mother, Thelma Webb Mell, was a school principal. Mell attended Doan Elementary School on the East Side. She graduated from Collinwood High School in 1971. Mell chose Wellesley College and graduated with an A.B. degree with honors in 1975. Going immediately to Case Western Reserve Law School, she earned a J.D. in 1978.

Mell worked for the Ohio Attorney General's Office as a trial lawyer and assistant

attorney general in the Regulatory Division from 1975 to 1982. She was the corporation counsel for the Ohio Secretary of State from 1982 to 1984. At Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio Mell served as visiting assistant professor in 1984 and 1985. She was assistant professor at University of Toledo Law School and associate professor at Widener University by 1986. In 1989, Mell participated in the Economics for Law Professors, George Mason University Program at Dartmouth. Mell joined the legal firm of Lewis, White and Clay in Detroit in 1991 and taught as an adjunct at Wayne State University. Joining the faculty of the Michigan State University – Detroit College of Law in 1992, Mell was associate dean for academic affairs from 1998 to 2001. She was visiting professor at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law before her appointment as dean of John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 2003. Mell is the first woman and first African American dean in the school's 104-year history.

Mell's expertise lies in the area of criminal law, the legal aspects of commerce, corporations and partnerships. Interested in privacy and computers and constitutional rights she has written about the U.S. Patriot Act. Mell also authored a textbook entitled *Criminal Law: Cases, Commentary and Questions* (2005). Married to Dr. Michael Ragland, Mell has three stepchildren.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Patricia Mell was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 15, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator Patricia Mell (1953 -) was the first woman and first African American dean of the John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

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

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:

Mell, Patricia, 1953-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Mell, Patricia, 1953---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

John Marshall Law School (Chicago, Ill.)

Occupations:

Academic Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Patricia Mell, December 15, 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 Patricia Mell, Section
A2004_264_001_001, TRT: 0:28:30 2004/12/15

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Mell, Section
A2004_264_001_002, TRT: 0:28:40 2004/12/15

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Mell, Section
A2004_264_001_003, TRT: 0:29:21 2004/12/15

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Mell, Section
A2004_264_001_004, TRT: 0:28:20 2004/12/15

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Mell, Section
A2004_264_001_005, TRT: 0:25:40 2004/12/15