

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Gregory Mathis

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Mathis, Greg
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Gregory Mathis,
Dates:	December 15, 2006 and February 25, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005 and 2006
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:17:58).
Abstract:	Federal district court judge and television personality The Honorable Gregory Mathis (1960 -) was the youngest elected judge in Michigan's history, and the host of the Warner Brothers Television program, the Judge Mathis Show. Mathis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 15, 2006 and February 25, 2005, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_055
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Judge Greg Mathis, the youngest elected judge in Michigan's history, was born on April 5, 1960, in Detroit, Michigan. Raised by his mother, Mathis's troubled upbringing and membership in the Errol Flynn's gang is documented in his 2002 autobiography *Inner City Miracle*. After attending Herman Gardens Elementary School, Peterson Seventh Day Adventist School, and Wayne Memorial High School, Mathis earned his GED through Operation PUSH while on juvenile probation in 1977. Mathis received his B.S. degree in public administration from Eastern Michigan University in 1982 and his J.D. degree from the University of

Detroit Law School in 1987. Mathis led the Free South Africa and voter registration campaigns at Eastern Michigan University.

In 1983 Mathis joined the staff of Detroit City Councilman Clyde Cleveland, volunteered for Operation Push, and worked on Reverend Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign in 1984. In 1986, Mathis, his wife Linda, and some friends formed Young Adults Asserting Themselves (YAAT) and four preschools in Detroit. Chosen to head Reverend Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign in Michigan, Mathis later worked as the manager of Detroit's Neighborhood City Halls for the late Mayor Coleman A. Young. In 1995, Mathis was elected to Michigan's 36 District Court, and in 1998 Warner Brothers Television launched the *Judge Mathis Show*.

Featured prominently in both the print and electronic media, Mathis has been the recipient of many awards and honors. A chairman of Rainbow/PUSH-Excel board, a lifetime member of the NAACP, and a member the Southern Christian Leadership Conference board, Mathis and his wife and college sweetheart, Linda, have raised four children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Gregory Mathis was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 15, 2006 and February 25, 2005, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Federal district court judge and television personality The Honorable Gregory Mathis (1960 -) was the youngest elected judge in Michigan's history, and the host of the Warner Brothers Television program, the Judge Mathis Show.

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:

Mathis, Greg

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Mathis, Greg--Interviews

African American judges--Interviews

African American television personalities--Interviews

African American civic leaders--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Federal District Court Judge

Television Personality

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers|MediaMakers

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 Gregory Mathis, December 15, 2006 and February 25, 2005. 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 Gregory Mathis,
Section A2005_055_001_001, TRT: 0:28:57 2005/02/25

African American judges--Interviews.

African American television personalities--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Gregory Mathis,
Section A2005_055_001_002, TRT: 0:29:33 2005/02/25

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Gregory Mathis,
Section A2005_055_002_003, TRT: 0:29:22 2006/12/15

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Gregory Mathis,
Section A2005_055_002_004, TRT: 0:28:36 2006/12/15

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Gregory Mathis,
Section A2005_055_002_005, TRT: 0:28:12 2006/12/15

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Gregory Mathis,
Section A2005_055_002_006, TRT: 0:29:10 2006/12/15

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Gregory Mathis,
Section A2005_055_002_007, TRT: 0:24:08 2006/12/15