

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Paul Webber

PERSON

Webber, Paul R.

Alternative Names: The Honorable Paul Webber;
Paul Rainey Webber III

Life Dates: January 24, 1934-

Place of Birth: Gadsden, South Carolina, USA

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Superior Court Judge

Biographical Note

Senior judge in the District of Columbia Superior Court, Paul Rainey Webber, III was born on January 24, 1934 in Gadsden, South Carolina to Paul Rainey Webber, Jr. and Clemmie Embley Webber. His parents, both educators, met at South Carolina State University. Webber's mother is the author of *My Treadwell Street Saga* and *The College Soda Shop – An Education for Life*, chronicling the business. Webber attended Felton Elementary School, the South Carolina State College

Lab School and graduated from Wilkinson High School in 1951. He earned his B.A. degree in political science in 1955 from South Carolina State College and his J.D. degree from South Carolina State College's School of Law in 1957.

Webber practiced law in Columbia, South Carolina for nineteen months and taught at Allen University. He was married in 1958 before leaving for UCLA where he was employed as assistant law librarian in 1959. In 1960, he joined Golden State Mutual Insurance Company as associate legal counsel. Webber was appointed trial attorney for the Antitrust Division of the United States Justice Department in 1964. In 1967, he becomes managing attorney for the Neighborhood Legal Services Program, serving during the 1968 riots. Webber became a partner with Thompson Evans Dolphin and Webber in 1969, which later became Dolphin Branton Stafford and Webber. In Washington, Webber taught at Howard University School of Communications and later at George Washington University School of Law. Webber was appointed Washington, D.C. Superior Court Judge in 1977. In 1985, he was named "Outstanding Trial Judge of the Year" and was rated "One of the Best Trial Justices in the Washington Metropolitan Area" by Washington Magazine in 1996. Webber ascended to Senior Judge of the D.C. Superior Court in 1998 and was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame that same year.

Webber is a member of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Think Tank, the Council for Court Excellence, and the Guardsmen. He serves as board member and general counsel for the Boule, Sigma Pi Phi and is also the author of *Enjoy the Journey, One Lawyer's Memoir*.

Webber is married to Fay DeShields Webber and has three grown children.

Webber was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on

February 6, 2007.

Related Entries

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Felton Laboratory Charter School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

South Carolina State University Lab School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Allen University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Professor of Business Law

Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company
[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Legal Counsel

University of California Los Angeles School of Law
[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1959 to ?]

Law Librarian

District of Columbia Superior Court [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to ?]

Judge

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Boule) [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Center for Political and Economic Studies [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]