

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Deborah Lathen

PERSON

Lathen, Deborah A.

**Alternative Names:** Deborah Lathen;

**Life Dates:** March 28, 1953-

**Place of Birth:** St. Louis, Missouri, USA

**Residence:** Washington, D.C.

**Work:** Washington, D.C.

**Occupations:** Corporate Lawyer

## Biographical Note

Attorney and former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Cable Bureau Chief, Deborah Ann Lathen was born on March 28, 1953, in St. Louis, Missouri. After graduating from Cornell University with her B.A. degree in 1975, Lathen went on to earn her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1978.

Lathen then practiced law at the law offices of Foley

and Lardner LLP, and of Keck, Mahin & Cate. In 1982, she became a litigation attorney at The Quaker Oats Company where she was honored with the Quaker Oats Chairman's Award in 1988. That same year, Lathen was hired as the Senior Counsel for TRW, Inc.

In 1991, Lathen began working as managing counsel for the Nissan Motor Corporation and specialized in the provision of legal services in the areas of general corporate law, logistics, finance, environmental compliance and other general business matters. Lathen worked for the Nissan Corporation until 1998, when she was hired at the FCC as bureau chief of the Cable Services Bureau. In addition to advising the chairman and commissioners on issues related to internet industries, broadband and cable, as bureau chief, Lathen oversaw some significant changes in the communications industry such as the America Online and Time Warner merger, the implementation of the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act (SHIVA) and the federal regulation of instant messaging.

In 2001, Lathen founded Lathen Consulting in Washington, D.C. and began providing consulting services to telecommunications and media companies. In 2007, she was asked to serve as a board member for British Telecommunications (BT), where she serves on the Remuneration Committee.

## **Related Entries**

**Mckinley Elem School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Larsen Middle School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Elgin High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**High school diploma**

**Cornell University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Harvard Law School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**J.D.**

**Foley and Lardner** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1978 to 1980]

**Lawyer**

**Quaker Oats Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1980 to 1988]

**In-house Counsel**

**TRW (Northrop Grumman)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1988 to 1990]

**In-house Counsel**

**Nissan** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1990 to 1998]

**In-house Counsel**

**Federal Communications Commission** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1998 to 2001]

**Cable bureau head**

**British Telecom** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2007 to ?]

**board member**