

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Demetrius Carney

PERSON

**Carney, Demetrius, 1947-**

**Alternative Names:** Demetrius Carney;

**Life Dates:** April 29, 1947-

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** Chicago, IL

**Work:** Chicago, IL

**Occupations:** Corporate Lawyer

## Biographical Note

Corporate lawyer and Chicago police board president Demetrius Edward Carney was born on April 29, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois to James and Jessie Carney. Carney attended Chicago's Holy Angels Catholic School and Joachim Junior High School. He went on to graduate in 1969 from De La Salle High School. Afterwards, Carney attended Loyola University where he initially pursued a degree in mathematics, but decided to

change his major to psychology.

Carney graduated from Loyola University in 1972 and went on to work as a teacher at Chicago's St. Ignatius College Preparatory High School. While working as a teacher, Carney was encouraged by a colleague to pursue a law degree. He then enrolled at DePaul University and graduated with his J.D. degree in 1974.

Also in 1974, Carney joined the law firm of Butler, Todd & Tucker. He left the firm in 1977 and partnered with Jerome Butler and formed the private practice of Butler & Carney. Then in 1978, he was hired by Lafontant, Wilkins & Butler and represented several organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Carney went on to form Carney & Brothers in 1985. He worked there until 1995 when he began working at the law firm of Wildman, Harold, Allen & Dixon, focusing his practice in the areas of real estate development. In 2003, Carney joined the Seattle based-firm, Perkins Coie, where he began specializing in the areas of government relations and lobbying issues.

Carney became the chairman of the Chicago police board. His other affiliations include the Cook County Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association. He serves on the board of trustees at St. Ignatius College Preparatory High School and on the board of directors at the Chicago Culture Center Foundation. Carney is a former commissioner and planning commissioner for the City of Chicago.

Carney lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Carney was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 5, 2008.

## **Related Entries**

**De La Salle Institute** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Joachim Junior High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Holy Angels Catholic School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Loyola University Chicago** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**St. Ignatius College Prep** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Teacher, U.S. History**

**Chicago Title and Trust Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Legal Clerk**

**Tucker, Watson, Butler and Todd** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Law Associate**

**Butler and Carney** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Partner**

**Lafontant, Wilkins and Butler** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to ?]

**Attorney**

**Carney and Brothers** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1983 to 1997]

**Founder, Partner**

**Wildman, Harrold, Allen and Dixon LLP** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1997 to 2005]

**Attorney**

**Perkins Coie LLP** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2005 to ?]

**Attorney**

**American Bar Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Black Law Students Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**American Consortium Lawyers, Inc.** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Founding Member**

**Cook County Bar Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Bar Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chicago Cultural Center Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**City of Chicago Plan Commission** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1989 to 1995]

**Member**

**Chicago Police Board** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1995 to ?]

**President**

