

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Anthony R. Chase

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Chase, Anthony R., 1955-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Anthony R. Chase,
Dates:	March 10, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:43:00).
Abstract:	Management consulting entrepreneur and telecommunications entrepreneur Anthony R. Chase (1955 -) was the CEO of ChaseSource LP and Chase Radio Partners. He was involved in business ventures in the wireless phone industry, the radio broadcasting industry and taught college courses on both law and business. Chase was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 10, 2008, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_042
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

CEO of ChaseSource LP and Chase Radio Partners Anthony Ray Chase was born on March 17, 1955, in Houston, Texas, to architect John Saunders Chase and teacher Drucie Chase. As a youth, Chase was a high achiever, a Boy Scout and eventually earned the status of Eagle Scout. He attended Lockhart Elementary School and graduated as class valedictorian. He was then recruited as one of the first African Americans to attend Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia.

In 1977, Chase graduated with honors from Harvard University with his B.A. degree in economics and government. Then, in 1981, he earned his M.B.A. and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School. Upon graduation, Chase returned to Houston and was hired at the investment banking firm of Rotan Mosley. He then moved to New York City where he worked for the investment firm of Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, advising telecommunications and broadcast companies.

In 1990, Chase began teaching communications law and contracts at the University of Houston Law Center, where he has since been awarded tenure. In 1992, he purchased the Dallas-based radio station, KGGR, creating a black gospel radio network. Chase continued to purchase radio stations with formats ranging from country to rap in Texas, Louisiana and California. He then formed an alliance with Clear Channel Communications in San Antonio, Texas. Then, in 1992, Texas Governor Bill Clements appointed Chase to the Board of Regents at Texas Southern University.

Chase went on to found Chase Telecommunications in 1994. However, after three years in the wireless phone industry, he decided to sell his company to a Qualcomm affiliate in 1997. A year later, Chase started Chase Com and began providing both residential and business telecommunications services. Chase Com partnered with SBC Communications and became one of the first agents to offer SBC products and services nationwide. Later, in 1998,

in an effort to bridge the digital divide, Chase co-founded the Telecom Opportunity Institute with SBC Communications. In 2000, he became the chief executive officer of Chase Radio Partners. The next year, he co-founded ChaseSource LP to manage the rapidly growing Staffing Solutions Division of ChaseCom. In 2007, ChaseCom was sold to AT&T. Chase is lead director on the board of Cornell, Companies, Inc.; and serves on the boards of Western Gas Partners, LP; Texas Medical Center; and Northern Trust Bank of Texas. He is Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Chase has received numerous awards and recognitions including: The Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Businessman of the Year Award conferred by the Business and Professional Men's Club, the Lamont Godwin National Achievement Award from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Outstanding Young Businessman Award from *Texas Business Magazine*, and Bank of America's Pinnacle Award.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Anthony R. Chase was conducted by Denise Gines on March 10, 2008, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Management consulting entrepreneur and telecommunications entrepreneur Anthony R. Chase (1955 -) was the CEO of ChaseSource LP and Chase Radio Partners. He was involved in business ventures in the wireless phone industry, the radio broadcasting industry and taught college courses on both law and business.

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 HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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:

Chase, Anthony R., 1955-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Chase, Anthony R., 1955- --Interviews

African American businesspeople--Interviews

Business teachers--Interviews

African Americans in radio broadcasting--Interviews

African American executives--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Telecommunications Entrepreneur

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Anthony R. Chase, March 10, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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 Anthony R. Chase, Section A2008_042_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40
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Anthony R. Chase was born on March 17, 1955 in Houston, Texas to Drucie Rucker Chase and John S. Chase. Chase's paternal grandfather, John S. Chase, Sr., left the family when Chase's father was young. Chase's father was then raised in Annapolis, Maryland by Chase's paternal grandmother, Viola Hall Chase, as well as her sister, Ethel Hall Brown, whose husband worked at the United States Naval Academy dining hall. Chase's father served in the Philippines during World War II; and then, from 1950, attended graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was the first black man to study architecture. Chase's maternal grandparents, Beatrice Rucker and John Rucker, owned land near Austin, Texas, and operated a gravel business until the Great Depression. His mother was born in Austin in 1932, and was educated at L.C. Anderson High School and Huston-Tillotson College. His parents married in 1951, and raised Chase and his siblings in Houston. They often visited his mother's family in Austin.

African American businesspeople--Interviews.

Business teachers--Interviews.

African Americans in radio broadcasting--Interviews.

African American executives--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony R. Chase, Section A2008_042_001_002, TRT: 0:29:20
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Anthony R. Chase grew up in the Riverside Terrace community of Houston, Texas, where his neighbors included college president Joseph A. Pierce, and physicians C.W. Thompson and Dr. Robert J. Bacon, Sr. His father, architect John S. Chase, designed numerous African American churches in East Texas, and taught drafting at Houston's Texas Southern University. Chase's parents were active in the Civil Rights Movement, and hosted local politicians like Lloyd Bentsen and Mickey Leland at their home. They also coordinated with the leaders of the movement elsewhere in Texas, including Reverend Dr. Marvin Griffin and M.J. Anderson. In Houston, Chase began his education at Lockhart Elementary School, where he was the president of the student council, and met civil rights attorney Barbara Jordan when she spoke at his graduation. Chase later attended Cullen Middle School, and joined an all-black Boy Scout troop with over 150 members, led by scoutmaster C. Reger Hall. He went on to attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony R. Chase, Section A2008_042_001_003, TRT: 0:29:40

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Anthony R. Chase attended Cullen Junior High School in Houston, Texas, where he had white teachers and classmates for the first time. Due to his high test scores, Chase was recruited by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. to receive an Anne C. Stouffer Foundation scholarship to Episcopal High School, a formerly all-white boarding school in Alexandria, Virginia. He prepared at a summer program at Duke University, where he met politician Howard N. Lee and activist Julian Bond; and then, in 1968, enrolled at Episcopal High School, where he was one of two black students. Taking up lacrosse, he set a school record for the number of goals scored, and was invited to dinner at the home of George H.W. Bush, who was a congressman from Houston at the time. Chase returned to Houston each summer to see his family and to work. While at school, he clerked for U.S. Representative Robert Grier Stephens, Jr. Upon graduating, Chase enrolled at Harvard University, where his peers included future Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony R. Chase, Section A2008_042_001_004, TRT: 0:30:20
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Anthony R. Chase initially majored in pre-medical studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts; but changed his focus to economics and government, studying under professors Doris Kearns Goodwin and David Herbert Donald. At Harvard University, Chase played lacrosse, served as a student director of the John F. Kennedy Institute of Politics and hosted a jazz show on WHRB Radio. He also worked for politicians Lloyd Bentsen and Barbara Jordan. Chase graduated in 1977, and enrolled in a joint program at Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School, where he studied under professors David L. Shapiro and Derrick A. Bell, Jr. He received his J.D. and M.B.A. degrees in 1981. Chase began his career at Rotan Mosle, Inc., an investment banking firm in Houston; and, in 1984, joined the firm of Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette in New York City, where his clients were mostly broadcasting companies. In 1989, he was hired to teach at the University of Houston Law Center, and began working in the radio industry.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony R. Chase, Section A2008_042_001_005, TRT: 0:30:55
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Anthony R. Chase served as a vice president at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, an investment banking firm in New York City. After moving to Houston, Texas, he purchased KGGR Radio in Dallas, Texas in 1992, when few African Americans owned broadcasting stations. He went on to purchase twelve more stations under the mentorship of communications executive Herbert P. Wilkins, Sr. He also published articles on race and telecommunications law, and became a tenured professor at the University of Houston Law Center in 1994. After regulatory reforms passed in 1996, Chase sold his radio holdings to several large corporations. In 1997, he founded ChaseCom L.P., a vendor that provided customer service solutions to AT&T Inc. He also partnered with William E. Kennard, the chair of the Federal Communications Commission, to establish the Telecom Opportunity Institute, which offered technical communications training to underserved communities. In 2000, Chase founded Chase Radio Partners, thus reentering the radio industry.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony R. Chase, Section A2008_042_001_006, TRT: 0:14:05
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Anthony R. Chase served as a law professor at the University of Houston Law Center, and also taught courses on entrepreneurship at the C.T. Bauer College of Business in Houston, Texas. During the 2000s, he joined the Council on Foreign

Relations; and served on the boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Houston Branch, and later the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. In addition, Chase was introduced to President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama by law professor David B. Wilkins and Massachusetts Governor Deval L. Patrick, who were Chase's classmates at the Harvard Law School. Chase married Dina Alsowayel Chase, a professor of Middle Eastern history at Houston's Rice University. Together, they adopted a son, Jordan Chase. Chase reflects upon his life and legacy, and concludes the interview by sharing a message to future generations.