

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Alford Dempsey, Jr.

PERSON

Dempsey, Alford J., 1947-

**Alternative Names:** The Honorable Alford Dempsey, Jr.;

**Life Dates:** March 19, 1947-

**Place of Birth:** Atlanta, Georgia, USA

**Work:** Atlanta, GA

**Occupations:** County Superior Court Judge

## Biographical Note

County Superior Court Judge Alford J. Dempsey, Jr. was born on March 19, 1947 in Atlanta, Georgia to his parents Alford J. Dempsey, Sr. and Maenelle Dempsey. His father served in the U.S. Army and was assigned to General Eisenhower's honor guard in Europe after World War II. While growing up, Dempsey wanted to

join the military to emulate his father. His mother was an educator who worked for the State of Georgia's Department of Education, developing schools in African American communities throughout Georgia. In 1965, Dempsey graduated from New Hampton School, a boarding school in New Hampshire where he played football, basketball, and baseball. Dempsey entered Columbia University that same year as a pre-med student. While at Columbia, Dempsey participated in the 1968 student protests. He later transferred to Morehouse College in Atlanta where he graduated with honors with his B.A. degree in economics in 1972 and in 1976, Dempsey earned his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School. Dempsey began his legal career working on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign. He later became assistant city attorney for the City of Atlanta's Department of Law. In 1992, Dempsey was named judge of the Magistrate Court of Fulton County/State Court in Atlanta. He was appointed by Fulton County State Court Chief Clarence Coopers. In 1995, Dempsey was then appointed to the Fulton County Superior Court by Governor Zell Miller where he presided over civil and felony criminal cases. Dempsey was also instrumental in the development and implementation of the Fulton County Family Court. Dempsey has presided over many high profile cases throughout his career including the case involving the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and allegations of misspending by its leadership.

Dempsey has served as a member of a number of professional legal organizations, including the American Judges Association, the American Judicature Society, the Atlanta Bar Association (Past Chair Judicial Section), the Bleckley Inn of Court, the Gate City Bar Association (Immediate Past Chair Judicial Section), and the National Bar Association. Dempsey has also been active in numerous community organizations including serving as the District Chair of the South Atlanta District of the Boy Scouts of America, a Board member and past president of the Board of Carrie Steele-Pitts Home and a Board

member of Sisters By Choice, Inc.

Alford J. Dempsey, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 20, 2011.

## Related Entries

**Oglethorpe Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Diploma**

**Washington High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**New Hampton Community School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Diploma**

**Columbia University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Morehouse College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Harvard Law School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**J.D.**

**City of Atlanta Department of Law** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Assistant City Attorney**

**Magistrate Court of Fulton County/State Court**

**Presiding Judge** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1958 to 1970]

**Judge of the Magistrate Court of Fulton County**

**Superior Court of Fulton County** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Judge of the Superior Court of Fulton County**

**100 Black Men** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Aniz, Inc.** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to ?]

**Board of Directors**

**New Hampton School Board of Trustees** [MEMBEROF]

[from 200109 to ?]

**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2002 to ?]

**Member**

**Sister-By-Choice, inc.** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1991 to 2006]

**Board Member**

**American Inns of Court** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law American**

**Inn of Court** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Council of Superior Court Judges** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Georgia Courts Automation Commission** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Georgia Supreme Court's Commission on Racial and**

**Ethnic Bias in the Court System** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Gate City Bar Association** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**National Bar Association (NBA)** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**State Bar of Georgia** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Sisters...By Choice, Incorporated** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]