

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with James Winston

PERSON

Winston, James L., 1947-

Alternative Names: James Winston;

Life Dates: August 24, 1947-

Place of Birth: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Telecommunications Lawyer; Broadcast Executive

Biographical Note

Communications attorney James L. Winston was born on August 24, 1947 to Corrie Conwill Winston and Jeff Winston in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has one other sibling, Frances Winston Adderley. Winston graduated from Belmar Elementary School in 1959 and enrolled at Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh. After attending Westinghouse, Winston was admitted to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He graduated with his B.S. degree in

electrical engineering in 1969. Three years later, he received his J.D. degree in law from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Upon graduation, Winston was hired as an attorney for the Roxbury Multi-Service Center in Boston. He then worked for the New York-based law firm LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby and MacRae as an attorney specializing in public utility law before serving as associate counsel for the Western Union Telegraph Company in Washington, D.C. In 1978, Winston worked as a legal assistant to Federal Communications Commissioner Robert F. Lee. After two years with the FCC, he was hired as an associate attorney by the Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen law firm, also in Washington, D.C. Winston then became a managing partner in the law firm of Rubin, Winston, Diercks, Harris & Cooke, LLP in 1981, specializing in telecommunications law. Additionally, he served as executive director and general counsel for the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, Inc. starting in 1982.

For nine years in a row, Winston was named one of the “Leading African Americans in Radio” by Radio Ink magazine. He was also inducted into the American Urban Radio Network Hall of Fame and presented the “Lifetime Leadership Achievement Award.” Winston was also inducted into the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council Hall of Fame and presented its “Lifetime Achievement Award.”

In addition to his achievements, Winston has served on the advisory boards for the Federal Communications Bar Association Executive Committee, the Elon University School of Communications in Elon, North Carolina and the Florida A&M University School of Journalism & Graphic Communication in Tallahassee, Florida. Winston is married and has four adult children. He resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.

James L. Winston was interviewed by the The HistoryMakers on May 3, 2012.

Related Entries

Belmar Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Westinghouse Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Diploma

University of Pennsylvania [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

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

J.D.

Roxbury Multi-Service Center [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1956 to 1974]

Attorney

LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae LLP [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to 1976]

Attorney

Western Union Telegraph Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1931 to ?]

Associate Counsel

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to ?]

Legal Assistant

Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1981]

Attorney

Rubin, Winston, Diercks, Harris & Cooke, L.L.P.

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1981 to ?]

Partner

National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters

(NABOB) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to ?]

Executive Director and General Counsel

**Federal Communications Bar Association Executive
Committee** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Elon University School of Communications [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board of Advisors

Florida A&M University School of Journalism

[MEMBEROF]

[from 1990 to ?]

Board of Visitors