

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Roger Ferguson

PERSON

**Ferguson, Roger W., 1951-**

**Alternative Names:** Roger Ferguson;

**Life Dates:** October 28, 1951-

**Place of Birth:** Washington, District of Columbia,  
USA

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

**Work:** New York, NY

**Occupations:** Economist; Lawyer; Chief Executive  
Officer

## Biographical Note

Chief executive officer, economist and lawyer Roger W. Ferguson, Jr. was born on October 28, 1951 in Washington, D.C. to Roger Ferguson, Sr. and Alberta Elizabeth Lawson Ferguson. After graduating from Sidwell Friends School, he received his B.S. degree in economics from Harvard University in 1973. Ferguson

served as a Frank Knox Fellow at Pembroke College, before receiving his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1979, and his Ph.D. degree in economics from Harvard University in 1981.

Ferguson worked as an attorney for the law firm of Davis Polk & Wardell, LLP in New York before joining McKinsey & Company Inc. in 1984, where he served as an associate, director of research and information systems; and later, as partner. In 1997, Ferguson was appointed to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, becoming the third African American in history to serve on the Federal Reserve Board. In 1999, Ferguson was appointed to serve as vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the first African American to serve in that role. Ferguson served as chairman of the Group of Ten Working Party of Financial Sector Consolidation, chairman of the Committee on the Global Financial System (CGFS), and the chairman of the Financial Stability Forum (FSF) during his tenure as vice chairman. In 2006, Ferguson resigned as vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors; and, in 2008, he joined the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association – College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF) as chief executive officer and President. He also served as economic advisor to President Barack Obama, initially as a member of the President-elect's Transition Economic Advisory Board and subsequently as a member of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

Ferguson has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Bond Market Association, the William F. Butler Memorial Award from the New York Association for Business Economics, the Renaissance Award from the Abyssinian Development Corporation, and the Frederick Helderling Global Leadership Award from the Global Interdependence Center. He also holds honorary doctorate degrees from Lincoln College, Webster University, Michigan State University, Washington and Jefferson College, and Worcester

Polytechnic Institute. In 2009, Ferguson received The “Visionary Award” from the Council for Economic Education and the “Good Scout Award” from the Greater New York Boy Scout Council.

Ferguson is married to former United States Securities and Exchange Commission Commissioner Annette Nazareth. They have two children.

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr. was interviewed by the The HistoryMakers on May 14, 2012 and October 16, 2019.

## **Related Entries**

**Sidwell Friends School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Harvard University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Harvard Law School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**J.D.**

**Harvard University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**Charles E. Young Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**River Terrace Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Jefferson Middle School Academy** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Davis, Polk & Wardell, LLP** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1981 to 1984]

**Attorney**

**McKinsey and Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1984 to 1997]

**Partner**

**United States Federal Reserve System** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1997 to 2006]

**Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors**

**Swiss Re America Holding Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2006 to 2008]

**Chairman**

**Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association**  
[EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2008 to 2012]

**President and Chief Executive Officer**

**International Flavors and Fragrances** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2010 to 2012]

**Board Member**

**Harvard University** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Committee for Economic Development** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board of Trustees**

**Memorial Sloan Kettering cancer Center** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board of Trustees**

**Institute for Advanced Study** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board of Trustees**

**Harvard University Alumni Association** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board of Directors**

**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Trustee**

**National Bureau of Economic Research** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Trustee**

**Friends of Education** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Treasurer**

**Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Trustee**

**Business Higher Education Forum** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Commission on the Future of Graduate Education**

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences**

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Council on Foreign Relations** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Group of Thirty** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**