

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Almeta Cooper

PERSON

Cooper, Almeta

Alternative Names: Almeta Cooper; Almeta E. Cooper, Esq.

Life Dates: December 27, 1950-

Place of Birth: Durham, North Carolina, USA

Residence: Atlanta, GA

Occupations: Corporate General Counsel

Biographical Note

Association general counsel Almeta Cooper was born in 1950 to her mother Patricia Carter Cooper and her father. She attended Wells College in Aurora, New York, graduating with her B.A. degree in 1972. She then attended Northwestern University School of Law in Evanston, Illinois earning her J.D. degree from there in 1975.

Cooper went on to pursue a career in health law. She

began her work as assistant director of health law at the American Medical Association (AMA) in 1977. She then worked as legal counsel for Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1982, MCP Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the mid-1980s, and the Ohio State Medical Association in Columbus, Ohio in 1999. In the early 2000s, Cooper became Associate Vice President for Health Sciences and Associate General Counsel for Health Sciences at The Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio. In 2014, she became the senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Morehouse School of Medicine. She has been very involved in the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA) since 1980, serving as the first African American woman president of the organization in 2003 among many other leadership roles. In 2012, Cooper was named a fellow of the AHLA in order to continue her contribution to the association. She is also an active member of the American Bar Association (ABA) and sits on a program committee for the Physician Legal Issues Conference and chairs the Public Health and Policy Interest Group. Cooper lectures regularly at law education conferences and other professional gatherings on topics such as “Medical Staff: The Fault Line between Physicians and Hospitals” and “How to Stay Focused on a Health Law Career.” Cooper was honored as a Mentor by the 2011 Top Corporate Counsel awards from Columbus Business First.

In addition to her health law career, Cooper was involved in numerous groups and organizations, including serving as president of the Central Ohio Links Inc. Chapter. She is also involved with Columbus Reads, the Women’s Fund of Central Ohio, and the YWCA Family Center. She was awarded the YWCA Woman of Achievement Award in 2009 to honor her commitment to her community.

Almeta Cooper was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 10, 2013.

Related Entries

Wells College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Loudon Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Millbrook Park Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Spelman College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

John F. Kennedy High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Schiller International University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1965 to 1971]

**Associate General Counsel and Associate Vice
President for Health Sciences**

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to ?]

Associate

American Medical Association (AMA) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to 1982]

**Assistant Director of Health Law Division, Office
of the General Counsel**

Meharry Medical College [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to 1988]

General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

St. Thomas Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to 1991]

General Counsel

**Allegheny Health, Education and Research
Foundation (AHERF)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to 1998]

Senior Counsel and Vice President

MCP Hahnemann University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to 1999]

Senior Counsel

Ohio State Medical Association [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1999 to 2008]

General Counsel

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1966 to 1997]

Law Clerk

American Bar Association (ABA) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Committee Member

The Links, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from 2007 to ?]

Member, Central Ohio Chapter

Northwestern University Alumni Association

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Women's Fund of Central Ohio [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board member and volunteer

Columbus Reads [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Volunteer

American Health Lawyers Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 1986 to 1992]

Fellow