

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Audrey Collins

PERSON

Collins, Audrey B., 1945-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Audrey Collins;

Life Dates: June 12, 1945-

Place of Birth: Chester, Pennsylvania, USA

Work: Los Angeles, CA

Occupations: Federal District Court Judge

Biographical Note

Federal District Court Judge Audrey B. Collins was born on June 12, 1945 in Chester, Pennsylvania to Dr. Furman L. Brodie Jr. and Audrey Moseley Brodie. She attended Yeadon High School in Yeadon, Pennsylvania, where she graduated as valedictorian of her class. Collins attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. and graduated Phi Beta Kappa,

earning her B.A. degree in political science in 1967. That year, she received Howard University's Woman of the Year Award and married her husband, Dr. Tim Collins. In 1969, she earned her M.A. degree in public administration from American University's School of Government and Public Administration. In 1974, Collins returned to school to earn her law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles. She was a member of the UCLA Law Review, and earned her J.D. degree in 1977, graduating with the Order of the Coif.

In 1977, Collins served as an assistant attorney of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and in 1978, she was hired as a deputy district attorney of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office. In 1987, Collins was promoted to head deputy at the Torrance Branch office. She was then appointed as the assistant director of the Bureaus of Central and Special Operations the following year. In 1992, she was named the assistant district attorney and a deputy general counsel in the Office of the Special Advisor, where she served as counsel to the Los Angeles Police Department Board of Commissioners. Two years later, President Bill Clinton nominated Collins for a seat on the District Court for the Central District of California. She served as chief judge for the court from 2009 through September, 2012.

In 1988, Collins received the Loren Miller Lawyer of the Year Award by the John M. Langston Bar Association. In 1994, she was awarded the National Black Prosecutors Association's Distinguished Service Award, and, in 2006, she was presented with the Bernard Jefferson Judge of the Year Award by the John M. Langston Bar Association. In 2012, Collins was awarded both the Outstanding Jurist Award from the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award. She is a member of the National Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles County, the John M. Langston

Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Los Angeles, and the National Association of Women Judges.

Collins and her husband have two adult children, one whom is an actor and the other an attorney.

Judge Audrey B. Collins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 18, 2013.

Related Entries

Yeadon High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

H.S.

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

J.D.

William B. Evans Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

American University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.A.

District of Columbia Public Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1969 to 1969]

Teacher

Model Cities [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to 1971]

Staff Member

University of Southern California [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1974]

Director, Norman Topping Student Aid Fund

Los Angeles Unified School District [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1972]

Substitute Teacher

Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher LLP [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1978]

Judicial Clerk

L.A. County District Attorney's Office [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1994]

Assistant District Attorney

United States District Court [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to 2014]

District Court Judge

California Court of Appeal, District 2 [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2014 to ?]

Associate Justice

Women Lawyers of Los Angeles [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Life Member

Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Life Member

California Women Lawyers [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Life Member

John M. Langston Bar Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Life Member

National Bar Association (NBA) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Life Member

National Association of Women Judges [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Federal Judges Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Black Prosecutors Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Los Angeles County Bar Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 1983 to ?]

**Member, Chair of Task Force on the State
Criminal Justice System, Executive Committee of
Litigation Section, Inn of Court of Litigation
Section, Board of Trustees, Judiciary Committee,
Judicial Appointments Committee, Chair of
Criminal Justice Section, Delegate to the State
Bar Annual Meeting**

District Attorney's Office [MEMBEROF]

[from 1984 to 1984]

**President, Association of Los Angeles County
Deputy District Attorneys**

California State Bar Criminal Law Section [MEMBEROF]

[from 1987 to 1988]

Chair, Executive Committee

California State Bar Criminal Law Section [MEMBEROF]

[from 1988 to 1990]

Advisor, Executive Committee

California State Bar Committee of Bar Examiners

[MEMBEROF]

[from 1992 to 1993]

Chair, Subcommittee on Moral Character

Webster-Williams Commission [MEMBEROF]

[from 1992 to 1992]

**Deputy General Counsel, Office of the Special
Advisor to the Los Angeles Police Department
Board of Commissioners**

John M. Langston Bar Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 1993 to 1993]

Trustee

California State Bar Committee of Bar Examiners

[MEMBEROF]

[from 1993 to 1994]

Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Moral Character

Ninth Circuit [MEMBEROF]

[from 1994 to ?]

**Member, Conference Executive Committee,
Judicial Council, Judges Association, Wellness
Committee, Information Technology Committee**

Women Lawyers of Los Angeles [MEMBEROF]

[from 2005 to 2006]

Member, Board of Directors

Association of Business Trial Lawyers [MEMBEROF]

[from 2005 to 2006]

Board of Governors

