

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Kenneth M. Hoyt

PERSON

Hoyt, Kenneth Michael, 1948-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Kenneth M. Hoyt;

Life Dates: March 2, 1948-

Place of Birth: San Augustine County, Texas, USA

Residence: Houston, TX

Work: Houston, TX

Occupations: Judge

Biographical Note

Judge Kenneth Michael Hoyt was born on March 2, 1948 in San Augustine County, Texas. His father, Earl, was a barber; his mother, Fannie, a beautician. Hoyt attended Lincoln Elementary School and Lincoln High School, both in San Augustine, Texas. He received his A.B. degree from Texas Southern University in 1969 and his J.D. degree from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1972, where he served as an editor for the Law Review.

From 1972 to 1981, Hoyt worked as an attorney at the Houston, Texas law firms of Wickliff, King, Hoyt & Jones; Anderson, Hodge, Hoyt & Jones; and Hoyt, Webster, Shepard & Anderson. While practicing law, Hoyt also fulfilled a six year military reserve commitment from 1972 to 1978. In addition, he served as city attorney for Kendleton, Texas and Prairie View, Texas from 1975 until 1981.

In 1981, Governor Bill Clements appointed Hoyt to preside over the 125th Civil District Court of Texas. He also practiced law through his firm, Kenneth M. Hoyt, P.C., from 1982 to 1985. During that time, Hoyt was a member of the faculty of the South Texas College Trial Advocacy Program, and from 1983 to 1984, he was an adjunct professor at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. From 1985 to 1988, Hoyt served as a justice of the First Court of Appeals of Texas. Then, on November 24, 1987, Hoyt was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to a seat on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. He was confirmed by the United States Senate in March of 1988, and received his commission on April 1, 1988. Hoyt was the second African American federal judge in the state of Texas. He took senior status on March 2, 2013.

Hoyt has received numerous awards, including the City of Kendleton Service Award, the Willie Melton Civic Memorial Award, three Houston Business and Professional Men's Club awards, the Ethel Ranson Art and Literary Award, the National Black Law Students Association President's Award, an Institute for Social Justice Award, the Houston Lawyers Association Outstanding Service Award, the Gardere 10th Annual Martin Luther King Oratory Award, San Augustine's Key to the City Award, the Thurgood Marshall Christian Legal Society Award, an NAACP award, and multiple awards from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Hoyt has also served on many state and local bar committees, including the Thurgood Marshall School of Law ABA Blue Ribbon Committee and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Criminal Justice Corrections Committee.

Hoyt lives in Houston, Texas with his wife, Veola Johnson Hoyt. They have three children: Michael, an economist, Stacy, an educator, and Justin, a chemist.

Kenneth Hoyt was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 5, 2014.

Related Entries

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

N/A

Lincoln High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Texas Southern University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Associate Bachelor

Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Juris Doctorate

Texas Appellate Courts [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198501 to 198804]

Justice

Hoyt, Webster, Shepherd & Anderson [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197810 to 198210]

Attorney

125th Judicial District (TX) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198110 to 198210]

Judge

Kenneth M. Hoyt, P.C. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198210 to 198501]

Attorney

W. Bell & Co. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 196612 to 197009]

Mail Clerk

Anderson, Hodge, Hoyt & Jones [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197504 to 197810]

Attorney

Sears, Roebuck and Co. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197206 to 197209]

Associate

Fairway Farm Club [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 196409 to 196609]

Server

Texas Southern University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197009 to 197205]

Assistant Editor

Wickliff, King, Hoyt & Anderson [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197209 to 197504]

Attorney

U.S. Federal Courts [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 198804 to ?]

District Judge

Governor's Blue Ribbon Criminal Justice Corrections Committee [MEMBEROf]
[from 1982 to ?]

Commissioner Juvenile Justice - Advisory Board [MEMBEROf]
[from 1983 to ?]

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law [MEMBEROf]
[from 2007 to 2008]

Member