

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Stephen Robinson

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Robinson, Stephen C. (Stephen Craig), 1957-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 17, 2014 and September 12, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14 uncompressed MOV digital video files (8:08:25).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer and federal district court judge Stephen Robinson (1957 - ) was a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, and a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York. Robinson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 17, 2014 and September 12, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_186
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer and Federal District Court Judge Stephen C. Robinson was born on January 25, 1957 to Yvonne Lee Robinson in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. His mother was a payroll clerk at the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and his father was a probation officer. Robinson grew up in a housing project in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, and in second grade was bused to predominantly white schools. Robinson graduated from Cornell University in 1981 with his B.A. degree in government. He went on to receive his J.D. degree from Cornell Law School in 1984.

Robinson began his legal career in 1984 as the first black lawyer hired at the law firm of Alexander & Green, a corporate firm based in New York City. He moved on to his first federal position as assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York in 1987 working under then U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani. In 1991, Robinson was hired at Kroll Associates, an international private investigations firm, where he became associate general counsel and later managing director. In 1993, he was asked by the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to serve as special assistant to the director and general counsel. In 1995, he became counsel and subsequently chief compliance officer for Aetna, Inc. in Hartford, Connecticut. Robinson was then appointed U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, in 1998, by President William Clinton, after being unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. During this time, he also served as interim manager and chief executive officer of Empower New Haven, a non-profit organization, and taught at Yale Law School as a senior research fellow. President George W. Bush appointed Robinson as a federal district court judge in the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York in 2003. In 2010, Robinson resigned his position on the bench and joined the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP as a litigation partner.

Robinson was recognized by the Department of Justice for Superior Service for his work on the prosecution of U.S. v. Galanis, a securities and tax fraud trial in 1990. In 1997, he was the recipient of the Chairman's Award while working at Aetna US Healthcare. In 2011, he was named chair of the New York City Bar Association's

Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Profession. Robinson also serves on the board of directors for the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, the Cornell Law School Dean's Advisory Committee, and the board of directors of Fordham Law School's Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics. Robinson has one daughter, Victoria.

Stephen C. Robinson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 17, 2014.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Stephen Robinson was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 17, 2014 and September 12, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 14 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer and federal district court judge Stephen Robinson (1957 - ) was a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, and a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Robinson, Stephen C. (Stephen Craig), 1957-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Feldman, Isaac (Videographer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Robinson, Stephen C. (Stephen Craig), 1957---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Lawyer

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Federal District Court Judge

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, July 17, 2014 and September 12, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_001, TRT: 1:36:23  
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Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:18  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:21  
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Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_004, TRT: 4:33:49  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_005, TRT: 5:33:38  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:32  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_007, TRT: 7:38:59  
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Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_008, TRT: 8:29:33  
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Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_001\_009, TRT: 9:47:23  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_002\_010, TRT:  
10:34:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_002\_011, TRT:  
11:30:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_002\_012, TRT:  
12:44:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_002\_013, TRT:  
13:34:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Robinson, Section A2014\_186\_002\_014, TRT:  
14:35:14 ?