

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nina M. Wells

PERSON

Wells, Nina Mitchell, 1950-

Alternative Names: Nina M. Wells;

Life Dates: September 9, 1950-

Place of Birth: Washington, District of Columbia,
USA

Residence: New York, NY

Occupations: State Government Appointee; Lawyer

Biographical Note

Lawyer and state government appointee Nina Mitchell Wells was born in 1950 in Washington, D.C. She attended Immaculate Conception Academy, an all-girl catholic high school, and graduated from there in 1968. Wells then enrolled in Mount St. Joseph College, now Mount St. Joseph University, in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1970, she transferred to a women's college, Newton College of the Sacred Heart, where she received her B.A. degree in 1972. Wells went on to receive her J.D.

degree from Suffolk University Law School in 1976.

After a brief stay in Los Angeles, California, Wells began her legal career as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Newark legal department. In 1990, Wells served as head of the Division of Rate Counsel in the Department of the Public Advocate while Governor Jim Florio was in office. She then served as vice president and senior attorney at the CIT Group from 1994 until 1996. In 1996, Wells was hired at Rutgers University School of Law and served as the assistant dean for the Minority Student Program. In 1998, she was named vice president of public affairs at Schering-Plough Corporation and president of their philanthropic arm, Schering-Plough Foundation. Wells was then appointed to New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine's cabinet as the Secretary of State of New Jersey in 2006, and served in that position until 2010.

Wells has served on numerous boards including Seton Hall Preparatory School, Newark Day Center and Teach for America. In 2013, she served on the board of trustees of both the Victoria Foundation and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Women's Association. She received a nomination by President Barack Obama to serve on the board of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. Wells has also been the recipient of several awards and honors such as the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association Women's Initiative & Leaders in Law (WILL) Platinum Award and the Montclair Art Museum Honoree for Arts Education. Wells has received honorary degrees from Drew University and the College of St. Elizabeth.

Wells and her husband, criminal defense lawyer Theodore Wells, reside in Livingston, New Jersey.

Nina Wells was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 11, 2014.

Related Entries

Immaculate Conception Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Mount St Joseph University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Suffolk University Law School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Newton College of the Sacred Heart [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

City of Newark Legal Department [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Assistant Corporation Counsel

Garfinkel's [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Model

U.S. Social Security Administration [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

New Jersey Bell Telephone Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bell Communications Research [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Department of the Public Advocate [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to ?]

Head, Division of Rate Counsel

CIT Group [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1994 to 1996]

Vice President, Senior Attorney

Rutgers Law School-Newark [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1996 to 1998]

Assistant Dean for the Minority Student Program

Schering-Plough Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to ?]

Vice President of Public Affairs

Schering-Plough Foundation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to ?]

President

Governor Jon Corzine's Cabinet (New Jersey)

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2006 to 2010]

Secretary of State of New Jersey

Seton Hall Preparatory School [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Newark Day Center [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Teach for America [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Appointee

Jack and Jill of America, Inc [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

United Way of Essex and West Hudson [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Garden State Bar Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey
[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

United Negro College Fund [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Planned Parenthood [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Victoria Foundation Board of Trustees [MEMBEROF]
[from 2013 to ?]

Member

**New Jersey Performing Art Center Women's
Association Board of Trustees** [MEMBEROF]
[from 2013 to ?]

Member