

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Clarence B. Jones

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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>	Jones, Clarence B., 1931-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 10, 2015, December 11, 2015 and December 14, 2015
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2015
<b>Physical Description:</b>	17 uncompressed MOV digital video files (8:17:26).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer and investment banker Clarence B. Jones (1931 - ) served as legal advisor and speechwriter for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was also the first African American allied member of the New York Stock Exchange. Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 10, 2015, December 11, 2015 and December 14, 2015, in Palo Alto, California and San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2015_012
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Legal advisor and civil rights leader Clarence B. Jones was born on January 8, 1931 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents, Mary and Goldshore Jones, were live-in domestic household servants. He was raised in foster homes and in a Catholic boarding school in Eastern Pennsylvania, run by the Sisters of The Blessed Sacrament. Jones graduated from Palmyra High School in Palmyra, New Jersey in 1949, and enrolled in Columbia University. He was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War in 1953, but was discharged as a “national security risk” due to his left-wing political activities as a college student and his refusal to sign a loyalty oath at the time of his induction. After receiving his B.A. degree from Columbia in 1956, he attended Boston University School of Law, obtaining his LL.B. degree in 1959.

In 1960, Jones moved to Altadena, California to pursue an entertainment and intellectual property law practice. The following year, he joined the defense team for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was charged with tax fraud by the State of Alabama. After King’s acquittal, Jones moved to Harlem, New York to work with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He then became a partner at the firm of Lubell, Lubell, and Jones. In 1962, Jones was selected to serve as general counsel for the Gandhi Society for Human Rights, the SCLC’s fundraising arm. He joined King’s inner circle, the “research committee,” helping draft the civil rights leader’s speeches. He disseminated King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963), contributed to the “I Have a Dream” (1963) and “Beyond Vietnam” (1967) speeches, and represented the SCLC in the landmark libel case *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964). Jones copyrighted the “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963. In 1967, Jones joined the investment banking and brokerage firm of Carter, Berlind & Weill and became the first African American allied member of the New York Stock Exchange. In 1971, at the request of then New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, he served as a negotiator during the Attica Prison riot, as well as the editor, publisher, and part owner of the *New York Amsterdam News*. During his career, he provided financial consulting services to the governments of the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Zambia, as well as to private investors through Marks Paneth &

Shron LLP. He served as a senior partner at Clemenson Capital Company, specializing in cross-border finance in Korea; and President & CEO of CBJ Multimedia Associates, Inc., specializing in telecommunications.

Jones was named *Fortune* Magazine's "Man of the Month" twice. He received numerous awards for his service and appeared on CNN, the *O'Reilly Factor*, NPR, and other media outlets. He was named a Scholar in Residence at Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute, during which time he wrote and published two books about his experiences with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jones lives in Palo Alto, California.

Clarence B. Jones was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 10, 2015.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Clarence B. Jones was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 10, 2015, December 11, 2015 and December 14, 2015, in Palo Alto, California and San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 17 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer and investment banker Clarence B. Jones (1931 - ) served as legal advisor and speechwriter for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was also the first African American allied member of the New York Stock Exchange.

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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:

Jones, Clarence B., 1931-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Jones, Clarence B., 1931---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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Southern Christian Leadership Conference

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Southern Christian Leadership Conference

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## Occupations:

Lawyer

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Investment Banker

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers|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 Clarence B. Jones, December 10, 2015, December 11, 2015 and December 14, 2015. 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 Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_002\_005, TRT: 5:33:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_002\_006, TRT: 6:28:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_002\_007, TRT: 7:29:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_002\_008, TRT: 8:35:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_002\_009, TRT: 9:29:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_003\_010, TRT: 10:27:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_003\_011, TRT: 11:29:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_003\_012, TRT: 12:32:35 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_003\_013, TRT: 13:35:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_003\_014, TRT: 14:30:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_003\_015, TRT: 15:37:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_003\_016, TRT: 16:11:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clarence B. Jones, Section A2015\_012\_003\_017, TRT: 17:16:53 ?