

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr.

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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>	Parker, Barrington D. (Barrington Daniels), 1944-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 12, 2023 and October 5, 2016
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2016 and 2023
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:12:34).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Judge Barrington D. Parker, Jr. (1944 - ) served on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Parker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 12, 2023 and October 5, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2016_067
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Judge Barrington D. Parker, Jr. was born on August 21, 1944 in Washington, D.C. to Federal Judge Barrington D. Parker, Sr. and Marjorie Holloman Parker, board chair of the University of the District of Columbia. Parker graduated from McKinley Technical High School, and earned his B.A. degree in history from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut in 1965. He then received his LL.B. degree from Yale Law School in 1969.

Parker began his legal career as a clerk for Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr., an African American judge on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He joined the firm of Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City as an associate in 1970, where he specialized in general commercial litigation. In 1977, Parker and three other partners founded the law firm of Parker, Auspitz, Neesemann, & Delehanty, P.C. which, in 1987, merged with Morrison & Foerster, an international law firm based out of San Francisco, California. In 1994, Parker was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by President Bill Clinton. His cases in the district court included *Trinity United Methodist Parish v. Board of Education of Newburgh*, where he upheld a church's right to rent space within a public school, and the trial of businessman Albert J. Pirro, Jr., who was indicted for conspiracy and tax evasion. In 2001, President George W. Bush nominated Parker to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the Senate confirmed him 100-0. On the circuit court, he was involved in several prominent cases involving the rights of terrorism suspects, including *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, where Parker ruled that Al Qaeda suspect Jose Padilla must be offered *habeas corpus* as an American citizen, and *Arar v. Ashcroft*, where Parker wrote a dissenting opinion stating that Maher Arar's rights had been violated by the Bush administration's policy of extraordinary rendition. Parker assumed senior status in 2009.

Parker served on the board of trustees for the Yale Corporation, and on the board of The Harlem School of the Arts, the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the Central Park Conservancy.

Parker has three children: Christine, Kathleen, and Jennifer.

Judge Barrington D. Parker, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 5, 2016.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr. was conducted by Harriette Cole and Larry Crowe on May 12, 2023 and October 5, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Judge Barrington D. Parker, Jr. (1944 - ) served on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

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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:

Parker, Barrington D. (Barrington Daniels), 1944-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Parker, Barrington D. (Barrington Daniels), 1944---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:

Federal Circuit 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 The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., May 12, 2023 and October 5, 2016. 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 The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section  
A2016\_067\_001\_001, TRT: 1:27:41 ?

The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr. was born on August 21, 1944 in Washington, D.C. to Marjorie Holloman Parker and Barrington D. Parker, Sr. His maternal grandparents, Rosa Holloman and John Holloman, were graduates of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute and Virginia Union University. After marrying, they moved to Washington, D.C., where Parker's maternal grandfather became the pastor of the Second Baptist Church. Parker's paternal grandfather, George Parker, served as postmaster for the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. After graduating from the night program at the Howard University School of Law, he became the founding dean of the all-black Robert H. Terrell Law School. He was married to Parker's paternal grandmother, Maude Daniels Parker, who was a piano teacher. Parker grew up in a middle class black community on T Street in Washington, D.C. His mother was a schoolteacher and held a Ph.D. degree, while his father served as a district judge.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section A2016\_067\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:12 ?

The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr. began his education around 1950 at the all-black Monroe Elementary School in Washington, D.C. At this point, he remembers the integration of the city's public schools and accommodations. In 1958, Parker entered the formerly all-white McKinley Technical High School, where he excelled in history and mathematics. He lived for a time with his grandmother, while his mother, Marjorie Holloman Parker, earned her Ph.D. degree at the University of Chicago. Parker's mother was active in the community as a member of The Links, and served as the fifteenth supreme basileus of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She wrote the group's organizational history, 'Alpha Kappa Alpha: In The Eye of The Beholder.' Upon graduating from high school, Parker was encouraged by a neighbor to enroll at Yale University, where he studied history. He was a resident of Ezra Stiles College, and was mentored by upperclassmen David Gergen and Michael C. Reed.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section A2016\_067\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:36 ?

The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr. attended Yale University during the 1960s. On campus, he witnessed the oratory of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was invited by the school chaplain, William Sloan Coffin. At the time, Yale Law School was a hub of civil rights activity, with faculty like Louis Pollak and students like W. Haywood Burns, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Marian Wright Edelman and Timothy L. Jenkins. During the summer of 1964, Parker decided to forgo an internship in Washington, D.C., and joined the Freedom Rides. He spent six weeks in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where he taught in the Freedom Schools and worked on voter registration. While there, he witnessed a cross burning by the Ku Klux Klan. After graduating from Yale University in 1965, Parker taught history at Phillips Exeter Academy for one year, and then enrolled at Yale Law School. He worked as a freshman proctor, and interned with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section A2016\_067\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:29 ?

The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr. graduated from Yale Law School in 1969. He then secured a one-year clerkship under Judge Aubrey Eugene Robinson, Jr. During that time, U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War reached its peak, and Judge Robinson and his colleagues intervened to protect Parker and his fellow clerks from the draft. After the clerkship ended, Parker was hired as

an associate at Sullivan and Cromwell LLP, where he worked for seven years. Then, he and a coworker partnered with a pair of lawyers from Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison LLP to found the law firm of Parker, Auspitz, Neesemann and Delehanty, P.C., which was eventually acquired by Morrison and Foerster LLP in 1987. While there, Parker joined the board of the Harlem School of Arts, and worked as a cooperating attorney for death penalty appellate litigation with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. He describes his marriage to Toni Trent Parker, and talks about his children's careers.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section A2016\_067\_001\_005, TRT: 5:19:10 ?

The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr. became interested in government work during President Ronald Reagan's administration. In 1994, he was selected for a judicial appointment by President Bill Clinton, who was tasked with filling eleven seats on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. During Parker's tenure, he presided over the trial of Rita Gluzman for the murder of her husband, baseball player Darryl Strawberry's tax evasion case and a race discrimination lawsuit against Texaco Inc. In addition to his memorable cases, Parker describes his responsibilities as a district judge. He talks about his wife, Toni Trent Parker, who created the series 'Black Books Galore!' He also describes the Central Park Conservancy, where he became a founding trustee in 1981.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section A2016\_067\_002\_006, TRT: 6:29:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section A2016\_067\_002\_007, TRT: 7:26:52 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section A2016\_067\_002\_008, TRT: 8:29:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Barrington D. Parker, Jr., Section A2016\_067\_002\_009, TRT: 9:34:24 ?