

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Angela Vallot

---

## 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>	Vallot, Angela Elizabeth, 1956-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Angela Vallot,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 15, 2016
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2016
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:57:26).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer and corporate executive Angela Vallot (1956 - ) served on President Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential transition team, as the first chief diversity officer at Texaco, Inc., and as chief diversity officer for Colgate-Palmolive. She founded VallotKarp Consulting in 2003. Vallot was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 15, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2016_096
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer and corporate executive Angela Vallot was born on November 8, 1956 in Abbeville, Louisiana, to Irene Porche, a homemaker, and Peter Vallot, a teacher and entrepreneur. Vallot attended Mills College in Oakland, California, earning her B.A. degree in government in 1977. She went on to study at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington D.C., where she obtained her J.D. degree in 1980, after interning for E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, as well as for U.S. Representative Pete Stark, Jr.

In 1985, Vallot joined the law firm of Jones Day in Washington, D.C. as an associate attorney. She was hired as counsel to the law firm of Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn in 1990, where she served until 1997. During that time, Vallot also served on President Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential transition team, as acting director of the Office of White House Liaison. After serving as director of stakeholder relations, Vallot was hired in 1997 by Texaco, Inc. to serve as the company's first chief diversity officer, following the settlement of a \$176 million racial discrimination lawsuit. During her tenure, she created and managed Texaco's Office of Corporate Diversity Initiatives, chaired its Corporate Diversity Council, and managed the work of six regional Diversity Councils. Vallot also worked closely with the 7 member court-appointed Task Force on Equality and Fairness, and developed the company's partnerships with civil rights organizations such as the NAACP and National Urban League. From 2001 to 2003, Vallot served in the position of chief diversity officer at Colgate-Palmolive, before leaving to found her own management consulting company, Vallot Consultants. The firm was renamed VallotKarp Consulting with the addition of her business partner, Mitchell Karp. Vallot has toured frequently as a public speaker and panelist on topics related to diversity and inclusion, women's issues and career development.

In 2010, Vallot joined the steering board of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where she served as chair of the development committee and the annual National Equal Justice Award Dinner. She was a trustee of the Dance Theater of Harlem and served on the board of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She also served on the board of trustees of the Sentinel Group Mutual Funds.

Vallot and her husband, James Basker, have two daughters, Anne and Katherine.

Angela Vallot was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 15, 2016.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Angela Vallot was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 15, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer and corporate executive Angela Vallot (1956 - ) served on President Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential transition team, as the first chief diversity officer at Texaco, Inc., and as chief diversity officer for Colgate-Palmolive. She founded VallotKarp Consulting in 2003.

---

# 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®.

---

## 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.

---

## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Vallot, Angela Elizabeth, 1956-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

## **Occupations:**

Lawyer

---

Corporate Chief Executive

---

## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

LawMakers|BusinessMakers

---

## **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 Angela Vallot, December 15, 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 2/5/2020 by The

HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

---

## 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.

---

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Angela Vallot, Section  
A2016\_096\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:23 2016/12/15

Angela Vallot was born on November 8, 1956 in Abbeville, Louisiana to Irene Porche Vallot and Peter Vallot, Jr. Her maternal family descended from Jean-Francois LePorche, who came to Louisiana from Brittany, France during the 1700s. Her maternal grandparents, Aline Bruno Porche and mason Bill Porche, were Creole. They raised Vallot's mother in Lafayette, Louisiana, where she attended the St. Paul Catholic School. Vallot's paternal family descended from a Creole woman named Sylvanie Charpio, who was the mistress of a Frenchman named Nicholas Alfrade. Vallot's paternal grandfather, Peter Vallot, Sr., inherited Alfrade's sugarcane plantation, and married Melda Taylor Vallot, who was a descendent of slaves. Vallot's father received degrees from Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College as well as the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He taught science at James A. Herod High School in Abbeville, and cofounded the Southern Consumers Cooperative. In 1966, Vallot's mother died in childbirth.

Video Oral History Interview with Angela Vallot, Section  
A2016\_096\_001\_002, TRT: 2:26:08 2016/12/15

Angela Vallot began her education at the segregated Our Lady of Lourdes School in Abbeville, Louisiana. There,

she was bullied by her black classmates because of her fair skin. In 1967, Vallot's father married a white woman named Kathleen Kern Vallot. They eloped in Indiana due to anti-miscegenation laws, and received hate mail from the Ku Klux Klan. Vallot later integrated the all-white Mount Carmel School in Abbeville, where her peers doubted her African American identity. At this point in the interview, Vallot describes her father's civil rights activism, and the discrimination he experienced while working in the oil industry. Vallot continued her education at the majority-white Vermilion Catholic High School. She later transferred to the integrated Abbeville High School, where she was rejected by both the white and black students. In 1972, the school selected an all-white homecoming court, and Vallot's father organized a boycott to advocate for equal representation.

Video Oral History Interview with Angela Vallot, Section  
A2016\_096\_001\_003, TRT: 3:34:31 2016/12/15

Angela Vallot graduated from Abbeville High School in Abbeville, Louisiana. She then enrolled at Mills College, a women's college in Oakland, California, where she studied government. In 1976, Vallot worked as an intern on Capitol Hill for U.S. Congressman Pete Stark from California. She also assisted her father and U.S. Congressman Andrew Young in lobbying for minority business owners. After graduating in 1977, Vallot attended the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. During her time there, she interned in the governmental relations office at E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company under black attorney Stacey J. Mobley, and studied comparative law in Paris, France. She graduated in 1980, and joined the real estate law firm of Linowes and Blocher LLP, where she represented commercial developers in Washington, D.C. After four years, she was recruited by senior partner J. Kirkwood White to the Jones Day law firm. In 1989, Vallot joined Arent Fox LLP, where she developed a lobbying practice.

Video Oral History Interview with Angela Vallot, Section  
A2016\_096\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:46 2016/12/15

Angela Vallot worked as a real estate lawyer at the Jones Day law firm in Washington, D.C., where she represented

construction companies' bids for municipal redevelopment projects. In 1989, she joined Arent Fox LLP, where she represented politicians like Marc H. Morial. Vallot served on the board for the Women's Campaign Fund, and raised money for President Bill Clinton during his election campaign in 1992. Following Clinton's election, Vallot joined the White House transition team, where she staffed the Minority Business Development Agency under the supervision of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown. During this time, Vallot was also appointed to the District of Columbia Retirement Board. After nine months, she returned to Arent Fox LLP. She remained there until 1997, when she was recruited by Texaco, Inc. CEO Peter Bijur to help quell a public relations scandal. She founded the oil company's diversity office in collaboration with corporate attorney Deval L. Patrick.

Video Oral History Interview with Angela Vallot, Section  
A2016\_096\_001\_005, TRT: 5:33:17 2016/12/15

Angela Vallot joined the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Texaco, Inc. in 1997. There, she developed a supplier diversity program, forged partnerships with community organizations and collaborated with corporate attorney Deval L. Patrick to meet company standards. Vallot remained at Texaco, Inc. until 2001, when she joined the Colgate Palmolive Company as head of global workplace initiatives. In that role, Vallot oversaw business continuity planning and diversity. She also focused on gender issues in the company's international outposts, and started its first women's employee network group. Vallot went on to found her own corporate diversity consulting practice, VallotKarp Consulting LLC, in partnership with Mitchell Karp. In 2010, Vallot joined the board of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where she helped launch voting and police reform initiatives through the Thurgood Marshall Institute. Vallot also talks about her daughter, Katherine Vallot-Basker, and her racial identity.

Video Oral History Interview with Angela Vallot, Section  
A2016\_096\_001\_006, TRT: 6:25:21 2016/12/15

Angela Vallot's husband, James G. Basker, attended Harvard University and the University of Cambridge in

England. He later obtained a Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford, where he earned a D.Phil degree. In 1981, Vallot's husband created the Oxbridge Academic Programs, which was an international summer program for high school students. From 1987, he served as a professor of 18th century English literature at Barnard College in New York City, where he compiled, 'Amazing Grace: An Anthology of Poems about Slavery, 1660-1810.' Vallot's husband also oversaw the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City, where he taught American history through matinee performances of Lin-Manuel Miranda's 'Hamilton: An American Musical.' Vallot also talks about her daughter, Anne Vallot-Basker, and her struggles with her biracial identity. Vallot reflects upon her life and career, and shares her advice to future generations.