

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rufus Cormier

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Cormier, Rufus, 1948-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rufus Cormier,
Dates:	December 1, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:39:10).
Abstract:	Lawyer Rufus Cormier (1948 -) served as a special assistant to John Doar, the special counsel to the House Committee for the Nixon Impeachment Inquiry, and worked at the Houston law firm of Baker Botts LLP. Cormier was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 1, 2016, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_118
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Rufus Cormier was born on March 2, 1948, in Beaumont, Texas to Rufus Cormier and Katie Cormier. Cormier attended Hebert High School, where he played football with Jerry LeVias. Both Cormier and LeVias received full athletic scholarships to play football at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where Cormier was named outstanding lineman in the 1968 Bluebonnet Bowl. Cormier graduated with honors, earning his B.A. degree in anthropology in 1970. Cormier then received his J.D. degree from Yale University Law School in 1973.

Cormier began his legal career at the law firm of Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison in New York. During his time there, Cormier was hired as a special assistant to John Doar, the lead counsel to the House Judiciary Committee for the Nixon Impeachment Inquiry. In 1974, he joined the law firm of Baker Botts LLP, becoming not only the first African American lawyer to be hired as a partner at a major Houston law firm, but also the first African American partner at a major corporate law firm in the State of Texas. After thirty-nine years with Baker Botts LLP, Cormier retired in 2013.

In addition to his law practice, Cormier served on numerous boards. He was appointed to Texas Southern University's Board of Regents in 1991. He also served on the board of directors for the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, the board of visitors for the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the board of directors of the Center For Houston's Future, the executive board of SMU School of Law, and the board of directors for the Gulf Coast Legal Foundation, among others. Cormier was also honored for his professional and volunteer work. He received the Leon Jaworski award from the Houston Bar Association Auxiliary, the Anti-Defamation League's Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award, and the Silver Anniversary Mustang Award from Southern Methodist University. He was also named one of The Best Lawyers in America, and a Super Lawyer by both *Texas Monthly* and *Law and Politics* magazines.

Cormier and his wife, Yvonne Clement Cormier, have three children: Michelle, Geoffrey, and Claire.

Rufus Cormier was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 30, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rufus Cormier was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 1, 2016, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Rufus Cormier (1948 -) served as a special assistant to John Doar, the special counsel to the House Committee for the Nixon Impeachment Inquiry, and worked at the Houston law firm of Baker Botts LLP.

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:

Cormier, Rufus, 1948-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Cormier, Rufus, 1948- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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 Rufus Cormier, December 1, 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).

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 Rufus Cormier, Section A2016_118_001_001, TRT: 1:29:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rufus Cormier, Section A2016_118_001_002, TRT: 2:28:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rufus Cormier, Section A2016_118_001_003, TRT: 3:29:58 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Rufus Cormier, Section A2016_118_001_004, TRT: 4:33:50 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rufus Cormier, Section A2016_118_001_005, TRT: 5:30:37 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rufus Cormier, Section A2016_118_001_006, TRT: 6:20:29 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rufus Cormier, Section A2016_118_001_007, TRT: 7:29:02 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rufus Cormier, Section A2016_118_001_008, TRT: 8:17:26 ?