

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Channing Johnson

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com   |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Johnson, Channing, 1951-  |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson,  |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | November 18, 2016   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2016  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:30:55).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Lawyer Channing Johnson (1951 - ) represented high-profile clients like TLC, Stevie Wonder, GospoCentric Records, and SFX Entertainment. Johnson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 18, 2016, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2016_135   |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.   |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Channing Johnson was born on February 21, 1951 in Pasadena, California to Alvin and Jeffalyn Johnson. His mother was a college professor who taught African American history, turned management consultant. Her sister, Betye Saar, is a well-known African American artist. Johnson graduated from John Muir High School in Pasadena in 1969. He went on to earn his B.A. degree in economics from Stanford University in 1972, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1975.

Channing began his legal career as a corporate associate at the law firm of Tuttle & Taylor in Los Angeles, California. In 1978, Los Angeles City Councilman Robert C. Farrell hired Johnson as his chief deputy where he worked until being appointed as president of the Economic Resources Corporation in Lynwood, California. In 1986, Johnson was hired by Kaye Scholer Fierman Hays & Handler in Los Angeles and later became partner, where his clients included groups like the R&B group TLC. He co-founded the Los Angeles office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in 1997, where he represented entertainment companies and Stevie Wonder, GospoCentric Records, and SFX Entertainment. Johnson negotiated the \$30 million acquisition of The Great Western Forum Arena for Bishop Kenneth Ulmer of the Faithful Central Bible Church, leading Johnson to expand his clientele to mega church leaders and their companies, including Bishop T.D. Jake's TDJ Enterprises. When he joined Loeb and Loeb LLP as a partner in the entertainment and corporate practice groups, Johnson expanded his practice to include independent film companies. Johnson also served as counsel for KCET Television on their merger agreement with Link Media in 2012.

Johnson has served on the board of directors and as chair of KCET Television. He was taught as an adjunct professor of entertainment law at Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa, California. Johnson has been named one of the Top Black Lawyers in the country by *Black Enterprise* magazine in 2003, and as a Southern California Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters for the past ten years since 2000.

Johnson has four children.

Channing Johnson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 18, 2016.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Channing Johnson was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 18, 2016, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Channing Johnson (1951 - ) represented high-profile clients like TLC, Stevie Wonder, GospoCentric Records, and SFX Entertainment.

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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:

Johnson, Channing, 1951-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Johnson, Channing, 1951- --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:

Lawyer

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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 Channing Johnson, November 18, 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 Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:22  
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Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:02  
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Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:20

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Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_004, TRT: 4:27:51

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Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:19

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Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:28

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Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_007, TRT: 7:29:51

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Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_008, TRT: 8:29:13

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Video Oral History Interview with Channing Johnson, Section A2016\_135\_001\_009, TRT: 9:38:29

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