

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Laurie Robinson Haden

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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>	Haden, Laurie Robinson, 1972-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Laurie Robinson Haden,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 13, 2016
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2016
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:00:25).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer and nonprofit executive Laurie Robinson Haden (1972 - ) worked as the senior vice president and assistant general counsel of CBS Corporation. She was also the founder and CEO of Corporate Counsel Women of Color. Robinson Haden was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 13, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2016_149
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer and nonprofit executive Laurie Robinson Haden was born on December 14, 1972 in Washington, D.C. to Frances Privott Robinson and James Robinson. Haden graduated from Oxon Hill High School in Maryland in 1990, and enrolled at North Carolina Central University, where she was named Miss NCCU. Haden received her B.A. degree in political science in 1994, and went on to earn her J.D. degree from Indiana University School of Law in 1998. She also completed a certificate in entertainment media management at the New York University School of Continuing Education.

Haden first served as a legal intern in the labor management division of the National Football League. From 1998 to 2002, she worked as a labor and employment associate at the New York City law firms of Seyfarth Shaw LLP and Epstein, Becker, and Green P.C. Haden was hired as the assistant general counsel and director of training and development for CBS Broadcasting Inc. in 2002. She was then promoted to vice president and assistant general counsel for CBS Corporation; and was named senior vice president and assistant general counsel in 2009. In 2004, Haden became the founder and CEO of Corporate Counsel Women of Color (CCWC), a non-profit professional organization. In 2012, Haden launched CCWC Live Blog Talk, serving as the host and executive producer. Haden authored several legal-related publications, as well as a quarterly column on diversity in *Inside Counsel* magazine. She also contributed to the CBS Corporation Diversity Blog. She presented at the American Bar Association, the Inside Counsel Super Conference, the National Bar Association and the Minority Corporate Counsel Association; and served on the board of directors of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Haden has received many awards for her leadership, including the Women's Venture Fund's Highest Leaf Award, the Los Angeles Black Women Lawyer's Power of One Award, the Chicago Black Women Lawyer's Diversity Visionary Award, the New York City Bar Association Diversity Champion Award, and the New York State Bar Association Diversity Trailblazer Award. She was named to the *Network Journal's* 40 Under Forty List, and was one of *Pink* magazine's Top 15 Women in Business in 2009. Haden also received the first M. Ashley Dickerson

Award, given by the National Association of Women Lawyers, and was recognized as one of the "10 Up-And-Coming African-American Lawyers to Watch" by *Diversity & The Bar* magazine. She was the recipient of the Indiana University School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award, the Ronald H. Brown Distinguished Leadership Award from the University of the District of Columbia, the National Bar Association's Pinnacle Award, and named the Chambers and Partners 2012 In-House Counsel Up & Coming Lawyer of the Year. Haden also serves on the board of trustees of the Indiana University School of Law.

Haden and her husband, David Patrick Haden, have one son, David Patrick Haden II.

Laurie Robinson Haden was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 13, 2016.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Laurie Robinson Haden was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 13, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer and nonprofit executive Laurie Robinson Haden (1972 - ) worked as the senior vice president and assistant general counsel of CBS Corporation. She was also the founder and CEO of Corporate Counsel Women of Color.

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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:

Haden, Laurie Robinson, 1972-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Haden, Laurie Robinson, 1972- --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:

Corporate Lawyer

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Nonprofit Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|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 Laurie Robinson Haden, December 13, 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.

# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Laurie Robinson Haden, Section A2016\_149\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:31 ?

Laurie Robinson Haden was born on December 14, 1972 in Washington, D.C. to Frances Privott Robinson and James Robinson. Both of Haden's parents were descended from sharecroppers in North Carolina, and they met while attending North Carolina College at Durham. Her father went on to earn a law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill. Then, Haden's parents moved to Washington, D.C., where her father worked as a labor attorney with the National Labor Relations Board, while her mother completed a master's degree at the Howard University School of Education. After Haden was born, her family moved to a majority-white neighborhood in Oxon Hill, Maryland. The community soon became predominantly black, and was partitioned into a separate town called Fort Washington, Maryland. There, Haden attended Indian Queen Elementary School and Oxon Hill Middle School. She graduated from Oxon Hill High School, where she wrote for the school newspaper.

Video Oral History Interview with Laurie Robinson Haden, Section A2016\_149\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:33 ?

Laurie Robinson Haden graduated in 1990 from Oxon Hill High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Her mother, Frances Privott Robinson, encouraged her to attend either Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland or North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina. Haden chose to enroll at NCCU, which was the alma mater of her parents and maternal aunts. She studied political science and political administration, and interned for U.S. Congressman Albert Wynn and U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes. She also canvassed for President Bill Clinton, and delivered a presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research about black politician Harvey Gantt's U.S. Senate campaign against Jesse Helms. After graduating in 1994, Haden interned at the White House press office, where she met First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. In 1995, Haden enrolled at the Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana. Shortly afterwards, her father passed away.

Video Oral History Interview with Laurie Robinson Haden, Section A2016\_149\_001\_003, TRT: 3:26:22 ?

Laurie Robinson Haden interned at the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Football League during her time at the Indiana University School of Law. Determined to begin her law career in New York City, she also focused on building a network of contacts in the area, including Susan K. Anderson at the CBS Corporation. After graduation, Haden was hired by Ronald M. Green at Becker Epstein and Green, PC. Although she was mentored by Frances Maloney Green, Haden was overlooked by the firm's white male partners, and struggled to generate enough business to meet her billable hours requirements. In 2000, she transitioned to Seyfarth Shaw LLP, which had a larger clientele to share with associate attorneys. Then, Haden was hired as assistant general counsel at the CBS Corporation with help from Susan K. Anderson. She worked in the labor and employment group, and also developed the CBS Corporation's diversity training program. In 2004, Haden founded the Corporate Counsel Women of Color in New York City.

Video Oral History Interview with Laurie Robinson Haden, Section A2016\_149\_001\_004, TRT:

4:24:52 ?

Laurie Robinson Haden was recruited by the CBS Corporation's chief legal officer, Louis J. Briskman, to report directly to him in 2008. She was promoted to a senior vice president position in the following year. In this capacity, Haden spearheaded the CBS records retention program, and developed a diversity requirement for the corporation's contracts with outside law firms. In 2011, the Corporate Counsel Women of Color (CCWC) published a report based on studies of attrition among black female corporate lawyers. Based on feedback from male attorneys, Haden went on to found the Corporate Counsel Men of Color. The CCWC organization also launched a YouTube channel and a podcast called 'CCWC Live Blog Talk,' which featured guest speakers like Carla Harris and Judy Smith. In 2013, Haden served on the board of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. That year, she also moved back to her hometown of Fort Washington, Maryland after marrying her husband, David Haden.

Video Oral History Interview with Laurie Robinson Haden, Section A2016\_149\_001\_005, TRT: 5:11:07 ?

Laurie Robinson Haden narrates her photographs.