

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Allison Davis

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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>	Davis, Allison Jeanne, 1953-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis,
<b>Dates:</b>	January 27, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:03:42).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer Allison Davis (1939- ) co-founded the firm of Davis, Miner, Barnhill & Galland in 1971, that employed Barack Obama as a graduate of Harvard Law School, and The Davis Group in 1996. Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 27, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_011
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Allison Davis was born on August 31, 1939, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Elizabeth Stubbs Davis and Dr. William Allison Davis. Davis attended the Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, and the University of Chicago Laboratory School in Chicago, Illinois, before graduating from Hyde Park High School in Chicago, Illinois. He received his B.A. degree from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, and his J.D. degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in 1964.

After graduating from law school, Davis and his wife moved to Mali, where he worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development coordinating smallpox eradication efforts and vocational training for three years. After returning to Chicago in 1967, Davis accepted a legal position at the Metropolitan Housing and Planning Council. In 1969, Davis helped co-found the Chicago Council of Lawyers, a group focused on electing judges based on a merit system. In 1971, Davis co-founded Davis, Miner, Barnhill & Galland law firm in Chicago, focused on civil rights litigation. The firm hired Carol Moseley Braun, who went on to become the first African American female U.S. Senator and Barack Obama as a recent graduate of Harvard Law School. In 1986, Davis was appointed to the Chicago Public Building Commission by Mayor Harold Washington. Davis was then appointed by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley in 1991 to the Chicago Plan Commission. In 1996, he gave up his full-time law practice and founded The Davis Group, and later, New Kenwood LLC, development and financial planning firms. Davis later served on the Illinois State Board of Investment in 2003. Davis also consulted on the 2003 film, *The Human Stain*.

Davis has served as a member of The Blue Ribbon Committee to Reform the Office of The Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, and served for eighteen years on the Committee on Character and Fitness of the Supreme Court of Illinois. He served as a Director of RREEF America II for eleven years and was the director of the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund.

Davis and his wife, Susan, have two sons: Jared and Cullen.

Allison Davis was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 27, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Allison Davis was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 27, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Allison Davis (1939- ) co-founded the firm of Davis, Miner, Barnhill & Galland in 1971, that employed Barack Obama as a graduate of Harvard Law School, and The Davis Group in 1996.

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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:

Davis, Allison Jeanne, 1953-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Davis, Allison Jeanne, 1953- --Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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 Allison Davis, January 27, 2017. 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 Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:43 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_005, TRT: 5:34:28 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_006, TRT: 6:32:46 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:39 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_008, TRT: 8:28:54 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_009, TRT: 9:31:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Allison Davis, Section A2017\_011\_001\_010, TRT: 10:29:22 ?