

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable U. W. Clemon

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Clemon, U. W., 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable U. W. Clemon,
Dates:	May 3, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:44:43).
Abstract:	Judge and state representative U.W. Clemon (1943 -) was an Alabama State Senator and served for twenty-nine years as U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, and rose to the position of chief judge. Clemon was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 3, 2017, in Birmingham, Alabama. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_092
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Judge and state representative U.W. Clemon was born on April 9, 1943 in Fairfield, Alabama to Mose Clemon and Addie Clemon. He graduated from Westfield High School in 1961 and received his B.A. degree from Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama in 1965, and his J.D. degree from Columbia Law School in 1968.

After his graduation from Miles College, Clemon was active in the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Alabama. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963 and helped desegregate the Birmingham Public Library. While enrolled in law school, Clemon worked part-time in the New York office of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. After receiving his J.D. degree, Clemon returned to Birmingham and joined the law firm of Adams, Burg, & Baker. In 1969, on behalf of the University of Alabama's black student organization, Clemon brought a lawsuit against football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant to force him to recruit black athletes. In 1974, Clemon was elected to represent the 15th District in the Alabama State Senate. He was one of the first African Americans elected to the Alabama Senate since Reconstruction, and chaired the Senate Rules Committee and the Judiciary Committee. Clemon fought against Governor George Wallace's exclusion of African American citizens from state boards and agencies, as well as his reinstatement of the death penalty. In 1977, Clemon was credited with the defeat of an effort by conservative lawmakers at the federal level to reform the Fifth Circuit Court. In 1979, Clemon's representation of police brutality victims led to an establishment of a biracial committee to improve relations between the African American community and the police, as well as the election of Richard Arrington, Jr., the first African American mayor of Birmingham. The following year, President Jimmy Carter appointed Clemon as Alabama's first African American federal judge. He served on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama and rose to the position of Chief Judge in 1999, a position he held until 2006. Clemon retired from the bench in 2009, after serving for twenty-nine years. Clemon then returned to his private law practice at White, Arnold, & Dowd.

Clemon and his wife, Barbara, have two children, Isaac and Michelle.

U.W. Clemon was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 3, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable U. W. Clemon was conducted by Denise Gines on May 3, 2017, in Birmingham, Alabama, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Judge and state representative U.W. Clemon (1943 -) was an Alabama State Senator and served for twenty-nine years as U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, and rose to the position of chief judge.

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:

Clemon, U. W., 1943-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Clemon, U. W., 1943---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Judge

State Representative

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers|PoliticalMakers

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 The Honorable U. W. Clemon, May 3, 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).

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 The Honorable U. W. Clemon, Section A2017_092_001_001, TRT: 1:28:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable U. W. Clemon, Section A2017_092_001_002,
TRT: 2:25:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable U. W. Clemon, Section A2017_092_001_003,
TRT: 3:29:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable U. W. Clemon, Section A2017_092_001_004,
TRT: 4:29:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable U. W. Clemon, Section A2017_092_001_005,
TRT: 5:28:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable U. W. Clemon, Section A2017_092_001_006,
TRT: 6:22:48 ?