

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Olly Neal

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Neal, Olly, Jr., 1941-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Olly Neal,
Dates:	September 19, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:12:08).
Abstract:	Judge Olly Neal (1941 -) was the first black district prosecutor in Arkansas, and served on the Arkansas Court of Appeals for eleven years. Neal was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 19, 2017, in Little Rock, Arkansas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_173
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Judge Olly Neal was born on July 31, 1941 in New Hope, Arkansas to Ollie Neal, Sr. and Willie Beatrice Jones Neal. Neal grew up on a small farm as one of thirteen children. He graduated from Moton High School in Marianna, Arkansas in 1958 and attended LeMoyne-Owens College in Memphis, Tennessee from 1960 until 1962. While at LeMoyne-Owens, Neal organized local sit-ins to protest the segregation of public spaces. He earned his B.S. degree in chemistry from LeMoyne-Owens College in 1974 and received his J.D. degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1979.

In 1962, Neal moved to Chicago, Illinois and began working for the United States Postal Service. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army in 1964 and served in Vietnam, during which time he reached the rank of specialist. After his military service ended, Neal became executive director of the Lee County Cooperative Clinic in Marianna in 1970. In 1971, he helped organize and lead a boycott against white merchants in the downtown business district of Marianna. In 1990, Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker appointed Neal to serve as prosecuting attorney for the First Judicial District. Three years later, he was elected as a circuit court judge for the First Judicial District. Governor Tucker then appointed Neal to the Arkansas Court of Appeals in 1996, where he remained until his retirement in 2007. Neal accepted an interim position as a circuit court judge for the First Judicial District in 2010. In 2003, Neal was awarded the Community Service Award by the Arkansas Judicial Council. He was also named an Outstanding Trial Judge by the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association in 2010 and was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2014.

Neal served as a member of the board of directors for the Arkansas Judicial Council. He was also active with the Lee County School District, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the National Demonstration Water Project, and the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Cooperation.

Neal lives in Marianna, Arkansas. He has one daughter, Karama; and one son, Nakia.

Judge Olly Neal was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 19, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Olly Neal was conducted by Randall Pinkston on September 19, 2017, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Judge Olly Neal (1941 -) was the first black district prosecutor in Arkansas, and served on the Arkansas Court of Appeals for eleven years.

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:

- Neal, Olly, Jr., 1941-
- Pinkston, Randall (Interviewer)
- Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

- African Americans--Interviews
 - Neal, Olly, Jr., 1941- --Interviews
-

Organizations:

- HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)
-

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Judge

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 The Honorable Olly Neal, September 19, 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 Olly Neal, Section A2017_173_001_001, TRT: 1:30:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Olly Neal, Section A2017_173_001_002, TRT: 2:27:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Olly Neal, Section A2017_173_001_003, TRT: 3:28:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Olly Neal, Section A2017_173_001_004, TRT: 4:28:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Olly Neal, Section A2017_173_001_005, TRT: 5:31:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Olly Neal, Section A2017_173_001_006, TRT: 6:28:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Olly Neal, Section A2017_173_001_007, TRT: 7:05:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Olly Neal, Section A2017_173_001_008, TRT: 8:10:47 ?