

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Dennis Archer

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Archer, Dennis W.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer,
Dates:	October 16, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:45:56).
Abstract:	Political leader and lawyer Dennis Archer (1942 -) was an associate justice on the Michigan Supreme Court from 1985 until 1990. He served as Mayor of Detroit from 1994 until 2002 and became the first African American President of the American Bar Association in 2003. Archer was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 16, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_183
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Political leader and lawyer Dennis Archer was born on January 1, 1942 in Detroit, Michigan to Ernest Archer and Frances Carroll. He graduated from Ross Beatty High School in 1959, and enrolled at Wayne State University before transferring to Western Michigan University in 1963, where he received his B.S. degree in education in 1965. In 1966, he enrolled at the University of Michigan but transferred to the Detroit College of Law, where he received his J.D. degree in 1970.

Following his graduation from Western Michigan University, Archer taught special education in Detroit Public Schools from 1965 to 1970. In 1970, Archer began working for the law office of Gragg & Gardener, P.C. He left the firm in 1971 to help found Hall, Stone, Archer & Glenn. In 1983, Archer was named president of the National Bar Association. The following year, he was elected president of the State Bar of Michigan. In 1985, Archer was appointed by Governor James Blanchard to serve as an associate justice on the Michigan Supreme Court. He was elected to an eight-year term but resigned in 1990. In 1994, Archer was elected as Mayor of Detroit. He would go on to win reelection in 1998. During Archer's tenure as mayor, Detroit experienced a decrease in crime and an increase in economic growth. Following his second term as mayor, Archer became chairman of Dickinson Wright PLLC in 2002. In 2003, he became the first African American president of the American Bar Association. Archer later resumed his private law practice, Dennis W. Archer PLLC, after serving in that capacity.

Archer has won numerous awards and distinctions during his career. In 1998, *Engineering News-Record* magazine named him Newsmaker of the Year, and honored him with an Award of Excellence. *Ebony* magazine also named Archer one of its Most Influential Black Americans. *Governing Magazine* named Archer Public Official of the Year in 2000, and he was also featured on *Newsweek Magazine*'s list of Twenty-Five Most Dynamic Mayors in America. Archer served as a trustee for Western Michigan University, on the Board of Directors of Compuware Corporation. He founded the Dennis W. Archer Scholarship Fund in 2001.

Dennis and his wife, Trudy DunCombe Archer, have two sons: Dennis W. Archer, Jr. and Vincent DunCombe Archer.

Dennis Archer was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 16, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 16, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Political leader and lawyer Dennis Archer (1942 -) was an associate justice on the Michigan Supreme Court from 1985 until 1990. He served as Mayor of Detroit from 1994 until 2002 and became the first African American President of the American Bar Association in 2003.

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:

Archer, Dennis W.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Archer, Dennis W.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Political Leader

Lawyer

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 Dennis Archer, October 16, 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 Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_001,
TRT: 1:29:35 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_002,
TRT: 2:28:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_003,
TRT: 3:30:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_004,
TRT: 4:30:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_005,
TRT: 5:28:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_006,
TRT: 6:31:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_007,
TRT: 7:28:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_008,
TRT: 8:30:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_009,
TRT: 9:33:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dennis Archer, Section A2017_183_001_010,
TRT: 10:14:33 ?