

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Mays, Richard, 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr.,
Dates:	March 13, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:48:53).
Abstract:	Lawyer and judge Richard Mays, Sr. (1943 -) served as an Arkansas Supreme Court Judge in 1980, a deputy prosecutor for the sixth judicial district in Pulaski County. He was also a founding partner of Mays, Byrd & Associates in Little Rock. Mays was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 13, 2018, in Little Rock, Arkansas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_044
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer and judge Richard Mays, Sr. was born on August 5, 1943 in Little Rock, Arkansas to Dorothy Mae Greenlee and Barnett G. Mays, a restaurant owner and real estate developer. Mays graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1961, and earned his B.A. degree in political science and business administration from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1965. Mays then received his LL.B. degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law at Fayetteville in 1968, where he was the only African American in his graduating class.

In 1968, Mays worked as a trial attorney in the organized crime division of the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, D.C. He soon returned to Little Rock to work as a deputy prosecutor for the sixth judicial district in Pulaski County, making him the first full time African American prosecutor in the district's history. In 1971, he joined the law firm of Walker, Kaplan, and Lavey, the first racially integrated law firm in Arkansas. From 1973 to 1977, Mays also served in the Arkansas General Assembly. He was among the first group of African Americans to serve in the Arkansas General Assembly in the twentieth century. In 1977, he co-founded the law offices of Mays, Byrd & Associates. Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton appointed Mays to the Arkansas Supreme Court as an associate justice in 1980, and that same year, he became an adjunct law professor at the University of Arkansas Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law. From 1992 to 1996, Mays was the national co-chairman of the Clinton-Gore Presidential Inauguration Committee, raising over \$1 million as a fundraiser. In 1993, Mays became the senior vice president of Cassidy & Associates. Mays also served as a consultant at CMS Energy and facilitated a contract with Ghana to develop a power plant. From 2005 to 2015, he served as vice chairman and chairman of the Arkansas Claims Commission. In 2013, Mays became the chairman of the board of directors of Soul of the South, a television network focused on African Americans and Southern culture.

Mays served on the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, The Arkansas Ethics Commission, and the Arkansas Banking Board. He also served on the U.S. South African Business Development Committee, and on the

board of directors of the American Judicature Society. Mays was honored by the Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail in 2015, and inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mays is married to Supha Xayprasith-Mays, and has four children, Richard Jr. and Tiffany, who are also practicing attorneys in the Little Rock area as well as Dr. Kimberly Smith, an orthodontist in Chicago, and Dr. Latisse Stovall, an emergency room physician in New Jersey.

Judge Richard Mays, Sr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 13, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr. was conducted by Randall Pinkston on March 13, 2018, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer and judge Richard Mays, Sr. (1943 -) served as an Arkansas Supreme Court Judge in 1980, a deputy prosecutor for the sixth judicial district in Pulaski County. He was also a founding partner of Mays, Byrd & Associates in Little Rock.

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:

Mays, Richard, 1943-

Pinkston, Randall (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Mays, Richard, 1943- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

State Supreme Court 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 Richard Mays, Sr., March 13, 2018.
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 Richard Mays, Sr., Section A2018_044_001_001, TRT: 1:31:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr., Section A2018_044_001_002, TRT: 2:28:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr., Section A2018_044_001_003, TRT: 3:32:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr., Section A2018_044_001_004, TRT: 4:29:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr., Section A2018_044_001_005, TRT: 5:29:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr., Section A2018_044_001_006, TRT: 6:30:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr., Section A2018_044_001_007, TRT: 7:28:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Richard Mays, Sr., Section A2018_044_001_008, TRT: 8:18:03 ?