

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Barbara Phillips

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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>	Phillips, Barbara Y.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 13, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:25:03).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer Barbara Phillips (1949 - ) was the founding partner in the San Francisco-based law firm of Rosen & Phillips. She was also the first African American woman to serve on the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Law. Phillips was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 13, 2018, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_170
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Barbara Phillips was born on February 7, 1949 in Pulaski, Virginia to Mary Russell Phillips and Charles Phillips III. She was one of four African American students to desegregate Richard J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 1965. Phillips went on to receive her B.A. degree in history from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1971, and her J.D. degree from the Northwestern University School of Law in 1976. Later, she earned her J.S.M. degree from Stanford Law School in Stanford, California in 1994.

In 1971, Phillips began working for the Black Economic Research Center and Emergency Land Fund at its Jackson, Mississippi office. After completing her studies at the Northwestern University School of Law, Phillips became the special assistant attorney general at the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General in 1976. After two years, Phillips returned to Jackson to become the staff attorney at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under The Law. While there, she played a key role in two Mississippi Supreme Court cases in 1981: *Loewen v. Turnipseed* and *Phillips v. Joint Legislative Committee on Performance and Expenditure Review*. Then, in 1985, Phillips moved to San Francisco, California and became a founding partner in the law firm of Rosen & Phillips. In 1987, she was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, where she oversaw the implementation of policies concerning diversity in hiring and promotion within the San Francisco Fire Department. Phillips became the first African American woman to join the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1994. She left that position in 1999 to serve as the program officer of the Peace and Social Justice Program at the Ford Foundation. Then, in 2006, Phillips started her own consulting firm, Barbara Y. Phillips.

Phillips was a founding member of the Jackson Women's Coalition and the Southern Coalition for Educational Equity. She also served as vice president of the Mississippi Civil Liberties Union; and as the president of the Northern California Black Women Lawyers Association. She served on the board of directors of the Bar Association of San Francisco; the Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the African Women's Development Fund USA; and Women's Learning Partnership. Several of Phillips' articles, including

“Dignity and Human Rights, Reconsidering Reynolds v. Sims” and “Thoughts on the Emerging Separate but Equal Doctrine,” have been published in law reviews and textbooks.

Barbara Phillips was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 13, 2018.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Barbara Phillips was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 13, 2018, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Barbara Phillips (1949 - ) was the founding partner in the San Francisco-based law firm of Rosen & Phillips. She was also the first African American woman to serve on the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Law.

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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:

Phillips, Barbara Y.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Phillips, Barbara Y.--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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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 Barbara Phillips, August 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).

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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 Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_003, TRT: 3:32:15 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:38 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:58 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:16 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_007, TRT: 7:30:05 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_008, TRT: 8:30:56 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Phillips, Section A2018\_170\_001\_009, TRT: 9:24:42 ?