

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Sullivan, Ronald
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr.,
Dates:	August 19, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:45:31).
Abstract:	Professor Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr. (1966-) was a Harvard Law School professor and director of the criminal justice institute where he has focused on the release of wrongfully convicted prisoners. Sullivan was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 19, 2018, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_171
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr. was born on December 12, 1966 in Gary, Indiana to Marsha Dimmy Sullivan and Ronald S. Sullivan, Sr. Sullivan graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1985, and went on to receive his B.A. degree in political science and philosophy from Morehouse College in 1989. He then earned his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1994.

In 1994, Sullivan became a visiting scholar for the Law Society of Kenya, where he served on the committee responsible for drafting a new constitution for Kenya, and worked on the Kenyan Human Rights commission. Upon returning to the United States, Sullivan joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia as a staff attorney. He went on to work for law firms of Baach, Robinson & Lewis, LLP and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. In 1998, Sullivan served on President Bill Clinton's legal defense team. In 2000, Sullivan returned to the Public Defender Service, and was named director two years later. Then, Sullivan joined the faculty of Yale Law School as a clinical professor of law in 2004. The following year, Sullivan became a founding fellow of the non-profit think-tank, The Jamestown Project. He also designed a defense delivery system, which led to the release of 6,000 wrongfully incarcerated inmates after Hurricane Katrina. In 2007, Sullivan chaired then-senator Barack Obama's criminal justice policy group during his presidential campaign, and was recruited by Harvard Law School Dean Elena Kagan to join the Harvard Law School faculty as a professor and director of the criminal justice institute.

In 2009, Sullivan and his wife, Stephanie Robinson, were appointed faculty deans at the Winthrop House of Harvard College, making them the first African Americans to assume the roles. Sullivan was appointed to the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services in 2011. Sullivan was also tasked with the design and implementation of a conviction review unit in Brooklyn, New York. Sullivan successfully represented the family of Michael Brown after Brown's fatal shooting in Ferguson, Missouri. He went on to represent Usaamah Abdullah Rahim in 2015, and head the defense team for ex-NFL New England Patriots football player Aaron Hernandez in

2016.

Sullivan and his wife have two sons.

Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 19, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 19, 2018, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Professor Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr. (1966-) was a Harvard Law School professor and director of the criminal justice institute where he has focused on the release of wrongfully convicted prisoners.

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:

Sullivan, Ronald

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Sullivan, Ronald--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Law Professor

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 Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., August 19, 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 Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Section A2018_171_001_001, TRT: 1:29:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Section A2018_171_001_002, TRT:
2:27:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Section A2018_171_001_003, TRT:
3:29:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Section A2018_171_001_004, TRT:
4:30:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Section A2018_171_001_005, TRT:
5:29:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Section A2018_171_001_006, TRT:
6:28:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Section A2018_171_001_007, TRT:
7:28:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Section A2018_171_001_008, TRT:
8:21:45 ?