

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Norton, Eleanor Holmes
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton,
Dates:	August 25, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:55:56).
Abstract:	Lawyer and political leader Eleanor Holmes Norton (1937 –) served as democratic delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives for over twenty-five years, after having served as the first female chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Norton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 25, 2018, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_176
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer and political leader Eleanor Holmes Norton was born on June 13, 1937 in Washington D.C. to Vela and Coleman Holmes. She received her B.A. degree from Antioch College, and simultaneously earned her M.A. degree in American Studies and her J.D. degree from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

After graduating from Yale, Norton worked as a law clerk for Federal District Court Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. She was appointed assistant legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union in 1965, where she represented sixty female employees of *Newsweek* in their gender discrimination lawsuit against the newspaper in 1970. That same year, she left the American Civil Liberties to head New York's Human Rights Commission. An active civil rights and feminist leader, Norton served on the founding board of *Women's Rights Law Reporter*, the first legal periodical focused on women, and was one of the women to sign the *Black Woman's Manifesto*, arguing against the oppression of black women.

In 1977, Norton was appointed the first female chair of the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by President Jimmy Carter. She began teaching law classes at the Georgetown University Law Center in 1981, continuing to teach as a tenured professor of law even after being elected to office. Norton was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1990 as a democratic delegate to the House of Representatives. Though Norton did not have voting power in Congress as a delegate, she did use her position to influence decisions in the House and in the Senate. Over the years, Norton has brought significant economic development to the District of Columbia throughout her service in Congress, while creating and preserving jobs in Washington, D.C. and securing the construction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security headquarters in Washington, D.C., in addition to the development of the Southeast Federal Center.

Norton has been named one of the 100 most important American women, and one of the most powerful women in Washington, D.C. She has received more than fifty honorary degrees.

Norton has two children, Katherine Norton and John Holmes Norton.

Eleanor Holmes Norton was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 16, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on August 25, 2018, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer and political leader Eleanor Holmes Norton (1937 –) served as democratic delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives for over twenty-five years, after having served as the first female chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

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:

Norton, Eleanor Holmes

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Norton, Eleanor Holmes--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

U.S. Congresswoman

HistoryMakers® Category:

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 Eleanor Holmes Norton, August 25, 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 Eleanor Holmes Norton, Section A2018_176_001_001, TRT: 1:29:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Section A2018_176_001_002, TRT: 2:29:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Section A2018_176_001_003, TRT: 3:29:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Section A2018_176_001_004, TRT: 4:28:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Section A2018_176_001_005, TRT: 5:30:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Section A2018_176_001_006, TRT: 6:33:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Section A2018_176_001_007, TRT: 7:33:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Section A2018_176_001_008, TRT: 8:23:56 ?