

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Margaret Burnham

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Burnham, Margaret, 1944-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Margaret Burnham,
Dates:	November 16, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:22:44).
Abstract:	Lawyer Margaret Burnham (1944-) was the first African American woman to serve on the Massachusetts judiciary before becoming a professor at Northeastern University School of Law. Burnham was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 16, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_211
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Margaret Burnham was born on December 28, 1944 in Birmingham, Alabama to Louis and Dorothy Burnham. She received her B.A. degree in history from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, and her LL.B. degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1969.

Burnham served as a staff attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., in New York City from 1969 to 1972. Burnham then joined the Roxbury Defenders in Boston and worked there from 1972 to 1974. In 1973, Burnham was admitted to practice law in Massachusetts; and, in 1974, Burnham co-founded the Boston law firm of Burnham, Stern & Shapiro. In 1977, she became the first African American female to serve in the Massachusetts judiciary when she was appointed to the Boston Municipal Court bench as an associate justice by Governor Michael Dukakis. She held this role until 1983. She was also named executive director at the National Conference of Black Lawyers in New York City. Burnham was then selected as the 1985 Bunting Institute Fellow at Radcliffe College. In 1987, Burnham established the Law Office of Margaret Burnham in Boston; and, in 1989, she joined Burnham & Hines as a founding partner while serving as a lecturer for the department of political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1993, South African president Nelson Mandela appointed Burnham to serve on an international human rights commission to investigate alleged human rights violations within the African National Congress. Burnham joined the Northeastern University School of Law faculty in 2002, and served as associate professor. She was promoted to professor in 2006.

Burnham was named chair of the board of directors for National Center of Afro-American Artists in 1992; and, in 1993, she was elected and served as member of the board of trustees for Old South Meeting House. Burnham has also served as a member of the The Algebra Project and for the National Advisory Board for the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College.

She has received numerous awards throughout her career, including: the 1995 Robinson Award for Outstanding

Achievement in the Profession by the Women's Bar Association in Boston, Massachusetts; induction into the YWCA Boston Academy of Women Achievers in 1996; an honorary doctorate degree of laws from Western New England College School of Law in 2000; an honorary doctorate of education degree from Wheelock College in Boston in 2002; the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association Trailblazer Award in 2008; the 2008 Newhouse Center for the Humanities Fellowship at Wellesley College; the 2009 International Criminal Justice Research Fellowship at Grotius Institute, University of Leiden at The Hague, Netherlands; and was a participant in the 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program.

Margaret Burnham was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 16, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Margaret Burnham was conducted by Harriette Cole on November 16, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Margaret Burnham (1944-) was the first African American woman to serve on the Massachusetts judiciary before becoming a professor at Northeastern University School of Law.

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:

Burnham, Margaret, 1944-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Burnham, Margaret, 1944---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

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 Margaret Burnham, November 16, 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 Margaret Burnham, Section A2018_211_001_001, TRT: 1:29:51
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Video Oral History Interview with Margaret Burnham, Section A2018_211_001_002, TRT: 2:28:51
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Video Oral History Interview with Margaret Burnham, Section A2018_211_001_003, TRT: 3:29:05
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Video Oral History Interview with Margaret Burnham, Section A2018_211_001_004, TRT: 4:29:41
?

Video Oral History Interview with Margaret Burnham, Section A2018_211_001_005, TRT: 5:28:42
?

Video Oral History Interview with Margaret Burnham, Section A2018_211_001_006, TRT: 6:29:48
?

Video Oral History Interview with Margaret Burnham, Section A2018_211_001_007, TRT: 7:26:46
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