

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ronald A. Williams

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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>	Williams, Ron, 1949-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 14, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:53:23).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate chief executive Ron Williams (1950- ) was the first African American chief executive officer of Aetna Insurance Company. Williams was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 14, 2019, in Delray Beach, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_036
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate chief executive Ronald Williams was born on November 11, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois to Dorothy Portwood and Henderson Williams. Williams received his B.A. degree in psychology from Roosevelt University in 1970, and his M.S. degree in management from the MIT Sloan School of Management in 1984.

In 1978, Williams joined Control Data Corporation as group marketing executive, before serving as president and co-founder of Integrative Systems. From 1984 to 1987, Williams served as the co-founder and senior vice president at Vista Health Corporation. In 1987, Williams joined WellPoint Health Networks as group president of its Large Group and president of its Blue Cross of California subsidiary. He later joined Aetna Insurance Company in 2001 where he assumed the role of executive vice president and chief of health operations. Williams focused on creating innovation in the industry, especially through health information technology. In 2006, Williams became chairman and chief executive officer, making him the first African American CEO in the company's 200 year history. In 2011, Williams retired as chairman of Aetna.

In 2007, Williams joined the board of the American Express Company; and, in 2010, he was elected to The Boeing Company board of directors. In 2011, he joined the board of directors of the Johnson & Johnson Company. From 2011 to 2017, Williams served on President Obama's President's Management Advisory Board; and, in 2016, he served as chairman of the board of Agilon Health. He has also served on the board of Lucent Technologies, Inc. and Envision Healthcare. Williams was named a trustee of The Conference Board and the Connecticut Science Center Board, and was a member of The Business Council and Business Roundtable.

Williams has written on specific health care industry reforms, with pieces published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post* and *The Financial Times*. Williams has been the recipient of numerous accolades including being named one of *Black Enterprise* magazine's *The 100 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America in 2010*.

Williams and his wife, Cynthia Williams, reside in Delray Beach, Florida. They have one son, Christopher.

Ron A. Williams was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 14, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ronald A. Williams was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on May 14, 2019, in Delray Beach, Florida, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate chief executive Ron Williams (1950- ) was the first African American chief executive officer of Aetna Insurance Company.

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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:

Williams, Ron, 1949-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Williams, Ron, 1949---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:

Corporate Chief Executive

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### HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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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 Ronald A. Williams, May 14, 2019. 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 Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_003, TRT:

3:30:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_004, TRT:  
4:31:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_005, TRT:  
5:30:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_006, TRT:  
6:32:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_007, TRT:  
7:28:35 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_008, TRT:  
8:30:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_009, TRT:  
9:30:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald A. Williams, Section A2019\_036\_001\_010, TRT:  
10:19:34 ?