

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Roderick Palmore

PERSON

**Palmore, Roderick, 1952-**

**Alternative Names:** Roderick Palmore; Rick

**Life Dates:** February 14, 1952-

**Place of Birth:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

**Residence:** Oak Park, IL

**Work:** Chicago, IL

**Occupations:** Lawyer

## Biographical Note

Lawyer Roderick Palmore was born on February 14, 1952 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Jefferson and Sophie Palmore. He attended Mellon Plan Elementary School and graduated from Gateway High School in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. Palmore received his B.A. degree in economics from Yale University in 1974, and his J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1977.

In 1977, Palmore began his career with the Berkman Ruslander Pohl Lieber & Engel firm in Pittsburgh. He went on to serve as assistant United States attorney in the Northern District of Illinois in 1980, before joining Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon as an associate in 1983. Palmore was promoted to partner in 1986. In 1993, Palmore joined Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal as a partner in the Chicago office. In 1996, he joined the Sara Lee Corporation, serving as general counsel from 1999 to 2008 and ultimately serving as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary from 2004 to 2008. Palmore joined General Mills, Inc in February 2008 as executive vice president, general counsel and chief compliance and risk management officer, and served in this capacity until his retirement from the company in 2015. Having previously been a part of the Sonnenschein firm, a Dentons legacy firm, Palmore rejoined the global law firm Dentons LLP as Senior Counsel in Chicago in 2015.

Palmore has served on the board of directors of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Express Scripts and the Chicago Board Options Exchange. He was a former chair of the Association of General Counsel. He has also served on the boards of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, the Public Interest Law Initiative, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago.

In 2010, Palmore was named one of the 40 Most Influential Lawyers of the Decade by the National Law Journal. His other honors include the Corporate Exemplar Award from the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association, the Scales of Justice Award from the Equal Justice Works Foundation, as well as the Pinnacle Award for Lifetime Achievement from the National Bar Association.

Roderick Palmore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 10, 2019.

## Related Entries

**Mellon Plan School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Gateway High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Yale University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**University of Chicago Law School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**J.D.**

**Berkman Ruslander Pohl Lieber & Engel** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to 1980]

**Associate Attorney**

**U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Illinois** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to 1983]

**Assistant U.S. Attorney**

**Wildman Harrold Allen & Dixon** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1986 to 1993]

**Partner**

**Wildman Harrold Allen & Dixon** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1983 to 1986]

**Associate Attorney**

**Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1993 to 1996]

**Partner**

**Sara Lee Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1996 to 2008]

**General Counsel**

**General Mills Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2008 to 2015]

**General Counsel**

**Dentons US LLP** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2015 to ?]

**Senior Counsel**

**The Leadership Council on Legal Diversity** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Founding Chair**

**The MacPhail School of Music** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Chicago Symphony Orchestra** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The United Way of Metropolitan Chicago** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Association of Corporate Counsel** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Association of General Counsel** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chair**

**The Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Chicago Bar Association** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Chicago Bar Foundation** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Oak Park (Illinois) Planning Commission** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chair**

**The American Bar Association Minority Counsel Program Steering Committee**

[MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Public Interest Law Initiative** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Centers for New Horizons** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Yale Club of Chicago** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Alumni Schools Representative**

**Visiting Committee, The University of Chicago Law School** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**The Chicago Board Options Exchange, Regulatory Oversight & Compliance**

**Committee** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Chair**

**The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Nominating & Governance Committee**

[MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Chair**

**Nuveen Investments** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**