

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Stephanie Phillipps

PERSON

Phillipps, Stephanie, 1952-

Alternative Names: Stephanie Phillipps;

Life Dates: March 13, 1952-

Place of Birth: Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Residence: Washington, District of Columbia

Work: Washington, District of Columbia

Occupations: Lawyer

Biographical Note

Lawyer Stephanie Phillipps was born on March 13, 1952 in Boston Massachusetts, to Dr. Robert and Marion Phillipps. She attended William Lloyd Garrison School and Girls' Latin School in Boston, graduating in 1969. Phillipps then attended Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she earned her B.S. degree in economics in 1973. In 1976, she received her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School.

Phillipps was hired by the Washington D.C. law firm Arnold & Porter as its first African American woman associate in 1976. In 1984, she was promoted to partner and specialized in telecommunications, media, consumer protection and advertising law. Her clients included internet, cable television and media companies as well as state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. Phillipps also advised on various FCC rulemakings to implement and interpret the provisions of the 1984 and 1992 Cable Acts and the 1996 Telecommunications Act. In 2010, Phillipps founded an online support group called Beccastone for mothers and caregivers to find and share information and support on raising African American children. Phillipps retired as a partner at Arnold & Porter in 2019.

Phillipps has served on many boards including those of Grain Management, the Clara Elizabeth Jackson Carter Foundation, the Ellington Fund, the National Conference for Community and Justice, Sidwell Friends School, For the Love of Children (FLOC), and the National Symphony Orchestra. She was chair of the board of trustees of the Washington Region for Justice and Inclusion. She is also a member of Harvard Law School Black Alumni Network and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. In 1997, Phillipps and her husband, George Murray, established the Stephanie M. Phillipps and

George E. Murray Fund at the Sidwell Friends School in Washington D.C. Its mission is to expand and increase diversity in the school through a student scholarship for African Americans, as well as funds to support African American faculty.

Phillipps was named part of The Legal 500 U.S. in the Telecoms and Broadcast: Regulatory category in 2013, 2017, and 2018.

Phillipps and her husband, George Murray, reside in Washington D.C. They have two children, Sydney Murray and Michael Phillipps Murray.

Stephanie Phillipps was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 23, 2019 and October 4, 2022.

Related Entries

William Lloyd Garrison Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Boston Latin Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Radcliffe College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Harvard Law School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Arnold & Porter [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1976 to 1984]

Associate

Arnold & Porter [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1984 to ?]

Partner

Beccastone [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2010 to ?]

Founder and Director

Washington Region for Justice and Inclusion [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chairwoman, Board of Trustees

Federal City Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Trustees

National Symphony Orchestra [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

For the Love of Children [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Sidwell Friends School [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to 2009]

Board Member

National Conference for Christians and Jews [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Ellington Fund [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Clara Elizabeth Jackson Carter Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Harvard Law School Black Alumni Network [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member