

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Jon R. Gray

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Gray, Jon R., 1951-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray,
Dates:	November 6, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:12:47).
Abstract:	Judge Jon R. Gray (1951-) served as circuit judge in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri from 1986 to 2007. Gray was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 6, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_122
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Judge Jon R. Gray was born on November 16, 1951 in Little Rock, Arkansas to Mai H. Gray and Reverend C. Jarrett Gray, Sr. After graduating from Paseo High School in Kansas City, Missouri in 1969, Gray received his B.A. degree in American Studies from Grinnell College in 1973. He went on to receive his J.D. degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1976.

After graduating from law school, Gray was appointed assistant Jackson County Counselor and established a solo law practice, before joining the firm of Gray Payne & Roque as a principal and partner. He served as a Democratic Attorney for the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners from 1981 to 1986 and as a chair of the Liquor Control Board of Review of Kansas City, Missouri. In 1986, Governor John Ashcroft appointed him circuit judge in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri. He served a term as the Administrative Judge of the Family Court of Jackson County and as a special judge of the Missouri Supreme Court. He also taught at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Emory University School of Law, and the Missouri Judicial College. In 2007, Gray retired from the circuit court and joined Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP as a partner in its Kansas City office, where he served as chair of the firm's Professional Development Committee.

Gray served on the board of trustees of Southern Methodist University from 1988 until 2000. In 2007, he served a one year term as chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association; and, in 2008, he joined the American Arbitration Association as a member of its panel of commercial arbitrators. Governor Jay Nixon appointed Gray to serve as a member of the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority in 2009, and as a member of the Missouri Citizens' Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials in 2014. An active member of The United Methodist Church, Gray was elected to serve an eight year term as a member of its Judicial Council, and as a delegate to its General Conferences in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004. Judge Gray holds membership in The Missouri Bar, the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Jackson County Bar Association, the Association of Missouri Mediators, and the FINRA panel of arbitrators. He is admitted to practice before the Missouri Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, and the United

States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Gray received the Difference Maker Award from the Urban League of Greater Kansas City in 2002, the Lewis W. Clymer Award from the Jackson County Bar in 2007, and the Spurgeon Smithson Award from the Missouri Bar Association in 2014. In 2018, he was honored with the Missouri Legal Icon Award from Missouri Lawyers Publications and the Raymond Pace Alexander Award from the National Bar Judicial Council.

The Honorable Jon R. Gray was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 6, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 6, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Judge Jon R. Gray (1951-) served as circuit judge in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Missouri from 1986 to 2007.

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:

Gray, Jon R., 1951-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Gray, Jon R., 1951---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Judge

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 The Honorable Jon R. Gray, November 6, 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).

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 Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_001,
TRT: 1:30:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_002,
TRT: 2:31:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_003,
TRT: 3:30:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_004,
TRT: 4:29:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_005,
TRT: 5:28:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_006,
TRT: 6:29:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_007,
TRT: 7:29:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_008,
TRT: 8:33:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jon R. Gray, Section A2019_122_001_009,
TRT: 9:10:29 ?