

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charles R. Lawrence III

PERSON

Lawrence, Charles, 1943-

Alternative Names: Charles R. Lawrence III;

Life Dates: May 4, 1943-

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Residence: Honolulu, HI

Occupations: Lawyer

Biographical Note

Professor Charles R. Lawrence III was born on May 4, 1943 in New York City. He attended Spring Valley public schools in New York; and, in 1965, graduated with his B.A. degree from Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania. In 1969, he received his J.D. degree from Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut.

From 1969 to 1970, Lawrence served as an attorney and research associate at the Harvard Center for Law and Education and as an assistant professor at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. From 1970 to 1972, he was director and principal of the Highland Park Free School in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1972, Lawrence was hired as a senior attorney at Public Advocates in San Francisco, California where he also served as a professor of law at the University of San Francisco School of Law from 1974 to 1986. During this time he also served as a visiting professor at Harvard Law School from 1979 to 1980, the University of California at Berkeley School of Law from 1981 to 1982, and the UCLA School of Law in 1986. He worked as a tenured professor at Stanford Law School from 1986 to 1993 and at Georgetown University Law Center from 1993 to 2012. During this time, Lawrence also briefly served as a visiting professor at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law from 1991 to 1992, and at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa from 2004 to 2005. Lawrence later joined the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's William S. Richardson School of Law in 2008 where he served as professor of law and Centennial University Professor. During his career, Lawrence specialized in antidiscrimination law, equal protection, and critical race theory. He has co-authored three books: *The Bakke Case: The Politics of Inequality* (1979), *Words That Wound: Critical Race Theory, Assaultive Speech, and The First Amendment* (1993), and *We Won't Go Back: Making the Case for Affirmative Action* (1997).

Lawrence served as a member of the District of Columbia Board of Education, National Public Radio, and several other public interest boards.

During his career, Lawrence received numerous awards, including the University of San Francisco School of Law's Most Distinguished Professor Award in 1978, the John Bingham Hurlburt Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Society of American Law Teachers National Teaching Award in 2003. He was also awarded honorary doctorates from Haverford College in 2000, Georgetown University Law Center in 2017, and Nelson Mandela University in 2019. Charles R. Lawrence III was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 9, 2019.

Related Entries

Dalton School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

English Church School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

South Main Street School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Spring Valley High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Haverford College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

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

J.D.

Highland Park Free School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 196906 to 197007]

Director and Principal

Harvard University Graduate School of Education [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 196906 to 197007]

Assistant Professor

Harvard Center for Law and Education [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 196906 to 197007]

Attorney and Research Associate

Public Advocates [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197211 to 197408]

Senior Attorney

University of San Francisco School of Law [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197408 to 198607]

Professor

Harvard Law School [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197907 to 198001]

Visiting Professor

University of California Berkeley School of Law [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 198101 to 198201]

Visiting Professor

University of Los Angeles School of Law [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 198607 to 198612]

Visiting Professor

Stanford Law School [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 198607 to 199307]

Professor

University of Southern California Law School [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 199108 to 199207]

Visiting Professor

Hastie-Lawrence Associates [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197807 to 1980]

Partner

Georgetown University Law Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 199208 to 199307]

Visiting Professor

University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 200401 to 200406]

Visiting Scholar

University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 200509 to 200512]

Visiting Professor

Georgetown University Law Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 199307 to 201206]

Professor

University of Hawaii at Manoa [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 200807 to ?]

Centennial University Professor

National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

San Francisco Bar Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Charles Houston Bar Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Bar Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Standards Project [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Drafting Committee Member

American Association of American Law School [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Sections on Minorities, Constitutional Law, Education Law

Governor's Task Force on Civil Rights [MEMBEROF]
[from 1981 to 1983]

Appointed Member

High School Street Law Project [MEMBEROF]
[from 1977 to 1990]

Board Member

Pacific Primary School [MEMBEROF]
[from 1974 to 1979]

Board Member

Law Students' Civil Rights Research Council [MEMBEROF]
[from 1974 to 1981]

Board Member

San Francisco Lawyer's Committee on Urban Affairs [MEMBEROF]
[from 1976 to 1990]

Board Member

Community Music Center [MEMBEROF]
[from 1970 to 1982]

Board Member

Society of American Law Teachers [MEMBEROF]
[from 1988 to 1989]

President

National Public Radio [MEMBEROF]

[from 1985 to 1990]

Board Member

East Palo Alto Community Law Project [MEMBEROF]

[from 1987 to 1991]

Board Member

Public Radio International [MEMBEROF]

[from 1999 to 2009]

Board Member

District of Columbia Public Schools [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to 2004]

Board of Education

Maya Angelou Public Charter School [MEMBEROF]

[from 2003 to 2009]

Board Member