

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Singleton B. McAllister

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | McAllister, Singleton, 1952- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Singleton B. McAllister, |
| Dates: | November 22, 2003 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2003 |
| Physical Description: | 4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:59:45). |
| Abstract: | Government relations lawyer Singleton B. McAllister (1952 -) served as senior counsel to the House of Representatives Committee on the Budget, was named senior counsel to the United States Agency for International Development, and become a partner at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, where she focuses on public law, policy strategies and corporate diversity counseling. McAllister was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 22, 2003, in Great Falls, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2003_279 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Attorney Singleton McAllister was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 25, 1952. Her mother, Ann Elizabeth Hughes, was a teacher, and her father, James Winford Alphonso McAllister, an attorney. McAllister attended the University of Maryland, College Park, where she earned her B.A. in government and politics in 1975. In 1980 she attended Howard University as a graduate student in political science with focuses in international relations and public administration. McAllister then attended the Howard University School of Law, earning her J.D. degree in 1984.

In 1975, McAllister began her professional career as a legislative assistant to U.S. Representative Parren J. Mitchell of Maryland. She left Mitchell's offices in 1978 to become assistant director of the lobbying group, TransAfrica. The following year, she returned to Congress as the legislative director to Representative William H. Gray of Pennsylvania. After earning her J.D., McAllister worked as a teaching assistant at Howard University, and in 1984, she became a law clerk to U.S. Federal District Court Judge Jack Tanner. In 1986, McAllister was hired as senior counsel to the United States House of Representatives Committee on the Budget, where she worked with a variety of Congressional committees. She then went to work "of counsel" to a number of law firms.

In 1996, McAllister was named general counsel to the United States Agency for International Development, and in 2001, she became a partner in the firm of Patton Boggs LLP. In 2003, McAllister left to become a partner with Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, where she focused on public law, policy strategies and corporate diversity counseling. From July 2005 to October 2007 McAllister worked as partner in the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo P.C. She then partner in the Washington D.C. office of the law firm LeClair & Ryan LLP since October 2007.

McAllister has received numerous awards, including the 2,000 Notable American Women Award, the Most Distinguished Member Award from Women in Government Relations and, in 2000, she was named a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. She has also served on the board of directors of the International Human Rights Law Group, Howard University Hospital and is currently the Director of Alliant Energy and United Rentals, Inc.

McAllister was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 22, 2003.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Singleton B. McAllister was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 22, 2003, in Great Falls, Virginia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Government relations lawyer Singleton B. McAllister (1952 -) served as senior counsel to the House of Representatives Committee on the Budget, was named senior counsel to the United States Agency for International Development, and become a partner at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, where she focuses on public law, policy strategies and corporate diversity counseling.

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:

McAllister, Singleton, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
McAllister, Singleton, 1952- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Government Relations Lawyer

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 Singleton B. McAllister, November 22, 2003. 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 Singleton B. McAllister, Section A2003_279_001_001, TRT: 0:28:30 ?

Singleton B. McAllister was born on March 25, 1952 in Baltimore, Maryland. Her mother, Ann Hughes, was born and raised in Baltimore where her father was the first African American physician to practice at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Hughes attended Howard University, where she majored in art and met McAllister's father, James, who was a law student. McAllister's father went on to become a criminal lawyer and ran for the Baltimore City Council on several occasions. McAllister attended Mordecai Gist Public School, Lamell Junior High, and Northwestern Senior High, all in Baltimore. She recalls influential teachers and her favorite subjects: social studies and history. Her schools were interracial and she remembers her first experience with racism at an amusement park. McAllister heard about the Civil Rights Movement as a child through her family members, such as her mother's cousin William Alfred Carroll Hughes, Jr. who worked with Thurgood Marshall.

Video Oral History Interview with Singleton B. McAllister, Section A2003_279_001_002, TRT: 0:30:40 ?

Singleton B. McAllister attended Lamell Junior High School and Northwestern Senior High School in Baltimore, Maryland. At Northwestern, which was racially integrated, she was enjoyed history, and participated in orchestra and plays. She remembers getting a car in high school and recalls that a local commercial area, White Lot, was vandalized following the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1971, McAllister graduated from high school and enrolled at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she was advertising director of the Black Explosion newspaper, co-founded the school's Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) chapter and double-majored in political science and African American Studies. At the time, Mariyawanda Nzuwah was the director of the African American Studies department. DeWayne Wickham helped McAllister establish a connection with HistoryMaker Parren Mitchell who she interned for as a third year student. After finishing college, Mitchell offered her a position as legislative assistant.

Video Oral History Interview with Singleton B. McAllister, Section A2003_279_001_003, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Singleton B. McAllister worked for HistoryMaker Parren Mitchell after finishing her B.A. degree. At the time, he was chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, which was a cohesive and effective political force in the mid-1970s. Due to her experience working on Parren's international agenda, McAllister was asked to become the first assistant director of TransAfrica in 1978. There, she worked with HistoryMaker Richard Hatcher who was chairman of TransAfrica's board. She then accepted a position as legislative director for HistoryMaker Congressman William Gray where she helped to draft legislation to create the African Development Foundation, which funded small-scale development projects across Africa. While working for Gray, she earned her law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1984. She accepted a clerkship for Judge Jack Tanner in Tacoma, Washington, but a year and a half into her clerkship, she returned to Washington, D.C. to serve as senior counsel to the House Budget Committee.

Video Oral History Interview with Singleton B. McAllister, Section A2003_279_001_004, TRT: 0:30:35 ?

Singleton B. McAllister served as counsel for the House Budget Committee from 1986 to 1988 under the leadership of HistoryMaker William Gray. She was

then recruited to join Reed Smith law firm as an associate. McAllister was made a partner at the firm and took the National Medical Association as her first major client. She represented black doctors as the organization's first legislative counsel in efforts to lobby for health care reform. In the mid-1990s, McAllister joined USAID as general counsel, where she increased minority participation in the organization, even founding the Minority Serving Institution Committee. When George W. Bush was elected, she left the political arena and took partnerships at major law firms in Washington, D.C. McAllister describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community and how she would like to be remembered. She reflects upon her legacy and concludes by narrating her photographs.