

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Amy Robertson Goldson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Goldson, Amy Robertson, 1953-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Amy Robertson Goldson,
Dates:	August 17, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:59:49).
Abstract:	Entertainment lawyer Amy Robertson Goldson (1953 -) served as an attorney in the tax court litigation division and with the firm, Smothers, Douple, Gayton & Long, before establishing a private practice. She was also named general counsel to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, served on the board of directors of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association and chaired the Mayor's Committee on Entertainment. Goldson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 17, 2004, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_128
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Washington, D.C attorney Amy Robertson Goldson was born in Boston, Massachusetts on January 16, 1953. She attended Smith College, where she graduated magna cum laude in 1974. From there, she entered Catholic University, earning her J.D. in 1976.

After earning her J.D., Goldson was hired by the Internal Revenue Service, where she worked in the tax court litigation division as an attorney from 1976 to 1977. Leaving the IRS, she joined the law firm of Smothers, Douple, Gayton & Long, and remained with the firm until 1983. That year, she opened up her own practice. While with Smothers, Douple, Gayton & Long in 1978, Goldson was named general counsel to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, which she continues to serve as today.

Goldson has been active in the civic arena, as well, having served on the board of directors of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association, chaired the Mayor's Committee on Entertainment, and served on the board of the Washington Performing Arts Society. Currently, she serves on the boards of the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center and Recreation Wish List. Following the passing of her husband, oncologist Alfred Goldson, in 2004, she has also become more active with cancer research and prevention.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Amy Robertson Goldson was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 17, 2004, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Entertainment lawyer

Amy Robertson Goldson (1953 -) served as an attorney in the tax court litigation division and with the firm, Smothers, Douple, Gayton & Long, before establishing a private practice. She was also named general counsel to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, served on the board of directors of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association and chaired the Mayor's Committee on Entertainment.

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:

Goldson, Amy Robertson, 1953-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Goldson, Amy Robertson, 1953---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Entertainment 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 Amy Robertson Goldson, August 17, 2004. 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 Amy Robertson Goldson, Section A2004_128_001_001, TRT: 0:30:05 ?

Amy Robertson Goldson was born on January 16, 1953 in Boston, Massachusetts. Her parents, Ellen Lippman Robertson and Irving Robertson, were childhood sweethearts. Goldson's mother was born in Boston around 1926 and was a graduate of Howard University and Boston University. She was an educator and director of an early childhood education center. Goldson's maternal grandmother was born in Kingston, Jamaica. She began summering at Martha's Vineyard in the early 1940s and bought a house there, where Goldson, her parents, and younger sister spent their summers. Goldson's maternal grandfather was born in Sag Harbor, New York and attended Tuskegee Institute

where he was taught by George Washington Carver. He then studied architecture at Cornell before becoming a Pullman Porter. He was also an artist and exhibited with Romare Bearden, HistoryMaker Elizabeth Catlett, and others. Goldson's father, an entrepreneur, was born in Boston. His grandmother was from Cork County, Ireland and his father was from Maine.

Video Oral History Interview with Amy Robertson Goldson, Section A2004_128_001_002, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

Amy Robertson Goldson enjoyed artistic and academic pursuits as a child. She attended the David A. Ellis School in Boston through the second grade, then transferred to Notre Dame Academy in Roxbury. When she was in seventh grade, the school moved to Hingham, Massachusetts. Goldson and several others from her neighborhood chartered a bus to continue attendance there. She graduated high school from Notre Dame in 1970. Goldson aspired to become a lawyer and admired her parents' friends such as HistoryMaker Edward Brooke. She attended Smith College and spent a year at Howard University as an exchange student. At Smith, she majored in education and African American studies and was able to finish her coursework in three years. In 1973, she began her J.D. degree at Antioch Law School in Washington, D.C. After a year, she transferred to Catholic University to focus on corporate and tax law. Goldson recalls memorable instructors over the course of her education and the riots on Boston's Blue Hill Avenue in the 1960s.

Video Oral History Interview with Amy Robertson Goldson, Section A2004_128_001_003, TRT: 0:29:44 ?

Amy Robertson Goldson completed her first year of law school at Antioch Law School in Washington, D.C. in 1974, then returned to Smith College for her college graduation ceremony. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and graduated magna cum laude. She got married the same summer. After finishing law school at Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America, Goldson began working for the IRS as a tax lawyer. She was recruited to join a law firm, where she had an array of clients, including the Congressional Black Caucus and media clients such as broadcasters Max Robinson and Melvin Lindsey. Goldson remembers Lindsey's battle with AIDS. Goldson spent childhood summers on Martha's Vineyard and met her husband there as a seventeen year old. She continues to bring her children to the island for vacation. Goldson reflects on a saying from her mentor Patricia Roberts Harris about the importance of African Americans being unapologetic of achievement and giving back to the community.

Video Oral History Interview with Amy Robertson Goldson, Section A2004_128_001_004, TRT: 0:30:15 ?

Amy Robertson Goldson served as a lawyer for the Congressional Black Caucus and its individual members before helping them incorporate the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Goldson tried cases before the Supreme Court of Virginia and hopes to try a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. She shares her thoughts on tokenism in entertainment and broadcasting, stating that she believes there are limits to the numbers of African Americans who are able to be visible in those fields. Goldson describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community and offers advice to aspiring law students. She reflects upon her life philosophy and commitment to her family life. Goldson reflects upon her legacy, describes how she would like to be remembered and eulogizes her husband, Dr. Alfred Goldson, who passed away suddenly several months before the interview.