

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sanford Cloud, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Cloud, Sanford, 1944-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sanford Cloud, Jr.,
Dates:	February 18, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:17:41).
Abstract:	Foundation executive, lawyer, and nonprofit executive Sanford Cloud, Jr. (1944 -) was the eighth president and the first African American president and CEO of the National Conference for Community Justice (NCCJ). He was also the first African American attorney at Robinson and Cole, was elected to the Connecticut state senate, and became Vice President of Public Involvement for Aetna. Cloud was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 18, 2005, in Farmington, Connecticut. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_053
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Attorney and foundation executive Sanford Cloud, Jr. was born on November 27, 1944 in Hartford, Connecticut to Inez Morgan Cloud and Sanford Cloud, Sr. Attending Burns Elementary School, Northwest Elementary School and Northwest Junior High School, Cloud graduated from Hartford's Weaver High School in 1962. After starting his college career at the University of Arizona, Cloud transferred to Howard University in 1964 where he came under the tutelage of Frank Snowden, Nathan Hare and Naylor Fitzhugh. Cloud graduated as student body president, worked in the office of Senator Thomas Dodd and married his college sweetheart in 1966. His twin sons, Adam and Christopher Cloud, were born as he graduated cum laude from Howard University Law School in 1969. In 1992, Cloud earned his M.A. degree in religious studies from Hartford Seminary.

Cloud worked briefly for Aetna Insurance in 1969 and then became the first African American lawyer to work at the firm of Robinson and Cole. In 1976, Cloud was elected to the Connecticut State Senate and formed his own firm, Cloud and Iberguen. Returning to Aetna in 1978, Cloud became vice president of public involvement in 1986 and headed the Aetna Foundation until 1992. He became the eighth president and the first African American president and chief executive office of the National Conference for Community Justice (NCCJ) in 1994. Cloud represented the NCCJ as a member of former President Jimmy Carter's delegation overseeing the first Palestinian elections in Jerusalem in 1996. Before retiring from the NCCJ in 2004, Cloud convened faith leaders to combat racism and advised the United States Customs Commissioner on racial profiling in the area of international air traveling.

Cloud has lectured at the University of Connecticut Law School. A former board member of the Independent Sector, The Council on Foundations and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Cloud serves as director of Northeast Utilities, the Phoenix Company, Tenet Healthcare and Advest Incorporated.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sanford Cloud, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 18, 2005, in Farmington, Connecticut, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Foundation executive, lawyer, and nonprofit executive Sanford Cloud, Jr. (1944 -) was the eighth president and the first African American president and CEO of the National Conference for Community Justice (NCCJ). He was also the first African American attorney at Robinson and Cole, was elected to the Connecticut state senate, and became Vice President of Public Involvement for Aetna.

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:

Cloud, Sanford, 1944-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Cloud, Sanford, 1944---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civic Leader

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Sanford Cloud, Jr., February 18, 2005. 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 Sanford Cloud, Jr., Section A2005_053_001_001, TRT: 0:29:10
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Sanford Cloud, Jr. was born on November 27, 1944 in Hartford, Connecticut. Cloud's mother, Inez Morgan, was born in 1912 in Americus, Georgia. As a young child, she moved to Hartford, Connecticut where she grew up surrounded

by a large, loving family and met Cloud's father through one of her sisters. Cloud's father, Sanford Cloud, Sr., was born in 1910 to a couple from Marion County, Georgia. His father, a farmer, had white, African American and Cherokee ancestry. Cloud, Sr. moved from Georgia to Hartford as a young child. Cloud was born while his father served in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, Cloud's father worked at several car dealerships across Hartford. Cloud grew up in Hartford with his two siblings surrounded by extended family, listening to his uncles play music and routinely attending Faith Congregational Church and Shiloh Baptist Church. As a child Cloud played baseball and basketball. While caddying at the Jewish Tumble Brook Country Club, Cloud discovered his love for golf.

Video Oral History Interview with Sanford Cloud, Jr., Section A2005_053_001_002, TRT: 0:28:40
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Sanford Cloud, Jr. loved to read as a child. During his elementary school years, his family moved to the new public housing complex, Westbrook Village, near the Hog River in Hartford, Connecticut. He attended Northwest-Jones School for junior high, then matriculated at Weaver High School, where he captained the golf team. Caddying at a Jewish country club gave Cloud insight into discrimination and confirmed his resolve to succeed through education. Wanting to pursue golf and a business career, he entered the University of Arizona in Tucson. While traveling to Arizona, Cloud experienced segregation in Texas. Joining Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity led to meeting HistoryMaker Carl Edwin Anderson, dean of students at Howard University in Washington, D.C. After several students lauded the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Cloud transferred to Howard where he studied business administration and economics with the intent of becoming a lawyer to help the black community. At Howard, he met his future wife.

Video Oral History Interview with Sanford Cloud, Jr., Section A2005_053_001_003, TRT: 0:29:11
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Sanford Cloud, Jr. served as student body president and interned for U.S. Senator Thomas J. Dodd as an undergraduate at Howard University. Entering its law school in 1966, he was mentored by Dean Clarence Clyde Ferguson, Jr. Cloud graduated from Howard University School of Law in 1969; that same year his wife gave birth to twin sons, Adam Cloud and HistoryMaker Christopher R. Cloud. After a brief stint in Aetna Life and Casualty Company's law department, Cloud joined Richardson & Cole LLP in Stamford, Connecticut as the firm's first African American lawyer and later, partner. Long interested in politics, he was elected to the Connecticut State Senate in 1976. During his two terms, he oversaw the creation of the State Department of Housing. After leaving politics in 1980, he worked in the law department of Aetna Life Insurance Company. Though historically involved with the slave trade, the company's corporate philanthropy department focused on minority-owned business investment and low-income housing.

Video Oral History Interview with Sanford Cloud, Jr., Section A2005_053_001_004, TRT: 0:29:20
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Sanford Cloud, Jr. chaired several boards and community initiatives as part of Aetna Life Insurance Company's philanthropic corporate mission. He helped create the Church Insurance Partnership Agency in partnership with the Conference of National Black Churches. This work inspired him to pursue a master's degree in religious studies, which he obtained in 1992 from Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. After fifteen years at Aetna, Cloud left to serve as president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ) in 1994,

using his philanthropic, theological and legal knowledge for the organization. As president of the NCCJ, Cloud worked to bridge ethnic and racial divides and saw the organization change its name to the more inclusive National Conference for Community and Justice. He sponsored training workshops on diversity; he traveled to Jerusalem, Israel with President Jimmy Carter to oversee Palestine's elections and attended President Bill Clinton's One American Meeting with Religious Leaders.

Video Oral History Interview with Sanford Cloud, Jr., Section A2005_053_001_005, TRT: 0:21:20
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Sanford Cloud, Jr., as the first African American president of the National Conference for Community and Justice, promoted unity within the organization, worked with President Bill Clinton's initiative on race, and joined with religious leaders in declaring racism a sin. He describes the challenges wrought by 9/11 in terms of increased racial profiling and discrimination against Arabs, Muslims and South Asians. At the time of the interview, Cloud planned to retire from NCCJ to work in real estate and business development in the Greater Hartford, Connecticut area. He talks about his marriage of thirty-nine years to Diane Brown Cloud, her career and their children's careers in real estate development, banking and historic preservation. Cloud's parents, who lived into their eighties, were able to witness their son's and grandchildren's success. Cloud reflects upon his hopes and concerns for the African American community, his legacy and how he hopes to be remembered. He concludes by narrating his photographs.