

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Eric Washington

PERSON

Washington, Eric Tyson, 1953-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Eric Washington; Eric Tyson Washington

Life Dates: December 2, 1953-

Place of Birth: Jersey City, New Jersey, USA

Residence: Washington, District of Columbia

Work: Washington, District of Columbia

Occupations: Chief Appellate Judge

Biographical Note

Chief Judge Eric Tyson Washington was born on December 2, 1953, in Jersey City, New Jersey to Gloria Simkins Washington, a social worker, and Eleby Rudolph Washington, a surgeon. He was raised in Newark, New Jersey and attended high school in Maplewood, New Jersey. Washington graduated from Tufts University in 1976 and received his J.D. degree from Columbia University's School of Law in 1979.

Washington began his law career in 1979 at the offices of Fulbright & Jaworski in Houston, Texas. The company is one of the largest law firms in the United States with nearly 1,000 attorneys in over fifty different practice areas. Washington soon relocated to Washington, D.C. to serve as Legislative Director and Counsel to U.S. Congressman Michael A. Andrews of Texas, before assuming a position in the Washington, D.C. branch of Fulbright & Jaworski.

In 1987, Washington served as Special Counsel to the Corporation Counsel, and later as Principal Deputy Corporation Counsel in Washington, D.C. After stepping down from this position in 1989, Washington became a partner at Hogan & Hartson, the oldest major law firm headquartered in Washington, D.C., and remained there until 1995, when he was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. As an associate judge in the Superior Court, he presided over various criminal trials as well as cases from the Drug Court, Domestic Violence Unit, tax and probate matters on certification from other judges, and cases involving children who were victims of abuse and neglect. Washington was appointed to the Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals by President Bill Clinton in 1999, and six years later, the District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Commission designated Washington to serve a four-year term as Chief Judge of the Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals, preceding Judge Annice Wagner.

Washington has previously served as Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning Leadership Council for the District of Columbia Courts and is also a member of the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts. Washington serves on many civic organizations as well, including the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington and the Boys and Girls Club Foundation.

Chief Judge Eric Washington was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 26, 2007.

Related Entries

Madison Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Newark Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Columbia High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Tufts University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A. (Political Science)

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

J.D., Juris Doctor (Doctor of Law)

Hogan & Hartson [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199001 to 199505]

Partner

Fulbright & Jaworski [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to 1983]

Delete [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1985]

Legislative Director and Counsel

Fulbright & Jaworski [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1987]

Lawyer

Superior Court for the District of Columbia [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1995 to 1999]

Associate Judge

District of Columbia Court of Appeals [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1999 to ?]

Chief Judge

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Boys & Girls Clubs of America [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Bar Association of the District of Columbia [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Committee Member

DC Access to Justice Commission [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member