

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Teri L. Jackson

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Jackson, Teri L., 1956-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Teri L. Jackson,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 6, 2011
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2011
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:17:36).
<b>Abstract:</b>	State superior court judge and county attorney Teri L. Jackson (1956 - ) was the first African American woman appointed to Superior Court Judge of California for the County of San Francisco. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 6, 2011, in Santa Clara, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2011_007
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

State superior court judge and county attorney Teri L. Jackson was born in 1957 to Beatrice and Alson Jackson in Berkeley, California, where she grew up with her sister, Portia Collins. After watching the movie *To Kill a Mockingbird*, she developed an interest in the justice system. Jackson graduated from Jefferson High School at the age of sixteen and began her studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she earned her B.A. degrees in politics and history in 1977. She then went on to earn her J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law School in 1980.

Upon passing her bar exam, Jackson was hired as a deputy district attorney of San Mateo County, where she works as a trial attorney. Three years later, she began work as a prosecutor for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, serving in the domestic violence unit, the felony charging unit, and the felony sexual assault unit. Throughout her career, Jackson has worked to combat domestic abuse in the Bay Area. In 1988, she became the first person to successfully introduce expert testimony regarding elder abuse syndrome in a court case. In 1995, she co-founded the First Offender Prostitution Program (FOPP), a rehabilitation course for individuals arrested for their involvement with prostitution. The program was replicated in other American cities within years of its founding. Jackson became the first woman to head up a homicide unit in the state of California upon her promotion to head district attorney's homicide unit in 1997.

After working in private practice with the law firm, of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, Jackson was appointed to Superior Court Judge of California for the County of San Francisco in 2002. She was the first African American woman to serve in this position. She worked with an assortment of cases, including litigation in employment, trade secrets, the environment, real estate, and bankruptcy. Jackson has worked to increase the number of minorities working within the legal system, serving as an adjunct law professor at Hastings School of Law. Jackson is the recipient of the 2006 Rosina Tucker Award from the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the 2007 Community Service Award from the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

Jackson is married to Imro Shair-Ali.

Teri L. Jackson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 6, 2011.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Teri L. Jackson was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 6, 2011, in Santa Clara, California, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. State superior court judge and county attorney Teri L. Jackson (1956 - ) was the first African American woman appointed to Superior Court Judge of California for the County of San Francisco.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Jackson, Teri L., 1956-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jackson, Teri L., 1956- --Interviews

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African American lawyers--Interviews.

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African American judges--Interviews.

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

State Superior Court Judge

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County Attorney

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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## 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 Teri L. Jackson, March 6, 2011. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Teri L. Jackson, Section A2011\_007\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:18 ?

Teri Jackson was born on November 10, 1956 in Berkeley, California. Her mother, Beatrice Bowie-Jackson, was born on March 19, 1929 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Jackson's father, Alson Jackson, was born on May 21, 1919 in Jonesboro-Hodge, Louisiana. He attended Southern University in Louisiana and was drafted during World War II where he fought in a segregated unit in North Africa. Jackson's parents met after her father was discharged, and moved to San Francisco, California. Jackson describes going to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* as the moment she realized she wanted to be a lawyer. When she was young, her family integrated an Italian neighborhood. Her mother was the head dietician in the Probation Department of San Mateo County, California and her father worked for the U.S. Post Office. Religion was prominent in Jackson's upbringing, she was a member of the usher board and various youth groups and she attended Colma Elementary School.

African American families--California--Berkeley.

Southern University and A & M College.

World War, 1939-1945--Africa, North.

African Americans--Segregation.

United States--Armed Forces--African American officers.

*To kill a mockingbird* (Motion picture: 1962).

African Americans--Religious life--California.

African American children--California--Social life and customs.

African Americans--Education (Elementary)--California.

Ethnic neighborhoods--California.

California--Race relations.

Video Oral History Interview with Teri L. Jackson, Section A2011\_007\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:18 ?

Teri Jackson expressed interest in law as a child, and her father took her to see court cases in that involved an African American judge or lawyer, including Judge R.J. Reynolds and Judge Anthony M. Kennedy. Jackson earned good grades in school, but says that it was difficult because of the racism she experienced. Jackson attended Colma Junior High School, where she was a member of the Scholarship Club and was president of her seventh grade class. She discusses the student movement and the Black Power Movement. Jackson's parents were involved with the Civil Rights Movement, but did not approve of violence. During high school, Jackson was a cheerleader and president of the Black Student Union, worked to bring speakers to her school and helped to organize college visits for black students. Jackson took electives and graduated from high school at age fifteen.

African American judges.

African American lawyers.

Kennedy, Anthony M., 1936-.

Racism in education--California--San Francisco--20th century.

African American fathers--California--San Francisco.

Vocational guidance--California--San Francisco.

African American students--Education (Primary)--California--San Francisco.

African American students--California--San Francisco--Social life and customs.  
Students--Political activity--United States.  
Black power--United States.  
Civil rights movements--United States.  
Civil rights workers--California--San Francisco.  
African American high school students--California--San Francisco.

Video Oral History Interview with Teri L. Jackson, Section A2011\_007\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:25 ?

Teri Jackson attended the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1973, where she majored in politics and economics. While there, Jackson was elected as an officer in the Black Student Association, and on the governing committee of Stevenson College. She also started a tutorial program for local high schools and was in the Washington Learning Center Institute where she worked on Capitol Hill with Congresswoman Cardiss Collins from Chicago, Illinois. Jackson attended Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C. and focused on international law but decided to change her concentration to trial law. After graduating from law school, Jackson returned to San Francisco, California where she worked for a civil firm, later becoming a prosecutor for San Mateo County, California, where Jackson worked from 1981 to 1984. Afterwards she was recruited by the San Francisco District Attorney's Office to prosecute domestic violence cases.

African Americans--Education (Higher)--California--Santa Cruz.  
University of California, Santa Cruz.  
Adlai E. Stevenson College.  
African Americans--Tutors and tutoring--Washington (D.C.).  
Collins, Cardiss, 1931-.  
African American law students--Washington (D.C.).  
Georgetown University. School of Law.  
African Americans in criminal justice administration--California.  
Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.).

Video Oral History Interview with Teri L. Jackson, Section A2011\_007\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:06 ?

Teri Jackson began prosecuting domestic violence cases for the City of San Francisco in 1984. While working for the District Attorney, Jackson became involved with many landmark cases that led to the current laws against domestic violence and she also lectured in various district attorney's offices on how to create and run a domestic violence unit. She talks about being the first attorney in the country to prosecute an elder abuse case, *People v. Foley* in 1989. Jackson was involved with domestic violence cases and training until 1997, when she returned to practicing civil law. In August of 2002, Jackson was appointed as a judge by the California Governor's Office. Jackson discusses the threats of violence that come along with her judgeship. Jackson says that her judicial philosophy is to make sure that she remains impartial despite her biases, and to make sure that everyone has a fair trial.

African American lawyers--Civil law--California--San Francisco.  
Victims of family violence--California, San Francisco.  
Older people--Abuse of--California--San Francisco.  
African American judges--California.

Video Oral History Interview with Teri L. Jackson, Section A2011\_007\_001\_005, TRT: 0:18:29 ?

Teri Jackson discusses her past accomplishments and future career plans.

Jackson holds a seat on the appellate panel for her Superior Court, teaches trial advocacy and has taught at University of California Hastings College of the Law. Jackson also mentors four to five interns a year. Jackson gives advice to future lawyers and discusses her concerns for the African American community. Jackson says that if she could change anything, she would not have stayed at the District Attorney's Office for as long, in order to have more time practicing civil law. Jackson has received many awards, including an A. Philip Randolph Institute Award, and the Community Service Award from the National Council for Negro Women. Jackson is a member of the Charles Houston Bar Association and is the past president of the Black Women Lawyers Association.

African American judges--California.

Law--Study and teaching--California.

Hastings College of the Law.

Vocational guidance.

African American lawyers--Civil law--California.

A. Philip Randolph Institute--Awards.