

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Cornell Leverette Moore

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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>	Moore, Cornell Leverette, 1939-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Cornell Leverette Moore,
<b>Dates:</b>	January 15, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:08:05).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate lawyer Cornell Leverette Moore (1939 - ) was a partner in the Dorsey and Whitney, LLP law firm, and was elected Grand Sire Archon, Grand Boulé of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity in 2004. Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 15, 2012, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_014
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer and bank executive Cornell Leverette Moore was born on September 18, 1939 in Tignall, Georgia to Jesse L. and Luetta T. Moore. Moore was raised in Statesboro, Georgia and graduated from William James High School in 1957. He received his A.B. degree from Virginia Union University in 1961 and his J.D. degree from Howard University School of Law in 1964. During law school, Moore worked as a staff attorney for the United States Department of Treasury.

After receiving his law degree, Moore worked as a trust administrator for Crocker National Bank. In 1966, Moore became a regional counsel for the Comptroller of Currency, U.S. Treasury Department. He then rejoined the commercial banking world as the assistant vice president and legal officer for the Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis from 1968 to 1970. Moore continued to work in banking as the executive vice president and director of Shelter Mortgage from 1970 to 1973, a director of Shelard National Bank from 1973 to 1978 and the president of Hennepin County Bar Foundation from 1975 to 1978. He served as president and CEO of Lease More Equipment from 1977 to 1986, director of Golden Valley Bank from 1978 to 2002; and became senior vice president and general counsel of Miller & Schroeder Financial Inc. in 1986. Also in 1986, Moore became part owner of the professional baseball team, the Minnesota Twins. In 1995, he joined the law firm of Dorsey and Whitney, LLP where he has represented major energy and natural resource companies. In 2004, Moore was elected Grand Sire Archon of the Grand Boulé of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the first African American Greek-lettered organization.

Moore has served on the boards of many organizations and universities including William Mitchell College of Law, Howard University, Virginia Union University, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Twin Cities Diversity in Practice, the Boy Scouts of America, Johnson C. Smith University and Dunwoody College of Technology. He is the recipient of many awards such as the Legacy Award from the Pan African Community Endowment, the Kappa Alpha Psi Distinguished Citizen Award, the Child of America Award and the Whitney M.

Young Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America. Cornell Leverette Moore is married to Wenda Weekes Moore and has three children, Lynne, Jonathon and Meredith.

Cornell Leverette Moore was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 15, 2012.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Cornell Leverette Moore was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 15, 2012, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate lawyer Cornell Leverette Moore (1939 - ) was a partner in the Dorsey and Whitney, LLP law firm, and was elected Grand Sire Archon, Grand Boulé of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity in 2004.

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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:

Moore, Cornell Leverette, 1939-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Moore, Cornell Leverette, 1939- --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:

Corporate Lawyer

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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 Cornell Leverette Moore, January 15, 2012. 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 Cornell Leverette Moore, Section A2012\_014\_001\_001, TRT: 1:35:14 ?

Cornell Leverette Moore was born on September 18, 1939 in Tignall, Georgia to

Luetta Leverette Moore and Jesse Moore. His paternal great-grandfather, horse groom Cornelius Moore, Sr., was enslaved in Brooklet, Georgia, and married his paternal great-grandmother, Mary Moore. Moore's paternal grandfather, Wayne Moore, was a farmer. His maternal grandparents were also farmers in Wilkes County, Georgia, where Moore's mother was the youngest of their seven children. She married Moore's father, who was trained as a bricklayer and barber by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and owned farmland, a barbershop and a pool hall in Statesboro. There, Moore's parents raised six children. When Moore was four years old, he participated in a study of gifted children at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. After one year, he returned to Statesboro. He attended William James High School, where he belonged to the marching band and the football team. Moore also narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Cornell Leverette Moore, Section A2012\_014\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:49 ?

Cornell Leverette Moore grew up in the segregated town of Statesboro, Georgia. His mother, Luetta Leverette Moore, refused to take him to the local white dentist, where African Americans were required to enter through the back door. When he was ten years old, his family's home burned down, and he lived for a year with relatives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Moore then returned to Statesboro, where he studied at William James High School. He was encouraged by his teacher, Sarah Ayers Smith; and served as the president of the student government and debate team. Moore graduated third in his class in 1957. He studied socioeconomics at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, where his classmates included Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. Moore joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and was mentored by his sociology professor, Henry J. McQuinn. He took part in the sit-ins organized by the Richmond Improvement Association, and raised bail money for demonstrators. Moore received his bachelor's degree in 1961.

Video Oral History Interview with Cornell Leverette Moore, Section A2012\_014\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:16 ?

Cornell Leverette Moore received a scholarship to attend the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. from 1961. There, he was influenced by Professor Patricia Roberts Harris, who later served as the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. During his final year of law school, he obtained a part-time research position at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in the U.S. Department of the Treasury. After graduating in 1963, Moore secured a full-time role at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, where his focus was public debt. In 1964, he moved to San Francisco, California, where he married his wife, civic leader Wenda Weekes Moore, and worked as a management trainee at Crocker-Citizens National Bank. In 1966, Moore returned to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as regional counsel to the national bank examiner in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he oversaw the enforcement of banking regulations.

Video Oral History Interview with Cornell Leverette Moore, Section A2012\_014\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:32 ?

Cornell Leverette Moore served as counsel to the Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 1968, and later became the bank's assistant vice president. During this time, he joined the recently integrated Minneapolis Club, and attempted to join the Minneapolis Athletic Club, but was denied membership due to his race. He was politically active, and worked for Hubert Humphrey's presidential campaign in 1968. In 1970, Moore became the vice president of the Shelter Corporation of America, Inc. mortgage company. He

helped found the Shelard National Bank in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and later sold his controlling stock for a profit. From 1974 to 1978, Moore worked for the law firm of Robins, Davis and Lyons in Minneapolis, where he represented the National Football League Players Association and individual players like Carl Eller. During this time, he won a lawsuit against NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle on behalf of football player John B. Wooten.

Video Oral History Interview with Cornell Leverette Moore, Section A2012\_014\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:48 ?

Cornell Leverette Moore represented football players like John Kimbrough while working at the law firm of Robins, Davis and Lyons in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1978, Moore became the director of Minneapolis' Marquette National Bank. During this time, he also ran his own company, Lease Moore Equipment, Inc., through which he financed Robert E. Woolley's Granada Royale Homotel venture. The business expanded to eighteen locations, before being acquired by the Holiday Inn Corporation in 1985. From 1985 to 1991, Moore was a silent partner in the Minnesota Twins baseball team, which was primarily owned by financier Carl Pohlad. During this time, the team won two World Series. In 1991, Moore served as general counsel for Miller and Schroeder Financial, Inc. He assisted with Sharon Sayles Belton's mayoral campaign in 1994, and served on the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and the convention bureau during her administration. In 1995, Moore became a partner at the law firm of Dorsey and Whitney LLP.

Video Oral History Interview with Cornell Leverette Moore, Section A2012\_014\_001\_006, TRT: 6:33:26 ?

Cornell Leverette Moore served as the director of the board of Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 2000, he was recruited by educational consultant Floretta Dukes McKenzie to join the board of Howard University, where he served alongside statesman Colin L. Powell and activist Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. That same year, Moore joined the Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He was elected as grand sire archon in 2004. In that role, Moore raised money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and created the Young Adult Career Symposium, a networking forum for the children of Boule members. Moore talks about his role as the commodore of the Minneapolis Aquatennial festival, and describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community. He also talks about his family, who were profiled on the CBS television show 'November Magazine' in 1980. Moore concludes the interview by reflecting upon his life, legacy and how he would like to be remembered.