

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ellis Cose

PERSON

Cose, Ellis

**Alternative Names:** Ellis Cose;

**Life Dates:** February 20, 1951-

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** New York, NY

**Occupations:** Newspaper Reporter

## Biographical Note

Journalist Ellis Cose was born on February 20, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois to Raney and Jetta Cose. He discovered early that he had a distinctive voice as a writer. While a student at Lane Technical High School, his 140-page essay on the 1968 riots piqued the interest of an English teacher who suggested that he submit his essay to Gwendolyn Brooks, then the Poet Laureate of the State of Illinois, who invited him to her writers' group. At age nineteen, in 1970, Cose became a weekly columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, making him the youngest editorial page columnist employed by a major Chicago daily newspaper. While working for the Sun-Times, he graduated with his B.A. degree in psychology from the University of Illinois in 1972. Cose then graduated with his M.A. degree in science, technology and public policy from the George Washington University in 1978.

In 1979, Cose became an editorial writer and columnist for the Detroit Free Press. He then received a fellowship with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences in 1981. In 1982, Cose became a special writer for USA Today ; and, in 1983, he began a three-year term as president of the Institute for Journalism Education at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1987, he held a fellowship with the Gannett Center for Media Studies at Columbia University in New York City before moving on to the New York Daily News in 1991, where he served as an editorial page editor. In 1993, Cose was hired by Newsweek as a contributing editor where he remained until 2010.

Cose is the author of A Nation of Strangers: Prejudice, Politics and the Populating of America (1992), The Rage of a Privileged Class (1993), Color-Blind: Seeing Beyond Race In A Race-Obsessed World (2002), The Envy Of The World: On Being a Black Man in America (2002), Bone to Pick: Of Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Reparation and

Revenge (2004), and The End of Anger (2011).

Cose lives in New York City with his wife, attorney Lee Llambelis. They have one daughter, Elisa Maria.

Ellis Cose was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 13, 2013 and September 21, 2016.

## Related Entries

**Brown Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**McKinley High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**George Washington University School of Business** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**MBA**

**George Washington University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.A.**

**University of Illinois at Chicago** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Chicago Sun-Times** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1972 to 1976]

**Reporter, Columnist, Editor, Correspondent**

**Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1976 to 1978]

**Senior Fellow and Director Energy Policy Studies**

**Detroit Free Press** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1979 to 1980]

**Editorial Writer, Management Trainee**

**National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1981 to 1982]

**Fellow**

**USA Today** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1982 to 1983]

**Chief Writer on Workplace and Management**

**Institute for Journalism Education** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1983 to 1987]

**President and Chief Executive Officer**

**Columbia University** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1948 to ?]

**Fellow, Gannett Center for Media Studies**

**Self Employed** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1989 to ?]

**Independent Author and Public Speaker**

**Time, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1971 to ?]

**Contributor and Press Critic**

**New York Daily News** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1977 to ?]

**Chairman, Editorial Board, and Editorial Page**

**Newsweek Magazine** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1993 to 2011]

**Columnist and Contributing Editor**

**Ellis Cose, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1990 to 1994]

**President**

**Center for Work-Life Policy** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1983 to 1985]

**Senior Advisor**

**National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]