

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Kevin Merida

---

## Overview of the Collection

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com   |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Merida, Kevin   |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida,  |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | March 20, 2014 and May 21, 2014   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2014  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:50:49).  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Journalist and author Kevin Merida (1957 - ) was the first African American managing editor of The Washington Post, and was co-author of <i>Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas</i> and <i>Obama: The Historic Campaign in Photographs</i> . Merida was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 20, 2014 and May 21, 2014, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2014_098   |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.   |

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist and author Kevin Merida was born in 1957 in Wichita, Kansas, and grew up in the Washington, D.C. area. Merida received his B.S. degree in journalism in 1979 from Boston University, where he was also editor of the student newspaper *Blackfolk*. He went on to graduate from the Summer Program for Minority Journalists at the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1979, Merida was hired as a general assignments reporter and rotating city desk editor for *The Milwaukee Journal*. From 1983 to 1993, he worked for *The Dallas Morning News*, where he served as a special projects reporter, local political writer, national reporter, White House correspondent and assistant managing editor in charge of foreign and national news coverage. Merida was then hired by *The Washington Post* in 1993, where he first covered Congress. He joined the paper's national political reporting team to cover the 1996 presidential campaign; and joined the Style section staff in 1997. Merida was promoted to associate editor in 2001, and was appointed national editor in 2008. From 2001 to 2004, he wrote the column, "Side Streets," which was syndicated by *The Washington Post* Writers Group. In 2013, Merida was named the first African American managing editor of *The Washington Post*.

Merida co-authored the 2007 biography *Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas*, which was awarded the nonfiction prize at the inaugural Essence Literary Awards. He also co-authored 2008's *Obama: The Historic Campaign in Photographs*, and was editor of *Being a Black Man: At the Corner of Progress and Peril*, a collection of *Washington Post* essays written in 2006. In addition, Merida has taught journalism at Marquette University and in Boston University's Washington journalism program. He was a public policy scholar with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and has served on the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards board.

Merida has won a number of awards, including a 2006 Vernon Jarrett Medal for feature writing; a 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston University's College of Journalism; and a first place commentary prize in 2003 from the National Association of Black Journalists. He was named NABJ's "Journalist of the Year" in 2000, and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1990.

Merida lives in Silver Spring, Maryland with his wife, author and commentator Donna Britt. They have three sons.

Kevin Merida was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 31, 2014.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Kevin Merida was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 20, 2014 and May 21, 2014, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist and author Kevin Merida (1957 - ) was the first African American managing editor of The Washington Post, and was co-author of *Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas* and *Obama: The Historic Campaign in Photographs*.

---

## 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:

Merida, Kevin

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Merida, Kevin--Interviews

---

## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

## Occupations:

Journalist

---

Author

---

## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

---

## 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 Kevin Merida, March 20, 2014 and May 21, 2014.  
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 Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:21 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:29 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:16 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:13 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:46 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:40 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_002\_007, TRT: 7:29:46 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_002\_008, TRT: 8:28:20 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_002\_009, TRT: 9:30:13 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Kevin Merida, Section A2014\_098\_002\_010, TRT: 10:25:45 ?