

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Peggy Cooper Davis

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Davis, Peggy Cooper, 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Cooper Davis,
Dates:	July 12, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:11:41).
Abstract:	Professor and lawyer Peggy Cooper Davis (1943-) was the first African American female professor at Rutgers School of Law, later serving as the John S. R. Shad Professor at the New York University School of Law. Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 12, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_004
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor and lawyer Peggy Cooper Davis was born on February 19, 1943 in Hamilton, Ohio to librarian and genealogist Margaret Gillespie Cooper and George Clinton Cooper, a member of the "Golden Thirteen," the first African American officers in the U.S. Navy. After graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1960, Davis went on to receive her B.A. degree in philosophy from Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio in 1964. She then earned her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1968.

Davis began her legal career as a staff attorney for the Community Action for Legal Services in New York. She went on to become an associate at Poletti Freidin Prashker Feldman & Gartner, before working as a clerk at the Federal District Court under Judge Robert L. Carter. During her time there, Davis attended the New York Society of Freudian Psychologists, graduating from there in 1973. She then became associate counsel for the Capital Punishment Project, an initiative begun by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. After working with the NAACP for four years, Davis became the first African American female professor at Rutgers University School of Law in 1977, where she taught criminal procedure and civil rights law. Davis worked as the deputy criminal justice coordinator for the City of New York in 1978, before serving as judge of the Family Court of the State of New York from 1980 to 1983. In September of 1983, Davis joined the New York University School of Law faculty, where she taught lawyering, evidence, and family law. In 1986, she obtained a full time professorship, and was named the John S. R. Shad Professor of Lawyering and Ethics at New York University School of Law in 1992. Davis also served as director of The Lawyering Program at New York University School of Law from 1998 to 2010, when she became director of the Experiential Learning Lab.

Davis served on the board of directors for several organizations, including the Equal Justice Initiative, the Brennan Center for Justice, the Balm Foundation, the Vera Institute of Justice, the Northside Center for Child Development, and the Russell Sage Foundation. In 2008, she received the Distinguished Teaching Award from New York University. Davis published *Neglected Stories: The Constitution and Family Values* in 1997, and, along with her

daughter Elizabeth Cooper Davis, published *Enacting Pleasure: Artists and Scholars Respond to Carol Gilligan's Map of Love* in 2011.

Davis and her husband, Gordon J. Davis, have one daughter.

Peggy Cooper Davis was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 12, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Peggy Cooper Davis was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 12, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Professor and lawyer Peggy Cooper Davis (1943-) was the first African American female professor at Rutgers School of Law, later serving as the John S. R. Shad Professor at the New York University School of Law.

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:

Davis, Peggy Cooper, 1943-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Davis, Peggy Cooper, 1943---Interviews

African American judges--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Law Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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 Peggy Cooper Davis, July 12, 2016. 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 Peggy Cooper Davis, Section A2016_004_001_001, TRT: 1:31:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Cooper Davis, Section A2016_004_001_002, TRT: 2:31:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Cooper Davis, Section A2016_004_001_003, TRT: 3:30:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Cooper Davis, Section A2016_004_001_004, TRT: 4:30:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Cooper Davis, Section A2016_004_001_005, TRT: 5:31:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Cooper Davis, Section A2016_004_001_006, TRT: 6:28:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Cooper Davis, Section A2016_004_001_007, TRT: 7:35:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Cooper Davis, Section A2016_004_001_008, TRT: 8:32:32 ?