

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Andre M. Davis

PERSON

**Davis, Andre Maurice 1949-**

**Alternative Names:** The Honorable Andre M. Davis;

**Life Dates:** February 11, 1949-

**Place of Birth:** Baltimore, Maryland, USA

**Residence:** Baltimore, Maryland

**Occupations:** Appellate Court Judge

## Biographical Note

Judge Andre M. Davis was born on February 11, 1949 in Baltimore, Maryland. He received his B.A. degree in American history from the University of Pennsylvania, and went on to receive his J.D. degree from the University of Maryland School of Law, where he graduated cum laude in 1978.

In 1978, Davis worked as a law clerk to Judge Frank A. Kaufman, who served in the U.S. District Court in the District of Maryland. In 1979, Davis clerked for Judge Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr., before working as an appellate attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division in 1980. From 1981 to 1983, Davis served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland. He then entered private practice for one year, before joining the faculty of his alma mater, the University of Maryland School of Law. In 1987, Davis was appointed to his first judgeship, serving the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City. He was then appointed as an associate judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City in 1990, before being elected to a full term on the state circuit court in 1992. In 1995, President Bill Clinton appointed Davis to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland; and in October of 2000, President Clinton nominated Davis to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. However, the U.S. Senate refused to schedule his confirmation hearings, leaving the seat empty until Davis was nominated again, by President Barack Obama, in April 2009. He was confirmed by the Senate with a 72-16 vote in November of that year, receiving his commission the following day. Davis sat on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals bench for several landmark cases in U.S. law. In 2011, he served on the panel that heard *Liberty University et al v. Geithner*, which challenged the Affordable Care Act of 2010. In 2014, Davis assumed senior status as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Davis was the recipient of the American Jurisprudence Award, the Myerowitz Moot Court Award and the Benjamin L. Cardin Public Service Award, among numerous other honors.

Judge Andre M. Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 8, 2016.

## Related Entries

**University of Pennsylvania** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**University of Maryland School of Law** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**J.D.**

**United States Court of Appeals for The Fourth Circuit** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 200911 to 201402]

**Judge**

**United States District Court** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1978 to 1979]

**Law Clerk**

**United States Attorney's Office for The District of Maryland** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1981 to 1983]

**Assistant U.S. Attorney**

**Private Practice** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1983 to 1984]

**Attorney**

**University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1984 to ?]

**Professor**

**State of Maryland District Court** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1987 to 1990]

**Judge**

**Maryland Circuit Court** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1990 to 1995]

**Associate Judge**

**United States District Court of Maryland** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1995 to 2009]

**Judge**

**United States, Court of Appeals 4th Circuit** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 201403 to ?]

**Senior Judge**

**Judicial Institute of Maryland** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**American Bar Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Bar Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**