

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable William E. Kennard

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Kennard, William E., 1957-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard,
Dates:	October 30, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:30:49).
Abstract:	Lawyer William E. Kennard (1957 -) was the first African American chairman of the FCC, served as managing director of the Carlyle Group and was appointed by President Barack Obama as ambassador to the European Union. Kennard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 30, 2017, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_192
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer William E. Kennard was born on January 19, 1957, in Los Angeles, California, to Robert A. Kennard and Helen Z. King. He graduated from Hollywood High School, then received his B.A. degree in Communications Studies and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University in Stanford, California in 1978. He received his J.D. degree from Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut in 1981.

Upon graduation from Yale Law School, Kennard was hired as a Legal Fellow with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) in Washington, DC. In 1982, he became an associate at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand (now DLA Piper). The following year, he returned to the NAB as assistant general counsel and later returned to Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand, as an attorney in 1984, where he later became a partner and member of the firm's board of directors.

In 1993, Kennard became the general counsel of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C. In 1997, President Bill Clinton appointed Kennard to become chairman of the FCC, also making him the first African American in history to hold that position.

In 2001, Kennard returned to the private sector and was named Managing Director of The Carlyle Group, a global asset management firm. He served in that position for eight years, where he led investments in the telecommunications and media sectors.

In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Kennard to serve as the U.S. Representative to the European Union (EU) with the rank of Ambassador. Based in Brussels, Belgium, he led the U.S. efforts to promote transatlantic trade and investment and to eliminate excess regulatory barriers to international commerce.

In 2013, Kennard returned to the United States and the private sector. He co-founded Astra Capital Management in

2014, a private equity firm. Kennard also co-founded and serves as non-executive chairman of Velocitas Partners LLC, an asset management firm. In addition, he serves as a member of the Operating Executive Board of Staple Street Capital LLC, and previously served as a Senior Advisor to Grain Management, LLC, both private equity firms.

Kennard serves on the board of directors of AT&T, Inc., Ford Motor Company, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Inc., (MetLife), Inc., Duke Energy Corporation and is also a member of the Yale University Board of Trustees. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Easter Seals Foundation, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union. He received honorary degrees from Howard University, Long Island University, and Gallaudet University.

Kennard and his wife, Deborah Diane Kennedy, have one son, Robert.

William E. Kennard was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 30, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on October 30, 2017, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer William E. Kennard (1957 -) was the first African American chairman of the FCC, served as managing director of the Carlyle Group and was appointed by President Barack Obama as ambassador to the European Union.

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:

Kennard, William E., 1957-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Kennard, William E., 1957- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

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 The Honorable William E. Kennard, October 30, 2017. 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 The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_001, TRT: 1:33:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_002, TRT: 2:30:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_003, TRT: 3:35:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_004, TRT: 4:29:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_005, TRT: 5:40:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_006, TRT: 6:33:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_007, TRT: 7:31:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_008, TRT: 8:33:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Kennard, Section A2017_192_001_009, TRT: 9:03:48 ?