

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Roslyn Watson

PERSON

**Watson, Roslyn, 1949-**

**Alternative Names:** Roslyn Watson;

**Life Dates:** October 29, 1949-

**Place of Birth:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

**Residence:** Boston, MA

**Occupations:** Investment Banker

## Biographical Note

Investment banker Roslyn Watson was born on October 29, 1949 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Charles and Christine Watson. She attended Joseph Pennell Elementary School and General Louis Wagner Junior High School. Watson graduated from The Philadelphia High School for Girls in 1967 and received her B.A. degree in political science and government from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts in 1971. She attended Boston University School of Law from 1972 to 1973, and later became an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow and received her M.B.A. degree from MIT-Sloan School of Management in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1986.

After her first year of law school, Watson worked at the law firm of Hale & Dorr in Boston in 1973. She was then hired by the Massachusetts Port Authority in 1979 and was promoted to general manager in 1982, where she spearheaded the leasing of commercial properties held by Massport, the construction and leasing of the Park Plaza Massachusetts Transportation Building, and the redevelopment of the Commonwealth Pier Five, which became the World Trade Center Boston. In 1982, she was a co-founder of CREW Boston, the region's leading professional organization for women in commercial real estate. Watson served as vice president at Gunwyn Company in Cambridge from 1986 to 1992, and was named trustee of mutual funds at Dreyfus in New York City in 1990. She established Watson Ventures and served as its founder and president in 1992.

Watson served as Hyams Foundation trustee from 1981 to 2015 and as an independent corporate director of American Express Bank, FSB and vice chair of the board of directors at Pathfinder International. She was named to the board of directors for Dreyfus Alcentra Global Credit Income 2024 Target Term Fund, Inc in 2017. She has also served as member of the board of directors at Hydro One Inc., and as director of

SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company, Inc.

Watson received the Boston Big Sister Association Woman of Achievement Award, Boston YMCA Boston Black Achiever and Working Woman Magazine's Working Woman of the Year.

Roslyn Watson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 24, 2018.

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