

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Roderick Ireland

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Ireland, Roderick L.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Roderick Ireland,
Dates:	November 12, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:19:33).
Abstract:	Judge Roderick Ireland (1944 -) was the first African American to serve on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 1997 before being appointed chief justice in 2010. Ireland was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 12, 2018, in Milton, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_204
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Judge Roderick Ireland was born on December 3, 1944 in Springfield, Massachusetts to Helen Garner and George Lovelace Ireland. He received his B.A. degree in 1966 from Lincoln University, his J.D. degree from Columbia Law School in 1969, his L.L.M. degree from Harvard Law School in 1975, and his Ph.D. degree in Law, Policy, and Society from Northeastern University in 1998.

Ireland began his career as a staff attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services in New York City in 1969. In 1970, he worked as a staff attorney at the Harvard Center for Law and Education. Ireland co-founded the Roxbury Defenders Committee with Wallace Sherwood the following year. In 1973, he worked as a hearing officer at the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission. Ireland joined the offices of Burnham, Stern and Shapiro in Boston in 1975, before being named assistant secretary and chief legal counsel at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance. Additionally, he served as chair of the Massachusetts Board of Appeal on Motor Vehicle Liability, Policies, and Bonds. Nominated to the Boston Juvenile Court by Governor Michael Dukakis in 1977, Ireland began teaching criminology and criminal justice at Northeastern University in 1978. In 1990, he was nominated to the Massachusetts Court of Appeals. Ireland was the first African American appointed to serve on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 1997. From 2001 to 2016, Ireland taught in the Appellate Judges Seminar at New York University Law School and worked as an advisor and teacher for the Supreme Judicial Court's Judicial Youth Corps. Nominated by Governor Deval Patrick, Ireland became the chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 2010. He also authored, *Massachusetts Juvenile Law*, (1993, 2007) a two volume treatise published by West Publishing.

Ireland was one of three black men selected for Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1979 by the U.S. Junior Chamber. In 1982, Ireland was awarded the Boston Covenant Peace Prize in recognition of his efforts to promote racial justice. He was also awarded the Haskell Cohn Distinguished Award for Judicial Service by the Boston Bar

Association in 1990 and the St. Thomas More Award from Boston College Law School. In 2001, the Massachusetts Bar Association and *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* newspaper awarded Ireland the Judicial Excellence Award. In 2015, Ireland's childhood street was renamed in his honor and he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association. He has received honorary doctorate of law degrees from several universities and was the recipient of the President's Award at the 2016 Massachusetts Judges Conference. In 2017, Hampden County Hall of Justice in Springfield, Massachusetts was renamed Roderick L. Ireland Courthouse in his honor.

Ireland and his wife, Alice, have three children: Elizabeth, Michael, and Melanee.

Roderick Ireland was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 12, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Roderick Ireland was conducted by Harriette Cole on November 12, 2018, in Milton, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Judge Roderick Ireland (1944 -) was the first African American to serve on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 1997 before being appointed chief justice in 2010.

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:

Ireland, Roderick L.

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Ireland, Roderick L.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Judge

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 Roderick Ireland, November 12, 2018. 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 Roderick Ireland, Section A2018_204_001_001, TRT: 1:28:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Roderick Ireland, Section A2018_204_001_002, TRT: 2:30:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Roderick Ireland, Section A2018_204_001_003, TRT: 3:30:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Roderick Ireland, Section A2018_204_001_004, TRT: 4:29:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Roderick Ireland, Section A2018_204_001_005, TRT: 5:30:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Roderick Ireland, Section A2018_204_001_006, TRT: 6:28:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Roderick Ireland, Section A2018_204_001_007, TRT: 7:21:16 ?