

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter

---

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Hatter, Terry J., 1933-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 2, 2022 and February 7, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019 and 2022
<b>Physical Description:</b>	13 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:45:35).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Judge Terry J. Hatter, Jr. (1933 - ) was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Central Division of California in 1979, later serving as chief judge from 1998 to 2001, and assuming senior status in 2005. Hatter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 2, 2022 and February 7, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_012
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Judge Terry J. Hatter, Jr. was born on March 11, 1933 in Chicago, Illinois to Gloria E. Wilson and Terry Hatter, Sr. He graduated from Hyde Park High School in Chicago, Illinois in 1950 and received his B.A. degree in government from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut in 1954. Hatter then earned his J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School in Chicago, Illinois in 1960.

In 1960, he served as an adjudicator for the United States Veterans Administration in Chicago and maintained a private law practice. The following year, Hatter was hired as an assistant public defender in Cook County, Illinois and later became an Assistant United States Attorney of the Northern District of California in 1962. He was then appointed Special Assistant United States Attorney of the Eastern District of California in 1965; and, the following year, Hatter served as the regional legal services director of the Office of Economic Opportunity in San Francisco. In 1970, Hatter served as executive director of the Western Center on Law and Poverty in Los Angeles, and as an associate clinical professor of law at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. In 1973, Hatter was hired as professor of law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. He later served as special assistant to the Mayor of Los Angeles, Tom Bradley, and was director of criminal justice and urban development in Los Angeles. In 1977, Hatter was appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown as a judge of the Superior Court of California in Los Angeles; and, in 1979, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the United States District Court for the Central Division of California. In 1998, Hatter became chief judge, serving until 2001. He assumed senior status in 2005.

Hatter served as a member of the Just-the-Beginning Foundation and on the board of directors for Mexican-American Legal Defense, the American Judicature Society, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, the NAACP, the Constitutional Rights Project, the National Senior Citizens Law Center, and the National Health Law Program. He also received honorary doctorate of law degrees from the University of San Fernando Valley and Wesleyan University. Terry J. Hatter, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 7, 2019 and

December 2, 2022.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 2, 2022 and February 7, 2019, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 13 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Judge Terry J. Hatter, Jr. (1933 - ) was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Central Division of California in 1979, later serving as chief judge from 1998 to 2001, and assuming senior status in 2005.

---

## 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:

Hatter, Terry J., 1933-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hatter, Terry J., 1933- --Interviews

---

## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

## The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

United States District Court for the Central District of California

---

### 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 Terry J. Hatter, December 2, 2022 and February 7, 2019. 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 Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_001\_002,

TRT: 2:28:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_001\_003,  
TRT: 3:30:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_001\_004,  
TRT: 4:27:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_001\_005,  
TRT: 5:29:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_001\_006,  
TRT: 6:28:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_001\_007,  
TRT: 7:29:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_002\_008,  
TRT: 8:28:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_002\_009,  
TRT: 9:29:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_002\_010,  
TRT: 10:29:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_002\_011,  
TRT: 11:28:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_002\_012,  
TRT: 12:16:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Section A2019\_012\_002\_013,  
TRT: 13:10:39 ?