

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Michael A. Lawson

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## 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>	Lawson, Michael Anderson
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 8, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:05:09).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer Michael A. Lawson (1953 - ) was a corporate lawyer at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom from 1980 to 2011, before serving as U.S. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization. Lawson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 8, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_014
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Michael A. Lawson was born on August 8, 1953 in Little Rock, Arkansas to Ruth Ellen Jones and Milton Anderson Lawson. He received his B.A. degree in political science and economics in 1975 from Loyola Marymount University, in Los Angeles, California, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lawson began his law career as a staff attorney for the U.S. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, in Washington, D.C. In 1980, he joined Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, in Los Angeles, California, where he specialized in merger and acquisition transactions, bankruptcy, and litigation. Later, Lawson became a partner at the firm, where he worked for thirty-one years until 2011. In 2013, President Barack Obama nominated Lawson to serve as U.S. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations. Based in Montreal, Canada, Lawson served in this role from 2014 to 2017, coordinating and regulating international air travel. In 2018, Lawson was named president and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League.

From 2004 to 2014, Lawson served as vice chair of the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County's board of directors; and, from 2005 to 2011, he served as a member of the Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) for Los Angeles World Airports. In 2011, California Governor Jerry Brown appointed Lawson to the California State Teachers Retirement System (CALSTRS) Board of Trustees, the second largest retirement system in the United States, where he served until 2014. In addition, he served as a trustee of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles. He was also a board director and former chairman of the Constitutional Rights Foundation, and a board director of the Advancement Project and the Music Center Foundation.

Lawson was the recipient of the Strickland Excellence Award from the Loyola Marymount University African

American Alumni Association in 2010. He was also recognized by Chambers USA as one of the nation's "Leading Lawyers for Business."

Lawson and his wife, Mattie McFadden-Lawson, have two adult children, Michael Jr. and Jonathan.

Michael A. Lawson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 8, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Michael A. Lawson was conducted by Harriette Cole on February 8, 2019, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Michael A. Lawson (1953 - ) was a corporate lawyer at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom from 1980 to 2011, before serving as U.S. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Lawson, Michael Anderson

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lawson, Michael Anderson--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Lawyer

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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## 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 Michael A. Lawson, February 8, 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_001, TRT:

1:27:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_002, TRT:  
2:31:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_003, TRT:  
3:28:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_004, TRT:  
4:32:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_005, TRT:  
5:28:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_006, TRT:  
6:29:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_007, TRT:  
7:28:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_008, TRT:  
8:30:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Michael A. Lawson, Section A2019\_014\_001\_009, TRT:  
9:07:46 ?