

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Johnson, Jeh Charles, 1957-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson,
Dates:	April 8, 2019 and September 18, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	17 uncompressed MOV digital video files (8:48:52).
Abstract:	Cabinet officer and lawyer Jeh C. Johnson (1957 -) was the first African American partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP before serving as general counsel of the Department of the Air Force, general counsel for the Department of Defense, and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. Johnson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 8, 2019 and September 18, 2019, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_027
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Cabinet officer and lawyer Jeh C. Johnson was born on September 11, 1957 in New York City to Norma Edelin and Jeh Vincent Johnson. He graduated from Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls, New York in 1975. He then received his B.A. degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1979, and his J.D. degree from Columbia Law School in New York City in 1982.

In 1982, Johnson was hired at the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, and later joined the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in 1984 as an associate. From 1989 to 1991, Johnson served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York. He subsequently became the first African American partner at Paul Weiss. In 1998, Johnson was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as general counsel of the U.S. Department of the Air Force until 2001, when he returned to Paul, Weiss. Johnson was later appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as general counsel for the U.S. Department of Defense in 2009. In 2012, Johnson returned to private law practice. The following year, Johnson was nominated by President Obama as Secretary of Homeland Security and served until 2017. He then rejoined the law firm of Paul Weiss as partner.

Johnson has served as chairman of the New York City Bar's Judiciary Committee and was elected as a fellow by the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2004. He has also served as special counsel to John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign, on the board of directors for Lockheed Martin, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Center for a New American Security. In 2008, Johnson was a delegate for the Democratic National Convention. He has also served as a non-resident senior fellow for the Harvard Kennedy School of Business and as a trustee for Adelphi University.

In 2017, Johnson was named Cyber Security and Data Privacy Trailblazer by the National Law Journal and was honored with the Anti-Defamation League's Gorowitz Institute Service Award. He also received the Theodore

Roosevelt Leadership Award, the NYSBA Pioneer Award, John J. McCloy Award, and the Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Award. In 2018, Johnson was listed among *Savoy* magazine's Most Influential Black Lawyers; and, in 2019, he received Columbia's University's Annual Black Alumni Council Heritage Award. He also has ten honorary degrees.

Jeh C. Johnson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 9, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on April 8, 2019 and September 18, 2019, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 17 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Cabinet officer and lawyer Jeh C. Johnson (1957 -) was the first African American partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP before serving as general counsel of the Department of the Air Force, general counsel for the Department of Defense, and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security.

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:

Johnson, Jeh Charles, 1957-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Johnson, Jeh Charles, 1957- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

Cabinet Appointee

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 Jeh C. Johnson, April 8, 2019 and September 18, 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 Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_001,
TRT: 1:29:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_002,
TRT: 2:32:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_003,
TRT: 3:30:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_004,
TRT: 4:32:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_005,
TRT: 5:28:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_006,
TRT: 6:27:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_007,
TRT: 7:32:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_008,
TRT: 8:32:58 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_009,
TRT: 9:35:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_010,
TRT: 10:43:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_011,
TRT: 11:31:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_001_012,
TRT: 12:17:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_002_013,
TRT: 13:31:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_002_014,
TRT: 14:28:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_002_015,
TRT: 15:29:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_002_016,
TRT: 16:27:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, Section A2019_027_002_017,
TRT: 17:38:15 ?