

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Pamela Herndon

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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>	Herndon, Pamela, 1952-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Pamela Herndon,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 26, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:14:07).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Lawyer and nonprofit chief executive Pamela Herndon (1953 - ) worked for the State of New Mexico for thirteen years before serving as director of the Southwest Women's Law Center, and later becoming the founding president and CEO of the KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change. Herndon was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 26, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_068
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer and nonprofit chief executive Pamela Herndon was born on November 23, 1952 in Hempstead, Texas to Kathryn and Daniel Norris Herndon. She graduated from Roy Miller High School in 1971, and earned her bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus in accounting from Howard University in 1975. Herndon then attended the University of Texas Law School where she received her J.D. degree in 1978.

Herndon married fellow lawyer, Alfred Mathewson, in 1978, and the two moved to Denver, Colorado where she worked for a major accounting firm. She was then hired by the Internal Revenue Service as a senior litigation attorney. In 1983, Herndon and her husband moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Herndon continued to work for the IRS until she was appointed by Attorney General Patricia Madrid to serve in New Mexico's Litigation Division in 1998. Here, she provided legal representation to state officials and agencies until 2006, before being appointed general counsel for the State Regulation and Licensing Department of New Mexico. In this position, Herndon supervised and managed the legal bureau of the Regulation and Licensing Department, as well as provided advice to the Office of the Superintendent. She remained here until 2009, when she became deputy cabinet secretary for New Mexico's General Services Department, overseeing the administration of the government agency which housed the Risk Management, Building Services, Property Control, Transportation Services, and Administrative Services Divisions. In February of 2011, Herndon became managing partner of Herndon Legal Services, and served until October of that year. She was then hired by the Southwest Women's Law Center in 2012 to work as their executive director until October 2018 when she founded the KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change and became their president and CEO. Herndon also taught courses on the main campus and in the law school of the University of New Mexico. She also helped train paralegals and legal secretaries at Brookline College in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Herndon was elected as a member of the New Mexico Electoral College in 2008, is a member of the Albuquerque

chapter of the American Association of University Women, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and has served on the boards of EmERGE New Mexico, the African American Performing Arts Center Foundation, the Con Alma Health Foundation, and the United States Eagle Federal Credit Union. She has also received numerous awards for her work as a lawyer, including the 2012 Public Lawyer of the Year, presented by the Public Law Section of the New Mexico State Bar, the 2015 Lawyer of the Year, presented by the Albuquerque Bar Association, and she was named as a W.K. Kellogg Fellow in 2019. Herndon is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Herndon resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her husband, and they have three adult children: Eryn, Amber, and Justin.

Pamela Herndon was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 26, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Pamela Herndon was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 26, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer and nonprofit chief executive Pamela Herndon (1953 - ) worked for the State of New Mexico for thirteen years before serving as director of the Southwest Women's Law Center, and later becoming the founding president and CEO of the KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change.

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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:

Herndon, Pamela, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Herndon, Pamela, 1952---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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Nonprofit Chief Executive

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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 Pamela Herndon, July 26, 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 Pamelya Herndon, Section A2019\_068\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:00 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pamelya Herndon, Section A2019\_068\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:36 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pamelya Herndon, Section A2019\_068\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:53 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pamelya Herndon, Section A2019\_068\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:30 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pamelya Herndon, Section A2019\_068\_001\_005, TRT: 5:18:08 ?