

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Maurice Watson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Watson, Maurice, 1958-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Maurice Watson,
Dates:	November 4, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:24:40).
Abstract:	Lawyer Maurice Watson (1958-) was the first African American to head a major law firm in Missouri and the third to do so in the country after being named chairman of Husch Blackwell in 2012 in Kansas City, Missouri. Watson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 4, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_120
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Maurice Watson was born on January 13, 1958 in Kansas City, Missouri to Christene and George Watson. He attended Barstow School and was the first African American to graduate from there in 1976. Watson then attended Harvard University where he graduated cum laude and received his B.A. degree in social studies in 1980 before earning his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1984.

After graduating from Harvard University in 1980, Watson worked in the legal department at Hallmark Cards, Inc. until 1981 when he entered Harvard Law School. Upon receiving his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1984, Watson was hired as an aide for Senator John Danforth (R-MO) where he worked with civil rights, healthcare, and education issues. He remained here until 1987 when he returned to Kansas City, Missouri to serve as an associate at Blackwell Sanders, working on civil rights and education issues. Here, he would later become partner and relationship manager for the Kansas City Public School system. In 2012, Watson was named chairman of the board of Husch Blackwell, making him the first African American to head a major law firm in Missouri and the third to do so in the country. He remained as chairman until 2018 when he co-founded Credo Philanthropy Advisors and became of counsel to Husch Blackwell.

Watson has served on numerous boards throughout his career, including as president of the board of trustees for Barstow School from 1989 to 1996, chairman of the board of directors for Children's Mercy Hospital from 1993 to 2007 and vice chair of ther board of trustees from 2002 to 2007, and secretary of the board of trustees for the National Association of Independent Schools from 1995 to 2003. He has also been a member of the African American Managing Partners Network, the Jackson County Bar Association, the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association.

Watson also received numerous awards, including the 2007 Missouri Hospital Association Excellence in Governance Award, the NAACP Kansas City, Missouri Chapter's Velma E. Woodson Outstanding Leadership

Award in 2012, the Urban League of Greater Kansas City Difference Maker of the Year Award in 2012, Kansas City Business Journal's Power 100 recognition from 2014 to 2017, the Missouri Lawyers Weekly's 2018 Law Firm Leader Award, and the African American Managing Partners Network's 2018 Managing Partner of the Year Award.

Watson resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Maurice Watson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 4, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Maurice Watson was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 4, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Maurice Watson (1958-) was the first African American to head a major law firm in Missouri and the third to do so in the country after being named chairman of Husch Blackwell in 2012 in Kansas City, Missouri.

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:

Watson, Maurice, 1958-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Watson, Maurice, 1958---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Lawyer

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 Maurice Watson, November 4, 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 Maurice Watson, Section A2019_120_001_001, TRT: 1:32:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Maurice Watson, Section A2019_120_001_002, TRT: 2:27:22 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Maurice Watson, Section A2019_120_001_003, TRT: 3:32:52 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Maurice Watson, Section A2019_120_001_004, TRT: 4:29:13 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Maurice Watson, Section A2019_120_001_005, TRT: 5:30:13 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Maurice Watson, Section A2019_120_001_006, TRT: 6:29:54 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Maurice Watson, Section A2019_120_001_007, TRT: 7:22:47 ?