

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Benjamin F. Wilson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Wilson, Benjamin F.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson,
Dates:	January 24, 2020
Bulk Dates:	2020
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:10:31).
Abstract:	Lawyer Benjamin Wilson (1951-) joined Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. in 1986 where he was later named managing partner in 2008 and chairman in 2017. Wilson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 24, 2020, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2020_007
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Benjamin F. Wilson was born on June 29, 1951 in Bloomington, Indiana to Anna and Harrison B. Wilson, Jr. He graduated from the Jackson State College Laboratory School in Jackson, Mississippi in 1965, and the Wilbraham Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts in 1969. Wilson earned his B.A. degree in history in 1973 from Dartmouth College, and his J.D. degree with honors in 1976 from Harvard Law School. Wilson began his career as an associate at the Atlanta, Georgia law firm King & Spalding in 1976. He then joined the civil division of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1979 where he handled commercial litigation matters. Wilson was later hired by Rose, Schmidt, Chapman, Duff, and Hasley in 1982 as an associate where he focused on civil litigation and was promoted to partner in 1983. Wilson subsequently joined Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. in November of 1986 where he served as lead counsel in numerous complex environmental litigation and regulatory matters for major consumer product corporations, retailers, oil and gas companies, municipalities, as well as developers. He was named managing partner of the firm in 2008 and chairman of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. in 2017. Wilson also served as an adjunct professor of environmental law at the Howard University School of Law where he also co-founded the Howard Energy and Environmental Law Society.

Wilson has served on many boards throughout his career, including as chair of the Environmental Law Institute, on the board of directors of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, the board of trustees of Dartmouth College, as secretary on the board of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, and as chairman of the Environmental, Energy, and Public Utilities Law section of the National Bar Association from 1987 to 1998.

Wilson has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession in 2014, the Washington Bar Association's Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit in 2016, and the Presidential Award from the National Bar Association in 2019.

Benjamin F. Wilson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 24, 2020.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Benjamin F. Wilson was conducted by Deborah Lathen on January 24, 2020, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Benjamin Wilson (1951-) joined Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. in 1986 where he was later named managing partner in 2008 and chairman in 2017.

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:

Wilson, Benjamin F.

Lathen, Deborah (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Wilson, Benjamin F.--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 Benjamin F. Wilson, January 24, 2020. 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 Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_001, TRT: 1:31:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_002, TRT: 2:28:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_003, TRT: 3:29:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_004, TRT: 4:30:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_005, TRT: 5:30:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_006, TRT: 6:28:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_007, TRT: 7:28:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_008, TRT: 8:28:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Benjamin F. Wilson, Section A2020_007_001_009, TRT: 9:14:44 ?