

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Lafontant-Mankarious, Jewel, 1922-1997
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious,
Dates:	February 5, 1993
Bulk Dates:	1993
Physical Description:	1 Betacame SP videocassettes (0:20:41).
Abstract:	Lawyer Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious (1922 - 1997) was the first African American to serve as Deputy Solicitor General of the United States. She is the mother of John Rogers, Jr., founder and CEO of Ariel Investments. Lafontant-MANKarious was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 5, 1993, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A1993_006
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious was born on April 28, 1922 in Chicago, Illinois to Aida Arabella and C. Francis Stradford, an attorney and co-founder of the National Bar Association. Lafontant-MANKarious was raised in Chicago and graduated from Englewood High School. She went on to receive her A.B. degree in political science from Oberlin College in 1943, and her J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1946. Lafontant-MANKarious was the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Chicago Law School.

In the late 1940s, Lafontant-MANKarious and her then husband, John Rogers, Sr., went into practice together in the law firm of Rogers, Rogers, and Strayhorn. Lafontant-MANKarious also worked as a trial attorney for the Chicago Legal Aid Society, where she handled landlord-tenant disputes from 1947 to 1953. In 1955, during President Dwight D. Eisenhower's administration, she became the first African American woman to serve as assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. Following that post, she was appointed by President Richard Nixon as the first African American deputy solicitor general in 1973. During President George H. W. Bush's administration, from 1989 to 1993, Lafontant-MANKarious assumed the roles of U.S. ambassador-at-large and U.S. coordinator for refugee affairs. She also served as the vice chairperson of the U.S. Advisory Commission on International, Educational and Cultural Affairs.

During her career, Lafontant-MANKarious served on more than twenty corporate boards, including Jewel Companies, Inc., Continental Bank, Mobil Corporation, Revlon, Inc., Ariel Capital Management, and Pan American Airlines. She served as secretary of the National Bar Association from 1956 to 1964, and was active in the Cook County Bar Association, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Economic Club of Chicago, and the Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Lafontant-MANKarious received many awards, including the Cook County Bar Association Achievement Award; the University of Chicago citation for public service; the CARE Foundation's International Humanitarian Award; and numerous honorary degrees.

Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 5, 1993.

Lafontant-MANKarious passed away on May 31, 1997 at age 75. Her son is John Rogers, Jr., founder and chief executive officer of Ariel Investments.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on February 5, 1993, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 1 Betacame SP videocassettes. Lawyer Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious (1922 - 1997) was the first African American to serve as Deputy Solicitor General of the United States. She is the mother of John Rogers, Jr., founder and CEO of Ariel Investments.

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:

Lafontant-Mankarious, Jewel, 1922-1997

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Haynes, Frank (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Lafontant-Mankarious, Jewel, 1922-1997--Interviews

African American lawyers--Illinois--Chicago--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 Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious, February 5, 1993.
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 Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious, Section A1993_006_001_001, TRT: 0:20:41 ?

Jewel Lafontant-MANKarious describes her family background. Her father, C. Francis Stradford was a lawyer; her mother, Aida Arabella Stradford was an artist. Lafontant-MANKarious' grandfather was the owner of the Stradford Hotel and Stradford Library in Tulsa, Oklahoma until his property was destroyed during the 1921 Tulsa race riot. Lafontant-MANKarious' parents were very influential in her life, as were the legacies of A. Philip Randolph and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She reflects on using the law for social change as evidenced by "Brown vs. Board of Education" as well as in her father's successful case blocking the extradition of her grandfather back to the Tulsa, Oklahoma. She considers The Civil Rights Movement, from Chicago sit-ins in the 1940s to Dr. King's leadership in the 1960s. Lafontant-MANKarious traveled the world as the U.S. Ambassador at Large and U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs. She shares the reasons behind her success, the benefit of traveling to one's cultural awareness, and how she would like to be remembered.

Civil rights movement--United States.

Race riots--Oklahoma--Tulsa.

Family history--Oklahoma--Tulsa.

African American lawyers--Illinois--Chicago.

African American families.

African American leadership.

King, Martin Luther, 1899-1984.