

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charisse R. Lillie

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Lillie, Charisse Ranielle
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Charisse R. Lillie,
Dates:	September 9, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:58:34).
Abstract:	Corporate lawyer Charisse R. Lillie (1952 -) chairs the litigation department of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP in Philadelphia. She is also the chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank. Lillie was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 9, 2002, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_185
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Born to educators Richard and Vernelle Lillie on April 7, 1952, Charisse Lillie was made aware of the importance of service and education, and has made both part of her own legal legacy. Lillie received her B.A. from Wesleyan University in 1973, her J.D. from Temple University Law School in 1976, and her LL.M. from Yale University in 1982. Throughout her distinguished career, Lillie has shown a profound commitment to affecting change through the law. Among the first generation of students to integrate Houston's public schools in the 1960s, she was aware that attorneys were critical to dismantling the laws of segregation.

As a college student, Lillie wrote a monograph on the careers of African American federal judges. This experience helped shape her career by putting her in contact with early giants. After receiving her LL.M., Lillie taught law at Villanova University in Pennsylvania before embarking on a distinguished career in government service as assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Civil Division) from 1985 to 1988, general counsel to the Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia from 1988 to 1990, and as city solicitor for Philadelphia from 1990 to 1992. She joined Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll in 1992.

Serving as partner and chair of the litigation department of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, Lillie's practice centers on discrimination defense. She lectures widely and serves as an adviser on issues such as diversity, anti-discrimination and affirmative action. Lillie serves on countless boards, committees and organizations and was most recently appointed chairperson of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award from the Urban League of Philadelphia. Lillie is married to Thomas McGill, Jr. and has one daughter, Alison McGill.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Charisse R. Lillie was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 9, 2002, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Corporate lawyer Charisse R. Lillie (1952 -) chairs the litigation department of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP in Philadelphia. She is also the chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank.

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:

Lillie, Charisse Ranielle

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lillie, Charisse Ranielle --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll

Occupations:

Corporate 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 Charisse R. Lillie, September 9, 2002. 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 Charisse R. Lillie, Section A2002_185_001_001, TRT: 0:29:30
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Charisse R. Lillie describes her family background and childhood. Lillie was born on April 7, 1952. Her mother, HistoryMaker Vernell Audrey Lillie was born on May 11, 1931 in Houston, Texas. Her family settled in North Carolina after slavery and migrated to Oklahoma before settling in Houston, Texas. Lillie's maternal grandfather worked as a funeral director until World War I, when he began working at Hughes Tool Company. Lillie's father, Richard Lysander Lillie was born on July 29, 1931 in Houston, Texas. His mother was

from Sealy, Texas and his father was from New Iberia, Louisiana. Lillie's mother was a drama teacher at Phillis Wheatley High School and a professor at the University of Pittsburgh and her father was a teacher and jazz musician. Lillie grew up in the Pleasantville neighborhood of Houston, Texas and attended Turner Elementary School, St. Peter the Apostle Middle School, and Mt. Carmel High School, as well as a summer camp at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts in 1968 and 1969.

Video Oral History Interview with Charisse R. Lillie, Section A2002_185_001_002, TRT: 0:30:00
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Charisse R. Lillie describes her education. After graduating from Mt. Carmel High School in Houston, Texas in 1970, Lillie enrolled at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut as part of their first class of freshman women. At Wesleyan, Lillie was active in the Ujima organization of African American students and was mentored by Professor Clement Vose, with whom she wrote a paper on black federal judges. While researching this paper, Lillie interviewed fourteen of the fifteen black federal judges, including Judge Clifford Green and Judge Leon Higgenbotham. After graduating from Wesleyan, Lillie attended Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she met HistoryMaker H. Patrick Swygert and Drew Days. After receiving her J.D. degree, Lillie worked for two years as law clerk for Judge Clifford Green, two years as a trial attorney in the Justice Department, and one year as Deputy Director of Community Legal Services in Philadelphia before enrolling at Yale Law School.

Video Oral History Interview with Charisse R. Lillie, Section A2002_185_001_003, TRT: 0:31:00
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Charisse R. Lillie describes her recent career. After obtaining her LL.M. degree from Yale Law School in 1982, Lillie became a law school teacher at Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania and also became active in many organizations. Lillie was then hired as the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1985, General Counsel to the Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia from 1988, and City Solicitor for Philadelphia from 1990 to 1992 under HistoryMaker W. Wilson Goode. In 1992, she joined the firm of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll, where she became chair of the litigation department. Lillie also served as Chair of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and in 1999 began serving as chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. Lillie also shares her opinions on legal questions in the African American community such as affirmative action and reparations.

Video Oral History Interview with Charisse R. Lillie, Section A2002_185_001_004, TRT: 0:28:04
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Charisse R. Lillie describes her plans for the future, and her hopes and aspirations for the African American community. She also reflects on her legacy and her family. Lillie ends the interview by narrating her photographs.