

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Larry Gibson

PERSON

Gibson, Larry S., 1942-

Alternative Names: Larry Gibson;

Life Dates: March 22, 1942-

Place of Birth: Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Work: Baltimore, MD

Occupations: Law Professor

Biographical Note

Larry Gibson was born in Washington, D.C. on March 22, 1942. His mother was a domestic worker and cook and his father worked as a janitor. He earned his high school diploma from Baltimore City College High School in 1960, where he was the first African American class president, a member of the track team and drama club.

From 1960 to 1964, Gibson attended Howard University, where he organized his first political campaign for a female classmate who was running for Homecoming Queen. While at Howard, Gibson was student body president, chairperson of D.C. Students for Civil Rights and pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. In 1967, he earned his law degree from Columbia University in New York.

Between 1963 and 1970, Gibson worked as an associate for Brown, Allen, Dorsey and Josey. From 1969 to 1975, Gibson served on the Baltimore City School Board. In 1970, he became a partner at the firm he had been working at, Josey, Gibson, Allen and Mitchell, and a year later he handled the first of his many high profile cases, representing the Black Panther party in a murder case and winning. In 1972, Gibson became the first African American law professor at the University of Virginia, a post he held until 1974. Gibson then accepted a position at the University of Maryland law school as an associate professor. In 1977, he was named a full professor at Maryland, where he continues to teach civil procedure, evidence, election law and race and the law.

Gibson has also continued to be active in politics throughout his career. From 1977 to 1978, he served as associate deputy attorney general in the Carter Administration. From 1978 to 1979, Gibson served as Director of the National Economic Crimes Project. In 1987, Gibson helped mastermind Kurt Schmoke's campaign for mayor of Baltimore. He

would serve as Schmoke's campaign manger for his 1991 and 1995 mayoral campaigns as well. In 2001, he served as campaign consultant and political advisor for the Ravalomanana for President of Madagascar campaign.

Gibson is currently working on an oral history project about Maryland's African American lawyers and writing a book on Thurgood Marshall's first four years of practicing law from 1933 to 1937. He is of counsel at Shapiro, Sher, Guinot and Sandler where he represents the World Umpires Association which includes all professional baseball umpires.

Related Entries

Baltimore City College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Coppin Demonstration School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Columbia Law School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Government

Shapiro, Sher, Guinot & Sandler [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Of Counsel

Brown, Allen, Dorsey & Josey [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to 1985]

Associate

Venable, Baetjer, and Howard [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1966 to ?]

Associate

Federal Appellate Court [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1967 to 1968]

Clerk

Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2003 to ?]

Member

Josey, Gibson, Allen & Mitchell [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to ?]

Partner

University of Virginia School of Law [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198809 to 199811]

Professor

University of Maryland School of Law [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2004 to 2007]

Associate Professor

University of Maryland School of Law [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to ?]

Professor

United States Department of Justice [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1978]

Associate Deputy Attorney General

National Economic Crimes Project [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1979]

Director

Kurt Schmoke Mayoral Campaign [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to 1995]

Campaign Manager

Non-Violent Action Group [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

DC Students For Civil Rights [MEMBEROF]
[from 1964 to 1964]

Chairperson