

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Larry Gibson

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Gibson, Larry S., 1942-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 12, 2004, October 19, 2004 and September 20, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14 Betacame SP videocassettes (6:52:32).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Law professor Larry Gibson (1942 - ) was the first African American law professor at the University of Virginia, later joining the law faculty of University of Maryland law school. Gibson is a political strategist who successfully masterminded several campaigns for former Baltimore mayor, Kurt Schmoke. Gibson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 12, 2004, October 19, 2004 and September 20, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_093
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

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.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Larry Gibson was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on July 12, 2004, October 19, 2004 and September 20, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 14 Betacame SP videocassettes. Law professor Larry Gibson (1942 - ) was the first African American law professor at the University of Virginia, later joining the law faculty of University of Maryland law school. Gibson is a political strategist who successfully masterminded several campaigns for former Baltimore mayor, Kurt Schmoke.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Gibson, Larry S., 1942-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Gibson, Larry S., 1942---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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University of Maryland at Baltimore. School of Law

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## Occupations:

Law Professor

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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## 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 Larry Gibson, July 12, 2004, October 19, 2004 and September 20, 2004. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section A2004\_093\_002\_001, TRT: 0:31:16 ?

Larry Gibson was born on March 22nd, 1942 in Washington, D.C. His mother, Daisy Juanita Hall, was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Her father was a carpenter, and she was one of ten siblings. She was very active in the church. Gibson never knew his biological father and was raised by his stepfather, Benjamin Franklin Gibson. He was from Hertford, North Carolina, and born to Eliza Gibson and Benjamin Gibson. Shortly after his mother's marriage to his stepfather, Gibson moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he grew up on Fulton Avenue in with his three brothers, sister, and stepbrother. He attended Coppin Demonstration School, an elementary school that was also a teacher-training school, then Booker T. Washington Junior High School. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the Brown v. Board of Education Topeka case led to Gibson entering Baltimore City College for high school in 1955 as one of its first African American students. Gibson enjoyed high school and was active in student government and sports.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section A2004\_093\_002\_002, TRT: 0:29:52 ?

Larry Gibson attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he coordinated protests in favor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as the chair of the D.C. Students for Civil Rights. He then attended Columbia University Law School in New York City. After obtaining his law degree in 1967, Gibson returned to Baltimore to work for leading African American law firm Brown, Allen, Dorsey and Josey, where he represented civil rights organizations and successfully defended Charles Wyche in the "bag of bones" murder trial. After briefly teaching law at University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Gibson returned to Baltimore to teach about race and law at the University of Maryland Francis King Cary School of Law. From 1977 to 1979, Gibson served as Associate Deputy Attorney General in the Carter Administration. He then served as campaign manager for Baltimore's first black mayor, Kurt Schmoke and consulted on Marc Ravalomanana's presidential campaign in Madagascar.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section A2004\_093\_003\_003, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Larry Gibson completed his undergraduate degree at Howard University in Washington, D.C. While there, he joined the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, chaired the D.C. Students for Civil Rights and was involved with the Non-Violent Action Group, the precursor to the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) later headed by Stokely Carmichael. Gibson was also Joint Forces commander of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force ROTC, but refused his commission rather than fight in the Vietnam War. After graduating in 1964, Gibson attended Columbia University Law School, because of the school's prestige and his desire to live in New York City. During law school, he and other students organized on behalf of Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and formed the basis of the National Black Law Students Association. Gibson decided to return to Baltimore due to its improved conditions for civil rights. In 1967, he became the first black law clerk for a federal judge in the South when he clerked for Judge Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section A2004\_093\_003\_004, TRT: 0:30:45 ?

Larry Gibson graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1967 and returned to Baltimore, Maryland. In 1968, he left his clerkship for Judge Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr. to work at the black law firm Brown, Allen, Dorsey, and Josey, where he split time litigating divorce cases and civil rights cases. After representing groups like the Black Panther Party, Soul School, and Congress of Racial Equality, Gibson moved to teach at the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville. His preference for urban life led him to return to Baltimore to join the faculty at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. After working for President Jimmy Carter's election campaign, Gibson was appointed associate deputy attorney general for the U.S. Justice Department, where he worked on counter-terrorism and overhauled the United States Federal Witness Protection Program. Gibson then served as campaign manager for HistoryMaker Kurt Schmoke's Baltimore mayoral runs in 1987, 1991, and 1995.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section A2004\_093\_003\_005, TRT: 0:30:05 ?

Larry Gibson worked as a consultant for Marc Ravalomanana's 2002 Madagascar presidential campaign. Gibson had to sneak campaign materials into Madagascar in order to maintain an element of surprise against the opposing campaign. He also negotiated for the U.S. government to formally recognize the Ravalomanana government. Since then, Gibson has continued teaching at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in Baltimore. . In 2004, he led a voter registration drive in Baltimore for U.S. House Representative Elijah Cummings. At the time of the interview, Gibson was writing his book 'Young Thurgood: The Making of a Supreme Court Justice' and researching the history of African American lawyers in Maryland. He also held the position of counsel to the law firm Shapiro, Sher, Guinot & Sandler, where he most prominently represents the World Umpires Association. Gibson talks about the 2004 presidential election, reflects upon his life and describes how he would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section A2004\_093\_003\_006, TRT: 0:17:30 ?

Larry Gibson narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section B2004\_093\_001\_001, TRT: 0:31:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section B2004\_093\_001\_001E, TRT: 0:31:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section B2004\_093\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section B2004\_093\_001\_002E, TRT: 0:30:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section B2004\_093\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section B2004\_093\_001\_003E, TRT: 0:30:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section B2004\_093\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gibson, Section B2004\_093\_001\_004E, TRT: 0:30:16 ?