

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Fletcher "Flash" Wiley

PERSON

Wiley, Fletcher, 1942-

Alternative Names: Fletcher "Flash" Wiley;

Life Dates: November 29, 1942-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Chestnut Hill, MA

Occupations: Lawyer

Biographical Note

Lawyer and civic leader Fletcher "Flash" Wiley was born on November 29, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois. Four years after his birth, Wiley's family moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was raised. In 1953, Wiley was selected as a charter member of the "Gifted Child Program" by the Indianapolis Public Schools, in which he was the only African American in his class. Upon graduation from Shortridge High School in 1960, Wiley was recruited by the United States Air Force Academy and became the first African American from the State of Indiana appointed to a military academy, as well as the school's first African American football player. As an athlete, he gained the nickname "Flash," and in 1965, became the fifth African American graduate of the Air Force Academy and the Academy's first black Fulbright Scholar. Wiley continued his studies at L'Institut Des Etudes Politiques at the University of Paris in France; and, in 1974, following his service as a captain in the U.S. Air Force, he received his M.P.P. degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School.

For almost four decades, Wiley has worked as a practicing attorney concentrating in the areas of corporate and commercial law, small business development, entertainment law and real estate. He helped form the Boston, Massachusetts-based law firm of Budd, Reilly and Wiley, the largest minority-dominant firm in New England. In 1996, Wiley joined PRWT Services, Inc., as vice president and general counsel; and before he retired from employment with PRWT in 2008, he helped build the company into one of the nation's largest minority-owned businesses and Black Enterprise Magazine's 2009 "Company of the Year". He remains a member of the PRWT Advisory Board.

Wiley has served as a Director of several for-profit business organizations, including three public companies. He retired in 2011, after two decades as a Director of The TJX

Companies, Inc. (NYSE). He is a director of the privately-held sports enterprise, Haymon Boxing, LLC. He is also of counsel to the law firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP (formerly Bingham McCutchen LLP), where he specializes in corporate and commercial law. He is also chairman and chief executive officer of the Centaurus Group, LLC, where he serves as an investor and principal in several commercial, real estate development, and management consulting ventures.

Wiley has been involved in many civic and charitable activities. In 1984, he founded and chaired the Governor's Commission on Minority Business Development. He also served for seven years, first as president and later as national chairman, of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association, Inc.; and he later served for two years as chairman of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. Wiley is also a founding member of the Black Alumni Associations of both the Harvard Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School. He is a benefactor of Crispus Attucks Children's Center, Inc.; a founding member of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School Black Alumni Organizations; a former Director of the New England Legal Foundation; Overseer of the New England Region Anti-Defamation League; and Chairman of the Board of The Dimock Center, Inc. He has also received numerous civic and professional awards, including induction into the 2010 "Academy of Distinguished Bostonians." In 2011, he was named by U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to the Board of Visitors of The Air University; and in 2012, President Barack Obama appointed him to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy. In 2012, he received Honorary Doctorates from Cambridge College and New England School of Law.

Wiley is a member of the Bars of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and District of Columbia, and belongs to the American, National, and Massachusetts Bar Associations.

He and his wife, Benaree Pratt Wiley, live in Brookline, Massachusetts. They have two children: a son, Pratt, and a daughter, B.J.

Fletcher "Flash" Wiley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 15, 2004.

Related Entries

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Shortridge High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

United States Air Force Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Harvard Law School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Harvard Kennedy School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.P.P.

James Whitcomb Riley School 43 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 23 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 40 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 45 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Certificate

U.S. Air Force [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19650609 to 19691209]

Special Investigations Officer

PWRT Services, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1996 to ?]

V.P.; General Counsel

Schnader Harrison Goldstein & Manello [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to 19960901]

Senior Member

Schnader Harrison Goldstein & Manello [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19960901 to 2002]

Of Counsel

Unity Bank & Trust Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 1982]

Conservator

Snyder, Tepper & Berlin [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1979]

Associate Attorney

Abt Associates Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1974 to 1974]

Director, Field Operations

Abt Associates Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1972]

Analyst

Abt Associates Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1974 to 1974]

Research Associate, Project Validation

Shearman & Sterling [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197305 to 197308]

Law Associate

Democratic National Platform Committee [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1972 to 1972]

Special Assistant to the Chairman, Richard E. Neustadt

U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1971 to 1971]

Consultant; Program Evaluator

Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1970 to 1971]

Law Clerk, Civil Rights Division

Mark Battle Associates, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1970 to 1970]

Associate

Congressman Andrew Jacobs, Jr. (D-IN) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1970 to 1970]

Consultant

Abt Associates Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1974 to 1975]

Deputy Area Manager, Administration & Personnel

Fine & Ambrogne [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1975 to 1978]

Associate Attorney

Fitch, Wiley, Richlin & Tourse, P.C. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1979 to 1993]

Senior Partner

PRWT Holdings [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to ?]

President; Chief Operating Officer

Bingham McCutchen LLP [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2003 to ?]

Of Counsel

Harvard Black Alumni Association [MEMBEROf]
[from 1983 to ?]

Founding Member

American Bar Association [MEMBEROf]
[from 1988 to 1991]

Member

Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association [MEMBEROf]
[from 1974 to ?]

Life Member

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute [MEMBEROf]
[from 1978 to 1986]

Board Member

Brigham and Women's Hospital [MEMBEROf]
[from 1985 to 1987]

Board Member

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce [MEMBEROf]
[from 1980 to 1996]

Board Member

Commonwealth of Massachusetts [MEMBEROf]
[from 1977 to 1981]

Commissioner, Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission

Commonwealth of Massachusetts [MEMBEROf]
[from 1983 to 1984]

Commissioner, Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission

National Bar Association [MEMBEROf]
[from 1976 to 1994]

Member

Washington Bar Association [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Life Member

National Park Foundation, African American Experience Fund [MEMBEROf]
[from 2002 to ?]

Trustee

Anti-Defamation League, New England Region [MEMBEROf]
[from 2003 to ?]

Overseer

Black College Scholarship Fund, Inc. [MEMBEROf]
[from 2004 to ?]

Charter Member

Boston 2004, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from 2003 to ?]

Director

Boston Local Development Corporation [MEMBEROF]
[from 1984 to 1993]

Member

Boston Olympics Organizing Committee [MEMBEROF]
[from 1990 to 1998]

Director

The Crispus Attucks Children's Center, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from 1975 to 1996]

Director; General Counsel

Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston [MEMBEROF]
[from 1980 to 1993]

Board of Directors

Fort Hill Civic Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 1979 to 1991]

Member

Harvard Alumni Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 1986 to 1989]

Director

The Hundred Club of Massachusetts, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

John F. Kennedy School of Government, Dean's Alumni Leadership Council
[MEMBEROF]
[from 2004 to ?]

Member

John F. Kennedy School of Government Alumni Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 1981 to 1985]

Executive Council Member

John F. Kennedy Library Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from 1991 to 1996]

Director

Longy School of Music [MEMBEROF]
[from 1994 to 1996]

Trustee

NAACP [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Life Member

New England Aquarium [MEMBEROF]

[from 1977 to 1986]

Director

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital [MEMBEROF]

[from 1978 to 1985]

Board of Overseers

Roxbury Community College [MEMBEROF]

[from 1991 to 1993]

Director

Roxbury Highlands Neighborhood Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 1977 to 1991]

Member

Transitional Employment Enterprises, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from 1978 to 1988]

Director

U.S. Air Force Academy Association of Graduates [MEMBEROF]

[from 1977 to ?]

Life Member

U.S. Air Force Academy Athletic Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Life Member

U.S. Air Force Academy Falcon Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from 1998 to ?]

Trustee

U.S. Air Force Academy Saber Society [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to ?]

Member

Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to 2004]

Director

Massachusetts Council on Economic Growth & Technology [MEMBEROF]

[from 1994 to ?]

Appointee

Boston Mayor's Management Review Committee [MEMBEROF]
[from 1985 to ?]

Appointee

Massachusetts Governor's Special Commission on Minority Business Development
[MEMBEROF]
[from 1985 to ?]

Appointee

Massachusetts Governor's Community Development Coordinating Council [MEMBEROF]
[from 1983 to ?]

Appointee

Boston Mayor's Advisory Committee to the Commissioner of Assessing [MEMBEROF]
[from 1982 to ?]

Appointee

Federal National Mortgage Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 1979 to 1981]

Advisor

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Defenders Committee [MEMBEROF]
[from 1976 to ?]

Appointee

Coolidge Bank and Trust Company [MEMBEROF]
[from 1989 to 1991]

Director

Urban Underwriters Insurance Agency, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from 1995 to 2001]

Chairman

West Insurance Agency [MEMBEROF]
[from 1992 to ?]

Director

KELLEE Communications Group, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from 1987 to ?]

Director

Haymon Entertainment, LLC [MEMBEROF]
[from 1999 to ?]

Director

Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from 1983 to ?]

Life Member

