

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Randolph Noel Stone

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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>	Stone, Randolph N.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 5, 2008 and February 8, 2008
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 Betacame SP videocassettes (4:38:36).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Law professor and public defender Randolph Noel Stone (1946 - ) was the first African American director of the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender in Chicago, Illinois. Stone later served as the director of the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School, where he started the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project. Stone was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 5, 2008 and February 8, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2008_011
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Distinguished professor of law Randolph Noel Stone was born on November 26, 1946 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The eldest of seven children, Stone's parents greatly emphasized the importance of education. After graduating from high school, Stone went on to attend Lincoln University in Pennsylvania where he received an academic scholarship.

Stone was drafted by the United States Army in 1967 and served in Vietnam. After the war, Stone returned and continued his studies at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. In 1972, he graduated with his B.A. degree, and inspired by the legal profession's icons, Thurgood Marshall and Charles Houston Hamilton, Stone attended the University of Wisconsin earning his J.D. degree in 1975. After graduation, Stone received a Reginald Heber Community Law Fellowship and worked with the Neighborhood Legal Services in Washington, D.C. He then worked as a staff attorney and office director for the Criminal Defense Consortium of Cook County and later as a Clinical Fellow for the University of Chicago Law School before starting his own private practice with Stone & Clark. At that time, Stone was appointed to represent one of the defendants in the "Pontiac Seventeen" Case, then the largest capital murder case in U.S. history. All the defendants were acquitted after a lengthy jury trial.

Stone later served as staff attorney and deputy director for the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia and as an instructor at Harvard Law School before becoming the Public Defender of Cook County in Illinois in 1988. As the first African American Public Defender of Cook County, Stone was responsible for the management of a \$30 million budget and the leadership of over 500 attorneys. In 1991, Stone was appointed as the director of the Mandel Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School where he created the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project, providing law and social work students with the opportunity to engage in policy reform while defending children and young adults accused of criminal behavior. Stone continues to serve as a Clinical Professor of Law at

the Law School. Stone was the first African American to Chair the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section, an organization of over 9,000 criminal defense lawyers, prosecutors, judges, public defenders and other professionals concerned with criminal justice policy. He is a past president of the Illinois Board of Bar Admissions, a founding board member of First Defense Legal Aid (FDLA), the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem and former board member of both the Cook County and Chicago Bar Associations. He currently serves on the board of Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC), the Sentencing Project, Inc. and on a variety of other advisory boards and committees. Stone has received a number of awards and writes and teaches about criminal and juvenile justice, race and crime, evidence, legal ethics and trial advocacy.

Stone lives in Chicago, Illinois, is married to Cheryl Bradley, has four children and continues to serve the general public through the profession of law.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Randolph Noel Stone was conducted by Cheryl Butler on February 5, 2008 and February 8, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 10 Betacame SP videocassettes. Law professor and public defender Randolph Noel Stone (1946 - ) was the first African American director of the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender in Chicago, Illinois. Stone later served as the director of the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School, where he started the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project.

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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:

Stone, Randolph N.

Butler, Cheryl (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Stone, Randolph N.--Interviews

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African American lawyers--Interviews

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African American law teachers--Interviews

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Public defenders--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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First Defense Legal Aid

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## Occupations:

Public Defender

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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 Randolph Noel Stone, February 5, 2008 and February 8, 2008. 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 Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Randolph Noel Stone was born on November 26, 1946 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Lee Terrell Stone and Raymond Stone, Sr. His maternal great-grandmother, Kansas Hale Beeks, was the daughter of slaves who became sharecroppers in Paducah, Kentucky. There, Beeks met and married World War I U.S. Army veteran Jacob Hale. Stone's maternal grandparents, Earthel Hale Terrell and Jacob Terrell, owned a farm in Paducah, and sold produce at his maternal great aunt's restaurant. Later, Stone's entire maternal family relocated to Milwaukee, where his maternal great-grandmother remarried Otis Beeks, a construction worker who supervised white workers for municipal projects. Stone's father was born in the Bessemer, Alabama, and orphaned as a child. He moved to Milwaukee as a teenager, and was later drafted into the U.S. Army. Stone first lived in an all-black inner city neighborhood in Milwaukee, before moving to an all-white neighborhood, where he experienced discrimination when he was refused entry into a white friend's house.

African American lawyers--Interviews.

African American law teachers--Interviews.

Public defenders--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:21 ?

Randolph Noel Stone was the oldest of seven children born to Lee Terrell Stone and Raymond Stone, Sr. He first attended the integrated Robert M. LaFollette School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was one of three African American students in his class. His parents emphasized the importance of education, and Stone excelled academically. In the fourth grade, he faced discrimination from his white teacher, who changed her classroom policies to avoid giving him an achievement award. She later apologized after meeting with his mother. Stone then attended the majority white Rufus King High School where he excelled in mathematics, and aspired to become a mechanical engineer. In January of 1964, Stone went to the Milwaukee Auditorium to hear Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak. He graduated later that year, and received an academic scholarship to attend Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. Stone remembers Milwaukee civil rights activist Father James Groppi, Lawyer Vel Phillips and Baseball Player Hank Aaron.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

Randolph Noel Stone was an avid reader growing up, and enjoyed the poetry of Haki Madhubuti. He was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he joined the choir, usher board and the Baptist Youth Fellowship. When Stone was a student at Rufus King High School, a few of his friends robbed a store and stole a car. Stone was mistakenly arrested for the offense, and harassed and beaten while in police custody. His father, Raymond Stone, Sr., proved that Stone was with him when the robbery occurred, and he was released. After graduating from high school in 1964, Stone attended Lincoln University in Philadelphia on academic scholarship. There, he majored in economics, and admired his political science professor, Charles V. Hamilton, who had co-authored 'Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America' with Stokely Carmichael. On the weekends, Stone took frequent road trips to attend parties at other historically black colleges, which caused his grades to suffer.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:20 ?

Randolph Noel Stone left Lincoln University in Pennsylvania after his second year, and moved back to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he worked at a Rockwell Automation, Inc. manufacturing company. In 1967, he was drafted into the U.S. military, and reported to Fort Campbell in Kentucky for basic training, and Fort Polk in Louisiana for advanced infantry training. On his way home for a holiday break, he and his white comrades stopped at a bar in Louisiana, but were refused service. Stone reported for active duty in Vietnam in January of 1968. To avoid an assignment to the ground infantry, he served as one of two black helicopter machine gunners. After learning of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, Stone refused to participate any further in the war. He returned to Milwaukee in 1969, and enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he was influenced by his African American poetry professor, Tejumola Ologboni, and became involved with the Black People's Topographical Research Center.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:20 ?

Randolph Noel Stone majored in political science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and joined the local Black People's Topographical Research Center in 1969. Upon graduating in 1972, Stone enrolled in the University of Wisconsin Law School, where he was inspired to become a trial lawyer after taking an evidence course taught by former U.S. attorney, Frank Tuerkeimer. During his second year of law school, Stone was elected president of the Black American Law Students Association, and interned at the Milwaukee Legal Services, Inc. clinic. He became active in the law school's legal aid program, led by law professor Steve Herzberg, and was mentored by his African American law professor, James E. Jones, Jr. After graduating in 1975, Stone was accepted into the Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship Program, and assigned to the Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, D.C., where he focused on housing and consumer law cases.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_002\_006, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Randolph Noel Stone joined the Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, D.C. through the Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship Program in 1975. There, he was inspired by the program's director, Willie E. Cook, Jr., and deputy director, William Martin, who were both prominent African American lawyers. He tried his first case in front of Judge

Theodore Newman, Jr., where he defended a woman who purchased furniture on credit through a contract with hidden inflated interest rates, which violated the Uniform Commercial Code. Stone also tried housing cases, and later prevented a client from being wrongfully evicted from his home. During the late 1970s, Stone was recruited to the Criminal Defense Consortium of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois, where he represented a client who faced sixty years in prison for first degree murder. Stone tried the case in front of Chicago Judge R. Eugene Pincham, and his client was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_002\_007, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Randolph Noel Stone moved to the Criminal Defense Consortium of Cook County's Woodlawn office in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to his caseload, Stone also taught trial practice workshops at the University of Chicago Law School. In 1977, he joined the University of Chicago Law School's Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic as a full time clinical fellow; there, he was one of two black faculty members, and supervised students during employment discrimination and criminal defense cases. Later, in 1977, Stone argued his first death penalty case, in which he represented Darby Tillis and Perry Cobb, who were accused of armed robbery and the first degree murder of two North Side businessmen. The first and second trials resulted in hung juries; however, when the case was tried a third time in 1979 before an all-white jury, both defendants were convicted and sentenced to death. After a fifth trial in 1987, both defendants were acquitted. Stone recalls an armed robbery case at the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_002\_008, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Randolph Noel Stone represented defendant Albert Jackson during the Pontiac 17 case in 1979, in which seventeen African American inmates of the Pontiac Correctional Center were charged with the murders of three white correctional officers during a prison rebellion. Stone gave the opening statement during the proceedings in 1981, after which all ten defendants were found not guilty. During the case, Stone and the other defense attorneys, which included Leo Ellwood Holt and Marianne Jackson, discovered that the white prosecutors were paid more by the State of Illinois. In 1980, Stone formed his own private practice, Stone and Clark, alongside trial lawyer William S. Clark, Jr. His successful cases included the acquittal of Delores Bailey, a woman who murdered her abusive spouse in self-defense. In 1983, Stone closed his private practice and joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., where he worked with Director Frank Carter and Trial Chief Charles Ogletree.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_002\_009, TRT: 0:30:20 ?

Randolph Noel Stone joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., where he successfully defended a young man who was charged with the illegal possession of a weapon. He was later promoted to deputy director, but left soon after to serve as the first black director of the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender in Chicago, Illinois in 1988. There, he created a community outreach program, tripled minority hiring and established a public affairs division. In 1991, he chaired the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association, and became director of the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School. There, Stone created the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project. After a juvenile defendant was

sentenced to life without parole, the clinic wrote an amicus brief which challenged the constitutionality of mandatory sentencing. The appeal went to the Illinois Supreme Court, who then overturned the case's life sentence ruling.

Video Oral History Interview with Randolph Noel Stone, Section A2008\_011\_002\_010, TRT: 0:11:45 ?

Randolph Noel Stone served as a lecturer for civil rights attorney Charles Ogletree's Trial Advocacy Workshop at Harvard Law School in the late 1980s. As director of the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School, Stone created his own intensive trial advocacy workshop for his clinical law students, which he modelled after Harvard Law School's program. Stone travelled with Charles Ogletree in 1992 to Johannesburg, South Africa, where he oversaw the development of programs for the country's first public defender service, and later returned to Durban, South Africa to attend the United Nations' World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance as a representative of The Sentencing Project. Stone reflects upon his career, legacy and family. He then concludes the interview by describing his future career aspirations.