

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mollie Belt

PERSON

**Belt, Mollie, 1943-**

**Alternative Names:** Mollie Belt;

**Life Dates:** August 7, 1943-

**Place of Birth:** Dallas, Texas, USA

**Residence:** Dallas, TX

**Work:** Dallas, TX

**Occupations:** Newspaper Publishing Chief Executive

## Biographical Note

Newspaper CEO and publisher Mollie Finch-Belt was born on August 7, 1943 in Dallas, Texas. Finch-Belt's mother, Mildred, was a mathematics instructor; her father, Fred J. Finch, Jr., founded the Dallas Examiner in 1986. But after publishing only one issue, Belt's mother and father were murdered in their home. In 1961, Finch-Belt graduated from Lincoln High School in Dallas, Texas. After briefly attending Spelman College, she enrolled at the University of Denver where she graduated with her B.A. degree in sociology and psychology in 1965. Upon graduation, Finch-Belt began working as an employment counselor for the Texas Employment Commission. She then held positions in the Harris County Manpower Program and for City of Dallas where she administered the Title IV program. Between 1977 and 1997, Finch-Belt was a branch chief in the Civil Rights Compliance Department for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 1997, Finch-Belt and her husband, attorney James C. Belt, Jr., invested their personal resources to revitalize the Dallas Examiner. In 1998, with a grant from AT&T, she started Future Speak, a publication aimed at developing young minority journalists. Finch-Belt has also used the Dallas Examiner to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention by publishing numerous articles and supplements, including "PROBE," "Battling AIDS in Our Community" (2003) and "Innocence Lost" (2004). Finch-Belt also hosted public programs such as an HIV/AIDS town hall meeting at the Inspiring Body of Christ Church in Dallas, Texas. She also co-hosted the Youth Angle luncheon on World AIDS Day with Paul Quinn College. Since assuming editorial responsibilities of the Dallas Examiner, Finch-Belt has continued her father's dream of providing the Dallas African American community with its own news service.

Finch-Belt is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has led the Dallas Examiner to win numerous national, state and local awards, including the prestigious Katie Awards. The Dallas Examiner was named “Best Weekly Newspaper” in 2002 by the Texas Publisher’s Association awarded; and, in 2004, it received twelve awards from the regional chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, including “Best Newspaper” and “Best Practices.”

Finch-Belt lives in Dallas with her husband, attorney James C. Belt, Jr. They have two children, James C. Belt, III, advertising manager at the Dallas Examiner, and Melanie Belt, M.D.

Mollie Finch-Belt was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 29, 2013.

## Related Entries

**George Carver Elementary** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Lincoln High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Spelman College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**University of Denver** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Texas Employment Commission** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1965 to 1973]

**Employment Counselor**

**Harris County Manpower Program** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to ?]

**Assistant Director**

**City of Dallas** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1977 to 1977]

**Manager**

**United States Department of Health and Human Services** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1977 to 1997]

**Branch Chief**

**Dallas Examiner** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1950 to 1953]

**Publisher/CEO**

**St. Luke United Methodist Church** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1960 to ?]

**Life Member**

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1964 to ?]

**National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1987 to ?]

**2nd Vice Chairman**

**Texas Publishers Association** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1989 to ?]

**Vice President**