

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Glenda Hatchett

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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>	Hatchett, Glenda
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Glenda Hatchett,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 5, 2016
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2016
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:02:08).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Judge Glenda Hatchett (1951 - ) became the first African American chief judge of a state court when she was appointed to the Fulton County Juvenile Court in 1991. She was featured in her own television show, <i>Judge Hatchett</i> , and in 2014, founded the national law firm, The Hatchett Firm. Hatchett was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 5, 2016, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2016_043
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Judge Glenda Hatchett was born on May 31, 1951 in Atlanta, Georgia to Clemmie Barnes and Paul Lawrence Hatchett. In 1969, Hatchett graduated from Charles Lincoln Harper High School, a segregated school in Atlanta's Collier Heights. She received her B.A. degree in political science from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts in 1973, and went on to obtain her J.D. degree from Emory University School of Law in Atlanta in 1977.

After completing a federal clerkship in the United States District Court in the Northern District of Georgia, Hatchett worked in the legal department at Delta Air Lines, Inc. As a senior attorney, she represented the company in labor and anti-trust cases, and participated in merger negotiations. She was then promoted to manager of Delta's public relations department, handling global crisis management and media relations for the U.S., Europe and Asia. In 1991, upon her appointment to the Fulton County Juvenile Court, Hatchett became the first African American chief judge of a state court. In collaboration with the Atlanta Bar Association and Alston & Bird, Hatchett helped found the Truancy Intervention Project, an early intervention program for truant children. In 1998, Hatchett resigned from the Fulton County Juvenile Court to spend time with her two children before accepting an offer from Sony Pictures Television to have her own television show, *Judge Hatchett*. Nominated for two Emmy Awards, *Judge Hatchett* ran between 2000 and 2008. In 2014, Hatchett created her own national law firm, The Hatchett Firm, focused on wrongful death, catastrophic injury, medical malpractice, product liability, class action, premises liability and social security cases. Concerned about police brutality against African American men, Hatchett announced that she would represent Philando Castile's family in 2016.

While filming *Judge Hatchett*, Hatchett released her first self-help book, *Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say!: Saving Your Child from a Troubled World*. She released her second book, *Dare to Take Charge: How to Live*

*Your Life on Purpose*, in 2012. In addition to her civic contributions, Hatchett received numerous awards, including the Roscoe Pound Award, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency's highest recognition, and the NAACP Thurgood Marshall Award. The Girl Scouts of the United States of America named Hatchett one of its 10 National Women of Distinction. She also served on multiple boards, including the National Football League's Atlanta Falcons' Board of Advisors.

Judge Glenda Hatchett was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 5, 2016.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Glenda Hatchett was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 5, 2016, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Judge Glenda Hatchett (1951 - ) became the first African American chief judge of a state court when she was appointed to the Fulton County Juvenile Court in 1991. She was featured in her own television show, *Judge Hatchett*, and in 2014, founded the national law firm, The Hatchett Firm.

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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:

Hatchett, Glenda

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Hatchett, Glenda--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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## Occupations:

Judge

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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 The Honorable Glenda Hatchett, October 5, 2016.  
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 The Honorable Glenda Hatchett, Section A2016\_043\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:37 ?

Glenda Hatchett was born on May 31, 1951 in Atlanta, Georgia to Clemmie Barnes Hatchett and Paul Hatchett, Sr. Her maternal great-grandmother owned land in Florence, South Carolina, which was bequeathed to Hatchett's grandmother, Hattie Barnes. She married carpenter Leon Barnes, who passed as white prior to their relationship. Hatchett's mother attended high school in Florence, and studied to become a teacher at Claflin College in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Hatchett's paternal grandmother, Mamie Hatchett, came from a family of landowners in LaGrange, Georgia, although much of their property was lost after the death of Hatchett's great-grandfather. Her paternal grandfather, Frank Hatchett, died from tuberculosis while serving in the U.S. Army, leaving Hatchett's grandmother to raise their three sons. Hatchett's father attended Clark College and Atlanta University, where he earned a master's degree in business administration. While there, he met Hatchett's mother, who was also studying for a master's degree.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Glenda Hatchett, Section A2016\_043\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:31 ?

Glenda Hatchett's father, Paul Hatchett, Sr., was drafted into World War II while he was a student at Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia. After his discharge in the late 1940s, he returned to Atlanta and earned a master's degree in business administration from Atlanta University. While there, he met Hatchett's mother, who was working on a master's degree in education. Shortly afterwards, they married and moved to a home on Penelope Street in Atlanta's Dixie Hills neighborhood. There, they raised Hatchett and her brothers, Kolen Hatchett and Paul Hatchett, Jr. Hatchett's family were active members of the Providence Missionary Baptist Church, where they worshipped alongside Morehouse College president Benjamin Mays and civil rights leader Lucius M. Tobin. Hatchett began her education at the segregated Anderson Park Elementary School. Like other all-black facilities, the school was in poor condition, and the students were forced to use books that were discarded by the white schools.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Glenda Hatchett, Section A2016\_043\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:56 ?

Glenda Hatchett began her education at the all-black Anderson Park Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia. There, she excelled academically under teachers like Lucille Handspike and Catherine Hardy Lavender, who was an Olympic track runner. Outside of school, Hatchett belonged to a Brownie troop, although she did not continue on to the upper levels of the Girl Scouts, as she disliked selling cookies. Around the time that Hatchett entered the ninth grade, her family moved to the Collier Heights section of Atlanta. She attended the all-black Charles Lincoln Harper High School, where she was involved in the student government, drama club and National Honors Society. She was also chosen for the Georgia Governor's Honors Program, and served on the teen advisory board at Rich's Department Store. During this time, civil rights activists began protesting against discrimination in Atlanta. Hatchett became involved during high school, when she led a student walkout against the mistreatment of a Muslim student.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Glenda Hatchett, Section A2016\_043\_001\_004, TRT: 4:33:04 ?

Glenda Hatchett was one of twenty-five high school freshmen chosen to attend a summer program at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. In Atlanta, she

was influenced by her neighbor, Hamilton Holmes, who integrated the University of Georgia with Charlayne Hunter-Gault in 1961. At this point, Hatchett talks about her father and neighbors, who protected Holmes and Hunter-Gault after they were attacked by white students at the university. She also remembers the death of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose children were her close friends. After graduating from Charles Lincoln Harper High School, Hatchett went on to study political science at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. There, she experienced integrated education for the first time. She studied music under jazz drummer Max Roach, and served as the head of the black student association, where she organized protests, social events and lectures by activist leaders like Nikki Giovanni.