

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jacques Cook

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Cook, Jacques, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jacques Cook,
Dates:	November 10, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:15:45).
Abstract:	Lawyer Jacques Cook (1946 -) has worked for major private firms and served as legal counsel for U.S. Senate Budget Committee. Cook was also part of the legal staff for the International Development Bank. Cook was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 10, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_230
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Jacques Cook was born on March 19, 1946, in Washington, D.C., His mother was an educator and social worker and his father was a college professor. Cook spent his early childhood in Washington, D.C., growing up just a few blocks from Howard University. In 1958, his life took an exciting turn, when his father received a job offer with a French publishing company and the family moved to Paris, France. His international journey continued when the family moved to Niger, Africa, in 1960. Cook earned his high school diploma from Lycee National High School in Niger in 1963.

Following in his father's and older brother's footsteps, he graduated from Amherst College in 1967 with a B.A. degree in economics. In 1969, Cook earned his master's degree in international studies from Johns Hopkins University. That same year, he joined the Foreign Service and was assigned to work as an economic officer in Mexico.

In 1972, Cook began attending law school at night while continuing his work with the State Department. He earned his law degree from George Washington University in 1976, and began working for Sidley, Austin and Associates. In 1977, Cook began serving as legal counsel for the United States Senate Budget Committee, regulating congressional budgets and spending. In 1979, he took a position as a member of the legal staff at the International Development Bank (IDB), a bank owned by the United States and all the governments of Latin America. Between 1989 and 1994, Cook headed up the IDB's Jamaica office. Leaving the IDB in 2002, Cook joined the legal team at Allen and Overy, structuring and developing financing for international projects. He represented Engel Power of Italy in the first internationally financed transmission project in Brazil.

Cook is the author of numerous published articles and lives in Maryland with his wife and two children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jacques Cook was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on November 10, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Lawyer Jacques Cook (1946 -) has worked for major private firms and served as legal counsel for U.S. Senate Budget Committee. Cook was also part of the legal staff for the International Development Bank.

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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

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

Persons:

Cook, Jacques, 1946-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Warwick, Rick (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Cook, Jacques, 1946---Interviews

African American lawyers--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Inter-American Development Bank.

Occupations:

Lawyer

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

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 Jacques Cook, November 10, 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).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Jacques Cook, Section A2004_230_001_001, TRT: 0:30:41 ?

Attorney Jacques Cook describes his parents' backgrounds, talks about each of their personalities, and tells the story of how his parents met. He gives details on his grandparents and their backgrounds. Cook describes his childhood in

Washington D.C., and the sense of community he felt there.
African American parents.
African American grandparents.
Childhood and youth--Washington (D.C.).
African American families.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacques Cook, Section A2004_230_001_002, TRT: 0:30:56 ?
Attorney Jacques Cook shares details from his childhood in Washington, D.C. He describes the environment of the Catholic elementary school he attended and as well as the education he received there. Cook talks about his family's move to Paris, France, and how they adapted to life abroad. He then tells of how the family moved from France to Niger. Cook shares his thoughts on Africa in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and talks about attending high school there. Jacques Cook recalls his college involvement in civil rights activities.
Childhood and youth--Washington (D.C.).
African Americans--Education, Elementary--Washington (D.C.).
Moving, Household.
African Americans--Education, Secondary--Niger.
Civil rights activists.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacques Cook, Section A2004_230_001_003, TRT: 0:31:22 ?
Attorney Jacques Cook talks about his family legacy at Amherst College and then describes his post-undergraduate path. He tells of his experiences in law school and of working for the Foreign Service. Cook gives some insight into the beginning of his career with a law firm, and of his experience with the Senate Budget Committee. Jacques Cook recounts his job with the Inter-American Development Bank.
Amherst College.
African American families.
Foreign Service Institute (U.S.).
United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Budget.
Inter-American Development Bank.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacques Cook, Section A2004_230_001_004, TRT: 0:29:03 ?
Attorney Jacques Cook describes his development projects in the Caribbean and Latin America. He then details the state of contemporary international projects, and talks about favorite countries he's worked in. Next, he shares his thoughts on the state of education, and his hopes for the African American community. Jacques Cook considers his legacy and how he'd like to be remembered.
African Americans--Education.
Development and underdevelopment--Latin America.
Economic development.
Developing countries.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacques Cook, Section A2004_230_001_005, TRT: 0:13:43 ?
Attorney Jacques Cook narrates photos from his childhood and professional life.
Photographs.