

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Benaree P. Wiley

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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>	Wiley, Benaree
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Benaree P. Wiley,
<b>Dates:</b>	January 27, 2005
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2005
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:56:12).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate chief executive Benaree P. Wiley (1946 - ) was the founder and former CEO of The Partnership diversity consulting firm and was named one of Boston's most powerful women by Boston Magazine. Wiley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 27, 2005, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2005_027
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate chief executive Benaree “Bennie” Pratt Wiley was born on May 13, 1946, in Washington, D.C. Her mother, Mildred Petticord Pratt, died when she was two years old, and her father, Carlisle Pratt, was an attorney and judge before his death in 1993. Wiley grew up in Washington, D.C., and was raised by her paternal grandmother Hazel and her aunt, Aimee Pratt. She is also the sister of Sharon Pratt Kelly, who served as the mayor of Washington, D.C. from 1991-1995.

Wiley attended the public schools of Washington and graduated from Howard University in 1968 with a B.A. degree in marketing. In July 1970, she married Fletcher “Flash” Wiley and a month later they moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she entered Harvard University’s Business School, graduating with an M.B.A. in 1972. After receiving her M.B.A., she served as a consultant with such corporations as Abt Associates, Contract Research Corporation and Urban Systems Research and Engineering. As an independent consultant, Wiley worked with non-profit organizations to build their capacity and refine their program delivery. She then combined her interests in business and child development with the establishment of a high-end toy store, Giocatolli, on Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. During her time working as a consultant, her son, Pratt was born in 1976 and her daughter, B.J., in 1978.

In 1991, Wiley became the president and CEO of The Partnership, Inc., in Boston. The Partnership’s goal is to assist businesses in the Boston area to attract, retain and develop professionals of color, to increase the number of black professionals at all levels of leadership in the corporate sector of Boston and to help these professionals navigate the complex corporate structure of Boston. Under Wiley’s leadership, The Partnership became a major force in Boston’s corporate world, helping over 1,300 African Americans integrate themselves into the corporate community and stimulated more than 200 corporate partners to open doors for black professionals.

Wiley is highly active in the Boston community. She is a past chair of the directors of the Children’s Museum in

Boston, a trustee of Boston College, and overseer of WGBH Educational Foundation, a director of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Boston Foundation. As a former director of the Crispus Attucks Children's Center, she and her husband were honored for their two decades of service with the dedication of a playground in their name at the Center. In 2003, Wiley was selected as one of Boston's most powerful women by *Boston Magazine*.

Wiley retired from The Partnership, Inc., in 2005. She and her husband reside in Boston.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Benaree P. Wiley was conducted by Robert Hayden on January 27, 2005, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Corporate chief executive Benaree P. Wiley (1946 - ) was the founder and former CEO of The Partnership diversity consulting firm and was named one of Boston's most powerful women by Boston Magazine.

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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:

Wiley, Benaree

Hayden, Robert (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Wiley, Benaree--Interviews

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African american women executives-- Washington (D.C.)--Interviews

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Business consultants--Interviews

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Community activists--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews

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Mothers--Death--Psychological aspects

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Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs

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Howard University

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Harvard Business School

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Contract Research Corporation

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Working mothers--United States

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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:**

Corporate Chief Executive

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**HistoryMakers® Category:**

BusinessMakers

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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 Benaree P. Wiley, January 27, 2005. 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 Benaree P. Wiley, Section A2005\_027\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:31 ?

Diversity consultant Benaree Wiley describes her family's background and remembers major events from her childhood. The most significant event she recalls is the death of her mother when she was a small child. Wiley explains how this affected her family, and helped create a bond between her and her sister. Wiley also describes her childhood environment while growing up in Washington, D.C., remembering everyday family life and her schooling. African american women executives--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews. Business consultants--Interviews. Community activists--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews. Mothers--Death--Psychological aspects. Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs. Howard University. Harvard Business School. Contract Research Corporation. Working mothers--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Benaree P. Wiley, Section A2005\_027\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Benaree Wiley discusses her schooling, her family, and the start of her career in the business consulting world. Wiley describes her experiences at Howard University, explaining how she became interested in a business career. Wiley also describes a period of great change in her life: her marriage, her enrollment at Harvard Business School, and her move to the Boston area. Wiley then describes her first work experiences after business school, at the consulting firm Abt Associations, and at the Contract Research Corporation.

Video Oral History Interview with Benaree P. Wiley, Section A2005\_027\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:11 ?

Benaree Wiley discusses her career and lifestyle change, when she started

working part-time so she could devote more time to raising her children. Wiley then discusses the next phase of her career at The Partnership, Inc., where she was named CEO in 1991. Wiley describes the firm's history and goals, and details her personal accomplishments there.

Video Oral History Interview with Benaree P. Wiley, Section A2005\_027\_001\_004, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

Benaree Wiley discusses the great success of her consulting firm, The Partnership, and reflects on her life and career, considering her legacy and her hopes for the future of the black community. Wiley then describes a series of photos depicting her life, family, and career.

Video Oral History Interview with Benaree P. Wiley, Section A2005\_027\_Wiley\_Benaree\_06\_MED\_001, TRT: 0:03:09 ?

In honor of BusinessMakers: Breakout Leaders July, we salute founder and CEO Benaree “Bennie” P. Wiley, speaks about her career and her mentor, the first black tenured professor at MIT, Frank Jones.