

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with David Ewing

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Ewing, David, 1967-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with David Ewing,
Dates:	March 17, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:03:57).
Abstract:	Lawyer David Ewing (1967 -) served as the senior vice president of government relations and community improvement for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Ewing was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 17, 2007, in Nashville, Tennessee. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_095
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Attorney David Steele Ewing was born on March 29, 1967, in Nashville, Tennessee, to Florence Steele Ewing Kidd and Dr. Richard Albert Ewing, III. Possibly descended from Andrew Jackson, he is a ninth-generation Nashville resident and direct descendant of Prince Albert Ewing, the first African American to practice law in Tennessee and a six time judge. Ewing attended Peabody Demonstration School from nursery school to the twelfth grade. In his undergraduate studies Ewing was on the rowing team at Connecticut College, from which he received his B.A. degree in 1985. Ewing later earned his J.D. degree from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1989.

In 1993, Ewing served as director of legal and government services for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Joining Gaylord Entertainment Company in 1999, Ewing served as director of government and community relations. In 2004, The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce (NACC) announced the addition of Ewing to the organization's senior management team. Ewing, a 12-year government relations veteran, assumed the newly created role of senior vice president of government relations and community improvement. In this capacity, he directed programs and initiatives that bolstered five of the Chamber's eight strategic areas, including supporting the community commitment to education; supporting the development of a comprehensive regional transportation infrastructure; celebrating cultural diversity; assuring a vital downtown; and providing advocacy within the government.

Ewing served on the board of over twenty different civic organizations and businesses, including Capital Bank & Trust; Summit Medical Center; Cheekwood Museum of Art; the Nashville Opera; and Middle Tennessee Boys & Girls Club. Ewing is a collector of local African American history and culture. Ewing married noted Nashville author Alice Randall.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with David Ewing was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 17, 2007, in Nashville, Tennessee, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Lawyer David Ewing (1967 -) served as the senior vice president of government relations and community improvement for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

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:

Ewing, David, 1967-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Ewing, David, 1967- --Interviews

African American civic leaders--Interviews

Public officers--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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 David Ewing, March 17, 2007. 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 David Ewing, Section A2007_095_001_001, TRT: 0:28:34 ?

David Ewing was born on March 29, 1967 in Nashville, Tennessee to Florence Steele Kidd and Richard Ewing, III. In Nashville, his paternal great-great-grandfather, Prince Albert Ewin, was born a slave on John Overton's Travellers Rest plantation. He studied law at Fisk University with his twin brother, Taylor G. Ewing, Sr.; and became one of the first black judges in Hermitage, Tennessee, where he owned land with his wife, Isabella Watson Ewin. Ewing's

maternal great-grandfather, Jailous Perdue, once saved Booker T. Washington from a fire in Tuskegee, Alabama. Ewing's maternal great-great-grandfather, Javan Steele, was Trinidadian, and the first licensed black plumber in New York City. Ewing's maternal grandfather, Frank Steele, attended the Howard University College of Medicine; and, with his wife Corrine Perdue Steele, raised Ewing's mother in Tuskegee. Ewing's parents met at Fisk University, and his father went on to study surgery at Meharry Medical College. They married in 1964.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

Public officers--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with David Ewing, Section A2007_095_001_002, TRT: 0:28:44 ?

David Ewing's paternal grandfather, Richard Ewing, Jr., graduated from Fisk University and Yale Divinity School, and preached at the Howard Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee. Ewing's parents had two children, and his father passed away when Ewing was two years old. He grew up in the Bordeaux area of Nashville, where physician Henry Foster, Jr. was his neighbor. As a child, Ewing played video games like Pong, collected baseball cards and saw movies at Nashville's Belcourt Theatre. He began his education in 1971 at the integrated Peabody Demonstration School, which was renamed the University School of Nashville while he was a student. Ewing enjoyed history; and, in high school, became interested in business, reading Fortune magazine and biographies of banking executives. He also played basketball with his brother, Richard Ewing, IV. Ewing describes the history of the Nashville Bar Association, and the forty-second anniversary celebration of the Selma to Montgomery March.

Video Oral History Interview with David Ewing, Section A2007_095_001_003, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

David Ewing volunteered for Al Gore's U.S. Senate campaign and Walter Mondale's presidential campaign in 1984. He aspired to become a banker; and, from 1985, attended Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut. He majored in government and economics, was elected to the judiciary board, and joined Students Organized Against Racism and the rowing team. He was also inspired by his professors, William J. Cibes, Jr. and Wayne R. Swanson. In 1987, Ewing interned at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where he developed an interest in law. In 1989, he returned to Nashville to study at the Vanderbilt University Law School. There, he focused on corporate law, and was influenced by Professor Donald Langevoort. He graduated in 1992, and volunteered for President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton's presidential campaign. Ewing was then hired by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, where he was involved in a federal lawsuit regarding the desegregation of public higher educational institutions in Nashville.

Video Oral History Interview with David Ewing, Section A2007_095_001_004, TRT: 0:29:54 ?

David Ewing was hired by the Gaylord Entertainment Company in 1999, where he specialized in political lobbying and diversity policy. In 2004, Ewing accepted a position as the senior vice president of government relations and community improvement at the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, where he focused on education initiatives and urban renewal projects. Ewing's involvement in the City of Nashville led him to join a number of charitable boards, including the Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Museum of Art, and the Friends of Warner Park. Ewing describes the history of Fisk University and Nashville, Tennessee, as well as his hopes and concerns for the African American community. He talks about his wife, writer Alice Randall; his paternal ancestor, lawyer Taylor G. Ewing, Jr.; and his family's connection to President

Andrew Jackson, who owned another of Ewing's paternal ancestors as a slave. Ewing also reflects upon his legacy, and concludes the interview by describing how he would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with David Ewing, Section A2007_095_001_005, TRT: 0:07:55 ?

David Ewing narrates his photographs.