

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Howard Moore, Jr.

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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>	Moore, Howard, 1932-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 14, 2007
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 Betacame SP videocassettes (4:12:17).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civil rights lawyer Howard Moore, Jr. (1932 - ) played a major role with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the Supreme Court cases of <i>Georgia v. Peacock</i> and <i>Georgia v. Rachel</i> . Moore represented Julian Bond in his successful fight to take his seat in the Georgia House of Representatives, and become a part of the Angela Davis defense team. Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 14, 2007, in Berkeley, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2007_137
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Attorney Howard Moore, Jr. was born on February 28, 1932 in Atlanta, Georgia to Bessie Sims Moore and Howard Moore, Sr. Growing up on Fort Street, his paper route sent him down Auburn Avenue where he encountered many of Atlanta's prominent citizens, including Colonel Austin T. Walden, the dean of the black lawyers. When his mother left to work at a Lorain, Ohio steel plant, Moore lived with his aunt. He attended David T. Howard School, graduating in 1950. Attending Morehouse College, Moore wanted to be a journalist like *Atlanta Daily World's* Lerone Bennett but was drawn to political science where he was taught by Dr. Robert Brisbane and Hugo Skala. Earning his B.A. degree in political science in 1954, he served in the United States Army until 1956. Moore worked for a while in Cleveland, Ohio, and then obtained his LL.B degree from Boston University School of Law in 1960.

After serving as a clerk for United States District Court Judge Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr., Moore was admitted to practice law in Massachusetts in 1961. Returning to Atlanta, he and was hired by the black firm of Hollowell and Ward in 1962, later joining the firm of Moore, Alexander and Rindskopf. As one of only ten black lawyers in Georgia, Moore worked long hours and traveled on Sundays with Vernon Jordan. As SCLC, SNCC and CORE applied pressure on local, state, and federal government to recognize racial equality, the pro-NAACP lawyers in Georgia, including Donald Hollowell, A.T. Walden and Moore remained involved in promoting anti-discrimination laws. The passage of the Civil Rights Act (1964) and Voting Rights Act (1965) eliminated legal discrimination in the public sphere. Moore was involved with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the cases of *Georgia v. Peacock* and *Georgia v. Rachel*. These 1966 victories taken to the United States Supreme Court used federal civil action to counterattack against unconstitutional attempts to use state law to prevent citizens from exercising their rights. Moore also represented Julian Bond in his successful fight to take his historic seat in the Georgia House of Representatives, also in 1966. He was also part of the NAACP team in the 1970 Supreme Court Decision of *Turner v. Fouche*.

Moore was the attorney for Angela Davis from 1971 to 1977, moving to Berkeley, California to become a part of the defense team with Leo Branton, Margaret Burnham, and Doris Brin Walker. In 1986, the National Bar Association filed an amicus curiae brief protesting the criminal contempt conviction of Moore, who was cited and fined \$5,000 because of a question asked of a witness during the case, *United States v. Albert Turner, et al.* The conviction of Moore would have had a chilling effect upon the African American lawyer's rights.

Married to Jane Bond Moore, he has formed Moore and Moore and practices law in Oakland, California. They have three grown children.

Moore was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 14, 2007.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Howard Moore, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 14, 2007, in Berkeley, California, and was recorded on 9 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civil rights lawyer Howard Moore, Jr. (1932 - ) played a major role with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the Supreme Court cases of Georgia v. Peacock and Georgia v. Rachel. Moore represented Julian Bond in his successful fight to take his seat in the Georgia House of Representatives, and become a part of the Angela Davis defense team.

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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:

Moore, Howard, 1932-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Moore, Howard, 1932- --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:

Civil Rights Lawyer

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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 Howard Moore, Jr., April 14, 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).

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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 Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:21  
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Howard Moore, Jr. was born on February 28, 1932 in Atlanta, Georgia. His mother, Bessie Sims Moore, was born in May of 1910 in Wilkes County, Georgia. She grew up on her family farm until she was fifteen and moved to Atlanta to attend high school and become an occupational nurse. Moore's father, Howard Moore, Sr., was born in Sparta, Georgia around 1900. He graduated from college and became a tailor. Moore did not know his maternal grandparents, but knew his father's sisters: Aunt Emma, Aunt Lillian, and Aunt Fannie White, who raised him. Moore's parents met and had a child, Mary, who died around 1932 of food poisoning. Moore was raised as an only child on his maternal grandmother's farm in Wilkes County, where he remembers slopping hogs, feeding chickens, and pulling fodder. After three years, he lived with his parents on Fort Street in the Fourth Ward of Atlanta, Georgia, an area later destroyed by urban renewal. While his family was not religious, Moore attended Butler Street C.M.E. Church.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:58  
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Howard Moore, Jr. was raised in the Fourth Ward of Atlanta, Georgia, near the neighborhood known as Buttermilk Bottom. As a child, he had a paper route for the Atlanta Daily Journal. Moore attended David T. Howard High School from elementary school until he graduated in 1950. Moore's neighborhood was filled with prominent African Americans like John Wesley Dobbs, Walter White, Christopher Wimbish, Ben Davis, Jr., Dr. William Holmes Borders, Sr., Wynton Kelly, and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Black-owned businesses in Atlanta included the Citizens Trust Bank, WERD Radio, Yates and Milton Drugstore, the Royal Peacock Hotel, the Atlanta Life Insurance Company, and Federal Mutual Savings. In high school, Moore wrote about sports for the Atlanta Daily World. In 1950, Moore enrolled at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he met Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, Dr. William Boyd, and Colonel A.T. Walden. Moore recalls Col. Walden's accomplishments, including integrating the Atlanta police department.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:44  
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Howard Moore, Jr. grew up in Atlanta, Georgia with his aunt Fannie White. His father, Howard Moore, Sr., died in 1943 and his mother, Bessie Sims Moore, worked at the U.S. Steel plant in Lorain, Ohio. After Moore's aunt died in September 1945, his mother returned to raise him. Moore recalls his experience at David T. Howard High School in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was editor of the school newspaper. In 1950, Moore enrolled at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he studied political science with professors like Dr. Robert Brisbane, Hugo Skala, and Dean Bradford Brazeal. Moore also recalls meeting Dr. Benjamin E. Mays and being disappointed in the meeting. After receiving his B.A. degree in 1954, Moore was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he was stationed at Fort Jackson, Fort Benning, Wolters Air Force Base, and England Air Force Base. In 1956, Moore received a Good Conduct Medal and left the Army for Cleveland, Ohio. In 1957, he enrolled at Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_004, TRT: 0:28:50  
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Howard Moore, Jr. received his LL.B degree from Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts in 1960. He applied to work at insurance firms in Boston, but was turned down because of his race. In the fall of 1960, Moore was approached to work in the office of Judge Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr. In 1962, Moore returned to Atlanta, Georgia to work with Donald L. Hollowell and Horace Ward in the firm of Hollowell and Ward. With Hollowell, Moore was one of about ten black lawyers in Georgia and one of the few trial lawyers. On Sundays, Moore, Hollowell, and HistoryMaker Vernon Jordan would travel around Georgia to speak to churches about Civil Rights cases. Moore recalls his early cases in Griffin, Georgia and Macon, Georgia, and how Hollowell was respected by the African American and legal communities. Hollowell and Ward also worked closely with Ruby Hurley of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Later, when Moore took over the offices, the firm became Moore, Alexander and Rindskopf.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_005, TRT: 0:28:11  
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Howard Moore, Jr. worked as a trial lawyer at the firm of Hollowell and Ward in Atlanta, Georgia. Near his office, HistoryMakers Wyatt Tee Walker and Andrew Young worked at the SCLC office with Rev. Bernard Lee, Hosea Williams, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Dora McDonald, Ella Baker. Among those working at the nearby SNCC office were James Foreman, Faye Bellamy Powell, Freddie Greene Biddle, Ivanhoe Donaldson, and HistoryMakers Julian Bond, John Louis, and Judy Richardson. On July 7, 1963, Moore married HistoryMaker Jane Bond Moore. In 1964, Moore filed the cases of City of Greenwood v. Peacock and Georgia v. Rachel, which helped establish the precedent for removing cases to federal courts. In 1966, Moore represented HistoryMaker Julian Bond in the U.S. Supreme Court case of Bond v. Floyd, allowing Bond to take his seat in the Georgia legislature. On the day before he tried the case, Moore had the opportunity to meet Thurgood Marshall. In 1966, Moore also defended Stokely Carmichael against charges of insurrection.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_006, TRT: 0:29:31  
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Howard Moore, Jr. reflects on the Black Power movement and the importance of recognizing and taking pride in the historical contributions of Africans. He also talks about how this cultural pride has affected subsequent movements such as feminism and gay pride. In 2006, Moore traveled to Freetown, Sierra Leone to witness the trial of Liberian President Charles Taylor, and he reflects on the role of the international court in enforcing a Western political agenda in Liberia and Iraq in the trial of Saddam Hussein. In 1970, Moore met HistoryMaker Angela Davis in New York City after her arrest. In March of 1971, Moore and HistoryMaker Jane Bond Moore moved to Berkeley, California so that he could represent Davis in her historic case. Moore reflects on the prominence of the case and the importance of public opinion during Angela Davis' trial given her involvement in the Communist Party.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_007, TRT: 0:31:07  
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Howard Moore, Jr. was chief counsel for HistoryMaker Angela Davis during her trial in 1971 and 1972. He talks about the public opinion surveys that he and HistoryMaker Leo Branton, Jr. conducted and about how the prosecution changed strategies during the case based on public opinion. Moore and Branton

brought in a perceptual psychologist named Dr. Robert Buckhout to cast doubt on the eyewitness testimonies and hired psychologists to observe jury selection, a new strategy at that time that led to the future use of jury consultants in trial cases. In June of 1972, the trial ended and Davis was found not guilty on all three charges of murder, kidnapping and conspiracy. Moore also recalls a 1964 case where he represented a Georgia death row inmate named Ernest Whippier. Whippier sent Moore a note asking for help on the day before his execution, and Moore petitioned the Governor for a stay of execution. Moore retried Whippier's case in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and won, and, in 1984, Whippier was paroled.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_008, TRT: 0:31:00  
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Howard Moore, Jr. helped Ernest Whippier escape the death penalty in Georgia in 1964 and he reflects on how Whippier's case made him feel like a legal technician. After the trial of HistoryMaker Angela Davis in 1972, Moore decided not to return to Atlanta, Georgia because his wife, HistoryMaker Jane Bond Moore, was attending the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in Berkeley, California. She graduated in 1975 and the couple later started the firm of Moore and Moore. In 1976, Howard Moore began teaching a course on Law in the Black Community at the University of California at Berkeley and remained there until 1986. Moore describes other major cases he worked in California, including cases against the Alameda Naval Air Rework Facility, the Oakland Fire Department, and AMTRAK. He also reflects upon arguing cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, his current legal practice, and his hopes and concerns for the African American community.

Video Oral History Interview with Howard Moore, Jr., Section A2007\_137\_001\_009, TRT: 0:13:35  
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Howard Moore, Jr. reflects on what he would do differently in his life, the importance of perseverance, his legacy, his family, and how he would like to be remembered. He ends the interview by narrating his photographs.