

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr.

PERSON

Jefferson, Andrew L., 1934-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr.; Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr;

Life Dates: August 19, 1934-December 8, 2008

Place of Birth: Dallas, Texas, USA

Residence: Houston, Texas

Work: Houston, Texas

Occupations: Federal District Court Judge; Trial Lawyer

Biographical Note

Andrew Leon Thomas Jefferson, Jr. was born on August 19, 1934, in Dallas, Texas, to Bertha Jefferson and Andrew Jefferson, Sr. After Jefferson and his family moved to Houston, Texas, in 1936, he attended Jack Yates High School which he graduated from in 1952. Jefferson received his B.A. degree from Texas Southern University in 1956, and his J.D. degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959.

During his first year out of law school, 1960, Jefferson worked as a partner for Washington & Jefferson Attorneys at Law. In 1962, Jefferson worked as an assistant criminal district attorney for San Antonio County, and later in the year served as the chief assistant to the U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Texas.

In 1968, Jefferson was hired as a trial and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil & Refinery Company, which was renamed Exxon Corporation. From 1970 to 1973, Jefferson presided as a judge for the Harris County Family District Courts in conjunction with the Harris County Domestic Relations Office, before serving as a judge for the 208th District Court in Harris County until 1975.

In 1975, Jefferson worked in private practice with Jefferson, Sherman & Mims. During this time, Jefferson became the president of the Nu Boule' chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, an association considered to be the first African American Greek letter organization. Between 1986 and 1987, Jefferson served on the Presidential Search

Committee of Texas Southern University and the Merit Selection of Judges Committee. In 1996, Jefferson became a member of the International Society of Barristers, a society of outstanding trial lawyers chosen by their peers on the basis of excellence and integrity in advocacy.

In 2001, the Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy was established at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas. The endowment seeks to preserve the jury trial in order to consider issues of ethics and excellence in advocacy and the role of litigation in society. Jefferson was a member of numerous professional and civic organizations including the American Bar Association, the Houston Lawyers Association, the Houston Area Urban League and the NAACP.

Jefferson passed away on December 8, 2008 at the age of 74.

Related Entries

Frederick Douglass Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Jack Yates High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Texas Southern University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Texas at Austin School of Law [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Washington and Jefferson, Attorneys at Law [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1960 to 1961]

Founder/Attorney

Bexar (San Antonio) County [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1961 to ?]

Assistant criminal district attorney

The Western District of Texas [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1962 to 1967]

U.S. Attorney, Chief Assistant

Humble Oil and Refining Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1971]

Corporate Counsel

Court of Domestic Relations in Harris County [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to 1973]

Judge

208th District Court in Harris County [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1974 to 1975]

Judge

Jefferson Sherman and Mims [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1975 to ?]

Attorney

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Boule) [MEMBEROf]
[from 1988 to ?]