

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Andrea Zopp

PERSON

Zopp, Andrea, 1957-

Alternative Names: Andrea Zopp;

Life Dates: January 25, 1957-

Place of Birth: Rochester, New York, USA

Residence: Chicago, Illinois

Work: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Trial Lawyer;

Biographical Note

Lawyer and Nonprofit Executive Andrea Zopp was born in Rochester, New York on January 25, 1957 to Reuben K. Davis, a prominent lawyer and judge, and Pearl Greta Davis, a human resources professional. As a child, Zopp was taught the values of education, service and hard work. Zopp completed her B.S. degree in the history and science at Harvard University in 1978 and received a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1981. After being licensed to practice law, Zopp worked as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge George N. Leighton.

In 1982, Zopp joined the law firm of Sonnenschien Nath & Rosenthal as a trial lawyer and litigator. In 1992, Zopp became the first woman and first African American appointed as a Cook County First Assistant State's Attorney where she prosecuted several high profile cases. From 2000 to 2003, Zopp served as executive vice president and general counsel at the Sara Lee Corporation and as president and from 2003 to 2004, general counsel of Sears Roebuck and Company. Zopp then worked as adjunct professor at several law schools including Northwestern University and Harvard Law School. In 2006, Zopp was made head of Exelon Energy Corporation's human resources division. She was promoted to executive vice president and general counsel of Exelon in 2009. Zopp left Exelon in 2010 to become president and CEO of the Chicago Urban League. In 2011, Zopp was appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to the Chicago Board of Education's Board of Trustees.

Zopp has served on many boards of directors for many organizations including Chicago Area Project, Leadership Greater Chicago, Harvard Alumni Association, National Urban League, Black Ensemble Theater and the Cook County Health and Hospitals

Systems. She is a member of the Black Women Lawyer's Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Chicago Network, and The Economic Club. Zopp has served on commissions for the Review the Illinois Death Penalty Process and chair of the blue ribbon commission for Magnet and Selective Enrollment School Admissions for the Chicago Public Schools. Zopp is married to William Zopp and they have three adult children Alyssa, Kelsey, and Will.

Andrea Zopp was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 19, 2012

Related Entries

Harvard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Harvard Law School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Academy of the Sacred Heart [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Martin B. Anderson School No. 1 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Girls [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199701 to 200001]

Partner in Litigation Department

Sara Lee Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 200001 to 200307]

Vice President, Deputy General Counsel

Exelon Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to ?]

Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer

Cook County States Attorney's Office [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199104 to 199611]

First Assistant State Attorney of Cook County

Narcotics Prosecution Buerau [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1971 to ?]

Chief

Exelon Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 200906 to 201005]

Executive Vice President, General Counsel

Sears Holdings Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 200307 to 200510]

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

State's Attorney's Office Northern District of Illinois [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1952 to ?]

Deputy Chief Criminal Litigation; Deputy Chief, Organized Crime Enforcement Task Force; Assistant United States Attorney

McDermott, Will & Emery [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to ?]

Partner in Litigation Department

Chicago Urban League [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 201009 to ?]

President and CEO

Partnership Bank [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to ?]

Board of Directors

Andrew Corporation [MEMBEROF]

[from 2002 to ?]

Board of Directors