

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Gilmore, Vanessa D. (Vanessa Diane), 1956-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore,
Dates:	May 6, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:01:51).
Abstract:	Federal district court judge The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore (1956 -) was appointed to serve as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas in 1994, becoming the youngest federal judge in the United States at the time. She was the author of four books: <i>A Boy Named Rocky: A Coloring Book for the Children of Incarcerated Parents</i> ; <i>You Can't Make This Up: Tales from a Judicial Diva</i> ; <i>Saving The Dream</i> ; and <i>Lynn's Angels: The True Story of E. Lynn Harris and the Women Who Loved Him</i> . Gilmore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 6, 2014, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_131
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

United States District Judge Vanessa Gilmore was born in October of 1956 in St. Albans, New York. In 1977, Gilmore received her B.A. degree in textiles and marketing from Hampton University, and in 1981, she earned her J.D. degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

Upon graduation, Gilmore began a thirteen-year career at the Houston law firm of Vickery, Kilbride, Gilmore & Vickery, where she specialized in civil litigation. In 1984, she was also hired as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston College of Law. Under Texas Governor Ann Richards, Gilmore became the first African American to be appointed to the Texas Department of Commerce Policy Board. She served as chairperson of that board until 1994, when President Bill Clinton appointed her as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. At the time, Gilmore was the youngest sitting federal judge in the United States. In 2005, she presided over the high-profile Enron Broadband trial.

In 2008, Gilmore published her first book, *A Boy Named Rocky: A Coloring Book for the Children of Incarcerated Parents*, and has become a frequent speaker on issues related to these children and their families. In 2010, she released *You Can't Make This Up: Tales from a Judicial Diva*, a humorous look at her life on and off the bench. Her next book, a fiction novel entitled *Saving The Dream*, was published in 2012. In 2014, she released *Lynn's Angels: The True Story of E. Lynn Harris and the Women Who Loved Him*.

Gilmore is a sought after lecturer and speaker and has published noteworthy opinions on patients' rights, the first

amendment and copyright and patent law. She has served on the boards and advisory boards of a number of charitable organizations including the Houston Zoo, San Jacinto Girl Scouts, Spaulding for Children and Habitat for Humanity. Gilmore also serves on the board of trustees for Hampton University and on the board of Inprint, a literary arts organization. She is the recipient of numerous civic awards for community service and is a member of the Links, Inc. and Jack & Jill of America, Houston Chapter.

Gilmore lives in Houston, Texas with her son.

Vanessa Gilmore was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 6, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 6, 2014, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Federal district court judge The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore (1956 -) was appointed to serve as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas in 1994, becoming the youngest federal judge in the United States at the time. She was the author of four books: *A Boy Named Rocky: A Coloring Book for the Children of Incarcerated Parents*; *You Can't Make This Up: Tales from a Judicial Diva*; *Saving The Dream*; and *Lynn's Angels: The True Story of E. Lynn Harris and the Women Who Loved Him*.

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:

Gilmore, Vanessa D. (Vanessa Diane), 1956-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Gilmore, Vanessa D. (Vanessa Diane), 1956---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Federal District Court Judge

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 The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, May 6, 2014.
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 The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, Section A2014_131_001_001, TRT: 1:28:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, Section A2014_131_001_002, TRT: 2:30:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, Section A2014_131_001_003, TRT: 3:28:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, Section A2014_131_001_004, TRT: 4:28:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, Section A2014_131_001_005, TRT: 5:29:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, Section A2014_131_001_006, TRT: 6:30:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, Section A2014_131_001_007, TRT: 7:06:25 ?