

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charles W. Cherry II

PERSON

Cherry, Charles W. (Charles William), 1956-

Alternative Names: Charles W. Cherry II;

Life Dates: August 6, 1956-

Place of Birth: Daytona Beach, Florida, USA

Residence: Daytona Beach, FL

Occupations: Publisher; Radio Station Manager; Lawyer

Biographical Note

Publisher, radio station manager and lawyer Charles W. Cherry II was born in 1956 in Daytona Beach, Florida to Julia T. Cherry and Charles W. Cherry, Sr., founder of the Daytona Times and Florida Courier newspapers. In 1978, Cherry received his B.A. degree in journalism from Morehouse College, where he also interned for WAGA-TV in Atlanta, Georgia. He then went on to receive both his M.B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Florida in 1982.

Cherry had his own law firm for twenty-one years and served as a city prosecutor for Fort Lauderdale, Florida and as a state prosecutor in South Florida. He also served as general counsel for the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale, where he worked closely with its former executive director, the late Dr. William H. Lindsay. In 1989, Cherry and his father purchased WPUL-AM 1590, a Daytona Beach-area radio station. From 1998 to 2000, he served as general manager of Greenville, South Carolina's WCSZ-AM. In 2000, Cherry was named general manager of WPUL-AM and became host of the station's Free Your Mind radio show.

In 2004, upon the death of his father, Cherry returned to journalism and newspaper publishing. In 2006, the Cherry family re-launched the Florida Courier as a statewide newspaper; Cherry became its publisher and his column, Straight, No Chaser appeared weekly. He also went on to write commentaries, editorials, and stories for his other family-owned newspaper, the Daytona Times. In addition, Cherry served as vice president, secretary and general counsel of his family's Tama Broadcasting, Inc., as well as vice president of corporate communications for Global Health Professionals, Inc.

Cherry published Excellence Without Excuse: The Black Student's Guide to Academic

Excellence (1994), which has been used as a textbook in college-preparation classes and seminars. He was elected to the board of directors of the National Newspaper Publishers Association in 2009, and served on the Government Affairs Committee of the Florida Press Association. He also founded the Florida Black-Owned Media Coalition, Inc., a trade association representing Florida mass media owned by African Americans.

Charles W. Cherry II was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 7, 2014.

Related Entries

Campbell Elementary School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

St Paul's Catholic School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Father Lopez Catholic High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Seabreeze High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

HS

Morehouse College [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

University of Florida [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

J.D., M.B.A.

City of Fort Lauderdale [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

City Prosecutor

State of Florida [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

State Prosecutor

Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

General Counsel

Global Health Professionals, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Vice President of Corporate Communications

Tama Broadcasting, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1996 to 2007]

Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel

WCSZ-AM [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1998 to 2000]

General Manager

WPUL-AM [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2000 to 2014]

General Manager; Host

Florida Courier [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2006 to ?]

Publisher

Florida Press Association [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member, Government Affairs Committee

Florida Black-Owned Media Coalition, Inc. [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Founder

National Newspaper Publishers Association [MEMBEROf]

[from 2009 to ?]

Board Member