

# A Guide to the Oral History Interview of Frederick A. Hodnett, Jr., Supreme Court of Virginia, June 3, 2014

Oral History Interview of Frederick A. Hodnett, Jr., Supreme Court of Virginia, October 11, 2013  
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## History

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## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection is open to research.

**Use Restrictions**

Because the library is not open to the general public, researchers should contact the library to arrange access to the collection.

**Acquisition Information**

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## Biographical/Historical Information

The Supreme Court of Virginia Historical Commission was established in 2006 to preserve and promote the history of the court. Oral history interviews of retired Supreme Court of Virginia justices, Court of Appeals of Virginia judges, other individuals associated with the Virginia courts, and civil rights attorneys were begun in 2007. The project is ongoing.

Frederick A. Hodnett, Jr. (b. 1944) began working for the Supreme Court of Virginia as deputy executive secretary in 1973 and was assistant executive secretary from 1976 to 2006. A native of Abingdon, Virginia, he graduated from the University of Richmond and earned a law degree from the University of Virginia.

## Scope and Content

Oral history interview of Frederick A. Hodnett, Jr., by Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Professor of History, Norfolk State University, in the fifth floor conference room at the Supreme Court of Virginia in Richmond, June 3, 2014. Hodnett talks about his family and childhood in Dublin, Virginia, his education at Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Virginia and the University of Richmond, attending law school at the University of Virginia, his military service as a translator during the Vietnam war, and his long career as deputy court administrator. He discusses being hired by Hubert Bennett, executive secretary (court administrator) from 1952 to 1975; working for Robert Baldwin, executive secretary from 1976 to 2005; the changes in the court system with passage of the Court Reorganization Act that took effect July 1, 1973; his work with judges statewide during his career, and working under Chief Justices Harry L. Carrico and Leroy Hassell, Sr.

## Index Terms

Hodnett, Frederick A., Jr., 1944-.

Newby-Alexander, Cassandra.

Oral histories (document genres) -- Virginia.

Virginia. Supreme Court -- History.