THE ORAL HISTORY OF WARREN JUGGINS
AS TOLD BY MRS. LAURICE JUGGINS

This interview is being conducted on behalf of the Oral History Project of The Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit. The interviewer is Gennine A. Hagar and the interviewee is Mrs. Laurice Patterson Juggins, on behalf of her husband, Warren Theodore Juggins. The interview took place at the home of Mrs. Juggins at 1307 Quincy Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, May 27, 2015.

MS. HAGAR: Mrs. Juggins, thank you so much for agreeing to participate in this oral history project. Mr. Juggins' history will be a valuable addition to the historical archives of the Circuit. I appreciate you spending the time with me to share your husband's profound history. I look forward to talking about his professional history. Let's begin by discussing his personal and family background. What do you remember about Mr. Juggins' parents and where he was born?

MS. JUGGINS: He was born in Dumfries, Virginia, but his mother and father moved to Washington when he was a baby, so he grew up in Washington. His mother was a homemaker, she stayed home. There were seven children, and he was number two of the seven. His father was a brickmason. They lived near me, so we were like neighbors, and his sisters and I were good friends. To me, he looked to me like an old man because there's a five-year difference between the ages, but during that time, that was a big strain. So he grew up in Washington. He went to Francis Junior High School, then he went to Phelps. The main reason for going to Phelps Vocational School was he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps because at that time, Phelps was a vocational school and he took up brick masonry. He did do something with those skills. One thing, he

made a barbecue grill at our beach home in Annapolis, but he did get some jobs working on buildings and houses before he started driving a cab.

MS. HAGAR: You said he was the second of seven children. Tell me more about his siblings.

MS. JUGGINS: Of the seven, only two are living now. There were four boys and three girls. One girl is still living, and the baby boy is still living. They were a very close family. Although we lived in the same neighborhood, I didn't visit their home per se, so I can't tell you too much about what happened in the home situation, but I would speak to his mother, Mrs. Juggins, who when sitting out on the front porch, would speak to her. She was a very lovely person.

MS. HAGAR: What do you know about his other relatives?

MS. JUGGINS: As I mentioned, he was born in Dumfries, Virginia, so there's a family, like the Kennedy's compound, down there in Dumfries, the Kendalls. I think they were his mother's parents, they had lots, and some of the Kendalls built houses on that area. So, when we would go down there to visit on weekends or go on Sundays, it was like a whole home week because all the uncles and everyone would be out because their houses were close together and the land that was owned by his grandfather on his mother's side.

MS. HAGAR: What did his grandfather do?

MS. JUGGINS: I think his grandfather worked the railroad. I think that's what he did. I don't know where he got his money from to buy that land, but at that time, property was cheaper or something.

MS. HAGAR: You started talking a little about his school. Tell me more about his education.

MS. JUGGINS: After Phelps, he graduated from there and he did not pursue any college education at that time, but when he was hired down at the library to work with its assistant law librarian, he started taking courses at American University in Library Science. So that was his only involvement with college education.

MS. HAGAR: What did he share with you about his military service? I read that he was in the Army.

MS. JUGGINS: Right. He was stationed in Japan, and he would tell me about things that they did as young fellows. He was young, and they did some interesting things in Japan. He went to Japan very thin, and his nickname was Skinny, and when he passed, he still was called Skinny. He liked to eat, so they sent him to the mess hall. He enjoyed working in there because he could get extra plates of food to eat, so when he came out, that look of being skinny kind of disappeared, although that nickname stayed with him throughout his life.

MS. HAGAR: You said he was born in Dumfries. When did the family move to Washington?

MS. JUGGINS: When he was an infant. The oldest child is a son, and the difference between them was like two years. So, Mrs. Juggins moved to Washington with the oldest son and with him at that time.

MS. HAGAR: Anything else about the military?

MS. JUGGINS: Not really. I have pictures. He had small albums, and there are pictures of him sitting on top of jeeps and that kind of thing, arms around the Japanese girls who were over there. Other than that, that was about it.

MS. HAGAR: What did he do after leaving the Army?

MS. JUGGINS: He came back and he started driving a cab. His oldest brother, Freddy, was a cabdriver too, and they both started driving a cab called the Tan Top Company. His brother's cab number was 64, and Warren's cab number was 54. When I was going to Miner Teacher's College, my girlfriends would be going down the steps and we'd see these Tan Tops passing by. Both of them looked just alike, Warren and his brother, so they would be waving at Freddy thinking he was Warren. That was always a joke among my friends. They were very much into cabs, and the man who owned the cab company took them under his wing. He was a white man, and they called him Pop Ryan, I think. They really were very close to him, and he did a lot for them. So that's how my husband started driving a cab.

MS. HAGAR: I see he was in the military 1945 to 1947. What years did he drive cab?

MS. JUGGINS: I imagine it must have been 1948 or 1949. But before he went in the service, he did drive a dry cleaning truck, picking up laundry I think. He served papers as a young boy. But when he came out of the service, he became a cab driver.

MS. HAGAR: You said you both grew up in the same neighborhood?

MS. JUGGINS: Right. He would be standing on the corner with the fellas, and I would be going somewhere with my girlfriends, and I would wave at him, because he knew me because of one of his sisters. And that was it at the time because to me he was an old man.

MS. HAGAR: Tell me about your early years together. After you waved on the corner, how did your relationship begin?

MS. JUGGINS: It's interesting. My parents didn't have a car at the time, and my mother – he must have had eyes for me without my knowing it, so some kind of way, he got involved in taking them to the O Street market on Saturdays to get their groceries, and that's how it started, I think. He would be up at the house doing those kinds of things, taking them in his cab. Of course he wouldn't charge them anything. He would just take them to give them transportation.

MS. HAGAR: So, when did you two start seeing each other, becoming involved?

MS. JUGGINS: It was a long time before that happened because I was at Dunbar High School. I finished Dunbar, and then I went to Miner Teacher's College, and then I worked on my Master's at New York University. And all that time, it was a strange relationship in an odd way. I always told my husband that he was in love with me, but I was not in love with him, per se. We were just good friends. So when I was at NYU, he and my older brother drove up to bring us back, my girlfriend and me, to bring us back from school. He was extending himself in terms of being there for me at times, not girlfriend/boyfriend to me, it wasn't. But I think after NYU it became more obvious, I was older too, and it became more obvious that there was some feelings starting between the two of us.

MS. HAGAR: What about your wedding?

MS. JUGGINS: I had a pink wedding. Everybody wore pink. My dress was a blushing pink bride's gown. My mother was very much into fashion. She had attended a wedding that somebody rich had, and it was kind of a mint green wedding, so when I got married, she wanted to do something different. I got married in

April. She didn't want me to have a June wedding because that was too traditional, so I had a pink wedding.

MS. HAGAR: You mentioned that you were kind of just good friends. What led to the proposal? How did that happen?

MS. JUGGINS: He asked my mother, and I thought that was very noble of him. I spotted a charm bracelet. Did he buy the charm bracelet? I'm trying to think. He may have bought the charm bracelet, and the first charm on there, of course, was a heart. He gave it to me on Valentine's Day. That same day, I got engaged on Valentine's Day. So that's how it started. Naturally I was engaged then. But actually it wasn't funny either, but even though I was engaged, he teased me. He said it was the longest engagement he ever heard of because I was working on my – I had my Master's, I'm trying to think when I got the ring. Anyway, I wanted to finish school before I got married, so I wore my engagement ring during that time, and then after I finished all my education, then that's when we got married, in 1959.

MS. HAGAR: Where were you married?

MS. JUGGINS: At 19th Street Baptist Church, the old one down at 19th and I, but now it's on 16th Street, Northwest.

MS. HAGAR: Tell me about the early years of your marriage. Where did you live? What was your family life like?

MS. JUGGINS: By my being the only girl, and my grandparents had just moved up here to this house on Quincy Street, and my mother was very – she wanted to keep me under her wings even though I was married. Moreover, I didn't mind that, and

Warren didn't mind that, which is very unusual for a man. So, my mother said she wanted me to stay here on Quincy Street so we got the largest bedroom. We needed my income help too because my mother never worked. My mother and father separated when I was maybe in junior high school, and my grandparents were very strong. My grandfather worked at the U.S. District Court, and he's the one who got Warren the job. He was a messenger for Judge Lotts, then Judge Stafford. My grandfather was a very strong person at the Courthouse, and got jobs for my two brothers and Warren and his oldest brother. He got jobs for all four of them at the Courthouse.

MS. HAGAR: What was your grandfather's name?

MS. JUGGINS: Albert Hansborough. And he was well respected by all the lawyers and judges at the Courthouse. He was a messenger. My two brothers worked in the Clerk's office. Warren's brother was a messenger for a judge. I can't think of his name. The judge was a very popular judge, he did a big case, and I can't think of it off-hand. Warren went into the library, worked with Mr. Johnson, I think his name was Johnson. He was black too. Warren worked under him when he first got there.

MS. HAGAR: We were talking about your early years being married. You were both living here with your grandparents?

MS. JUGGINS: Right. Grandparents and my mother. And then like anything else eventually we wanted our own place, so we looked in Annapolis, down at Oyster Harbor. We negotiated and got the property down there, and we built a house down there. So that was our outlet to have our own private place and have something that we

owned. But as anything else, I knew that eventually this house would come to me. My grandfather had told me that, and they needed my income to help them to pay the mortgage and taxes and whatever, and I didn't mind doing it at all. I was glad to do it.

MS. HAGAR: Did you live in the house in Annapolis?

MS. JUGGINS: When I married I was an instructional supervisor, and at that time, when teachers are instructional supervisors, you had off from June into September. So, the first of June, Warren would get his suits all together and his clothes that he needed to commute back and forth to work, and we would go to our summer home at Oyster Harbor and stay from June until September. He would commute back and forth, because he was still working. We had two cars then, because even though he drove back and forth, I had a car to drive around Annapolis to do things, so that worked out well. I would bring my mother down some weekends. I would come to town and check on her. She loved it down there. She always wanted to be with me, you know, one of those overly protective mothers. Warren, you know, accepted that. So many men would not, having all these people in the house, and you are married, but he did that because he loved me, and I respected him for that very much.

MS. HAGAR: If you were to describe his family life, his marriage, and everything, what do you think he would say?

MS. JUGGINS: His marriage, he would say it was fantastic, very supportive, very understanding, especially during these last four years. He would tell me often, he said I just don't know what I would do without you. So many things he

could not do, so many things I had to do, so many embarrassing things that happened to him in public that I had to endure, and never made any complaint, never showed any sign of being disgusted or why did that happen, didn't you know you had to do so-and-so. I never questioned his health. Never.

MS. HAGAR: Things that happened in public had to do with his illness?

MS. JUGGINS: Yes.

MS. HAGAR: We're going to talk some about his professional career now. You mentioned earlier that he took classes to be a librarian? Tell me about his first job as a librarian.

MS. JUGGINS: It was, as I mentioned, my grandfather who got him the job there, and I think the man's name was Johnson with whom he worked. He went in not knowing anything and it seemed like he picked up so fast because after Johnson retired, he had to kind of supervise and be a person in charge until they hired someone who had a degree in Law Library Science, or whatever it's called. He did a fantastic job. And then he worked under three different people after this black fellow named Johnson retired, and those three new librarians were all white. There were two white woman and a white fellow, and he worked under all three of them. Then they moved out to different jobs or they retired. When the Bar Association lost the library, he retired and someone in the Court of Appeals heard he was retiring, and they called him up. I think her first name was Nancy, and she said, Oh no, we need you. Come work three days a week or whatever you want to work. So he worked with the Court of Appeals.

MS. HAGAR: So he worked for the Bar Association and the U.S. Attorney's Office?

MS. JUGGINS: Yes, that's what I meant to say, the U.S. Attorney's Office. That's where he went.

MS. HAGAR: What years?

MS. JUGGINS: I don't remember. Whenever the library was sold. The Bar Association lost the library in 1984, and when that happened, he retired, and then as I said he was picked up right away by the U.S. Attorney's Office, and he worked over there as a librarian under somebody. I don't remember the name of the person.

MS. HAGAR: Some of the things you gave me to read about him stated that he started at the Court of Appeals law library at the Courthouse in 1989. Does that sound right to you?

MS. JUGGINS: Either that or the U.S. Attorney's Office. Because what happened, one time I was called for jury duty and you know how the judge asks does anybody know anyone who works for the court, and I raised my hand and he brought me to the bench and I told him my husband was Warren Juggins, and the defense attorney looked at me and scratched me right away. So the district attorney went back to work and told Warren that he was on a case and your wife mentioned your name and the defense attorney scratched me off.

MS. HAGAR: We were talking about the work he did. Tell me what you knew about what he did at work.

MS. JUGGINS: You mean what was his job?

MS. HAGAR: Yes.

MS. JUGGINS: He did a lot of research, and based on the lawyers with whom I have talked, they all have said he had excellent skills in finding cases that they needed to

help them to prove their cases, and it was highlighted, I think, in his obituary, in his program, that he had excellent skills in that. He would do some things on the side for lawyers. They would pay him. He was paid by the lawyers to help them to win a case because when they won a case, they received a big settlement, and they would come back and give him what you might call gratitude something in terms of his job.

MS. HAGAR: Let's talk about the work environment in the library during those years, his early years, and tell me about some of the ways he helped the attorneys.

MS. JUGGINS: Like anything else, when it came out after Judge Bryant died, Warren never shared much of this to me about those kinds of things he did for the African-American lawyers who could not use the library. He really never sat down and talked to me about that, and after the article came out in *The Washington Post* when Judge Bryant died, he said that due to an African-American librarian in the Bar Association library he was able to get books and do research and get a degree eventually from Howard University where he was in school, and everyone knows what happened. Judge Bryant became – what was his title – federal judge, and then they named the building after him too. So Jack Olender called my husband up, and he said, "Are you the librarian he mentioned in the article?" And my husband said, "I have to admit I am." And that was the first time I knew anything about it myself. So I asked him, so what things did you do? He said they would call and request a certain book. They couldn't come into the library, so he would work some schedule with the custodial staff, he would put books in certain bags outside the door of the library, and the

custodians knew not to touch those bags because in those bags were books that were going to be picked up later by some lawyer. Then he was able to sneak – I hate to say the word "sneak" – but he was able to admit some of them in the library after hours when nobody was around. They could come in there and use the books. They later on had an apologetic luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel apologizing to the African-American lawyers that the Bar Association had, and my husband was there, and he was honored there and acknowledged that he assisted the African-American lawyers to get their research work done through getting the books they requested and letting them use the library without anybody knowing.

MS. HAGAR: He received an Unsung Hero Award from Jack Olender.

MS. JUGGINS: Yes. That was the perfect title, Unsung, because as I said he never shared with me until after this article on Bill Bryant. So he was quiet, reserved, never shared what he was doing for those lawyers, and as you can tell, Attorney General Eric Holder has written me a personal letter acknowledging that my husband helped him when he was in law school, and at that time, blacks could not use the library. I got a letter from Paul Quander, who was in so many positions in the District who started off as a student from Howard. Warren hired him to work during the summer, and his letter is very touching how my husband helped him so much and what happened to him after he finished Howard, all of the different opportunities he got, in jobs in the District. Paul Quander.

MS. HAGAR: When did he retire?

MS. JUGGINS: Actually, I don't know exactly when he retired.

MS. HAGAR: 1993, I think. How did he feel about retiring?

MS. JUGGINS: He was ready because he was showing little signs – he was still strong acting, but he was starting to show signs of being – he was diagnosed as being diabetic, and he was just tired, and he wanted to come out. They had a small retirement for him, and Bill Bryant came back. William Bryant came to his retirement. It was just an informal retirement. I took two of my friends and the staff had light refreshments. That's all he wanted. He didn't want a big retirement affair.

MS. HAGAR: How did he feel about the things people said about how he helped them?

MS. JUGGINS: He was very humble. My husband was a strange man, I hate to say [laughter]. He was extremely quiet. We were so opposite. We were extremely opposite. He would be, not embarrassed, but he was proud that they were recognizing him, and he was very appreciative, but he didn't boast about it because even at the service at the church at his funeral service, everybody in the church was shocked that my husband did all this because they never knew him to be that type. He always came to church very quiet, sitting in his seat. He was very friendly and all, but not outgoing. Very reserved. And everybody was so surprised to know his background.

MS. HAGAR: What do you think he would like for anyone who's reading about him to know?

MS. JUGGINS: That he saw there was a need, and he wanted to reach back and help. He saw injustice and didn't know another way to do it but worked out his scheme. He knew as a black man growing up in Washington, D.C. that there were obstacles

that he had to overcome, and so he saw these young black men trying to be lawyers, going to school, so whatever he could do, he wanted to do.

MS. HAGAR: Is there anything else you would like to share about your husband?

MS. JUGGINS: He was very family-oriented toward his sisters and brothers. One of his nephews gave him an 80th birthday party, a surprise one, at Oyster Harbor, and I was so happy that was done for him, and he just smiled and grinned from ear to ear and enjoyed the whole day. It was at the beach house, and it was done without his knowledge. He thought there was going to be a picnic down there, but they all came, the great-nephews, the great-great nephews.

MS. HAGAR: Did you have any children?

MS. JUGGINS: No. We were not blessed with children, but we have god-children. Some of my god-children called him uncle. His nickname was Skinny, so they would call him Uncle Skinny. I have one particular great-nephew who has some problems, and my husband's death seemed to have really affected him, and he has straightened his life out. And that has been a plus.

MS. HAGAR: Did he ever visit the Courthouse after his retirement?

MS. JUGGINS: Once in a while he went back. Before they did all that construction down there, he would go back for different occasions. He laughed all the time because many people who saw him walking would say "Judge, how are you doing Your Honor?" That's one thing, he had a sense of humor. He would acknowledge them calling him a judge, and he wouldn't say anything. I would say why don't you tell him you're not a judge, and he would say thank you, good morning. So he laughed about that. My husband was dapper in his dress attire. He loved

suits, and all of them came from Brooks Brothers. So he looked the part I guess of a judge.

MS. HAGAR: What did he do in retirement?

MS. JUGGINS: We enjoyed our place at the harbor. We would go down there more, stay longer than September, of course. We would go down in winter and burn logs. He had two friends, and they would go out to lunch on a regular basis, two male friends, like once a week. He did join Bally's Fitness. I gave that to him as a Christmas gift one year, and he had that and renewed it. It was out in Prince George's County. He did that, and then the main thing he loved doing near the end was sit on the front porch. He loved the front porch, and of course what he was seeing was gentrification in full view, and he couldn't get over it. He was excited and just couldn't believe his eyes. He would say, your grandfather I know is turning over in his grave if he saw what was going on now on Quincy Street. We have become very friendly with some of our neighbors and they came to his funeral too.

MS. HAGAR: What surprised you most other than not knowing about the things that he did for others.

MS. JUGGINS: What surprised me the most about him? He was so quiet, he just never talked about what he had done.

MS. HAGAR: Did you talk more about it, did you make him tell you more about it?

MS. JUGGINS: What he told me, that was it [laughter]. I remember when Eric Holder came on the television one time and he was made Attorney General and Warren did say he used to come to the library. That's all he said, he used to come to the library.

He and Clarence Thomas. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He would say he would use the library a lot, and he would say he didn't come across the way he's coming across now that he's on the bench at the Supreme Court. He didn't make comments like that. But not go into any detail, but he would just mention that. And of course he would talk about Paul Quander. He always talked about him as a student. He would say, I wonder what he's doing. I would like to talk with him, or something like that. But other than that, nothing.

MS. HAGAR: Well thank you so much, Mrs. Juggins. Is there anything else that you would like to add regarding your husband?

MS. JUGGINS: No. I just want to say that he lived a life that I think he enjoyed, and everything that he wanted to do, he did. We went on cruises, we went to Europe on a cruise. We went to Hawaii, and to all the islands, the Caribbean islands. So wewere able to enjoy those kinds of things when we both were in good health.

MS. HAGAR: Thank you very much.

MS. JUGGINS: You're welcome.

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Gennine A. Hagar
Biographical Sketch

Gennine A. Hagar was appointed Chief United States Probation Officer in January 2007. She is the first woman to serve the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in this capacity. As Chief U.S. Probation Officer, Ms. Hagar exercises control and supervision of all aspects of the probation office and oversees its multi-million dollar budget. Prior to her appointment as chief, Ms. Hagar served as deputy chief for five years, supervising the Probation Office's presentence and supervision officers, clerical staff, and other administrative personnel. Before becoming deputy chief, she served as a supervising probation officer for five years and she served as her court's first federal sentencing guidelines specialist. During her position as sentencing guidelines specialist, she served on the Probation Officers' Advisory Group to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Ms. Hagar was initially appointed as a U.S. Probation Officer in April 1988. Earlier in her law enforcement career, she worked as a parole and probation agent for the State of Maryland, and as a case manager at the District of Columbia Jail. Throughout her tenure with the federal judiciary, she has served on many advisory groups and committees and is the recipient of numerous awards for her outstanding service to the judiciary. Ms. Hagar is an instructor for the University of Phoenix and teaches *Ethics in Criminal Justice*. She is a native of Pocomoke City, Maryland and graduated as the salutatorian of her high school class. Ms. Hagar earned a B.S. Degree in Sociology from Towson University and a Master's Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. Gennine is married, has one son, and resides in Fort Washington, Maryland.