

## ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

**MAIN ENTRY:** Gonzales, Alberto

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** October 5, 2009

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Lubbock, Texas

**INTERVIEWER:** Daniel U. Sánchez

**FORMAT:** 2 – CDs, 2 – MiniDv videotapes, 1 - DVD

**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:** Part 1 CD #7101 2132 0146  
Part 2 CD #7101 2132 0153

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 1 hour and 20 minutes

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** Alberto Gonzales, former United States Attorney General, reminisces on his life growing up as a Mexican American and being in the Air Force. He discusses his academic and law careers, his years of service to George W. Bush in Texas and then his tenure as a member of Bush's Cabinet. He also discusses his current dual appointment at Texas Tech University, as a Professor of Political Science and a Minority Recruiter.

### ABSTRACT:

#### CD ONE

#### TIME STAMP

Part 1

Introduction

0:00

Parents

Occupations

Grandparents

Siblings

Second oldest

Sibling names

Family lives in Houston

Wife

Children

Education

Public schools

Enlisted in Air Force

High School academic career

Did well in school

Sports

Enjoyed high school

Mapped out life

Air Force

Family support

Transition to military

Recommend service

Changes in life

Taking care of self

Responsibility

Ft. Yukon Alaska

One remote assignment

Air Force Academy

Admittance test

Appointed to Air Force Academy

President Bush's speech

Invested Interest from Air Force

Extraordinary

Air Force Academy Career

Military regiment

Work load demanding

Class council president

Thought about leaving

Transferred to Rice University

Government type courses

Harvard Law School

Parents' reaction

0:15

Experiences at Harvard

Career after law school

Law firm in Houston

Community organizations

Became partner in 1991

Ready for a change

George W. Bush's Governorship

Friendship with Bush

General Council

Bush was a wonderful client

Death Row clemency

High profile case

Wide range of issues

Death penalty cases

0:30

Economy in Texas

Economy was strong

Presidential run for office

Service on Supreme Court

Never considered being a judge

Accomplishments

Fairness

Bush administration

Growing up as a Mexican American

Grew up speaking English

View of world

Hispanic education

0:45

Expectations

Emulate success

Education

## CD TWO

### Part 2

Making choices 0:00

Changing Status Quo

Tolerance and acceptance  
Affirmative action cases

Civil Service

Getting involved  
Board member

Civil service experiences

Better person  
Highlights of local organizations

Open doors

Helping others

Attorney General

Public Service

0:10

Career at Texas Tech

Overview of pressing issues after 9/11

Never let attack happen again  
Bring justice to terrorists

Setting goals and issues

Mindset at Whitehouse

Worked really hard

Two wars

Guidelines

Issues for lawyers

Geneva Convention  
Legal rights for enemy combatants  
Surveillance

0:20

State of economies

Responsibility of government  
Bailouts  
Limited regulation

Holding Congress accountable  
Not doing their job

Bringing experience to classroom

0:30

Interview ends

**DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT:** 1955

**GENDER OF INFORMANT:** Male

**ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT:** Mexican American