

## **Carlottia Scott**

**Chief of Staff, Representatives Ronald V. Dellums and Barbara Lee of California**

### **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

#### **Professional Dress Code**

Carlottia Scott remembers how Representative Dellums' leadership roles changed the way she dressed as his chief of staff.

*Interview recorded April 24, 2018*

I want to say that it changed to an extent, but there was an unwritten standard, institutionally, that you were expected to adhere to. I know folks used to laugh at me all the time because I would show up in my jeans and my daishiki. I had a suit hanging in the closet, so if I had to go to a committee meeting, I would put on the suit and my heels and my stockings, heaven forbid, and go to the committee meeting. But in the office, if I didn't have to go out of the office, I was casual as I wanted to be, until Ron took on more and more responsibilities and I realized I had to stay dressed all day. I want to say there was an unwritten code—and it may have been written somewhere, but I never saw it. But there was an unwritten code of professional, we'll call it—professional dress was to be a staple of staff.