

The Clerk's Black History Series

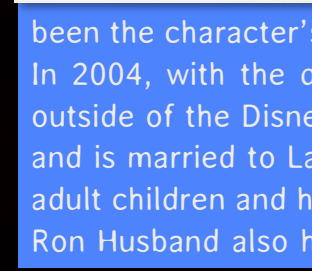
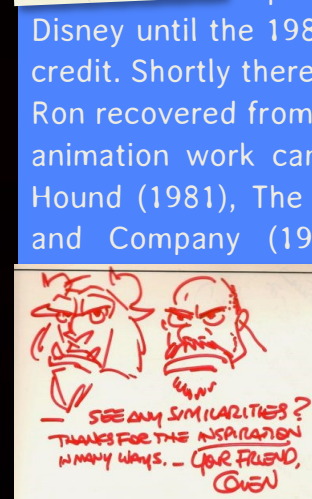
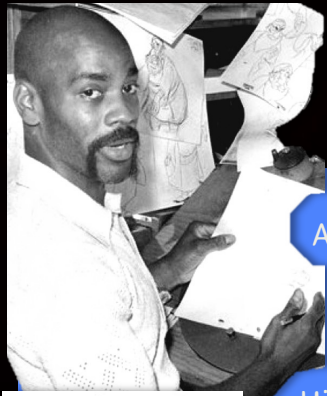
Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Ronald "Ron" Husband

(February 5, 1950 -)

"First African-American Animator for Walt Disney Studios"



Ronald "Ron" Husband was born on February 5, 1950, in Los Angeles, California. As a young kid, Ron loved to draw, and his High School art teacher encouraged him to start carrying a sketchbook to start drawing sketches of the world around him. He majored in art and won the Scholastic Arts national competition, as well as played varsity football for Monrovia High. He received his Associate's Degree in Art from Citrus College in Glendora, California and BA degree in 1973 from the University of Nevada. Ron went to work for the Honeywell company in West Covina, California, where he developed his drafting and technical illustrations skills. Around the same time, Ron attended classes at the Art Center in Los Angeles. While

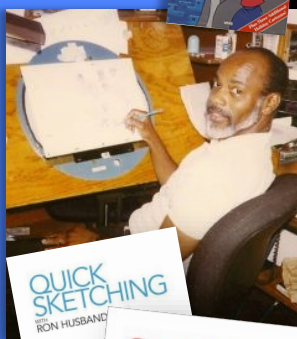


at the Art Center, Ron's professor encouraged him to send his portfolio to Disney Animation. Disney liked his work he began training with the Walt Disney studio on February 10, 1975. His first assignment with Walt Disney Feature Animation was to assist Frank Thomas on the movie, The Rescuers (1977). Ron was promoted to assistant animator on Pete's Dragon (1978). That same year, Ron was promoted to animator for the first time on the Disney short film, The Small One, making him the first African American animator and later the first African American Supervising Animator for The Walt Disney Studios. From the early days at



Disney until the 1980's, an artist had to produce 100 feet of animation to get a screen credit. Shortly thereafter, Ron underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor.

Ron recovered from his surgery in the early 1980's and continued working full time. His animation work can be seen in well-known Disney films such as; The Fox and the Hound (1981), The Black Cauldron (1985), The Great Mouse Detective (1986), Oliver and Company (1988), and The Little Mermaid (1989), Beauty and the Beast (1991), Aladdin (1992), The Lion King (1994), Pocahontas (1995), The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1996), Hercules (1997), and Fantasia 2000 (1999). For Beauty and the Beast, Ron worked on the character unit for Gaston while fellow Animator Glen Keane worked on Beast. Glen gave Ron a caricature of himself next to a drawing of Beast during production, indicating that Ron may have been the character's inspiration.



In 2004, with the decreasing use of hand drawn animations, Ron began working some outside of the Disney Studios. Ron Husband currently resides in San Dimas, California and is married to LaVonne, his high school sweetheart of 48 years. They have three adult children and he is fondly known as "Grumpy " to his three granddaughters. Ron Husband also has published books called "Quick Sketching with Ron Husband."