

INTRODUCTION

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Here is a detailed accounting of the hours of Jerry Williams's broadcast career, supporting our assertion that he spent almost 40,000 hours talking on the radio and more than 45,000 hours in total.

Jerry worked for these radio stations as host of his own talk show:

WKDN (Camden, NJ – “What’s On Your Mind” only): .75 hrs x 6 days x 50 weeks x 2 years = 450

WIBG (Philadelphia, PA): 3 hrs x 6 days x 50 weeks x 2 years = 1,800

WMEX (Boston, MA): 3 hrs x 6 days x 50 weeks x 8 years = 7,200

WBBM (Chicago, IL): 3 hrs x 6 days x 4 weeks x 17 months = 1,224
4 hrs x 6 days x 33 weeks = 792
3 hrs x 6 days x 4 weeks x 5 months = 360

WBZ (Boston, MA): 2 hrs x 5 days x 10 weeks = 100
4 hrs x 5 days x 50 weeks x 8 years = 8,000 Total: 8,100

WTIC (Hartford, CT): 4 hrs x 5 days x 4 weeks = 80

WMCA (New York): 4 hrs x 5 days x 4 weeks x 8 months = 640

WMEX/WITS (Boston): 4 hrs x 5 days x 4 weeks x 12 months = 960

WRC (Washington DC): 4 hrs x 5 days x 4 weeks = 80

WWDB-FM (Philadelphia, PA): 4 hrs x 5 days x 50 weeks x 2 yrs = 2,000

WNWS (Miami, FL): 4 hrs x 5 days x 50 weeks x 1.75 yrs = 1,750

WRKO (Boston, MA): 4 hrs x 5 days x 48 weeks x 13 yrs = 12,480
2 hrs x 5 days x 48 weeks x 2.25 yrs = 1,080
3 hrs x 2 days x 48 weeks x 1.75 yrs = 504 Total: 14,064

“The new WMEX” (1060) (Boston, MA): 12

WROL (Boston, MA): possibly 1 hr x 5 days x 12 weeks = 60

Total hours of radio talk: 39,652
Subtotal radio hours in Boston: 30,396

Jerry Williams worked for these radio stations, doing programs other than talk shows:

WCYB (Bristol, VA/TN): 20 hours / wk x 4 wks x 8 months (approx) = 640

WEDO (McKeesport, PA): 4 hrs x 5 days x 6 weeks = 120

WLOA (Braddock, PA): 4 hrs x 5 days x 2 weeks = 40

WKAP (Allentown, PA): 4 hrs x 5 days x 50 weeks = 1000

WAEB (Allentown, PA): 4.5 hrs x 6 days x 24 weeks = 648

WKDN (Camden, NJ – excludes “What’s On Your Mind,” Jerry’s first talk show): 3 hrs x 6 days x 50 weeks x 2 years = 1800

WIP (Philadelphia, PA): 1 hr x 6 days x 32 weeks = 192

2 hrs x 6 days x 50 weeks x 2 yrs = 1200

Total: 1392

Subtotal non-talk radio hours: 5,640

Subtotal all hours on radio: 45,282

Jerry Williams’s television career included the following:

Television drama programs, including “Martin Kane, Private Eye” [NBC], “Studio One” [CBS], “Famous Jury Trials” [Dumont], “Philco Playhouse” and possibly “You Are There” (New York, NY): possibly 5 hours

“Madmen at Midnight,” station not yet identified (Philadelphia, PA): 3 hours

“Pick Your Ideal,” WRCV-TV, Channel 3 (Philadelphia, PA): .5 hrs x 25 wks (approx) = 12.5

“At Random,” WBBM-TV, Channel 2 (Chicago, IL): 2.75 hrs x 2 wks = 5.5

Morning program, WBZ-TV, Channel 4 (Boston, MA): 1 hr x 5 days x 12 weeks = 60

“A Left and a Right,” Channel 5 (Boston, MA), co-hosted with Avi Nelson and moderated by Robert Baram: 1 hr x 1 day x 8 weeks = 8

[The above information about this 1975 summer series was provided to us by Avi Nelson in January 2008. We are grateful for his help in correcting the record.]

“The Jerry Williams Show,” WFXT-TV, Channel 25 (Boston, MA):

1 hr x 15 weeks = 15

.5 hr x 50 weeks = 25

Total: 40

“The Jerry Williams Show,” WHLL-TV, Channel 27 (Worcester, MA):

.5 hr x 10 weeks = 5

Subtotal television hours: 139

Grand total broadcast hours: 45,421

Here is an accounting of Larry King’s hours on radio and television, supporting our assertion that he logged more than 37,600 hours on his 33 years in radio:

1958 – 1972: 5 days x 4 hours x 50 weeks x 14 years = 14,000

1975 – 1978: 5 days x 3 hours x 50 weeks x 3 years = 2,250

1978 – 1993 (overnight): 5 days x 5.5 hours x 50 weeks x 15 years = 20,625

1993-1994 (afternoons): 5 days x 3 hours x 50 weeks x 1 year = 750

Total: 37,625

Here is an accounting of King’s television career, supporting our assertion that he had worked more than 44,500 hours by the end of 2007:

“The Larry King Show” (CNN), 1988 - 2007:

7 days x 1 hour x 52 weeks x 19 years = 6,916

Total broadcast hours to end of 2007: 44,541

To support our assertion that King currently hosts at least 340 hours of television annually and that he will surpass Jerry Williams’s total of 45,400 hours in May 2010, we estimate his present workload as 7 days x 1 hour x 52 weeks, less 20 hours for vacations, that is, 342 hours a year. We base this on information in Lisa de Moraes, “CNN’s Designated Sitter: Bob Costas To Be Larry King’s Regular Guest Host” (“The TV Column”), *Washington Post*, 6/9/05, p. C7.

Here is a summary of Don Imus's career, supporting our computation of his hours on radio:

6/68 - 2/69: KUTY (Palmdale, CA): .7 yr

2/69 - 11/69: KJOY (Stockton, CA): .75 yr.

11/69 - 11/71: KXOA (Sacramento, CA): 2 years

Subtotal: 3.45 yrs x 48 wks x 4 hrs x 5 days = 3,312

12/71 - 9/77: WNBC (New York, NY, M-Sa 6-10 AM):

5.75 years, less 100 days absence in 1973

Subtotal: 5.75 yrs x 48 wks x 4 hrs x 6 days - 400 hours = 6,224

9/77 - 9/79: WHK (Cleveland, OH, probably M-Sa, 6-10 AM): 2 years

9/79 - 10/88: WNBC (New York, NY, M-Sa 6-10 AM):

9 years, less 1 month absence in 7/87

11/88 - 6/93: WFAN (New York, NY): 4.5 years

Subtotal: 15.5 yrs x 48 wks x 4 hrs x 6 days = 17856 - 144 hours = 17,712

6/93 - 4/11/07: Syndicated program (5:30 - 10 AM, M-F): 13.84 years, less 3-week hiatus, 8/93

Subtotal: 13.5 yrs x 48 wks x 4.5 hrs x 5 days = 13500
- 67.5 hours = 14,947.2

Total: 42,195.2

This is our computation of Rush Limbaugh's hours doing political talk on radio:

Assuming 4 hours each weekday (allowing for longer shows in the early part of his career, and his 4-hour stint on WABC as EIB was getting started, 8/88 - 12/88) from January 1, 1984 - December 31, 1988, with an average of 50 working weeks a year:

250 weeks [5 years x 50 weeks] x 5 days x 4 hours = 5,000 hours

Assuming 3 hours each weekday from January 1, 1989 - December 31, 2007, with an average of 48 working weeks a year (not counting additional vacations and medical leaves):

864 weeks [18 years x 48 weeks] x 5 days x 3 hours = 12,960 hours

Total: 17,960

Current rate per year: 720 hours

We derive the amount of time Limbaugh would have to work to match Jerry Williams's radio talk total in this manner:

Jerry Williams's total (39,708) – Rush Limbaugh's total as of end of 2007
(17,960) = 22,468 / 720 hours = 30.2 years

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Our description of the challenges facing a talk show host comes from our own experience producing Jerry's program.

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Our overall epigraph for the book comes from the journal of Julien Green, who attributed the words to the French painter Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, according to www.dicocitations.com/resultat.php?id=1470, captured 9/28/05.

We first became aware of this sentiment via Bob Belden's liner notes to Miles Davis's "Quiet Nights" (Columbia CS 8906, issued 1963), where Belden quotes it as, "Talent does whatever it wants to do . . . Genius does only what it can." In those liner notes, Belden attributed the phrase to Eugène Delacroix. We determined that this translation does not do justice to the original French, and Steve Elman re-translated it as it appears on this page.

By citing this quotation, we do not mean to imply either that Jerry Williams was a genius or that he was merely "talent." We encourage readers to draw their own conclusions.