

Deliberations



Honoring America's
African American Lawyers

Volume 3 of 3
(P - Z)

Deliberations

*Honoring
African American Lawyers
in the
United States of America*

Publisher
W.R. "Reggie" Colbert
Concepts with Solutions LLC

What is **LAW**?

*Law is a legislative system of rules
particular to a given country or community
that regulates the actions of its' citizens
and enslaved members
with penalties set
after deducing from the statement of facts
the degree of restitution or other punishment
for the alleged infraction.*

Pro Bono Legal Fund

www.probonolegalfund.org

probonolegalfund.org was created to assist both lawyers and those seeking the assistance of a lawyer. The aim of the fund is to assist those in need of legal representation that cannot afford those services to be able to pay for a portion of those needed services. Simply, probonolegalfund.org's purpose is to pay for the first one hour consultation fees of those needing legal representation. Our goal is to pay toward the consultation fees and/or other legal needs of those selected by our team needing legal services. In paying those fees, we will challenge attorneys to "match" our payment through a "probono legal challenge" which will allow the public up to \$300 in monies to pay for their needed legal consulting services. These legal services may range from business start up applications, copyright & infringement laws, sports & entertainment advisory services, family law, criminal law issues and other needed services.

When an attorney purchases any one of our Deliberations Art Giclee's and/or accompanying Book Set, probonolegalfund.org will donate 20% of the profits to the fund, which is free to the public on a first-come, first-received bases and approved by our team. Our goal is to provide a minimum of \$1,000,000 (one-million dollars) toward the fund through the sale of the Deliberations project. Through our "attorney challenge", we hope to provide an additional \$1,000,000 to the fund which will allow over 6,500 people to have free legal advice and services.

When an attorney purchases any Giclee Art Print and/or Book Set, they have the option of uploading their own BIO and photograph to the webstie and they will be highlighted as the first attorney listed in their "keepsake" book set. The cover of the book(s) are designed to be personalized with the attorney's name and law firm printed on the cover as well. The purchasing attorney's name is also placed on the "Honor Roll" of the probonolegalfund.org website which gives the participating attorney market visibility through our promotions and marketing campaigns. Potential consumers can visit the website to find a particiapting attorney to assist them with their legal needs. In essence probonolegalfund.org becomes a vehicle for the attorney's to reach their potential clients as well as those in need of legal services find a "caring" attorney to assist them with their legal issues.

probonolegalfund.org is a free attorney listing service for both the attorney and the needing consumer, well needed, and designed to help both the general public and attorneys alike. The Book Set is designed to showcase attorney's, past and present.



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WILLIAM
REGINALD
"REGGIE"
COLBERT

...was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1952 to Odessa Faye Perryman (Colbert) and Jimmy Colbert. After completing high school and to begin his undergraduate studies in Fine Art, Col-

bert enrolled into the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. While a student there, he accepted an internship with the Minneapolis Star and Tribune newspaper in their cold type division. His job was to set type, in reverse, for the printing department.

Colbert's true print production journey began when the nineteen year old freshman student's greater graphic talents were recognized by management. After only a few months on the job, he was moved to the advertising and layout department where he was given the task of creating layouts for retail advertisers. His creative designs caught the owner's eye of one of the newspaper's largest advertisers at the time, Walsh's Grocery Stores located in Bloomington. He was given that account to personally serve. Within six months, he had produced more agate lines of type and layout than some workers who had been on the job for several years.

Unfortunately for the Star and Tribune, when the cold Minnesota winter came, Colbert found the weather to bearing for him so he left the newspaper and the University of Minnesota after only two quarters, transferring to Arizona State University in Tempe and warmer weather. There, still a freshman, he co-founded with fellow actor, Rod Ambrose, a theatrical company, The Peculiar Institution Theatre Ensemble, PITE for short. For the next four years, the troupe would create, write, and produce many campus and local Phoenix area theatrical productions that brought social awareness to issues surrounding many societal ills as well as international civil rights issues, including Apartheid in South Africa. Their most famed production was that of the Tony Award winning South African play, "Sizwe Bansi is Dead".

For his efforts, Colbert was selected out of five thousand students in 1976, to become the Stage Manager in Washington, D.C. for Smithsonian Institutions' twelve week art and cultural production for the Bi-Centennial

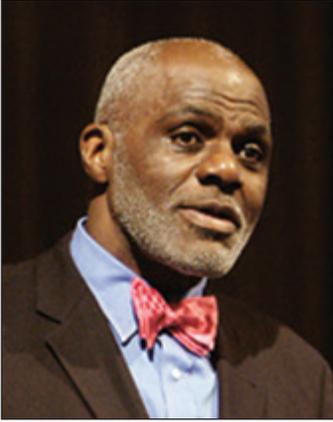
celebration of the United States. At twenty-three years old, he became the co-third ranking manager for the African Diaspora section of the Bi-Centennial. In that role, he oversaw performing artists, musicians, painters, folk story tellers, and a twenty-five member production team with selected volunteers in the Diaspora's production needs and the artists' required services.

Since then and for forty years, Colbert has owned and operated several graphic and print production companies and has produced and printed many decorative and fine art reproductions for many world renown artist. He has produced print production for corporations, associations and organizations as one of the few minority printing operations in the country. His graphic design abilities have awarded him the opportunity to attract artist, corporate, educational and health care professionals as clients.

Combining his graphic arts talents with those of illustrators, painters and portrait artists, he and his companies were able to create magazine layouts, medical drawings for educational training, comic book illustrations, children's book drawings, and decorative and fine art reproductions that have been seen and collected around the world. His company was one of the early graphic design and printing companies selected by Range Rover when they brought their cars to the United States and was selected by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to produce the print production for the 2011 unveiling of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall. Colbert also created, published and commissioned the silk screen, *Letter From Birmingham Jail*, by famed artist Joseph Holston for the event.

In producing this publication and accompanying giclee print, Colbert's desire is to help attorney's through pro bono efforts take on cases they would not otherwise take on as the client may not be able to afford their services. Proceeds from the sale of this publication and giclee are earmarked as a donation to legal bar associations across the country to aid in the legal support of those in need of legal help. Through the probonolegalfund.org website, Colbert's hopes are to assist those in need of legal services obtain those services. This is his way of given back to those in need as well as assisting attorney's build their client base through community service.





ALAN CEDRIC PAGE

...was born on August 7, 1945 in Canton, Ohio to Georgianna (Umbles) Page and Howard Felix Page. At the age of nine, the family moved to East Canton. Growing up in a middle-class family, Page attended Catholic

schools. In high school, he attended Central Catholic High in Canton where he played tuba and became a force on the football field. After graduating from Central in 1962, staying true to his Catholic education, he matriculated to the University of Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana.

Wanting to be a lawyer from early on in his childhood, at Notre Dame, Page began in earnest to study for that goal. An extremely gifted athlete, he earned All-American status as a hard-hitting tackle on the Fighting Irish's football team. In his senior year, the team won a national championship. Despite the rigors of being a student-athlete, Page gave strict attention to his academic requirements. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1966. Years later, Notre Dame would honor Page with a bronze bust on its' Pro Football Hall of Fame-themed gate at Notre Dame Stadium Football Stadium (Gate C).

After his collegiate career was over, Page was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings. He played for the team from 1967 until 1978 appearing in four Super Bowls. During his stint with the Vikings, the team won four conference titles and one league championship. As a member of the Vikings' "Purple People Eaters," a name given to the teams' defensive line, was adept at either sacking or making the opposing teams' quarterback hurry his throws. In 1978, he was traded to the Chicago Bears where he played three more years for the before retiring prior to the 1972 season.

During Pages football career, he played in 218 consecutive games, amassed a staggering 148½ career sack, recovered 22 fumbles and scored three touchdowns (two on fumble recoveries and one on an interception return). He also had three safeties, the second most in NFL history. In addition, in 1976, he set a career high with 18 sacks and had five other seasons of ten sacks or more. He was a six time All-Pro, made second-team All-League three times and was voted to nine consecutive Pro Bowls. He was also voted All-Conference eleven times.

He was the first player to be named both Associated Press NFL Defensive Player of the Year and their NFL Most Valuable Player, doing so in 1971. There has been only one other defensive player ever to achieve that honor. In 1973, he became the NFL Defensive Player of the Year. In 1988, Page became the

winner of the Walter Camp Football Foundation's Walter Camp Alumni of the Year.

In 1992, Page was awarded the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Silver Anniversary Awards for his achievements since graduating from college. In 1993, he was inducted into College Football Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the Academic All-American Hall of Fame in 2001 receiving the Dick Enberg Award. In 2002, he was granted entry into the International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame and in 2004, he won the NCAA's Theodore Roosevelt Award, which is awarded to graduates from an NCAA institution that earned a varsity letter for athletics and who went on become a distinguished citizen of national reputation. Reaching the highest achievement in American football, Page was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1988. From 1970 to 1974, he was player representative for the National Football League Players Association and again during the 1976–1977 season. He was a member of the NFLPA Association Executive Committee from 1972 to 1975.

All the time while playing football, Page was working on the legal foundation that he had begun back at Notre Dame. He had been taking classes at the University of Minnesota's Law School and graduated in 1978 with a Juris Doctor degree. He took a job with the Minneapolis law firm of Lindquist and Venum. After five years with the firm, he was appointed Special Assistant Attorney General to the State of Minnesota. It was long before he was appointed as Assistant Attorney General.

Continuing his rise, in 1992, Page was elected to an open seat as an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Taking his seat, he became the first African-American to serve on that court. In his 1998 reelection, he became the biggest vote-getter in Minnesota history. He was reelected again in 2004 and 2010. At the mandatory age of seventy, Page stepped down from the bench.

In retirement, Page did not slow down. He and his wife Diane continued their community work through their Page Education Foundation founded in 1988. The Foundation provides financial and mentoring assistance to students of color in exchange for volunteer services in their communities. The Foundation has awarded grants to over 6,500 students. They in turn have provided more than 420,000 service hours other young children.

Page has been the recipient of countless awards and honors throughout the country. He has received Honorary Doctorates in Humane Letters from his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, Gustavus Adolphus College, and Winston-Salem State University. Honorary Doctorates of Laws honors have been bestowed upon him from the University of Notre Dame, Luther College, he University of New Haven, St. John's University, and Westfield State College.



JOHN E. PAGE

...is a native of Brooklyn, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pace University in New York City, New York in 1987 in Political Science and earning a minor in History cum laude. At Pace, he

became a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.

Page then entered the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1990. While at the University, he served as the Editor of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review.

After receiving his law degree and passing the bar, Page entered the legal world serving as a commercial litigator. He worked in private practice before becoming the in-house Legal Counsel to Lucent Technologies. After working for Lucent for a period of time before becoming the in-house Legal Counsel to Avaya, Inc., a multinational Internet technology company with headquarters located in Santa Clara, California. At Avaya, Page was in charge of the company's Worldwide Operations and Services Group, which profited from more than \$1.7 billion in worldwide sales.

In 2004, Page joined Golden State Foods Corporation (GSF) as the company's in-house General Counsel. He later was named as the Senior Corporate Vice President. GSF is a worldwide food processing and distribution company having more than three thousand employees.

In his role, Page was given control of all company legal matters. He became responsible for the legal governance and the legal compliance matters that affect the company. He was also charged with providing leadership to the Executive management team, advising on the company's corporate social responsibility, and its' environmental initiatives. In addition, Page was given oversight of GSF's diversity goals and the company's community outreach.

In his diversity efforts, Page made a concerted effort to increase the company's equal employment opportunities and to create a fair treatment environment for the company's employees. He served on the company's Diversity Council, which works to adhere to workplace accountability practices established by GSF's Executive Management Team. Page became an advocate of enhancing the business development and the legal training for in-house and outside African American and non-minority attorneys.

Page has litigated many cases on behalf of GSF before local Courts. He has represented clients in matters of global finances,

national franchise operations, and real estate development. He has argued cases before the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the Eastern Districts of New York, the United States District Court for the Southern, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He also has privileges to try cases before the United States Supreme Court.

Page has served as the President of the National Bar Association (NBA) and was a member of its' Board of Governors. For the NBA, he also served on the Executive Budget Committee where he assisted in the long range planning of the organization's finances. In addition, he served on the organization's Membership Committee. For Tuskegee University, Page served as a Board of Trustees member.

For the Association of Corporate Counsel, Page served on its' Board of Directors and served as the Chair of the Judicial Evaluations Committee for the California Association of Black Lawyers. He also served on the Board of the Education Law Center assisting the organization on its' Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee.

Page served as a member of the New Jersey Commission on the Discrimination in State Government Contracting and served as a member of the New Jersey Attorney General's Task Force on the use of deadly force in policing. He also served on the New Jersey Corporate Counsel Association Board of Directors. In addition, Page served for three years on the New Jersey District Ethics Committee. For the Garden State Bar Association, Page served as a member of its' Board. He also served as the association President for two terms.

Page has been given countless awards for his lifelong achievements including receiving the C. Francis Stradford Award from the National Bar Association. The Orange County Business Journal gave him as its' General Counsel of the Year Award and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association presented Page with its' Rising Icon Award. He also received the Corporate Counsel Pathfinder Award from the African American Managing Partner Network.

Page has been called upon to speak and to provide training to other legal minds on many topics and to share his expertise with up and coming attorneys and law students. He has spoken on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, corporate investigations, enterprise risk management, ethics, and Sarbanes Oxley compliance rules. He also has served as a lecturer on diversity issues and outsourcing of legal services and procurements.

Page has been a mentor to many law students and has committed himself to those wanting to enter the legal profession. He was instrumental in the organizing of the "Journey To Attorney" campaign, which seeks to engage interested youth in future leadership roles and to make positive life choices that will lead to a better life for them and their communities.



M YLES ANDERSON PAIGE

...was born on July 18, 1898 in Montgomery, Alabama. He was a gifted high school athlete became a star collegiate athlete at Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he graduat-

ed in 1921 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While in undergraduate school, he joined the Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Paige enlisted into the United States Army and served during World War I. He obtained the rank of Captain of the 369th regiment. His rise to Captain was quick as he began his military career as a Corporal but was made a Second Lieutenant a week after entering the Army. He became a First Lieutenant the following week and in a few weeks later, he was made Captain and the Company Commander.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, in 1921, Paige entered the Columbia University Law School in New York City, New York to continue his law degree studies. To support him self while studying for his law degree, Paige worked as a Pullman porter. He graduated from Columbia with his LL.B. degree in 1924.

In 1926, Paige began his law career and became a founding member of the graduate chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Alpha Gamma Lambda. Paige served as the chapter's first President for three years, 1927-1930. He would later serve as the 19th National General President of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He would remain President for three years, 1957-1960.

In 1925, Paige passed the bar and began private practice law. In practiced for four years before becoming an Assistant Attorney General of the state of New York. He held that post he held for two years. He was then appointed by then New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia as a Judge to the Magistrates Court.

In 1939, Judge Paige was again appointed to a post by then Mayor LaGuardia. This time he was appointed to fill a vacancy as a Judge to the Court of Special Sessions, the criminal court of New York. He became the first African American to sit on the Court of Special Sessions in the state of New York. The following year, Judge Paige was

given an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from Howard University. He would go on to sit on the criminal court for seventeen years.

In 1942, while serving on the Court and after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, Judge Paige reentered the military. Upon his entry, he was given the rank of Major in the New York State National Guard. Not long thereafter, he was elevated to Commanding Officer of Third Separate Battalion. With that promotion, he became the highest ranked African American in the New York National Guard at that time. Upon his exit from the military, Judge Paige had reached the rank of Colonel.

Returning to civilian life, Judge Paige became active in several political and social clubs. He was the first person to become a life member of the Brooklyn branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He then became the President of the Harlem Lawyers' Association. He also became a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society and the Catholic Lawyers Guild.

In 1958, Judge Paige was appointed by then New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner to the Domestic Relations Court, now called the Family Court. This would be his final appointment. He remained on the Domestic Relations Court until he retired in 1966.

Judge Paige was married for many years to his wife Dorothy. Together, they had two daughters, Barbara and Virginia. Judge Myles Anderson Paige died on March 30th, 1983 in Los Angeles, California. He was eighty-four years old.



NOAH WALTER PARDEN

...was born in 1868 near Rome, Georgia, probably. His mother was a freed slave and worked as a housekeeper and cook. When he was seven years old, his father, a white man sent him to live in an orphanage after the death of his mother.

When Parden was sixteen, he left the Rome orphanage and found his way to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he enrolled into Howard High School. To support himself, he learned the trade of a barber and worked in a local barbershop and at other small jobs for five years until he graduated from high school in 1890. For his senior class oration, Parden's speech was entitled, on "The Duty of a Citizen". Because of his advanced academic acumen, Parden was able to enroll in the senior law class at Central Tennessee College in Nashville, Tennessee where he graduated with his law degree in 1891.

The following year, he married Mattie S. Broyles. Together they would later have two children, Frank and Lillian. The family moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee where Parden opened a law firm with James P. Easley and began to accept clients. The two legal partners began a local newspaper, The Chattanooga Herald, although Parden would soon sell his share of the newspaper to focus on the legal practice. He was able to win several defense cases arguing before all-white juries and soon gained a reputation in Chattanooga as the lawyer to call if one needed legal representation.

In 1906, Parden took on one of his most important cases, the United States v. Shipp. In the case, Ed Johnson, a black man from Chattanooga had been convicted of raping Nevada Taylor, a white woman, and was sentenced to death although there was no circumstantial evidence linking Johnson to the crime. Parden and fellow attorneys Styles L. Hutchings, Jr. and Lewis Shepard, a white former Judge took on the Johnson's appeal of the verdict.

Parden argued before the Appellate Court that the first trial was fraught with errors. He presented evidence that there was overt bias by a member of the all-white jury against Johnson and the racist courtroom mob mentality environment where the trial was held. The Court refused to reopen the case so Parden took it to the Tennessee Supreme Court who also refused to authorize a stay of execution.

Parden then filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus with the U.S. Federal Court in Knoxville, Tennessee seeking relief arguing Johnson's Constitutional rights had been violated. He stated that by not having any blacks on the jury, Johnson had become a victim of discrimination. The Court also rejected Parden's arguments but did grant a stay of execution giving Johnson's legal team time to file an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington.

As the first African American to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Parden was granted the stay of execution and the Court ordered both sides to prepare for oral arguments. White supremacist back in Chattanooga heard of the Supreme Courts ruling and with displeasure, the following night, they broke into the jail where Johnson was being held and kidnapped him. The vigilante mob marched Johnson to the Walnut Street Bridge that stands above the Tennessee River and hung Johnson from the trestles of the bridge.

The federal government intervened as Johnson was being held under federal protection. The government charged Hamilton County Sheriff Joseph F. Shipp, seven of his Deputies, and other men involved in the lynching with criminal contempt. Although Parden and the other attorneys were not involved with the prosecution of the charged men, they were eventually found guilty in the lynching. For Parden's role in Johnson's defense, he had to leave Chattanooga after the lives of him and his family was threatened. Others involved in the case also received intimidating threats and left the city for their safety.

Parden moved his family to Pueblo, Colorado before relocating to in East St. Louis, Illinois where Parden opened his law offices. They finally settled across the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri although he maintained his law offices in East St. Louis. Parden's wife Mattie died in 1934, and he later remarried divorcee Elizabeth Polk.

In St. Louis, Parden became a member of the St. Clair County Board of Supervisors and chaired the Judiciary Committee. After practicing law as a private attorney for several years, in 1908, Parden took the job as an Assistant State's Attorney in St. Clair County, Illinois. He was the first African American to be hired by the office. He then became Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in St. Louis. While serving as a Prosecutor, Parden became involved in the local politics of both St. Louis and East St. Louis.

In one of his St. Louis cases, Parden represented Joseph Kyle, a black man charged with the killing of a white police officer. Parden successfully defended Kyle arguing self-defense in the case. It was later learned that police had shot at Kyle in the dark without identifying themselves as police officers and Kyle returned fire killing the officer.

In 1917, East St. Louis erupted with a bloody race riot in which hundreds of black city residents were killed and thousands were left homeless when their homes were torched. Parden, although his home was not destroyed, was arrested being charged with helping to organize blacks having discontent with their poor living conditions in East St. Louis. As a result, he lost his job as a Assistant State's Attorney despite the findings that there existed no black militia as the city had alleged and had caused the riot. Pardon was not convicted of any crime but the damage to his reputation and his legal practice had been damaging. Others involved with the riot were convicted of crimes but most were later given clemency by newly elected Illinois Governor Len Small. Pardon represented many of those charged with crimes related to the rioting.

During his legal career that spanned over forty-nine years, Parden defended well over two hundred cases of people accused of murder with only one being convicted and the other, Johnson, being lynched. His winning record is a testament to his legal prowess and knowledge of the law. He leaves a legacy of defense for those accused wrongly and for those that rightfully took a defense.

Parden was a fine arts patron, played the violin, was an avid reader, and spoke several languages. His law practice soon became very profitable and he was able to purchase a 400-acre cotton plantation near Hickory, Mississippi. He used the property as a vacation home and travelled between St. Louis and Hickory often.

Parden has been recognized his contributions to the citizens of Illinois and the United States by the Illinois General Assembly. The Southern Center for Human Rights inaugurated the Noah Parden and Styles Hutchins Fellowships for their achievements in the Johnson appeal case. Other legal associations and his peers also gave honor and respect to Parden for his life long work to the legal profession.

Noah Walter Parden died on February 23, 1944. He was

Photo Not Available



HUBERT B. PAIR

...was born in 1905 in Raleigh, North Carolina . When he was a child, his family moved to Washington, D.C. where he was raised. He graduated high school from Armstrong High School

before enrolling into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he received his undergraduate degree. He remained at the University to obtain his law degree from the Robert H. Terrell Law School.

Pair married Macleta Brown and then opened a law firm in D.C. where he practiced for several years before accepting a job with the government of Washington in their legal department. In 1938, Pair was hired as an attorney in the Washington, D.C.'s Corporation Counsel Office. He was the first African American attorney to be hired by the office. He would work as an attorney in the office for the next twenty-eight years.

In 1966, Pair was named Acting Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel to the D.C. government. He was given the title of Acting Corporation Counsel the following year. With the title, he became the city's top legal officer and advisor to the Mayor.

In 1970, following passage of the Congressional approved Washington, D.C. Court Reorganization Act, Pair was appointed by then President Richard M. Nixon to the Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals. With the passage of the Act, Washington, D.C. was elevated to become under the jurisdiction of the United States Supreme Court. Judge Pair serve on the Court for only four years before retirement although he continued to hear cases when called upon by the Court.

While sitting on the Court, Judge Pair served as a Chairman of the Admissions and Grievances Committee. He was as a member of the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association. He was also a member of the Federal Bar and the Washington Bar Associations.

Judge Pair served as a Trustee Emeritus of Metropolitan Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., served as a Trustee of the Columbia Hospital for Women, and was a member of the Board of Directors to the Family and Child Services. He also served as a former President of

the Northwest Boundary Civic Association. In addition, Judge Pair was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Pigskin Club, the Washington Urban League, and was a 33rd degreed Mason.

Judge Pair was honored for his many years of service to the Washington, D.C. Corporation Counsel when former Mayor Walter E. Washington bestowed upon him the Counsel's Meritorious Public Service Award. He died on June 14, 1988 at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. at the age of eighty-three following a stroke.



BARRINGTON DANIELS PARKER

...was born on November 17, 1915 in Rosslyn, Virginia to Maude Daniels Parker and George A. Parker. His mother was a teacher and worked for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing while his father

was a lawyer and a preacher. His father also served as a Dean of the Robert H. Terrell School of Law.

Parker attended Dunbar High School, graduating in 1932 before attending Lincoln University in Lincoln Heights, Pennsylvania where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics in 1936. He then entered the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he earned a Master of Arts degree. To obtain his law degree, he attended the University of Chicago Law School in Chicago, Illinois graduating in 1947.

While in law school, Parker married Marjorie Holloman, his high school sweetheart. Together, they had two sons, Jason and Barrington, Jr.. To pay for his law degree, Parker worked as an economist for the federal government and taught Economics for a period at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. After completing his law studies, he moved to Washington, D.C. and was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar in 1947. He joined his father's law firm and took a job at Howard University as an Adjunct Professor at the law school where his father served as Dean. He also taught at nearby American University College of Law.

Parker would serve in private practice successfully for several years before being appointed to the Federal District Court by then President Nixon in 1969. During his time on the federal court, Judge Parker would preside over several national and international grabbing cases. Known for his brusque and no-nonsense approach to litigating the law, he was quite to reprimand anyone disrupting his court or showed up without proper attire. He ran a strict courtroom whereby there was no gallery whispering, no unsightly coats draped across chairs, and was quick to butt in on an attorney's interrogations if he felt the attorney was off point.

In a 1975 traffic accident, Judge Parker lost a leg when he was hit by a moving vehicle while crossing the street on his way to buy a pack of cigarettes. Taking the loss of his leg as a sign, he never smoked cigarettes again. He instead focused his attention on his judicial duties.

Judge Parker heard many cases during his career on the bench. A few of his more notable cases include the case of Richard Helms, a former Director in the Central Intelligence Agency who had been accused of lying to a Senate Committee. Judge Parker accepted Helms' a plea of "no contest" in the case and fined Helms \$2,000. Before allowing Helms to be dis-

missed, he gave him a verbal reprimand to purposely shame and disgrace him.

In a 1979 case, Judge Parker made a ruling against then President Jimmy Carter forbidding the punishment of violators of his wage and price guidelines. Judge Parker's ruling in the case was later overturned an appeal. Another case overturned was that of two Cuban exiles convicted in the murder of Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean diplomat. The appeals court ruled that Judge Parker had allowed improper evidence to be introduced in the trial. The two Cubans were tried again and acquitted in the murders.

In another nationally headlined case, Judge Parker presided over the alleged bribery case of Louisiana Democrat and U.S. House of Representative Otto E. Passman, charged with accepting a bribe from a South Korean businessman. Charged with conspiracy, bribery, tax evasion, and accepting illegal gratuities, Passman was able to have the trial transferred from the D.C. Court to a Court in Monroe, Louisiana. Being tried in the district he represented, Passman was able to get acquitted of the charges.

One of Judge Parker's most noteworthy trails that he presided over was that of John W. Hinckley Jr., who was accused of attempting to assassinate then President Reagan. Hinckley would be found not competent to stand trial and was sentenced to confinement at the St. Elizabeth Hospital in Washington, D.C. for mental evaluation and held until determined by the Court that he could be released. He would not be released until 2017.

Judge Parker was criticized by several of the attorneys that drew him to hear their cases, as he tended to take longer than other Judges to rule on motions before him. In some cases, the trials were set to begin before Judge Parker had ruled on a previous motion, which was pivotal to the case being presented. In the Hinckley case, defense attorney's had made motions to bar testimony of interrogating psychiatrists the Government had planned to call as witnesses and Judge Parker had not yet ruled on the motion.

Despite his reputation for being curt, crisp and strict, Judge Parker did have a passionate side and showed compassion to those that came before him even once apologizing in open court to a prisoner that had not been fed due to court proceedings. He would sometimes read a scripture from the Bible that he thought might explain his approach to a ruling and use scripture as a means of blending law with his religious beliefs. Judge Parker also uses lessons learned as an avid reader of history and takes past history and applies what he has learned to his modern day adjudications.

Judge Parker has been devoted to his church, his family, and the civic groups that he supports. A Republican by choice, he votes his conscious and rules openly and bi-partisan. As a Republican, he refused to support Republican Barry Goldwater in his Presidential campaign and although appointed to the bench by President Nixon, he ruled against him in the Presidents attempts to issue wage and price controls.

Judge Barrington Daniels Parker died on June 2, 1993. He was seventy-seven years old.





DARYL D. PARKS

...is a native of a Haines City, Florida. He is the managing partner at the Parks and Crump, LLC law firm founded in 1996 with partner, Benjamin L. Crump. The firm focuses on cases involving civil rights, medical malpractice, personal injury, pharmaceuti-

cal litigation, product liability, and wrongful death. Most importantly, the firm is a firm for the people.

Parks earned two undergraduate degrees from Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University. Attending the school on a Presidential Scholarship, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics.

A graduate of Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee, Florida, Parks received his Juris Doctorate in 1995. While a student at FSU, Parks became the first Student Body President to be elected to two consecutive terms. While there, he also founded the National Coalition of Black College Student Governments.

A successful litigator, he has mastered his way around many courtrooms. A savvy businessman has allowed him successes that he graciously bestows back to his community and those less fortunate. Parks and his partner Crump over the years have represented victims in some of the countries most noted cases. Serving the people most in need, Parks uses his pro bono services to the maximum benefit for his clients. The firm has national recognition, built on a reputation of fairness of strength and due diligence to case details.

Parks has been a part of some of the largest settlements ever awarded. Representing the family of Martin Anderson in their 2006 wrongful death case, Parks and his team were successful in winning the family \$7.2 million in damages from the State of Florida and Bay County, Florida. Fourteen year old Martin died at the hands of guards at the Panama City Bay County Boot Camp, operated by the Bay County Sheriff's Office. The settlement was the largest amount ever paid by the State of Florida to an individual in a wrongful death case.

Parks's firm received international acclaim when they represented the family of Trayvon Martin, a seventeen year old African American teenager that was shot and killed by George Zimmerman, a want-to-be cop/security guard that profiled Martin, following him, confronting him and ultimately killing him. A national case, Parks was seen repeatedly on network news broadcast, including CNN, Dr. Phil, Fox News, and MSNBC.

Other national headline news cases that Parks has been involved in include the 2002 case of Genie McMeans, Jr., a motorist was shot in the back by a Florida state trooper. McMeans died of his injuries. In 2012, Parks and his team represented Ronald Weekley Jr., a twenty year old African American college student and skateboarder that was beaten by police in Venice, California. Parks represented the family of Alesia Thomas, a thirty-five year old Los Angeles mother who died while in police custody. Los Angeles Police officer, Mary O'Callaghan, was sentenced to four years in prison for assaulting the handcuffed Thomas.

In the Ferguson, Missouri case of Michael Brown, an eighteen year old black teenager killed by a white police officer, Parks represented the family. That case created a five day riot that polarized the city. In the shooting of twelve year old Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio, Parks was able to secure a six million dollar settlement for the Rice family. Parks is currently representing two important cases involving police and the public. In Florida, he is representing the wrongful death of Corey Jones who was shot and killed by an undercover police officer in an unmarked vehicle. In the Oklahoma City case of convicted police officer Daniel Holtzclaw, Parks and his team is representing several of the thirteen victims that were raped and sodomized by Holtzclaw.

In short, Parks has become one of the "go-to" guys for cases where there seems to be a "no-win". He has turned most of their cases into victories for the families. Making marks in the courtroom and changing the world's views on civil rights and wrongful deaths, Parks is increasingly called upon when a family has lost a loved ones wrongfully.

A lifetime member and Past President of the National Bar Association, the largest and oldest association of African-American attorneys and judges in the United States, Parks is devoted to ensuring the black youth of America can be protected, educated, and have an opportunity to be productive citizens in their communities. For his efforts, Parks has been honored and given coveted positions within Florida and around the U.S..

Florida Governor Charlie Crist appointed Parks to the Judicial Nominating Commission for the First District Court of Appeals for Florida. United States Senator Bill Nelson appointed him to the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission for the Northern District of Florida. In 2011, he was chosen as the Chairman of the Minority Caucus and a member of the Board of Governors for the American Association for Justice.

The recipient of countless awards and recognitions, Parks is often called upon for his charitable contributions and his volunteerism. As Chairman of the Board of the FAMU Foundation, Chair of the FAMU Boosters, Chair of the Leon County Sickle Cell Foundation, Vice Chair of the FAMU Board of Trustees, member of the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee Urban League, and Board member of the Bethel Community Development Corporation, making a difference in the lives of people is paramount to his success. He has given millions of dollars to organizations to aid them in their development and support of their own communities. For the Legal Services of North Florida, Parks provided \$1 million to help educate and provide legal services to those in need. For his kind deed, he was named Philanthropist of the Year from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

In 2012, Parks was honored by the NAACP when they gave him their Chairman of the Board Award. The Florida Bar gave him their Henry Latimer Diversity Award, and the he Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Law awarded him their Advocates Award. In 2013, he was given the American Justice Association's Johnnie L. Cochran Soaring Eagle Award.

Park's charity has not been limited to the U.S. Abroad through his medical mission trips, he has provided funding to improve the health and well being of thousands of children, women and men throughout Africa. Whether it is in the courtroom, the board room, the paved streets of the inner cities, or the back roads of Africa, Daryl D. Parks is a man of the people, for the people and will stand by the people. He is indeed, one in a million. 



JAMES BENTON PARSONS

... was born in 1911 in Kansas City, Missouri to Maggie and James B. Parsons. His father was an evangelist and missionary with the Disciples of Christ Church so the family moved to St. Louis, Missouri when his father

moved to a new church. Whenever his father was transferred to a new church, the family would have to move with him. With that, the young Parsons lived in Lexington, Kentucky; Dayton, Ohio; and Bloomington, Indiana; before finally settling in Decatur, Illinois.

Parsons had his sights on becoming a lawyer since his days in junior high school. In his high school senior class, he was named "Class Orator" at Decatur High School where he graduated in 1929. He was the first African American student named Class Orator. At Decatur High, Parsons was a member of the school's basketball team, the school band, and the school's orchestra.

He attended James Milliken University and Conservatory in Decatur where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1934. After graduation, he took a job as the Acting Head of Music at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. He then accepted a position as the Director of Music at Bennett College, a historically black college in Greensboro, North Carolina.

After five years as the Director of Music at Lincoln, Parsons was named the Director of Instrumental Music for the Negro public schools of Greensboro, North Carolina. In the segregated public school system, Parsons worked to use music as a form of academic learning for Greensboro high school students. It was not long before Greensboro's Dudley High School became well known throughout the state for its' expert musicianship and precision marching band. Soon thereafter, the local college, which is today's North Carolina A&T began to adapt its' music style to that implemented at Dudley. Many of the acclaimed historically black university's today during their halftime show use the upbeat and showcased style began by Parsons.

With the breakout of World War II, in 1942, Parsons enlisted into the United States Naval Reserve. He served as a Muscian MUS1 and directed the U.S. Navy B-1 Fleet Band. The band ironically was comprised of many of the members of the Dudley High School band who had graduated and been drafted into the military as well as students from North Carolina A&T music department that had adapted to Parson's

style of play. The members of the B-1 Fleet Band were the first African Americans to serve in the Navy that reached a rank higher than Messman.

Due to the band's high acclaim throughout the Navy, in 1945, the band was transferred to the U.S. Navy's Manana Barracks at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. With the bands arrival, the base became the largest holder of African American servicemen serving in the Navy. While serving at Pearl Harbor, Parsons was selected to participate on a panel of Judges convened to investigate a riot that occurred in 1945 involving African Americans in Guam between black and white Marines. Although, Parsons and the other members of the B-1 Fleet Band made the rank of Musician First Class, none made the grade of an Officer, which they well deserved.

Leaving the military, Parsons used his G.I. Bill earnings to enter the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1949. After graduating and passing the Illinois State Bar exam, he opened his own private practice with several other partners, Gassaway, Crosson, Turner & Parsons. He also served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago for two years.

In 1951, Parsons served as an Assistant United States Attorney of the Northern District of Illinois. He stayed with the office for two years before being appointed as a Judge on the Superior Court of Cook County, Illinois. He sat on the Cook County Superior Court for two years as well.

In 1961, then President John F. Kennedy nominated Judge Parsons to a seat on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He became the first African American to be appointed to the District Court. Judge Parsons was appointed under Article III, which meant he was appointed for a life's term. He became the first African American to be named as a lifetime Judge on the U. S. District Court.

In 1975, Parsons was promoted to Chief Judge of the District Court. He served as Chief Judge for six years. In 1981, he assumed senior status. He would remain a senior status Judge until his death. Judge Parson retired from the bench in 1992. Although in retirement, he still performed some judicial duties such as swearing in of new citizens and other smaller cases that came before the Court.

Judge Parson received many awards and was given many honorariums during his career. He received honorary degrees from Lincoln University, James Milliken University, and Chicago's DePaul University Law School. The Decatur, Illinois Public School District names a school in his honor and the Chicago Bar Association awarded Judge Parsons with a Citation of Recognition for Outstanding Service as Chief Judge of the District Court. In addition, Chicago State University presented him with an Outstanding Service Award.

Judge James Benton Parsons died on June 19, 1993. He was eighty-one years old.



BASIL ALEXANDER PATERSON

...was born in on April 27, 1926, in Harlem, New York to immigrant parents, Leonard James and Evangeline Alicia (Rondon) Paterson. Basil's father was born on the island of Carriacou

in the Grenadines and his mother was born in Kingston, Jamaica. A stenographer by profession, Basil's mother served as a secretary for Marcus Garvey.

Growing up in New York City in a household that included three sisters, Paterson received his public school education at James Fenimore Cooper Junior High School in Harlem which was one of the city's worst schools at the time. In 1942, at the age of sixteen, he graduated high school from De Witt Clinton High School in the Bronx, a school whose enrollment of students was ten thousand which made it the largest high school in the United States.

Beginning his college career at St. John's University, Paterson's studies were interrupted by World War II as the U.S. Army called him to serve a two-year stint. After receiving his honorable discharge, he returned to New York and St. John's to complete his undergraduate studies.

Paterson completed his studies at Clinton High at age sixteen. He got a job working at the N.Y. Port Authority warehouse unloading trucks. He met Ben Davis, an African-American Communist Party member who had won a seat on New York's City Council in 1943. This meeting led to Paterson's first political experiences as a campaign worker.

At St. John's College, Paterson majored in biology but then entered law school after earning his undergraduate degree in 1948. He finished three years later and was admitted to the New York state bar in 1952.

His marriage to Portia Hairston produced two sons, Daniel and David, but soon after David's birth in the 1954 the infant suffered an ear infection that spread to his optic nerve, leaving him blind in one eye and with only limited sight in the other.

While at St. John's, he became active in campus social and community service organizations, including the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. In 1947, he joined the organization through the Omicron Chapter of New York, pres-

ently Columbia University. He graduated from St. John's with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology in 1948. He was later admitted to St. John's Law School, where he received a Juris Doctor degree in 1951.

Paterson became heavily involved in Harlem's Democratic politics in the 1950s and 1960s. As member of the "Gang of Four"; accompanied by former New York Mayor David Dinkins, the late Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, and Congressman Charles Rangel, Paterson was a leader of the "Harlem Clubhouse". This political entity had dominated Harlem politics since the 1960s.

Paterson sat in the New York State Senate, representing the Upper West Side of New York City and Harlem, from 1966 to 1970 sitting in the 176th, 177th and 178th New York State Legislatures. In 1970, he gave up his Senate seat to run for Lieutenant Governor of New York, as the running mate of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg. Unfortunately, the Goldberg/Paterson ticket lost to the Republican incumbents Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and Lt. Gov. Malcolm Wilson.

In 1978, then Mayor Ed Koch appointed Paterson as a Deputy Mayor of New York City. In 1979, Paterson stepped down as Deputy Mayor to become Secretary of State of New York, becoming the first African American to hold that post. He served until the end of the Hugh Carey administration in 1982.

Overlooking the fact that he had briefly served in Mayor Koch's administration, Paterson made gestures to run against Koch for Mayor as Koch sought a third term. After closer consideration, Paterson chose not to run.

Basil Alexander Paterson was the father of the former 55th Governor of New York, David Paterson, elected Lieutenant Governor in 2006 on a ticket with Governor Eliot Spitzer. David Paterson succeeded to the Governor's office when Spitzer resigned on March 17, 2008 amongst controversy.

Paterson was a member of the law firm of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.. There, he co-chaired the firm's labor law practice. He died in Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan on April 16, 2014.



DAVID ALEXANDER PATERSON

...was born on May 20, 1954 in Brooklyn, New York to Portia and Basil Paterson. His mother was a housewife and his father was a labor law attorney and the first

African-American Secretary of State in New York. Basil Paterson was also the first African American Vice-Chair of the National Democratic Party.

Not long after being born, Paterson contracted an ear infection that spread to his optic nerve resulting in damage to his left eye. The serious infection caused him to have limited vision in his right eye. Due to his lack of full eyesight, Paterson was placed in special classes in the New York City Public Schools designed for children with disabilities.

Not satisfied with the New York City education begin given to Paterson, his parents moved to Hempstead, New York on Long Island where he attended public school. He was the first child with disabilities to attend Hempstead public schools. He graduated in 1971 from Hempstead High School one year before the other students his age.

He then entered Columbia University in New York City as one of its' top incoming freshmen. In his first semester, he made the Dean's List. Unfortunately, the following semester, he flunked out of the school. In order to get himself together, he took a job at a Credit Union to regroup.

He returned to Columbia several years later and completed his undergraduate work, graduating in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. He then entered Hempstead's Hofstra University where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1982. With his renewed focus, he was immediately hired by the Queens, New York District Attorney to work as an Assistant District Attorney.

Three years later, he was selected to work on the successful campaign of David Dinkins in his pursuit of the Presidency of the Manhattan, New York Borough. That same year, Paterson made a run for the State Senate representing Harlem, New York after the death of then incumbent State Senator Leon Bogue who had suddenly died. With his victory, Paterson became the youngest New York Senator in the state's history. He later became the Senate Minority Leader and became the first visually

impaired person to give an address at the Democratic National Convention.

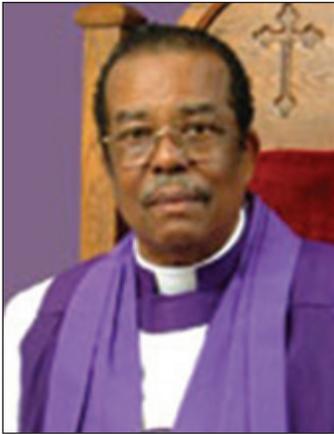
Paterson, while in the Senate, made national news when he fought for the preservation of an African American 16th Century burial ground that had been discovered while excavating ground to build a New York City federal building. He won support of other civil rights advocates and local supporters and secured financing to preserve the lost and forgotten cemetery and was also able to form an oversight team to manage the protection of the remains that were buried. His efforts saved the skeleton remains of more than ninety buried African Americans.

In 2007, Paterson was elected as the New York Lieutenant Governor running on the ticket of Eliot Spitzer. He was the first African American to hold the position as Lieutenant Governor of New York. Just one year later, Governor Spitzer became embroiled in a prostitution scandal and resigned as Governor. Paterson assumed the Governorship to serve out Spitzer's terms. In taking the helm, he became the first African American to lead the state of New York as its' Governor.

After his successor term ended as New York's Governor, Paterson made a brief commitment to run for a full term as Governor but changed his mind and opted out of the primary campaign. He took a job as a radio talk show host for New York radio station WOR. He also became the appointed Chairman of the New York Democratic Party being given the post by his successor to the Governorship, Andrew Cuomo.

Paterson would continue his political involvement with the Democratic National Committee and serve as a Board member to its' Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. He gives his time to work on legislation to assist the American Foundation for the Blind and other organizations that lend support to the visually impaired. For sightless athletes, he serves on the Board of the Achilles Track Club and even ran in the New York City Marathon to show his support and to give the blind both hope and confidence that although handicapped, they can still make a run for any race, be it political or a marathon.

Paterson is married to Michelle Paige Paterson and together they have two children.



**JAMES
OGLETHORPE
PATTERSON, JR.**

...was born on May 28, 1935 in Memphis, Tennessee to Deborah Mason Patterson and J.O. Patterson, Sr.. His father was the first international Presiding Bishop

of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), which today has more than six million members and congregations around the world. His grandfather, Charles Harrison Mason, was the founder of the Church.

Patterson graduated from high school in Memphis before entering Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1958. He would later enter the Memphis Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee where he earned a Master of Religion Degree in 1985. In 1963, Patterson obtained a law degree from DePaul University's School of Law in Chicago, Illinois.

Patterson, after passing the bar exam, set up a law practice in Memphis and began to practice law. He quickly became active in local and state politics. Due to his father's church ministry, it was easy for him to reach people and to understand the issues they faced. While his father serviced the community from the pulpit, Patterson decided to serve them from the State House. He entered the race for political office.

Patterson ran a successful campaign for a seat in the Tennessee State House of Representative representing Memphis. He easily won the election and served for one term. He then made a run for the Tennessee State Senate and was again successful in his campaign. He would serve in the Senate for two terms.

Leaving the Senate, Patterson ran for a seat on the Memphis City Council. He once again was successful in his campaign. He served on the City Council for an historic five terms. In 1982, while serving on the City Council, then Mayor J. Wyeth Chandler resigned and Patterson assumed the office of the Mayor for twenty days according to the Memphis City Statutes. After twenty days, another Councilman, Wallace Madewell assumed the leadership of the city until the next duly elected Mayor, Richard

Hackett, was elected in a general election. Patterson was the second African American to lead the city as Mayor.

In 1972, Patterson was selected to serve as a Delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention. He was also selected as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention held later that year. He would serve as a Delegate to both Conventions for the 1976 election and the 1980 election.

In 1985, Patterson, having always been a member of his father's church and having given legal advice to the Church overall, was consecrated by his father in a ceremonial celebrations to become a Bishop in the Church. He then served as the Pastor of the Pentecostal Temple Church Of God In Christ in Memphis. The church had 2,500 members. He became the Jurisdictional Prelate of the denomination's 1st Ecclesiastical Headquarters Jurisdiction of Tennessee and legal advisor to the overall Church. He also served as the Chairman of the General Assembly within the congregation.

As Chairman of the General Assembly, Patterson oversaw all session of the Supreme Legislation and had judicial authority of COGIC. He was the only person within the Church that had power to dictate doctrines and creeds the Church may apply. His political power was far reaching, within the church, in the Tennessee State Legislature, and in the local Memphis community.

By that time, Patterson had built a mortuary business, the J.O. Patterson Mortuary, Inc. and served as its' President. He served as a Board member of the C.H. Mason Foundation, a Memphis city development company and was a contributing writer for the COGIC Manual, the official publication of the Church. Patterson also lead crusades for the Church and oversaw the Church's weekly broadcasts and media ministries that his father had established.

Bishop James Oglethorpe Patterson, Jr. died on June 25, 2011 of kidney failure. He was seventy-six years old.





DEVAL LAURDINE PATRICK

...was born on July 31, 1956 in Chicago, Illinois to Emily Mae Wintersmith Patrick and Laurdine "Pat" Patrick. His father was a member of the jazz band Sun Ra. When Deval was

three years old, his father left the family to play music in New York City and because he fathered a child by another woman. Raised on the south side of Chicago by his mother, the family had to resort to living on welfare. He and his sister survived the cold Chicago winters, staying inside and studying.

Those studies paid off when Patrick was in middle school. A teacher recommended him to A Better Chance, a national non-profit organization whose mission was to identify, recruit and develop leaders amongst academically gifted minority students. From this program, he was able to attend Milton Academy in Milton, Massachusetts. He graduated from the Academy in 1974 and headed to college, the first in his family to do so.

He was accepted to Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While there, he was a member of the Fly Club, a literary society. He graduated in 1978 cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and American Literature. At Harvard, he also won "Best Oralist" in the prestigious Ames Moot Court Competition, in 1981.

After graduation, Patrick began working with the United Nations in Africa. In 1979, he returned to the United States enrolling into Harvard Law School where he was elected President of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. His job at the Bureau was to defend poor families in Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

In 1982, Patrick graduated from Harvard Law School with a J.D., cum laude. On his first attempt, he failed the State Bar of California exam twice before passing. His first job as a lawyer was as a law clerk to Judge Stephen Reinhardt on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Working for one year, he then joined the staff of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF). There his focus was on the death penalty and voting rights cases. In one of his civil rights cases, he while at LDF, he sued then Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton.

In 1986, he moved to Boston to join the law firm of Hill & Barlow. Four years later, he was named partner at

the young age of 34. He managed high-profile civil lawsuits including that of Desiree Washington against boxer Mike Tyson.

In 1994, despite having previously sued him, President Bill Clinton nominated Patrick as United States Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division in Massachusetts. He then defended Clinton's policies on federal affirmative action. He also was involved on issues of racial profiling, police misconduct, and the treatment of incarcerated criminals.

Patrick oversaw investigations into arson cases of predominantly black churches across southern states in America. At that time, the investigations were the largest federal investigations in U.S. history. Unfortunately, there was no evidence found of a national or regional conspiracy.

Returning to Boston in 1997, Patrick joined the firm of Day, Berry & Howard. He was quickly appointed to serve as Chairman of Texaco's Equality and Fairness Task Force by the federal District Court to oversee the terms of a race discrimination settlement. He also became a Board member of the United Airlines (UAL). There he fought for domestic partnership benefits.

In 1999, Patrick became General Counsel of Texaco where he oversaw the merger with Chevron Corp. In 2001, he became General Counsel and Secretary at The Coca-Cola Company. In 2004, he was a Board member of ACC Capital Holdings, the parent company of Ameriquest and Argent Mortgage.

Patrick announced his candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts in 2005. Taking 55% of the vote, he became the first African-American Governor of Massachusetts. His first action was to hire 1,000 new police officers and the expansion of full-day kindergarten statewide. He then turned his attention to lobbying for casino gambling. Controversy soon erupted because of his association with the Jack Abramoff Indian lobbying scandal and efforts by the Mashpee Wampanoag people to secure rights to a casino outside of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Patrick, in 2010 pushed for limits on the purchases of firearms due to gun violence incidents and violent crime in Boston. He committed historic amounts of funds to Massachusetts schools and favored the legalization of same-sex marriages. Renewable energy became a focus as did transportation issues and immigration concerns.

Following his career as Governor, Patrick became the Managing Director of Bain Capital in Boston. He is married to Diane Patrick, a lawyer, and they have two daughters, Sarah and Katherine. The Patricks live in Milton, Massachusetts.



Photo Not Available



ARON H. PAYNE

...was born on October 1, 1901 in Louisville, Kentucky. He attended local Louisville public schools before entering the State Normal School in Frankfurt, Kentucky where he graduated

from high school. He attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1922. Payne played football at the University and during the 1920 football season, the team was undefeated and held each of their opponents scoreless. He made honorable mention on the Walter Camp All American Football list. He did make the Negro All American Team. Leaving Howard, Payne accepted a teaching job at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia.

He taught at Virginia Union for three years before moving to Chicago, Illinois. He began working as an Assistant City Prosecutor for the city of Chicago. He then became the Assistant Corporate Counsel and served as an Arbitrator for the Illinois Industrial Commission. He was later named to the legal staff of the Chicago Transit Authority.

Payne then entered private practice and opened his own law firm. Once he opened his firm, he landed as a client Heavyweight Boxing Champion Joe Louis. He represented Louis in Louis' tax issues with the United States Internal Revenue Service. He also had famed singer and songwriter Nate King Cole. In representing Cole, Payne brought suit against the Hoffman Hotel Company in a discrimination claim against the hotel. He also represented singer and entertainer Josephine Baker.

In the early 1930s, Payne became involved in the local Chicago political scene. He served as a legal assistant to Chicago City Council Alderman Louis B. Anderson before deciding to enter the political arena himself. He ran for a seat on the Chicago City Council in 1935 but was unsuccessful in his attempt. He lost his bid to the City Council losing to winner William Dawson. His only political victory came in 1960 when he was elected to the Sanitary District Civil Service Board. He served on the Board for only one term.

Payne served as a member of several civic and community organizations during his professional career. He

was a member of the Chicago Urban League, the Defense Lawyers Association and the Fourth Ward Regular Democratic Organization. He was also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association.

Aaron H. Payne died in 1944. He was ninety-three years old.



JOHN A. PAYTON

...was born on December 27, 1946 and grew up in Los Angeles, California. He attended high school in L.A. before matriculating at Pomona College in Claremont, California. While at Pomona, he became involved in civil rights and the Vietnam anti-war protests. He and

several other Pomona students founded the Black Student Association with the purpose of getting black students galvanized in civil rights activities.

While at student at Pomona, for three years, Payton worked as an Admissions Officer. He lobbied the college to create the position in order to recruit more black students. Upon completion of his studies, he graduated in 1973.

An astute student, after graduation Payton was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, established by the children of to honor their father, the founder of International Business Machines (IBM). The fellowship was created to allow college graduating seniors the opportunity to pursue a year of independent studies outside the United States. Payton chose to study literature in West Africa. While abroad, he submitted his application for law school.

After his year abroad, Payton returned to the United States being accepted to attend Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While at Harvard, he was fortunate to be able to work on several civil rights Cases. He was also a member of the editorial board for the Harvard Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law Review. In 1977, he received his law Degree.

Leaving law school, Payton accepted a position as a law clerk with Judge Cecil Poole, then-U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California for a year. He was recruited by Washington, D.C. law firm Wilmer Hale. As a clerk, Payton was involved in several important civil rights cases. In one such case, he successfully defended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from an anti-trust lawsuit brought by white merchants in Mississippi. They had sued for business lost during the 1966 desegregation boycott. The NAACP had been a vanguard in that boycott.

In the City of Richmond, Virginia's Supreme Court case, *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, Richmond, at the time, was a city having a population of just over 50 percent black. There was a contracting goal set at 30 percent in the awarding of city construction contracts. The reality of the program, in comparison to other local, state, and national set-aside programs, was that Richmond's patterns of procurement were discriminatory, to say the least, and were without adequate access for minority-owned businesses to participate.

Unfortunately, Payton was not successful in his attempts to defend the city's set-aside affirmative action Program. The Supreme Court ruled, narrowly, against the city stating that the program was

unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause. In the Courts ruling, it was said of the suit that, "To accept Richmond's claim that past societal discrimination alone can serve as the basis for rigid racial preferences would be to open the door to competing claims for "remedial relief" for every disadvantaged group."

In 1991, Payton was chosen to become the Washington, D.C.'s Corporation Counsel by newly elected Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon. In his new position as Corporation Counsel, Payton reorganized the entire counsel offices. Not long after taking offices, the D.C. Latino and Hispanic community of Mount Pleasant rioted due to unfair policing in the city. Payton worked to improve those relations. In the face of a major financial crisis, he participated in balancing the city's budget.

President Bill Clinton nominated Payton to head the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division in 1993. Although he had support from some prominent African-Americans, the Congressional Black Caucus, a group of Congress members, objected to his nomination. During the nomination process, Payton withdrew his name for consideration

Payton left the D.C. Corporation Counsel offices in 1994 moving to South Africa to join his wife, Gay McDougall, in her role overseeing the country's first democratic election since the government's rule of Apartheid had ended. McDougall was a member of the Independent Electoral Commission while Payton became an international observer on a team that included lawyers from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. From that election, Nelson Mandela was elected as the new President of South Africa.

After the South African election, Payton returned to the U.S. and to practice law with the law firm of Wilmer Hale. His civil practice focused on corporate employment Matters. He also represented the American Legacy Foundation in their efforts to stop smoking by young adults and Fannie Mae, a government-sponsored corporation whose purpose is to expand the secondary mortgage market by securing mortgages in the form of mortgage-backed securities.

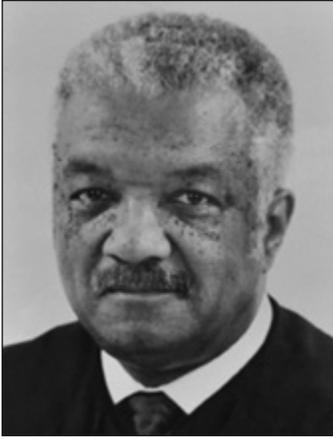
Payton took on two cases for the University of Michigan in their defense of its' undergraduate schools' use of race in their admissions process. Taking six years before the Supreme Court heard the appeal, Payton argued in *Gratz v. Bollinger* for Michigan's undergraduate admission policy and in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, for the university's law school admission policies on diversity as a standard for admission to the schools. In the landmark decision, the United States Supreme Court upheld the affirmative action policy of race-conscious admissions in higher education.

In 2001, Payton was elected as President of the District of Columbia Bar. He also served as a Visiting Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, Harvard Law School, and Howard University Law School. In 2008, he became the sixth President and Director-Counsel of the National Association of Colored People's Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

For more than three decades, Payton was the "go-to guy" for complex litigations. His triumphs in court, his commitment to social justice and equality, not only in the U.S., but around the world, and his influence over hundreds of attorneys, gave him special privilege in the eyes of many.

After a very brief illness, Payton died on March 22, 2012.





JOHN GARRETT PENN

...was born on March 19, 1932 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He attended local public schools before entering the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at

Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey. He moved to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he majored in Chemistry to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree. He obtained his law degree in 1957 from Boston University's Law School in Boston, Massachusetts.

The following year, Penn enlisted into the United States Army where he served in Judge Advocate General's Corp. He served in the Corp for three years. Leaving the military in 1961 and passing the bar exam, Penn took a job with the United States Justice Department in its' General Litigation Section of the Tax Division as a trial attorney. He remained at the Justice Department for nine years.

While working at the Department, Penn served as a Tax Reviewer. He also became the Assistant Chief to the Tax Division serving in that capacity for two years. As the Assistant Chief, Penn was well versed and handled cases related to estate taxes.

In 1970, Penn was appointed as a Judge on the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions. A year later, he was named to the inaugural group of Judges appointed to the Washington, D.C. Superior Court. He served as an Associate Judge for the Superior Court for nine years. While sitting on the bench of the Court, he presided over cases related to tax matters. He served the Court for eight years.

In 1979, then President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Penn to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. While sitting on the bench, he presided over criminal cases involving drug traffickers and discrimination cases. In one of his discrimination cases, he heard a case involving unfair treatment of African Americans and other minorities in the Washington, D.C. Police Department.

In 1980, Judge Penn heard the bribery and conspiracy case of then South Carolina's United States House of Representative Democratic member John W. Jenrette. Jen-

rette had been caught in a sting operation conducted by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation in its' infamous "Abscam" undercover operations. Judge Penn also presided over the case of Mary Treadwell, the former executive of the Washington, D.C. based Youth Pride job-training program. Treadwell was the former wife of then Washington D.C. Mayor Marion Barry and had been charged with conspiracy to defraud the federal government.

In 1992, Judge Penn was nominated by then President Richard Nixon to the position as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for Washington, D.C.. He served as Chief Judge for five years. In 1998, Judge Penn reached senior status.

Judge Penn was not without courtroom controversy, as he often had the greatest number of backlogged cases of any Judge sitting on the Court. A few of his backlogged cases sat on the docket for more than three years. That was twice the average of any other caseload of the other Judges. In one case involving African American ironworkers, he took three years to rule on the case, giving the ironworkers a winning verdict. It took Judge Penn more than fifteen years to approve the financial settlement that was ultimately awarded in the case. In 1999, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit gave disapproval of Judge Penn's constant delays in making rulings in his cases and suggested he had brought "great hardship to the parties" in several of his cases. Despite the rebuke, he continued to have a backlog due to his deliberate, calm and exacting temperament.

Judge Penn, outside of the Court, gave of his time to several local charities and other legal associations and organizations. He was a member of the Sigma Pi Phi professional fraternity and the DePriest Fifteen, a social club of African American men. He was active in mentoring young inner city young adults and for his efforts to them the Washington, D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation honored him for his dedicated service to the city's youth.

Judge John Garrett Penn was married for forty-one years to Ann Rollison Penn and together had three children, John II, Karen, and David. He died of cancer on September 9, 1977. He was forty-four years old.



ERIC E.J. PERRODIN

...was born on February 26, 1959 in Compton, California. He attended undergraduate school at California State University in Dominguez Hills, California graduating in 1982 with a degree in

Business Administration. He immediately took a job with the City of Compton as a police officer. He worked in the gang unit, narcotics, and served in the Community Affairs Department.

Before leaving the Police Department, he reached the rank of Sergeant-Detective. Perrodin was the youngest police officers to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the history of the department. He also served as the President of the Compton Police Officers Association. In addition, he was active in the "Community Based Policing" concept before it became a mainstream initiative that spread across the country. To support the concept, he participated in local community Christmas events and supported fundraising activities to purchase food, clothing, and other gifts for needy families. He served in the Compton Police Department for twelve years.

Perrodin decided to further his education and enrolled into law school at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California. He passed the California State Bar exam on his first attempt. He was hired as a Deputy District Attorney in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. He remained with the District Attorney's Office for six years before returning to Compton to run for the job as Mayor of the city.

He was elected to the position of Mayor of Compton on June 5, 2001. As Mayor, his first task was to change the image of the city. He then set out to improve the education system of the public schools and called upon administrators of the Compton Unified School District to work with him to achieve those goals. The next item on his list of improvements for the city was to attract more first-rate businesses to relocate to Compton.

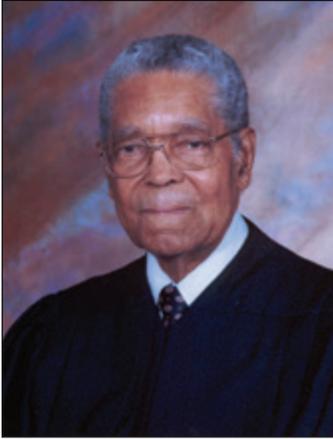
Perrodin became proactive in addressing the city's crime rate by working with the Los Angeles Sheriff Department to make Compton a safe community in which to live. He engaged community residents to become involv-

ing with the cleaning up of the city with hopes of making a shining diamond that would bring other citizens to reside in the city. His efforts were successful and brought change. The crime rate during his tenure reduced itself by 17%. New housing construction was developed and new city managers were hired which resulted in the city budget saving \$16 million.

Perrodin was instrumental in the construction of a \$43 million shopping center to be built, the Alameda Auto Plaza. A new drug store, Savon Drug Store, was built in one local neighborhood and Wells Fargo Bank moved into the city to bring financial help to the residents of Compton. Even the national coffee chain, Starbucks, opened a store in the neighborhoods bringing their higher priced coffee to Compton's citizens.

When Perrodin assumed the office, he inherited a \$2.2 million fine levied against the previous Mayoral administration for faulty business practices by the federal government. He traveled to Washington, D.C. to appeal to the U.S. Department of Justice over the inherited fine and was successful in his arguments. Perrodin was able to receive full relief of the fine for the city of Compton and the \$2.2 million was put to better use to serve the needs of his constituents.

Perrodin was elected to serve as a three term Mayor. He was the first Mayor to achieve that feat. During his tenure, he worked to make the lives of his Compton citizens better by giving them more city services and improved city facilities. He worked with the Parks & Recreation Department to give young residents more places to go and to feel safe while enjoying the city facilities. He worked alongside the police to ensure safety measures were provided and enforced and engaged the Workers Compensation Department to ensure city jobs were made easier and they received fair compensation for their employment services. Overall, Perrodin made Compton a better city for the voters that elected him to three consecutive terms.



MATTHEW JAMES PERRY, JR.

...was born on August 3, 1921 in Columbia, South Carolina to Jennie Lyles Perry and Matthew J. Perry. He attended segregated Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia before enlisting into the United States Army. He

served three years before being discharged from the military.

He then entered South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, South Carolina where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948. He remained at the College where he obtained his law degree in 1951. While in college, Perry joined the Alpha Iota Chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and became a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He then passed the South Carolina State Bar exam and opened his own private practice law firm in nearby Spartanburg. He would remain in private practice for the next ten years.

In 1956, as one of his first civil rights cases, *Flemming v. South Carolina Electric and Gas Company*, Perry represented Sarah Mae Flemming who had been physically assaulted by a white gas company bus driver after refusing to move to the back of the bus he was driving. He then began to take on discrimination cases involving public schools, golf courses, hospitals, and city parks. Over the course of his legal career, Perry would take on more than six thousand cases and have more than seven thousands freed from arrest after being arrested for protesting discriminatory practices throughout South Carolina.

In 1961, Perry moved his law firm to the state capitol of Columbia, South Carolina where he practiced for five more years. He built a successful practice specializing in civil rights and discrimination cases. He became involved with local and national civil rights organizations to fight the many injustices that were occurring in South Carolina during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Perry joined ranks with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served as the Chief Counsel to the South Carolina State Conference and took on cases given him by the NAACP. He represented many cases pivotal to civil right changes that occurred in South Carolina.

In one of his more notable cases during that time, Perry represented Gloria Blackwell, an African American school teacher in Orangeburg who was arrested along with her daughter, Lurma Rackley, for sitting in a area at a local hospital while awaiting treatment that was designated for whites only. He took on the case arguing racial discrimination and was jailed for his line of questioning during the trial. The sit-

ting Judge felt Perry's remarks were disrespectful to the court and ordered him arrested on contempt charges by the Court Bailiff. He was eventually released, and his charges along with those against Blackwell and her daughter charges were dismissed. The hospital was also forced to integrate because of Perry's lawsuit of discrimination against the administrators of the hospital.

In 1963, Perry successfully represented Harvey B. Gantt in his pursuit to integrate South Carolina's Clemson University. Gant became the first African American to enroll at Clemson. Gantt would go on to graduate from Clemson as an honor student.

In 1972, Perry was the lead attorney in the case involving South Carolina's reapportionment, which forced redistricting of it's urban areas to bring a more fair representation to the population of those that lived in respective voting districts. His suit resulted in South Carolina adopting the "one man, one vote" electoral principles allowing more African Americans to hold elected office and other political positions. Prior to Perry's litigation, African American's had been locked out of many political appointments as the district wide voting system allowed outside voters to dictate who represented their interests.

In 1975, Perry, a Democrat, made a run for a seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives. He unfortunately lost to incumbent Republican Floyd Spence. The following year, then President Gerald Ford appointed Perry to the United States Military Court of Appeals, now the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces located in Washington, D.C.. Perry became the first African American from the Deep South to be nominated and confirmed to a seat on a federal Court. Because of the respect that his fellow South Carolina legislators had for him, even white segregationist and South Carolina U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond supported Perry's nomination to the federal bench.

In 1979, then President Jimmy Carter nominated Perry to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. Confirmed on September 19, 1979, Perry took his seat as the first African American South Carolina federal Judge. Six years later, he assumed senior status and remained active in presiding over the Court's cases upon request.

In honor of the many legal achievements that Perry brought to South Carolina, in 2004, the courthouse in Columbia was renamed in his honor, the Matthew J. Perry, Jr. U.S. Courthouse. Perry was recognized for his many contributions to South Carolinians when the Southern Trial Lawyers Association's American Board of Trial Advocates presented him with their War Horse Award. He has also been awarded the prestigious Order of the Palmetto, named as a South Carolinian of the Year, and has been awarded the William R. Ming Advocacy Award by the NAACP. Judge Perry is a member of the Zion Baptist Church in Columbia.

Perry died on July 31, 2011. He was ninety years old.





W. RAY PERSONS

...enrolled into The Ohio State University School of Law in Columbus, Ohio to begin his undergraduate studies. He unfortunately ran out of money and had to return home. He

eventually enrolled into Armstrong State College in Savannah, Georgia where he received his undergraduate degree cum laude.

Persons received a Cleveland, Ohio Bar Association scholarship, which allowed him to pursue his law degree at the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University where he received his Juris Doctorate degree. While studying for his law degree, he became a favorite of Adjunct Professor William E. Knepper who altered the course Person's life. A tireless worker, Knepper hired Person's to work in his law firm, Knepper, White, Arter & Hadden.

While at Moritz, he met his future wife, Wendy, and together they had two children, Conrad and April. After completing his studies, Persons moved his family to Atlanta, Georgia to begin his law career. He began his professional career and soon became a leading attorney in his field.

Persons currently serves as a partner in the law firm of King & Spalding LLP based in Atlanta. He specializes in complex litigation matters, class action suit, mass torts, antitrust issues, pharma products liability claims, and contracts and business torts. He focuses mainly on the tobacco and energy industries. He has appeared regularly before the state and federal courts and has served as lead counsel to over fifty trials.

As an astute professional, Persons gives of his time teaching litigation skills classes on Saturdays for over ten years at the Georgia State University in downtown Atlanta. Understanding that his teaching is a calling, he gives back to the students what he had learned about professionalism in his early days working in Ohio at with Professor and lawyer William Knepper. In that regard, Persons has served as the President of the Georgia Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, as the Chair

of the State Bar of Georgia's Evidence Study Committee, and as a member of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society Development Committee. He has also served as the Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Bar Association.

On the state and federal levels, Persons has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Georgia. He was given a gubernatorial appointment where he led a \$67 million initiative to introduced electronic voting throughout the State of Georgia. He has been called upon to speak and give lectures across the United States on matters related to his expert knowledge on state programs.

Persons has served as a Trustee of the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation, sat on the Board of Directors for the Tommy Nobis Foundation, and is an active member in the American Heart Association. He has given time as a Master to the Lamar Chapter of the American Inns of Court through Emory University in Atlanta and has worked in similar fashion at the Moritz School of Law in Columbus. For the Moritz College of Law, Persons established a Merit Scholarship named in honor of his children, April and Conrad. The scholarship is designed to attract students to attend the law school and help them achieve academic excellence.

Persons has been honored by many associations, organizations, and legal institutions during his storied career. The Atlanta Bar Association presented him with its' Leadership Award and the State Bar of Georgia gave him its' Tradition of Excellence Award. He has been named as a Top 10 Trial Lawyer by Super Lawyers and as a Legal Elite attorney by the Georgia Trend magazine. Persons has been presented a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Moritz College of Law and from Armstrong Atlantic State University. The Ohio State University gave him its' Distinguished Service Award and the Daily Report presented him with its' Professional Excellence: Lifetime Achievement Award.





A ULANA
L. PETERS

...received her undergraduate degree in 1976 in Philosophy from the College of New Rochelle in New York. She received her a Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California.

After completing her studies, Peters accepted a position as an Associate in the Los Angeles law offices of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

Her cases centered on commercial litigation and class action suits brought on by a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) enforcement action. In 1980, she had climbed through the ranks to become a partner in the firm. President Ronald Reagan, in 1984, appointed her to the post of Commissioner of the SEC. Accepting, Peters resigned her position with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. After being sworn in as the Commissioner, Peter became the first African American to ever serve as a Commissioner of the SEC, and only the third woman ever achieve the honor.

Serving at the President's desire, Peters remained in her position through the remainder of President Reagan's time in office. In 1988, after Reagan's term ended, Peters returned to her old job at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. She would remain with the firm for twelve more years, until her retirement.

Northrop Grumman, in 1999, elected Peters to their Board of Directors. In 2001, she became a member of the Public Oversight Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In 2002, she accepted a position on the Board of Directors for Deere & Company, a manufacturer of agricultural, construction, and forestry machinery. Deere & Company also manufactures diesel engines, drivetrains, including axles, transmissions, and gearboxes, all used in lawn care and heavy equipment operations. Peters served on the Board for eight years.

Peters has sat on other Boards including those of Merrill Lynch, a wealth management fortune 500 company and public television station KCET of Burbank, California. She went on to become a Director at 3M, a multinational conglomerate corporation based in Maplewood,

Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul. 3M is the acronym for Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company.

She was ultimately asked to serve on the Accountability Advisory Council of the U.S. Comptroller General. She was then asked onto the Market Regulatory Advisory Committee of the New York Stock Exchange. The Southern California Edison's Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund Committee next chose Peters as a member of their committee.

The Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni named Mrs. Peters as the 11th recipient of the William O. Douglas Award in 2003. The award is given to a person that made significant contributions to the development of the Federal Securities Laws, to the SEC, and to the Financial Community. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, in 2010, awarded Peters the Medal of Honor for her distinguished service by a non-accountant to the accounting field.





EILEEN R. PETERSON

...was born in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. After attending local St. Croix public schools, she came to the United States for her higher education. She attended Hampton Institute, now Hampton University in Hampton,

Virginia where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Speech Therapy. For her academic achievements while at Hampton, Peterson was awarded a full, all expenses paid, five-year Ford Foundation Scholarship. She obtained a Masters degree in Education as well.

Peterson returned to St. Croix and began teaching English at Christiansted High School. She also taught courses at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico in their Extension Program. Deciding to obtain her law degree, in 1963, Peterson returned to the United States and Washington, D.C. to enroll into Howard University's School of Law. While in college, she joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc..

After completing the requirements to graduate, Peterson received her law degree from Howard and promptly passed the District of Columbia Bar exam and the U.S. Virgin Islands Bar exam. She then began her professional legal career by accepting a position in the U.S. Virgin Island's Attorney General's Office as an Assistant Attorney General offered to her by then Attorney General Francisco Corneiro. Peterson later served as Acting Attorney General for the Island.

In 1969, Peterson again returned to Washington, D.C. and enrolled into the George Washington University Law Center. She received her Master's degree from George Washington in Labor Law. Peterson focused her attention and studies on U.S. labor laws.

After completing her Master's degree, Peterson returned to her home in St. Croix and became an advocate for children's civil rights. She lobbied the U.S. federal government to select the Virgin Islands, as one of three locations for a pilot project the government was to launch. Operation Sisters United was a project funded by the government designed to assist female teenagers who had gotten into trouble with the law. The government, due to her constant lobbying, chose the U.S. Virgin Islands as one of the sites to establish the project.

Peterson was chosen to work with the project and she traveled extensively around the world giving lectures and

speaking on behalf children of the world. In 1983, she became a member of speaking panel for an International Family Law Conference held in Cairo, Egypt. Several years later, she was named as Chairperson of the Family Law at the World Peace Through Law Conference held in Beijing, China. Peterson traveled to Canada, the Philippines, and throughout the Islands of the Caribbean to speak at other conferences on issues related to children's civil rights.

In 1974, Peterson was elected to serve as a Judge in the United States Virgin Islands. She became the first woman to serve in any U.S. Virgin Island court. She served on the Court's bench for twenty-three years.

Judge Peterson served as a panelist for the World Association of Judges of the World Peace Through Law Center. In 1996, Judge Peterson was appointed by then Governor of the Virgin Islands Roy Lester Schneider and later confirmed by the Virgin Islands Legislature as the first Chairman of the newly established Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission. She also became affiliated with the North American Regulators Association and the International Association of Gaming Regulators.

Judge Peterson served on other organizations during her career, including the League of Women Voters and the Business and Professional Women's Organization. She was then selected to serve on the Board to the Virgin Islands Council of Boy Scouts of America. She became the first woman to hold such a position in the northeastern section of the United States.

Judge Peterson is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Virgin Islands Bar Association, the Washington, D.C. Bar Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, and the American Judges Association. She is also a member of the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges. In addition, for the National Bar Association, she served as a Secretary to the Judicial Council. In addition, Judge Peterson served as a charter member on the association's Women's Division.

Judge Peterson has a life long desire to help the down-trodden, particularly families with children. She has given immeasurable compassion contributions on behalf of the young aimed at increasing the possibilities for them to have a productive and healthy life. She has used her position as a Judge to further those goals. For her continued work on behalf of those she cared about, Judge Peterson has earned numerous awards and honors as a trailblazer for children's rights.

Photo Not Available



WILLIAM E. PETERSON

...was born and raised in Oxford, Mississippi. After graduating high school and completing his undergraduate studies, he applied for admission to the University of Mississippi in

Oxford. Peterson was denied entry into the law school because he was African American. Not discouraged, he moved to Chicago, Illinois where he attended the John Marshall Law School where he obtained his law degree in 1950. He passed the Illinois State Bar exam and opened his own law firm.

Peterson practiced law in Chicago for many years and eventually became the President of the Cook County Bar Association. While serving as President, he provided pro bono legal services to many of the African American that had been arrested during the rioting that occurred after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1969. He also served as the President of the National Bar Association, the largest group of African American lawyers in the United States.

In 1972, Peterson was appointed as an Association Judge to the Cook County Circuit Court. Four years later, he was elected to a full term as a Circuit Court Judge. He served on the bench for twelve years, retiring in 1988.

In 1987, Peterson was appointed to the Board of Trustees at his alma mater, the John Marshall Law School. He also served as a President of the Alumni Association. For the Alumni Association, Judge Peterson spent much of his time mentoring young people in the desire to become lawyers. He supported them in their efforts financially and academically.

Peterson was an advocate for helping young lawyers achieve the goals they had set for themselves. He helped to advance their careers, giving them encouragement to study diligently and if they needed help, to simply ask. On many occasions, Peterson gave of his own money to assist young lawyers remain on course, even having other lawyers and faculty members look out for them as they were the future of the legal profession. Many successful lawyers and students that made it through law school, his

alma mater, had and still have no idea that Peterson had angel gifted to their legal journey.

William E. Peterson died on July 18 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He was eighty-five years old. After Judge Peterson's death, his alma mater, the John Marshall Law School, created an academic scholarship in his name. The monetary award is given to a selected law student that has shown ideals of Judge Peterson with hopes that they will carry on his legacy of support of others.



ALVIN DWIGHT PETTIT

...was born on September 29, 1945 in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. He mother worked as a hairdresser and beautician while his father worked as an engineer. The family moved to Baltimore, Maryland

when Pettit was young after accepting a job there.

Pettit was one of the first African American students to attend an all-white Aberdeen High School in Hartford County, Maryland. Pettit's father, with the representation of Thurgood Marshall and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People forced the school to desegregate. Pettit graduated from the school in 1963 as the first African American male to play on the school's football team.

He then enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967. While at Howard, he continued his love of football and played on the schools football team. He joined the ROTC program and reached the rank of Colonel before graduating. He also joined the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

For his diligent studies on and off the football field, Pettit received the student athlete Holland Ware Award for demonstrating his commitment to both academics and athletics. He remained at the University to attend its' Law School. He obtained his law degree in 1970.

After graduating law school, Pettit accepted a job with the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) under President Richard Nixon administration. At the SBA, Pettit prepared briefs for fraud cases being litigated by the Department of Justice (DOJ) that involved SBA loans given out to small businesses that had run afoul of the SBA and federal law. He also worked as a practice private attorney.

In his first private practice case, Pettit vs. the United States, he himself was the plaintiff, as he sued the government, which became a national headline case as it set the precedent for discrimination in back pay. In another private case, he sued the state of Maryland alleging discrimination in its' bar examination. It was the first case of its' kind filed in the United States.

In 1973, Pettit resigned from his position with the SBA and focused his attention full time to his own law firm. He joined with several other attorneys to establish the law firm of Mitchell, Petit, David and Gill. He would later leave the firm to again work as a practicing attorney on his own.

In 1977, Pettit won the case of Scott v. Sutton Place, a case that established the Maryland law that landlords had the legal responsibility to protect its' tenants from criminal activity that may occur on their property. Several years later, he won a million dollar judgment in the case of Goodwin v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation. The case involved an accident that occurred involving a Transit Authority's vehicle.

Pettit has been honored on many occasions for his contributions to the legal profession. He has been given the Baltimore Chapter of the Howard University Alumni Association's Alumni Award, was given the Young Lawyer of the Year Award by the Monumental Bar Association, and was given a Distinguished Service Citation by the Baltimore Frontiers Club. Pettit was also given an Outstanding Abilities in Leadership, Community Service, Economic Achievements and Humanitarian Award from the Minority Business Directory. In addition, the Baltimore Howard University Alumni presented Pettit with its' Law and Service Outstanding Achievement Award and the Lift Every Voice and Sing Foundation named him as a Lawyer of the Year two years straight.



C HANNING D. P HILLIPS

...was born on March 23, 1928 in Brooklyn, New York to Dorothy Fletcher Phillips and Reverend Porter W. Phillips, Sr.. His family moved to Washington, D.C. when he was

young. After graduating from high school, Phillips enrolled into the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia where he received his undergraduate degree in 1950 in English and Sociology. For his law degree, he returned to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University's School of Law. He obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1986.

After passing the bar, Phillips obtained a job with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Charles Morgan Associates, Chartered. In 1987, he served as a clerk to Judge Shellie F. Bowers, an Associate Judge in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He remained under the tutelage of Judge Bowers for three years.

In 1990, Phillips joined the Department of Justice (DOJ) as a trial attorney with the Organized Crime & Racketeering Section of the Criminal Division in New York City. Four years later, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the DOJ. In his role as Assistant U.S. Attorney, he prosecuted those arrested for drug trafficking, fraud offenses, and violent crimes. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for three years.

In 1997, Phillips served as Special Counsel to United States Attorney Janet Reno. He remained there for almost four years. He then was promoted to Chief of Staff for the United States Attorney's Office.

In 2004, he took the position of Principal of AUSA and worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. He remained in that position for five years. He then returned to the United States Attorney's Office as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. He only served in the position for ten months.

In 2010, Phillips became the Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the nation's capital. After five months, he was promoted to become the Deputy Associate Attorney General at the DOJ. A year and a half later, he was given the title of Counselor to

the Attorney General. He remained as Counselor for four years.

In 2015, then President Barack Obama nominated Phillips to become the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. He served as Legal Counsel and Principal Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General at the Department of Justice (DOJ) as well as serving as the Executive Director for the Attorney General's Diversity Management Advisory Council. As Executive Director, Phillips ran the day-to-day operations of the Council including being the primary contact for any outside agencies needing interaction with the Council. Phillips served in other capacities while working at the DOJ. He served as the Spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office.



S AUNDRA PHILLIPS ROGERS

...is a native of Beaumont, Texas who, as a young girl, had her eyes set on becoming a professional tennis player or possibly a television news journalist. By the time she had graduated from high

school, she knew she wanted to become a lawyer.

Phillips Rogers received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin. She remained at the school to earn her Juris Doctor degree. After completing her law degree requirements, she took and passed the Texas State Bar exam.

Phillips Rogers was a partner at the law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius working out of their Houston, Texas offices. Her primary focus while with the firm was complex litigation management and strategic strategies for cases that the firm took on. Her duties included formulating crisis management plans.

For the firm, Phillips Rogers also served as a Senior Vice President, an Associate General Counsel, and Chief Litigation Counsel for Pfizer Inc., a global pharmaceutical corporation. Her duties included setting up and executing the legal strategies for the company's global products. These strategies centered on environmental litigation and product liabilities. During this time, she also served as the Managing Partner of Shook, Hardy & Bacon, another Houston based law firm.

In 2012, Phillips Rogers joined Toyota Motor Sales (TMS), U.S.A., Inc.. She served as Vice President and Deputy General Counsel. In her role, she was responsible for the company's most important class action suits, its securities, and any product litigation matters. She also handled government regulatory investigations. Phillips Rogers was instrumental in building an integrated North American legal services group and developed an outside legal Counsel partnering program with other Fortune 500 companies and private companies to track legal services spending. Through this partnership, legal technological resources and other processes allowed Toyota and their partners to increase operational efficiency.

Phillips Rogers currently serves as the Group Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Legal Officer for Toyota Motor North America, Inc. (TMNA). She became the first African-American woman named to head Toyota's legal affairs.

For the company, she handles the legal matters for Toyota's North American operations under its' legal division, Toyota Legal One ("TL1"). She oversees the company's affiliates throughout North American including the business operations and support matters, legal services involving employment and labor issues, intellectual property, and regulatory laws affecting the company's overall operations.

Phillips Rogers co-founded the Center for Women in Law at The University of Texas School of Law. The Center's purpose is to promote the entire spectrum of women in the law profession by finding and addressing issues that women attorney's and others involved in law face either individually or as a group. The Center has been helpful to women in the personal struggles and any professional struggles as well.

Phillips Rogers has been honored for her tireless work on behalf of her company and women within the field of law by several private, public and academic institutions. In 2016, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law presented her with its' Legacy Award. She received the Diversity Pioneer Award from the Defense Research Institute for her work of inclusion for both minority women but of minorities across the board. In addition, in 2017, Black Enterprise Magazine named her as one of its' "75 Most Powerful Women in Business".

Phillips Rogers serves on the Boards of the University of Texas Law School Foundation and the YWCA USA. She gives of her time to the Texas School of Law and its' Alumni Association. She gives of her time particularly to mentor young women attorneys and those pursuing their degrees still in law school hoping to inspire them to work at their legal crafts as greater rewards lie ahead.





VELVALEA "VEL" RODGERS PHILLIPS

...was born on February 18, 1924 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Thelma Etha Payne Rodgers and Russell Lowell Rodgers. The Rodger's family had deep religious ties to the A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal)

church. Aulana's ancestors on her maternal side were A.M.E. Bishop's and African missionaries. Her parents, believing in the church's tenets, used corporal punishment as a means to keep her in line and her studies in order.

Phillips grew up on the south side of Milwaukee. She attended Garfield Avenue Elementary School and spent her junior high school years at Roosevelt Junior High School, a mostly all white high school in the Northern Division of Milwaukee. A gifted speaker, Phillips wrote a speech for the Elks Lodge Oratory Competition. She gave her speech entitled, *"The Negro and the Constitution,"* and won a national award for "Most Outstanding Oratory Speaker." The speech also earned her a scholarship to Howard University in Washington, D.C.. In the fall of 1942, Phillips gladly accepted the scholarship and enrolled into Howard University.

Before graduating, in 1945, Phillips met and married Dale Phillips. She completed her undergraduate studies in 1946 and left Howard with a her Bachelor of Arts degree in hand. She returned to Wisconsin, along with her husband who completed his studies at the University of Wisconsin Law School graduating in 1950. Two years later, Phillips completed her law studies at the University of Wisconsin Law School. With her graduation, she became the first black woman to earn an L.L.B. degree from the university. Taking and passing the Wisconsin bar, Phillips and her husband Dale became the first husband-wife team to be admitted to the Wisconsin bar.

It wasn't long before the Phillips' became actively involved with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their causes on civil rights. Recognizing issues with the city's 1950 re-districting referendum, Phillips ran for a seat on the Milwaukee Common Council with a platform of support of the redistricting plan. She lost that election but ran again in the 1956 election and won. With her victory, Phillips

became the first woman ever to win a Council seat in the history of Milwaukee.

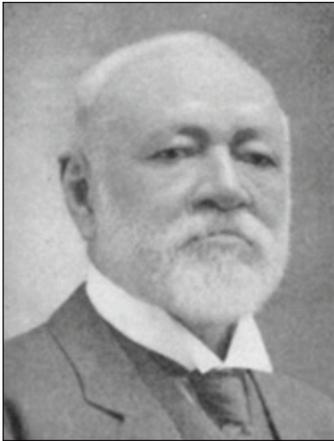
While serving on the Council, Phillips voted heavily for ordinances involving civil rights. In 1962, she introduced Milwaukee's first open housing ordinance. In 1967, during civil unrest, the NAACP headquarters was firebombed. The next day a rally was held. So upset with the bombing, the non-violent Phillips was the only city official arrested. She and Catholic Father James Groppi joined forces with the NAACP's Youth Council in 1968 and led marches for fair housing. They collectively marched for peace and to protect housing while rioting was sweeping the black community. Later that year, Milwaukee's open housing bill passed.

A seat became vacant on Milwaukee County's Judiciary Court. Phillips was appointed to the seat. Although she was the first woman to hold the position, she lost the seat in the next general election and returned to the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee to teach. While teaching there, she became the mentor to many including the university's Black Student Union President, Fred Gordon. Gordon would go on to become a future member of the Common Council.

Phillips went on in 1978 become the first woman and first African American woman to be elected Wisconsin's Secretary of State. As Secretary, she was the highest ranking female official, not only in Wisconsin's history but in the entire twentieth century. A well deserved first, indeed.

In 2002, Marquette University's School of Law appointed Phillips as a "Distinguished Professor of Law." Lending a hand in a political race, at age eighty, she successful chaired the 2004 congressional campaign of Gwen Moore. Moore was elected as the U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District.

Phillips sat on numerous civic boards in Milwaukee seeking support for projects and people interested in social change and justice. A member of the Delta Sigma Theta, Phillips is active in her community's well being. She founded the Vel Phillips Foundation whose mission is to aid in helping America's communities be a better place to live and raise families. Phillips describes her foundation in her own words, stating that the foundation's purpose is *"to help establish equality and opportunity for minorities through social justice, education, equal housing opportunities, and jobs."*



PINCKNEY BENTON STEWART PINCHBACK

...was born on May 10, 1837 in Macon, Georgia to Eliza Stewart and Major William Pinchback. Pinckney's mother was a freed slave and his father was a white planter that owned him, his mother and siblings. Pinckney's family was freed by Major Pinchback

in 1836. As a freedman, he used his mother's surname of Stewart and not that of his father, Pinchback.

Shortly after the young Stewart was born, his father purchased a larger plantation and moved both his white and black family to Mississippi. Although they were of mixed bloodlines, Stewart and his black siblings were raised in the same manner as his white half-siblings. All were raised in affluence and were treated as white.

When Stewart was nine years old, his father sent him and one of his brothers to school in Cincinnati, Ohio, a free state. Two years after arriving at the private academy, in 1848, Major Pinchback died. Eliza Stewart, still residing on the Mississippi plantation feared that the Pinchback family would place her and her children back into slavery. She fled with her children to join her two sons in Cincinnati.

To support his mother and siblings, Stewart left the private school to take a job as a cabin boy on a river boat. He eventually moved to Terre Haute, Indiana where he worked as a hotel porter. By the time, he had reached the age of eighteen, the responsibilities of caring for his mother and siblings became too much for him and he had a nervous breakdown.

After recovering from his breakdown, in 1860, at the age of twenty-three, Stewart met and married Emily Hawthorne, a free woman of color. Like him, Emily was of mixed race and could also pass for white. Together, they had four children. Despite his previous breakdown, Stewart continued to care for his mother who lived with him until she died in 1884.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Stewart joined the Union Army. After New Orleans was captured, he moved his family to Louisiana. He joined the all-white First Louisiana Volunteers. Unsatisfied with his treatment, he left the unit to recruit and organize black men to form their own volunteer group. The unit was named the Corps d'Afrique.

He recruited blacks to join the Civil War fighting and established the Union's all-black 1st Louisiana Native Guards Regiment. His regiment was comprised of freed slaves and other slaves that had run away from their plantation masters. Stewart became the Company Commander of Company A, 2nd Louisiana Regiment Native Guard Infantry, one of the few black commissioned officers. He resigned his commission on April 30, 1863 due to Army prejudices that kept him twice from receiving a higher commission because of his race.

When the war ended, Stewart moved his family to Alabama to test the new freedom awarded to blacks. Finding racial hatred and violence from whites who wanted to suppress the black vote and civil liberties, Stewart moved his family back to New Orleans. It was then that he decided to take his father's name of Pinchback, a to claim his rightful place amongst whites.

Back in New Orleans, Pinchback joined the Republican Party. After Congress passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867, he organized the Fourth

Ward Republican Club. For his deeds, he was elected to the state's constitutional convention. A year later, he was elected as a State Senator.

In the state Senate, he became Senate President Pro Tempore. At the time, the state legislature had forty-two black representatives. Fifty percent of the State House of Representatives were black and 7 of the 36 state Senators were of African descent. At the time, because of slavery, half of Louisiana's population was black.

In 1871, Louisiana's and the United States' first Black Lieutenant Governor, Oscar Dunn died. As Senate President Pro Tempore, Pinchback became the Acting Lieutenant Governor. He then purchased the New Orleans Louisianan, a biweekly newspaper. He used the paper as a political discussion tabloid. He remained the publisher until 1879.

Pinchback then became the Director of the New Orleans public school system. With great interest in educating blacks, he was appointed to the Louisiana State Board of Education. On December 9, 1872, Pinchback assumed the state's top job as Governor when the current Governor, Henry Clay Warmoth, was impeached for voter fraud and its related violence. Louisiana state law forbid Warmoth from continuing to run the state until the impeachment trial was concluded. Pinchback took the helm, for six months, completing Warmoth's remaining time as Governor. In assuming the Governorship, Pinchback became the first person of African descent to become the Governor of any U.S. state. During his short time as Governor, he oversaw the approval of ten legislative bills. Governor Warmoth was eventually cleared and charges were dropped.

In 1873, Pinchback ran and was elected to represent Louisiana in the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. His election was contested and due to Klu Klux Klan voter intimidation, the seat was awarded to his opponent William Pitt Kellogg. One year later, Pinchback won the seat back but never served being denied the seat due to racial intolerance prevalent in the deep South at the time.

Pinchback subsequently accepted a position as Surveyor of Customs for the port of New Orleans. He would hold the post for three years before deciding, at the age of fifty, to attain his law degree. In 1885, Pinchback enrolled into Straight University, a historically black college later known as Dillard University in New Orleans to earn his law degree. A year later, he was admitted to the Louisiana bar. Although he was a certified lawyer, he never put his law practice into action. Instead, he continued to be an activist for the black community.

He joined the Comité des Citoyens, better known as the Citizens' Committee. The Committee is credited with orchestrating and fighting the legal battle to desegregate New Orleans' public transportation. In having another member of the Committee, young Homer Plessy, who was "white enough to buy a train ticket but black enough to get arrested for it". The staged Committee action resulted in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which upheld the "separate but equal" doctrine of the segregated South.

In 1892, Pinchback relocated his family to Washington, D.C. where he lived, as he had most of his life, in affluence. His housewarming reception was covered by the Washington Post and was attended by many high profile legislators and educators. Traveling between Washington, D.C. and New York City, Pinchback took a position as a U.S. Marshall for a short time.

Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback died on December 21, 1921 at the age of eighty-four. By the time of his death, many had forgotten about his deeds. His remains were shipped to New Orleans and he was interred in Metairie Cemetery.



LAWRENCE W. PIERCE

...was born on December 31, 1924 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Mary Leora Bellinger Pierce and Harold E. Pierce Sr.. His mother, a classical pianist died when he was five years

old from pneumonia. The family was then split up with Pierce being raised by his father and later by his stepmother, Violet Abrahams Pierce, a nurse, his father's second wife. His brothers, Harold, Sr. and Lawrence, lived with their grandmother, Lillian Willets Pierce and Warren Wood Pierce. The brothers only saw each other during holidays.

Pierce received his undergraduate degree from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His studies were interrupted while he served his duties in the United States Army and stationed in Italy as an infantry Sergeant. After completing his military duties, he returned to St. Joseph to complete his undergraduate studies graduating in 1948 with honors. He went on to obtain his law degree from Fordham Law School in New York City, New York in 1951. At Fordham, Pierce served as the Associate Editor of the Law Review.

To began his legal profession, Pierce worked as a staff attorney with the Civil Branch of The Legal Aid Society in New York City. He became involved with the Catholic Interracial Council of New York, which promoted equal treatment and justice for all. He then took at job in the Brooklyn, New York District Attorney's office working as an Assistant District Attorney. He worked in the District Attorney's Office for six years.

In 1961, Pierce became a Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Police Department. After two years with as a Deputy Commissioner, he became the Director of the New York State Division for Youth where he remained for three years. Pierce then became the Chairman of the New York State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission after being appointed to the position by then Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. In his role with the Narcotic Addiction Control Commission, he was instrumental in the opening of twenty-three drug treatment centers.

While serving on the Narcotic Addiction Control Commission, Pierce taught classes at the Graduate School of Criminal Justice at the State University at Albany, New York for a year. In 1971, then President Nixon appointed Pierce to serve as a Judge to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. He sat on the New York bench for ten years. He was then appointed, in 1981, by then President Ronald Reagan to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Judge Pierce was the third African-American to serve on the Second Circuit, after Thurgood Marshall and Amakya Kears.

In 1978, Judge Pierce was appointed to serve on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. His appointment came by the recommendation of then Chief Justice Warren Burger. He was also selected to serve on the American Bar Association's Alternate Observer at the United Nations.

In 1990, Judge Pierce attained senior status on the Second Circuit Court. Five years later, he retired from the bench. He then became the Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). As Director, he oversaw the USAID funded Cambodian Court Training Project Cambodia.

Judge Pierce was married twice. He first married Wilma Verenia Taylor. Together, they had three sons, Warren, Michael and Mark. Wilma unfortunately died and he later married Cynthia Straker, an attorney with the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. and law Professor who taught at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and St. John's University Law School in Jamaica, New York. She unfortunately also died.



SAMUEL RILEY PIERCE, JR.

...was born on September 8, 1922 in Glen Cove, New York. As a young teen, he earned his badges as an Eagle Scout. For his advanced achievements, the Boy Scouts of America awarded him its' Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

After graduating from high school, he entered Cornell University in Ithaca, New York on a football scholarship where he received his undergraduate degree in 1947. At Cornell, he was elected to the Sphinx Head Society. The Society is Cornell's oldest Senior Honor Society at the University.

To obtain his law degree, he remained at the University attending its' law school where he completed his studies in 1949. He went on to earn a Master of Laws degree in 1952 from the New York University School of Law in Taxation. While in college, Pierce joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Alpha Phi Omega fraternity.

Pierce served in the United States Army during World War II in the Mediterranean Theater Operations. He was assigned to the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Division and was the only African American serving in the Division. After completing his service duties, he returned to New York to begin his professional legal career.

In 1953, Pierce worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the New York office of the Attorney General's Office. He remained with the office for two years. He then took a job with the federal government.

In 1955, because of his Republican affiliation, Pierce became an Assistant to the Under Secretary at the Department of Labor. Four years later, then New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller appointed him as a Municipal Judge in New York City to fill a vacancy on the Court. A year later, he entered private practice as a partner in the law firm of Battle Fowler. He was the first African American to make partner of a major New York law firm.

In 1970, he stepped away from Battle Fowler after accepting the position of General Counsel at the Department of Treasury. His service to the Department lasted for three years. He then returned to his partnership at Battle Fowler.

Back in private practice, Pierce represented civil rights activist, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the New York Times newspaper as clients. For the legendary New York Times case, Pierce argued before the United States Supreme Court

establishing the precedent that determined when a newspaper can be liable for damages in their reporting based upon a standard of proven malice before they cross the line to slander. After that case, Pierce was invited to sit on the Board of a Fortune 500 company, the first African American to sit on the Board of any Fortune 500 company in the United States.

In 1981, then President Ronald Reagan appointed Pierce to become the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He was the only African American appointed by Reagan to a Cabinet post during Reagan's eight years in office. Although he was the only African American appointed by Reagan, during the Conference of U.S. Mayors, the President while speaking before the gathered crowd of Mayors, mistook Pierce as one of the Mayors. Because of his low profile and for being unrecognized by Reagan, as the only black serving at the President's will, Pierce was given the nick name of "Silent Sam".

During Pierce's tenure at HUD, the annual budget for low-income housing was cut nearly in half. There was no new housing construction developed and inner city dwellings were not given adequate funding to support their upkeep. Pierce was criticized by some civil rights leaders for not being able to deliver more to the under served citizens of the country. He again was chastised and called, "Silent Sam". When Reagan's term of President was over, Pierce was one of the only cabinet members to go to the airport to bid Reagan farewell.

After his departure from HUD, Pierce fell under investigation for mismanagement and abuse of his position as Secretary. He was called out for his political favoritism and influence trading during his stewardship of the Department. It was learned that millions of dollars had been given to projects brought to him by politicians on both sides of the political aisle, Republican and Democrats alike. Pierce had violated many governing rules by giving out grants without proper vetting. Although Pierce himself did not face charges, many of those around him did. Several of his underlings faced felony charges of inappropriate expenditures in return for some type of perk, monetary kickback, or political vote.

Samuel R. Pierce, Jr. died on October 31, 2000 at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was seventy-eight years old.



FREDDIE PITCHER, JR.

...received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in Political Science in 1966. He remained at the University to obtain his law degree. He completed his course

studies and received his law degree in 1973. While in college, Pitcher joined the Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities.

After passing the Louisiana Bar exam, Pitcher began practicing law in Baton Rouge. He worked for several years as an independent lawyer before forming the law firm of Pitcher, Tyson, Avery, and Cunningham as a partner. He later served as Special Counsel to the Louisiana Attorney General's Office before accepting a job as an Assistant District Attorney for the East Baton Rouge Parish.

In 1983, Pitcher was elected as a Judge to the Baton Rouge City Court. He became the first African American to be elected to the bench in Baton Rouge's history. Four years later, he was elected as a Judge to the 19th Judicial District Court. He again became a first, the first African American to serve on the District Court.

Judge Pitcher was later elected to the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal, without opposition. He once more became the first African American to sit on the Circuit Court bench. While serving on the First Circuit Court, he served as an Associate Justice Ad Hoc to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

In 1997, Judge Pitcher rejoined his previous law firm of Phelps Dunbar LLP in its' Baton Rouge office. In returning to the firm, he returned accepting a partner position. At Phelps Dunbar, Pitcher specialized in the areas of casualty law, commercial law, and employment law litigations. He also represented the firm in cases being litigated through the Appellate Courts.

In 2002, Pitcher was appointed as the Chancellor to the Southern University Law Center. Along with being named as Chancellor, he was also given full professor of law privileges. Pitcher taught several classes at the law school and filled in when other law professors became ill or were away performing other university duties.

Judge Pitcher rejoined the law firm of Phelps Dunbar in its' Baton Rouge office as a Senior Partner in the Litigation Division. At the firm, he focused on appellate and toxic tort litigation, commercial business interests, and insurance coverage related matters. Although he left Southern University as Chancellor, he remained with the University as a Professor of Law.

Pitcher has served as a member of the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, and the Baton Rouge Bar Association. He has privileges to practice before the United States Eastern, Middle, and Western District Courts of Louisiana. Pitcher also has the right to argue cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Pitcher has received many honors and awards during his career, including being inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame. He has also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society Foundation and was given an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Siirt University in Siirt, Turkey. Pitcher has received the Brotherhood Award by the National Conference of Community and Justice's Baton Rouge Chapter as well as being named one of the "100 Most Influential Black Lawyers in the United States" by *On Being a Black Lawyer Magazine*. In addition, Pitcher was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame of Southern University's School of Law.

He has served on the Bar Admissions Committee of the American Bar Association, the American Bar Association Law School Legal Education Section's Committee on Professionalism, and the it's Site Evaluation Team for Reaccrediting Law Schools. He was also selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana. In addition, Pitcher has served as a member of Baton Rouge Area Foundation, of the Baton Rouge Recreation Commission Foundation, Our Lady of the Lake College, Woman's Hospital Development Committee, and the Young Leaders Academy of Baton Rouge.

Chancellor Pitcher is married to Dr. Harriet Anderson Pitcher and together they have one daughter, Kyla Dean Pitcher.



MARSHALL B. PITTS, JR.

...is a graduate of Westover High School in Fayetteville, North Carolina. A gifted athlete, he ran track for his high school track team, was named to the All-America team. He was also

named an All-Academic Student Athlete.

Pitts attended Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice in 1987. He attended North Carolina Central University to obtain his law degree from the University's School of Law in 1990. After passing the North Carolina State Bar exam, he taught Criminal Justice law classes at the university while he sat up his law practice.

After teaching and working in private practice for several years, in 1997, Pitts ran for a seat on the Fayetteville City Council. He unfortunately lost the election by a mere sixty-six votes. Two years later, he ran again and was victorious winning an At-Large seat on the City Council. He became the first African American to be elected to the City Council in twenty years. Pitts served on the City Council for two years and during his term, he was appointed as Mayor Pro Tempore.

In 2001, Pitts entered the electoral race for Mayor of Fayetteville. Running against incumbent Mayor Milo McBryde, a member of a third generation Fayetteville prominent family and twenty year City Council member, Pitts defeated McBryde winning 56% of the casted votes. With his victory, Pitts became the first African American Mayor of Fayetteville and the youngest Mayor to serve the city.

During his second elected term, Pitts inherited approximately 43,000 new residents to the city of Fayetteville when the adjacent county of Cumberland, North Carolina was annexed adding Cumberland County residents to the roles of the citizens of Fayetteville. Under Pitt's leadership as Mayor, the city of Fayetteville expanded tremendously. New affordable housing was built, the city's recreation facilities for the youth was improved, and major downtown revitalization projects were developed.

As a result of Pitts' efforts, the city won several national awards for civic programs that had been introduced. In being recognized for those improvements to the city, Pitts

was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee to the North Carolina League of Municipalities Community and Economic Development. He also served on the Executive Board of Directors of the North Carolina Metropolitan Cities Coalition and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Transportation Committee.

In his third re-election bid for Mayor, Pitts was defeated by Tony Chavonne, losing by ten percentage points. The annexed Cumberland County this time played a pivotal role in his defeat, as Chavonne won the County handedly. In defeat, Pitts returned to private practice.

In private practice, Pitts specialized in minor traffic offenses, social security disability claims, and personal injury cases. He also has handled wrongful death cases. Pitts has litigated hundreds of these cases and has won a high percentage of them.

In 2004, Pitts was appointed to the Board of Directors of Electricities of North Carolina, Inc., the state agency that sets public utilities policies for all municipally owned utility service providers. He again was the first African American to be named to the position. Soon thereafter, he was named as a member of the prestigious University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Pitts served as the Chair of the powerful Education, Planning, and Policy Committee.

For his service to his community and the legal profession, in 2014, Pitts was given tribute by the North Carolina Bar Association when it named him as its' "Citizen Lawyer". The award is given annually to an attorney that has provided exemplary public service to their communities. The residents of Fayetteville voted him as an annual "Readers' Choice" Award recipient as well. The award winner is published and highlighted in the Fayetteville Observer Newspaper each year.

Pitts, in association with his two brothers, Miguel and Myron, hosted a successful radio talk show, "MP3 Brothers", heard throughout southeastern North Carolina. On the show, they discuss topics from politics to sports, to entertainment and current events. Pitts also wrote political opinion articles for "The Communication and Law Journal". One of his more successful published writings was entitled, "The Supreme Court: Forging the Way for Upheaval in the Oval Office", and published in the Law Journal.



**DA
BG.
PLATT**

...was born on September 29, 1863 in Chicago, Illinois to Amelia B. and Jacob F. Pratt. Her parents were business people and owned a lumber business. At an early age, she was

taught to play the piano and learned to speak German and French.

Platt graduated from high school in the Chicago public schools before obtaining her undergraduate degree and her law degree from the Chicago College of Law in 1894. She became the first African American woman to graduate from the law school and after passing the Illinois State Bar exam, she became the first African American woman to earn a law license in the state of Illinois.

At that time, there were only three other African American women practicing law in the United States. Ironically, Platt's cousin, Richard Theodore Greener, was the first African-American to graduate from Harvard College in Cambridge Massachusetts. He would go on to become a Dean of Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C..

To pay for her law degree, Platt worked as a stenographer and law reporter in the law office of white Chicago attorney, Jesse Cox. Cox was a specialist lawyer that worked in the field of patent law. After receiving her law degree, Platt took a job working in the law offices of Joseph Washington Errant, another white attorney who she had attended high school with. Working in Errant's office, Platt specialized in real estate and probate law.

In 1896, Platt was selected to speak in New York City at the National Convention of the Colored Women's League. In her speech entitled, "Woman in the Profession of Law", she spoke on the need for more women to become involved in the profession. Her speech was well received and inspired many young African American women in undergraduate school to pursue a legal career.

In 1911, Platt had earned enough money and respect amongst her legal peers that she opened a law office in downtown Chicago. She was the first African American woman to do so. She then joined the Cook County Bar Association, again, the first African American woman to do so.

Platt developed a large foreign clientele due to her abilities to speak fluent French and German that she had learned as a child. With the influx of European immigrants, her law practice became very successful. She soon earned enough money and clients that she opened her own law practice in 1906.

With her newly found success, she moved her family from the neighborhood of Chicago called the "Chicago Black Belt" to the affluent neighborhood of Hyde Park. She would operate her private practice from both her office in the North American Building and her office in her home in Hyde Park for the next twenty years. During that time, she was the only African American female lawyer in the state of Illinois. The next would not enter the Illinois legal field until 1920.

In 1928, when Platt turned sixty-five years old, she married and moved to England. She never returned to the United States. She died in England in 1939 at the age of seventy-six years old. In her memory, the city of Chicago named a senior citizens housing development in her name, the Ida Platt Apartments.



HAROLD D. POPE

...received his Bachelor of Arts degree, summa cum laude, in Political Science from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. He obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from Duke University

Law School in Durham, North Carolina.

Pope worked at the law offices of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss in its' Deroit, Michigan office for a period of time. He then joined Dykema, a leading national law firm headquartered in Detroit, Michigan in its' Litigation Department. He served as a Senior Counsel to the Executive management team.

At Dykema, Pope represents his clients in State and Federal Courts specializes in several disciplines. He represents claims of age and race discrimination for corporate employers, franchise termination and disputes over exclusive market areas, and disputes between automotive suppliers and manufacturers. Pope litigates cases of professional malpractice and corporate Directors and Officers liability as well as product liability. Pope handles construction claims, personal injury, general contacts, and small corporation disputes.

Active in several professional organizations, Pope has served as past President of the National Bar Association, past Chair for the National Bar Institute, and past Chair for the American Bar Association's Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice. He has served as a member of the American Bar Association's Board of Governors, served on the Michigan State Bar's Judicial Qualifications Committee, and served on the Board of Trustees for the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation. Pope has served on the American Bar Association's House of Delegates Nominating Committee and its' Audit Committee as well. He is a member of the Wolverine Bar Association and the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association.

Pope has received many awards and honors, including receiving the National Bar Association's C. Francis Stradford Award, the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association Trailblazer Award, and the Wolverine Bar Association's Damon J. Keith Community Service Award. He has also been presented the National Bar Association's Commercial Law Section's Cora T. Walker Legacy Award. In addition, Pope has received the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice Award.





CECIL FRANCIS POOLE

...was born in on July 14, 1914 in Birmingham, Alabama to Eva and William Poole. To escape southern segregation, the family moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania when Cecil was four

years old. They later relocated to Washington, D.C.. In his youth, Poole became interested in music. In high school, he was a member of singing group began by famed jazz artist Billy Eckstine.

Poole attended high school in Washington, D.C. and matriculated to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he earned an A.B. in 1935. In 1938, he received a Bachelor of Laws degree from the same university. He went on to receive a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1939.

After obtaining his Harvard law degree, Poole took and passed the Pennsylvania state Bar. He accepted a position, his first attorney job, with the National Labor Relations Board. Formed in 1935, the Board is a U.S. government independent agency whose responsibility is to conduct elections for labor unions and to investigate unfair labor practices bringing a remedy to any voter related issues.

After the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, the United States entered World War II. Poole, in 1942, was called to duty and entered the United States Army. Before departing he married his wife, Charlotte Crump. During his stint in the Army, he served in the North Atlantic Wing of the Air Transport Command based in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Although Poole had passed the Pennsylvania bar and was a practicing attorney, he was assigned to an all-black unit used for manual labor. Before leaving the Army, he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant and later First Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General's office.

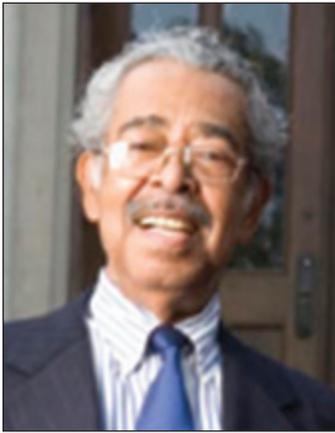
After his discharge from the Army in 1946, Poole accepted a position in San Francisco, California as a research attorney for the West Coast Office of Price Administration (OPA). He then became Assistant District Attorney in the office of San Francisco District Attorney Edmund "Pat" Brown. In 1958, Brown was elected Gov-

ernor of California and appointed Poole as his Extradition and Clemency Secretary. President John F. Kennedy, on June 29, 1960, appointed Poole as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California. With that appointment, Poole became the first African American U.S. attorney in the continental United States.

In 1968, Poole was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson for the U.S. District Court for Northern California. Poole withdrew his nomination after the Senate failed to confirm him. Poole left the United States Attorney's office in 1970 to return to private law practice. He focused his practice on entertainment law. As an entertainment lawyer, he represented several prominent musicians including the Jefferson Airplane, the Doobie Brothers, and as Janis Joplin.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford appointed Poole to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Poole again became a first, this time, the first African American federal judge in Northern California. Another first for him came when in 1979, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. This position placed Poole as the first African American to serve on the Court of Appeals. Poole sat on the bench for over twenty-five years. In 1996, he became Senior Judge. The same year, Poole was inducted into the Charles Houston Bar Association Hall of Fame.

As a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, joining the Epsilon chapter while he attended the University of Michigan, Poole gave his life to the betterment of his clients and his community. On November 12, 1997, Judge Cecil Poole died from complications arising from pneumonia. He was eighty-three years old.



EDWARD MELVIN PORTER

...was born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on May 22, 1930. Upon graduation from high school, Porter joined the U.S. Army. Deciding that enrolling would be the best way for him to pay

for his college education, he signed up.

In the Army, Porter found himself assigned to the Tennessee National Guard, an all-white unit. They were shipped to Korea to serve out their duties. At eighteen years old, he became the first to integrate his unit in the Tennessee National Guard. After completing his service, Porter returned to civilian life, used his government earned GI Bill, and enrolled into Tennessee State University (TSU), in Nashville, Tennessee to begin earning his undergraduate degree.

At TSU, he excelled and in his senior year, he became President of the student body. He played an important role in arranging a visit by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to TSU's campus. Completing his undergraduate studies, Porter enrolled into Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He received his L.L.B degree in 1959. He received his L.L.D. from Shorter College the same year. In 1960, he took and passed the Oklahoma Bar exam.

Porter opened offices in Oklahoma City and began practice. A year into his career, he was elected President of the Oklahoma City National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). An advocate of civil rights, Porter formed an alliance with Clara Luper, a pioneering retired schoolteacher, and civic leader. With her and other NAACP members, Porter supported organized staged sit-ins and boycotts to protest Oklahoma City's segregated public accommodations and facilities.

Porter provided legal services and marched alongside the protesters. He too was arrested in the protests. From those sit-ins and protests, Oklahoma City's city ordinances on segregated public facilities was changed. By July of 1962, more than 170 restaurants began to serve African Americans in their establishments.

In 1962, Porter decided to enter politics. As a Republican, he campaigned unsuccessfully for an Oklahoma House of Representatives seat. He tried again in 1964, this time in District 18 of the state and this time as a Dem-

ocrat. He lost again, this time in the primary.

Late in the year, Oklahoma's legislative districts were redrawn. The newly drawn plans would now give Oklahoma City's black population a fair chance at electing someone from their own district, District 48, for a Senate seat. Porter saw the opportunity, ran and was victorious for two-year position, beating out three other opponents.

In the next election of 1966, Porter faced a strong opponent in John B. White, a black leader from the community. In his challenge of Porter for his Senate seat, White lost the election. Porter remained in the Senate, this time for an elected four years.

During his terms in office, Porter assisted in creating legislation that represented his constituents. He introduced several key bills, including Oklahoma's Anti-Discrimination Act, an act similar to the federal 1964 Civil Rights Act. He introduced a bill requiring black history to be included in the printed versions of state textbooks. Another bill introduced by Porter ended the prohibition on miscegenation.

Porter remained in the Oklahoma State Senate until 1986 when he lost that election to up and coming black attorney, Vicki Miles-LaGrange. Miles-LaGrange, spirited in her campaigning, defeated Porter in a very heated race. Porter, after serving for three terms relinquished his seat.

In 1993, Porter was appointed as the County Assessor for the Oklahoma County Commissioners Office. It was in 1993 that Porter changed his political affiliation back to Republican.

After eighteen months of controversy on the job, Porter left the County Commissioners Office.



ROMAE TURNER POWELL

..was born on August 3, 1926 in Atlanta, Georgia. She was the youngest of five children. Her mother worked as a housewife and her father worked as a laborer in a Laundromat. Despite their meager lifestyle, Pow-

ell's father worked to ensure they did not look at themselves as being poor and refused to allow his children to work in servitude jobs for whites not wanting them to feel the effects of the segregated South she grew up in.

Powell grew up in a very religious Baptist family where values were held to a high standard. She was given books to read and she would often read them to other neighborhood children. Of course, there were always daily Bible readings. By the time she had reached the eighth grade, she knew she wanted to become a lawyer. Realizing that blacks were unrepresented within the law, she realized that through education, she could be just as good as any white person and that was constantly emphasized by her mother and her father. Her resolve to become a lawyer was reinforced upon hearing of the case of the Scottsboro Boys case, a case in which nine African-American boys were falsely arrested for assault and rape charges.

Powell's father died when she was fourteen years old. She was even more determined to succeed, not only for herself, but also for the legacy of her father who worked hard to provide for her a better education than the one he had. She finished in the top percentage of her high school class at Booker T. Washington High School before entering Atlanta's Spelman College.

She graduated from Spelman in 1947 with her undergraduate degree. She then entered Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where she obtained her law degree. At Howard, Powell was able to witness courtroom proceedings with her classmates, including oral cases presented before the United States Supreme Court. She completed her law degree requirements in 1950.

Powell returned to Atlanta and opened her own private practice on historic Auburn Avenue. Her practice specialized in serving low-income families with their legal needs. She joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and took cases involving civil rights and other injustices inflicted on the African American community. She played an important part in fighting the U.S. government's pursuit to obtain the NAACP membership list in an attempt to discover if the organization had any subversive members.

In 1954, Powell married C. Clayton Powell who was the President of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP. He also owned a private practice optometrist business. Together they had two children, Clayton Jr. and Rometta.

Powell operated her private practice for many years becoming successful and earning a respectable reputation for serving the needs of Atlanta residents. In 1968, she was appointed as the full-

time Referee to the Fulton County Juvenile Court. She became the first African American Referee appointed in Fulton County after being named to the position by then Judge John S. Langford, Jr.. In her role as Referee, Powell handled matters that dealt with juvenile issues.

Five years later, Powell was again supported by then Judge Langford, Jr. before the Judicial Selection Committee of the Atlanta Bar Association when she was promoted to a full court Judgeship. She became the first African American female Judge ever appointed in the State of Georgia. As a full-time Judge, she continued her work on behalf of Georgia children and advocate for legislative changes in the children's court systems.

Although Judge Powell was a full-time sitting Judge, her presence was not embraced by all of her fellow Judges and court administrators. Georgia still operated under segregated laws, which meant separate bathroom and eating arrangements. Black and white juveniles were being placed with probation officers based on race and Judge Powell sat out to change that. Many of her peers saw her as a threat to the system and worked to undermine her efforts. At times, even African Americans that entered her courtroom were taken aback after seeing her robbed and sitting behind the bench. Some did not know whether to have trust in her or to be skeptical of her.

Despite the uphill battle, Judge Powell soon won respect from her peers, attorneys litigating cases before her, and the community at large for her persistence protection of the juveniles that had been caught up in the legal system whether they deserved to or not. She understood the many mitigating circumstances that may have surrounded their incarceration or the laws they may have broken. She believed in second chances for many and deserved punishment for others.

In running her courtroom, Judge Powell took it upon herself to swear in each of the juveniles appearing before her personally. He ordered defendants to write essays describing their charges as to why they had been arrested and were appearing before her. This small but effective measure established not only trust between her and the defendants but earned her respect from lawyers that saw her as taking a "motherly" approach to her adjudications. Even when she was met with racism and yelled at with racial epithets, she always kept her composure as she handed out her decisions.

Outside the courtroom, Judge Powell also worked to improve the lives of juveniles. She helped to establish vocational training programs and created activities intended to give youth an opportunity to become involved with community based responsibilities to improve the neighborhoods in which they lived. She lobbied to raise the age of adulthood from seventeen to eighteen and advocated for better food for those incarcerated in Georgia's juvenile detention centers.

Judge Powell was active in many legal, social, and professional organizations. The Georgia Governor George Busbee appointed her as a member of the State Crime Committee and to the National Council of Juvenile Court Justice's Committee on Serious and Repeat Offenders. She served as the President of the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges and as a member of the Georgia Alliance for Children. She was also a member of the Gate City Bar Association.

Judge Romae Turner Powell died of lung cancer on July 20, 1990. She was sixty-three years old.





ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.

...was born on in 1908 in New Haven, Connecticut to Mattie Buster Shaffer and Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. who had relocated there from West Virginia and Virginia. He and his sister Blanche, who is ten years older, were

of mixed race having African and European ancestry with his father also having bloodlines to American Indians on his mother's side as she was classified as "mulatto" during those times. Due in part to his European ancestry, Powell, Jr. was born with hazel eyes, blond hair And fair skin and could pass for white.

Powell Sr., born into poverty, worked hard to escape his upbringing conditions and was accepted to Wayland Seminary, a historically black college, Yale University for postgraduate studies, and Virginia Seminary. After completion of his seminary requirements, Powell Sr. was called as the pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City and led the church for decades. The church grew to a community of 10,000 persons. Because of Powell, Sr.'s success, the Powell children grew up in a wealthy household in New York City.

Powell Jr., attended Townsend Harris High School and studied at City College of New York before, as a freshman, attending Colgate University. Passing as white, Powell used his looks to escape racial hatred at the university. His father wanted him to become a Minister so Powell Took his studies Seriously and earned his Bachelor's degree in 1930 before completing his graduate work in 1931 At Columbia University, earning an M.A. in Religious Education. While obtaining his degree at Columbia, he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, a black fraternal organization.

After his ordination, as a Preacher, Powell began to assist his father at the church, and. He helped increase the meals and clothing the Church provided to the needy and learned more about the lives of the working and poor people in Harlem. Over the next several years, the Harlem community began to recognize him in his push for jobs and affordable housing. He became Chairman of the Coordinating Committee for Employment using various tactics of community organizing placing political pressure on major businesses to hire black employees at professional levels.

Powell succeeded his father as pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in 1938. He continued in his fathers footsteps by organizing large attended meetings, conducting rent strikes, forcing utility companies, Harlem Hospital, and other companies that operated in the black community, to hire more black workers with fare wages and compensation. In one instance, during the 1939 New York World's Fair, Powell organized a picket line which resulted more than five-hundred black employees being hired.

In 1941, the Transit Authority hired two-hundred black workers after Powell led a bus boycott. He led a drive to have

Harlem operated drugstores hire black pharmacists. He suggested to the local community that they shop only where blacks were hired to work stating that "*Mass action is the most powerful force on earth...*," and adding, "*As long as it is within the law, it's not wrong; if the law is wrong, change the law.*" This vehement stance got elected to the New York City Council as the city's first black Council member.

Having a platform of civil rights for African Americans, making lynching a federal crime, support for fair employment practices, and a ban on poll taxes, Powell ran for the United States Congress in 1944. He was elected as a Democrat to represent the Congressional District that included Harlem and became the first black Congressman from New York State. Taking his position in Congress, Powell continued his civil rights and fight to end racism by challenging the informal ban on black representatives using Capitol facilities reserved for white members. He invited his black constituents to dine with him in the "Whites Only" House restaurant. He developed the "Powell Amendments" strategy that required federal funds be denied to any jurisdiction maintaining segregation.

Fifteen years later, Powell became the Chairman of the powerful House Education and Labor Committee. In that role, he advocated for minimum wages for retail workers, vocational training, the establishment of Medicaid, equal pay for women, education and training for the deaf, nursing education, and financial assistance for elementary, secondary education, and school libraries. The committee played an important role in enacting major parts the social programs of President Kennedy's "*New Frontier*" and President Johnson's "*Great Society*" and the "*War on Poverty*".

Powell's tenure was not without controversy. He was criticized for "mismanaging his committee's budget" and accused of, at public expense, taking "unnecessary "trips abroad, and missing his committee meetings regularly instead spending time in Florida. Opposition and criticism led the House Democratic Caucus to strip Powell of his Committee Chairmanship in January 1967. Under investigation by the Judiciary Committee, the full House refused to seat him until completion of the investigation. With a vote of 307 to 116, on March 1, the House voted to exclude him opting for a Special Election to fill his vacancy caused by his exclusion.

Powell ran and won the Special Election but did not take his seat instead filing a separate lawsuit, "*Powell v. McCormack*". Re-elected in November of 1968, he was seated as a member of the 91st Congress on January 3, 1969. Although elected by his constituents, he was fined \$25,000 and denied seniority. In June 1969, in *Powell v. McCormack*, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the House had acted unconstitutionally when it excluded Powell, as he had been duly elected by his constituents.

Powell's increased absenteeism was noted by his constituents and in June of 1970 he was defeated in the Democratic primary losing his seat to Charles B. Rangel. After the defeat, Powell resigned as Minister at the Abyssinian Baptist Church moved to his retreat on Bimini in the Bahamas. Becoming gravely ill from acute prostatitis, he died on April 4, 1972 at the age of sixty-three.

Photo Not Available



CARLISLE EDWARD PRATT

..was born in 1923 Washington, D.C. to Hazel Pratt and Edward Pratt. He attended local public schools before enrolling into the Robert H. Terrell Law School in his hometown of Washington where he

received his undergraduate degree. To pay his college tuition, Pratt worked at the Library of Congress and sold fruit on the streets of Washington.

After graduation from Howard's Law School, Pratt passed the D.C. Bar exam. In 1951, he began his professional legal career. He focused his attention on domestic relations, and business contracts. Pratt also handled real estate matters.

After practicing law for many years in Washington, Pratt was elected as a Judge in the District. In 1977, then President Jimmy Carter named Pratt to a seat on the D.C. Superior Court. Due to his years of excellent representation of his clients and his winning record before the

Courts, he was thought to be the best person to take the seat on the bench according to the President's Recommending Committee. The Committee felt that Pratt would keep the Court legally healthy and be able to best serve the community from the bench as he had done as a private practicing attorney.

While on the bench, Judge Pratt served on all branches of the Court. In adjudicating his cases, he was able to apply the law and use his skills to help those that came before him work their way back to a healthy and productive life, if possible. He felt there was no obstacle that could prevent one from achieving any goal the desired.

In 1990, Judge Pratt retired from the Court due to a disability. He had served on the District Court for twelve years. Years later, Judge Pratt's daughter, Sharon, would become Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, the first African American woman to become Mayor of Washington, D.C..

Judge Pratt was a mentor and inspiration to many young African Americans in Washington, D.C.. He taught the up and coming attorneys to be prepared for their cases and emphasized the importance of becoming a perfectionist in researching and presenting their cases. He stressed they be able to maintain a healthy family life while working at the daily task of being a good lawyer.

Judge Carlisle Edward Pratt died of supranuclear palsy, a rare degenerative disease caused by pneumonia. He was seventy years old.





SHARON PRATT KELLY

...was born on in 1908 in ...was born in Washington, D.C. to Mildred "Peggy" (Petticord) Pratt and Washington, D.C. Superior Court judge Carlisle Edward Pratt. Her mother died of breast cancer when she was four years old. Her grandmother and an aunt became caretakers of her while her father tended to the nation's capitol's legal system.

Pratt attended D.C. public schools graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1961 with honors. She entered Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1965. She joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority before obtaining her law degree from Howard's Law School in 1968. She met her husband, Arrington Dixon, while in law school. Together, they had two daughters before divorcing twelve years later.

During those twelve years married to Dixon, Pratt-Dixon became involved in both the local and national political scenes. With her father being the District Court Judge, she was constantly in the inner circle of politics and the law and was constantly challenged by her father throughout her early and adult years to be as great as she wanted to be. Pratt-Dixon joined the Democratic Party and by 1977, she had become a member of the Democratic National Committee from the District of Columbia. She was the first woman to hold a membership to the Committee.

Pratt-Dixon served as the Treasurer to the National Committee and during the National Convention held in 1980, she served as a member of the Ad Hoc Credentials Committee. She was also asked to be a member of the Judicial Council. In addition, Pratt-Dixon Co-Chaired the Rules Committee.

In 1983, Pratt-Dixon became the Vice President of Community Relations at Pepco, the Washington, D.C. and surrounding area's electric utility provider. She became the first woman and first African American to be hired by Pepco in her role. That same year, Pratt-Dixon was presented with the Presidential Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In 1990, Pratt-Dixon ran for Mayor of Washington, D.C. challenging incumbent Mayor Marion Barry. When she announced her candidacy, Barry was running unopposed in the election. He was arrested in a drug sting at a local Washington hotel and dropped out of the race. Other candidates soon joined the race, some from the D.C. City Council. Pratt-Dixon was the first to call for Barry's resignation and let the city voters know that. She attacked her rival City Council candidates calling them "three blind mice" for having allowed the city to fall in decay while they sat on the Council.

With the endorsement of the Washington Post Newspaper, Pratt-Dixon was elected as Mayor of Washington, D.C.. She became the first female and the African American woman to run the District of Columbia. Before taking office as Mayor, Pratt-Dixon married James Kelly, III and she changed her name to Sharon Pratt-Kelly.

As Mayor, Pratt-Kelly made good on her campaign promise and cleaned house asking for resignations of Barry appointees. She slashed the city's payroll, which many in the city disapproved of. She began to anger labor leaders when she cut back on the budget for firefighters, mandated unpaid furloughs for other government employees and froze pay increases.

Soon, city workers began to leave their jobs. There became a high turn over rate for city employees and Pratt-Kelly came under increased pressure. Three City Administrators came and left. Two Chiefs of Staff departed after taking the job and Three Deputy Mayors for Economic Development passed through. In addition, two Department of Finance Chiefs accepted the position and subsequently left.

Pratt-Kelly renovated became even more at odds with members of the D.C. Council when she announced that the Mayor's Office was going to move from the D.C. City Hall Building to the new at One Judiciary Square,

ten blocks away while the City Hall was being renovated. Some thought the move to plusher quarters was a waste of taxpayer's money while she had cut back on other city services for D.C. residents.

Nonetheless, Pratt-Kelly moved her Mayor's Office to the Judiciary Square. The Council members in protest refused to leave their offices in City Hall. They even accused Pratt-Dixon of deliberately cutting back on services at City Hall to force them to move during renovations. Displeased with Pratt's actions, the City Council members voted to take full and exclusive control of City Hall away from Pratt-Kelly. She lost control of the City Council who was still loyal to past Mayor Mayor Barry.

Barry was convicted of drug use and was sentenced to time in jail. After serving six-months, Barry returned to Washington politics and ran for a seat on the City Council. He easily won a seat on the Council and was a powerful force in D.C. politics. So much so, that he was named, "Washington D.C. Mayor for Life" by city residents that love him so much.

Pratt-Dixon came under fire from certain Ward within the city who felt she pondered far too much to the wealthier Wards in the city while the Barry camp was inner city low-income strong. Pratt, as a light skinned woman, received some disdain as they felt she was too far on the white side of governing as opposed to identifying with the working class African American neighborhoods. Many felt Pratt was too distant to those that had elected her to serve.

During her tenure as Mayor, Pratt was a leader in the push for Washington, D.C. statehood. Facing fierce opposition from the Republican members in Congress who were vehemently opposed to a one party vote for the nation's capitol. She came under opposition and received unwelcomed attacks when she supported Council member Linda Cropp to serve as Acting Chair after the suicide of Chair John A. Wilson in May of 1993. The Council ultimately chose John L. John as the new Chair. Pratt-Kelly's political capital was dwindling.

Kelly again came under fire when the Washington Redskins, the city's professional team left the city to move to nearby Landover, Maryland. With the team's departure, millions of dollars left the city as well. Pratt-Kelly and Washington owner Jack Kent Cooke could not come to an agreement for the city to build a new football stadium where Maryland was more than eager to give concessions for the team to relocate.

In the negotiations, Pratt-Kelly in a TV broadcast called Cooke a "billionaire bully", which was not to please Cooke. Although the two did come to an agreement to build the stadium, Cooke later changed his mind and moved the team out of the city. Some in the city called her her to resign.

With the departure of the football team meant city revenues and expected income would cause the city to have a big deficit. Pratt-Kelly went to Congress to lobby for more money for the city. She showed that the city would be \$1 billion in the hole at the current spending rate for the needs already approved by Congress for the same provided services to city residents.

Congress ordered the Government Accounting Office to look into the finances of the city and provided audited financial statements. The audit showed the Mayor's personal expenditures of makeup and makeup artists. It showed her spending city funds on household improvements, including bullet proof glass in her home, and a marble fireplace added to her office.

The report projected that the city would run out of money in two years. It blamed the projected deficit on Pratt-Kelly mismanagement of her elected duties. It showed that she had concealed this information from Congress and had perilously placed the city in its' fiscal condition. The audit alleged that Pratt-Kelly had violated the federal Anti-Deficiency Act, which prohibits over spending on a federally approved budget.

In the next election, many of those that had endorsed Pratt-Kelly were choosing other candidates to give their support. The Washington Post even chose another candidate, Councilman John Ray, over the incumbent Mayor or printing in their paper that she was not a coalition builder. In the upcoming election, Pratt-Kelly finished a distant third with only fourteen percent of the vote, well behind ultimate winner, "The Washington, D.C. Mayor for Life", Marion Barry. Barry was elected even though he had spent time in jail for a drug charge. Another ironic fact to her loss is that one instrumental player for Mayor Barry's transition team was none other than Pratt-Kelly's ex-husband, Arrington Dixon. Pratt-Kelly left office and became a consultant to several businesses, federal government agencies, local and state administrators in their energy related matters.





M MONIQUE PRESSLEY

..is a native of Galveston, Texas, Monique. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. She moved east to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University's School of Law where she received her law degree. While in undergraduate and law school, Pressley interned in the offices of U.S. Congressional Representative Jack Brooks and Representative Charlie Wilson. When Pressley completed her law school requirements, she took the D.C. Bar exam, passed and was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar.

In her early beginnings of her legal career, Pressley served as a Senior Assistant Attorney General for the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General at the Department of Justice (DOJ). As the Assistant Attorney General serving the D.C. Mayor, Pressley was responsible for all legal matters as they relate to the city's operations. The legal issues could be either legislative or civil, Pressley was the key legal advisor on the matter.

Pressley currently serves as the principal of The Pressley Firm PLLC. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., she serves the metropolitan D.C. specializing in complex civil litigation, crisis management, business and personal dissemination of information, and communications. Pressley also services new business incorporations and business development.

Pressley has served her alma mater, Howard University's School of Law as an Adjunct Professor at the law school. She taught Trial Advocacy and was coach of an award winning Trial Advocacy Moot Court Team. She teaches some of the same principals at seminars and lecturers across the country for organizations, associations, and corporate legal management teams.

In her practice, Pressley encompasses a new and unique approach to developing her client and walking them through the process of their legal troubles. She introduces her biblical teachings into her application of her decision making blended with her learned teachings of the law.

Devout to her beliefs, in 2001, Pressley felt a call to become a preacher for the Gospel. Five years later, she had obtained her license and was ordained in 2007. As

she spread the word of God, she prayed over each case as she searched for a resolution to the problem at hand. Several years later, Pressley launched the Monique Pressley Ministries, a world wide evangelical ministry

Pressley came to national attention when she represented famed entertainer and TV star, Bill Cosby. Cosby was accused of spiking young women's drink in order to take sexual abuse of them as several women had claimed. Called in to do damage control and to litigate the defense of the claims, Pressley made many TV appearances, journalistic interviews, and written depositions and motions, on behalf of Cosby. The case would take several years to go through the court process. Pressley would resign as Cosby's attorney during the process. Her reasons were never fully given and Cosby hired a new team of lawyers as the case moved forward.

In laying the groundwork for building the case, Pressley appeared on CNN, ABC News, Al Jazeera America, MSNBC, FOX News, and Arise News. She also made appearances on NewsOne Now with Roland Martin on TV One and served as a legal analyst regularly. She has been heard on the "Tom Joyner Morning Show" giving legal commentary where she analysis current events from a legal perspective.

Her interviews have appeared and been referenced in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Legal Times, Essence Magazine, and Jet Magazine. She served as the radio talk show host for "Breathe Through It with Monique Pressley", a weekday webcast broadcast through the Internet and listened to weekdays around the world.



HUGH B. PRICE

...was born on November 22, 1941 in Washington, D.C.. He grew up in a middle class family, as his father was a physician. He began his education attending segregated schools in Washington. His family

moved to an integrated neighborhood in order to give Price a multicultural education.

In his studies, he discovered truths about things he had been taught as a young boy were wrong. Realizing that there was an untold story about the Civil War, he began to speak out on the side of the War and U.S. History that many would not mention. He once told a group of listeners, that he was a grown man before he learned that literary authors Aleksandr Pushkin and Alexandre Dumas were black, a simple fact that the history books failed to mention.

Price attended Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts where he received his undergraduate degree in 1963. He obtained his law degree from Yale University in New Haven, Rhode Island in 1966. After passing the bar exam, Price remained in New Haven to begin to address issues with the inner city and to help those needing legal help. During that time, Price married Marilyn Lloyd and the bore three children.

Price took a job with the New Haven Legal Assistance Association. He then became the Executive Director of the Black Coalition of New Haven. Although he was involved in the social aspects of improving the lives of African American's, Price did not emerge as a national civil rights leader. He quietly worked behind the scenes for ten years working to improve the living conditions of those that he served and could help.

Price left the Black Coalition and joined the urban affairs consulting firm of Cogen, Holt & Associates there in New Haven. At the firm, his specialty was analyzing municipal governments foundation programs. After a period of time at the law firm, he left to work for the City of New Haven in its' Human Resources Department serving as its' Director.

In 1978, Price became a member of the Editorial Board of the New York Times. As a member of the Editorial Board, Price was able to shape the policies of the Editorial Pages

of what the Board released. He was able to influence their readers directly and indirectly on topics from politics to religion. Price kept most of his writing opinions on domestic U.S. policies and surrounding issues.

Price remained with the Editorial Board for four years before moving to WNET/Thirteen, New York City's public television station in 1982. Several years later, he became the Senior Vice President of the station. While there, Price directed the division responsible for the production of all national programming aired by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

In 1988, Price was named as the Vice President of Rockefeller Foundation. His was responsible for the oversight of the Foundation's domestic investments. He also was given the task of improving the education at at-risk youth and to provide alternative opportunities to enhance their lives.

In oversight of the Foundation's charitable giving, Price assisted many private and public institutions better serve their youth and their communities at large. He managed the foundation's Special Initiatives and Explorations grant fund and was instrumental in helping minorities gain more opportunities, both economic and social.

In 1994, Price was appointed as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League. He served as President for nine years. He left the Urban League to serve as a Visiting Professor at Princeton University's John L. Weinberg/Goldman Sachs School of Public and International Affairs, which is a part of Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School. Price taught at the school for five years. During that time, he also serves as a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the nation's oldest think tank, the Brookings Institution.

Price has served as a member of the Political Science Academy, the American Philosophical Society and the Council on Foreign Relations. He has served as a member of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Price has served on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Sears Roebuck & Company, ; Bell Atlantic, and Educational Testing Service.

Price has been honored by Amherst College, Yale University, and Yale University Law School. The Law School awarded him its' Law School Medal of Honor and Hunter College in New York City gave Price its' President's Medal. He also received a Distinguished Service Award from the Council of Chief State School Officers.



JOHN EDMONSON PRIM

... was born on September 15, 1898 in Nashville, Tennessee to Charles and Sara Prim. When he was six years old, the family moved to Seattle, Washington. He attended local Seattle Public Schools Olympic,

Rainier, Denny, and Colman Elementary Schools before graduating from Seattle's Franklin High School in 1918 where he played high school sports and was a member of the debate team. Prim also served as the President of the school's Glee Club.

During World War I, Prim fulfilled his military obligations by enlisting into the Student Officers Training Corps at the University. To earn his undergraduate degree, Prim attended Seattle's University of Washington. To pay his tuition, he worked as a waiter at the Butler Hotel. He was a member of the schools football and baseball teams. For his law degree, he remained at the University and completed his Bachelor of Laws degree studies in 1927.

After graduating from law school, Prim opened a private law practice in Seattle. He would practice law from the firm's offices for the next sixteen years. In 1943, he took a public office position as a Deputy Prosecutor of King County. He became the first African American to serve as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County. After eight years serving as a prosecutor, Prim returned to private practice.

In 1954, Prim was appointed by then Mayor Allan Pomeroy as a Judge Pro Tem of Seattle's Municipal Court. He became the first African American Judge in the State of Washington. That same year, he was selected to serve on the welcoming committee to Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selasse when he visited Seattle in June.

Judge Prim was later selected to serve as a Precinct Committeeman as well as a member of King County Democratic Central Committee. He would found the Seattle Urban League and served as the first African American member of the State Board of Prisons and Parole. Prim also served as a member and the legal counsel for the First African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Judge Prim died on August 2, 1961 after having heart surgery. He was sixty-two years old.





LUCY TERRY PRINCE

...was born in 1730, captured in West Africa and brought to America as a slave. Terry was stolen from Africa and sold into slavery in Rhode Island as an infant. She remained in Rhode Island until the age of five

when she was sold to Ebenezer Wells of Deerfield, Massachusetts. Wells allowed the five-year-old to be baptized into the Christian faith during the Great Awakening. She spent her time with the Wells learning how to read and educating herself. She remained a slave until 1756.

In 1756, a successful free black man named Abijah Prince from Curacao purchased her freedom and married her giving her the freedom she desired. They were married by Justice of the Peace, Ephraim Williams who would later found Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

In 1764, the Princes moves to Guilford, Vermont, where they raised their six children, Tatnai, Cesar, Drucilla, Durexa, Abijah, Jr and Festus. Cesar would fight alongside other soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

Lucy first came to fame after composing, at the age of sixteen, a ballad, "*Bars Fight*", about a 1746 incident. The ballad was preserved orally for one-hundred and nine years until it was published in 1855 in Josiah Gilbert Holland's *History of Western Massachusetts*. It is considered the oldest known work of literature by an African American and is the only known work by Terry.

The ballad is about an attack upon two white families by Native Americans which occurred on August 25, 1746 in an area of Deerfield that the locals referred to as "The Bars". The name was a colonial term for a meadow. The poem is the earliest existing poem by an African American in U.S. history.

Although Prince had no law degree, she was a persuasive orator. In 1785, when some white neighbors threatened her family, Prince successfully petitioned the Governor of Vermont and the State Court for assistance in protection. In the 1790s, on another case, she was the first woman to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court. She successfully negotiated a land case when another neighbor tried to steal the family's land, arguing against two of the leading lawyers in the state at the time. One of them

would later become the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Vermont. Her case was won against the false land claims of Colonel Eli Bronson. This case marked the first time in the history of the United States that a black woman had ever presented oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Samuel Chase, the presiding Justice of the Court, said that her argument was better than he had heard from any Vermont lawyer.

She once delivered a three-hour address to the Board of Trustees of Williams College to gain admittance for her son Festus. She was not successful but her speech is remembered for its skill and eloquence.

Several years after Prince's husband died in 1794, she moved to nearby Sunderland, Vermont. She would annually make a journey, riding by horseback to visit her husband's Grave. She died on July 11, 1821 at the age of ninety-one.



WILLIAM C. PRYOR

...received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire in 1954. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. in 1959. In 1982, Pryor would receive his LL.M. degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After receiving his law degree and passing the bar, Pryor began his legal career serving as a associate attorney in the Civil Division of the Department of Justice Honors Program. He then served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. After a period of time as Assistant U.S. Attorney, Pryor accepted the position as Legal Counsel the Bell Telephone Companies.

In 1968, President Johnson appointed Pryor to the to the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions, now the Superior Court. In 1979, then President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. In 1984, Judge Pryor was elevated to become the Chief Judge where he served for four year. He reached senior status not long thereafter.

In 2011, Judge Pryor received the Dr. Paul Phillips Cooke Lifetime Achievement Award. He continues to teach Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and Advanced





KARL L. RACINE

.....was born in Haiti. His family fled the dictatorship regime of Francois Duvalier and emigrated to Washington, D.C. when he was three years old. He attended D.C. public schools until the eighth grade before attending the private and prestigious from St. John's College

High School where he was a star basketball player.

After graduating from St. John's, Racine entered the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he received his undergraduate degree. He then attended the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia where he obtained his law degree in 1989. While attending law school, he worked at a pro bono clinic where he represented migrant farm worker. Also, along with his mother, Racine produced the first Haitian Creole/English legal dictionary hoping to assist Haitian immigrants understand the law as they entered the United States.

After obtaining his law degree, Racine joined the law firm of Venable LLP. After spending several years with the firm, he left in 1992 to accept a staff attorney position with the District of Columbia's Public Defender Service. After spending some time with the Public Defender Service, he returned to private practice joining the law firm of Cacheris & Treanor where he handled white collar and civil crime cases.

Racine would eventually leave Cacheris & Treanor to accept a White House position as an Associate Attorney during the Clinton administration. While working in the White House, Racine served as a member of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission. As a member of the Commission, he played a role in the selection of Judges appointed by the President.

After his appointment was complete at the White House, Racine returned to work at the law offices of Venable LLP. Several years later, he became the managing partner to the firm. He was the first African American managing partner of a top 100 law firms in the country.

In 2011, Racine served as the legal counsel to Washington, D.C. Councilmember Harry Thomas Jr. who was charged with diverting \$300,000 in grants earmarked for charity and youth baseball groups to a personal account that was used to pay for personal luxury items. Thomas pled guilty to the charges, however, Racine successfully argued that Thomas deserved a lighter sentence than the prosecutor was asking for, as Thomas had used his wrongdoing and his guilty plea as an example of his commitment of teaching D.C. youth how to take responsibility when they have done wrong.

In 2014, Racine represented members of the Board of Education in Montgomery County, Maryland who faced an

inquest into state issued credit cards and the members spending habits. Racine successfully litigated the case where no intentional wrongdoing was discovered. The members did, however, have their credit cards revoked due to questionable spending. Later, after the Washington City Paper ran a series of articles, a D.C. government audit found that while Racine was the managing partner at Venable, the law firm had improperly documented expenses charged to the Troubled Asset Relief Program and had overcharged the D.C. government, including the Office of the Attorney General, by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

On November 4, 2014,, Racine was elected as the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. He was the first Haitian-African American to be elected to the office. As Attorney General, Racine was initially opposed to the initiative to legalize marijuana in the District but later reversed his position after realizing that two thirds of the city residents were in favor of the initiative. On another matter, he led a team of litigants that represented Sodexo, a food services corporation, in a class action racial discrimination suit brought by over 2,500 Sodexo African American employees.

In March of 2015, Racine again came under fire when it was discovered that he had not repaid himself several hundred thousand dollars that he had loaned his campaign when he ran for the Attorney General's Office. He was accepting political donations and campaign financing, which raised the possibility of a conflict of interest as his campaign debt had risen to \$451,000. Fearing that there may be contractors wanting to do business with the District, as Attorney General, there was the possibility that he may accept payments from contractors that wanted to do business with the city. Despite the allegations, Racine continued his work for the D.C. government.

In June of 2017, Racine and Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh filed suit against President Donald Trump alleging the he had violated anti-corruption clauses spelled out in the U.S. Constitution by accepting millions of dollars in payments and other benefits from foreign governments after becoming the President of the United States. The lawsuit was the first of its' kind ever brought by a government entity against a sitting President. The overall premise of the suit was that Trump continued to operate his private business interests while serving as President, a violation of constitutional law. The case is pending in the courts.

For his charitable deeds, Racine has served on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, as a Board member of the Steering Committee of the Whitman-Walker Clinic's Legal Services Program, and as a Board member of the local literacy organization, Everybody Wins. For the 2010 Haiti earthquake disaster, he actively raised \$125,000 from attorneys at Venable, staff members and the law firm's foundation to aid in the care of those left to face an uncertain future in Haiti. The funds went to support the Haitian Education and Leadership Program and other needed Haitian services.



MABEL WATSON RAIMEY

...was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as one of the first African American families to reside in the area. Her grandparents had emigrated from New Guinea and settled in

Milwaukee in 1851. She graduated from West Division High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1918 and obtained her law degree from Marquette University's Law School also located in Milwaukee as the first African American woman to graduate from the law school. She was admitted to the Wisconsin State Bar in 1927.

After receiving her law degree, Raimey found a job as a legal secretary. She was then hired as an associate

attorney by a white attorney. She began to represent what African American Milwaukee residents that had relocated to the area at that time as well as representing some white clients of the law firm. She was an original member of the Milwaukee Urban League Board and the founder of Milwaukee's Northside YWCA. She was also a charter member of the Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and served as a Trustee of the West Allis Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Raimey dedicated her entire legal career to helping advance the lives of African Americans for over twenty-five years in Milwaukee. In 1972, she suffered a stroke and ended her legal practice. She continued what involvement should could for local charitable organizations in Milwaukee before dying in 1986. In her honor, the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Association of Black Women Attorneys is named after Raimey. To recognize her, the Marquette University Law School dedicated a historical marker near the schools campus. The marker is located near the intersection of North 11th Street and West Wisconsin Avenue.





PETER J. RANDOLPH

...was born October 11, 1931 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Zella Mae and Lewis Herman Randolph. He had seven siblings and the family grew up practicing the Roman Catholic

religion. Randolph attended a Holy Trinity school as an elementary student and graduated from DePorres High School. As a senior, Randolph was chosen to become a Cincinnati student "Mayor of Cincinnati for a Day". He was the first African American student to be chosen for the honor.

He received his B.S. degree in History and Political Science from Xavier University in Cincinnati. In his freshman year, Randolph again became Mayor when he was chosen as the first "Mayor for Xavier University's Operation Youth" program. Randolph received his law degree from the University of Cincinnati Law School and remained at the University to receive his LL.B. degree as well.

After completing his LL.D. degree, Randolph enlisted into the United States Army. He served in the Army for two years before being honorably discharged. He returned to Cincinnati, took and passed the bar exam on the first try. In his first legal career job, Randolph became a Referee and Attorney Examiner Claims Hearing Officer for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission.

In 1989, Randolph litigated what would become one of his more notable cases. In "Mallory v. Eyrich", filed in the U.S. District Court in Ohio, Randolph pled the case that centered on the State violating the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The case played a pivotal part in changing the election process in future elections held in Ohio. Future elections allowed African American Judges to be elected to the bench where none had sat on the bench in Ohio during the period of 1965 through 1985.

Involved with the case were six other African American attorneys who assisted in Randolph in litigating the suit against the state of Ohio. The team called to testify former Ohio State Senator, William L. Mallory, Sr., who had previously served for twenty-eight years in the Ohio

House of Representatives. Randolph even called his wife to the stand, as she was one of the plaintiffs of the class action suit.

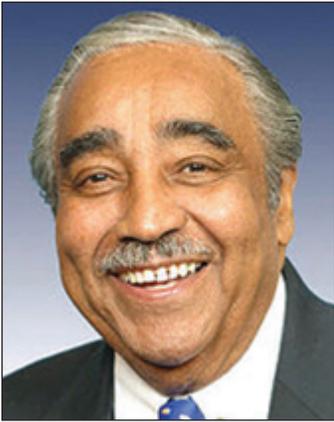
Although the case lasted over seven years, Randolph and his team were victorious in their efforts. The victory verdict paved the way for fourteen African American Judges to be elected to the Hamilton County Municipal Court in the future. Four more African American Judges would serve on the bench of the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

Randolph has served as the past President of the Evanston Community Council. He has been a past Director of the Board of Seven Hills Neighborhood Association and served as the First Grand Knight of St. Martin DePorres Council Knights of Columbus. Randolph has also served as the President of the Wesleyan Cemetery. In addition, he has served as an Archon in the Alpha Delta Boule'.

Randolph is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association and the Ohio State Bar Association. He serves as a member to the Cincinnati Bar Association, the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati, and the Black Male Coalition. He is also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

For the service given to the National Bar Association (NBA), Randolph was rewarded by being inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame by the association's members and administration. The Ohio State House of Representatives presented him with a Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding service to the legal community and Ohio citizens. The Cincinnati Chapter of the National Urban League presented Randolph with its' Glorifying the Lions Award and the St. Mark's Catholic Church named him as a Martin Luther King Honoree for its' award honoring a community leader that has shown benevolence and kindness to the community in which they lived.

Randolph is still involved in litigating Workmen's Compensation Law. He also handles cases involved in Personal Injury and Probate law. He is married to Mary Ann (Littlejohn) and they have four children, Lisa Marie; Paula Ann; Peter, Jr.; and Jason Alexander.



CHARLES BERNARD RANGEL

...was born on June 11, 1930 in Harlem, New York City to Blanche Mary Wharton Rangel and Ralph Rangel. Charles was the second of three children, having an older brother, Ralph Jr., and a younger sister, Frances. During his

early years, Charles performed well in school, and at age of eight he was working at a neighborhood drug store.

He attended DeWitt Clinton High School, dropping out during his junior at sixteen to work at low-paying jobs. Not liking his situation, he enlisted in the United States Army. He served from 1948 to 1952 during the Korean War in the all-black 503rd Field Artillery Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Division as an artillery operations specialist. After attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, Rangel took his honorable discharge and returned home to "finished high school", graduating in 1953.

Rangel went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from New York University's School of Commerce in 1957, making the dean's list. Earning a full scholarship in 1960, he obtained his law degree from St. John's University's School of Law where he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity eventually becoming a member of the fraternity's World Policy Council. Upon completing law school, Rangel passed the state bar exam, accepted a position with a prominent black law firm. Weaver, Evans & Wingate and began his private practice career. He made little money in private practice and looked to other means.

In 1961, U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy appointed Rangel as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York where he remained for a year. He then became legal counsel to the New York Housing and Redevelopment Board, Associate Counsel to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, a law clerk to pioneering Judge James L. Watson, and general counsel to the National Advisory Commission on Selective Servic. From these jobs, his interest in politics grew immensely.

For the next ten years, Rangel grew his civil and legal practice. He once ran as a party district leader but lost. During this time, although he had met her years earlier at a local ballroom, Rangel married Alma Carter, a social worker, on July 26, 1964 and had two children, Steven and Alicia. Family notwithstanding, he continued head first into the political arena.

1964, Rangel and N.Y. Assemblyman Percy Sutton formed the John F. Kennedy Democratic Club in Harlem. In 1965, he participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches. In 1966, he was selected by Harlem Democrats to run in the 72nd District for the New York State Assembly. He was victorious and served in the N.Y. State until 1970. During his tenure, he supported legalization of the numbers game, opposed harsh penalties on prostitutes, and was extremely concerned about drugs in Harlem, calling for drug pushers be held accountable for the crimes committed by their users.

In 1969, Rangel ran for New York City Council President coming in last in a field of six candidates. In 1970, he ran for U.S. House of Representatives challenging long-time incumbent Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.. In the June primary, Rangel defeated Powell by 150 votes out of around 25,000. He went on to win the November 1970 general election.

Having served in Congress as one of the longest serving House members, Rangel has sat on many Congressional committees during his tenure. He sat on the House Select Committee on Crime., the House Judiciary Committee (Watergate); the House Committee on Ways and Means, the first black to ever do so; the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control; the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee; and the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight. During his time in Congress, Rangel has worked diligently to serve his constituents and those of other poor and disenfranchised citizens.

Rangel has taken on issues such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child care initiatives, block grants, sponsored the African Growth and Opportunity Act, founded the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship Program in 2002. His work to build up the black communities in the U.S. is applauded but his time in Congress is not without blemish.

Rangel has faced ethics allegations several times in his political career. His ethics have been questioned and his personal life looked upon. Some of his questionable endeavors involved the misuse of Congressional letterhead for his Rangel Center fundraising events, renting Harlem apartments below-market rates, misuse of the House parking garage, non payment of taxes on his Dominican villa rental income, tax sheltering, unreported assets and income, and Caribbean trips.

The U.S. Ethics Committee charged Rangel with violating House rules and federal laws. He was found guilty on eleven of those charges. Although censured by the Committee, Rangel was re-elected to Congress in the following election. Honored, glorified and censored, Rangel still serves his constituents with same tenacity he had when he first began his political journey.





JOHNIE BLAKENEY RAWLINSON

...was born December 16, 1952 in Concord, North Carolina. She attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University where she received her

Bachelor of Science degree summa cum laude in 1974. She obtained her law degree with distinction from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California in 1979. Rawlinson would go on to receive a Master of Judicial Studies degree from Duke University School of Law in 2016.

After passing the bar exam, Rawlinson moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1979, where she opened a private practice firm. After a year getting her feet wet in Las Vegas, she accepted the position as a staff attorney for the Nevada Legal Services litigating cases for low-income city residents. The following year, Rawlinson took the job of Deputy District Attorney and Chief Deputy for the Clark County District Attorney's Office. Rawlinson would serve in the office for the next seventeen years.

During those seventeen years, Rawlinson would rise through the ranks to become the Chief Deputy District Attorney. She was then promoted to be the Assistant District Attorney for Clark County. Rawlinson then opened her own law practice and served as a clerk at the law offices of Kiefer Clark & O'Reilly at the same time. She received other appointments from law firms throughout the United States that needed her legal services. She practiced as an independent attorney for several years until being pegged for federal employment.

In 1997, Rawlinson was nominated by then President William "Bill" Clinton to become a United States District Judge serving on the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. She was rated Unanimously Qualified by the American Bar Association and easily won confirmation by members of the U.S. Congress and took her seat on the bench. Rawlinson became the first female and the first African American woman to become a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.

In 2000, Judge Rawlinson was again given a federal appointment by then President Clinton. This time, she

was nominated to take a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Recommended for the post by then Nevada United States Senator Harry Reid, Judge Rawlinson again became a first, the first African American woman to be named to such a post in the state. She was also the last appeals court nominee nominated and confirmed during the Clinton administration.

In 2014, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and its' three-judge panel ruled in an important national environmental case that made national news. The panel consisting of three judges, Judge Bybee, Judge Arnold, and Judge Rawlinson reversed a decision made by Judge Oliver Wanger of the Eastern District of California. The three Judges ruled to protect endangered species, including the delta smelt, living in California and agencies and developers wishing to disturb the smelt's habitat were prohibited from doing so and the land and environment must remain intact.

Judge Rawlinson resides in Las Vegas. Her husband of over forty years, Dwight Rawlinson, passed in August of 2016 from cancer.



STEPHANIE C. RAWLINGS-BLAKE

...was born on March 17, 1970 in Baltimore City, Maryland to Nina and Pete Rawlings. Her mother was a pediatrician and her father was a politician and served as a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates. As a Delegate member, Rawlings-Blake's father represented

the 40th District, which included the City of Baltimore.

Rawlings-Blake graduated high school from Western High School, the oldest public all-girls high school in the United States. She served as the elected Vice President of her senior class, graduating in 1984. She then entered Oberlin College in Ohio where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, graduating in 1992. While in college, Rawlings-Blake joined and became involved with the Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound Center and joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Epsilon Omega Chapter.

To obtain her law degree, Rawlings-Blake returned to her hometown of Baltimore and enrolled into the University of Maryland School of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1995. The following year, she was passed the Maryland State Bar exam. A year later, she was admitted to the federal bar.

In 1990, Rawlings-Blake was appointed as a member of the Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee. She served on the Committee for eight years. During that time, she served as the Annapolis lobbyist for the Young Democrats of Maryland.

In 1995, Rawlings-Blake was elected to the Baltimore City Council. She became the youngest person ever to sit on the Council representing District 5. She represented District 5 for five years. She then was elected to the Council representing District 6 where she served on the Council for three more years.

In 1997, Rawlings-Blake became an administrative law attorney for the Baltimore City office of the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau. She represented clients with free legal services to Maryland's low-income residents. She then became a staff attorney in the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. She remained at the Public Defender's Office for eight years, leaving in 2006.

In 1999, Rawlings-Blake was elected as the Vice President of the City Council. She served in that capacity for eight more years. She then was elevated to become the President of the Council in 2007 after then Council President Sheila Dixon was elected as Mayor of Baltimore. Rawlings-Blake was selected from the Council members and assumed the head seat in the Council to fulfill Dixon's term.

Rawlings-Blake ran for the seat in the next election. She ran a campaign on improving education and reducing the city's crime rate. She was victorious in her primary campaign, won the general election winning 82% of the vote, and remained head of the Council with her own full term of four years.

In 2010, then-Mayor Sheila Dixon ran into both political and legal trouble. She was forced to resign after being convicted of embezzlement. The Baltimore Charter Rules state that if the Mayor's position becomes vacant, the current presiding President of the City Council assumes the position of Mayor. With Dixon's departure, Rawlings-Blake became the Mayor of the City of Baltimore. On February 4, 2010, she was sworn in and took the reins of the city.

In the 2011 election, she won a full term to lead the city with 84% of the vote. With her new election, Rawlings-Blake vowed to bring families back into the city having a goal of increasing the city's residents by 10,000. For the 2016 general election, she decided not to enter the race, instead turning her attention to private enterprises.

Rawlings-Blake tenure as Mayor received some criticism due to the wrongful death case of Baltimore African American resident Freddie Gray who had been killed while in police custody and being transported handcuffed in the back of a police van. Rawlings-Blake came under fire for her handling of the case. At the conclusion of the first trial of the police officers, a not guilty verdict was read by the jury, which caused peaceful protests to turn into a full riot.

Rawlings-Blake was forced to request the state send in the Maryland National Guard as the city police were unable to quell the rioting, as those city residents rioting had lost all respect and trust in the police department. After two days of unrest, she was forced to ask the Governor of Maryland Larry Hogan for help and a State of Emergency was declared. The Governor stepped in, brought in more National Guard forces and ended the rioting that had turned to looting and burning of businesses with severe property damage.

Rawlings-Blake was criticized for waiting to ask for the state's help in ending the rioting, which would have saved property. Governor Hogan went on national TV and lambasted her for not returning his repeated calls for several hours when the rioting first broke out. Hogan went on to explain that by Maryland law, he could not send in state troops without the request of the Mayor.

Rawlings-Blake responded by giving a press conference and she erred when she stated that managing the riot was a delicate balancing act where she tried to give the rioters room to protest, she did want to protect private property. She made a statement that indicated she had given those aimed at destruction of property, the space in which to do so. Some read in her statements that she had given a green light to the destruction of property. She later clarified her statements indicating she was referring to giving space to those that were protesting peacefully and not those bent on destruction of property and to incite violence.

She referred to some of the rioters as "thugs", which brought more anger toward her from city residents. Certain members of the City Council, including Councilman Carl Stokes criticized Rawlings-Blake for using the reference "thugs" to describe the young rioters stating that it was equivalent to her using the "N" word. Several days later, she apologized to city residents for using the reference.

Rawlings-Blake would serve out her term as Mayor and not seek re-election. She would turn to a private life but not away from politics. By 2013, she had survived the Baltimore fiasco and was named as the Secretary of the 2013 Democratic National Committee. Serving under Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Rawlings-Blake gavelled in the 2016 Democratic National Convention. She represented the state of Maryland as a Delegate although at the Convention, she gave no endorsement to any of the candidates.

Rawlings-Blake redeemed herself to the city of Baltimore residents when she presented a study, Change to Grow: A Ten-Year Financial Plan for Baltimore,[34] the City's first long-range financial plan. She outlined a proposal that saved the city more than \$300 million and moved to eliminate the approximately 16,000 vacant properties in the city limits. The city of Baltimore would ultimately win the Urban Land Institute's Robert C. Larson Workforce Housing Public Policy Award from then President Barack Obama's V2V initiative. For her service to the city, Rawlings-Blake was given far to many honors to be listed here.



CHARLOTTE E. RAY

...was born on January 13, 1850 in New York City, New York. She became the first female African-American lawyer in the United States when in 1872, she passed the was admitted

to the District of Columbia bar. She graduated from the Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C. and was active in the "suffrage" movement. Ray was a member of the National Association of Colored Women.

Ray was one of seven children. Her father, Charles was a minister activist involved in the abolitionist movement. He was Editor of *The Colored American*, a publication supported by abolitionist. Being a part of the "*Underground Railroad*", which was a network of abolitionist that helped escaped slaves find freedom in the U.S. North and Canada.

To Ray's family, education was an important aspect of their lives. She attended the Institution for the Education of Colored Youth in Washington, D.C. in the 1860s, The institution was one of a few institutions that offered quality education to African-American women. After graduation, she had become a school teacher at the preparatory school funded by Howard University. She later applied to the University's law program under the name, C.E. Ray, using only her initials. At that time, the university did not accept women into the program. By using her initials, she was able to disguise her gender and as C.E. Ray, she gained admittance to the program.

Ray performed well in her studies while at the Howard University School of Law, focusing on corporate law. According to the publication, "*Notable Black American Women*", one of Ray's classmates described her as "an apt scholar." In 1872, Ray earned her law degree and was admitted to the District of Columbia bar the same year, thus, becoming the first black female attorney in the United States, admitted to any bar in the United States. She broke new ground for women and African Americans in general during her lifetime. She was also the first woman to be granted permission to argue cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in the capital.

After her graduation and being admitted to the D.C. bar, Ray opened her own law office, specializing in commercial law. In acquiring new clients, she advertised in a newspaper run by Frederick Douglass, a black abolitionist leader in the "freedom movement". As a black woman, it became difficult for her to attract enough clients to keep her practice going. That and because of widespread prejudices and racism during that time, she operated her law practice for a few years.

Ray moved to New York City in 1879 taking a job as a teacher in the Brooklyn public school system. She married and took her husband's last name, Fraim. Outside of the classroom, Ray championed a number of social causes, being involved in the "women's suffrage movement" and joining forces with the National Association of Colored Women.

Although she only practiced law for a few years, she was able to show that black women could excel in this field. By her achievements, she helped to inspire young women to reach for higher and seemingly impossible goals.

Ray died on January 4, 1911, in Woodside, New York.



LOUIS LORENZO REDDING

...was born on October 25, 1901 in Alexandria, Virginia to Mary Ann (Holmes) Redding and Lewis Alfred Redding. The family moved to Wilmington, Delaware where Louis grew up.

Raised in the heart of Wilmington's African-American community, both of his parents valued education highly, and encouraged their children to excel at school. Redding attended a segregated elementary and high school.

He graduated from the only high school for African American students in the state at that time, Howard High School in 1919. He matriculated to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, graduating with honors in 1923. After college, Redding relocated to Ocala, Florida to become Vice Principal of Fessenden Academy. After a few years, he moved to Atlanta, Georgia to teach at Morehouse College.

In 1925, Redding returned to school, enrolling into Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The only African-American in his graduating class, he received his law degree in 1928. He passed the Delaware bar the following year.

Beginning his legal career, Redding focused on cases that challenged discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment, and the criminal justice system. He was the first lawyer to file a suit against the University of Delaware, which at the time barred black students from admission. In his arguments, he cited the "separate but equal" doctrine, a phrase derived from a Louisiana law of 1890. The doctrine, confirmed in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1896, allowed state-sponsored segregation in public facilities.

Nix filed the case before the Delaware Chancery Court, widely recognized as the nation's foremost forum for determining disputes involving the internal affairs of Delaware corporations. The Court also rules on disputes involving a vast amount of the world's commercial and economic affairs. Today, the Courts' unique competence in the issues surrounding business law are unmatched. Delaware then and now is a major center for national and international corporate charter registrations.

The Delaware Chancery Court in its' ruling gave Nix and the black students a victory against the University of

Delaware which required the University to begin admitting black students. The University of Delaware became the first state-funded undergraduate institution to desegregate by court order. Nix then turned his attention to the public schools in Delaware.

In 1952, Redding filed two more desegregation cases involving Claymont and Hockessin, Delaware segregated schools and public education. His two cases, *Belton v. Gephart* and *Bulah v. Gephart* were combined with lawsuit cases from three other states and the District of Columbia. The combined cases became the center cases for the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*. Along with Thurgood Marshall, later named a Justice for the U.S. Supreme Court, Redding and his team successfully won a verdict.

In 1961, Redding also successfully presented a case before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Burton v. Wilmington Parking Authority*. This time, Redding had his sights set on ending segregation in public facilities. The Wilmington Parking Authority (WPA) had been established by the State of Delaware in 1951 as a government agency to encourage parking access. Not long after it opened, seven black Chrysler employees staged a sit-in at the counter of one of the restaurants in the parking complex and refused to leave until they were served. They were arrested for trespassing. Redding represented the plaintiffs in the case.

Rather than protest the legality those arrests, Redding instead had William H. Burton, a black City Councilman park at the garage, go to the Eagle Coffee Shoppe, sit at the counter where he was refused service. Redding subsequently filed the *Burton v. Wilmington Parking Authority* lawsuit. The court agreed with Redding, deciding that a building funded by public money could not discriminate against its' customers because of their race.

After years of litigating civil rights cases, in 1965, Redding became a Public Defender for the state of Delaware. For the next twenty years, he would fight for the rights of poor clients. After fifty-five years as a practicing law as an attorney, Redding retired in 1984.

For more than twenty-five years, Redding remained the sole non-white lawyer practicing law in the state of Delaware. On September 29, 1998, Redding died at the age of ninety-six. Following his death, the University of Delaware established the Louis L. Redding Chair for the Study of Law and Public Policy. The university also named a residence hall opened in 2013 on their Newark Campus in his honor. The Redding House Museum in Wilmington opened in 2009 by the Redding House Foundation was dedicated to Redding as well.



M OHAMMED KASIM REED

...was born on June 10, 1969 in Plainfield, New Jersey. His family moved to Fulton County, Georgia when he was a baby. Although his father was raised in a United Methodist household, he converted to Islam and taught his son the religion.

Reed attended elementary school at the Fulton County's Utoy Springs Elementary School. He went to high school at Westwood High School. He matriculated to Howard University in Washington, D.C.. While in school, Reed made extra income by operating a jewelry business where by the age of twenty, he had earned over \$40,000. Featured in Black Enterprise magazine, he became well known for a student of his age. He graduated from Howard in 1991 with a B.A degree in Political Science.

In his senior year at Howard, Reed became an undergraduate trustee on the University's Board of Trustees. He also was able to intern for Massachusetts Congressman Joseph Patrick Kennedy II. While working for Kennedy, Reed heard about the federal government's dollar-for-dollar matching grant program. To assist in the growth of the university's endowment, he established a matching program to increase the student fees by \$15 per semester. The fees would bring nearly \$300,000 per semester to the university's endowment. In four years, the matching grant was estimated to bring in nearly \$2.4 million to the school. In 1995, he received is Juris Doctorate degree from Howard's Law School.

For his first job after graduating law school, Reed joined the international law firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, focusing on the music industry. He later became a partner with another international law firm, Holland & Knight LLP, in Atlanta, Georgia. He would remain with the firm until deciding to run for a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives.

In the 1998 primary, he ran for Georgia's 52nd district seat against seven candidates. Winning the primary race with 36.6% of the vote, Reed ran unopposed in the general election in November. He then took his seat in the Georgia Assembly. Two years later, he ran again and easily beat his challenger, Clarence Canty, in the primary by winning 77% of the general election votes. Again, he ran unopposed in the November election.

While serving in the Georgia House of Representatives, Reed represented the south side of Atlanta, which was predominately African-American. During that time, Reed served as the campaign manager in Shirley Franklin, who was elected the 58th Mayor of Atlanta in 2001. As a gesture of thanks, the newly elected Mayor named Reed as co-chair of her transition team.

In the 2002 Georgia House of Representative's primary election, Reed again won the race with another staggering high percentage of the votes, this time receiving over 65% of the votes. He again ran unopposed in the November general election. The same year, Howard University appointed Reed as a General Trustee to their Board of Trustees. He became the youngest, at age thirty-three, to be appointed to the Board.

Reed was challenged in the 2004, 2006, and 2008 primary elections but easily won all three primary campaigns. In the November gen-

eral elections for each year, he again ran unopposed. In his 2006 term, Reed introduced a House bill intended to bring unity among the world's Christian churches. The bill's purpose ws to legalize the teaching of the textbook, *The Bible and Its Influence*, which was created to preempt an attempt by Georgia Republicans to display Ten Commandments in schools. The bill passed by a wide margin of 50-1 and became law.

During his time in the House, Reed served as a member of several committees. He was a member of the Congressional and Legislative Reapportionment Committee, the Education Committee, the Ethics Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, the Local Government Operations Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Special Judiciary Committee, and the Transportation Committee. He also served as the Vice-Chairman of the Georgia Senate Democratic Caucus. The Georgia Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee appointed him as its' Chairman. At the same time, he was a partner at Holland & Knight LLP.

In 2008, Reed formed the ONE Atlanta exploratory committee To ascertain his viability to run for the upcoming Mayoral election as two term Mayor Franklin's time in office was expiring. Resigning from his seat in the Georgia Senate, he launched his Mayoral campaign. In a close and hotly contested campaign, Reed won the Mayoral seat by a mere 714 votes. He took office on January 4, 2010.

As Mayor, Reed was praised for balancing the city's budget. In doing so, he limited the pensions of city workers. He used the savings to increase spending on the city's police force and to create community centers in the poor neighborhoods of Atlanta. Combining soft leadership with hard tactics, Reed created some controversy with his support of civil unions for gays but stopped short in his support of gay marriage. He later would give his support for marriage equality for same-sex couples.

Reed ran for re-election in the 2013 general election and again easily won the majority of the votes. With Atlanta's growth, congestion became a hot topic. Reed and Georgia Governor Nathan Deal advocated a transportation special purpose sales tax. The generated revenue would be used to create jobs in transportation infrastructure projects. Unfortunately, the referendum failed.

During his tenure, Mayor Reed took a \$48 million budget shortfall and without raising property taxes, balanced the city's budgets in each of his years as Mayor. The city's cash reserves increased from 7.4 million to more than \$127 million. Recognized for his leadership as the Mayor of Atlanta, he has been featured in national publications such as the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Black Enterprise magazine, Ebony magazine, the New York Times, and the Washington Post. He was selected by Georgia Trend magazine as one of their "40 under 40 Rising Stars". He was also named as one of Atlanta's "10 Outstanding Atlantans".

Reed is a Board member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund. The National Forum for Black Public Administrators awarded him with their Distinguished Leadership Award, The Washington D.C. based Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies honored him with their Louis E. Martin Great American Award and he was named as one of the top state and local government officials by Governing Magazine. A well sought out speaker, Reed has been showcased on news outlets such as CNN, CNBC, FOX, Meet the Press, and MSNBC. He has spoken at national and international conferences, including the Aspen Ideas Festival, Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America, Chicago Ideas Week, New York Ideas, and the New Cities Summit. He also has completed his first TED talk at TEDCity2.0. As a gesture of his life's work, Oglethorpe University in Atlanta honored him with a Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.





JAMES NATHANIEL REESE

...born in 1919 and was a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. His mother was a domestic and his father worked as a mechanic. He attended Valena C. Jones Teachers Normal Col-

lege in preparation to enroll into New Orleans' Xavier University. He would also take classes at Dillard University, also located in New Orleans before the outbreak of World War II.

After the war began, Reese joined the military to serve his patriotic duties. After serving his time and being discharged from the Army at the rank of Lieutenant, he moved west to Los Angeles, California where he enrolled into the University of Southern California. He would complete all required studies to be awarded his law degree from the University's Law School. Reese was a member of the first graduating class of students whose tuition was paid using the federal government's G.I. Bill. He passed the California State Bar exam in 1946.

Reese began his career in private practiced law specializing in civil, criminal and probate law. He would operate as a private practicing attorney for the next nineteen years in the Southern California region. He partnered with fellow attorney Xenophon Lang, who would later become a Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge.

In 1965, Reese was appointed by then Governor Pat Brown to a position in the California State Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). While serving in the office, Reese was instrumental in establishing California's first legal clinic that dealt with the aids virus. He is also credited with opening the doors to low-income and poverty stricken California residents. Reese's desire was to make legal services accessible to anyone that needed it.

Reese left OEO to become the Executive Director of the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services. He then became the General Counsel of famed entertainer and singer Ray Charles company, Ray Charles Enterprises, Inc.. After serving as legal advisor to Charles, in 1970, Reese became a Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner.

In 1975, Governor Brown appointed Reese as a Compton Municipal Court Judge serving Compton, California. Five years later, he was promoted to the California Superior Court. In the next election, he was elected unopposed as his opponent failed to file needed paperwork in time and was unable to add his name to the ballot. Several years later, he was named as the Presiding Judge of the Appellate Department, now the Appellate Division. Judge Reese also sat by assignment on the Court of Appeals Seventh Division. He retired from the bench in July of 1988.

Judge Reese was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Urban League. He is also a member of the New Frontier Democratic Club. In addition, he founded the Victors Democratic Club and was actively involved in local politics and voted as a Democrat.

For his charitable giving, Judge Reese established a \$100,000 scholarship at his alma mater, the University of Southern California's Law School to provide tutors and mentors for young children in the neighborhood where the University Law School was located. During his career sitting on the bench, he reached out to young eighteen and nineteen year olds that had come before him on misdemeanor crimes and directed them towards programs that could help them turn their lives in a different direction.

James N. Reese died on October 31, 2015. He was ninety-six years old.



FRANK D. REEVES

...was born in 1916 in Montreal, Canada. His family moved to New York City when he was young and he was reared in the inner city. The family relocated to Washington, D.C. where

he graduated from Dunbar High School. He earned his undergraduate degree from D.C.'s Howard University. He remained at Howard and obtained his law degree from the University's School of Law.

After passing the bar, took a job working for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in their New York City offices. He was fortunate to work alongside civil rights attorney's Thurgood Marshall and James Nabrit, as well as many others, on some of the most important civil rights cases and legislative arguments the nation ever faced. Reeves assisted in the formulation and execution of many cases affecting the African American community, including cases involving desegregating the public schools in Washington, D.C.. He was part of the team that drafted the landmark 1954, "Brown v. Board of Education", lawsuit that rendered segregated schools unconstitutional and mandated an end to school segregation throughout the United States.

In 1960, Reeves became a member of the Democratic National Committee. He was the first African American admitted as a member of the Committee. Reeves served as an advisor on minority affairs to then Senator John F. Kennedy during Kennedy's campaign run for the presidency of the United States. He was the first African American to serve as an advisor to any Senator that ever ran for the office.

Reeves taught law classes at the Howard University School of Law while serving as legal counsel to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Reeves also assisted in the negotiations leading up to the 1963 March on Washington and the Jobs and Freedom March. He played a part in organization the 1967 Poor Peoples Campaign as well.

For his efforts, Reeves was chosen to sit on the DC Board of Commissioners. The Commission consists of a three-man panel given authority by Congress to run the

city affairs. The panel oversaw the functions of the city government until a city referendum order changed the charter on limited home rule in 1967.

Reeves believed in giving back and helping those unable to pay. He understood their struggle against racism and wanted to do his part through the use of the law to aid them in their struggles. He took on many cases pro bono and gave time to the Neighborhood Legal Services run by Howard University's Law School. He was founder of the Joint Center for Political Studies and a co-founder of the National Conference of Black Lawyers.

In Reeves honor, the Washington, D.C. City Council, with the approval of the Mayor and Congress, built a new city office building on the corner of historic 14th & U street crossings, and named it The Frank D. Reeves Center for Municipal Affairs. The center was completed and opened in 1986. It houses several city government agencies and city services outlets.

Frank D. Reeves died on April 11, 1973



KENNETH ERROL REEVES

...was born on February 8, 1951 in Detroit, Michigan. He attended Detroit's public schools and graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1968. He enrolled into Trinity College in

Hartford, Connecticut but transferred after one year to nearby Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he earned his undergraduate degree in American History in 1973. To obtain his law degree, Reeves attended the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor and received his law degree in 1976.

Reeves went to work for General Motors in Detroit as an attorney that oversaw the United Auto Workers legal plan. He then moved back to Cambridge where he accepted a position with the National Consumer Law Center located in nearby Boston, Massachusetts. At the Law Center, Reeves specialized in utility, insurance and banking regulations. He then entered private practice.

In 1989, Reeves ran for a seat on the Cambridge City Council. He won the 1990 election and served eight consecutive terms of two years each. He then decided to enter the campaign to run for Mayor of Cambridge.

Reeves was victorious and with his election, he became the first African American to serve as the city's Mayor. What may be of more importance is that he was the first openly gay person to be elected. Reeves served as head of the city for three years. He was later re-elected to lead the city in 2006 and served for two more years.

When Reeves became Mayor, there were no minorities heading any city department. There were very few women in any management, leadership, or decision-making position. Reeves changed that. He was pivotal in the city hiring or promoting capable minorities and gender diverse employees into those positions. The city of Cambridge would soon have a female Deputy City Manager and a female running the Public Works Department.

As Mayor, Reeves began several city initiatives that changed the landscape of Cambridge. He built a consensus amongst the various city and community interests that included those that voted for him as well as those that didn't. He focused on affordable housing, econom-

ic development, and fostering citizen empowerment. He looked at the city's social environments and the environment of the city. He took on gender diversity and ethnic inclusion at every level of city operations.

Reeves served as the Chairperson of the Cambridge School Committee. As Chairman, he launched the Task Force on the Potential of Students. He also established the Commission on the High School of the 21st Century.

Reeves established the Office of Tourism, the city's first official office aimed at attracting tourist to visit the city. A commission was created that gave a voice to the needs of new immigrants coming to Cambridge for both the city's educational value but as a good place to live. To attract more visitors, Reeves developed campaigns that showcased while fostering historic and cultural landmarks and activities throughout Cambridge.

As Mayor, Reeves was instrumental in the funding a new Main Library project, a new Senior Center, and the total renovation of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin Schools. Under Reeves leadership, the city purchased a Dance Complex, which gave artist a venue to study, practice and perform. Central Square and Kendall Square were developed and for the students that attended Cambridge institutions, including Harvard and MIT, safety was a key issue of concern.

During his illustrious career, Reeves has served in many local state and national leadership positions. He has given of his time to Men of Color Against AIDS, the Men of Color Health Task Force, and the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. He has also given service to the Black AIDS Institute in Los Angeles, California and the National Black Justice Coalition in New York City.

Reeves worked to combine the emerging bio and technical communities with the more established introductory mingle, meet and greet, neighborhoods that were grounded in the city landscapes. He welcomed the opportunity to engage and connect opposite forces aimed at creating a common good, especially if it had educational value to children. His desire to leave lasting learning opportunities to young students was shown in the programs instituted that centered on science and math.



NEZ SMITH REID

...was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her and her twin brother, however, were raised in the District of Columbia. She attended Washington, D.C. public schools where she was taught by some of the best teachers graduating from

the local colleges, such as D.C.'s own Howard University. With that, Reid was fortunate to have teachers and parents that pushed her to study. She learned to speak fluent French at an early age.

After graduating high school, Reid enrolled into Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude. For her law degree, Reid chose the School of Law at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Her older brother, George, was a senior at Yale when she arrived at the school. One of her white law school professor's had told Reid and her brother that there were not many jobs for African American, let alone females, in the law field, as white law firms were not hiring non-whites. He suggested they have backup plans.

The professor was right. After obtaining her law license, it was a year before Reid caught a break but it was not working in a law firm. She discovered that the Ford Foundation Foreign Area Training Fellowship was accepting application for a Master of Arts program at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She applied and was accepted into the African Studies program with the promise of spending a year in Africa working on an assigned project sponsored by the Foundation as part of her requirements for full financial aid. Reid completed the program and received a Master of Arts degree from UCLA.

The Ford Foundation partially funded a Congolese government project in Leopold, Africa. Reid was selected by Yale University's Law School to participate in program teaching law to Judges in the Congo during its' Civil War. Because she spoke fluent French, she played a key role in advising the Congolese government how the law should be applied according to the statues of the Congo Constitution. Reid, while working with the government, taught local educators and other learned students in various aspects of the law.

As the Congo was going through great change, Reid had to battle her immediate supervisor who believed that the European education system was superior to that of the United States, of which she disagreed. The white educator saw the education as monolithic where Reid saw it as tribal. With conflicts occurring between the tribes, education was not par between the tribal either. With Judges handing out varying sentences for similar tribes, Reid was able to bring a common balance in the prose-

cution of crimes. She was able to teach the Congolese Judges the new transitional laws as some laws changed while others remained.

Reid returned to the United States and focused on her education. She took on a teaching job at the State University of New York. While teaching, she took classes at nearby Columbia University where she earned a Ph.D. degree. While earning her Ph.D., Reid also taught courses at Brooklyn College, Hunter College, and Lehman College. Reid would go on to earn a Master of Laws in the Judicial Process from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In 1970, Judge Reid became the General Counsel for the New York State Division for Youth. Her big break came when she was named by then President Jimmy Carter as the Deputy General Counsel for Regulation Review of the old federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She later called upon again by Carter when she was promoted to Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Carter was not re-elected in the next general election. Newly elected President Ronald Reagan fired all Inspector Generals in the Carter administration, and Reid was out. Not disturbed, she walked across the street to the Washington, D.C.' Corporation Counsel's Office and submitted an application. She took a job as a law clerk and worked her way to eventually becoming the Corporation Counsel, now Attorney General, for the District of Columbia.

She served alliances with three law firms during her profession including Graham & James. Another of the selective firms Judge Reid practiced was Lewis, White & Clay. With these firms, she specialized in environmental law, white-collar crime, and commercial law litigations.

In 1995, then by President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton appointed Reid to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. She was soon elevated to Chair of the D.C. Courts' Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the District of Columbia Courts. While sitting on the bench, Judge Reid handled pro bono employment discrimination cases.

Aside from the bench, Judge Reid served as an Adjunct Professor and Constitutional Scholar at Washington, D.C.'s American University for many years. She taught in the School of Public Affairs in the Department of Government of the University. In addition to American, Judge Reid taught at Barnard College, City University of New York, Columbia University, the State University of New York, and the University of West Virginia College of Law. As an author, Judge Reid wrote published scholarly articles related to constitutional law, environmental law, African politics, and African history.

Judge Inez Smith Reid has been an unsung hero for the Washington, D.C. community. She has been a trailblazer for young attorneys entering the legal profession and has served as a symbol of progress for the African American community and achievements not regularly shown. Her humility to her craft was shown in the patience she gave and demonstrated throughout her illustrious career.



CHRISTOPHER P. REYNOLDS

...was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. His mother was a nurse and his father worked as a laborer in the Ford River Rouge automobile plant. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree

in Political Science from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan with honors. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity, joining in 1983. He attended Harvard University School of Law where he obtained his law degree in 1986.

To begin her legal career, Reynolds took a job as a litigator at the firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed. He then served as a clerk for Judge Damon J. Keith of the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Sixth Circuit Court in Detroit. Reynolds left Judge Keith's tutelage to accept the position as an Assistant United States Attorney at the U.S. Attorney General's Office of the Southern District of New York. He worked in the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Division.

Reynolds became a partner and trial lawyer at the law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in New York City. He was first assigned to work as a manager in the labor and employment law litigation department. He quickly rose within the firm to ultimately becoming a member of the firm's Advisory Board. Reynolds even served as Chair of the firm's Diversity Committee.

In 2007, Reynolds joined Toyota. He would rise within the company's legal department to become the Managing Officer for Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC). Reynolds served as the company's General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer. He also served as the Deputy Chief Officer for the General Administrative & Human Resources Group. In addition, Reynolds served as Chief Officer for the Corporate Planning Division. His responsibilities include the global legal matters of the company, its' human resources compliances, and the TMC overall operations.

Reynolds was then promoted to Group Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Toyota Motor North America (TMNA). At TMNA, he is responsible for Toyota's diversity and inclusion. He also oversees the company's shared impact and environmental sustainability functions.

For the company, he also served as Executive Vice President of Corporate Resources. As EVP, Reynolds handled the company's Accounting & Finance, Human Resources, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications.

As a career man, Reynolds was elevated to General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer of TMNA and Chief Environmental Officer. He also served as the Corporate Secretary of Toyota Motor Sales, USA (TMS), Inc.. In his latest promotion, Reynolds was named as the Social Innovation and Chief Diversity Officer. He also gives time to the Corporate Planning Division.

Reynolds is a member of the American Bar Association and served on its' Litigation and Labor and Employment Law Section. He is a member of the National Bar Association, the International Bar Association, and serves as a Trustee of Kalamazoo College. Reynolds also serves as a member of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.



SADIQA REYNOLDS

...received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky in 1993. Her Juris Doctorate degree was obtained from the University of

Kentucky College of Law in Lexington. After completing her law degree studies, Reynolds left Lexington moving to Frankfort, Kentucky to begin her legal profession.

Arriving in Frankfort, Reynolds accepted a job as the Chief Law Clerk for the Kentucky Supreme Court. She was the first African American woman to serve as a law clerk to the Supreme Court. In her job, she led the research and drafting for legal opinions for the Chief Justice. She also participated in confidential judicial conferences and assisted in the prioritization of cases and decisions made by the Supreme Court Justices.

After serving as a law clerk for eight months, Reynolds returned to Louisville and opened her own law firm, Reynolds Law Office. She began her career by serving as Guardian Ad Litem representing abused and neglected children. She also litigated cases involving criminal misdeeds, health related issues, and employment disagreements. She was successful in a death penalty case and was instrumental in establishing the Jefferson County family drug court program, which provided alternative sentencing for women charged with neglect or abuse of children due to their drug addictions and her dedicated pro bono work was recognized by the Louisville Bar Association and given praise.

In 2006, Reynolds was named as the Assistant Director and Chief of Staff to the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness. She was then elevated to become the Assistant Director of Public Works and Assets. In these positions, she managed a staff of over three hundred employees, was responsible for regulatory compliance, contract procurement, and management of the department's budgets. She is credited with relationship improvements between unions and government agencies, reducing waste to effectively implement agency resources, and worked with the Board of Health to ensure regulatory compliance.

In 2008, Reynolds left Louisville to return to Frankfort when she was appointed by then Governor Steve Beshear

as the Inspector General for the Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services. As the IG, she oversaw a budget of \$29 million and three hundred employees. Her responsibilities were to ensure regulatory compliance and integrity for child and health care for Kentucky residents. She worked with law enforcement officials to prosecute Medicaid fraud and other abuses of government programs.

Reynolds, while serving as IG, provided joint training for health care providers to build better relationships. She reduced the budgets and overhead for the department and recruited more talented, qualified, and trustworthy staff. She drafted favorable contracts for services needed by the agency and introduced state and federal legislation submitted to the state's General Counsel for approval and implementation.

In July of 2009, Reynolds was given another appointment by then Governor Beshear. This time, she was appointed as a District Court Judge sitting in Jefferson County. She fulfilled an eighteen-month vacancy where she presided over several criminal and civil cases. She served by special request as a Domestic Violence Court Judge, presided over small claims, probate, and the mental health court. Reynolds is most proud of presiding over the Teen Court, which exposed young students to the legal opportunities in the law profession.

In 2011, Reynolds was appointed as the Chief for Community Building in the Office of the Mayor, Greg Fischer. She also hired to oversee the city departments of Parks, Public Health and Wellness, Animal Services, Community Services and Revitalization, Human Relations Commission, Libraries, the city Zoo and the city's community initiative programs. Reynolds also was pivotal in the creation of the Department of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods. In all, she was in charge of approximately fourteen hundred employees with a budget of over \$100 million.

Also in 2011, Reynolds was named as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Louisville Urban League replacing retiring Ben Richmond. Richmond had served as the CEO for over twenty-nine years. In taking the helm, Reynolds became the first woman to lead the Louisville Urban League since its' inception.

For her dedicated legal work, Reynolds was named by Louisville Business First in its' Business Women First publication as a 2011 Enterprising Woman to Watch. She was also a "40 Under 40" named honoree. She has also received the Champion for Community Recovery Award, the Torch of Wisdom Award, and the Tower Award for Public Service.





BERNA L. RHODES-FORD

...received her undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She majored in Business and Psychology and graduated with her Bachelor of Arts de-

gree in 1993. To obtain her law degree, she attended the University of Texas's School of Law in Austin, Texas where she completed her studies in 1996.

Rhodes-Ford began her legal profession serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Johnnie B. Rawlinson of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Nevada's Ninth Circuit. She also served as a staff attorney to the Honorable Yvette McGee Brown of the state of Ohio's Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court. In addition, Rhodes-Ford served as the Legislative Assistant to Texas' United States House of Representatives member Eddie Bernice Johnson.

During her professional legal career, Rhodes-Ford has worked for and with several law firms including spending time as a Senior Corporate Counsel for one of the nation's largest occupational healthcare companies. There she was directly responsible for all employment law matters the company may have faced. She spent time working in the law offices of Littler Mendelson, the nation's largest employment law firm, where she litigated cases related to corporate employment and published their employee manuals, insurance compliance programs, and settled lawsuits to avoid litigation.

Rhodes-Ford spent three years practicing law at the law offices of Holland & Hart in Las Vegas, Nevada. While serving as an in-house staff attorney, she gained a myriad of experience substantive areas of mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy laws, healthcare law, and immigration laws. She also handles simple commercial business litigations.

In 2011, Rhodes-Ford opened her own law practice serving as the Managing Shareholder. The company has its' headquarters in Henderson, Nevada. Her specialty includes business organization and formations, corporate structuring, and mergers and acquisitions. She also assists her clients in every day business matters.

Rhodes-Ford has the right to practice law in all Nevada and Texas State and Federal District Courts. She also has practice privileges in the Fifth and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals. Rhodes-Ford, in addition, is a member of both the Nevada State Bar Association and the Texas State Bar Association.

Rhodes-Ford has served as the Secretary and President of the Southern Nevada Chapter National Association of Women Business Owners. She has served as the Ambassador to the American Bar Association's (ABA) Business Law Section and as a member of the Bar's Health Law and Business Law Sections. Rhodes-Ford has also served as the Chair of the Women of Distinction Awards and as the Chair of the Middle Market and Small Business Committee for the ABA.

She has served as a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, liaison to the Council on Ethnic and Racial Diversity in the Pipeline, Program Chair of Ask A Lawyer Program for the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (NBA), and Director of Make-A-Wish of Southern Nevada. Rhodes-Ford has also served as the Director of the Community Counseling Center, the Program Director of the Las Vegas Chapter Jack and Jill of America, Inc., the Director of the Suicide and Crisis Center, and served as the Chair of the NBA's Nominating and Elections Committee for the Las Vegas Chapter. In addition, she is a member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, the Nevada State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and has served as the International Second Vice President to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc..

Rhodes-Ford has been invited to speak before many legal associations and institutions and has written several published articles that have appeared in newspapers, magazines, and books across the country. She speaks on matters related to employment issues, mergers and acquisitions, and healthcare compliance. In her speaking engagements, Rhodes-Ford speaks on procedures of setting up a commercial business correctly, reducing risk and fraud in business operations, and matters related to corporate agreements, employment and compensation.





CONSTANCE L. RICE

...was born in Washington, D.C. to a father that broke racial barriers as a U.S. Air Force major, and her school teacher mother. She and her two brothers early on were given a passion for learning and culture. Her father's Air Force career caused the family

to move seventeen different times during her Childhood. Having lived in England and Japan, she was able to learn about their cultures and history.

Early on, through her mothers teachings, Rice was raised to look up to women leaders of history such as Queen Elizabeth I, Anne Frank, and Representative Barbara Jordan among others. From those teachings, she realized that she too had a high potential of her future endeavors. She seized the opportunity.

She was accepted to Harvard College, now Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. There she earned her undergraduate degree in 1978. While there she won the prestigious Root Tilden Public Interest Scholarship to New York University School of Law. She received Juris Doctor degree in 1984.

In her first job out of law school, Rice served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Damon J. Keith, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She also worked at Morrison & Foerster, a San Francisco law firm having national offices as a Litigation Associate. In 1991, she joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF) where she worked on high profile death penalty cases. In 1996, she became Co-Director of LDF's Los Angeles Office. Her litigation work while at LDF would win her national acclaim for her attention toward civil rights.

In her litigations, Rice has filed class action civil rights cases addressing issues such as police misconduct, probation unfairness, public housing, race and sex discrimination and unfair public policies in L.A.'s transportation system. On behalf of the Bus Riders Union, she filed a landmark case resulting in more than \$2 billion being spent to improve the Los Angeles bus system. This was just the beginning.

In 1999, Rice won \$750 million in a coalition lawsuit that provided for new school construction in L.A., money that had been earmarked for less crowded and more affluent suburban school districts. As an attorney, Rice has been the lead for many multi-racial coalitions and has won more than \$4 billion of injunctive relief and damages for hers and their clients.

Becoming known as, the "Lady Lawyer", Rice's notoriety grew immensely. She then began to focus on the issues surrounding the street gangs in L.A. and the racist, sexist and brutal Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). She co-wrote a report, "*A Call To Action*", that revolutionized the city's law enforcement outreach and set policies against gangs. She spent so much time dealing with the unfair policing of the LAPD that her unyielding demands rewarded her with her very own parking space at LAPD headquarters. Now having the respect of the L.A. gangs, Rice helped to bring a truce between rival gangs in Watts.

In 2013, Rice was selected to participate in an LAPD internal review of fired police officer Christopher Dorner. Donner had cited racism as the basis of his termination. Disgruntled, on February 3, 2013, Donner became involved in a series of shootings in Los Angeles and the surrounding areas that killed four people and caused the LAPD to shoot and wound three civilians thought to be Donner. Posting on the Internet a manifesto demanding a public statement by the LAPD admitting the firing was unjustified, Donner targeted his fellow law enforcement officers declaring to kill them and their families. Ten days after the rampage began, Donner was killed during a standoff with police at a cabin in the San Bernardino Mountains. After completion of the internal review, Rice concluded that Dorner's allegations of racism were unfounded and his firing was justified by the LAPD.

With ultimate respect, Rice was appointed twice, by Mayors Tom Bradley and Richard Riordan, to the Governing Board of the Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power, serving as President. There she reformed the city's contracting processes and made great environmental advances. To ensure public education reforms, in 1998, Rice lead a successful campaign to place more aggressive public school reformers on the Governing Board for Los Angeles' public schools.

In 1999, Rice and Molly Munger co-founded the Advancement Project. Created as a public policy change organization for civil rights, their focus is for large-scale systems changes to remedy inequality, expand opportunity and open paths to upward mobility. The Advancement Project, although began in L.A. has a national reach.

For her unwavering leadership and unorthodox approach to combating police brutality, especially with the black youth struggling to make a way, Rice has received more than fifty major awards. Named as one of California's top 10 most influential lawyers, the Los Angeles Times considered her to be the "most experienced, civic-minded and thoughtful people on the subject of Los Angeles." In May of 2003, Occidental College in L.A. rewarded Rice's good work with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Pepperdine University gave her the same honor in 2014.

As a note, Rice is the cousin of former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.



Photo Not Available



FRANCIS ELLIS RIVERS

...received her degree law degree from Columbia University in New York City, New York in 1922. She broke the color bar when she was admitted to the New York State Bar Association (ABCNY) in 1930. The ABCNY created the Tenth Municipal Court District in Harlem, New York and Rivers was instrumental in helping elect two African American Judges to the bench. Rivers was pivotal in paving the way for future Judges and for future African American women Judges, including Jane Bolin.

Rivers began her professional career working under the tutelage of then District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey and Frank S. Hogan as an Assistant District Attorney. He was appointed to the State Mediation Board as a special mediator, staying for a short period of time. He then accepted the position of Hearing Officer for the New York Waterfront Commission.

By 1942, Rivers had become a very well respected practicing attorney in Manhattan, New York. Then New York Governor Thomas Dewey appointed her as a City Court Judge. That same year, she applied for admission as a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) but was rejected based on her race. Many ABA members protested Rivers not been accepted into the membership. Several members resigned from the organization, including Judge Jonah J. Goldestein, a respected Judge on the New York Court. Other well known lawyers soon followed, including the President of New York County's Criminal Courts Bar Association, Herman Hoffman and the head of the New York Department of Investigations.

The following year, at the ABA amended provision in it's constitution that changed the association's criteria for membership that was not dependent upon race, creed, or color. Rivers was then admitted to the ABA along with fellow African American attorney, James Samuel Watson. The two became the first two African American members admitted to the ABA in thirty-one years.

In 1943, Rivers was appointed by then Governor Thomas E. Dewey as a Judge to the Municipal Court. With his appointment, Rivers became the highest ranked

African American Judge in the United States. In the upcoming election, he was elected to a full ten-year term.

During her legal career, Rivers focused on cases centering on civil rights. In 1973, she was named as a mediator in a case involving over four hundred Legal Aid attorneys. She was then appointed as the Chairman of the State Mediation Board, by then Vincent D. McDonnell.

Rivers served as the President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Education Fund. He worked on cases involving civil rights and discrimination cases. Judge Rivers also served on other legal insitution and association's Board of Directors.



GLENWOOD P. ROANE, SR.

...was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia near Montrose to Ruby Richardson and James Randolph Roane. He was the seventh of ten children and was a graduate of the A.T. Johnson High School in Montrose, Virginia. He

attended Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1952 in Agronomy. He studied military courses and was honored as a distinguished military graduate.

Roane then entered Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. where he earned his law degree in 1957. While studying for his law degree, he performed graduate work at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University, in Medford, Massachusetts and at Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University.

Roane worked for many years as an attorney representing citizens of the Montrose area and other parts of Virginia; Washington, D.C.; and Tennessee. He was licensed to practice law in all three jurisdictions. He was a member of all three bar associations as well.

Roane was a career Diplomat and worked most of his professional career with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development. He worked a combined twenty-six years for the two agencies. He served them working in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia and Vietnam. He also worked in several Far Eastern countries as a Foreign Service Officer.

Roane served as the Fairfax County, Virginia President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for six years. He also is a life member of the organization. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and has served for four years as the Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Vienna, Virginia.

Pastor Roane also served as the Interim Pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist, Aldie, Virginia and as Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Warrenton, Virginia. In addition, Pastor Roane served as the Pastor of the Second Congregational United Church of Christ, Memphis, Tennessee for ten years. Although he served as a Pastor to these church-

es, he still practiced law and served both his congregants and the local communities with their legal issues.

Pastor Roane was married for forty-one years to his wife, Lucie Porter Roane. Together, they had three children. They had a son Glenwood, Jr. and two daughters, Karen and Rosemary.

Pastor and lawyer Glenwood P. Roane, Sr. died on December 30, 2011. He was eighty-one years old.



VICTORIA A. ROBERTS

..was born in 1951 in Detroit, Michigan. She attended St. Martin de Porres High School, where she graduated in 1969 and served as her high school Valedictorian. She attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor

where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Sociology in 1973. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts in 1976.

While studying for her law degree, Roberts served as a research attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals for one year. After graduating from law school, she became a legal research & writing teaching Fellow at the Detroit campus of Michigan State University's College of Law. She then entered private practice where she would work for eight years.

In 1985, Roberts took the job of Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. She remained with the Attorney General's Office for three years. She then returned to private practice before becoming the General Counsel for Detroit's Mayor-Elect Dennis Archer in 1993. Roberts served as a member of Archer's transition team and assisted in the setting up of his administration.

In 1998, Roberts then became the managing partner of the Detroit law firm of Goodman, Eden, Millender & Bedrosian. At the firm, Roberts focused in personal injury cases specializing in negligence in medical malpractice and product liability. She also handled cases involving housing discrimination.

In 1997, then President William Jefferson Clinton appointed Roberts as a United States District Judge. She was named to the Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and assumed his seat on the bench on June 29, 1998.

Judge Roberts served as the 62nd President of the Michigan State Bar Association. She was the first African American woman and only one to serve as President. In her role as President, she served as a member of several education seminars both nationally and internationally. She taught and trained train Judges, lawyers and others involved in the legal profession in Nairobi, Kenya and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She also traveled to Serbia to lecture and collaborate with legal minds there and served as a lecturer and presented forums on Intellectual Property issues to Judges in Lima, Peru.

In 2008, Judge Roberts became an Adjunct Professor at the University of Michigan Law School. At the law school, she taught the course, "Federal Sentencing: Evolution and Dynamics". Five years later, she was appointed by then Chief Bankruptcy Court Judge Steven Rhodes as the mediator in a City of Detroit Bankruptcy case, which resulted in a Plan of Adjustment on November 7, 2014.

Judge Roberts was instrumental in the negotiations of the collective bargaining agreements between the City and union representatives. In the negotiations, Judge Roberts was pivotal in reaching the historic agreement between Detroit's public safety unions and AFSCME. AFSCME is the largest union representing employees that work for the City of Detroit. She also mediated collective bargaining agreements on behalf of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department as more and more city residents filed bankruptcy cases affecting the Department's financial status.

Judge Roberts has been presented many awards and given many honors during her professional career. She received two of her highest honors when she received The Roberts P. Hudson Award and the Champion of Justice Award from the State Bar of Michigan. Northeastern University bestowed an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws and she was named as the Michigan Lawyers Weekly's, "Woman of the Year". In addition, Judge Roberts received the Dennis W. Archer Public Service Award from the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation.

Judge Roberts has given of her time to serve the community outside of the Court by providing pro bono legal services to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization and as a Board of Directors member. She has served as a past Chair of the Board to the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit and served on the Detroit Court's Pro Bono, Jury, Information Technology, and Magistrate Judges Committees. In addition, Judge Roberts has served as a Board to the State Bar of Michigan Foundation.

In 2017, Judge Roberts served as the presiding Judge in the lawsuit, "The Arab American Civil Rights League v. Trump", where she ruled that President Donald Trump must turn over an administrative memo of his advisor, Rudy Giuliani, which allegedly showed that the President had ordered a halt to Muslim immigrants entering the United States. The Arab American Civil Rights League had filed a suit to bring a halt to Trump's anti-Muslim travel ban. The U.S. federal Courts ruled that the President's Muslim travel ban was unconstitutional and could not be enforced.



PAUL LEROY ROBESON

...was born in 1898 in Princeton, New Jersey to Maria Louisa Bustill and the Reverend William Drew Robeson. Paul was born to a mixed race family as his mother was of mixed ancestry, i.e., African, Anglo-American, and Lenape Native American and his father who had escaped from a plantation in his teens, was from

the Igbo tribe of Nigeria, Africa. His father, in 1881, became the Minister of Princeton's Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church.

When he was six years old, Robeson and his three brothers, William Drew, Jr., Reeve and Ben and one sister, Marian, lost their mother, who was nearly blind, in a house fire. Their father, after disagreements with white financial supporters, was forced to resign from his position as Minister, even though he had the support of nearly the entire black congregation. This forced Robeson's father to work menial jobs to support the family. Financially strapped, the family lost their home and moved into the attic of a store in Westfield, New Jersey.

In 1910, Robeson's father became the Pastor of St. Thomas A.M.E. Zion Church in Somerville, New Jersey. Robeson, a gifted orator at a young age would sometimes deliver the sermon when his father could not. He had learned much watching and listening to his father's sermons over the years.

Robeson graduated from Somerville High School where he sang in the chorus and began his acting career. He excelled in football, basketball, baseball and track. Because of his athletic dominance, he received many racial taunts of which he ignored. Robeson was also an astute student winning an academic scholarship to Rutgers becoming the third African-American student ever enrolled. Prior to attending, he took a summer job as a waiter at Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island, where he met Fritz Pollard, who would later become the first African-American coach in the National Football League.

At Rutgers, despite the racism that existed amongst the players, despite a broken nose and dislocated shoulder suffered by a teammate determined to keep Robeson off of the Scarlet Knights football team, the coach seeing his resolve, put Robeson on the team. In his sophomore year, a visiting team refused to take the field during Rutgers' Sesquicentennial Celebration because Robeson was a Negro. He took note.

In addition to his sports play, Robeson joined the debate team, sang with the Glee Club, informally. To be a member meant attending all-white mixers of which he could not attend due to racial indifferences at the time. His junior year, he was recognized in *"The Crisis"* magazine for his athletic, academic, and singing talents. His father became gravely ill causing him to shuttle between Rutgers and Somerville to care for his father. Not long thereafter, his father died.

It was at this point in his life that Robeson began voicing his displeasure with Negroes not being awarded the same opportunities and respect in the United States as whites. On campus he began to speak out on black men fighting to protect America in World War I while being disenfranchised at home.

Upon leaving Rutgers with four annual oratorical wins, varsity letters in multiple sports, first-team All-American football selection, in both his junior and senior years, Walter Camp, known as the "Father of American Football" considered him the greatest ever to play his position. He was accepted into Phi Beta Kappa, the Cap and Skull society, and was elected class Valedictorian. In his valedictory speech, he pleaded with his classmates to work more for equality for all Americans.

In 1919 Robeson began studies at New York University's School of Law. He became an assistant football coach at Lincoln University to support himself and joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity there. Feeling uncomfortable at NYU, he transferred to Columbia University Law School. Known for his phenomenal singing abilities, he was selected to perform at the dedication of the Harlem YWCA.

After marrying Eslanda "Essie" Goode in 1921, he debuted his theatrical talents as the character Ridgely in playwright Torrence's *"Simon of Cyrene"*. While completing his law studies, he was recruited by his friend Friz Pollard to play football for the Ohio Akron Pros. Postponing school for his acting career, Robeson accepted a role as Jim in Mary Hoyt "Wiborg's Taboo". He sang chorus in an Off-Broadway production of *"Shuffle Along"* before going to Britain to join the joined *Taboo*, an adapted play to highlight his singing.

Returning to the U.S., he played football for the NFL's Milwaukee Badgers. Retiring in 1922, he re-enrolled into Columbia law school, graduating with his law degree. Robeson began a brief career as a lawyer, but due to extreme racism, he decided to use his God given talents and focused on his theatrical aspirations. Essie, becoming his agent, supported them until he found work.

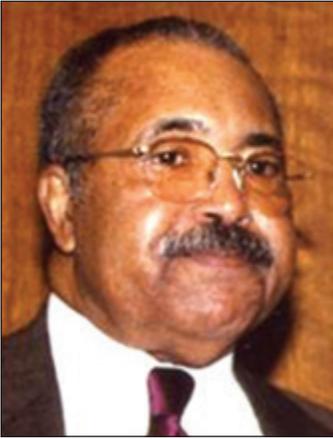
It wasn't long before he landed the lead role of Jim in Eugene O'Neill's controversial play, *"All God's Chillun Got Wings"*. The play's opening was postponed while a nation wide debate took place over the plot and storyline of the play. That delay led Robeson to the role of Brutus in *"The Emperor Jones"*, a role having a 90-minute soliloquy. Essie negotiated his first movie role, *"Body and Soul"*, while he performed concerts singing spirituals on the radio. Hearing his voice, Victor Records signed Robeson to a contract. Robeson by now was an international star to performing to sold out concert halls in the U.S. and Europe alike.

It was the play, *"Show Boat"*, summoned for a Royal Command Performance and performed at Buckingham Palace in London, England that brought Robeson his biggest acclaim. His rendition of *"Ol' Man River"* became the benchmark all actors who played the role. That performance was the Royal's most profitable venture through 2001. He performed the role of Joe over 350 times during his career. He also became the first black actor cast as Othello in Britain since Ira Aldridge. He became internationally recognized as the 10th most popular star in British cinema at the time.

Despite the success Robeson had on the world stage, an incident at the Savoy Grill, in which he was refused seating, pushed Robeson further into his political views. Turning to his African heritage, in early 1934 Robeson enrolled in the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and studied over twenty African dialects. In an essay *"I Want to be African"*, he spoke of his desire to embrace his ancestry. This, of course, angered his white theater patrons and the back lash began. Nonetheless, Robeson selected roles that spoke on African heritage visiting Germany and Russia where he was able to view racism from a different perspective.

By now, Robeson's views on racism and fascism were steering him to be a voice for political activism. He used his status to bring awareness to an unwavering defiance of imperialism in India and became an advocate for African independence from colonialists control. For the next thirty years, Robeson would continue to defy the standard norm in race relations. "Blacklisted" for his views on colonialism and genocide both inside and outside of America caused the State Department to ban Robeson from leaving the U.S. as he was viewing his opinions about the U.S. in foreign countries. Notwithstanding his trips to the Soviet Union, many felt he was befriending Communism and not Democracy.

Robeson died in Philadelphia on January 23, 1976 after suffering a stroke at the age of seventy-seven. He laid in state in Harlem and the funeral was held at Mother A.M.E. Zion Church and was as interred in the Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, New York.



ROBERT
L.
ROBERSON, JR.

...was born on November 10, 1931 in Los Angeles, California. He received his undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. He obtained his law degree

from the University of Southern California at Los Angeles (USC). Roberson was the only African-American student in his graduating law school class. During his college career, he joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

In 1959, Roberson began his professional legal career as a practicing attorney. After working as a practicing attorney for several years, he joined forces with Charles Scarlett to form the law firm of Scarlett and Roberson. He would serve as a partner in the firm for the next twenty years. Roberson's specialty was criminal law and civil law.

In 1979, Roberson was appointed by then Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. to the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Roberson presided over cases in both the Criminal and Civil Trial Courts. He would serve on the Court's bench until 1987.

In 1988, Judge Roberson was appointed to the Court's Appellate Department. Three years later, he would become the Presiding Judge of the Appellate Department of the Los Angeles Superior Court. He would serve as the Presiding Judge for five years.

In January of 1999, Judge Roberson retired from the bench. In retirement, he volunteered performing community service as a member of several organizations, including the Los Angeles County Bar Association and Los Angeles Criminal Courts Bar Association. He also served as a member of the John M. Langston Bar Association, U.S.C. Law School Alumni Association, and the California Association of Black Lawyers.

Judge Roberson was married for over sixty years to his wife, Phyllis. Together, they had one daughter Jan De Andrade. He died on February 16, 2016. He was eighty-four years old. Judge Roberson was interred at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood, California.





STEPHEN C. ROBINSON

...was born on January 25, 1957 in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. His mother worked as a payroll clerk at the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

and his father worked as a probation officer. He began his early education in a segregated school but by the second grade, he was bused to a predominantly white school across town.

Robinson attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York where he graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government. He remained at Cornell to attend its' law school and obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1984. After passing the New York State Bar exam, he began his professional legal career practicing law in New York.

He took a job with the New York City law firm of Alexander & Green. Robinson was the first African American attorney ever hired by the firm. After three years with Alexander & Green, he began to work with the federal government. In 1987, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York working under then U.S. Attorney General Rudolph Giuliani.

After four years in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Robinson returned to private practice to work for Kroll Associates, an international private investigations firm. At Kroll, he worked his way up to become the Associate General Counsel to the company. He later became the Managing Director of the firm.

In 1993, Robinson accepted a position with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. He served as a Special Assistant to the Director and General Counsel. Two years later, he left the Bureau to become the Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at Aetna, Inc.. Aetna is a managed healthcare company located in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1995, Robinson was appointed by then by President William Clinton as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut. That year, Robinson was also hired as the Interim Manager and Chief Executive Officer of Empower New Haven. The non-profit organization was created to provide restoration services to damaged homes in the

New Haven area. During that time, Robinson also taught at Yale Law School located in New Haven, as a Senior Research Fellow.

In 2003, then President George W. Bush appointed Robinson as a federal District Court Judge in the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York. After seven years on the bench, he resigned to take a position with the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. He served the firm as a partner in their litigation department.

For his service to the legal profession, Robinson has been recognized by the Department of Justice for his work litigating the case of "U.S. v. Galanis", a securities and tax fraud trial. He received the Chairman's Award for work performed for Aetna U.S. Healthcare and was recognized for his work while serving as the Chair of the New York City Bar Association's Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Profession.

Robinson served on the Board of Directors of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. He also served on the Cornell Law School Dean's Advisory Committee. In addition, he served on the Board of Fordham Law School's Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics in The Bronx, New York.



MALCOLM S. ROBINSON

...was born in 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Ottawa University, in Ottawa, Kansas with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communications in 1970. He attended the

University of Kansas School of Law in Lawrence, Kansas where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1975.

After graduating from law school, Robinson took a job with the Alliance of American Insurers in Chicago, Illinois as a Corporate Counsel member. He remained with the company for four years. He then moved to Dallas, Texas to work for the Scor Reinsurance Company as its' Corporate Counsel and Vice President. He remained with Scor for five years.

Robinson, in 1988, opened his own law firm, Robinson & West, with a legal partner. He later left the firm, which changed its' name West & Gooden, P.C.. Both firms were located in Dallas. Robinson served as the managing partner of the firm for four years.

In 1992, Robinson, as a community spokesperson, called for greater diversity within the Greater Dallas Crime Commission, after seeing the disparity between the African American neighborhood policing and that of the Dallas suburbs. As he became aware of the disparity in construction contracts associated with the new light rail commuter system that was being built by the city of Dallas between African American and other minorities and their white counterparts, Robinson threatened to file suite against the Dallas Rapid Transit Agency. Citing the lack of African American subcontractors chosen from the list of minority's registered, it was shown that a vast amount of the contracts awarded were given to women owned business (WOB), which had become a code word for Caucasian female owned companies. It was later discovered that many of these women owned companies were operated and run by the husband who served as the company's Vice-President and oversaw the daily operations of the company.

Robinson went on to become the President of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and as President of the Greater Dallas Crime Commission. He has been the President of the National Bar Association and served as Chairman of the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau. He has

also served as a member of Dallas Together Forum and the Salesmanship Club of Dallas.

In 1998, Robinson became the Vice President of Finance for the National Bar Association (NBA). At the time, the NBA had approximately 20,000 members who were predominately African American Judges, attorneys, and others involved in the legal profession. He became the 60th President several years later.

As President of the NBA, Robinson called upon the membership for greater equity within the legal field. At the time, African Americans possessed an unequal position within the legal arena, according to Robinson. He felt the legal profession was separated into two distinct categories, one black and the other white, which he deemed unequal and unjust. He called upon others to work for parity, both professionally and economically.

During his term as President of the NBA, the organization supported the 2003 University of Michigan effort, which was mostly successful, retain its' affirmative action policies that were being attacked in the courts as being unconstitutional to white students. Robinson argued against ending the program set-aside to ensure African American students had the opportunity to attend the University's Law School. He protested against the measures, as it would end serious efforts to make amends for the racism and injustices inflicted against African American students that wanted to attend the University's Law School.

Robinson opened a new law office with attorney Sonya Hoskins, Robinson & Hoskins, L.L.R.. He was an advocate for more African American attorneys opening their own law firms rather than accepting jobs with the larger established white law firms as a means to improving the legal representation of the black communities across the United States. He professed ownership as a means to increased capital and ownership reflective of the populous.

Robinson has been given many awards and honored by several organizations during his legal career. He has received the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce's Chairman's Award, The J.L. Turner Legal Association's President's Award, and the J.L. Turner Legal Association's C.B. Bunkley Award. Robinson has been given the Presidential Award from the National Bar Association, the Martin L. King, Jr. Justice Award from Dallas Bar Association, and the Distinguished Alumni Award University from the Kansas University's School of Law.



RANDALL ROBINSON

...was born on July 6, 1941 in Richmond, Virginia to Doris Robinson Griffin and Maxie Cleveland Robinson. Both of his parents were educators. His father was a high school History teacher, while his mother taught some but was

mostly a homemaker. Randall, his brother Max, the first African-American network television news anchor, and his two sisters, Jewel and Jean went to school in Richmond's public schools system.

A gifted athlete, in 1959 Robinson won a basketball scholarship to Norfolk State College. In his junior year, he left college and entered the U.S. Army. Completing his military obligations, Robinson returned to graduated from Virginia Union University in 1967 with a B.A. in Sociology. He left Virginia for Massachusetts and Harvard Law School. There, he became involved in the student protests against the system of apartheid in South Africa.

Graduating in 1970 with his law degree, he was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship. His first work was in Tanzania, returning to the U.S. in 1972. He accepted the position of Community Development Division Director of the Roxbury Massachusetts Multi-Service Center. Three years later, he became Staff Assistant to William L. Clay, the U.S. House of Representative from Missouri before taking a similar position on the staff of Congressman Charles Diggs of Michigan.

He then served as Staff Attorney for the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. from 1976 to 1977. Returning from a South African Black Leadership Conference taken with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Robinson recognized there was not sufficient black representation in international policy making processes. He saw the general neglect of black countries and decided to establish an advocacy group.

In 1977, Robinson founded and became President of Washington, D.C. based, TransAfrica Forum. The organization, according to the mission statement, has as its' purpose to be a "major research, educational and organizing institution for the African-American community, offering constructive analysis concerning U.S. policy as it affects Africa and the African Diaspora in the Caribbean and Latin America." He began to bring activism to the plight of people of African descent and their economic under achievements as far as U.S. policies were concerned. TransAfrica grew from

a two person organization into one having over 15,000 national and international members.

To protest the South African (Afrikaner) government's racial policy of discrimination against black South Africans, he organized sits-in at the South African Embassy. He took on a personal hunger strike with the purpose of pressuring the United States government into restoring Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power after the coup by General Raoul Cédras. To protest discriminatory trade policies directed at Caribbean nations, specifically import quotas and protective tariffs, he dumped crates of bananas onto the steps of the United States Trade Representatives.

He wrote a book, in 2001 entitled, *"The Debt: What America Owes To Blacks"*, which presents an in-depth outline for reparations he believed America should pay to African-Americans for centuries of discrimination and oppression. Restitution for continued social and economic isolation placed upon the African-American communities at large, he deemed appropriate. Noting the high proportion of incarcerated blacks versus whites, the differences in wealth between the two races, and the historical facts of slave brutality was proof enough of the injustices, thus the call for repatriations.

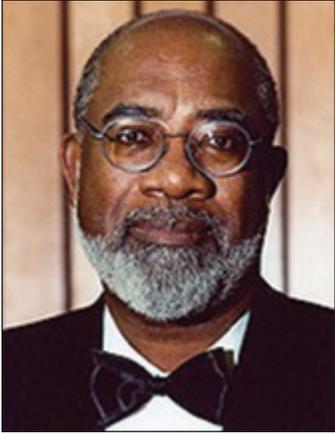
Many praised Robinson for his dedication to these controversial issues while others criticized him calling his agenda, "reverse racism". Some looked at his personal success which they thought contradicted the dire conditions he was advocating for African-Americans in the United States. So committed to his cause that in 2001, Robinson's emigrated to St. Kitts in the Caribbean, self-exiling himself to highlight his dislike towards America's domestic and foreign policies, of which he believed exploited minorities and the poor.

In recognition of his dedication to African-American causes, Robinson has received many awards. He has received the National Association of Black Journalists' Community Services Award; the U.S. Committee for UNICEF's Africa Future Award; the Congressional Black Caucus Humanitarian Award; the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change Award; the National Rainbow Coalition Hope Award; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Drum Major for Justice Award; and the Turner Broadcasting System's Trumpet Award for International Service.

He has received Honorary Degrees from Columbia College, Delaware State College, Morehouse College, North Carolina A&T University, Ohio Wesleyan University, the University of the District of Columbia, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He did, however, turn one down from Georgetown University Law Center.

Married twice, from his first wife, Brenda, Robinson had two children, Anikie, and Jabari. He one daughter, Khalea, by his second wife, Hazel.





Roosevelt Robinson

...was born in Valdosta, Georgia and began his formal education in a segregated one room school house. He overcame great diversity to become the Valedictorian of his high school senior class.

He found his way to the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon where he received his undergraduate degree, cum laude, graduating in 1976.

Robinson then entered private practice before accepting an offer to becoming a District Attorney for the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office. After spending some time in the District Attorney's Office, he took a position with the State Parole Board for three years. He then became a Multnomah County District Court Judge.

Robinson was appointed to serve on the Multnomah District Court in 1990. Five years later, he would be elevated to the Multnomah County Circuit Court. As a presiding Judge, he worked to institute alternative sentences when it came to alcohol and drug offenses.

Judge Robinson pushed for more treatment to individuals rather than the uniformed sentencing guidelines that were being employed by other Courts across the country. He was an advocate for a separate court to deal exclusively with drug related non-violent cases as a means to introduce a human element to a system that had become more robotic in its' process of adjudication. He believed that to create a better society, the Court needed to look at mitigating circumstances surrounding the convictions or probations handed out by the Court as opposed to the cookie cutter approach of having a computer allocate the average time a litigant should receive without the human touch of moral understanding.

In addition, Judge Robinson called upon African American lawyers and Judges across the U.S. to pave a way for future African American attorneys so they would take on a "non-conformist" by the books approach to future litigations. In that regard, Judge Robinson co-founded the Minority Law Student's Association at the University of Portland Law School. He was also a founding member the Association of Oregon Black Lawyers.

In Judge Robinson's honor, friends, colleagues and others involved in the legal community established the Roosevelt Robinson Minority Scholarship, which gives generously to law students wishing to attend the Lewis & Clark Law School. Each student recipient must exhibit superior integrity and high ethical standards in their approach to studying the law. The scholarship is aimed at increasing diversity in the Oregon legal community and lends support to continuing the legacy of Judge Robinson. Judge Roosevelt Robinson died on August 4, 2004.



SPOTTSWOOD WILLIAM ROBINSON, III

...was born on July 26, 1916 in Richmond, Virginia to Inez Clements and Spottswood William Robinson Jr.. Raised in an educated household, little Robinson was quick to learn from his father who

was a prominent lawyer and businessman in Richmond. When it was time for Robinson III to attend school, he was well prepared.

Robinson II graduated from Armstrong High School in Richmond. Armstrong was the first public school designated for African Americans. After completing his high school studies, Robinson stayed in his hometown of Richmond to take his undergraduate studies attending Virginia Union University. He graduated in 1936.

He went north to study for his law degree attending Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.. In 1939, he graduated the top of his class, magna cum laude, with the highest Grade Point Average ever attained in the university's history.

Howard University, impressed with Robinson's work habits and dedication to his studies while he attended the university, hired him as a Professor of law. He taught at Howard from 1939 to 1947.

In 1948, Robinson left his post at Howard to join the staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). There, he oversaw several important civil rights cases including *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*. This case was one of five cases that were combined into the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case in which the U.S. Supreme Court officially overturned racial segregation in U.S. public schools. The *Davis* case challenged segregation in Prince Edward County, Virginia and was the only case initiated by student protests.

In a 1951 case, Robinson represented William C. Chance in his suit, *Chance v. Lambeth*, against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. Chance, a Negro, brought suit against the railroad company seeking damages claiming that on June 25, 1948, he was wrongfully ejected from a railroad car on which he was an interstate passenger be-

cause of his race. Not only was Robinson ejected from the train, he was arrested in connection with his removal from the train. Tried, the case was split based on the counts contained in the lawsuit.

With his case being folded into the more notable *Brown v. Board of Education*, and as a staff member of the LDF, Robinson became well acquainted with Thurgood Marshall, the lead attorney on the case and lead attorney for the LDF. After the successful pleading of the *Brown* case, in 1960, Robinson left the LDF to return to Howard University, this time to become Dean of the School of Law. For the next two years, while Dean of the law school, Robinson served as a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Robinson to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He left his position as Dean of Howard University's Law School to become the first black federal judge in the U.S. capital. Two years later, Robinson would make another mark in judicial service when he was appointed as the first African American to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. President Johnson again appointed Robinson to this post.

In 1970, as a sitting federal judge, Robinson joined a group of prominent African American leaders at the 61st annual meeting of the NAACP in condemning Richard Nixon's efforts to nominate conservative Southern jurists, Clement Haynsworth and Harrold Carswell, to the U.S. Supreme Court. His stand created great controversy. Never before had a sitting judge took such a stance.

Later, in May of 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed Robinson as the first African American Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals. He served on the bench for five years before stepping down in 1986.

Robinson was married to Marian B. Wilkerson. They married when they were in their twenties and had two children, Nina and Spottswood IV. Spottswood William Robinson III died on October 11, 1998 in his home in Richmond, Virginia.



SUE-ANN ROBINSON CADDY

...graduated from Florida A&M University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida in 2003 with her Bachelor of Science degree, summa cum laude in Business Administration and Finance. In

obtaining her law degree, Robinson Caddy was among the second graduating class of the Florida International University (FIU) College of Law. At FIU, she founded and served as the first President of the Caribbean Student Bar Association and served as the Editor of the Chromatic Times Newsletter. Robinson-Caddy was twice named as a Coca-Cola Corporate Scholar and once named a Florida Merit Scholar and was given an Outstanding Leadership Award from the FIU Black Law Students Association.

After completing her law degree studies and passing the Florida State Bar exam, Robinson-Caddy began her private practice law degree. During her early career, she served as an Assistant State Attorney in the Felony Trial Unit for the 17th Judicial Circuit in Florida. As an Assistant State's Attorney, Robinson-Caddy litigated hundreds of cases that included drug offenses, drunk driving, and attempted murder.

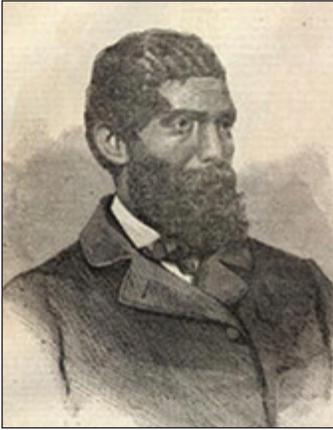
Robinson-Caddy has served as the President of the T.J. Reddick Bar Association; the Black Lawyers Association of Broward County, Florida; and the President of the Board of Advocates for the Trial Team Division. She has served as a member to the Florida Bar Board of Governors for the Young Lawyers Division. She also served as the Director for the Broward County Bar Young Lawyers Section. Robinson-Caddy is a member of the Federal Bar, United States District Court, Southern District of Florida and is trained as a County Court Mediator.

Robinson-Caddy has been named as one of the, "Top Ten Black Female Lawyers You Should Know", in the Nation by Black Enterprise Magazine. Her achievements have been featured on national broadcasts, including America Trends TV, Fox Business Channel, Fox News Channel, and RT International. She has served as a legal analyst on a variety of topics from Police Misconduct to Liability of Major Corporations in major negligence cases. Robinson-Caddy also anchors her own weekly national news broadcast, "Legally Speaking with Sue-Ann

Robinson", where she speaks on topics related to the law. She has served as Lead Counsel on dozens of jury trials and her winning percentage is high.

The United States Congress presented Robinson-Caddy with a Certificate of Special Recognition for her service to the State of Florida. The Super Lawyers Magazine has recognized Robinson-Caddy for her achievements four consecutive years in a row since 2013.

Robinson-Caddy gives of her time countless hours to many community based cultural and educational endeavors. She has served on the Lobbying Committee for the Lake Hall School Grant, assisted the Butler Street YMCA in Atlanta, Georgia on its' restoration project, and served as the Barbadian Delegate at International Coronation Events. Robinson-Caddy serves as the principal to her own law firm, Robinson Caddy Law located in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



JOHN STEWART ROCK

...was born on in 1825 to free black parents in Salem, New Jersey. He attended public schools and by the age of 19, he had received the education required to become a teacher. He taught from

1844 to 1848 beginning in a one-room school in Salem. He worked there for four years gaining the attention and approval many veteran school teachers. They were impressed with his work ethic, as he would consistently hold classes, sometimes for up to for six hours; conduct private tutoring sessions, sometimes for two hours; and still study medicine under the tutelage of two white doctors, Dr. Shaw and Dr. Gibson, who gave Rock free access to their textbooks and their personal book collections. Rock took advantage of this opportunity and studied daily, many times for up to eight hours a day.

Initially denied entry into the American Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania because of his race, Rock was eventually accepted. While in medical school, his focus was dentistry. He also spent time assisting in teaching a night class at a school for African Americans. In 1849, after completing an apprenticeship with Dr. Harbert, a white dentist, Rock opened a dental practice. He did so well that in 1851, he received a Silver Medal for the creation of improved artificial teeth and a second prize for an essay on temperance, the abstinence from alcoholic drink. Graduating with a medical degree 1852, Rock became one of the first African Americans to obtain a degree in medicine in the United States.

At the age of twenty-seven, Rock was a teacher, a doctor, and a dentist. He left Philadelphia and moved to Boston, Massachusetts to open a medical and dental office. Not long thereafter, he received a commission from the Vigilance Committee, an abolitionists organization, to treat fugitive slaves' medical conditions. Dr. Rock's politics had begun to identify with the abolitionist movement's ideals and soon he became a prominent speaker for their causes. While he plead to the United States government to end slavery, he also urged all educated African Americans to use their talents, resources and networks to assist in their communities. In 1855, Rock took part in the campaign responsible for the legal desegregation of Boston public schools.

On September 14, 1861, a white lawyer, T. K. Lothrop, made a motion to have Rock examined for the state bar of

which he passed. He opened a private law office, through which he advocated diligently for the rights of African Americans. In 1862, he gave a speech to the Anti-Slavery Society in Boston and voiced his opposition to Lincoln's plan for the so-called "Negro colonization" in Haiti, siding instead with the positions of Frederick Douglass these issues.

In 1861, right before the Civil War began, Rock became one of the first African Americans to be admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. Massachusetts Governor John Andrew soon appointed Rock to be Justice of the Peace for Boston and Suffolk County, Massachusetts. In 1863, Rock assisted in the assembly of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, the first federally recognized African American Army unit in the U.S. Union ranks. The 54th served the country well during the Civil War. For the 54th and other black soldiers, Rock campaigned hard for equal pay as a gratitude for their service.

On February 1, 1865, one day after Congress ended slavery by approving the Thirteenth Amendment, with great support from others, Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner introduced a motion that made Rock the first black attorney to be admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States receiving the honor on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. He became the first African American lawyer to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court as well. Having mastered several professions, Rock was one of the most educated men of his time.

During the late 1850s, Rock's health had taken a turn for the worst. After several surgeries, he was forced to stop his medical practice. Wanting more advanced care, Rock looked to improve his health overseas. In 1858, he made plans to sail to France. He was denied a passport by U.S. Secretary of State Lewis Cass, citing the 1857 Dred Scott Decision claiming that U.S. federal passports were proof of citizenship and since African Americans we not citizens, Rock could not be issued a passport.

Abolitionist supporters in Boston became outraged. They voiced their disapproval of that denial and gave their opinions to persuade the Massachusetts Legislature to demand that the Secretary of State grant Rock a passport. From those pressures, the State Department relented. Rock was given his passport and he sailed to France.

His diagnosis from the French doctors was not good and their recommendations demanded that Rock give up his speaking engagements and his medical practice as well. Agreeing to those orders, he slowed his workload but continued his abolitionist activities. Nonetheless his health continued to worsen.

John S. Rock died in Boston on December 3, 1866.



JANICE ROGERS BROWN

...was born on May 11, 1949 in Greenville, Alabama. Growing up in the segregated South, Brown's family were sharecropper's. The Jim Crow policies of the Deep South prohibited blacks from most public places and the Brown family refused to support businesses that practiced segregation. When Brown

was old enough to understand, she remembers hearing family stories about southern atrocities at the hands of white supremacist and the attorneys that represented the black victims.

She was inspired by the stories of one particular lawyer, Fred Gray. Gray, an Alabama civil rights lawyer, had made a name for himself by defending the rights of blacks in Alabama. Gray also defended several women, including Rosa Parks in a class action suit to end segregated bus transportation in the South. Gray also defended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his stance against racial hatred. These stories and other childhood experiences led Brown to want to become a lawyer.

When Brown was in her teens, the family relocated to Sacramento, California escaping the life of sharecropping and to make a better life. Completing high school there, she entered California State in Sacramento where she received her undergraduate degree in Economics in 1974. In 1977, she received her J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles' School of Law. She would later be honored with degrees from Catholic University of America School of Law in Washington, D.C.; Pepperdine University Law School in Malibu, California; and the Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles. In 2004, she received her LL.M. degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Brown began her legal career and for two decades she worked in various agencies. From 1977 to 1979, she worked as Deputy Legislative Counsel for the California Legislative Counsel. From 1979 to 1987, she was the Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal and Civil Divisions of the California Attorney General's Office. For the following two years, she served as Deputy Secretary and General Counsel for the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. At the same time, Brown taught as an Adjunct Professor at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.

In 1990, she entered private practice taking a position as an Associate in the law firm of California based Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor. After one year, she returned to the government sector accepting a job as Legal Affairs Secretary for Governor Pete Wilson. In her three year stint, her legal focus crossed several areas including analysis of administration policies, pending legislation on clemency and extradition issues, and decisions made by the courts.

Her duties also included monitoring state litigations, supervising departmental counsels, and was the legal liaison between the Governor's office and state executive departments. Governor Wilson appointed Brown to the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. The Governor appointed her despite her rating of "not being qualified" by the State Bar of California's Commission on Judicial

Nominees Evaluation who cited her lack of experience as the base for their rating.

In 1996, Wilson was again appointed by Wilson to a state job, this time as Associate Justice to the California Supreme Court. She became the first African-American woman to serve on the Court and first person appointed to the Court with that type of rating. While sitting on the Court, Brown wrote several high profile opinions. In one case, *Hi-Voltage Wire-Works, Inc. v. City of San Jose*, her opinion overturned a lower court's ruling related to a set-aside program which banned preferential treatment in public works, public employment, and city contracting. In another opinion, Brown dissented from striking down a parental consent law on abortions.

Brown wrote the majority opinion involving the interpretation of California's SLAPP statute which had as its' intention "to censor, intimidate, and silence critics by making them pay the cost of legal defenses." A U.S. Constitution First Amendment "free speech" issue, many jurisdictions have made such lawsuits illegal. She was the only Justice on the Court to contend that drug offenders should be given medical and psychological treatment instead of being sent to jail. In a 2000 case of *Kasler v. Lockyer*, she wrote the opinion that allowed California to ban semi-automatic firearms.

In 2003, President George W. Bush nominated Brown to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. She received a failed cloture vote from the full Senate and her nomination was returned to the President. Two years later, Bush renominated Brown and on June 8, 2005, Brown was confirmed as a judge on the D.C. Circuit. As she had done in her previous positions on the bench, Brown wrote opinions that protected the constitutional balance of powers. That same year, she became a candidate for a seat as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Unfortunately, Justice Samuel Alito was chosen.

During her legal career and while sitting on the bench, Brown has been active in community affairs. She was a member of the California Commission on the Status of African American Males which addressed the unfairness of African-American males in employment, in business, in the criminal justice system, and in the health care systems. Brown was a part of the Governor's Child Support Task Force, which focused on the improvement of California's child support enforcement system.

Brown served as a member of the Community Learning Advisory Board of the Rio Americano High School. The Board developed the Academia Civitas program which provides internships for school kids in Sacramento that want to go into the governments' public service sector. She has also given time to the Center for Law-Related Education. This program teaches high school students how to solve everyday problems. The program uses moot courts and mock trials as a means to getting kids involved and to resolve issues that may have.

Praised by some for her conservative approach to societal ills and disliked by others for her opinions on issues such as Social Security, Wall Street regulations, and Obama's Affordable Care Act, specifically the requirement that employers include birth control coverage in their employee health plans, Brown continues her legacy as an African American woman sitting on the bench. Having risen to the pinnacle of her legal career, Brown is steadfast in her beliefs, yet has reason when it comes to the law.

Brown was married to Alan Brown, who died of cancer. They had one child, Nathan A. Brown. She remarried jazz bassist Dewey Parker in 1991





WILHELMINA J. ROLARK

..was born on September 17, 1916 in Portsmouth, Virginia. She graduated from Portsmouth's I.C. Norcum High School in 1933. She enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C. where

she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master's degree in Political Science.

After completing law school and passing the bar, Rolark accepted a job at the U.S. Department of Treasury. She worked during the day and attended law school at night at the Robert H. Terrell Law School. She completed her law degree in 1944 specializing in civil rights and discrimination law.

In 1963, Rolark, along with her famed civil rights advocate and husband, Calvin W. Rolark, helped to organize the 1963 March on Washington. A year later, she co-founded with her husband, the Washington Informer newspaper as a vehicle to disseminate pertinent information specific to the African American Washington, D.C. communities. That same year, Rolark and Calvin established the United Black Fund. The Fund was created to support initiatives introduced by local African American neighborhoods. Several years later, Rolark founded the National Association of Black Women Attorneys.

In 1976, Rolark was elected as the Ward 8 representative to the Washington, D.C. City Council. She would represent her Ward 8 constituents for sixteen years as a City Council member. During her four-terms and sixteen years serving on the Council, Rolark was a member of several key committees and was a true leader for her Ward. She worked on not only her Ward residents but on behalf of the entire city to improve the lives of all D.C. residents.

As a Council member, Rolark led the Judiciary Committee, which set the budgets for twenty-two city agencies. She oversaw the Police Department and the Fire Departments budgets. She managed the two departments oversight for ten years.

Rolark helped to found the annual Martin Luther King Day parade held each year in Southeast Washington. She played a key role in renaming two main D.C. thorough-

fares in Ward 8 after Martin Luther King and civil rights activist, Malcolm X. Rolark was also a vocal supporter for home rule for the citizens of the District of Columbia. She became a voice for the voiceless and would constantly profess that "those who were last would someday be first".

Rolark was honored by many when they heard of her death. Past Mayors, City Council members, and her beloved residents of Ward 8, all lamented her passing as a true trailblazer and leader of the African American community in Washington, D.C. and other communities around the country affected by civil rights injustices and the lack of economic advancements in the respective communities.

Rolark was a member of the Shiloh Baptist Church located in the Northwest quad of Washington. She died on February 14, 2006 at Greater Southeast Community Hospital from colon cancer. She was eighty-nine years old.



DENISE ROLARK- BARNES

...was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in the city by her stepmother, Wilhelmina J. Rolark and her father, Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, Sr.. Her stepmother was a fourteen year D.C. City

Council member and community activists and her father was the founder and Editor of The Washington Informer, a Washington, D.C. weekly community Newspaper.

Rolark-Barnes began writing for her father's newspaper when she was in middle school. After graduating from high school, she attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where she received her undergraduate degree in 1976 majoring in Communications. She remained at Howard to obtain her law degree from the University's School of Law.

While in law school, she served as the Editor of The Barrister, the law school's student newspaper. Howard's School of Law built a new law school building and on one occasion, famed civil rights lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, came to the school and gave a speech. Rolark-Barnes was fortunate to have on her small staff of college journalist, a court reporter who attended the speech and copied verbatim Marshall's speech. She convinced her father to publish the speech in his newspaper. Once published she received a call from the Dean of the Law School stating that he was receiving calls from around the world of legal scholars wanting a transcript of Marshall's speech. Rolark-Barnes and her father were the only newspaper in the country that published and disseminated the text. Rolark-Barnes graduated from Howard with her Juris Doctorate degree in 1979.

After graduating law school, Rolark-Barnes joined her father's newspaper and became its' Managing Editor. She remained in that position until 1994 when she became the Director of The Washington Informer Charities. She served as the Executive Producer of "The Washington Informer News," which was a bi-weekly television news program. She also hosted a public affairs program, "Let's Talk" and another hosted program, "Reporter's Roundtable". During that time, Rolark-Barnes also appeared on national radio and TV shows, including "The Tavis Smi-

ley Show," "Tony Brown's Journal," NBC-4's "Reporter's Notebook".

Rolark-Barnes has served as the President of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. She served as member of the Board of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the United Black Fund, Inc. She has also been actively involved with the District of Columbia's Black Public Relations Society Foundation and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., as well as several other community based non-profit organizations.

Through the newspaper, The Washington Informer has supported and sponsored many local community centered programs and initiatives, including the annual Washington Informer City-Wide Spelling Bee. The newspaper has established internships for high school journalism and communication students and offered college students an opportunity to work with the staff of writers, reporters, and graphic artists that the newspaper has on call.

Rolark-Barnes has been honored for her support of Washington, D.C. residents, as were her stepmother, Wilhelmina and her father, Calvin. The National Newspaper Publishers Association has recognized her for her varied contributions and the Chrysler Financial/National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation bestowed upon her its' Entrepreneurial Award. The award was given as recognition for Rolark-Barnes' entrepreneurial accomplishments and her commitment to community service. In addition, she received the Jack and Lovell Olender Foundation Generous Heart Award and the Community Champion Award from the Summit Health Institute for Research and Education.

Rolark-Barnes lives in the Washington, D.C., along with her husband, Lafayette Barnes. Together they have two sons. She continues to publish the newspaper, which is highly read and brings positive news to the African American community on achievements of its residents as opposed to much of the negative news broadcast by main street media outlets. Rolark-Barnes, in carrying forward the legacies of her father, Dr. Calvin Rolark and her stepmother, Councilwoman Wilhelmina Rolark, understands that if you own a vehicle that controls what is published, you are able to give information pertinent to the communities she serves.



TERESA WYNN ROSEBOROUGH

native of Memphis, Tennessee. She attended undergraduate school at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980. She then enrolled into Boston

University in Boston, Massachusetts where she earned a Master's degree in Education in 1983. To obtain her law degree, Roseborough chose the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, graduating in 1986. While earning her law degree with honors, she served as the North Carolina Law Review as the Editor-in-Chief.

While in college, Roseborough married her college sweetheart, Joseph Roseborough. Together, they had one daughter, Courtney Grace. After passing the bar, Roseborough accepted a job as a law clerk for U.S. Court of Appeals Judge, James Dickson Phillips, Jr.. After one year as clerk for Judge Phillips, Jr., she then became a clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

After completing her clerkships, in 1994, Roseborough took a job with the Department of Justice as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel. Dismayed by the legal policies being promoted by the Republican Party, Roseborough was excited by the opportunity to work in the Justice Department. In an agreement with then Attorney General Janet Reno, Roseborough was able to maintain her residents in Atlanta, Georgia and commuted between Atlanta and Washington to perform her job.

Roseborough, left the Department of Justice and went into private practice when she accepted a job as an associate attorney with the law firm Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP with headquarters in Washington, D.C.. She remained an associate with the firm for five years.

In 1996, Roseborough rejoined Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP as a partner. As partner, her specialty centered on complex litigation matters at both the trial and appellate levels. She became especially involved in constitutional law matters, class action suits, telecommunications laws and their government regulations and compliance statutes. Roseborough argued briefs in state and federal courts around the country, including several in

front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington. A year later, In 1997, Roseborough became one of four attorneys chosen to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Unfortunately, then President Bill Clinton chose nominee Frank M. Hull for the post.

In 2000, Roseborough served as one of the primary attorneys for Al Gore in his presidential campaign litigation associated with his lost election due to alleged voter irregularities. She argued before the Eleventh Circuit in the matters of Siegel v. LePore and Touchston v. McDermott on behalf of former Vice President Al Gore and his complaint in regards to the 2000 election.

In 2003, the American Lawyer magazine chose Roseborough as one of the forty-five highest-performing practicing attorneys under the age of forty-five in their featured article, "45 Under 45". In 2005, while still serving as a partner at Sutherland Asbill, Roseborough was chosen as one of three finalists to become the Dean of the University of North Carolina School of Law. She lost that bid to selectee John "Jack" Boger.

In 2006, Roseborough became the Chief Litigation Counsel to insurance giant, MetLife. While serving as legal advisor to MetLife, she also has served on the Board of Directors of the American Constitution Society. She also served on the Board of Advisors for the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina. In addition, Roseborough served on the Lawyers' Civil Rights Committee.

In 6, 2011, Roseborough became the Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary to the Home Depot Company. She reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer and handles the legal duties and responsibilities that affect the company. She is responsible for all legal functions including securities, employment issues, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and property and intellectual property. Roseborough serves as the liaison between the company's Board of Directors and the company itself. Each governing policy of the company, falls under the authority of Roseborough.

Roseborough has served on State Bar of Georgia's Appellate Section's Executive Committee and American Bar Association's (ABA) Council of Appellate Lawyers. She has also served as a member of the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society. As part of the National Heritage Lecture Series, Roseborough was selected to re-argue the famous 1824 case of Gibbons v. Ogden before Justice Scalia. She is also a member of the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Bar Examiners and sits on the Board of Overseers of the RAND Corporation's Institute for Civil Justice.





KEVIN ANDREW ROSS

...was born on June 1, 1963 in Los Angeles, California. He graduated high school from Gardena High School in Gardena, California. He became the President of his high schools' student body and the President of the District-Wide Association of Student Councils for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

After graduating high school, Ross chose the east coast school of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. While at Morehouse, he joined the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. He completed his studies with an undergraduate degree in Political Science. He returned to the west coast for his law degree. While in law school, he interned for black Republican Judge David W. Williams. He completed the requirements for his Juris Doctorate degree at the Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles.

Ross took his first job as a lawyer interning with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. At the time, the country was at the height of the "crack", the crystal form of cocaine, epidemic. Ross recognized that the underprivileged communities needed an advocate to help them in protecting their communities, he became a Deputy District Attorney. In that role, he became a hardcore gang prosecutor. He was responsible for implementing nuisance injunctions against gang members in and around Los Angeles.

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In 1995, Ross decided to enter the world of politics. He ran for office on the Los Angeles City Council. He came in third despite having support from both the Los Angeles Times and several other Los Angeles weekly publications. Collecting himself from the loss, Ross accepted an appointment to the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Commission. To assist in the preparation of the next generation of African American leaders, he founded the organization, The New Leaders.

In his efforts to prepare African Americans for future employment and leadership opportunities, Ross began contributing articles to newspapers across the country. He wrote commentaries for the newspapers such as the Los Angeles Daily News, the Los Angeles Sentinel, the Los Angeles Times, and the New York Times. He landed the job as co-host on radio station KACE, 103.9 as the co-host of "The People's Connection". He was later given his own show, "The Zone", on radio station KTZN which was owned by The Walt Disney Company. He also produced a weekend radio program on station KABC.

In 1998, Ross' determined focus on community involvement soon paid off. He was elected as a Judge on the Inglewood Municipal Court. He became the youngest elected judge in the state of California. One year later, he was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court. He would serve on the Court for seven years where he would hear over 60,000 cases. His case load included cases involving simple traffic infractions to small claims to violent sexual predators to first degree murder.

He became a regular on a local PBS station where he joined in group discussions on legal issues speaking from the perspective of a Judge. He advocated for African Americans to become involved in the legal process as a police officer, a defense attorney, a prosecutor, or even as a Judge. He pushed for involvement in the judicial system which he felt would help to ensure fair treatment of African Americans by the legal system.

Ross, in 2005, ran into his own legal issues when he was removed from the bench. The Commission on Judicial Performance brought charges against him claiming violations of judicial canons. He was cited with violating one of his Court defendants' constitutional rights, making public comments about pending cases before him in his appearances on TV news shows, and his involvement with the commercial TV court show. The Commission believing that Ross was using his seat on the bench to further his commercial aspirations, found his action as those unbecoming of a sitting Judge and asked for his removal from the bench.

Ross appealed the sanctions to the California Supreme Court but to no avail. His license to practice law in the State of California was revoked. After the Court's ruling, neither of Ross' pilot programs, "Mobil Court" and his "Ross is Boss" shows were picked up for syndication.

Picking up the remnants of his career, Ross began a communications company. He launched a Internet show on the citizen broadcasting network, Blogtalkradio. His "The Kevin Ross Show" became one of the leading conservative current events political shows on the Internet. It soon was in the top five of the most popular blogs on the Internet social networking radio station.

Fox News Radio and BlogTalkRadio partnered in 2008 to conduct a week long one-on-one political blog tournament, "Election 2008: Battle of the Blog Talkers." Wanting to bring listeners together to select the best political blogger on Blogtalkradio, FOX News asked their radio listeners to vote for their best blogger. Ross, placed in the top eight and was ultimately declared the winner of the contest.

In 2009, comedian and businessman Byron Allen offered Ross an opportunity to host a court show to be produced by his independent television production and distribution company, Entertainment Studios. "America's Court with Judge Ross" in 2010 became one of the slew of court TV shows being aired across America. In 2014, the Emmy nominated show was renewed through 2016 and added to the roster of TV court shows airing on Allen's Entertainment Studios owned Justice Central.

Ross, as a commentator, has appeared on many cable, radio and television stations across the U.S. and abroad. He has regularly appeared on Black Entertainment Television (BET), CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, NPR, and The Tom Joyner Morning Show. He could also be heard on radio station KJLH 102.3 FM, where he continued his legal, political and social commentaries in his continued attempts to find our next generation of black leaders.





PATRICIA ROSIER

...earned a Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. She obtained her law degree from the University of Denver's College of Law in Denver, Colorado. She received additional training as a certified financial analyst from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

During her professional legal career, Rosier has served as General Counsel for Forum Capital Management, Inc.; General Counsel for American General Securities, Inc.; and Associate General Counsel for Martin Marietta Corporation. He served as the Assistant General Counsel for American General Life Insurance Company and as the Staff Attorney for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, Rosier has served as the President of the Washington Bar Association Legal Fund, Inc..

Rosier currently serves the Managing Partner at her own firm, The Rosier Law Firm. The firm has offices in the District of Columbia and Maryland. She focuses her attention on corporate/finance law, entertainment, family, insurance, and real estate law. She also litigates cases involving medical malpractice, personal injury, securities, and mass torts.

Rosier was an invited guest speaker at the 2013 Ninth Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair in Houston, Texas, where she spoke on women in the law profession, the law as it applied to the African American communities, and taking care of the our communities through pro bono and volunteered charitable deeds, funds, and time. She implores others to mentor young law professionals entering the field and to reach out to high school students undetermined in the life's goals to give them inspiration to achieve in whatever field of service they may chose. Rosier strives to provide a real life positive role model for young people to see with the hope that they will choose law as a path toward their future success. At the least, she is able to show them that they will always need a lawyer if they are success that will protect them as they develop and after their success has been earned.

In 2013, Rosier was elected as the President of the National Bar Association (NBA). The NBA is the world's largest and oldest national organization comprised of predominantly African American Judges, lawyers, law students, and others involved in the legal profession. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Washington D.C. Bar Association, and the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association.

For her real estate involvement, Rosier serves as a broker for PAM Enterprises Realty, a Washington, D.C. based real estate company. She serves her clients as a member of the National Association of Realtors, the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, and the African American Real Estate Professionals. She is a member of Leadership Greater Washington; The Society, Inc. and The Links, Incorporated. Rosier is also a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc..

Rosier has received several distinguished awards during her professional career, including receiving the C. Frances Stratford Award, the highest award bestowed upon any member of the National Bar Association by its' selection committee. She has been honored by her peers in the real estate legal field and from her sorority and social charitable groups that she serves as a member. Rosier continues to practice her profession from her D.C. and Maryland offices.



DAVID P. ROWE

...was born on May 8, 1959 in Kingston, Jamaica to Audrey Stewart and Ira DeCordova Rowe. He began his formal education attending the well established, Wolmer's Boys School in Kingston having been founded in 1729. Rowe did well in his studies and was awarded the Sydney McDon-

ald Award, which allowed him to pursue a higher education.

Rowe's mother was a sister tutor at the Nursing School of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and with his earned scholarship, he was able to attend the university where he received his undergraduate degree. He again did well with his studies and won another scholarship, the Exhibition Scholarship from the Law School at the UWI. He received his LL.B. degree from the UWI at the Cave Hill, Barbados campus in 1980. While attending UWI, Rowe was active in the international adoption agency, Amnesty International.

Rowe continued to excel in his studies and was nominated a 1980 and 1981 Rhodes Scholars finalist from the country of Jamaica. For his Juris Doctorate degree, he attended the University of Miami School of Law in Miami, Florida, graduating in 1982. After receiving his law degree, Rowe took and passed the Florida State Bar exam.

He accepted a position and an associate attorney for the law firm Greenberg Traurig in their Miami offices. While working at Greenberg Traurig, he was able to work alongside former U.S. Ambassador Ambler Moss and former Florida Governor Reubin Askew. After two years with the firm, he left to join the offices of Holland & Knight. At Holland & Knight, Rowe did well. During the six years he remained with the firm, he became a capital partner, and was able to work with the former President of the American Bar Association, Chesterfield Smith and famed Florida legal mind, Bill McBride. Rowe left Holland & Knight in 1990.

In 1991, Rowe began his own law firm, David Rowe, P.A. and soon built a respectable practice. He found success in winning cases in both the state and federal courts. In two of his more notable cases, he won acquittals in the federal cases of "United States v. Joel Powell" and "United States v. Hargitay".

In Rowe's first major criminal trial, he represented Nigel Bowe who faced fifteen charges of criminal misdeeds. Rowe took on the case and was able to defend Bowe successfully in the four-week trial. Although he was proven guilty of one of the crimes, he was acquitted on fourteen of the fifteen charges and served eight years in prison instead of the life sentence he originally faced.

In 1994, Rowe served as the Registered Foreign Agent for Jamaica. He also served as the Secretary to the Caribbean Research Development Foundation. In addition, he prepared the Draft Constitution for the Jamaica Diaspora Movement

In 2011, Rowe successfully represented Jamaican entertainer Moses Davis, better known as "Beenie Man", after the United States Consulate in Jamaica canceled Davis's visa. Rowe was able to have the visa restored. He then began to take on other cases surrounding U.S. immigration representing those faced with being removed from the country. In the Christopher Coke extradition case, Rowe played an important part in its' resolve.

In 2013, Rowe played a pivotal part in the launching of a program that distributed computer tablets to underprivileged youths in the Whit-

field Town area of Kingston. He gave away the computers as a tribute to his father who had a humble beginning to his life but achieved academic success. He wanted Kingston to become a hub for technological development and high tech learning. The St. Andrew Corporation gave community recognition to Rowe for his efforts to improve the lives of the young people of Kingston.

In 2014, Rowe served as the lead defense lawyer in a prominent Florida "Stand Your Ground" first-degree murder case and in a landmark human trafficking case involving Damion St Patrick Baston and the federal government. In the human trafficking case, prostitution was alleged in the case and allegedly committed by Baston, which is a criminal act. Rowe argued in Baston's defense that there was no coercion and as an Australian citizens, prostitution was legal in Australia and Baston was simply following cultural endeavors. He successfully argued to the court that the case was much to do about nothing and no prostitution had been committed.

Rowe's expertise on American and Jamaican law and conditions has been called upon in Florida cases where he has served as an expert witness. In the U.S. federal case of "Dabdoub v. Vaz", an historic case heard in the Jamaica Supreme Court that dealt with dual-citizenship, Rowe was called to testify as an expert witness on both country's laws concerning citizenship requirements. He also assisted the Center for Applied Legal Studies at the Georgetown University Law Center in a major case involving Jamaican country conditions.

After the American Bar Association's Caribbean Law Committee was formed, Rowe became its' first Chairman. He is a member of the Florida Bar Association and the Jamaica Bar Association and has served as the President of the Courts of Appeal of Jamaica and Belize. He is also a member of the Court of Appeal of the Bahamas.

Rowe has served an Adjunct Professor at the University of Miami School of Law since 1989. He served as the school's expert academic on Caribbean law. Due to the increase in immigrants coming to the United States from the Caribbean, more students began to become interested in the laws of the two countries. To handled the increased student enrollment, the University added a second Caribbean Law course, Caribbean Law II, also taught by Rowe. In addition, the University began to publish the Caribbean Law Yearbook and co-founded by Rowe.

For his efforts to the legal profession and serving his community at the highest levels, Rowe was honored by the Jamaican-American Bar Association as an "Elder Statesman" and recognized as one of Jamaica's leading jurist. Leading Jamaican Florida Bar Association members honored him on the thirty-year anniversary of his membership in the association and the Board of Directors of Temple Beth Ami of Boca Raton, Florida gave special recognition to Rowe.

Rowe has coordinated the school's annual Marcus Garvey Seminar, which studies the life and teachings of Marcus Gary. He has called for a full pardon of Garvey by the Jamaican government. The Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, Stephen Vasciannie, has paid a visit to the law school to assist Rowe in his efforts and to lecture on the Jamaican Constitution and other matters related to law. Rowe then chaired the 2014 Seventh Marcus Garvey Seminar to teach on the Pan-Africanism philosophy of Garvey.

Rowe is an expert in the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He is a supporter of the Westminster Constitutional model of government and is an advocate of a speedy trial law. Rowe has written articles documenting the urgent need for campaign finance reform in the Commonwealth Caribbean, particularly in Jamaica. Rowe condemned anti-homophobic hatred, domestic violence, and violence to children. He was especially vocal about the increased murder rate of Jamaicans and Jamaican Americans as a national crisis. He was against the proposed levy tax to withdraw money from the banks and was outspoken on the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.





FANON
A.
RUCKER

...was born and raised in Gary, Indiana to Jacqueline Pace Rucker and Robert D. Rucker. Both of his parents worked in the legal profession, as his mother was a lawyer and his father was the first African American

Indiana Supreme Court Justice. He graduated from Andean High School in nearby Merrillville, Indiana. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia in 1989. He received his law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in Cincinnati, Ohio 1996.

After passing the state bar, Rucker took on a few assignments as an associate attorney and worked independently for period of time. Over several years, he built a solid reputation as a hard working attorney and won several key cases. He became a public speaker on local and national television and radio where he discussed legal issues on high profile cases.

In 2007, Rucker was elected as a Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge. He was the youngest jurist to serve on any state court bench in Indiana. He was only thirty-five years old. Following in his father footsteps, Judge Rucker took his seat on the bench of a state Court. Robert D. Rucker, the first African American state of Indiana Supreme Court Justice, was Judge Rucker's father. Soon after becoming a Judge to the Hamilton Municipal Court, Judge Rucker began to teach as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. He also taught History Law at the undergraduate and graduate school.

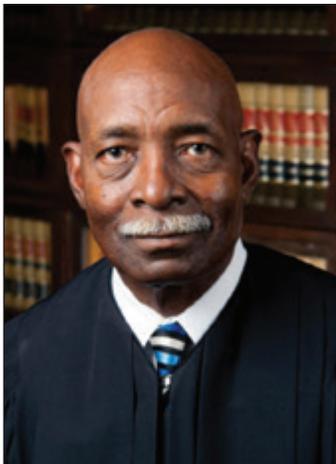
Rucker is an elected Trustee of the Association of Municipal and County Judges of Ohio (AMCJO). He has been appointed as a member of two Supreme Court Commissions and has been a regular public speaker at legal, community, and charitable events and is involved in law student oriented events. He holds leadership roles in many local and national nonprofit organizations, including serving as a Trustee to the Cincinnati Bar Association. Judge Rucker has also served as President of the Black Lawyers' Association of Cincinnati.

He is an active Mason and has twice served as the head of his Lodge. He has served as Grand Orator for the Grand Lodge of Ohio and Worthy Patron of Pride of the Valley to Chapter Seventy-One. He is also a member of the United Supreme Council.

Judge Rucker sits on the Board of Directors of the Cincinnati Paralegal Board, Catholic Inner-City Schools Education Fund, the Children's Law Center, the Season-good Good Government Foundation, Cincinnati Action Now, the Young Father's Program, and Boys Hope Girl Hope. He is a faithful Christian and serves as a Steward to the Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church in Cincinnati. In addition, Judge Rucker gives time to the Elementz Youth Center.

When not serving on the bench, Judge Rucker enjoys mentoring the young legal minds that are entering the legal profession. He spends time writing and speaking at local events and enjoys reading poetry to art patrons at social gathering events. Judge Rucker is married to Shawntay Rucker and they have three children.





ROBERT D. RUCKER

...was born 1952 in Canton, Georgia and was raised in Gary, Indiana. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana in 1974. He attended Valparaiso University

School of Law in Valparaiso, Indiana receiving his Juris Doctorate degree in 1976. He went on to obtain his Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia Law School in Charlottesville, Virginia in 1998.

In between earning his law degrees, Rucker took time away from his studies to serve in the United States military. He served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. After completing his duties and being discharged, he returned to Indiana to complete his higher learning responsibilities.

To begin practicing law, Rucker's private practice began in East Chicago, Indiana. He practiced for a period of time as a general law attorney before becoming a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Lake County, Indiana. In 1991, Rucker was appointed by then Indiana Governor Evan Bayh as a Judge on the Indiana Court of Appeals. He became the first African American to serve on the Indiana Court of Appeals. His appointment also made him the first African American appellate Judge in the State of Indiana. While sitting on the bench, Rucker served as Vice-Chair of the Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education.

In 1999, then Governor Frank O'Bannon named Judge Rucker as the 105th Justice appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court. He became the second African American to serve on the Indiana Supreme Court succeeding Myra Selby. Selby was also the first woman, black or white, to ever serve on the Court. Judge Rucker also has the recognition of being the first Justice to be appointed after serving on the bench of the Court of Appeals.

Since being appointed to the Supreme Court, Justice Rucker has served the longest continuous term of all Justices in the Court's long and distinguished history. He has given opinions on over four hundred and fifty decisions and has issued over one hundred dissents during his tenure serving both the Court of Appeals and the State Supreme Court. Justice Rucker has another distinguished

credit to his name. His son Fanon A. Rucker, would become a sitting Judge in the Hamilton County Courthouse in Cincinnati, Ohio. Justice Robert D. Rucker and Judge Fanon A. Rucker were one of the very few father and son teams to serve as Judges in the United States.

Justice Rucker has been a proponent of creating more diversity in the legal profession. He has appointed female and male attorneys of all ethnicities to various Boards and Commissions associated with the Supreme Court and has pioneered a way for more minorities to serve in positions at the Court. From his efforts, Justice Rucker has seen more lawyers of color and more law clerks among the new hires at the Courthouse.

Justice Rucker is a member of the American Bar Association, the Indiana State Bar Association, the Marion County Bar Association, the Indiana Judges Association, and is a Fellow of the Indianapolis Bar Foundation. He has served as Chair of the Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission and has served as the Chair of the National Bar Association's Judicial Council. Rucker has also served on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association and on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Indiana Legal Services Organization.

Justice Rucker has received numerous awards throughout his career for his service and dedication to the legal profession and the bar associations that he has served as a member. He has been honored by his associate Judges that he has served alongside during his tenure and given tribute by many of the attorneys that have appeared before Justice Rucker's bench. To give thanks to him, the Valparaiso University School of Law presented him with an Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award and the Indiana Lake County Commissioners renamed the Lake County courthouse in downtown Gary, Indiana after Justice Rucker. The courthouse serves as the home to several Lake County Superior Courts

Justice Rucker has written many articles, editorials, and published works on matters related to the law. In 1999, he penned "The Right to Ignore the Law: Constitutional Entitlement Versus Judicial Interpretation." He has served on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association and on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Indiana Legal Services Organization.



GEORGE LEWIS RUFFIN

...was born on December 16, 1834 in Richmond, Virginia, the son of free blacks, George W. and Nancy Lewis Ruffin. The city had a large free black community of which the Ruffin family were a part. George was

the eldest of eight children, all of whom had received some education. After the state of Virginia passed a law in 1853 prohibiting blacks from learning to read, Ruffin's parents abandoned their small property in Richmond and moved their family to Boston, Massachusetts.

Ruffin, was about nineteen years old at the time. He excelled in school and became active with the Republican Party, beginning a lifelong commitment to politics, social activism, and the judicial system. He soon became a force in the city's civic leadership.

In 1858, Ruffin married Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, A Beautiful woman of Afro-Caribbean, French and English descent. She was the daughter of a prominent Boston activist whose father was an objector to segregated schools and other racist agendas. They had four sons and a daughter together. Their children were Hubert, who became an attorney; Florida Ridley, a school principal and co-founder with her mother of the newspaper Women's Era; Stanley, an inventor; George, a musician; and Robert, who died in his first year of life.

During the Civil War, the couple recruited soldiers for the Union army with Ruffin attempting to enlist into the 55th Massachusetts Colored Regiment himself but was unable to because he was nearsighted. Not long after they had wed, the Ruffins moved to Liverpool, England in protest of the U.S. Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision of 1857, which essentially made slavery legal. Six months later, they returned to Boston. To support the family, Ruffin worked as a barber, a profession that he found a bit boring.

When not working, he read law books and wrote reviews for a weekly publication. In 1864, Ruffin served as a Delegate to the National Negro Convention in Syracuse, NY where he championed black suffrage and urged the organization to support the re-election of President Lincoln. In 1869, he was admitted to Harvard Law School

where he later became the first African American to graduate from the school. Later that year, Ruffin was admitted to the Suffolk County Bar Association.

It wasn't long before he felt the prejudice of his classmates. It is told that at the first meeting of the student assembly, a group of students put forth a resolution that *"every member of the school is by right a member of the assembly, except for colored students."* After a spirited debate with the group, where Ruffin held his own, they were convinced and rescinded the resolution. Ruffin completed the three-year program in one school year.

From 1876 to 1877, Ruffin served on the Boston Common Council (City Council). In 1883 he was appointed a Judge on the Charlestown, Massachusetts Municipal Court. He was the first African American to serve in both posts. Along with his civic duties, Ruffin served for twelve years as an Officer of the 12th Baptist Church of Boston.

In 1870, Ruffin was elected to the State Legislature as a Republican serving one term. He was elected as the first person of African descent to the Boston City Council, where he served one term, 1876-1877. In 1883, he was appointed by Governor Benjamin F. Butler as a Judge of the Municipal Court, Charlestown District making him the first black Justice to hold office in New England.

In 1984, the George Lewis Ruffin Society was founded in his honor at Northeastern University to support minorities studying in the Massachusetts criminal justice system.

George Lewis Ruffin died on November 19, 1886 in Boston, Massachusetts leaving a legacy of good works behind.



JOHN
H.
RUFFIN, JR.

...was born and reared in Waynesboro, Burke County, Georgia to Anna Davis Ruffin and John H. Ruffin, Sr.. John graduated from Waynesboro High and Industrial School before entering Morehouse College in

Atlanta, Georgia where he received his undergraduate degree. He then attended Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. where he obtained his law degree. Ruffin was admitted to the Georgia State Bar on July 5, 1961.

In 1986, Ruffin was appointed a Superior Court Judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit by then Governor Joe Frank Harris. He became the first African-American to serve on the August Judicial Circuit. He also became the first African-American to become a member of the Augusta Bar Association. In the 1988 election, Judge Ruffin was elected to a full term on the bench running unopposed. While serving on the Court for six years, Judge Ruffin was elected as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Council of Superior Court Judges.

On August 24, 1994, Ruffin was appointed by then Governor Zell Miller to become the 62nd Judge to take a seat on the Court of Appeals for the state of Georgia. He again became a first, the first African-American to serve on the Court of Appeals. He would go on to become Chief Judge of the Court.

Judge Ruffin is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the Supreme Court of Georgia, and the United States District Courts for the Southern. He is a member of the bars to the Middle Districts of Georgia and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Ruffin is also a member of the bar to the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Ruffin has given service to many professional, civic and religious affiliations during his professional legal career. He has served on the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia and the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia to the Tenth Judicial Administrative District. Judge Ruffin has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education and served as a member in the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Judge Ruffin has served as a member of the American Judicature Society, the Georgia Advisory Council to the Legal Services Program, the Court Reform Committee, State Bar Judicial Compensation Committee, and the Governor's Conference on Justice in Georgia. Judge Ruffin is a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission, the Georgia Commission on Gender Bias, and the Georgia Conference of Black Lawyers, Inc.. He maintains membership in the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Atlanta Bar Association, and the Augusta Bar Association.

Judge Ruffin has been invited to speak at seminars held at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada where he has spoken on legal issues affecting African Americans and justice for all in adjudicating his oath of law. He is a man of faith, attends Augusta's Tabernacle Baptist Church, and has one son, Brinkley.



GERTRUDE ELZORA DURDEN RUSH

...was born on August 5, 1880 in Navasota, Texas, to Frank Durden, a Baptist minister, and his wife, Sarah E. (Reinhardt) Durden. Following others in the exodus from the South to the

Midwest during the early 1880s, the Durden family left Texas to settle in Oskaloosa, Kansas.

Beginning her studies in 1895 at Parsons High School in Kansas, she graduated from high school in Quincy, Illinois. Right after graduation, she became a teacher (1898-1907) in Oswego, Kansas; governmental schools in Indian Territory (later Oklahoma); and Des Moines, Iowa.

On December 23, 1907, Gertrude married James Buchanan Rush. They began to study law together while she worked in his Des Moines law office. James Rush, born near Peking, North Carolina, had attended Howard University School of Law and had gained admission to the Indiana bar in 1892. He had previously worked in Indiana and Arkansas and began practicing law in Iowa in 1898 and continued until 1918. An active member of the Des Moines' area business community, he served as Counsel for the North Star Temple Association, Vice President of the Des Moines Business League, and Delegate to the Republican State Convention.

With her husband's encouragement, Rush furthered her education at Des Moines College, graduating with a B.A. in 1914. At the same time, she completed her third year of law study by way of correspondence with LaSalle University of Chicago. Although James died before he could see it, Gertrude became the first African American woman admitted to practice law in the state of Iowa after successfully passing the bar examination and being admitted to the Iowa bar in 1918. She remained the only African American woman to achieve such a status in Iowa until 1950.

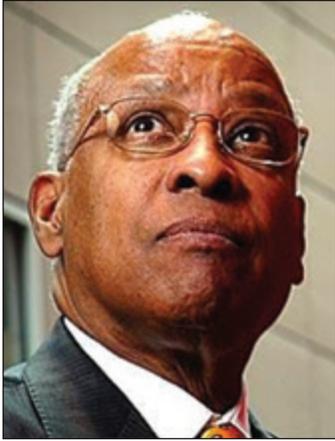
Upon James's death, Gertrude assumed his Des Moines law practice. She pressed forward. In 1921, she won election as President of the Colored Bar Association. She became the first woman in the nation to lead a state bar association that had both male and female members. Her leadership in that association was Masterful. Being denied admission to the American Bar Association in 1925,

Rush and four other black lawyers founded the Negro Bar Association (later renamed the National Bar Association), with the purpose of uniting black lawyers throughout the nation.

Notwithstanding the fact that Rush took over her husband's law practice, she also assumed his place as a community activist. Although her law practice focused on women's legal rights in estate cases, she also looked to other avenues for community improvement. In 1912, Rush spearheaded the Charity League and Protection Home that served Des Moines' African American community. The League established a home where working women could lease inexpensive rooms to live. They also were successful in obtaining a black probation officer appointed to the Des Moines Juvenile Court and creating the Protection Home for Negro Girls. Between 1911 and 1915, Rush served as State President of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC). Later she would Chair the NACWC's Legislative and Mothers Departments. In addition, she maintained her memberships in the Colored Women's Suffrage Club and the Women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention. She also served on the Boards of Directors for the Des Moines Health Center, the Des Moines Playground Association, and the Dramatic Arts Club. She organized the Women's Law and Political Study Group, served as a Delegate to the Half Century Exposition of Negro Emancipation, and was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She was also a member of the Eastern Star.

Rush gave a balance to her religious, legal, and civic endeavors through her detailed research and writings. Her research is extensive and her accomplishments are vast. She completed research on the two hundred-forty women of the Bible; wrote numerous plays and pageants, such as *"Sermon on the Mount"* (1907) and *"Black Girl's Burden"* (1913); created hymns such as *"If You But Knew"* (1905) and *"Jesus Loves the Little Children"* (1907); and penned patriotic plays such as *"True Framers of the American Constitution"* (1928).

Gertrude Durden Rush died on September 5, 1962.



GEORGE LEVI RUSSELL, JR.

...was born on March 19, 1929 in Baltimore, Maryland. His mother was a stay-at-home homemaker and his father worked for the U.S. Post Office. He attended Baltimore City public schools and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in 1946. In high school, he served as the school newspaper's Sports and as a member of the school's debate team.

Russell attended Lincoln University in Lincoln Heights, Pennsylvania where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. While earning his undergraduate degree, he joined the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. Russell also served as a member of the University's debate team.

To obtain his law degree, he attended the University of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland where he completed his studies in 1954 and was admitted to the bar that year. He then enlisted into the United States Army to fulfill his military duties. While serving, Russell practiced law and was in charge of cases involving military Courts, Boards and Special Court-martials.

After passing the state bar, Russell took a job as an associate attorney at the law firm of Brown, Allen, Watts, and Murphy. Russell specialized in the areas of commercial litigation, white-collar crime, products liability and toxic torts. He would remain with the firm for ten years where he made partner.

In 1966, Russell was named as an Associate Judge to the Supreme Court of Baltimore. He served for one year. He then was named to the Circuit Court in Maryland. When he took his seat on the Court, Judge Russell became the first African American to sit on the bench of the Maryland Circuit Court. He also was the first African American to sit on an Appellate Court in the state.

In 1968, Judge Russell was named as the American City Solicitor for Baltimore City. Four years later, he broke another racial barrier when he became the first African American to be named as the President of the Maryland Bar Association. He served his one-year term proudly then left the Bar Association and became a partner in the law firm of Russell & Thompson. He remained with the firm for twelve years before leaving to become a partner with Josey, Gibson, Allen and Mitchell.

In 1971, Judge Russell made a run for the Mayor Baltimore. He became the first African-American to run for the

top city seat. He was unsuccessful in his attempts and returned to his private practice law business.

In 1982, Judge Russell established Harbor Bank in Baltimore, which would go on to become one of the largest minority-owned banks in the country. As the bank revenue grew, so did his law firm. In 1986, Russell merged his firm with a predominately white firm, Piper and Marbury. The historic merger brought together two powerful law firms that was soon on of the top one hundred law firms in the United States

In 1990, the Bar Association of Baltimore City named Judge Russell as the Chair of the Russell Committee, which was formed to investigate the drug crisis and the lack of adequate funding of the Baltimore City justice system. Several years later, Judge Russell was named to chair the sixteen-member Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture Commission. He was also appointed to serve as Chairman of the Board of the Maryland African American Museum Corporation.

In 1994, Judge Russell became a member of the Governor's Salary Commission. A year later, he was named chair of Baltimore's thirteen-member Judicial Nominating Commission. Judge Russell became a member of the Board of Directors to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland was a member of the Task Force to Review the State's Election Laws.

In 2001, Judge Russell became a member of the Board of Directors of Constellation Energy Group Inc., the local utility service provider for Baltimore and the surrounding areas. A year later, Russell became Chairperson of a commission established to create and build the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture in Baltimore. The museum was the largest museum on the East Coast dedicated to African American history and culture before the federal government funded and built Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall.

Judge Russell has been given many awards and honors during his legal career. The Maryland Bar Foundation honored him with a Special Outstanding Achievement Award and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented him with its' Minority Law Partner Recognition Award. In addition, the American College of Trial Lawyers recognized Judge Russell for his contributions to the legal profession and the Maryland Bar Foundation recognized him as a Fellow.

Photo Not Available



GEORGE LEVI RUSSELL, III

...was born in 1965. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Maryland School of Law

in Baltimore, Maryland in 1991. He was admitted to the Maryland State Bar the same year.

In his first professional legal job, Russell served as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. He then went into private practice joining the law firm of Hazel and Thomas, P.C.. After staying for a short period of time, he moved to the law firm of Whiteford Taylor and Preston, P.A..

In 1994, Russell became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Maryland in its' Civil Division. After working in the Civil Division for five years, he accepted a position with the Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos, P.C.. While serving as legal counsel at Angelos's offices, Russell grew rapidly in his client base but in the political realm as well.

In 2002, he left Angelos and returned to work at the United States Attorney's Office in the Criminal Division for the District of Maryland where he had served for five years. Five years after returning to the office, in 2007, Russell was appointed by then Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. as a Judge on the United States Circuit Court for Baltimore City. In the following year's general election, Judge Russell was elected to a full fifteen-year term.

In November of 2011, then President Barack Obama nominated Judge Russell to the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. After confirmation on May 14, 2012 by the United States Senate, Judge Russell took his seat ten days later on May 24, 2012. Judge Russell was selected to sit on the District Court bench by President Obama because of his fair-mindedness and expert judicial acumen. The President believed in appointing Judge Russell for the post that he had the integrity and was rated "Substantial Majority Qualified, Minority Not Qualified" by the American Bar Association.

Judge Russell has served the Baltimore community in many ways outside of the Court, including serving on many non-profit organizations while supporting other charitable associations and legal institutions. He supported the Big

Brothers Big Sisters of Maryland and served on its' Board of Directors for two years. He also served as a Trustee and Director of Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library and served as a Trustee for the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. In addition, Judge Russell has given time in support of the Community Law Center and the Public Justice Center.



ANGELA RYE

...was born on October 26, 1979 to Andrea Rye and Eddie Rye Jr.. Her mother worked as a college administrator for a local Seattle, Washington school and her father owned a small consulting business and was a local Seattle based community

activist. Rye was raised by parents who were politically active and learned early on the importance of advocacy on behalf of the rights of others and equal justice for all.

After completing high school, Rye enrolled into the University of Washington in Seattle where she received her undergraduate degree. She obtained her law degree from Seattle University's School of Law. After passing the bar exam, Rye decided to move to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. to begin her professional legal career.

In Washington, Rye was able to secure a job in the offices of Democratic California Congresswoman Maxine Waters. While working in the Congresswoman's office, Rye co-founded an organization that sought to encourage young professionals to develop themselves using three core elements as their base of operations. Rye's new organization, IMPACT, quickly became a voice for advocacy for young professionals of color nationwide. In her advocacy, she utilized three core elements in her teachings, economic empowerment, civic engagement, and political involvement.

Under Rye's leadership, IMPACT established several critical partnerships, including joining forces with the National Bar Association, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and the National Urban League, Rainbow/PUSH. She aligned herself with the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute and the Black Leadership Forum. Her political power soon increased dramatically.

Rye then became the Western Region Director to the National Black Law Students Association. She was called upon by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAEOHE) to become its' legislative advocate. NAEOHE serves as an umbrella organization to the one hundred and twenty historically black colleges and universities in the United States where Rye served as the Coordinator of Advocacy and Legislative Affairs.

Mississippi Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, the Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security pegged Rye to become his Senior Advisor and Legal Counsel. For Thompson, she developed his general political strategy. She set about to modernizing government contracting practices and

look for more opportunities for small businesses to obtain more U.S. government contracts. She worked to open doors to minorities that had long been kept closed.

Leaving Homeland Security, Rye then became the Executive Director and General Counsel to the Congressional Black Caucus for the 112th Congress. As Executive Director and General Counsel, she was responsible for developing the overall legislative and political strategies for the leadership and administrators of the Congressional Black Caucus. At times, she even gave insight to strengthening the internal workings of the Caucus having its' purpose of civil advocacy amongst any disagreeing parties.

Rye has served on the Board of Directors of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute, the Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee (CBCPAC), Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network, and Inclusv. She has also sat on the Board of the Seattle University School of Law Alumni Association. Rye has served as a Senior Advisor to the Government Technology and Services Coalition and serves as a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Bar Association, and the Washington Government Relations Group.

Rye is currently the Principal and CEO of IMPACT Strategies. She offers her services as a political commentator and political legal strategist for many multi-media companies where she lends her expertise to the most critical and news worthy political events affecting American politics today. With there is increased national and world political events happening today, Rye takes on a protective perspective from the African American political viewpoint, the experiences of past racial and discriminatory indiscretions and works to showcase the historic importance of how governmental and political actions made today affect tomorrows future.

Rye has been hired by some of the most important cable news companies, institutions, and publications to share her political and social views. She is diverse in her subject matters and has appeared on national cable news show CNN as a political commentator and as a political analyst for National Public Radio. She has been quoted and referenced to in the Washington Post newspaper and appeared as a featured celebrity in the pages of Marie Claire to Ebony.

Rye spends her time attempting to make a positive change in the political process, particularly for African Americans and other minorities. As a popular political strategist, her appearances are in high demand and she has answered their calls by being a guest legal and political commentator on shows such as HuffPost Live, HBO, BET, and TV One. Her on-air commentary has left many of her opponents in dismay by her forceful and fearless defense for her political views. Known for her wit, candidness, and humor, Rye has the ability to carry a conversation on topics ranging from political campaigns and complex legislation to social issues and everyday common nonsense.



Photo Not Available



DANIEL GEORGE SAMPSON

...was born on April 1, 1918 in Sumter South Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. For his law degree, he attended Boston

University in Boston, Massachusetts. After completing his education, Sampson enlisted into the United States Army. He served in World War II before being discharged.

After leaving the military, Sampson passed the bar exam and began his legal career practicing law. In 1965, Sampson was named as the Dean of the North Carolina Central University (UNCC) School of Law. He would serve as Dean for four years. In 1967, Dean Sampson wrote a report on the status of African American lawyers in the state of North Carolina. At the time there was one African American attorney for every 12,978 African American citizens while there was one white attorney for every 768 white North Carolina citizens. Sampson's report highlighted and gave statistical information on the enrollments, census figures, and budgets of the legal profession in the state.

In 1968, the North Carolina State Board of Higher Education sought to close the law school at UNCC. The Board were urging then Governor Dan K. Moore to close the school contending that since new desegregation laws had been enacted allowing African Americans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the law school at UNCC was not needed. He was able to provide statistical information that showed that the law school at the top to schools, North Carolina, Wake Forest, and Duke University combined only had five students in the law schools at that time.

Sampson argued that although blacks were allowed to attend the law school, many did not choosing to enroll into the UNCC law school instead. He was able to show the Board of Higher Education that although admission to the states other three law schools had been opened to blacks, based on past indiscretions many blacks were hesitant to attend the law schools based upon the treatment received by the black students that had attended the desegregated law schools. Sampson successfully argued

the case before the University of North Carolina's General Administration, which allowed the N.C. Central's Law School to remain open.

In Sampson's honor, the North Carolina University named a scholarship in his name, The Daniel G. Sampson Award for Scholarship-Day and Evening Programs. The award is given to a deserving student who has attained the highest academic average after spending three years at the University in the day program. For the evening program, a student must have spent four years of study.

Daniel George Sampson died on August 19, 2000. He was eighty-two years old.



EDITH SPURLOCK SAMPSON

...was born on October 13, 1898 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Elizabeth A. McGruder and Louis Spurlock. She was one of eight children born to the couple. She attended a local Pittsburgh public school until she was fourteen years old when she had to leave school due to family hardships. She

found a job to help support the family working in a fish market.

Spurlock would later return to school to complete her high school requirements, graduating from Pittsburgh's Peabody High School. She married Rufus Sampson, a field engineer for Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, and took a job working for Associated Charities. While working at the charity organization, Spurlock took undergraduate classes at the New York School of Social Work. She met a New York Columbia University professor, George Kirchwey, who encouraged her to look into a law career.

After completing her studies at the New York school, Sampson and her husband moved to Chicago, Illinois to take care of her deceased sister's two children where she found a full-time position working as a social worker. She enrolled into Chicago's John Marshall Law School taking night classes to earn her law degree. She graduated in 1925 while being awarded a Dean's commendation for ranking at the top of her law class.

In 1924, Sampson opened her own law office on the South Side of Chicago. Her beginning clients were mostly local African American community residents. She was particularly interested in cases involving juveniles. For the next seventeen years, she would be associated with the Juvenile Court of Cook County where she served as a Probation Officer and eventual Assistant Referee in the Juvenile Court.

While serving as a Probation Officer, Sampson took extended law courses at Chicago's Loyola University's Graduate Law School. She earned her Master of Laws degree from Loyola in 1927. She was the first woman and first African American woman to receive a Master of Laws degree from the University. She passed the Illinois State Bar exam that same year. Seven years later, Sampson would be admitted to argue cases before the Illinois State Supreme Court.

Sampson's marriage to Rufus failed and in 1935, she married lawyer Joseph E. Clayton. The two shared a legal practice together until his death in 1957. In 1943, Sampson was admitted as a member of the National Association of Women Lawyers. She was one of the first African American women to be admitted to the association. Four years later, she was appointed as an Assistant State's Attorney in Illinois' Cook County.

In 1949, Sampson was named as a participant in the Round-the-World Town Meeting (RTWTM). The RTWTM was a program designed to send twenty-six prominent Americans on a world tour to meet foreign leaders of foreign countries and to participate in public political debates and radio broadcasts. In her role, Sampson sought to bring an opposing position to the propaganda the Soviet Union was promoting during the Cold War that centered on the treatment of "Negroes in America".

In one meeting held in India, Sampson took the position that although years before, Negroes were enslaved and illiterate but since freedom was gained in 1965, blacks have advanced considerably and have done so outpacing other countries where servitude had existed in similar groups.

As a living example of the progress, she gave insight to the positive achievements of blacks and not that shown to the world of all blacks being downtrodden and desolate. She went on to say that the plight of the blacks in the United States, although bad, was not as bad as the treatment given to some of India's citizens under the country's caste system. She told the crowd that she would rather be a Negro in the United States than be a citizen of any other country. Returning to the United States, then U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas gave Sampson applause and stated that her remarks and position taken created more good will between the two countries and her actions facilitated that and was more exacting than any other act performed by an American citizen.

Sampson did get some rebuke for her statements when the Baltimore Afro-American newspaper called for more democracy for blacks here in the United States. Despite anyone disagreements to her position, she then attacked the Soviet Union comparing its' system of enslaving prisoners of war from World War II to slavery. She told a Soviet Ambassador, Yakov Malik, that blacks in America were not interested in Communism since they had already been freed from slavery years before.

Because of her stance on race relations and her achievements on the Town Meeting Tour, in 1950, then President Harry Truman appointed Sampson as an Alternate U.S. Delegate to the United Nation (U.N.) in New York City. She became the first African American to officially represent the United States at the U.N.. At the U.N., Sampson served as a member of the U.N.'s Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee. As a member, she lobbied for support of social welfare. She also presented a U.N. resolution to pressure the Soviet Union to repatriate the remainder of its Prisoners of War from World War II. Sampson was re-appointed to the U.N. in 1952.

After leaving her post at the U.N., Sampson was named by then U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a member of the U.S. Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Several years later, she was appointed as a U.S. Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). She was the first African American to represent the U.S. in NATO.

In 1959, Sampson became dissatisfied with the growing racial climate in the U.S. and changed her politics from the position she held before. She spoke to a class of African American high school students and told them that the battle against racial injustice must take on other means of achievement than the one they had been using. She realized that the current method of gaining changes piece by piece through changes in the law and through court appeals may not be the best method of achieving changes needed for African Americans.

In 1962, at the age of sixty-one, Sampson made a run for a seat on the Municipal Court of Chicago as an Associate Judge. She easily won the race and became the first African American woman to be elected as a Judge in the state of Illinois by popular vote. Four years later, she became an Associate Judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County, again becoming the first African American woman to achieve that feat. The majority of the cases that came before her dealt with housing disputes involving poor tenants. She retired from the bench in 1978.

Judge Sampson served as the President of the Chicago Professional Women's Club, as President of the Afro-World Fellowship, and as President of the Women's Progressive Committee. She gave time to the League of Women Voters, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Council of Negro Women. She also served as a member of the Chicago Urban League.

Judge Edith Spurlock Sampson died on October 8, 1979. She was eighty years old.



THOMAS
"TOM"
G.
SAMPSON

...was raised in Durham, North Carolina where his father, Daniel George Sampson served as a law professor and as the Dean at North Carolina Central University's Law School.

The younger Sampson received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he obtained his Juris Doctor degree. He went on to gain further education at the London School of Economics as a member of the Society of International Business Fellows.

Sampson currently serves as the Managing Partner of Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson, & Tompkins LLP in Atlanta, Georgia. The law firm is Georgia's oldest minority-owned law firm. Sampson has successfully represented several Fortune 500 corporations, city municipalities, and private citizens over his more than thirty-five year career. He successfully represented the City of Atlanta in litigations as well as representing the State of Georgia in another case. His expertise lies in personal injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice litigation.

Sampson was appointed to serve on a special panel created by then Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin to evaluate the Atlanta Municipal Court and the City Court of Atlanta. He was later appointed by then Attorney General Thurbert Baker as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General for the State of Georgia.

For his service to the legal profession, Sampson was inducted into the Georgia Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He was the first African American to be inducted on the Board. He has been listed as one of "The Best Lawyers in America" by the Atlanta Magazine and has remained on the list since 1993. He has served as a Master in both the Bleckley and Logan Inns of the American Inns of Court. The Litigation Counsel of America inducted Sampson as a Charter Fellow, an achievement given to less than one half of one percent of American attorneys.

Sampson has been named a Georgia "Super Lawyer" since the inception of the list was established. His alma mater, Morehouse awarded Sampson with its' Bennie

Trailblazer Award, the highest level of recognition awarded to an alumni by the College. At one of their basketball games, The Atlanta Hawks professional basketball team, during a halftime show, honored Sampson by presenting him with a Trailblazer Award.

Sampson has served as a Board Member of the Board of Councilors for the Carter Center, the Atlanta Urban League, and Senior Citizens Services of Metropolitan Atlanta. He has served as the President of the Gate City Bar Association, as President of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, as Vice President of the State Bar of Georgia Disciplinary Board, and as Vice President of the Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers. Sampson has served as a charter member and Vice Chairman of the Neighborhood Justice Center, as Chairman of the State Bar of Georgia Client Security Fund, and as the Regional Director of the National Bar Association.

Sampson has served as a Former Master to the Logan E. Bleckley Inn of Court and the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Inn of Court. He is a Charter Fellow to the Litigation Counsel of America and a Fellow to the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia. He has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Atlanta's Georgia State University and as an Instructor at the Atlanta College of Trial Advocacy. In addition, Sampson has served as a Barrister to the Logan E. Bleckley Inn of the American Inns of Court.





JAMES BERNARD SANDERLIN

...was born on January 2, 1929 in Petersburg, Virginia to Lillie and Willis Elijah Sanderlin. He was the third son of his school teaching mother and his Baptist minister father. His childhood upbringing was a bit different than other African American boys as both of his parents

were educated and his relatively privileged life steered him toward the law at an early age.

Sanderlin grew up in a mixed race middle class neighborhood interacting with white children. He attended a private but segregated black school where he learned African American history and the importance of knowing that history. He read at an early age stories of Fredrick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Sojourner Truth, as well as other significant African American contributors to the black community. His Christian upbringing gave him a sense of purpose and the drive to make a positive impact on society having a caring and benevolent heart.

As he entered his teenage years, the interaction between his white neighbors and Sanderlin began to dwindle. It was customary for white parents to allow their children to play with African American children until the age of puberty, especially with white girls. It was then that the white parents began to teach their children a different value, one of Southern white pride and the separation of races. Sanderlin's family then decided to move further North to Washington, D.C..

After completing high school attending a local D.C. public school, Sanderlin enrolled into D.C.'s Howard University to begin his undergraduate studies. Before completing his degree, unable to afford to continue, he left to take several jobs including working as a helicopter repairman and as a worker in the fish market owned by his brother, Willis. Willis had graduated earlier from Howard with a Master's in Business Administration. With savings made from his hiatus from Howard, he returned to the university to complete his undergraduate work. He would earn his undergraduate degree and a Master's degree in Political Science in 1957.

Sanderlin then entered the Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts where he completed his law degree studies in 1958. After earning his law degree, he was recruited by African American attorney Fred Minnis, an alumnus of Howard's Law School, to join his Tampa, Florida law firm. Sanderlin accepted and clerked for Minnis while studying to pass the Florida Bar exam, which he passed in 1963.

After clerking for Minnis, Sanderlin left the law firm of Minnis & Williams, P.A. to form his own law practice with fellow African American attorneys Frank White and Frank Peterman in the firm of White, Peterman and Sanderlin, P.A.. The firm

struggled in the beginning as African American attorneys were overlooked in favor of more established white law firms located in downtown Tampa. The tides turned for the law firm when it took on the task of desegregating the Pinellas County Schools.

At the time, Black students attended Gibbs High School and many in the African American community wanted to keep the school segregated separate while other members of the African American community wanted integration with white schools seeking the opportunity for a better education. Despite death threats and vocal opposition from members of both the black and white community, over the next ten years, Sanderlin, his team of gifted lawyers, and lawyers from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) litigated the suit that eventually desegregated the public schools in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Sarasota counties.

During the segregation fight, then Governor LeRoy Collins started the Fabinski Committee created to devise a strategic plan to avoid integration in Florida's schools after the passing of the legendary "Brown v. Board of Education" decision. At the same time, the Pinellas County School Board failed to integrate its' schools with deliberate speed as the Brown decision stipulated. In January of 1965, Florida District Court Judge Joseph Lieb signed an order forcing the County to eliminate dual attendance zones and to reassign students, faculty, and other key personnel to various schools and for the assignments to not be based on color.

In another important Florida case, in 1968, Sanderlin represented some two hundred Tampa sanitation workers who had launched a strike demanding better working conditions. The city had fired the workers because of the strike and Sanderlin was chosen to assist them in their litigations against the city. He successfully negotiated and settled the labor dispute with eighty-six of the striking employees being rehired and working conditions were improved. Those not immediately rehired were either compensated, assigned to other city employment, or were rehired at a later date.

In 1972, Sanderlin was elected to the bench in Pinellas County. He became the first African American attorney to be elected to the County Court. Three years later, he was elected to serve on the Circuit Court of Pinellas and Pasco Counties. Judge Sanderlin again was the first African American to serve on the Circuit Court. In 1986, he would be appointed to the Florida District Court of Appeals, the first African American Judge to hold that position.

For his years of service to Tampa and Pinellas County, the County School Board named an elementary school after Judge Sanderlin. The James Sanderlin Elementary is located at 2350 22nd Avenue South in St. Petersburg, Florida. In recognizing his contributions to the legal profession and residents of Florida, members of the Florida House of Representatives gave a standing ovation during a ceremony to induct Judge Sanderlin into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Judge James Bernard Sanderlin died on April 22, 1990. He was sixty-one years old.



JAWN ARDIN SANDIFER

...was born on June 6, 1914 in Greensboro, North Carolina to Nettie and Charles Sandifer. He was one of nine children. He attended Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina graduating in 1935. As a

freshman at Smith, Sandifer became the first freshman to make the school's varsity debate team. He joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity as well. He received his law degree from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1938.

To fulfill his military duties, Sandifer enlisted into the United States Army Air Corps. He served in World War II working in the Air Corps Criminal Division. After being discharged from the military, Sandifer returned to North Carolina. Following the teachings he had learned at Howard, he began to pursue a legal career centered on civil rights and accepted a job with the legal staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In 1949, Sandifer left North Carolina and moved to New York City, New York to work as the Legal Redress Chairman of the New York state branch of the NAACP and worked alongside the legendary civil rights attorney and later U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. In one of his early cases for the NAACP, Sandifer was one of the two lawyers that represented Elmer W. Henderson in a case heard before the United States Supreme Court. Working on behalf of the NAACP, Sandifer argued the case of Henderson v. United States, which set the precedent for the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education, which ended school segregation. In a successful 8-0 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Sandifer was able to end the desegregation of separate eating cars for black and white passengers while traveling on interstate railway cars in the South of American. The Court ruled that such practices was unconstitutional, which paved the way for integrated travel across state lines on trains, including dining cars.

In 1964, Sandifer successfully argued a case in New York Courts, which ended segregation of the Manhasset School District in Nassau County. That same year, then

New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner appointed him to the New York Civil Court. After serving for four years on the Court, Sandifer was elected as a Justice to the State Supreme Court in Manhattan. He would serve the court for the next twenty-eight years.

In 1986, Justice Sandifer made a ruling in his Manhattan courtroom that ended discrimination for women seeking to work for the New York City Sanitation Department as a garbage worker. He ruled that the Civil Service Test given to potential workers was discriminatory against women. His ruling allowed women to be hired as sanitation workers for the first time in the city's history. Prior to his ruling, city residents did not have to bag their garbage and the city used heavy trashcans. With the new polity of bagging, garbage workers did not have to lift heavy containers but lighter trash bags and the job was suitable for women and Justice Sandifer ruled accordingly.

In 2005, Judge Sandifer was recognized by the New York State Bar Association in a tribute to the New York attorneys who made legal history during the civil rights era. He received numerous other awards, including the Justice Award from the NAACP for his lifetime of working toward achieving equal opportunity for all people.

Justice Sandifer was one that many did not forget. His blue eyes against his dark skin made him noticeable and his desire to right the wrongs of segregation and discriminatory practices gave him presence. He was married to his wife Laura who died in 1993 from colon cancer. Together, they had one son, Floyd. Justice Sandifer later married Elsa Krueger.

Justice Sandifer was a gifted writer and penned several books. He wrote "Minorities USA" and "The Afro-American in United States History". He was an avid reader and enjoyed reading biographies. Justice Sandifer was an avid golfer and was a long time member of the Noyac Golf Club in Sag Harbor, New York. In his later years, he was a member of the Rolling Green Golf Course in Sarasota, Florida.

Justice Jawn Ardin Sandifer died on September 01, 2006. He was ninety-two years old.



CHARLES SCARLETT

...was born in Greensboro, North Carolina. He received his undergraduate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University in 1949. He obtained his law degree from Washington Univer-

sity in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the first African American student to attend the law school graduating in 1951.

After completing his law degree, Scarlett joined the military. To fulfill his military duties, he joined the United States Marines. He served in World War II while being stationed in the South Pacific.

After passing the state bar, Scarlett married his wife Charmaine and the two moved to San Francisco, California. Arriving in San Francisco, Scarlett opened a law firm with Ed McSweeney. After several years practicing law in San Francisco, Scarlett decided to relocate to Los Angeles, California where he opened a law firm of Earl C. Broady Sr. as a partner. In joining forces with Broady, the firm became known as Broady, Scarlett & Brody. Years later, Scarlett would part ways with his partners and form the law firm of Scarlett & Roberson. He remained as a practicing attorney for the firm for the next twenty-seven years before being appointed to the bench.

In 1980, Governor Jerry Brown named Scarlett as a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge. Was appointed to the bench, Scarlett left his law firm, which had grown to become one of the largest African American law firms in the country. The law firm would become Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt, APLC and would go on to produce several judges from the practicing attorneys with the firm.

Judge Scarlett was assigned to preside over juvenile delinquency cases, predominately in the courts of Inglewood, California. He was a kind and compassionate man who truly cared for the juveniles that came before his bench. He understood the communities that the children came from and urged them to rise up and make something of their lives despite the conditions or predicaments they have found themselves in. Scarlett was a firm man and maintained a professional manner in his adjudications. He was fair to the attorneys that argued cases before him and kept them focused on the points and facts of the case.

Judge Scarlett would sit on the bench for thirteen years retiring in 1993. He continued to serve the Inglewood Court in retirement where he had been assigned to the Juvenile Court. He served on various courts in Los Angeles County through his 91st birthday.

Judge Scarlett received numerous awards and honors during his tenure on the bench. He received several awards from the State of California, from the City of Los Angeles, and from Los Angeles County. California State Senator Diane Watson gave tribute to Judge Scarlett as did California U.S. House of Representatives' member Julian Dixon, who placed an honorarium in the Congressional Record on behalf of Judge Scarlett.

Judge Scarlett served on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Bar Association as well as other legal organizations. He was a Fellow of the Century Club for more than twenty years. Judge Scarlett was married for sixty-four years to his wife Charmaine. Together, they had four children.

Judge Charles Scarlett died on January 21, 2017. He was ninety-two years old.



KURT LIDELL SCHMOKE

...was born on December 1, 1949 in Baltimore, Maryland to Irene B. Reid and Murray Schmoke. His mother worked as a social worker and his father was a civilian chemist for the United States Army. He attended the public schools of Baltimore City where he graduated from

the Baltimore City College, the third oldest high school in the United States. It was also the largest high school in the state of Maryland when Schmoke graduated in 1967.

In high school, he was a gifted athlete starring in football and lacrosse. He was the quarterback of his junior varsity and varsity football team where he led the team to two undefeated seasons and Maryland Scholastic Association A-conference Champions in 1965 and 1966. Academically, he was a member of the Baltimore City College "A-course", which consisted of a college preparatory curriculum that required him to take Latin and other advanced studies. He also served as the President of the Student Government in his senior year and mentored other city youth as a member of the Lancers Boys Club.

After high school graduation, Schmoke entered Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut continuing his football play and was the starting quarterback of the freshman team. He was a co-founder of a campus day care center for children of campus janitors and cafeteria workers who lived near the Yale campus. The center was named after fellow student and future professional football player, Calvin Hill.

In the wake of a campus riot in 1970 after the trial of several Black Panther Party leaders, Schmoke is credited with quelling a potential disturbance. As Secretary of his class, he was called upon by school administrators to speak to the students set on shutting down the campus. He did so briefly although that was enough for the school administrators to bend their student rules and the semester ended with only a few outbreaks.

Schmoke graduated from Yale in 1971 earning an undergraduate degree in History. His academic excellence won him a Rhodes scholarship and he spent time studying at Oxford University in Oxfordshire, England. For his law degree, Schmoke attended Harvard University's Law School where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1976.

To begin his legal career, Schmoke joined his hometown law firm of Piper and Marbury. A year later, he was selected as a member of the White House Domestic Policy Staff during the administration of President Jimmy Carter. He was assigned to perform work for the Department of Transportation. After serving in the Carter administration for a year, Schmoke returned to Baltimore to accept a job as an Assistant United States Attorney. He would remain in the U.S. Attorney's office for three years.

In 1982, Schmoke decided to make a run for elected office. He challenged incumbent Baltimore City State's Attorney William A. Swisher for the head job in the office. Schmoke was

victorious in his bid for the office winning the job by a landslide. Five years later, he decided to make a run for the top job in Baltimore, that as Mayor of the city.

On November 3, 1987, Schmoke was elected as the Mayor of Baltimore City. He became the first African American Mayor of the city. He would serve as the Mayor of Baltimore for three terms.

As mayor, he became an opponent of the federal "War on Drugs" taking a more moderate approach calling for drug decriminalization. He initiated programs that focused on the housing problems of the city, its' education shortfalls, the city' public health crises, and the economic development of local businesses and other community central needs. To help with the security of African American neighborhoods that had issues with racial profiling and community based policing, he employed Nation of Islam security guards for local housing projects, as many of the their members lived in the same neighborhoods they were hired to protect. He improved the living conditions of those living in the projects and introduced a needle exchange program for the city residents that injected drugs as a means of stemming transmittable diseases from shared needle use. Schmoke is also credited with keeping the tax rate stable, which ultimately attracted a professional football team to return to the city, the Baltimore Ravens.

In 1992, then President George H. W. Bush presented Schmoke with the National Literacy Award for his dedicated work promoting adult literacy. Two years later, newly elected President Bill Clinton gave praise to Schmoke for the city's programs aimed at improving public housing and the city's community economic development growth. For his efforts, Baltimore was named as one of six cities to receive Empowerment Zone designation

In 1997, Schmoke was named as as a committee member for the Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence. He was an advocate for school choice and for the school voucher program. In 1999, after serving for three terms, Schmoke decided not to run for a fourth term and retired as Mayor of Baltimore.

After leaving the Mayor's Office, Schmoke returned to private practice joining the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Baltimore. In 2003, he accepted the position as Dean of the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.. A year later, he was named as an Honorary Fellow to Balliol College at Oxford University in England.

Schmoke has served on the Board of Directors of Global Rights, an international human rights organization, and as a member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. He has served as the Acting Senior Vice President of Academic Matters at Howard University, a position that gave him Provost powers and has served as the University's Vice President and General Counsel. In 2014, Schmoke was named as the President of the University of Baltimore.

Schmoke's recognitions and awards are far to lengthy to be listed in these pages. His involvement with private organizations, municipalities, and legal associations is vast and his dedicated service to community affairs is long. He has served on many social service committees that have brought benevolence to city residents in Baltimore and across the country.



GREGORY KELLAM SCOTT

...was born on July 30, 1943 in San Francisco, California to Althea Delores and Robert Scott. After completing his high school requirements, Scott attended Rutgers College of Agriculture and Environment Science in New Brunswick, New Jersey where he received a Bachelor

of Science degree in Environmental Science. He received a graduate degree from Rutgers and received his law degree from Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis.

Scott's legal career began when he accepted a position as a trial attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission in their Denver office. In 1980, he became a member of the teaching faculty at the University of Denver College of Law. He taught federal securities regulation as it relates to corporations. He also Chaired the Law School's Business Planning Program. He also served as a consultant and Appellate Counsel in cases involving government contracting, corporate and securities laws.

In 1992, then Governor Roy Romer appointed Scott to the Colorado State Supreme Court. He was sworn in on January 15, 1993. With his appointment, he became the first African-American to serve on the Court. Scott re-ran for the Supreme Court seat in the next general election of 1996. The voters turned out in droves and overwhelmingly re-elected him to the ten-year post. In that election, Scott received the highest number of retention votes ever cast for any judicial officer. He would serve the Court for seven of the ten year post, ultimately resigning to accept an appointment as Vice President and General Counsel of Kaiser-Hill Company, L.L.C., a Colorado general contracting company offering nuclear decontamination and environmental restoration services.

While serving on the Court, Scott participated in determining the outcomes of over one thousand cases and authored several opinions for the Court. One such opinion centered on the case of Hill v. Thomas, which involved the protesting of abortion clinics. The Colorado Courts had legislated that it was illegal for any protestors within one hundred feet of any health-care facility to approach within eight feet any other person, for the purpose of protesting, educating, counseling, or distributing any literature with the person's consent. The Colorado law was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, citing that the law violated the protestor's first and fourteenth Amendment rights. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Colorado law.

After leaving the bench and accepting the Vice Presidency of Kaiser-Hill, Scott would direct the legal affairs of the company. Kaiser-Hill was a U.S. federal contractor having contracts with the U.S. Department of Energy. One such contract called

for the company to manage the clean up of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facility located just outside of Denver. The facility, which manufactured the plutonium detonators used in nuclear bombs, had operated from 1952 through 1989. Nuclear production at the facility had been halted amid an environmental investigation of the plant's owner, Rockwell International Corporation. Scott and Kaiser-Hill held the responsibility of remediation and related activities.

Scott was selected to serve as Co-Chair of an American delegation that traveled to Gabon, Africa to observe the national presidential elections that occurred there in 1997. That same year, in preparation for the upcoming 2000 National Summit on Africa to be held in Washington, D.C., Scott Co-Chaired a Regional Summit, held in Denver, Colorado, along with then Governor Bill Owens and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb. Other Regional Summits were held in the cities of Baltimore, Boston, Chicago and Denver. Also in 1997, Scott became a member of the National Board of Directors of the Constituency for Africa.

Justice Scott has lent his legal expertise to other corporate companies and private institutions since leaving the bench. He has been a member of the faculty of the Practicing Law Institute of the Annual Federal Securities Institute, which convenes in New York City annually. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Appellate Judges Conference, an association of federal and state appellate Judges. He has served as Vice President and General Counsel for Commercial Energies, Inc., a privately held energy company that provides natural gas to Department of Defense agencies under federal contracts.

In 2002, Scott began to serve as an Independent Trustee of various funds in the Icon Fund. That year, he accepted a position as Senior Vice President of Law, Secretary and General Counsel with corporate giant GenCorp, a multinational, technology-based manufacturer based in Sacramento, California. GenCorp holds a leading position in the automotive, aerospace defense, and pharmaceutical fine chemical industries. After two years with GenCorp, now Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc., he moved to a Consulting position with the firm.

In 2005, Scott served as an Executive Director of Indiana Civil Rights Commission. He served the Commission for three years. In 2006, he was selected to be a part of the U.S. State Department's Commission on the African Judiciary.

Scott is a member of many organizations including the National Board of Directors of the Constituency for Africa (CFA). Other prestigious members of the Board include past Ambassador Andrew Young, past Congressman Ron Dellums, past Congressman Jack Kemp, and past New York Mayor David Dinkins. Scott has been a member of the administrative teams at Rutgers University and Trenton State College, both located in New Jersey.

Scott has received many honors and awards. A few of them include, The Blacks in Colorado inducted him into their Hall of Fame. He received "Distinguished Alumni" status from Rutgers University and the University of Denver bestowed upon him an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.





CHARLES WILLIAM SCRUTCHIN

...is believed to have been born on September 11, 1866 in Richmond, Virginia to Barbara Grafrene and William Scrutchin. When he was ten years old, the family

moved to Atlanta, Georgia where they remained for several years before relocating to Spokane, Washington. He completed his high school studies in Spokane before enrolling into the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington where he completed his undergraduate degree in three years.

After completing his undergraduate degree requirements, Scrutchin took a job working as a Pullman train car porter for the Great Northern Railway traveling between Buffalo, New York; Detroit, Michigan; and St. Paul, Minnesota and between St. Paul and Tacoma, Washington. Scrutchin met and married his wife, Rachel, although they would divorce when he decided to move to Michigan to attend law school, as Rachel did not want to move away from Spokane.

Nonetheless, Scrutchin enrolled into the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he earned his law degree in 1893. After completing the law degree requirements, he moved to Chicago, Illinois where he began his legal professional career. He found a job in the law office of E.H. Morris

In 1894, Scrutchin returned to the University of Michigan where he earned his Master of Laws degree. After practicing law in Michigan for four years, he moved back to St. Paul. Arriving in St. Paul, he met two other African American attorneys, Frederick McGhee and William T. Francis and began a friendship. Scrutchin would move further north to Bemidji, Minnesota to open another law firm.

In 1900, while building his law practice, Scrutchin married Laura P. Arnold. He focused his legal practice on criminal law and during his first year in Bemidji, he won an acquittal for a man charged with stealing ten tons of hay. In another case tried in Duluth, Minnesota, Scrutchin represented William Miller, one of eleven African American men accused and arrested in the rape of a white Duluth woman.

The case, which became known as the Duluth Lynching, saw three of Miller's co-workers hung by a white mob of approximately 5,000. Scrutchin was able to obtain an acquittal of Miller's charges after calling as a witness a physician who had examined the white girl and found no evidence of a rape or assault. With the physician's testimony, Scrutchin's client, Miller, was found innocent. His acquittal resulted in the charges against the remaining defendants to be dismissed. Unfortunately, the three men hung by the mob were not able to face trial, which would have resulted in proving their innocence.

Scrutchin went on to become a very successful attorney and build a respectable practice. Because of the success, he was able to purchase two homes and an office building in Bemidji. He was a registered Republican and practicing Unitarian. He was a member of the Masonic Temple and served as a member of the Odd Fellows.

Charles W. Scrutchin died on July 14, 1930 of dropsy/apoplexy. He was sixty-three years old.



FRANK SEALES, JR.

... was born in Daytona Beach and graduated from Campbell Senior High School in 1967. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee 1971. He then enrolled into the Indiana University School of Law

in Bloomington, Indiana where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1974.

After passing the bar, Seales began his legal career working as a trial attorney for the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). He remained as a trial attorney with the DOJ for fourteen years. He then left the DOJ and the federal government moving into the state government arena taking a job as a Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief of Antitrust and Consumer Litigation for the State of Virginia. While working for the state of Virginia, Seales is credited with recovering \$11 million in civil penalties for the state and saving the Virginia Commonwealth another \$6.8 million in savings from its' annual expenditures.

In 1998, then President Bill Clinton appointed Seales as the Chief Counsel of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). With his appointment, Seales became the first African-American to hold the position of Chief Counsel to the NHTSA. As Chief Counsel, Seales was responsible for the investigation into the Firestone tire case, which led to a tire recall of Firestone tires. The recall became the largest recall in the history of the NHTSA. He also oversaw the settlement agreement of NHTSA's two largest civil penalties ever imposed on a major automobile tire manufacturer and automobile manufacturers for the failure to make timely recalls of their malfunctioning products.

After three years as Chief Counsel at the NHTSA, Seales accepted the position as General Counsel of the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. As General Counsel, Seales was responsible for all transactional and policy matters for the District of Columbia, including federal legislation, regulations, rate control matters, and interagency matters. He also oversaw the Administration's legal agreements and contracts.

Seales has served the legal profession outside of his job as Chief and General Counsel to federal, state and district entities. He has served as Vice President of the National Bar Association and as Treasurer of the National Bar Institute. He also has served as Vice President for the Friends Association for Children and as the General Counsel for the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners.

During his legal career, Seales has focused his expertise to the fields of antitrust and trade regulation, consumer protection, state and local government law. Of course, he is one of the nation's leading attorneys on transportation law. In 2006, the Indiana University School of Law inducted Seales into its' Academy of Law Alumni Fellows.



LEAH WARD SEARS

...was born on June 13, 1955 in Heidelberg, Germany to Onnye Jean Sears and Thomas E. Sears, a U.S. Army Colonel. As an child of a military officer, Sears's family was stationed all around the world until she was sixteen years old. They eventually

chose Savannah, Georgia to settling in.

Sears graduated from Savannah High School. To begin her collegiate education, Sears chose to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She graduated in 1976, with a Bachelor Science degree. While at Cornell, she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and the Quill and Dagger society. After graduation, she married Love Collins III and they had two children, Addison and Brennan. She then changed her name to Leah Collins-Sears, however, after their divorce in 1994, she reverted back to Leah Sears.

She graduated in 1980 from Emory University's Law School in Atlanta receiving a Juris Doctor degree. In 1995, she received a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville. Her first job in the legal field was as an attorney with the Atlanta law firm of Alston & Bird. She worked there from 1980 until 1985. She was also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Emory University's School of Law.

In 1995, then Mayor Andrew Young appointed Sears to the City of Atlanta Traffic Court. In 1988, at the age of thirty-two, she became a Superior Court judge, the state of Georgia, the youngest person ever elected. In 1992, she was appointed as a State Supreme Court Justice. In the later general election, although it was a close race, she was elected to occupy the seat, becoming the first woman to win a contested statewide election in Georgia. In 2004, after twelve years on the bench, the Georgia Republican Party and Georgia Christian Coalition made a push to unseat Sears, however, she easily won the election with an overwhelming sixty-two percent of the vote and in June of 2005, she became Chief Justice of the Court, the first woman and youngest Justice ever.

After serving for three years, Sears announced her resignation from the State Supreme Court effective at the end of her term in June of 2009. She was then put on a

short list to become the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Law. Making the list of five possible candidates, she withdrew her name from consideration in order to pursue other opportunities. She accepted a fellowship at the Institute for American Values in New York City, a think tank focusing on family and social issues. She also taught at the University of Georgia Law School focusing on family law.

Sears eventually joined the law firm of Schiff Hardin in Atlanta handling the firm's appellate and white-collar crime cases. She founded the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and the Columbus branch of the Battered Women's Project. She also active member of many community Boards and sits on the Board of the Institute for American Values. She is the recipient of many awards and honors, including Georgia Trend Magazine's, "100 Most Influential Georgians", the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Georgia Coalition of Black Women, and the Rosalynn Carter Fellow in Public Policy Award.

Sears holds honorary degrees from Clark-Atlanta University, LaGrange College, Morehouse College, Piedmont College, and Spelman College. She is friends with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, having a commonality in the fact that both of them are from southeastern Georgia.

Sears currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia with her husband Haskell Ward, former Deputy Mayor of New York City under Mayor Ed Koch.



SOLOMON SEAY, JR

...was born on December 2, 1931, in Montgomery, Alabama. His mother was a school-teacher and his father was a civil rights activist and a Minister for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Drawn to activism by his father and inspired by a junior high school teacher, Seay, Jr., always wanted to be a lawyer. He once recounted about his decision to become a lawyer in a story about that junior high school teacher reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The last part of the pledge she said, "to the flag with liberty and justice for those who got the guts to grab it!". It was at that point he thought that if he could go to law school and practice law, he "could stop the world and get the rules right."

After completing high school, Seay attended Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina graduating in 1952. He then enrolled into Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C.. At that time, the state of Alabama did not allow blacks to attend any law schools in the state, so the Alabama state government paid his tuition, room and board, books and cost of living expenses so that he would apply to any law schools in Alabama.

After enrolling, Seay had to take twenty-one months off to serve in the U.S. Army. After his duties were satisfied, he returned to Howard graduating in 1957. Upon completion of his degree requirements, he returned to Montgomery and began preparing to take the Alabama bar exam. He passed the exam on his first attempt.

Opening his own practice, he was one of only three black attorneys in Montgomery. He operated his law firm until June of 1964 when attorney Fred Gray approached him to join his firm. Gray represented many civil rights cases including that of Rosa Parks who refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man which sparked the year-long Montgomery Boycott that would result in the desegregation of the Montgomery public transportation system.

In one of Seay's first cases in 1957, he represented Mark Gilmore, a young man who had been arrested, beaten and held prisoner for taking a shortcut across the all-white neighborhood of Oak Park. Seay filed a class action desegregation lawsuit against the City of Mont-

gomery. Rather than desegregate the city's parks, the city chose to close all Montgomery's parks to the Public. The stayed closed for the next nine years.

Another important case handled by Seay was the case of *The New York Times v. Sullivan*. Montgomery Police Commissioner L.B. Sullivan, had sued the newspaper and four African-American Ministers for printing a defamatory story about him, written by Bayard Rustin. One of the Ministers, happened to be Seay's father, Reverend Solomon Seay Sr.. The others were Ralph Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth and Joseph Lowery, all civil rights activist. Seay Jr. and his new partner Gray Fred represented the four Ministers.

Sullivan originally won the case in an Alabama court but *The New York Times* Appealed. The argued that the U.S. Constitution's first amendment protected them and they had the right to print the advertisement. The Alabama ruling was reversed resulting in U.S. libel law was being rewritten.

One other landmark case that Seay oversaw was the 1964 Alabama Supreme Court case of *Lee v. the Macon County Board of Education*. The was a pivotal civil rights case that sought the integration of the all-white Tuskegee High School in Macon County, Alabama. The initial lawsuit, filed in 1963, was expanded to include all of the Alabama's primary and secondary schools, all two-year postsecondary schools, and every public university. Seay and his team celebrated another win when a three-judge federal District Court issued a blanket desegregation order in the case. On appeal, the decision was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Wallace v. United States*. The initial case filed by Seay became the blueprint for school desegregation throughout the United States..

For the next two decades, the Seay fought for the rights of African-Americans, specific to racial discrimination in the work place, harassment by hate groups, and police brutality. He handled cases involving the Selma to Montgomery March, the Freedom Riders, other civil rights cases. In his fifty-year career, Seay became a hallmark protecting the civil rights of blacks from the injustices of the Jim Crow laws of the Deep South. In 2009, Seay's memoir, *Jim Crow and Me: Stories from My Life as a Civil Rights Lawyer*, was published.

On September 11, 2015, Solomon Seay, Jr. died in his birthplace and battlefield town of Montgomery, Alabama at the age of eighty-three.



MYRA CONSETTA SELBY

... was born on July 1, 1955 in Bay City but raised in Saginaw, Michigan. After completing high school in Bay City, she received her B.A. degree from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, graduating with honors in 1977. She obtained her

J.D. degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1980.

To begin her legal career, Selby moved to Washington, D.C. where she began her private law practice by joining the law firm of Seyfarth Shaw. After three years in Washington, she relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana accepting a position with the law firm of Ice Miller Donadio & Ryan. She later became a Partner, becoming the first African American Partner at an Indiana law firm. There, she focused her attention to health law.

In 1993, then Governor Evan Bayh appointed Selby as the Director of Indiana's Health Care Policy. In 1995, Selby was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court as a Justice, replacing retiring Justice Richard M. Givan. She became the first woman and the first African American to serve on the illustrious Court. Another first attributed to Selby is construction of the first women's bathroom in the Supreme Court's judicial facilities. While sitting on the Supreme Court, one of Selby's determined goals was the improvement of health care related matters as it came to the protection of the rights of patients. She fought to ease needed access to the courts by patients and complainants against the rigid procedural rules that were in effect in the health care industry.

While on the Supreme Court, Selby authored more than 100 majority opinions. In 1999, the Court appointed her to Chair its' Commission on Race and Gender Fairness. The commission was charged with ensuring fairness and diversity in Indiana's legal system.

After serving on the Supreme Court, Selby returned to her private practice partnership with Ice Miller Donadio & Ryan. In addition to her duties at the law firm, she served as the Chair of the Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness. The Commission's task was to investigate methods to improve the fairness for anyone and everyone that became involved in Indiana's legal system.

Having spent most of her career litigating, Selby is most comfortable in a courtroom. Having litigated both state and federal cases at both the trial and appellate levels, and having served on the highest court in the state of Indiana, Selby's expertise and knowledge of the law is unquestionable. Her knowledge of the laws surrounding health care is second only to her-

self. From contract disputes to medical malpractice to statutory compliance, Selby's expertise places her at the top of her profession and the many that call upon her for her assistance validates her stature in the field of health care law.

Selby has grown her practice to include Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the file of mediation and arbitration as an alternative solution to resolving conflicts arising between two arguing parties. She focuses her attention to commercial disputes and her familiar base of health care cases.

In addition to her many legal health care cases, Selby also served as an Adjunct Professor at Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law. There she taught courses on taught food and drug law. Her class on health care reimbursements has become an invaluable asset to those that have studied under her tutelage.

In serving her local community, Selby is active as a volunteer lawyer with her focus on children's issues and those of the poor. She is a pro bono lawyer for the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic. For the Clinic, she serves as Counsel in domestic violence cases. For her local church, she gives free advice to the church and needing members.

Selby has served Jack and Jill of America, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to African American children and their futures through volunteer leadership, as its' Parliamentarian. In addition, she volunteers as a Moot Court Jurist for several law school's Moot Court competitions

On January 12, 2016, then President Barack Obama nominated Selby to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Unfortunately, her nomination expired on January 3, 2017. If she had been confirmed, she would have made another first, that as the first African American woman to serve on the Seventh Circuit. A firm believer in "first", that distinction will await a future African American Jurist. Still a litigator and partner at the law firm Ice Miller LLP, Myra Consetta Selby continues to represent her clients in the fields of appeals, complex litigations, compliance counseling, corporate internal investigations, risk management, strategic assessments, and other legal matters.

Judge Selby has been active in her community through her legal and non-legal endeavors. She has been an advocate for children and for the poor. She has volunteered of her time to the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic (NCLC) and has served as legal counsel in domestic violence cases that the NCLC has undertaken. She has given pro bono legal services to her church and many of the church members needing assistance. Judge Selby has served as the Parliamentarian for Jack and Jill of America, Inc., an organization that nurtures future African-American leaders through volunteering and focusing on children and the youth through leadership development, philanthropic giving and civic responsibilities. Judge Selby also volunteers as a moot court jurist for various law school moot court competitions in Indiana and across the country.



JOSIAH T. SETTLE

... was better known as “Joe” and was born on a slave plantation near Rockingham, North Carolina located in the Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee and western North Carolina. His mother, Nancy Ann Settle, was slave mistress owned by slave trader, Josiah Settle.

She befittingly named her son after her slave master, Josiah, after Joe’s birth on September 30, 1850.

A wealthy slave owner having made his wealth as a slave trader, the elder Josiah moved his family and his slaves from their plantation in Rockingham, North Carolina to Tishomingo County, Mississippi. He and Nancy would go on to have ten children together. Josiah Sr. was a “devoted” slave master to Nancy and their children. So much so, that in 1856 he gave Nancy and their children their freedom from slavery. Unfortunately, Mississippi had had a strict law that did not permit free slaves to live in the state. Knowing this, Josiah, Sr., moved the family north to Hamilton, Ohio although he maintained his slave plantation in Mississippi living there part-time while Nancy and the children remained in the free state of Ohio.

In 1858, Josiah, Sr. married Nancy. After the Civil War began in 1861, in support of the Union, he sold his land and slaves in Mississippi and moved permanently to Ohio. He would die in the spring of 1869. The younger Josiah was nineteen years old.

In Hamilton, the young Settle attended public elementary and high schools. Although Ohio was a free slave state, Settle did face some discrimination. He was moved to a preparatory school in Oberlin, Ohio and eventually entered Oberlin College to earn his collegiate degree. A gifted athlete, he played baseball with an integrated baseball club, the Resolutes, which had both white and black players.

The following year, Settle moved to Washington, D.C. to enroll into newly established Howard University for his sophomore year. He would graduate in 1872 in the schools’ first graduating class. While at Howard, he clerked in the Freedmen’s Bureau in the Education Department. In his senior year, he served as a reading clerk for Alexander Shepherd of the Washington, D.C. House of Delegates. He also began teaching at the university as well.

After graduating from Howard, Settle was admitted to the D.C. Bar and immediately joined the Howard University Law Department. Active in D.C. politics, for the next three years, he took on several positions including as a Board of Public Works clerk, a Board of Audits clerk, and Washington, D.C. County

School district clerk. Growing tired of D.C. politics, in 1875, he moved to Mississippi and was admitted to the state bar association there.

Settle chose northwest Mississippi’s Panola County and the city of Sardis as his base. He opened a law practice with D.T. J. Matthews and married Theresa T. Vogelsang from Annapolis, Maryland. Later that year, although he lost, he ran for the position of District Attorney of the Twelfth Judicial District of Mississippi. He was, however, selected as a delegate to the Republican National Conventions in the 1876 and 1880.

In 1882, Settle contemplated making a run for the U.S. Congress, but instead endorsed an independent Democrat, James Ronald Chalmers for the seat. Once Chalmers took his controversial seat, Settle was awarded the Chairmanship of the Republican Congressional Executive Committee. He campaigned vigorously for Republican causes and a year later, he ran as an independent for a seat in the Mississippi House of Representatives against a ticket comprised of Republicans and independent Democrats, and was overwhelmingly elected to the state legislature. He served one two-year term before moving to Memphis, Tennessee to focus on his law practice.

In Memphis, Settle accepted an appointment as Assistant Attorney-General of Shelby County, Tennessee. He held that position for two years, leaving after then Governor Peter Turner’s term ended. He returned to private practice in the law firm of Humbert, Griggs, Settle, and Matthews.

During the following years, Settles would befriend famed journalist, editor, feminist and Civil Rights Activist, Ida B. Wells even allowing her to board with he and his wife for a period of time. After a disagreement over money, Wells moved out and wrote scathing newspaper editorials in her newspaper, “Free Speech” calling Settle a “sycophant” because of his representation of a local minister and his church against militant and race incendiary charges. The minister was eventually convicted and fled the state rather than serve an eighty-day prison sentence.

In private practice, Settle took on a case challenging Mississippi’s segregated streetcars. Although the court ruled in favor of the state, the case was able to showcase the prejudices faced by black lawyers arguing cases before their white counterparts. He was able to highlight the injustices and discrimination from judges, other lawyers and the purposefully selected white juries.

Settle, along with Robert Reed Church, M.L. Clay, and T.H. Hayes, founded the Solvent Bank and Trust Company in Memphis in 1906. A devout Episcopalian Christian, he Settle attended Emmanuel Episcopal Church. A member of the an elite circle of African American businessmen, he became the first President of the National Negro Business League, organized by Booker T. Washington, where he served for eight years.

Settle married Fannie McCullough on March 20, 1890. He had two sons, Josiah T. and Temoy. He was a member of the member of the Memphis chapter of Sigma Pi Phi. After a lengthy illness, Josiah T. Settle died on August 21, 1915 in Memphis.





TERRYCINA "TERRI" ANDREA SEWELL

...was born on January 1, 1965 to Nancy Gardner Sewell and Andrew A. Sewell in Selma, Alabama. Her father was an athletic coach and her mother was a City Councilwoman, the first black woman elected and after retirement, she became a librarian. The family home

became a rest haven for civil rights marchers during the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches that protested voting rights. She grew up surrounded by local and national activist as they often visited the family home during the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches that protested voting rights.

Attending Selma High School, Sewell became the first African American Valedictorian of her high school. Her summer days were spent with her maternal grandparents who taught her the value of hard work and love. Her Baptist upbringing gave her faith.

Graduating from high school with honors, Sewell won numerous scholarships, including one from U.S. News and World Report. While in college, she interned on Capitol Hill for 7th Congressional District Congressman Richard Shelby, as well as for Alabama Senator Howell Heflin. On campus, as a Democratic leader, she was class Vice-President, Class Representative to the Student Union, and led the university's Admission Office in their attempts to set up a Minority Student Recruitment Office.

Completing her studies at Princeton, Sewell was awarded with numerous accolades. She was selected by NBC's Today Show as one of the "Top Collegian Women." Glamour Magazine selected her as one of the "Top Ten College Women in America. The was the recipient of the Afro-American Studies Thesis Prize for her senior thesis, *Black Women in Politics: Our Time Has Come*, which featured an interview with Shirley Chisholm, the first black U.S. Congresswoman.

Accepted by Oxford University located in Oxford, England, United Kingdom, Sewell received her Master's degree with first-class Honours. She published her Masters' thesis on the election of the first black members of British Parliament entitled, *Black Tribunes: Race and Representation in British Politics*, in 1993, all at the age of twenty-five.

With the help of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Sewell received a scholarship to attend Harvard Law School, graduating in 1992. She was the Editor of the Civil Rights Civil Liberties Law Review while there. She published in the Harvard Black Letter Journal, (vol. 8, Spring 1991), an article titled "*Selma, Lord, Selma*," showcasing legal struggles in Selma.

Sewell's first job after graduation was as a judicial law clerk in Birmingham, Alabama for the first black federal judge appointed in Alabama, Chief Judge U. W. Clemon, United States District Court (AL-ND). In 1994, she joined Davis Polk & Wardwell, a New York Wall Street law firm. On Wall Street, she gained great experience in the areas of finance and capital markets.

Not forgetting her humble childhood, she provided legal services, for free, to the homeless. She also mentored through the pro-

gram, *Dreams into Action*, girls of color in NYC high schools. She served on the Alumni Advisory Board of Sponsors of Educational Opportunity (SEO), a non-profit organization providing education and leadership training. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, she served as the Co-Chair of the Community Assistance Fund, which provided \$300,000,000 of aid to communities of color affected by the Trade Center bombings.

In 2004, Sewell joined Maynard, Cooper, & Gale, P.C. And became the first black female partner in the Birmingham law firm. As one of the only black public finance lawyers in the state, she helped raise money for public projects for some of the state's most underserved communities. She also represented many of the historically black colleges and higher education institutions in Alabama. She then turned her attention to running for public office.

Defeating her Republican opponent, earning 72.4 percent of the vote, Sewell became the first black woman ever elected to Congress from Alabama. As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus has voted along party lines focusing on job creation. She has been a supporter of President Obama's agenda for tax reforms.

She supported the Obama's foreign policy initiatives on Afghanistan by traveling there to meet with service members and local officials to discuss women's issues, specifically security. She has served as Co-Chair of the Women's Fund "*Voices Against Violence*", a domestic violence campaign which promotes women helping women. In four months, the campaign raised over \$70,000 in to fight domestic violence in Birmingham. The Fund also provided money to establish the first Domestic Violence Court in the Birmingham Municipal Court. In 2010, She was a leading voice to have the Teach for America, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "*enlist, develop, and mobilize as many as possible of our nation's most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence*", chose Alabama's Black Belt region for a new site.

Having served on many Boards, Sewell's dedication to service is unmatched in her resolve. She has sat on the Boards of St. Vincent's Foundation; the Community Advisory Board for the UAB Minority Health and Research Center; Girl Scouts of Cahaba Council; the Governing Board of the Alabama Council on Economic Education; and the Alabama Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She is also a member of the Corporate Partners Council for Birmingham Art Museum.

Some of her awards and honors include being recognized in the Alabama Super Lawyers Magazine, being honored as a Minority Business "*Rising Star*", and being selected by the Birmingham Business Journal as one of the "*Top Birmingham Women*". She became a member of the class of Leadership Birmingham, a member of the YWCA's Women Leadership MOMENTUM, and a member of Leadership Alabama. In 2015, she was named by Alabama Today as a "Woman of Influence".

Sewell, an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, is also active with The Links, Incorporated, one of the country's oldest and largest women's volunteer service organizations. She is involved with her church family, the Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma and the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham. The Congressional Black Caucus selected her to participate on the panel, "*From Lincoln to Obama*," for their Annual Legislative Forum's discussion on Southern politics.





MARY ANN SHADD CARY

...was born in on October 9, 1823. She became an American-Canadian anti-slavery activist, journalist, publisher, teacher and lawyer. She was the first black woman publisher in North

America and the first woman publisher in Canada. An abolitionist, Shadd Cary became the first female African American newspaper Editor in the United States editing the *Provincial Freeman* in 1853.

Shadd was born in Wilmington, Delaware with twelve other siblings. The eldest of Abraham Doras Shadd and Harriet Burton Parnell, Mary Ann witnessed first hand the struggle for civil rights by watching her father, Abraham, in his activities. The Shadd family had for generations been involved in civil rights, and her father continued that legacy by being an active conductor on the Underground Railroad, being active member of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and, in 1833, being named President of the National Convention for the Improvement of Free People of Colour.

After laws were passed making it illegal to educate African American children in the state of Delaware, Mary Ann's family moved to Pennsylvania, where she attended a Quaker school. She would later return to West Chester and establish a school for black children. She taught in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and New York City, as well.

After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, A.D. Shadd moved his family to North Buxton, Ontario, Canada. He ran and was elected as Counselor of Raleigh Township, Ontario, becoming the first black man to be elected to political office in Canada.

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 in the United States was calling for the return of free northern blacks and escaped slaves back into bondage. Knowing this, Shadd and her brother Isaac decided to move to Windsor, Ontario, Canada, located across the U.S. border from Detroit, Michigan. There, with the help of the American Missionary Association, she founded a racially integrated school. She also ran an anti-slavery newspaper. "*The Provincial Freeman*", which made her the first female editor in North America.

An advocate for full racial integration through education and self-reliance, Mary Ann traveled throughout Canada and the United States promoting emigration to Canada for Freeman. In 1855, she attempted to participate in the Philadelphia Colored Convention, but the assembly was hesitant to even let her sit as a delegate, not to mention speaking as her stance on emigration made her a controversial figure. She was allowed to address the Convention by a slim 15 votes. She spoke advocating for emigration and was very well received. So much so, that the delegates voted to give her an extra ten more minutes to speak. Unfortunately, her speech was not mentioned in the Convention minute. Many believed this deletion was because she was a woman.

She married Thomas F. Cary, a Toronto barber, in 1856, who was also involved with the *Provincial Freeman*. They had one daughter, Sarah, and a son named Linton. Shadd Cary's husband died in 1860 spurring her and her children to return to the United States. Back in the states, the Civil War had begun. At the behest of the abolitionist Martin Delany, Shadd served as a recruiting officer to enlist black volunteers for the Union Army in the state of Indiana.

After the Civil War, she taught in black schools in Wilmington, before moving to Washington, D.C.. She continued teaching in public schools while she attended Howard University School of Law. At the age of 60, in 1883, she graduated as a lawyer, becoming only the second black woman in the United States to earn a law degree.

Although Shadd Cary began to practice law, she continued to write, writing for newspapers *National Era* and *The People's Advocate*. In 1880, she organized the Colored Women's Progressive Franchise. She joined the National Woman Suffrage Association, working alongside Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton on women's suffrage issues. She even testified before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

She died in Washington, D.C., on June 5, 1893. She was interred at Columbian Harmony Cemetery. Her former residence in Washington, D.C., still stands today. Located in the U Street Corridor of D.C., it was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

In 1987, Shadd Cary was designated a Women's History Month Honoree by the National Women's History Project. In Canada, she was designated a Person of National Historic Significance.



A DAM SHAKOOR

...was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan to Esther Caddell and Harvey Caddell. His mother was one of the first African American teachers hired at Detroit's Durfee Junior High School and his father was a union leader. Shakoor grew up in an educated family knowing hard work was necessary. He grew up in the Sojourner

Truth public housing complex located on Detroit's northeast side and was well aware of the civil rights issues occurring in Detroit and around the nation.

After completing high school, Shakoor enrolled into Wayne State University in Detroit and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1971. He continued his studies at Wayne State and earned a Master of Education degree in 1974. While at Wayne State, Shakoor served as the Features Editor of the independent WSU student newspaper, "The South End". He wrote an editorial in 1969 supporting mayoral candidate Coleman Young in his attempt to become the first African-American mayor of Detroit.

In 1973, Young decided to run for Mayor of Detroit. He asked Shakoor to join his campaign team as the Campaign Office Manager. He graciously turned Young down choosing instead to continue with his pursuit of a law degree. Shakoor then entered law school at Wayne State University's Law School to begin his law studies. While studying at Wayne's Law School, in his second year, Shakoor was elected as the President of the Black Legal Alliance, known today as the Black Law Student Association.

To begin his legal career, Shakoor worked as an Associate Attorney with the law firm of Pitts Mann & Patrick PC. He remained with the firm for three years. He then became a practicing partner with the firm of Ashford Cannon Edison Lumumba & Shakoor. Having worked with the group of lawyers who had tutelage from the legendary Myzell Sowell, head of the Detroit Public Defender's Office, forming a law firm together was destined. The law firm would become known for the cases they litigated surrounding challenging racial injustice.

Having become a Muslim in college, Shakoor took on several cases representing members of his faith. He served as the legal counsel to Derrick Ali and Samuel Rahman, two prison inmates who challenged the correctional system in Jackson, Mississippi that prohibited the two from practicing their religion. Shakoor argued for the inmates to display their religion and practice it in a way they deemed fit and was successful in his arguments. The penal system would change their rules and even went so far as to hire Islamic Chaplains. The prisons began to accommodate the eating habits and dietary concerns of their Muslim inmates and observed the worship practices of Muslims during holy month of Ramadan.

Shakoor accepted a job as a Professor of Law for the Wayne County Community College District. He would be affiliated with the college for the next forty-four years. His teaching specialties are Business Law, Criminal Justice Law, and African American Studies. In addition to his teaching, Shakoor serves as a full-time attorney with his law firm, Adam Shakoor & Associates PC.. Shakoor

received his law degree from Wayne State University Law School, graduating in 1976.

In 1981, Shakoor was appointed by then Governor William Milliken as a Judge of the Common Pleas Court for Wayne County, Michigan. Shakoor became the first Muslim Judge to serve on the Common Pleas Court. That year, the Michigan State Legislature combined the Common Pleas Court with the Traffic and Ordinance Division of the Detroit Recorder's Court to create the 36th District Court in Detroit. Another Muslim Judge would later join Shakoor on the Court when the state Legislature added U.S. District Court Judge Marianne Battani of the Eastern District of Michigan to the Common Pleas Court in 1981.

Shakoor would go on to become the Chief Judge of the Court where he oversaw the administrative and judicial operations of the Court. He served thirty-one Judges, six Magistrates and over five hundred Court employees in the daily responsibilities. Shakoor oversaw the largest district court in the country that was housed under one roof. The Court was also busiest court in the state.

As Chief Judge, Shakoor initiated new and innovative policies and processes aimed at making the experience a better experience of those that had to come before the Court. He established a drug docket, which focused on the city's drug problems, and created an environmental court, which cleared up a backlog of cases that dated back for more than ten years. Shakoor also established Saturday court sessions and was able to acquire funding from state legislators that fully computerized the Court for the first time.

In 1986, Shakoor is credited with taking decisive action that may have save the life of many visitors and staff to the courthouse. The Court had been moved into a new building which would have serious ventilation issues discovered after the Court had moved in. On one particular day, the building next door to the Court was having an auction sale. There were an abundance of vehicles that crowded the street below the windows of the Court. The second floor ventilation system sucked the vehicle emissions into the buildings ventilation system and carbon monoxide gas spread through out the building.

Not waiting for an official calling to evacuate the building, after Shakoor heard of someone fainting in one of the courtrooms, he immediately called on security to evacuate the courtrooms. There was not an official evacuation plan in the Court so Shakoor oversaw the orderly movement of over two thousand people out of the building. Thankfully, no one died. Unfortunately, eighty people were transported to the hospital suffering from dizziness and vomiting. A few had fallen unconscious. It took ten days before the Court could be reopened and declared safe for occupancy.

In 1989, Shakoor was asked by then Mayor Coleman Young to serve as the Deputy Mayor to help with the problems faced by Detroit's youth. The Mayor wanted him to address the problems of them having no skills, no jobs, and seemingly no hope. Drug use was high and the associated crime was rising as well. Shakoor was able to introduce programs to help the youth, including the Boot Camp After Care Detention Program for young males. The program operated from the combined efforts of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Detroit's Board of Education, and the City of Detroit, created the first boot camp detention program in the nation that involved substance abuse counseling, vocational training and health education.

In 1994, Shakoor returned to private practice joining the laws firm Reynolds Beeby & Magnuson PC. Three years after joining the firm he left to become the Managing Shareholder of Shakoor Grubba & Miller PC. He would later leave that firm to begin his one law firm in 2004.





BOOKER SHAW

...received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. To obtain his Juris Doctorate degree, he attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.. He went on to further his education by taking

legal courses at the American Academy of Judicial Education, the National Judicial College, and the University of Missouri's Center for Dispute Resolution.

After receiving his law degree and passing the state bar, Shaw accepted a job with the United States Department of Justice. After spending a year at the Justice Department, he took a job with the Federal Trade Commission for one year before accepting a position with the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office. He would remain in that position for six years.

In 1983, Shaw was appointed as an Associate Circuit Judge in the 22nd Circuit. He would sit on the bench for eight years. He was then elevated to become a Circuit Judge in the 22nd Circuit Court. He sat on the 22nd Circuit Court bench for seven years.

In 2002, Judge Shaw was named to sit on the bench of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District. He sat on the bench of the Court for seven years. In 2006, he was named as the Chief Judge of the Court and served in that capacity for one year. While serving on the appellate bench, Judge Shaw presided over more than one thousand cases and made opinions in over one hundred and forty cases. He addressed cases involving medical negligence, contracts, personal injury and sovereign immunity in commercial transactions. He also served as a Special Visiting Judge of the Missouri Supreme Court.

After retiring from the bench, Judge Shaw entered private practice joining the law firm of Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis, Missouri where he remains today. At the firm, Shaw uses his legal expertise at the trial and appellate level litigating a wide range of issues for the firm's Business Litigation Group. His primary industry focus centers on the railroad industry, the pharmaceutical industry, and the tobacco industry. Judge Shaw also gives legal attention to business litigations, class action suits, product liability cases, and consumer product litigation. His effective and

persuasive strategies have been instrumental in securing favorable decisions for the firm's clients.

Judge Shaw is admitted to practice in the Missouri USDC, Eastern District; the Missouri USDC, Western District; and the United States Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, which covers the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. He is a member of the Theodore McMillian American Inn of Court, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, and the American Bar Association. Judge Shaw is a member of the Missouri Bar Association, the Mound City Bar Association, and the National Bar Association's Judicial Council. In addition, he was a member of the Lawyers Association of St. Louis.

Judge Shaw was given many awards and honors during his legal career. The Missouri Lawyers Weekly presented him with its' Mentor Award, the St. Louis Business Journal awarded him its' Diverse Business Leader Award, and the Mound City Bar Association gave him its' Legal Legend Award. In addition, Judge Shaw was the recipient of the National Bar Association's Judicial Conference Award.



NINA L. SHAW

...was born in Harlem, New York. She spent some time being raised in The Bronx and graduated from William Howard Taft High School. She attended Barnard College in New York City where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree

in 1976. To obtain her law degree, Shaw attended New York City's Columbia Law School and obtained her Juris Doctorate degree in 1979.

Shaw began her legal career working in the Entertainment Department of the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers headquartered in Los Angeles, California. Her focus centered primarily on the television, motion picture, and live entertainment industries. The law firm had many high profile television clients including serving as counsel to Norman Lear and Bud Yorkin who founded their famous television firms. Shaw was able to work on television shows such as "All in the Family", "Good Times", "The Facts of Life", and "The Jefferson's Show". During that time, African American actors were just beginning to achieve stardom on the TV screens and Shaw was able to learn and negotiate fair deals for them in uncharted waters.

In 1981, Shaw left O'Melveny and joined the boutique firm of Dern, Mason, Swerdlow and Floum. It was at the firm that she met her future legal partner, Ernest Del, a white attorney who loved jazz music and had many common interests that Shaw shared. The two would later form the law firm of Del Shaw Moonves Tanaka Finkelstein and Lezcano.

Over the next several years, Shaw would become the legal counsel to many high profile entertainers, musicians, actors, writers, producers and directors. She also built a reputable reputation serving as legal counsel to business entrepreneurs and entertainment executives. She became famous amongst Hollywood entertainers for securing hefty negotiation settlements for their talents and services to the entertainment industry. Among her long list of clients are famed entertainers Jamie Foxx, Nick Cannon, and Lawrence Fishburne.

For Fishburne, Shaw negotiated his high profile role in the Tina Turner movie where he played the role of her husband, Ike Turner. She would later negotiate and secure a \$10 million salary for the sequel to The Matrix, a highly successful movie. Sequel compensation in many cases is more difficult than the original movie negotiations due to the fact that many attorneys do not plan for a sequel and are happy to have gotten a deal for their clients to star in the original movie, which many are happy to get just to be performing in their field. She also served as the

legal counsel for the TV show, "In Living Color", starring the Wayans family.

Shaw believes in pre-negotiating any and all future possibilities for her clients and has become a master at negotiating these deals. She has garnered lucrative assignments for the likes of James Earl Jones and Cedric the Entertainer. Although she does not look at her client race or color when accepting them as a client, she has given much attention to ensuring that African American entertainers receive fair compensation for their talents bringing them closer to what white entertainers are paid.

The entertainment industry is a brutal industry and Shaw works to ensure her clients are well compensated and are safe while performing their performances. Some critics are critical of the high salaries her celebrity clients are receiving, however, Shaw is quick to emphasize that their earning potential in many cases is limited. Stars come and go so it is her responsibility to ensure they earn comparable earnings based on the success of their past engagements and that of the current project she is negotiating on behalf of her clients. She realizes that people get older, may become ill or injured, and in some cases, the viewing public simply wants something new. Her job is to ensure that her clients receive compensation from every possible revenue stream that may come across their field of expertise.

Shaw is known among the Hollywood elite producers, movie houses, and directors, as a tough negotiator but is fair in her dealings. She has declined potential clients who were out "to get" the opposing side or wanted to "kill them" in negotiations. Some of those that she has turned down were looking for an attorney that the other side would ultimately hate after having won a huge victory in negotiating a deal. Shaw instead prefers a method to bring a solution that brings the client a well-deserved pay check but not at the sake of destroying the opposing party during the negotiating process.

Shaw has been honored by many famous celebrities in the entertainment world and by her peers in the legal community as well. The Women in Film organization awarded her its' Crystal Award in recognition for her legal representation among the movers and shakers in the Hollywood scene. The Beverly Hills Bar Association has named her as its' Entertainment Attorney of the Year and The Hollywood Reporter recognized Shaw as a Women in Entertainment Power 100 winner. She has also been honored as a Daily Variety Dealmaker Impact honoree, has been featured in Black Enterprise's "America's Top Black Lawyers", and has been named among Savoy's, "The 100 Most Influential Blacks in America."

Shaw serves as a mentor to the Hollywood Big Sister Women in Entertainment Mentoring Program. She serves as a Board member to the Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs and as a Board member to the Columbia Law School West Coast Advisory Board. Shaw is married, lives in Los Angeles with her husband, and together, they have two adult daughters.





THEODORE MICHAEL SHAW

...was born on November 24, 1954 in New York City to Jean Audrey Churchill Shaw and Theodore Shaw. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in 1976 from Wesleyan University located in Middletown, Connecticut. He obtained his law degree as

a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow in 1979 from the Columbia University School of Law in New York.

After receiving his law degree, Shaw took a job as a trial attorney in the Honors Program of the Civil Rights Division to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). He worked for the DOJ for three years. He then accepted a position with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) as the Director-Counsel and President. He litigated cases surrounding education, employment, voting rights, housing, police policies, and capital punishment and oversaw the LDF's Education Docket.

In 1987, Shaw was charged with establishing the LDF's Western Regional Office in Los Angeles, California and served as its' Western Regional Counsel. After three years in California, he left the LDF and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to join the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School. At the law school, he taught constitutional law, civil procedure, and civil rights.

In 1993, Shaw took a leave of absence from Michigan to rejoin the LDF as Associate Director-Counsel. He served as the lead counsel in a coalition that represented African American and Latino students in an affirmative action admissions case, "Gratz v. Bollinger", against the University of Michigan undergraduate school. The case involved white students that had a position that Michigan's minority admission process was discriminating against white students and was unconstitutional. The case was heard before the U.S. Supreme Court that ruled that the point system used by the University was indeed unconstitutional.

In 2004, Shaw became the fifth Director-Counsel and President of LDF with the retirement of then President Elaine Jones. He served in the position for four years. Shaw then left the LDF joining the law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright, which was formerly the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP. As legal counsel, Shaw focused on civil litigation. He also represented clients on diversity issues and matters related to civil rights.

In 2008, Shaw accepted a position with the Columbia University Law School in New York City, New York as Professor of Professional Practice. He remained at Columbia for six years. He also served during that time as a Professor of Professional Practice at New York City's Columbia Law School, the City University of New York School of Law and Temple University's

James E. Beasley School of Law. In addition, Shaw served as a member of the faculty of the Practicing Law Institute.

Shaw currently serves as a Julius L. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill. He also teaches Civil Procedure and Advanced Constitutional Law on the Fourteenth Amendment. For his expertise, he has been called upon to testify before the U.S. Congress and state legislatures on several occasions. Shaw has appeared frequently as a guest on many radio and television programs and has written several articles that have been published in numerous newspapers, magazines, and law review publications. He has traveled extensively to foreign countries in Europe, Japan, South Africa, and South America where he spoke on civil and human rights.

Shaw has served on the Board of Directors of the American Constitution Society, Common Sense, and The Equal Rights Trust in London, England. He has served on the Boards of The International Center for Transitional Justice, The New Press, the Poverty and Race Research Action Council, and the Wesleyan University Center for Prison Education. He has also served on the Board of Deacons of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York. In addition, Shaw has served on the Legal Advisory Network of the European Roma Rights Council and on the Wesleyan University Board of Trustees.

Shaw has received numerous honors and awards for his dedicated service to the legal profession. He was awarded an Aspen Institute Fellow on Law and Society, a Twenty-first Century Trust Fellow on Global Interdependence in London, England, and a Salzburg Institute Fellow. The National Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division presented Shaw with the A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Memorial Award and Columbia University presented him with the Lawrence A. Wein Prize for Social Justice. Shaw also received the Baldwin Medal from the Wesleyan University Alumni Association.

Shaw has been given an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Wesleyan University and a W. Haywood Burns Humanitarian Award from the Harlem Neighborhood Defenders Office. The Office of the Appellate Defender presented him with its' Milton S. Gould Award for Outstanding Advocacy and the Connecticut Fair Housing Council gave him its' Mildred and Richard Loving Award. Shaw has received Shirley Chisholm Award, the National Council of Jewish Women Faith and Humanity Award, the National Bar Association's Judicial Council Civil Liberties Award, 2007 Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Cade Distinguished Service Award, and a Groundwork Impact Award. He has been given an Office of Black Ministry of the Archdiocese of New York Pierre Toussaint Medallion, a Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund Excellence in Legal Service Award, and a National Urban League Center for Urban Leadership Whitney M. Young, Jr. Leadership Award, among others.



L EANDER
JERRY
SHAW, JR.

...was born on September 6, 1930 in Salem, Virginia to Margaret Shaw and Leander Jerry Shaw, Sr.. His mother was a teacher and his father served as the Dean of the Florida A&M University Graduate School in Tallahassee, Florida. Shaw, Jr. graduated from Lylburn Downing School in Lexington, Virginia where his mother taught before entering West Virginia State University in Institute, West Virginia. Shaw graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1952.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Shaw enlisted into the United States Army. He served during the Korean War as an artillery officer and was honorably discharged. Returning from the military, Shaw continued his education by enrolling into Washington, D.C.'s from Howard University School of Law where he obtained his law degree in 1957.

After obtaining his law degree, Shaw left Washington moving to Tallahassee, Florida to accept a job at Florida A&M University as an Assistant Law Professor. He passed the Florida State Bar exam in 1960 and began to practice law. For the next several years, he worked to build his law reputation and service what clients he could gather.

In 1969, Shaw took a position as a staff attorney in the office of the Florida State Attorney's Office. In the State's Attorney's Office, he served as head of the Capital Crimes Division and as an adviser to the grand jury. He also served as an Assistant Public Defender.

In 1972, Shaw returned to private practice taking a job with the law firm of Harrison, Finegold and Shaw. He would remain with the firm for the next seven years. In 1974, then Governor Reubin Askew appointed Shaw to the Florida Industrial Relations Commission. He remained with the Commission for five years.

In 1979, Shaw was appointed to sit on the Florida District Courts of Appeal by then Governor Bob Graham. He would sit on the bench for four years. He was then elevated to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Graham where he served from 1983 until 2003. Judge Shaw served as the Chief Justice of the Court for two years. During that time, he also served as a Judge in Residence

at the Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Virginia.

Justice Shaw has been given several notable awards and honors during his lengthy legal career. He was awarded Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from West Virginia State College, from Nova University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Washington and Lee University. Florida International University also awarded Justice Shaw an Honorary degree.

Justice Shaw has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, The Florida Bar Association, the Florida Government Bar Association, and the Tallahassee Bar Association. He has rights to practice in all Florida courts, the United States Southern District Court of Florida, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Shaw has served as the Second Vice President of the Conference of Chief Justices, has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts and the American Judicature Society, and has Chaired Governor Lawton Chiles' Criminal Justice Task Force. Justice Shaw has served as Vice-Chair of the Florida Supreme Court Racial and Ethnic Bias Study Commission, has served as an advisor to Florida's Sentencing Commission, and has served as Florida's Standard Jury Instructions-Civil. Justice Shaw has also served as a member of the Judicial Fellows Program after having been appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States, and has served as an advisor to the Supreme Court Committees on Fairness, Standard Jury Instructions-Criminal, Rules of Judicial Administration, and Rules of Criminal Procedure, and as a member of Florida State University College of Law Board of Visitors.

Judge Jerry Leander Shaw died on December 14, 2015. He was eighty-five years old.





JAMES EDWARD SHEFFIELD

...was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was one of nine children and after graduating from high school, he enrolled into a local junior college working to pay his tuition. Over the next several years,

Sheffield attended several other college level schools, including the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois where he received his undergraduate degree in 1955. To earn his law degree, he attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School where he graduated in 1963.

While earning his higher learning degrees, Sheffield enlisted in the United States Air Force. He served at Byrd Field in Richmond, Virginia and left the Air Force in 1959. After leaving the military, Sheffield decided to remain in the Richmond area and call it home.

Sheffield took a job as a District Executive with the Frederick Douglass District of the Robert E. Lee Council of the Boy Scouts of America working in the Richmond office. In his role with the Council, Sheffield was responsible for providing the Boy Scout program to the African-American community with the purpose of bringing more African American youth into the organization. While serving the Boy Scouts, Sheffield served as a clerk for the Chief Counsel of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. and served as a clerk for Spottswood Robinson, then the Dean of the Howard University Law School.

In 1963, Sheffield accepted a job in Washington, D.C. working for U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy's Honor Program for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Court of Claims Section. In his role at the office, Sheffield represented the federal government in any litigation brought against the office or any litigation that the office initiated. He served in the Attorney General's Office for several years before being appointed to state of Virginia position.

In 1974, Sheffield was appointed by then Governor Mills E. Godwin Jr. as a Judge on the Richmond, Virginia Circuit Court. He became the first African-American to be appointed to a Virginia court since Reconstruction. He served on the Court for six years.

In 1980, then President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Sheffield for a federal judgeship in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Sheffield became the first African American to be appointed to the federal Virginia Court. He subsequently served as Chief Judge, supervising seven other judges. During that same time, he served as the President of the Old Dominion Bar Association.

In 1984, Judge Sheffield resigned from the bench and entered private practice. He accepted a partnership in the law firm of Little, Parsley & Cluverius PC in Richmond. After serving two years in the firm, he left to form his own solo practice. He served as an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law and the University of Virginia School of Law. Judge Sheffield, during this time, served as a member of a delegation of experts and jurists invited to help Nigeria transition from military rule to rule of law under a new constitution.

Judge Sheffield was married for fifty-six years to his wife, Patricia Allen Sheffield. Together, they had two daughters, Joi Elisa and Shari Leta, who both became attorneys. Judge Sheffield died on March 28, 2013. He was eighty years old.



DEMETRIUS DE'ANGELO SHELTON

...was born in Bernice, Louisiana. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles and as an Alfred P. Sloan (Ford) Foundation Fellow, he received a certificate in Public Policy/Administration from the University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Public Policy. To obtain his law degree, Shelton attended the University of California, Davis School of Law (King Hall). While in law school, he served as Chapter President and Associate Director for the Western Region of the National Black Law Students' Association. Through the law school's Family Law and Immigration Law clinics, Shelton provided free legal services to needing California citizens.

After passing the California State Bar exam, Shelton began his career as a practicing attorney and eventually became the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Oakland, California. He served in the office for more than a decade. He founded his own law firm, the Shelton Law Offices, which is headquartered in Oakland and currently serves as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Oakland.

In 2003, Shelton was elected to the Board of Governors representing the 3rd District. He was the first African American in the history of the State Bar of California to be elected to the Board. As a member of the Board of Governors, Shelton was instrumental in creating the State Bar's "Pipeline Task Force" and the first ever Judicial Summit on Diversity.

In 2010, Shelton was elected as the 68th President of the National Bar Association (NBA). Prior to assuming the Presidency of the NBA, for more than twelve years, he served on the organization's Board of Governors. As President, Shelton initiated several initiatives including safeguarding the NBA's pursuit of a thorough investigation into the Hurricane Katrina disaster and the associated lack of relief efforts. Shelton took on similar initiatives after the disaster of the Hurricane that destroyed much of Haiti. Shelton was a leading advocate and supporter of the NBA's Haitian Relief Task Force.

As President, he stressed the need to expand opportunities to attract more minorities into the legal field. He worked to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline that affected minority youth. In that regard, he published, "How the Law Treats You Differently When You Turn 18", which was aimed at educating the youth of America to their rights and responsibilities under the law when reaching adulthood. Through the "Youth Empow-

erment Symposiums" conducted nationwide, Shelton strives to involve more youth in the law profession.

Shelton has been called upon by local and national media organizations to provide legal commentary on current topics related legal issues. He served as a panelist at the American Bar Association's "Stand Your Ground Hearings", which was shown on C-Span, the government's national television broadcasting network. In serving on the panel, Shelton provided commentary on the interactions between law enforcement officials and young members of the community. The panel also discussed issues involving allegations of excessive force by police officers.

Shelton has served as the President of the Charles Houston Bar Association of Oakland and as the President of the California Association of Black Lawyers. He served as the Vice President of the California State Bar Association (CABL), which is the largest state bar association in the United States. For the CABL, Shelton served as the Chair of the Committee on the Courts, which promotes judicial diversity for Judges serving at all levels of the bench. He has served as an Administrative Law Judge for the California Department of Social Services and as a Past National General Counsel of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc..

Shelton has served on several of Boards and committees, including the Alameda County Bar Association, the Bar Association of San Francisco, and the Allen E. Broussard Scholarship Foundation. He has also served on the Boards of the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, now the "Bay Area Legal Aid" and the Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. In addition, Shelton has served on the King Hall's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Shelton has received numerous awards and honors during his professional career, including receiving the "Jefferson Award" from CBS and KPIX News, receiving the "Pioneer Award" from the Oral Lee Brown Foundation, and receiving the Judicial Council of the State Bar of California's Bench-Bar Coalition "Bar Leader of the Year". He has been awarded the Alameda County Bar Association's "Distinguished Service Award", the Charles Houston Bar Association's "Clinton White Advocacy Award", and the "Attorney of the Year" by the CABL. In addition, Shelton was named as one of the top "101+ Men Making a Difference in Our Community", by Black Expo. Ltd. And was recognized as one of the "Thirty Leaders of the Future" in the 50th Anniversary Issue of Ebony magazine.

Shelton has been recognized by many local and national organizations for his dedicated leadership. Then Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, declared May 6, 2006 as the "Demetrius Shelton Day" in both cities in his honor. Shelton had received the same honor for his dedicated work from the City of Oakland by then Mayor Willie Brown on November 5, 1998. Shelton has been recognized for his work by the National Bar Association and has been presented him with their "Presidential Award" on four different occasions.





ARTHUR DAVIS SHORES

...was born on September 25, 1904 in Wenonah, Alabama to Pauline and Richard Shores. He was the oldest of nine children and grew up in a middle class family. He attended a segregated high school sponsored by the Tennes-

see Coal, Iron and Railroad Company for the children of the company's African American workers. When he was in the seventh grade, the school discovered that his father worked for a contractor hired by the railroad and was not employed by the railroad itself, which caused Shores to leave the school.

As there was no other school that accepted African American students in Wenonah, to complete his high school requirements, his parents gave a fictitious address to the city of Birmingham and Shores attended and graduated in 1922 from the Industrial High School in Birmingham. He then entered Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama where he received an undergraduate teaching degree. While at Talladega, he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Shore then enrolled into the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas for one year. He completed his law degree studies through the La Salle University's Extension Correspondence School in Chicago, Illinois and was able to complete his law studies quicker than if he had stayed at the University of Kansas. Shores passed the Alabama State Bar exam in 1937 and began to practice law focusing on civil rights cases. He was the only African American licensed attorney in the state of Alabama.

In 1938, Shores married Theodora Warren and together they had two daughters, Helen and Barbara. As he began to build his law practice, in one of his first cases, he successfully sued the Alabama Board of Registrars on behalf of seven schoolteachers who had been denied the right to vote. He then became the General Counsel for the International Association of Railway Employees (IARE). He successfully represented African American labor leader, Will Hall, who had been assaulted for his labor movement activities by a white police officer.

In 1941, Shores represented B.W. Steele, an Executive member of the IARE in a lawsuit, "Steele v. Louisville & N.R. Company, where he argued that an agreement between the railway company and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen was illegal. He plead in the case that the whites-only railroad union had excluded black workers, which denied them the opportunity to obtain better paying jobs as they were not a part of the union. He along with famed African American attorney, Charles H. Houston, argued the case successfully, in 1944, before the Supreme Court of the United States. With his success with his cases, Shores began to take on more civil rights

cases handed to him by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and worked alongside legendary Thurgood Marshall.

In another one of his historic litigations, Shores represented African American teachers in a suit against Alabama's Jefferson County School Board arguing unequal pay to that received by white teachers. He would argue again before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1955 when he served as lead counsel in the case of "Lucy v. Adams" representing Autherine Lucy in her suit against the University of Alabama who denied her admission to the school based solely on her race. The Supreme Court ruled in her favor, which allowed her to become the first African American to attend the University.

After being admitted to the University, three days later an agree mob of white detractors convened and prevented Lucy from attending her classes. Police were called and she was protected as she entered her classes that day, however, that evening, the University administrators suspended Lucy stating that they could not provide adequate protection for her. Several years later, the federal government became involved and Shores assisted in the 1963 discrimination lawsuit that forced then Alabama Governor George Wallace to admit African American students under federal order.

In 1963, Shores ran a campaign to integrate the Birmingham public schools, which brought violence to him and other Birmingham residents. After several African American parents enrolled their children in white schools, his home was fire bombed twice injuring his wife in one of the bombings. Eleven days later, white supremacist bombed Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church killing four young girls. African Americans who protested the bombings and other civil rights injustice peacefully were arrested and Shores represented over 3,000 demonstrators, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., arguing that their arrests were unconstitutional.

For his representation of Alabama residents and his fight for civil justice, Shores became known as Alabama's drum major for justice. With his gained respect and popularity, he ran for a seat on the Birmingham City Council. He was successful in his campaign and became the first African American member to become a member of the City Council. He served as a member of the City Council for ten years. While serving on the Council, Shores was instrumental in arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court an education suit that ended desegregation in the Birmingham public schools.

In 1977, for his dedicated work on behalf of civil rights, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented Shores with their William Robert Ming Advocacy Award for his financial and personal support of the residents of Birmingham and for his dedicated legal work. In honor of his contributions to the legal profession in Alabama, the University of Alabama awarded Shores with an Honorary Doctorate degree.

Arthur Davis Shores died on December 16, 1996. He was ninety-two years old.



JACKIE LAMOND SHROPSHIRE

...was a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. His mother was a teacher and his father worked for the railroad. Shropshire attended and graduated from Dunbar High School, the most

popular and revered high school for African Americans in the state of Arkansas, with honors. He then attended Wilberforce College of Education and Industrial Arts in Wilberforce, Ohio where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1948.

Shropshire served in the military and after completing his military duties he used his government G.I. Bill to further his education. He enrolled into the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville as one of the first African American students to be accepted to the University's law school. At the law school, Shropshire and the other African American students could not use the same restroom facilities that were set aside for white students and had a separate classroom as well as a separate study hall. Due to the overcrowding of the white classrooms, several white students had to take classes with the African American students. In the second year of acceptance of African American law students, the Dean of the law school, Dean Robert A. Leflar decided to allow Shropshire to share two classes with other white students formally integrated the law classes at the University.

When Shropshire was first allowed to attend regular classes with other white students, he was assigned to a particular wooden seat surrounded by wooden railing, which separated him from the other students. Other students could sit wherever they chose, but not Shropshire. After the seating arrangement was publicized, on the second day, the railing was removed although the remaining segregation of facilities at the law school remained. Even with the removal of the wooden barrier, Shropshire was still required to sit a one particular seat.

Shropshire and the other African American were not permitted to attend functions set aside for law students, could not become a part of any student affairs, including being a member of the Student Law Association. By his second year at the law school, he and the other African

American students were allowed to share open classes but still had separate study halls. That year, the were admitted to the Student Bar Association and Shropshire, a gifted athlete, would later be accepted onto the law school's softball team. He became the first African American graduate from the University of Arkansas Law School, graduating on June 9, 1951 ranked twelfth in his class out of thirty-six students.

After completing his law studies, Shropshire joined the African American law firm of Booker & Booker. After five years of practicing general practice law in Little Rock at Booker & Booker, he moved to Gary, Indiana where he established his own law practice specializing in municipal law. He became involved with the local politics in Gary after one of the African American lawyers that he had befriended, Richard Hatcher, made a run for elected office. Hatcher would go on to become the first African American Mayor elected to the city of Gary in 1968.

Shropshire would continue his law practice in Gary establishing a very reputable reputation and law practice. He took on cases involving racial discrimination, civil rights, and cases related to the local city government. He also continued his involvement in local politics and the local Gary community associations. He died in 1992.



PAUL ALLEN SIMMONS

...was born on August 31, 1921 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. His mother worked as a schoolteacher and his father served the community as a barber and a building contractor. He attended the Monongahela City Public Schools graduating from high school in

1939. He then went to work for a construction company operated by his father and his uncle.

Two years later, Simmons found a job working for the Pennsylvania Railroad in the Shire Oaks freight car repair shop. He, unfortunately, was involved in a railroad accident and lost his right leg with it being amputated above the knee. He sought a lawyer to help him with his case against the railroad company however no lawyer would take the case. With his mother's urging, Simmons went to the Allegheny County Law Library in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to study law books to find a precedent in which to sue the company for damages and the loss of his leg. With the help of a librarian, Simmons found enough supporting documents that the train company settled with him. That began his quest to become a lawyer.

Simmons then received a full scholarship to attend college from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. He enrolled into the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania graduating in 1946 with an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Economics with honors. While in undergraduate school, Simmons worked as a railroad porter. In a railroad accident in 1942, he lost a leg. Despite losing a limb, he did not allow the misfortune to hinder his determined goal of making a difference in society and once he was healed, he returned to school to further his education. He then entered Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts earning his law degree in 1949. That same year, he passed the bar exam.

After completing his law studies, Simmons took a job teaching law at the South Carolina State College Law School in Orangeburg, South Carolina. While at South Carolina, he advised one of his students, Abraham Kennedy, on where and how to file a federal challenge to the separate-but-equal doctrine the South used as constitutional law. He encouraged Kennedy to not be intimidated into withdrawing the suit once it was filed and instructed him to file the suit in a poverty stricken district that was unable to financially support a separate-but-equal school. That argument was later adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People (NAACP), which was eventually argued by famed attorney and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in the landmark "Brown v. Board of Education" suit of 1954. After three years teaching at the school, he moved north to teach law courses at North Carolina's College of Law, now North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina. He remained at North Carolina for four years.

In 1956, Simmons returned to Monongahela to practice law privately. For the next six years, he served the local community residents with their legal matters eventually joining, as a partner, the law firm of Hormell, Tempest, Simmons, Bigi & Melenyzer. He handled civil and criminal cases involving personal injury, antitrust, commercial and administrative law litigation. He also litigated more than twenty-five murder cases.

In 1973, Simmons achieved the judgeship he sought when he was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County by then Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp. In the 1975 general election, Judge Simmons was the bench seat to a full ten-year term. In the election, he received support from members of both the Democratic and Republican parties. Judge Simmons was the first African American to sit on the bench of the Common Pleas Orphan's Court.

In 1978, then President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Simmons to the federal bench as the first merit selected Judge serving the United States District Court for the Third Circuit in the Western District of Pennsylvania to fill the vacancy of departing Ralph Scalera. He became the first African American federal Judge to serve on the Western Pennsylvania Court and presided over more than fifteen hundred cases during his tenure. Judge Simmons received senior status on June 1, 1990. After twelve years on the bench, Judge Simmons had to step down due to health issues.

In retirement, Judge Simmons served on several commissions and authorities, including serving on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, serving on the Pennsylvania Minor Judiciary Education Board, and serving on the Washington County Redevelopment Authority. He was a member of the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Washington County Bar Association. For his service to the bar associations, the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee presented Judge Simmons with a Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Bar Association inducted him into its' Hall of Fame.

Judge Simmons was married to the love of his life, Gwendolyn Gladden Simmons. Together, they three children, Gwendolyn Dale, Anne, and Paul Jr.. At the time of his death, on October 9, 2014, Judge Simmons was ninety-three years old.



STUART
"STU"
O.
SIMMS

...was born on July 17, 1950 in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended the prestigious Gilman School before entering Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire where he received his undergraduate degree. For his law degree, he attended Harvard's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

After completing his law degree requirements and passing the bar exam, Simms began his professional legal career as an Assistant United States Attorney. He worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office for four years before leaving the office. He then entered private practice.

In 1983, Simms was appointed as a Deputy State's Attorney for Baltimore City where he served for four years. He was then elected as the State's Attorney. He served as the State's Attorney for two four-year terms leaving in 1995.

In 1995, Simms was appointed by then Governor Parris Glendening as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. He served in that position for two years before being named as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. As Secretary of the Public Safety, Simms was given authority of the state's largest agency having more than 12,000 employees and a budget of \$900 million. He served as the Secretary for six years.

In 2003, Simms joined the law firm of firm Brown, Goldstein, and Levy in private practice. Three years later, he made an attempt to win the Democratic Party's nomination for the job of Attorney General in the state of Maryland. He was unsuccessful in his attempt. Having served the Baltimore community for over twenty years, Simms is a highly respected prosecutor and trial lawyer. His enormous experience and credibility, particularly in matters involving local and state governments, has been proven invaluable to the state of Maryland.

The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Substance Abuse nominated Simms to its' committee. The Committee works to educate and inform attorneys on programs that addresses substance abuse issues and other problems associated with illegal drug use. He serves as

one of the five members appointed by the Governor to the Maryland Public School Labor Relations Board. The Board has the responsibility to administer labor relations provisions relating to public elementary and secondary education. It also makes decisions on controversies and disputes between local Boards of education and school system employee organizations.

In 2012, Simms the Baltimore Child Abuse Center's presented Simms with its' first Founder's Award, which recognized his efforts in co-founding the organization. His advocacy, leadership, and vision have insured that child victims of sexual abuse in Baltimore are treated with respect, dignity, and kindness. A year later, the American Bar Association (ABA) appointed him as a member of its' Special Committee on Bioethics and the Law. The Committee serves as a part of the ABA's Division for Public Services and is dedicated to applying education and experience of the legal profession to promote the public good.

That same year, Simms was chosen to become a Thurgood Marshall Honoree by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The local Baltimore chapter of the NAACP also recognized him for his dedicated work to the residents of the city. He also was chosen by The Daily Record to receive its' Leadership in Law Award. Simms has been selected as a Maryland Super Lawyer of which only five percent of Maryland attorneys are chosen. He was also included in The Best Lawyers in America in the fields of General Practice Criminal Defense and Commercial Litigation

In 2015, Simms was chosen as a Maryland Honoree by the Pro Bono Resource Center for his unwavering commitment to Maryland's legal profession. He was recognized for making the legal system more accessible to Maryland residents. For his service to the Boy Scouts of America recognized Simms by awarding him with its' Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award for his involvement with inner city, rural, and low-income youth become involved with the organization.

Simms is married to Candace Simms and together they have two adult sons, Paul and Marcus. Both of his sons are graduates of Baltimore's Gilman School, the same school their father attended.



WILLIAM AUGUSTUS SINGFIELD

... was born on January 1, 1875 in Wilkes County, Georgia. He family migrated to Arkansas in 1898. He was trained as a carpenter before becoming involved in the law profession. Arriving in Arkansas, he became

involved in the local politics and built a reputation as a concerned citizen.

In 1899, Singfield married Adeline Morris, who he met in Little Rock. Morris was a graduate of Little Rock High School and attended Spellman University in Atlanta, Georgia. The two had a son, Waldorf Astor, born in 1900. To support the family, Singfield made a living working as a carpenter.

In 1901, Singfield founded the Little Rock Reporter, a weekly African American newspaper in Little Rock, Arkansas. Two years later, he took a job as a bank cashier and later became the Vice President of a bank owned by African American attorney Mifflin Gibbs. Singfield would leave that bank two years later after becoming ill. The bank would close shortly after Singfield's departure.

Singfield amassed a great amount of success both professionally and financially. He began a real estate business and became even more successful. He opened a grocery store and established a commercial printing operation. Singfield also purchased several other properties in nearby Argenta, Arkansas, including owning a local farm.

In 1911, Singfield was admitted to Arkansas' Pulaski County Bar Association. He was also given the privilege to argue cases before the Arkansas State Supreme Court several years later. Before the Supreme Court, Singfield presented cases involving real estate and family law.

Singfield was active in the Republican Party and worked to entice more African Americans to become involved with the Party's politics. In 1920, he and fellow African American attorneys Scipio Jones, J.A. Hibbler, J.R. Booker, and W.L. Purifoy attended the Republican Convention held at a segregated hotel. The group refused to leave the convention and went on to hold their own convention, which addressed issues surrounding the African American community.

With the breakout of World War I, Singfield joined the military and served as the Co-Chair of the Negro Division War Loan Drive. He also served as an Associate Advisor and a War Registrant. After the end of the war in 1918, Singfield became one of the founding members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Little Rock branch. In 1938, Singfield became a member of the Wonder State Bar Association, an African American attorney's group.



RODNEY EARL SLATER

..was born on February 23, 1955 in Tutwiler, Mississippi. He received his undergraduate degree in 1977 from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he became the Captain of the football team and was the

star of the schools National Champion Forensic Team. To obtain his Juris Doctorate degree, he attended the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, Arkansas graduating in 1980.

While earning his law degree, Slater served as a Research Assistant to the State Judiciary Committee of the Arkansas Constitutional Convention. After graduating from law school, he became an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Arkansas where he served for three years. He then was appointed in 1983 by then Governor Bill Clinton where he as Clinton's Assistant for four years. As Clinton's assistant, Slater first worked in the economic and community affairs arena before becoming a Special Assistant for Community and Minority Affairs.

In 1987, Slater became a member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission serving for six years in that post. While serving at the Commission, he was elevated to the position of Chairman. During that time, he also served as the Director of Government Affairs for Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. When Clinton won the office of the President of the United States, he appointed Slater as the Director of the Federal Highway Administration. He became the first African American to serve as the Director of the state agency. In 1997, Slater became the Secretary of Transportation in the Clinton administration. He was the second African American to serve in that capacity. As Secretary, Slater was able to achieve Congressional bipartisan support for the projects that he undertook. With that support, he was able to get the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) passed through Congress, which was a record breaking \$200 billion surface transportation investment. Slater was also able to get the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21) legislation passed, which provided another record breaking \$46 billion in funding to provide safety and security to the

aviation system of the country. In addition, he negotiated forty open skies agreements with other foreign countries.

After leaving the federal government, Slater became a part of an investors group led by Stan Kasten, former owner of the Atlanta Braves professional baseball team that successfully bought the new Major League Baseball team and franchise, The Washington Nationals. He then became a partner in the Washington, D.C. based law firm of Squire Patton Boggs, now Patton Boggs LLP. For the firm, Slater served as the head of the firm's transportation practice and worked on projects related to transportation infrastructure.

Slater then became a partner in a risk management firm, James Lee Witt Associates, which was headed by the former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director, James Lee Witt. In 2014, Slater was named as Special Counsel to the Takata Corporation and oversaw the company's dealings with the national recall of automobile airbags that the company manufactured and were malfunctioning. In his role as Special Counsel, he advised the companies Executives on how to address the current challenges the company faced with the federal government. Slater also headed a safety advisory panel for the car manufacturer Toyota and served as Independent Monitor for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, the Italian automobile manufacturer.

Slater has served on the Board of Directors of the nonprofit organization, Africare, which provides developmental aid to countries in Africa. He was a Board member of The Dance Theater of Harlem and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Way. He also sat on the Board of Delta Air Lines, Verizon Telephone Company, and was appointed as a Executive Director to the Board of WS Atkins.

Slater has served on several civic organizations, including the Arkansas Children's Hospital Community for the Future, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. He has been named by Ebony magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" and has been awarded an Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award. In addition, he has been given an Honorary Doctorate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University. Slater is married to his wife, Cassandra Wilkins, and together they have two children.





C ONSTANCE SLAUGHTER- HARVEY

... was born in Jackson, Mississippi. She was one of six girls born to parents that were both educators. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics cum laude from Tougaloo

College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. She obtained her law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in Oxford, Mississippi in 1970. She was the first African-American to graduate from the law school.

After graduating from law school, Slaughter-Harvey took a job working for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. She worked as a staff attorney at the Committee for two years where she represented the families of two students who were killed at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi along with other students who were brutalized by Mississippi highway patrolmen. In the case, to help protect African Americans as they traveled down Mississippi roads and highways, Slaughter-Harvey filed a desegregation lawsuit against the state's Highway Patrol Department, which resulted in the hiring of African American highway patrolmen.

Slaughter-Harvey left the Civil Rights Committee and moved to Forest, Mississippi where she established her own private law practice. While operating her own law firm, she became the Executive Director of Southern Legal Rights. She later became the Director of East Mississippi Legal Services.

In 1980, Slaughter-Harvey joined then Governor William Winter's staff as the Director of Human Development. Four years later, she became an Assistant Secretary of State for Elections and Public Lands for Mississippi State Secretary Dick Molpus. Together, they lobbied to allow mail-in voter registration, which became law in April of 1991. Slaughter-Harvey also led the fight for Motor Voter Registration as a member of the Motor Voter National Advisory Board. She was the first woman and first African American woman to serve on the Advisory Board.

In 1995, Slaughter-Harvey became the Coordinator of the Mississippi State Democratic Party Coordinating Campaign. As the Coordinator, she coordinated campaigns for each of the Democratic statewide candidates. During that time, she also served as an Adjunct Professor at Tougaloo College.

Slaughter-Harvey was an advocate for bringing assistance to minority and poorer youth and in that regard, she founded the Slaughter Memorial Foundation. She served as the Foundation's President and in that role she supervised an after school tutorial and enhancement program. Much of her free time is spent mentoring at risk children and teaching them important life skills.

Slaughter-Harvey was later appointed as a Judge on the 8th Judicial Circuit District Drug Court becoming the first African-American to serve as Judge in Mississippi. She served as the President of the Magnolia Bar Association and served as the President of the National Association of Election Directors. She was the first woman and first African American woman ever elected as President. Slaughter-Harvey also founded the East Mississippi Legal Services and served as the Vice Chair of the Mississippi Supreme Court Gender Fairness Task Force.

Slaughter-Harvey has been given many awards, including receiving the National Council of Negro Women Outstanding Service Award and two National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Awards. She also was given a Mississippi Women Lawyers' Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award and the Mississippi Bar's Susie Blue Buchanan Award for her dedicated commitment toward continued justice. In Slaughter-Harvey's honor, the University of Mississippi named the University's Black Law Students Association after her and she received the law school's Public Service Award.



TAHROHON WAYNE "T.W." SHANNON

...was born on February 24, 1978. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Cameron University located in Lawton, Oklahoma. It was there

that he met his wife, Devon Murray. They would marry in 2001. He holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Oklahoma City University Law School.

Shannon first began his legal career working as a field representative for former African American and Oklahoma Republican Congressman J. C. Watts. Leaving Watts' office, he took a similar position in the offices of Oklahoma Republican Congressman Tom Cole. He served Congressman Cole for two years.

Shannon was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2006. He was victorious in his run, representing District 62 which encompasses Lawton, Oklahoma and its surrounding communities. He quickly rose in the leadership ranks among members the state House. In his first term, he became the Deputy Majority Whip. In his second term, he became the Chair of the Transportation Committee. In his third term, Shannon was elected Speaker-Designate of the House. Befittingly so, Shannon became the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives on January 8, 2013.

As Speaker-Designate of the House, Shannon introduced legislation that created long-term plans to repair and maintain state-owned properties. He was an advocate for monetizing Oklahoma's under utilized state-owned properties. He proposed selling off properties that were not fully operational or near capacity using those funds for other needed state projects. His eight-year plan called for a portion of the state income tax revenues to be diverted to help repair Oklahoma's deteriorating bridges and highways.

Shannon introduced legislation that called for the consolidation of management and staff of all state personnel that oversaw or was involved in managing the state's property. He promoted a fire sale. Under his program and in the first state property sale, the unprofitable state public television station was sold. The sale brought \$130,000 to the state coffers.

The next state sell was land. The state owned a town lot in Buffalo, Oklahoma, a small sleepy town near the western panhandle of the state. That was sold. 5.58 acres were sold off in Marietta, near the Texas border. With each sale of unused or under used property, Shannon brought added to the Oklahoma treasury.

Shannon became controversial when he proposed a measure that required any Oklahoma recipient of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the federal food stamps program, to volunteer a minimum of 35 hours of work activities or be denied aid from the assistance program. The proposal was scaled back after further assessment of its' cost. Once the cost of providing job training to SNAP recipients in order for them to perform the required work tasks, the 35 hour work requirement was scaled back.

Shannon is an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. As a member of the tribe, he once held the position as the Chief Administrative Officer for Chickasaw Nation Enterprises. He was selected as a member to the National Advisory Board of GOPAC, a Republican based organization, whose mission is to find and support up-and-coming Republican leaders.





EVETTE L. SIMMONS

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida in 1979. She attended the Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Georgia where she received her Juris Doctorate

degree in 1982. She obtained her Master of Laws degree from Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts in 2001.

Simmons currently serves as a Partner and Chief Diversity Officer for the law firm of Greenspoon Marder that has offices in ten U.S. cities. She focuses her expertise on estate planning, probate, and guardianship administration litigations. For Greenspoon Marder, she serves as the Chair of the Firm's Diversity Committee. While working for the firm, she has been involved in bond transactions involving the City of Port St. Lucie and the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority. Simmons also serves as the President Unity Property Development Corporation, a minority-owned real estate development company.

Simmons has served as a past President of the National Bar Association (NBA) and chaired the NBA's Crump Law Camp Committee, which holds an annual two-week law camp in Washington, D.C. for high school students. She is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) and has chaired the ABA's Presidential Advisory Council on Diversity in the Profession. She also served on the Board of the ABA's Diversity Center.

Simmons has served as a past President of the Port St. Lucie Bar Association and as a former member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors. She has served on the State of Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, and the Board of Directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc.. Simmons has served on the Board of Trustees of Florida Southern College and the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. She was the only female attorney appointed by The Florida Bar to the Judicial Qualifications Commission, which has the responsibility of disciplining Florida Judges.

Simmons has received many awards and honors by several respected organizations, associations, and business owners. In her honor, the Florida Southern College named its multicultural center after her, the Evette L. Sim-

mons Center for Multicultural Awareness. In 2007, the NBA awarded Simmons with its' Gertrude E. Rush Award and she also received the National Black Pre-Law Admissions and Preparation Conference Legacy Builder Award. She has received the PACE Believing in Girls Embrace Growth & Legacy Award, the Sorooptimist Women of Distinction Award, the American Association of University Women Port St. Lucie Chapter's Outstanding Community Service Award, and was named by Ebony magazine as one of the most influential African Americans in this country.

The Mercer University School of Law presented Simmons with its' Alumna of the Year Award and the Florida Southern College presented him with an Outstanding Alumni Achievement Citation. The City of Fernandina Beach, Florida also named August 11, 2000 as Evette L. Simmons Day. In addition, the United Way of St. Lucie County presented Simmons with its' Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Florida Bar gave Simmons its' 19th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Award and she was inducted into the Fernandina Beach High School Hall of Fame. The city of Fernandina Beach, Florida and the city of Shreveport, Louisiana both named a day in her honor. The City of Miami-Dade County, Florida also named a day in her honor.



CHARLES Z. SMITH

...was born on February 23, 1927 in Lakeland, Florida to Eva Love and John R. Smith. His mother was the daughter of an American slave and his father was a Cuban immigrant. Together they had eight children. The family would move from Lakeland

to Matiland, finally landing in Franklin, North Carolina.

As a teenager, Smith had as his mentor William H. Gray, Jr., who was then the President of Florida Normal College (FSU), a black institution of higher learning. Gray not only allowed Smith to live with him but would also help Smith later enroll into college. Gray was later fired from FSU for refusing to ban black students from attending all white colleges. Gray left Florida, moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and took Smith with him.

After graduating high school, Smith enrolled into Temple University in Philadelphia at the age of eighteen. Soon after enrolling, despite Gray's objections, Smith enlisted into the U.S. Air Force. In the military, he became a Court Reporter leaving the service in 1946.

Returning to Philadelphia, he continued his studies at Temple. He received his B.S. degree in 1952. At the urging of Gray to become a lawyer, Smith entered law school. While visiting his mother who had relocated to Seattle, Washington, Smith met the Associate Dean of the University of Washington School of Law. Showing the Associate Dean his transcripts, impressed, Smith immediately admitted to the school. He was one of only four black students in the class of 120. In his graduating class of 1955, he was the sole African American to complete the course studies.

Unable to find work in the commercial field of law, Smith clerked for Washington Supreme Court Justice Matthew W. Hill. He became the first African American clerk to serve a Washington Supreme Court Justice. He was fortunate to receive a full time job as a Deputy for King County Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll. As was required in order to work for Carroll, Smith registered his political affiliation as a Republican. He worked in the Prosecutor's Office from 1956-1960.

Hearing of Smith, Robert Kennedy, the U.S. Attorney General hired him as a Special Assistant. In that role, Smith assisted in the investigations of fraud in the Central States Teamsters Pension Fund. When Kennedy left office to pursue a run for the U.S. Senate, Smith left the Attorney General's Office with Kennedy to assist in the election campaign.

In 1965, then Governor Daniel J. Evans, appointed Smith to the Seattle Municipal Court. A year later, the Governor appoint-

ed Smith to the King County Superior Court. With the appointment, Smith became the first African American to be appointed to the Municipal Court.

In 1973, Smith accepted a position on the University of Washington's Law School faculty. He became a Professor and the Associate Dean of the Law School. He also was a regular host on local T.V. station KOMO-TV and a radio show. He retired from teaching in 1983 as Professor Emeritus. During that time, Smith served in the Marine Corps Reserve rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1988, then Governor Booth Gardner appointed Smith to the Washington State Supreme Court. He became the first African American to hold that post. In each of the next three elections, Smith ran unopposed and was re-elected each time. He would serve on the bench for fourteen years.

While sitting on the bench, Smith served as Chair of the American Bar Association's Task Force on Minorities in the Judiciary, Judicial Division. He also served on the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Bias. He was appointed to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in 1999 by then President Bill Clinton.

An avid civil rights advocate, both Smith and his wife, Eleanor Martinez, voiced their displeasure with the state's racial diversity and the lack of women and people of color in the state's legal workforce. Critical of the lack of redress given to Japanese American's, especially in lieu of their internment in the 1960s, Smith provided pro bono legal services to Japanese and other activists seeking reparations. In that cause, Smith became a Board member of the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. He also gave of his time to addressing the needs and concerns of the Latino communities in matters related to immigration equality.

Smith was also concerned with religious freedoms, not only in Washington, but also around the world. In 1976, Smith became the President of the American Baptist Churches. He served the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and paid extra attention to the religious persecution occurring in China, Egypt, India, and Pakistan.

Smith retired from the Court in 2002 when he reached the mandatory age of seventy-five. He has been given many honors and awards during his professional career. Local, national, and international scholars, politicians, and government officials have praised his lifetime's work. At the University of Washington, the Student Bar Association named a scholarship in his honor, the Charles Z. Smith Public Service Scholarship. Pioneer Human Services in Spokane, Washington named a low-income housing community in his honor.

Charles Z. Smith died on August 28, 2016 at his home in Seattle, Washington. He was eighty-nine years old.



DEMAURICE "DE" F. SMITH

...was born on February 3, 1964 in Washington, D.C. He received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio in 1995. At Cedarville, he became the student government

President. His law degree was earned from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In his first job in the legal profession, he joined the Washington, D.C. based law firm of Schwalb Donnenfeld Bray & Silbert. He stayed there for two years. He then took a job in the office of the U.S. Attorney in Washington. He remained there for nine years.

During his legal career, Smith has served as Counsel to many Fortune 500 companies and has presented cases to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. He has worked for the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's office. He has worked on cases surrounding national security and U.S. prison construction. He also served as Counsel to then-Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder in the U.S. Department of Justice.

In his private practice career, he was a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firms of Latham & Watkins and Patton Boggs. With Latham & Watkins, he was a trial lawyer and litigated other cases. With Patton Boggs, he led the firm's government investigations and white-collar crime department as its Chair.

In 2009, Smith was unanimously elected as the Executive Director of the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA). The NFLPA is a union of professional football players in the National Football League established in 1956. The purpose of the association is the protection of players rights and interests. The union was dismantled in 1989, but four years later it was resurrected as the union representing football players.

Although he had no football experience, his association with business experts and access to presidential appointees, gave him an advantage over others seeking the position. Taking the helm of the association, he focused on educating the players about the legal processes and encouraging them to take more control of their careers.

In his role as Executive Director of the NFLPA, he is charged with protecting the players benefits and to advocate for better salaries for the them. Understanding the propen-

sity for player injuries, he worked to improve player safety and increased benefits in the case of a career ending injury. He also focused on the long term health for the players in retirement.

As the lead player representative, Smith, in his first term as Executive Director helped to end the player lockout of 2011. He assisted the NFLPA in their negotiations with team owners to end the lockout, working to ensure the players received better compensation for their talents and labor. With billions of dollars at stake, Smith and his team of lawyers sued the NFL to obtain a greater share of the pool of money being generated by the NFL in the TV contracts, arguing on the players behalf. With his assistance, the NFLPA was able to reach a collective bargaining agreement that benefited the players greatly.

One of the main concerns that Smith wanted to focus on was the relationships between current and former players. He wanted to create better unity between the two in his efforts to represent both groups. He recognized that current and former players competed for the same monies used for benefits. Retired players were suing the NFL's disability plan to obtain more benefits that were being denied.

In his role as protector of the players, he called on the NFL owners to contribute two percent of their profits to create a legacy fund for retired players. He lobbied active players to support the retired players demands as they had laid the foundation for the current players to take advantage of the huge amount of revenue being generated by the game. He fought for the disability fund to have members that had a medical background which would give the fund a better understanding of retired players medical needs. Smith fought for retired players in assessing their head injuries and how they impact on players after their retirement from the NFL.

Smith would go on to be re-elected as the Executive Director of the NFLPA twice more. During his tenure as Executive Director, he has represented many players in their grievances or disciplinary actions take against them by the NFL. He won the suspension case of New England Patriot quarterback Tom Brady's "Deflategate". He successfully reduced the lengthy suspension of other players, including Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson and Ray Rice in their domestic issues.

Smith has and is working diligently to continued to improve the safety of the players. He works closely with manufacturers of football equipment in an attempt to help them make better equipment for the players. He is most interested in the health and safety of the players he represents, especially the issues surrounding concussions of current and retired players. He visits all thirty-two teams to ensure he knows first hand of any issues involving players in the NFL.





GEORGE BUNDY SMITH

...was born 1937 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Beatrice Bundy Smith and the Reverend Sidney R. Smith, Sr.. He grew up in Washington, D.C. along with his twin sister, Inez, and his brother, Sidney Jr.. Smith was a gifted student

and received a full scholarship to attend the prestigious Phillips Academy located in Andover, Massachusetts as the only African American in his 1955 class. He received his undergraduate degree from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. During his undergraduate studies at Yale, Smith was awarded a Certificate of Political Studies from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, France and studied their in 1958.

A year before obtaining his LL.B. degree, Smith was invited to travel to Montgomery, Alabama to be a part of the Freedom Riders, a group of civil rights activists led by Congress of Racial Equality Director James Farmer, that traveled from Washington, D.C. to Montgomery to protest segregated bus travel in the Deep South. The group was arrested and convicted of breaching the peace by the Alabama police. The United States Supreme Court eventually overturned the convictions.

After the freedom rides, Smith returned to Yale where he earned his law degree in 1959. He also earned his LL.B. degree from Yale in 1962. In addition to his law degrees, Smith earned a Master's degree in Political Science and a Ph.D. in Government from New York University. He also obtained a Master's Degree in the Judicial Process from the Graduate Program for Judges at the University of Virginia Law School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After passing the New York State Bar exam, Smith took a job as a staff attorney to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Education Fund. He was assigned to offices in Alabama and Georgia where he litigated a wide range of civil rights cases. He then served as a law secretary to three state judges, Civil Court Judge Jawn Sandifer, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Edward Dudley, and Appellate Court Justice Harold A Stevens. Smith then left the offices of Justice Stevens to become the Administrator of the federally financed Model Cities program for New York City.

In 1975, Smith was appointed by then New York City Mayor Abe Beame to an interim term as a Judge of the Civil

Court of New York City, New York. In the following November election, he was elected to a full term and was assigned to the Family Court and the Criminal Court. Judge Smith served on the Civil Court bench for eleven years.

In 1980, Judge Smith was elected as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of New York in Manhattan where he served for six years. In 1987, then Governor Mario Cuomo appointed Judge Smith to a fourteen-year term on the New York Court of Appeals. He was only the third African American to serve on the state's highest Court. When his term expired and despite the urging for his reappointment by former New York Mayor David Dinkins and New York U.S. House of Representative Charles Rangel, then Governor George Pataki did not give the appointment to Judge Smith choosing instead Judge Eugene F. Pigott, Jr. for the seat on the Court.

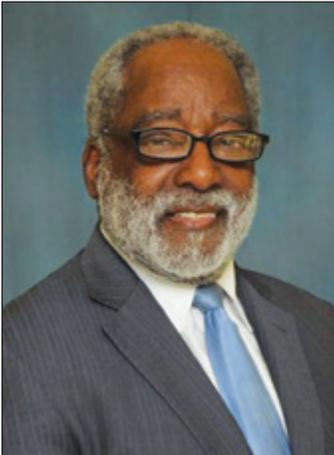
While sitting on the bench, Justice Smith was an attentive Judge that often asked pointed questions of litigants and attorneys always treating them with respect and dignity. After leaving the bench, Justice Smith became an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University located in the Bronx, New York where he taught classes in New York Criminal Procedure. He also taught classes at the New York Law School and Baruch College. Ironically, Justice Smith's twin sister, Inez Smith Reid, was appointed to serve as a Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals..

Judge Smith has served on the Board of Trustees of the Horace Mann School and as the President of the Harlem Lawyers Association. He was one of the founders of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and served as a Board Member. He was also a member of the Judicial Friends, a New York City legal organization made up of African American Judges. In addition, Justice Smith served on the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, was a member of the New York County Lawyers Association, and served as a Commissioner of the New York Ethics Commission for the Unified Court System.

Throughout his legal career, Judge Smith has been given countless awards and has been honored by many legal organizations. He was given an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Fordham University and he was the recipient of the William Nelson Cromwell Award by the New York County Lawyers Association. The State Constitutional Commentary of the Albany Law Review submitted several articles honoring Justice Smith and the Judicial Friends presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Justice Smith was married to Dr. Alene L. Smith (nee Alene Lohman Jackson) who was a professor at Hunter College in New York City. The couple produced two children, George Bundy Smith, Jr. and Beth Beatrice Smith.





H. T. SMITH

...was born in Miami, Florida. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida and his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. He was able to persuade the

University of Miami School of Law to admit him to its' law school before ever taking the Law School Admission Test. He used as his defense to not having taken the test the argument that it was unfair to punish him due to the fact that he was serving in the jungles of Vietnam and the test was not available or administered in Vietnam. He was admitted to the law school without further questions.

After completing his law studies, Smith was hired by the Miami-Dade County's Public Defender's Office. He became the first African American Assistant County Attorney in the history of the office. Upon leaving the Public Defender's Office, Smith set up his own practice with fellow attorney, Harry Long.

In opening their legal offices, the two partners became the owners of the first African American law firm in South Florida. Smith would serve as a private practicing law attorney for the next thirty-four years. During his lengthy career, Smith would lead the fight for civil rights, fight discrimination where ever he found it, and fought for equal justice under the law for women, immigrants, and South Florida residents in many of their unjust causes. He focused much of his attention on personal injury and criminal defense cases and served as the co-chair of the Miami-Dade County referendum, "Say No To Discrimination", which was a very successful campaign to bring equal rights to South Floridians and to end racial discrimination.

Smith served as legal counsel in the landmark case of "Aubrey Livingston v. State of Florida" where he was able to successfully reverse the death sentence of his client by arguing before and convincing the Florida Supreme Court the lower court had erred when they allowed the jury hearing the capital case to take a recess after the deliberations had begun. In another successful case that Smith litigated, he led the effort to block a constitutional amendment aimed at outlawing affirmative action in public education, public employment, and public contracting in the state of Florida.

Smith served as the chair to the Coalition for a Free South Africa, which called for South Florida governmental entities and universities to divest their financial interests in companies that did business with the governments of South Africa in an effort to abolish the government's practice of Apartheid. When South African activist Nelson Mandela, who would later become the first black President of South Africa, paid a visit to Miami, city officials snubbed him without giving any fanfare to his civil rights causes. Not happy with the city's snub, Smith began a tourism boycott against the city to bring attention to ending Apartheid in South Africa.

In 2003, Smith became the founding Director of the Trial Advocacy Program at Florida International University. As Director and under his leadership, the program gained significant recognition and was named as one of the best programs amongst Florida law schools. In less than ten years from its' inception, the school won several regional and national mock trial competitions. For his achievements creating and administering the program, the student body honored Smith by awarding him a "Pioneer Award" and the University presented him with its' "Top Scholars Award".

Smith also chaired the Florida Constitution Revision Commission's Declaration of Rights Committee. In sitting on the Commission, Smith fought for women and persons born outside of the United States to have equal protection of Florida laws. He advocated for equal rights for all people not matter their color, religion, or sexual orientation.

Smith was the founding President of the Black Lawyers Association of Dade County, now known as the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association. He served as the President of the National Bar Association and the President of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association. Smith, along with several other lawyers, served on a committee that raised \$4 million to build the NFL Yet Center in the Scott Carver neighborhood of Miami. The Center provides computer training, arts and crafts, and sporting activities to over five hundred underprivileged and underserved children a day.

Smith is listed among the top lawyers in the United States by the Best Lawyers in America and is recognized as a Florida Super Lawyer. The Law and Leading American Attorneys organization has recognized him as a top attorney as well. In addition, the National Law Journal recognized him as one of America's Top 10 trial lawyers of the year. Smith was among the first recipients of the Pa'Lante Award, which celebrates those that advocate for a positive community inclusive of all residents no matter their background. He received the recognition at the first annual Gay8 Festival held in the Little Havana section of Miami.





JOCK MICHAEL SMITH

...was born on June 10, 1948 in New York City, New York to Betty Lou Nance Bowers and Jacob Smith. He received his undergraduate degree from Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama graduating with honors in 1970. He law degree was obtained in 1973 from the

University of Notre Dame School of Law in Notre Dame, Indiana. While earning his law degree, Smith founded the University's Black American Law Students' Association (BALSA) chapter and served as the association's President. While in college, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

To begin his legal profession, Smith took a job as the Legal Advisor for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Broome County, New York. He also taught school at the New York State University at Binghamton. At the school, he served as a Professor of Afro-American Studies, where he taught a course entitled, "American Law and Racism".

In 1974, Smith took a job as a Professor of Political Science at his alma mater, Tuskegee University. He also served as the Assistant Attorney General for the state of Alabama for three years before opening The Law Offices of Jock M. Smith. In private practice, he represented plaintiffs and defendants in both criminal and civil suits.

In 1987, Smith became a City Municipal Judge in Camp Hill, Alabama. He spent two years sitting on the bench of the Municipal Court. A year later, he became the County Attorney for Macon County, Alabama. He would remain in that capacity for the next fifteen years.

An avid sports enthusiast and sports memorabilia collector, in 1993, Smith founded a non-profit organization, Scoring For Life, Inc., where he used his national sports collection giving inspiration and motivation to teens and young adults helping them to overcome life's challenges by using the real-life stories of national sports legends. While serving the legal profession, Smith had acquired the largest privately owned and documented collection of game-worn sports memorabilia and the largest African American sports collection in the United States. His collection toured the nation and was an inspiration to many young athletes with hopes and dreams of someday becoming a part of the collection by achieving their goals of athletic stardom. The collection made a special appearance at Super Bowl XXXI held at the New Orleans Superdome in 1996 as a guest of the NFL Players Association (NFLPA).

In 1996, Smith became acquainted with nationally acclaimed defense lawyer, Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. and together they formed Cochran Sports Management, a sports management company. Smith served as the Managing Partner of the firm's Tuskegee, Alabama office. The company represented professional athletes in contract

negotiations. Cochran would later represent famous and infamous athlete, O.J. Simpson, in Simpson national and world known California double homicide murder case. Smith and Cochran would also form the national law firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens and Smith. The firm would later change its' name to The Cochran Firm, which became one of the country's most recognized civil plaintiff and criminal defense law firms.

During his career, Smith worked on many significant law cases. He won several multi-million dollar verdicts for his clients, including an \$80 million verdict, the largest environmental case in the nation, against Orkin Pest Control in "Jeter v. Orkin". Orkin had defrauded an elderly African American woman whose house had been destroyed by termites due to Orkin's fraud. Smith won a \$700 million settlement against Monsanto, Pharmacia and Solutia Incorporated in the "Tolbert v. Monsanto Company" case and won a landmark \$1.6 billion verdict against Southwestern Life Insurance in "Whittaker v. Southwestern Life Insurance Company" for a mother of three who was a victim of fraud by the insurance company. That verdict, according to the National Law Journal and Lawyers Weekly USA in its' 2004 reporting, was and still remains the largest verdict by an African American lawyer in the history of law in the United States.

Smith also served on the legal teams that represented other notable and national African American icons such as civil rights activists Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Fred Shuttlesworth. In addition, he represented several Negro League baseball players. His passion for justice and equality, especially for the overlooked and disadvantaged members of our society, brought him many other clients seeking relief from their legal problems.

Smith was a gifted motivational speaker and talented writer. In 2002, he published his autobiography "Climbing Jacob's ladder – A Trial Lawyer's Journey on Behalf of the Least of These". He wrote other articles and was written about in many national newspapers, magazines and legal reviews.

Smith was given far to many honors and awards to be listed here but we must list a few. He was given the keys to the cities of New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; and Flint, Michigan. He was recognized for his dedicated and unwavering commitment to equal rights by the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association and received the Inaugural Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Journey to Justice Award from the National Bar Association. The Martindale-Hubbell legal publication gave Smith its' highest rating, the AV Rating, and the Law Dragon Legal Magazine of Los Angeles selected him as one of America's Top 500 Trial Litigators.

Smith was selected as a member of Who's Who in Black Lawyers in New York and Superior Lawyers of America rewarded him as a lifetime member. He was honored in the Inaugural Edition of Who's Who in Black Alabama, and The Trial Lawyer magazine chose him as one of the 100 Most Influential Trial Lawyers in America. In addition, Smith was inducted into the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, served on the Board of Trustees of Tuskegee University, and was a member of the National Bar Association.

Jock Michael Smith died on January 8, 2012. He was sixty-three years old.



L ENA OLIVE SMITH

...was born in 1885 in Lawrence, Kansas. She attended public schools in Lawrence and after graduation she remained in Lawrence working odd jobs. In 1906, when she was twenty-one years old,

the family left Lawrence and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. Once settled into her new surroundings, Smith met and entered into a partnership with a white hairdresser to co-own a hair salon. The salon, located in nearby Minneapolis, just across the upper end of the Mississippi River, eventually went bankrupt and Smith turned her attention to real estate.

After entering the field, Smith learned first hand the extreme racial prejudices that existed in the housing industry. She learned of the unspoken and private agreements homeowners and other realtors had with each other to not sell or rent to African Americans in certain areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul's Twin Cities area. After realizing that those unspoken yet forcible laws needed to be changed. Smith then decided to obtain a law degree.

Smith enrolled into Northwestern College of Law, which later became a part of the William Mitchell College of Law. She completed her law studies in 1921 at the age of thirty-six and promptly opened her own law firm. In opening the firm, she became the first African American woman in the state of Minnesota to practice law. No other African American woman would practice law in the state of Minnesota until 1945, twenty-four years later. By that time, only nine African American women had attended the law school.

In 1925, Smith became a member of the founding team that established the Minneapolis branch of the National Urban League. Several years later, she would become the first woman and African American female President of the Minneapolis branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She would serve as President for four years as one of the most aggressive yet successful President's and practicing attorney during that time.

After nine years at the helm of the Minneapolis branch of the NAACP, Smith stepped down to become a member of the Executive Board and Chair of the Joint Legal Re-

dress Committee of the Minneapolis and St. Paul chapters of the NAACP. As Chair of that Committee, Smith played a major part giving the Court a proactive posture. In Minnesota, she became the prosecuting attorney and litigator for legal cases brought to the NAACP.

In one such case, in 1931, Smith acted as NAACP legal counsel representing Arthur A. Lee who had purchased a home in a previously all-white neighborhood on the south side of Minneapolis. After being harassed and his family's lives threatened, he sought legal counsel from a white attorney who advised him to sell the house and move his family out of the area. Smith took over the case and began her defense of Lee rights to live in the neighborhood and to live in peace.

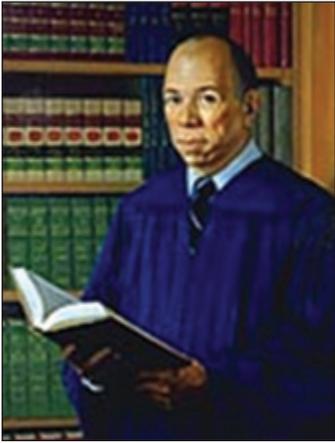
As the case unfolded, a massive crowd of white supremacist convened at Lee's home threatening him if he did not sell his house and leave the neighborhood. Smith filed protective orders asking for protection of Lee's family's rights with police protection if necessary. Smith successfully defended Lee's right to live peacefully in his home. That case helped to desegregate south Minneapolis allowing other African Americans that could afford better housing that opportunity.

In some of her other notable cases, Smith took on civil rights issues of equal public access when she brought suit against White Castle, a fast food burger establishment, and the Nicollet Hotel, a higher priced hotel in downtown Minneapolis. She took on the Minneapolis' Pantages Theatre who practiced separate accommodations and at times no accommodations for African Americans. Smith also took on the 1937 case of local off-duty police beating Curtis Jordan, an African American man, while in custody. Originally stopped for drunkenness, the officers charged the man with resisting arrest and apprehended him forcefully. Smith represented the arrestee and had the charges dropped and won a monetary settlement for the client. She even demanded that the offending officers be transferred out of the district they served.

Smith was an active member of the Minnesota State Bar and the local Minneapolis bar. She owned an extensive amount of books housed in her law library and practiced law up until the time of her death. Her work and voice for civil rights was heard by politicians, business leaders, the press, and members of the community in which she served. For her dedicated service, in 1965, Smith was an invited guest to the Johnson-Humphrey Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C..

Lena Olive Smith died in 1966. She was eighty-one years old.





OTIS M. SMITH

...was born in Memphis, Tennessee on February 20, 1922. He was raised in a very religious household, although he admits that he himself was not that religious but with his mother Eva's daily Bible

readings, he came to know the Bible well. His father died when Smith was a child.

After completing his high school studies, he enrolled into Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He then transferred to Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York to receive his undergraduate degree. He earned his law degree from the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. in 1950. While completing his law degree, Smith was a member of the school's Law Review, including the first volume the school published.

Prior to joining the military, White worked as a messenger and porter in the Tennessee state capitol. In the military, he served during World War II. He was a member of the famous all-black Tuskegee, Alabama airmen squadron that operated out of Michigan. Serving as a journalist, he was able to document some of the squad's most memorable achievements during the war.

After passing the Michigan Bar, Smith began his legal career as an Assistant Prosecutor in Flint, Michigan. He also took and passed the District of Columbia Bar. It wasn't long before he caught the attention of then Governor G. Mennen Williams who appointed him as Chairman of the Public Service Commission in 1957. He served on the Commission for two years.

In 1959, Smith was appointed as State Auditor General of Michigan. In the 1960 general election, he was elected outright to the post. He served for another year as State Auditor General before he was appointed as a Justice to the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan. With the appointment, Smith became the first African American to be elected to the Michigan Supreme Court. In the upcoming general election, like before, he was elected outright to the position. In the 1966 general election, Smith was not successful in his re-election bid.

In 1967, he accepted a position in the legal division of the General Motors Corporation (GM). The same year, then Governor George Romney named Smith to the Uni-

versity of Michigan Board of Regents. In the upcoming 1971 general election, Smith made the decision not to run for re-election. During his time on the Board of Regents, there was campus unrest and Smith decided that the disharmony was best served without his presence.

While working for GM in their legal department and serving on the Board of Regents, White also served as the Secretary of the Urban League. At the same time, he served as Chairman of the Board of Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Although quite busy, White was able to perform the duties and task of each entity well.

In 1974, GM named Smith their Associate General Counsel and Vice President. After three years in the post, GM Chairman Thomas Murphy and the GM Board of Directors promoted to General Counsel. Smith took the top legal position just as GM came under fire being accused of several regulatory violations. The corporate giant had also been accused of tax fraud and faced consumer lawsuits with claims that GM had substituted car engines from one car division to another. Smith's task was to solve the legal issues that GM had come to face. He became one of the most powerful African American corporate America lawyers of the time. He would hold that position for eight years. In 1984, Smith left GM to accept a position with the Detroit, Michigan based law firm of Lewis, White and Clay as their Counsel.

In recognition of his work while serving on the Michigan Supreme Court, a portrait of him was dedicated and hung in the chamber of the Court. A second portrait was commissioned by The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., dedicated and hung in their Columbus School of Law building. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan named a scholarship in his honor that is given to a Michigan single mother each year. The scholarship pays the mother's tuition to either Wayne State University in Detroit, to a University of Michigan school anywhere in the state, or The Catholic University of America.

Otis M. Smith, after a four-year battle with prostate cancer, died on June 29, 1994 at the age of seventy two years old.



WILFORD HORACE SMITH

...was born on April 1863 in Mississippi. He received his law degree from Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts graduating in 1883. After receiving his law degree, Smith moved to Greenville, Mis-

issippi to begin his law career. He remained in Greenville for eight years practicing law.

In 1895, Smith left Greenville and moved his law practice to Galveston, Texas. He focused his attention on constitutional law, which at the time in Galveston, there were no African American attorneys having as much expert knowledge of constitutional law as Smith. He was extremely skilled in pleading cases, both civil and criminal, and knew probate law as well.

Smith began to advertise his services in the local Galveston newspapers and soon began to draw clients, both black and white, to his offices. He was able to settle many personal injury claims against corporate clients fearing trial once deliberations and discovery had begun. He represented several black businessmen in the courts before white judges and juries, winning some cases and losing others.

In 1897, Smith represented the Galveston City Times in a libel suit argued before the Texas Criminal Court of Appeals. It is believed that this case was the first case argued before the Court by an African American attorney. Unfortunately, Smith lost that case. Two years later, he litigated another case before the Texas Court of Civil Appeals, which involved an internal property dispute between members of a black church but was victorious for his client in that case.

In 1901, Smith became the personal attorney of Booker T. Washington. He was charged by Washington to be the legal strategist in the challenge to change the voting rights laws of the state of Alabama, which prohibited blacks from voting. Smith was chosen to lead the fight because he had previously practiced laws in Mississippi, which grandfathered him to practice in the neighboring Alabama Supreme Court. Unfortunately, Smith lost both cases for voting rights brought before the Alabama Supreme Court on technical issues.

In 1903, Smith wrote a chapter for a book, "The Negro and the Law", which was edited by Washington where he gave a view of white justice in the law from a black perspective. Although he had previously lost the cases tried before the Mississippi Supreme Court, in the book, he did give praise to several Mississippi Judges, including Chief Justice J.A.P. Campbell of the Mississippi Supreme Court and Chief Justice Christopher C. Garrett of the Court of Civil Appeals of Texas. He gave both Justices gratitude for being able and fair jurists. Smith also gave accolades to the Justices of the United States Supreme Court.

In 1904, Smith won a case before the Texas Court of Appeals. He argued a case that prohibiting blacks from participation on grand juries solely on the basis of their African ancestry was unconstitutional. After that victory, Smith left Galveston moving to moving to Manhattan in New York City, New York to become the legal counsel to Marcus Garvey, the head of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA).

Smith served as the legal counsel for UNIA for seventeen years before leaving the organization to return to Texas. Not long after his departure, Garvey was charged with mail fraud and indicted by federal authorities. Back in Texas, Smith returned to private practice litigating cases in Beaumont, Galveston, and Houston. In the Houston office, Smith became partners with Joseph G. Wimberly, a graduate of Howard University.

Wilford Horace Smith died on June 9, 1926. He was sixty-three years old.



WAYMAN FLYNN SMITH, III

...was born on June 18, 1940 in St. Louis, Missouri to Edith Maux Smith and Wayman, II, both of whom were college graduates. Smith's father was the first African American certified public accountant in the state of Missouri

and later served as a City Councilman. Smith attended Washington Elementary School, Sumner High School, and graduated in 1957 from Soldan International Studies High School.

After graduating high school, Smith began his collegiate career by enrolling into Washington University in St. Louis. He then transferred to Monmouth College in West Long Branch, New Jersey where he completed his studies in 1962. For his law degree, he attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School graduating in 1965.

For his first professional legal job, Smith accepted a job with the New York Wall Street firm of Peat, Marwick & Mitchell CPA. Unfortunately, his father fell ill and Smith returned to Missouri to assist with his father's accounting business, which he knew he would inherit upon his father's death. He moved to Jefferson City, Missouri, only two hours drive from St. Louis, to work on the staff of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

After his father died, Smith moved back to St. Louis to care for his father's accounting business. He worked his law practice working with St. Louis attorneys Margaret Bush Wilson and Frankie Freeman. After two years on the Commission, Smith left for private practice.

Smith worked in private practice for two years before being appointed as a City Court Judge. He served as a Judge for five years. He then was elected to serve on the St. Louis City Council where he served from 1975 to 1987. While on the City Council, Smith also served as the President of the Council's Black Caucus.

In 1980, after receiving boycott pressure from Chicago based Operation PUSH and the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. to increase its' minority employment participation, Anheuser-Busch, a large national beer manufacturer, hired Smith to its' legal staff. Smith became the first African American member of Anheuser-Busch's Corporate

Affairs Department. The company faced losing a lucrative federal government due to an employment discrimination suit filed against them. Working along side Augie Busch to improve the company's minority participation, Smith created a \$200 million minority business development program, which brought many African American companies into the procurement process of the company and saved the company's federal contracts.

For his work on the minority participation program, Smith was rewarded by being named Vice President of Corporate Affairs for the Anheuser-Busch Companies and was also named as a member of the Board of Directors of Anheuser Busch, Inc. He was the first African American to reach such attainment. After leaving Anheuser Busch, Smith returned to private practice opening up a law firm, The Smith Partnership, P.C. in St. Louis with his brother Christopher. He also serves as a partner in the law firm of Wilson, Smith & McCullin. Smith would also serve on the Board of Directors of Howard University in Washington.

Smith would later found the Worldwide Financial Services Group (WFSG), which is a factoring business that allows funeral homes to be paid by his company for their services immediately by WFSG, while WFSG awaits payment from the deceased funeral insurance policy. Smith also was an investor in the redevelopment of East St. Louis' riverfront property.

Smith has served on numerous Boards, including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation; the National Association of Sickle Cell Disease, Inc.; and the National Urban League. He also served on the Boards of the St. Louis Metropolitan YMCA and the St. Louis Symphony. In addition, Smith served as the Chairman of the Board of Regents of Harris Stowe State College, also located in St. Louis.

Smith has been given far to many awards and accolades to be listed here. He has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Mound City Bar Association, and the Missouri Bar Association. In addition, he was listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in Black America.



JOHN CLAY SMITH, JR.

...was born in Omaha, Nebraska on April 15, 1942 to Emily Verna Williams Smith and J. Clay Smith Sr.. His father died in an industrial accident and his mother would later remarry taking on the last name of Martin. After

graduating from high school, Smith enrolled into Creighton University located in his hometown city where he received his undergraduate degree.

While studying for his undergraduate degree, Smith was elected as the Governor of Nebraska's "Boys State". He was the first African American to serve as the Governor of the institution. During the 1960 White House Conference on Children & Youth, he was invited to Washington, D.C. to meet with then President Eisenhower where he was acknowledged for his work with children. During that time, he met his first wife, Olivia Blackamore, while studying at Creighton and married her after graduating in 1964. Together, they had three children.

After leaving Creighton, Smith moved to Washington D.C. and enrolled into the Howard University School of Law and completed his studies in 1967. He then took a job working for the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency for a short time before joining the military enlisting into the Judge Advocate General Corp. While serving in the Corps, Smith was able to complete studies to earn his Juris Doctorate degree from the George Washington University Law School in D.C. graduating in 1970. Seven years later, in 1977, Smith obtained his LL.M. degree also from George Washington.

In 1971, Smith left the JAG Corps and began working for the law firm of Arent, Fox, Kintner, and Plotkin. He worked in the firm's anti-trust issues department. While working at the law firm, he also served as an Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Law. In addition, he gave of his time to several professional and community organizations, including his local church and other local charities involved with civil rights, children's rights and rights associated with other disadvantaged groups.

In 1974, Smith joined the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as its' Deputy Chief in the ever increasing field of cable television. Two years later, he

advanced to become the Associate General Counsel. During those two years, he also became a member of the Administrative Conference of the United States.

In 1978, then President Carter appointed Smith as a member of the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC). Three years later, in 1981, newly elected President Ronald Reagan appointed Smith as the EEOC's Acting Director due to the fact that he was the only Republican member of the EEOC at that time. His Democratic co-workers were departing due to the change of the controlling political party with the election of Republican Reagan.

In fact, with the quick departure of Democrats, Smith was given temporary unilateral authority of the EEOC. With that authority, he was able to function without a quorum. His nomination to take the permanent control of the EEOC was not approved by Congress but did approve another African American, Clarence Thomas, to lead the EEOC. Thomas would later become a sitting U.S. Supreme Court Justice. That same year, Smith left the Commission.

In 1982, after leaving the EEOC, Smith accepted a position as a Visiting Professor at Howard University. He became a full time faculty member in 1983. Three years later, Smith was appointed as the Dean of the school. The University was going through controversial finance issues and he was able to stabilize the schools funding problems during his tenure as Dean.

Smith resigned as Dean from Howard's Law school to become a regular law professor and to focus on his personal writings. He became a Visiting Professor at Georgetown University's Law School in 1995 where he served for one year. He kept his law professor position at Howard University where he taught until his retirement in 2004.

Smith was a prolific writer and speaker and gave many lectures and penned many articles on the subject of law. While serving at both the FCC and the EEOC, he was called upon to represent both agencies in numerous conferences and seminars across the country. He gave speeches and wrote articles on subjects related to communications, civil rights, history, and politics. In 1993, he published his first book, "Emancipation: The Making of the Black Lawyer". The book was an encyclopedia of African American legal pioneers, which won him much praise for his painstaking research on African American lawyers. Smith would go on to write two more books, "Rebels in Law: Voices of Black Women Lawyers" and "Supreme Justice: Speeches and Writings on the work of Thurgood Marshall".



DORIS A. SMITH-RIBNER

...received her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1969. She then attended Pitt's School of Law where

she earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 1972. Smith-Ribner would later further her legal education by obtaining a certificate in arbitration and mediation.

After graduating with her law degree and passing the Pennsylvania State Bar exam, Smith-Ribner entered private practice law serving the community with her law partner, Byrd R. Brown. In 1974, she became a Commissioner for the Pennsylvania State Human Commission where she served for six years. She then became a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Disciplinary Board for three years before becoming the Solicitor and County Controller of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania where she remained until 1984.

In 1984, then Pennsylvania Governor and fellow Pitt Law School Alumni, Richard Thornburgh, appointed Smith-Ribner to serve as a Judge on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. She was the first African-American female Judge to serve on the court doing so for two years. Her assignment on the Court was in the Juvenile Division. In the 1987 general election, Judge Smith-Ribner was elected to a full time term, the first African American to be elected to a statewide position.

While serving on the Court of Common Pleas, Judge Smith-Ribner was asked by then Governor Milton Shapp to serve as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. In 1980, then Governor Dick Thornburgh re-nominated Judge Smith-Ribner as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. She accepted the appointment for the second time.

In 1988, Smith-Ribner was appointed as a State Appeals Court Judge in the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. She would serve on the Court for the next twenty-one years. Three years after being appointed to the bench, Judge Smith-Ribner was also appointed as a member to the Pennsylvania Judicial Auditing Agency. She

served as the Agency's Chairperson for five years beginning in 1999.

In 2000, Judge Smith-Ribner established a National Judicial Externship-Clerkship Program, which aimed to place current law students and law school graduates into externships and clerkships with federal and state courts throughout the United States. The program operates in conjunction with Just the Beginning - A Pipeline Organization based in Chicago, Illinois. The successful program's first student was from her alma mater, Pitt, and was placed with a 3rd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge.

In 2014, then President Barack Obama appointed Smith-Ribner to serve on the fifteen-member Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, by then President Barack Obama. The Commission was established to improve the elementary and high school education of African Americans to ensure they have the abilities to attend a higher learning institution, which will prepare them for productive careers and to lead successful and satisfying lives.

Judge Smith-Ribner has served as a member of the Board of Visitors to the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and as a member of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness. She also served on the Commission's Criminal Justice and Equal Opportunity Committee and its' Diversity Committee. In addition, Judge Smith-Ribner served as a member of the Justice Reinvestment Work Group, is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and is a Life Member to the National Council of Negro Women.

Judge Smith-Ribner has been given numerous awards and honors during her illustrious legal career. She has been named a Businesswoman of the Year by the Business & Professional Women's Club, has received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and has been asked to be the Speaker for the University of Pittsburgh School of Law's 2007 Commencement. Judge Smith-Ribner has also been the recipient of the "Thaddeus Stevens Award" by the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania awarded her with an honorary Doctors of Laws degree.

Judge Smith-Ribner is married to former Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Common Pleas Judge Paul Ribner. Together, they have one daughter.





DAMARIO SOLOMON-SIMMONS

.graduated high school from famous Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he was an outstanding scholastic athlete. Because of his love of sports over studies and his love of street culture at the time, he graduated at the bottom of his class academically. That big time football scholarship he had hoped

for never came. He instead had to accept a scholarship to play at small Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where he hoped his dream to play in the National Football League (NFL) would begin. Unfortunately because of being unprepared academically, after one year at Northeastern, Solomon-Simmons, dropped out of Northeastern and moved to Dallas, Texas.

In Dallas, reality hit Solomon-Simmons when he realized that he was on his own and had to work and pay bills like any other adult. He had fallen into real world issues of paying bills and making a living without a formal education. He then understood that without an education, he would be left to work minimum paying jobs the rest of his life. The time he spent in Dallas was life changing.

He decided to return to school and left Dallas returning to Tulsa and enrolled into local Tulsa Community College in 1995. He completed his Associates degree majoring in Art and History graduating in 1997. Still having hopes of playing professional football, he enrolled into the University of Oklahoma in Norman to earn his undergraduate degree. He tried out for the powerful Sooner football team and as a gifted linebacker, he made the team.

Once on the team, he was able to see first hand how an NFL caliber linebacker performed. He realized that he would not become a professional football player but understood that the time he spent in Dallas on his own gave him insight that he could survive without football although he remained on the team. He focused most of his attention to his studies but still had hopes of reaching the NFL. Those hopes departed when, during his senior year, he tore his ACL, which ended his career. Nonetheless, Solomon-Simmons would graduate with honors from Oklahoma University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in African & African American Studies. While in undergrad, he took Post Graduate studies in African History.

Solomon-Simmons remained at the University to further his education. In 2001, he received his M.Ed. degree in Adult & Higher Education. He then went on to obtain his Juris Doctorate degree from the University's College of Law in 2004. He would later receive honor from the law school when he became the first University of Oklahoma African American law student to be awarded the school's prestigious Joel Jankowsky Most Outstanding Graduate Award.

To begin his professional legal career, Solomon-Simmons became a Staff Lobbyist for The Capital Group based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. There he conducted research, prepared official position papers, attended and took notes at state Senate and House hearings, and handled correspondence between legislative mem-

bers and the law firm. He also served as a liaison between the legislative bodies and the firm's clients.

After two years working at The Capital Group, Solomon-Simmons stepped out on his own to become a co-founder of the law firm, SolomonSimmonsSharrock & Associates, with offices in his hometown of Tulsa. He would operate from his Tulsa office for the next nine years. At the firm, he was responsible for the expert witnesses the firm might need for pending cases and to prepare them for any upcoming trials. Still having a love of football, he served as the General Counsel to several collegiate athletes that were becoming professional athletes representing them in their contract negotiations. He successfully negotiated contracts for three NFL First Round Draft picks and landed the largest African American medical clinic in the state of Oklahoma.

In 2006, Solomon-Simmons became an Adjunct Professor at his alma mater, the University of Oklahoma College of Arts & Sciences. He is credited with creating courses for undergraduate students that focuses on African and African American history, culture and other pertinent concerns. In his own studies, he compiled a bibliography of material given the students for outside reading.

In 2009, Solomon-Simmons co-founded the MVP Foundation. The Foundation promotes and manages educational, social, and economic programs for inner-city youth. He gives particular attention to African American males to give them structure and opportunities to become aware of resources available to them hoping to make them productive citizens. In 2011, Solomon-Simmons opened SolomonSimmonsConsulting, which focuses on relationship building, legislative monitoring aimed at diversity programs, community relations, and educational initiatives.

In 2013, Solomon-Simmons became the Legislative Liaison for the Oklahoma Policy Institute, a Tulsa premier think tank. The Institute provides timely and credible information for fiscally responsible funding of public services to Oklahomans. Two years later, in 2015, after the retirement of his long time law partner, Susan R. Sharrock, Solomon-Simmons joined the law firm of Riggs Abney Neal Turpen Orbison & Lewis in their Tulsa offices. For the firm, he continues to represent sports and entertainment figures, litigates government and commercial business related matters, and pursues cases of diversity inclusion and employment discrimination. He also serves as an attorney for civil rights injustices and personal injury.

Solomon-Simmons would be brought into the national spotlight in 2016 with the unfortunate shooting of African American Terrence Crutcher in Tulsa. Forty year old Crutcher was shot and killed by white Tulsa police officer Betty Shelby while standing near his broken down vehicle in the middle of a north Tulsa street. Solomon-Simmons would represent the Crutcher family doing this ordeal. Crutcher had been shot while his hands were up but walking away from officer Shelby. She shot Crutcher claiming she feared for her life and was subsequently acquitted.

Solomon-Simmons continues to practice law in Tulsa and continues his foundation work on behalf of young African American and other minority kids. He runs camps for kids where he invites professional and retired professional athletes to come to Tulsa to speak and mentor with them. Solomon-Simmons himself is called upon to travel the country to speak to other like minded groups, all aimed at strengthening and helping young high school students find their way to a better and successful life.



Photo Not Available



M YZELL SOWELL

...was born in 1924 on the North End neighborhood in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from Northern High School before enrolling into Detroit's Wayne State University where he received his undergraduate degree.

He earned his law degree from the Detroit College of Law.

After passing the Michigan State Bar exam, he entered private practice where he would litigate law for the next fifteen years. In the 1960s, Sowell litigated civil rights cases in the segregated south of the country. He represented civil rights victims in Meridian, Mississippi, and Selma, Alabama. Back in Detroit, he represented clients who demonstrated in the 1963 Freedom March in Detroit and the 1967 Detroit riots.

It was in defense of these civil rights demonstrators, most of whom were black, that he joined the fledgling Legal Aid and Defender Office. While serving in the Legal Aid's Office, Sowell represented defendants who were unable to pay for their legal services. He served as a legal architect and built defense cases that were pivotal in having demonstrators released from jail or having their charges reduced or in some cases dismissed.

The office became an incubator for community activism and social awareness. During the 1970s, Sowell represented the Black Action Movement (BAM), a University of Michigan African American student organization where college students held strikes on the Michigan campus protesting discriminatory policies held by the university administrators. During that time, Sowell also served for two years as the President of the Wolverine Bar Association.

Sowell served for twelve years as the chief defender of those that called upon the Legal Aid and Defender Office for help. He trained many young lawyers as well as seasoned attorney how to litigate successfully through the Detroit courts. Sowell is credited with helping to launch the successful careers of many of Michigan's powerful lawyers and judges that chose law as their profession.

A few of the attorneys that learned from Sowell while serving at the Defender Office include Michigan United States Senator Carl Levin who served as Sowell's Chief

Deputy Defender before being named as a member of the Detroit Common Council. Other notable and successful Detroit attorneys that came from Sowell's tutelage include attorneys Jeff Edison, Gerald Evelyn, and Steve Fishman. During Sowell's tenure at the Defender Offices, sixteen of the attorneys hired by became judges. Since his departure thirty years ago, the office has produced on two judges. A few of the attorneys that began with Sowell that became Judges include Vera Massey Jones, Warfield Moore Jr., Michael Sapala, Beverly Jasper, Susan Borman, Daphne Means Curtis, Ray Reynolds Graves, George Crockett III, James Roberts, David Kerwyn, Patricia Schneider, Chris E. Stith, Marcia Cooke, Jeanette O'Banner-Owens.

Sowell gave much support to many civic organizations and legal associations and was a strong supporter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. He is credited with starting the long-running Barristers' Ball and has been recognized by many local and national organizations. He was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the National Lawyers Guild for his front line legal work for the 1963 Mississippi Summer Freedom Project that sought voting rights for African American's in Mississippi and was given a Champion of Justice Award by the Michigan State Bar Association. Sowell was also given the Damon J. Keith Humanitarian Award and the Wolverine Bar Association's Trailblazer's Award. In addition, he received the Man of the Year Award from the Detroit Urban Center.

Sowell was a very warm and considerate man. He loved teaching people and lawyers legal techniques and how to be prepared to litigate the law. He led by example and took the time to explain what a person should look for and how to learn. Sowell was married for fifty-eight years to his wife Robin, who served for many years as a Detroit Court Clerk and became the Department Manager for Court Clerk Services for five years.

Sowell, who was eighty-four years old, died only a few days before he was to be inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame, the nation's leading organization of African-American lawyers and judges.



M ONIQUE CHANTELLE SPARKS

...received her undergraduate degree in 2003 from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana majoring in Political Science. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 2006 and was admitted to the

bar association the same year. She began her professional legal career focusing on the areas of criminal and family law.

Sparks serves as the principal in her law firm, The Sparks Law Firm. She is a deeply believer in her faith and will pray with her clients before meetings no matter the religion of her client. For those interested, she invites them to her home to share reading the Bible and to study its' word. She accepts them as though they were family and is often saddened if a case is ruled against her clients. She believes in the sturdiness of the justice system and feels that it is the fabric by which our society operates. She is a hard working and ethical attorney that gives high priorities to the needs of her community.

Sparks has represented many clients victoriously including obtaining a dismissal of false charges against a client facing twenty-five years in prison for an alleged first degree felony super aggravated sexual assault charge against a child. She won an acquittal for a charge of unlawful possession of a weapon by a habitual offender who also faced a possible sentence of twenty-five years. Sparks won cases involving terrorist threats, substance abuse and possession charges, and aggravated robbery.

Sparks starred in a Houston based "docu-reality" TV show, "Sisters in Law", which showcased the lives of several African American women lawyers practicing in the city. The show was aired on WE TV and had various themes including rape, incest, suicide, and wrongful death. The show was signed for ten weeks and eight segments with Sparks and the other cast members agreeing to be followed twenty-four hours a day for the ten weeks the show was to be aired.

The show was designed to set itself apart from the cat fighting, bitch calling, and back stabbing reality shows that were being aired on national cable channels. The show wanted to show African American women who were not represented as angry or that married a rich athlete or

entertainer. The show followed the women through their daily lives of client interviews, including accused murderers, and took the viewers into the courtrooms with the women attorneys.

Sparks is a member of the State Bar College of Texas, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and the Houston Young Lawyers Association. She also served as the National Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. In addition, Sparks is a graduate of the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College and served as a member of the Vivian King Campaign.



ROBBY STAFFORD

... was born and raised in Williamsburg County, South Carolina and was one of thirteen children. After completing high school, he attended North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, North Carolina

where he received his undergraduate degree. He then enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree.

After completing his studies at Howard, Stafford opened up a law office in nearby Alexandria, Virginia where he would operate for the next forty-six years as a practicing criminal defense attorney. He married Mary Raby, an attorney as well, and remained married to her for forty-six years as well. Together, they had one daughter, Stacy, also a lawyer.

Stafford litigated cases in small municipal courts as well as larger federal courts. He handled small cases of minor traffic violations to federally charged criminal cases. He represented clients falsely charged with offenses and clients that were guilty of their crimes but needed representation to ensure their own particular civil rights were obtained despite their guilt. During his lengthy legal career, he has seen reprehensible crimes, crimes of passion, and clearly innocent defendants railroaded by overzealous prosecuting attorneys. In each of his representations, Stafford was known in legal circles as a reputable foe.

During his career, Stafford represented a host of defendants having varying charges pending against them. Some were minor while others involved them spending time in prison, which affected the lives of many. He once represented a local well-known minister charged with raping and beating a woman outside a Fairfax City, Virginia hotel. Through Stafford's wrangling and extensive filings of briefs, in the case a plea deal was struck and the minister served only sixteen months in jail. The accused minister was not even made to register as a sex offender.

In another case, he represented a Fairfax County man accused of burglary in which he allegedly targeted South Asian immigrants and business owners who kept large amounts of cash, gold, and other valuables stashed inside

their homes. The burglar was accused of stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cash and valuables before being caught. Stafford's client had been caught with tools of the trade and was charged with the neighborhood burglaries. Stafford argued that by simply having possession of tools used in burglaries, including police scanners, crowbars, and a list of South Asian homeowners addresses, did not constitute a crime. His client's fingerprints were not confiscated at any of the burglarized homes, no videotapes showing his client present during any of the burglaries, and his client was not caught with any stolen loot. The Fairfax Judge in the case dismissed the charges. Unfortunately, federal prosecutors brought charges against Stafford's client and the client ultimately was sentenced to prison.

Stafford made every attempt possible to treat everyone with civility and kindness even in the midst of hotly contested trials. Whether it was an opposing attorney, antagonized or hostile witness, a family member upset with an unfavorable verdict or sentence, he would always attempt to bring solace to the situation. If all involved reached an amicable accord, they knew the ending would culminate with a firm handshake or his trademark bear hug. He had a wonderful sense of humor, a vast resource of information on legal matters, and had a massive handshake when being introduced. His loving but crushing bear hugs, which were given as an endearment gesture, were always remembered by those fortunate enough to have fallen into the arms of Stafford.

Stafford volunteered of his time extensively and gave to many charitable organizations. He served on the Board of Visitors of Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia, served as the President of the Arlington Community Action Program, and served as the General Counsel for the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Alexandria, Virginia. He also served as a Board member of the Campbell A.M.E. Church.

Stafford was an active member in Democratic politics. He worked on the presidential campaign of New York's Shirley Chisholm and stayed abreast of local and national politics. Always impeccably dressed in expansive double-breasted pinstriped suits with his signature white hats and flashy gold rings, he was easily recognizable, even from afar. He knew the language of the streets, spoke the decorum of the courts, and knew each and every nuance in between.



MICHAEL STEPHEN STEELE

...was born on October 19, 1958 in Prince George's County, Maryland. He was adopted as an infant by Maebell and William Steele. His father died when he was four years old. His mother whose parents were South Carolina sharecroppers worked as a laundress desiring to work

rather than accept welfare to provide for her family. She later remarried and the family moved to the Washington, D.C. Petworth neighborhood where Michael and his sister, Monica were raised. She would later marry and divorce heavyweight boxing champion, Mike Tyson.

Steele graduated from Washington, D.C.'s Archbishop Carroll Roman Catholic High School. In high school, he was a member of the Glee Club, the National Honor Society, and participated in the theatrical productions for his school. He was also the Student Council President in his senior year. For his undergraduate degree in International Studies, he attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Wanting to become a priest, Steele enrolled into Villanova University's Augustinian Friars Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After spending three years at Villanova, and not being ordained, he spent one year teaching World History and Economics at Malvern Preparatory School in Malvern, Pennsylvania. He returned to his hometown of Washington, D.C. to enroll into the Georgetown University Law Center where, in 1991, he received his Juris Doctor. Taking and failing the Maryland bar exam, he then took and passed the Pennsylvania bar exam.

He accepted his first legal job with the D.C. law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton as a Corporate Securities Associate. During the next six years, he would work in the firm's Tokyo, Japan and London, England's offices as an underwriter for Wall Street financial investors and corporate product liability litigations. In 1978, he left the firm to form his own company, the Steele Group.

He joined the Republican Party and soon rose to become the Chairman of the Prince George's County Maryland's Republican Central Committee. In 1993, he became one of the founding members of the conservative Republican Leadership Council. For his work for the Party, in 2005, he was named the Maryland Republican Man of the Year. He would leave the Republican Leadership Council years later after having disagreements over which primary candidates the organization would endorse.

With political power rising, for the 1996 Republican National Convention, he was named as an Alternate Delegate. For the 2000 convention, he was named a Delegate. Later that year, he was elected as the Chairman of the Maryland Republican Party. He became the first African American to be ever elected as Chairman of any state Republican Party in the U.S.

In 2002, Steele was selected by Robert Ehrlich in his bid to win the Governor's race as his running mate. Running on a platform of reforming then Governor Parris Glendening's strict enforcement of environmental regulations and taking advantage of the issues surrounding the incumbent Governor's marital issues, Ehrlich and Steele became

victorious. Winning the primary against Democrat Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Ehrlich became Governor and Steele became the Lieutenant Governor, the first time in forty years that Republicans had control of the State House in Maryland. Steele, with his election, became the first African American ever elected to any statewide office in Maryland.

As Lieutenant Governor, Steele went about reforming the state's minority involvement with state contracts working closely with the state's Minority Business Enterprise. He served as Chair of the Governor's Commission on Quality Education in Maryland. He did receive some negative press when Governor Ehrlich decided to reinstitution the state's death penalty. Many were critical of Steel for not opposing the measure as it was against his religious beliefs and his past position of "anti" on the issue.

In 2004, Steele was selected by the Republican Party to deliver a counterpoint at their 2004 Republican National Convention. After the Democrats chose upcoming political giant Barack Obama to deliver their keynote address at their 2004 Democratic National Convention, Steele took advantage of the opportunity to gain national exposure. His counterpoint speech gave him not only a national spotlight but access to the National Republican Party insiders. For his efforts in the Republican Party, in 2005, President George W. Bush named Steele as a member of the U.S. delegation for the ecclesiastical investiture of Pope Benedict XVI in Vatican City, Italy. That year, he was also named an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow in Public Leadership.

With Steele's rising popularity, Maryland's longest-serving U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes announced that he would not seek re-election for his Senate seat. The Republican Party pressed Steele to enter the race. He did so and won the Republican nomination to face Democratic nominee Benjamin L. Cardin of Baltimore County. Steele ran a campaign on lowering taxes, free trade markets, national security and to reduce government spending. During the campaign, allegations were made by his former Chairman of his campaign, that there were inappropriate handling of funds by Steele of which he denied. Nonetheless, Steele lost the election to Cardin by a 55-44 vote margin.

Steele then sought the position as Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Florida Senator Mel Martinez, with the support of President Bush, was appointed to the position. Steele would, however, in 2007, become the Chairman of GOPAC. The organization has as its' intended purpose to train future Republican candidates around the country and to assist them in their fundraising efforts. That same year, he became a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of the international law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf, headquartered in New York City.

Steele has appeared on numerous political pundit TV shows over the years sharing his views on current political issues. He has appeared on "Real Time with Bill Maher", "The Colbert Report", and many of the national Sunday morning news and political broadcast shows. In Baltimore, for the Public Broadcasting Station, he hosted a Republican Primary debate.

For the 2008 Republican National Convention, Steel was again asked to speak. With U.S. energy consumption at an all time high, environmentalists and the big oil companies were at odds. Offshore drilling was a hot topic and in his remarks to the convention, Steele is credited with coining the phrase, "Drill, baby, drill", to show his support on the controversial issue of offshore drilling as an alternative to the U.S. purchases of foreign oil.

In November of 2008, Steele again ran for the Chairmanship of the Republican National Committee. On the sixth round of voting he became Victorious. In January of 2009, he became the first African American Chairman of the Party.





HAROLD ARNOLDUS STEVENS

...was born on October 19, 1907 in John's Island, South Carolina. He was raised on a 1,000 that his father owned. Stevens had made his decision to become a lawyer at the age

of nineteen after horrible incident that occurred in Aiken, South Carolina. Accused of killing a local Sheriff, a black woman and her two brothers were killed when they were dragged behind a car from the Aiken jail, through the streets of the town for all to see, then shot and mutilated. There was no protest from the African American community, which angered the young White. It was then that he decided to become a lawyer to end such treatment of his community.

He received his undergraduate degree from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. Not being able to attend the segregated law school at the University of South Carolina, he moved to Boston, Massachusetts to receive his law degree from the Boston College Law School. He would receive his law degree in 1936. He then enlisted into the military to fulfill his military duties. He served in World War II.

After passing the Massachusetts Bar, Stevens began his legal profession as a private law attorney. He moved to New York City two years later to take a position as Counsel to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Provisional Committee to Organize Colored Locomotive Firemen. It did not take Stevens long to gain national attention. With appreciation for the work that Stevens was doing in New York, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to the Fair Employment Practices Committee.

In 1946, Stevens ran and was elected to the New York State Assembly. He represented the Thirteenth District of Manhattan and served two terms. In 1950, he was elected to the New York Court of General Sessions. With his election, he became the first African American to sit on the General Sessions bench.

Being named the first African American named to that post was the beginning of several first for Stevens. In 1955, then Governor W. Averell Harriman appointed Ste-

vens to the New York Supreme Court. He became the first African American to take a seat on the Supreme Court Justice in New York State. He was elected to a full fourteen-year term in the next general election.

Stevens achieved another first, when in 1958 Governor Harriman appointed him to the Appellate Division, First Department. He became the first African American Associate Justice to serve. In 1969, then Governor Nelson Rockefeller pegged White to be the Presiding Justice of the Court, another first for an African American.

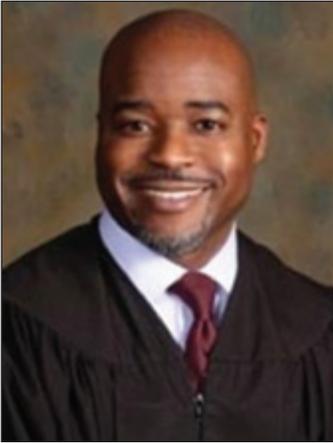
In 1974, Stevens was appointed by then Governor Malcolm Wilson to the New York Court of Appeals filling the vacancy of Justice Charles Breitel. Stevens again became a first, the first African American to serve on the Court. With that appointment, Stevens became the highest-ranking African American in New York's judicial system.

When Stevens's appointed term was ending, he ran for the seat in the general election on the Republican, Conservative and Liberal tickets but was defeated by Democrat Jacob D. Fuchsberg. Losing the election but not defeated, Stevens was able to return to the Appellate Division where he resumed his Presiding Justice position. He would retire from the bench two years later.

Active in community affairs and that of his Catholic religion, Stevens served as President of the Catholic Interracial Council. For his dedicated service to the church and his work on interracial issue, Pope Pius XII presented to Stevens the Church's Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award. The award is given to recognize the outstanding service given to the Pope and the Catholic Church. Stevens was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

Stevens has been honored with several honorary degrees. He has received Doctor of Laws degrees from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina; Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska; Fordham University in New York City; and the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Justice Stevens was married to Ella Clyde Myers Stevens. The couple had no children.

Harold Arnoldus Stevens died of a heart attack in his home on November 9, 1990. He was eighty-three years old.



OLU A. STEVENS

... received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia graduating in 1992. For his Juris Doctorate degree, he attended George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. where he completed

his studies in 1995. He was admitted to the Kentucky Bar the following year.

Stevens opened his own law firm, Olu A. Stevens, PLLC in Louisville, Kentucky in 1996. He would operate the firm as the principal for the next ten years. During that time, he served as an Assistant Attorney of Jefferson County handling cases for the Louisville courts. He also served as an outside attorney for the law firm of Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC.

In 2009, then Democratic Governor Steve Beshear appointed Stevens become a Circuit Court Judge for the 30th Judicial Circuit presiding over Jefferson County of Kentucky. Judge Stevens was elected to a full term in the 2010 general election winning 60.55 percent of the vote. During that election, he was the highest rated Judge in the Louisville Bar Association's Judicial Poll. In the 2014 election, he was re-elected running unopposed and will serve an eight year term that ends on January 1, 2023.

In November of 2014, Judge Stevens came under fire when, at the request of a black public defender, he dismissed a jury because the panel was made up of forty white people and had only one black person. The Commonwealth attorney, Tom Wine of Jefferson County, questioned Judge Stevens' impartiality in dismissing the jurors and stated his reason for questioning Judge Stevens' actions on a Facebook posts the Judge had posted explaining his decision to dismiss the jury. Stevens wrote, "Granting a defense motion to dismiss a jury panel of forty whites and one black does not make me a racist. And calling people on racist language doesn't make me a racist either."

Wine then made a request to Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr. on November 18, 2015, requesting that Judge Stevens be removed from all criminal cases before him. In his request, Wine asked for clarification from the State Supreme Court on whether Stevens had judicial power to dismiss a jury based on its' racial composition. Wine went on to make a claim that with Judge Stevens post included accusations that Wine had enticed the media to attack Judge Stevens in an effort to deceive the people of the Commonwealth and the posts could cause members of a selected jury to become biased against the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. Ironically, the previous day, Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Dorislee

Gilbert had requested that Judge Stevens be removed from two cases for other inflammatory comments he had made online.

Judge Stevens responded to the request for dismissal by making an online post rebutting Wine's request and posted that going to the Kentucky Supreme Court to protect the rights of selecting all-white juries for litigation purposes was not where the judicial process should be in the year 2015. Chief Justice Minton ordered Judge Stevens and Wine to undergo mediation conducted by a four-person panel but did not remove the Judge from all criminal cases ruling that "disqualification from all criminal cases would be highly disruptive not only for the litigants but for the justice system as a whole".

On April 1, 2016, Judge Stevens filed a federal lawsuit against the Kentucky Judicial Conduct Commission citing violations of his First Amendment rights. He claimed that by sending him a notification saying that the Commission intended to "sanction, suspend or remove" him from the bench because of his comments posted on Facebook, his constitutional rights had been violated. The Kentucky Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

On March 16, 2016, the Kentucky State Court of made a ruling that Judge Stevens had not followed state law in dismissing the jury. The state law dictated that law requires the jury pool to have a cross-section of the community, but not necessarily the jury panel. The Appellate Court ordered Judge Stevens to refrain from further dismissals of juries unless he followed the statutes of the state law.

That same month, the Kentucky Judicial Conduct Commission charged Judge Stevens with six counts of judicial misconduct surrounding the disagreements he had with Tom Wine. According to the Commission's ruling, Judge Stevens violated judicial ethics rules by posting on Facebook that Wine was a racist who wants "all-white juries" and for calling defense attorneys hypocrites for not supporting him. Judge Stevens was suspended with pay while the Judicial Conduct Commission completed its' thorough investigation.

In August, all sides came to a settlement agreement and Judge Stevens withdrew his federal lawsuit against the Commission. He made a statement indicating that he recognized the seriousness of making accusations against someone, either expressly or implicitly, of being a racist. He apologized for his statements about Wine and Wine issued a statement accepting the apology. In the end, Judge Stevens served a ninety-day suspension without pay. The Commission accepted the agreement voting 6-0 in favor.

Judge Stevens has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisville Bar Association, and the Kentucky Circuit Judges Association. He has been given numerous awards including having received the General Practice Link Bar Leader of the Year Award from the American Bar Association, the Adopted Alumni Society Award from the University of Louisville in Kentucky, and the Legal Aid Society's Outstanding Volunteer Lawyer Award.





BRYAN A. STEVENSON

...received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1985. He earned his Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He remained at Harvard

to obtain his Juris Doctorate degree from the Harvard School of Law.

When Stevenson began his law degree, he turned his attention to the needs of capital defendants and death row prisoners in the Deep South. He first became a staff attorney with the Southern Center for Human Rights based in Atlanta, Georgia. Four years later, in 1989, he founded and became the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a private, nonprofit law organization headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama. EJI gives its attention to social justice and human rights needs in the context of criminal justice reform in the United States. Stevenson and EJI represents juvenile offenders, people wrongly convicted or charged with alleged crimes, condemned prisoners, poor people denied effective legal representation, and others whose trials are marked by racial bias or prosecutorial misconduct.

In 1998, Stevenson joined the clinical faculty at New York University School of Law in New York City. In joining the law school staff, he was presented with an excellent opportunity to explore new ways to train law students to consider serving the legal needs of the poor. His faculty position also gave him an audience in which he could persuade future law students to consider serving the indigent and deprived regions of the country, such as America's Deep South.

Stevenson and the EJI both have always served as advocates for the elimination of unfair sentencing for the convicted, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, and confronting the abuse of the incarcerated as well as the mentally ill. Another important focus of the EJI is aiding children that have been or are in the process of being prosecuted as adults. Under the leadership of Stevenson, EJI has provided a safe haven and given great hope to those who have become unable to fend for themselves whether guilty by association, circumstance, family dis-

cord, family dysfunction, or simply by having become a victim of life's misfortune.

Stevenson has successfully argued cases before the United States Supreme Court, including winning an historic ruling that made mandatory life without parole sentences for all children seventeen years or younger unconstitutional. Stevenson, along with his gifted legal staff, have won well needed reversals, relief or release for over one hundred and fifteen wrongly condemned prisoners awaiting death on death row. He has initiated significant anti-poverty and anti-discrimination policies that challenge the legacy of racial inequality in the United States, including major projects aimed at educating communities about slavery, lynching and racial segregation in modern day America.

Stevenson has served as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Michigan School of Law and has published several widely disseminated publications centered on capital litigation. He has written extensively on capital punishment, civil rights issues, and criminal justice. He also penned the New York Times Bestseller, "Just Mercy", which won the 2015 Carnegie Medal for Best Non-Fiction, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the NAACP Image Award for Best Non-Fiction.

Stevenson has won national acclaim for his dedicated work on behalf of the imprisoned or those facing imprisonment. He was the 1989 recipient of the Reebok Human Rights Award, the 1991 ACLU National Medal of Liberty, the 1995 prestigious MacArthur Fellowship "Genius" Award Prize, the 1996 National Association of Public Interest Lawyers' Public Interest Lawyer of the Year, and the 2000 Olaf Palme Prize for international human rights. Stevenson has been given a 2004 Award for Courageous Advocacy from the American College of Trial Lawyers, a 2004 Lawyer for the People Award from the National Lawyers Guild, and a 2006 Distinguished Teaching Award from NYU. He has also received twenty-six honorary degrees from several universities, including the Georgetown University School of Law, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and the University of Pennsylvania.



J OYCELYN STEVENSON

...graduated high school from Mount de Sales Academy in Catonsville, Maryland in 1994 before entering Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1998.

While at Howard, she made the Dean's List in the Honors Program and became a member of both the Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha.

To obtain her law degree, Stevenson attended Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville, Tennessee. At Vanderbilt, she was a member of the schools Moot Court Board and the Journal of Entertainment Law and Practice. She graduated from Vanderbilt in 2001.

After leaving Vanderbilt, Stevenson became an associate attorney at the law firm of Boulton Cummings Connors and Berry, PLC. She remained with the firm for seven years. She then became a private practicing attorney as a partner with the law firm of Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP. During that time, she served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at her alma mater, Vanderbilt University Law School teaching for only one semester.

At Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP, Stevenson served as the lead attorney and primary case manager for the firm's commercial and employment litigation department. She represented corporations and hospitals throughout the country by providing initial and supplemental case analysis, conducting interviews and preparing witnesses for depositions and trials, and overseeing the document productions needed to support litigations. Stevenson drafted pre-trial motions, participated in bench and jury trials, and handled any employee issues related with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and all state human rights commissions.

For the law firm, Stevenson was responsible for the negotiation of contractual agreements, including business acquisition and lease agreements, independent contractor agreements, noncompetition agreements, and separation of employment agreements. She conducted on and off-site training programs for employees and managers for the firm and for clients needing those services as required by the EEOC. Stevenson also advised

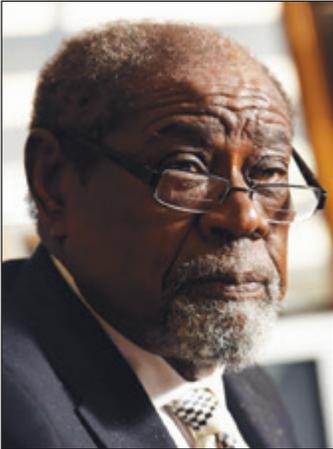
the firm's clients on issues surrounding immigration laws, filed nonimmigrant employment visa petitions for client's employees, and advised her clients on I-9 audits and compliance regulations.

Stevenson served as a member of the firm's Hiring Committee for eight years. She also served as a lead attorney in the firm's partnership with the Tennessee Justice Center. For the Center, Stevenson assisted Tennessee residents with their TennCare appeals process. TennCare is a division of Tennessee's Health Care Finance and Administration department.

In 2013, Stevenson became a shareholder in the law firm of Littler Mendelson, P.C. in Nashville. The firm is the largest labor and employment firm in the United States. For the law firm, Stevenson served as the lead attorney and manager of employment litigation for companies throughout the country. She also advised companies on their hiring and firing practices as well as discrimination and retaliation claims under Title VII, the ADEA, the ADA, the FMLA, and state laws.

In 2016, Stevenson became the President of the Nashville Bar Association. She had previously served as President of the Lawyers' Association for Women and as President of the Council on Aging of Greater Nashville. She was the first African American woman to serve as President of both the Bar Association and the Lawyer's Association. Stevenson also served as the Secretary of the Nashville Farmer's Market Board.

Stevenson has been awarded the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's Nashville Emerging Leaders Award in the legal services category. She has received the Napier Looby Bar Association's J.C. Napier Trailblazing Award, a Nashville Chamber Emerging Leader Award, and the Nashville Business Journal's 40 under 40 Award. Stevenson also received a Nashville Athena Young Professionals Award.



DELANO S. STEWART

...attended high school in the public schools of Tampa and Hillsborough County, Florida. He was raised in a working class family with his father, Garland Stewart serving as a role model who achieved notoriety amongst Tampa's residents. His father was a Principal in a local Tampa middle

school and had lost an arm when he was a child in a conveyor belt accident. Despite having only one arm, Garland used a prosthetic and did not let his handicap become a deterrent of what he could and could not do. A well-respected man, the Tampa school district would name a middle school in his honor, the Garland V. Stewart Middle Magnet School.

Stewart knew he wanted to become a lawyer at an early age. He was twelve years old when he met famed attorney and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall when Marshall paid a visit to Tampa to assist and campaign for African American teachers to gain equal pay for their services. Stewart's father was also a civil rights pioneer and after meeting Marshall, the young Stewart knew that fighting for others rights was his calling. He joined in with other civil rights activists in their causes and even attended the 1963 March on Washington to hear Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his famous "I Have A Dream" speech.

Delano received his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. To obtain his law degree, he attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School. After completing his law school studies, Stewart returned to Tampa to begin his law degree. Because of his name and his academic achievements, five months after returning to Hillsborough County, Stewart was named as a Board Member for the Hillsborough County Young Democrats. He was the first African-American to be named to the Board.

In his first legal professional job, in 1966, Stewart became the first African-American Assistant Public Defender in Hillsborough County. He worked as an Assistant Public Defender for just six months, leaving after he was skipped over for a promotion, which was given to a newly hired white law school graduate having less qualifications than he did. Feeling disrespected, something his father taught him to never accept, Stewart left the Public Defender's Office entering private practice.

He began to represent clients that were either picked on or discriminated against because they were African American. He made it a priority to attempt to change the views of people who viewed blacks as being inferior and used himself as a symbol of accomplishment of what African Americans could become. He touted his achievements as an inspiration for other African-Americans to strive for.

Stewart's philosophy that he learned from a teacher early on was that one day, no matter what, he would die. There was no alternative to death and no one could control when they died. What

they could control was how they lived. He believed that if one pursued what they believed in, death is inconsequential.

Stewart was selected to serve as an administrator to the Hillsborough County School District. He was the first African-American administrator to serve on the School Board and played a pivotal role in integrating the county's schools. He serves as the Supervisor of Negro Education. In that role, Stewart used his power to show other African American students, teachers, and parents that history has taught that power is usually taken or those that have it will only share it out of fear of losing it. He willingly shared his power with other African Americans so they could provide or obtain a better education. He believed that by sharing power a strong community could be built.

In June of 1967, a riot broke out in Tampa after a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black teenager. Nearly one thousand law enforcement officers were called in to quell the rioting. Once the riot ended, Stewart and others local community leaders persuaded the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to form a citizen's patrol, which was made up of young African American youth. The youth walked the cities neighborhoods helping to keep the peace. The young civil patrol city residents were known as the "White Hats", as each of them wore white headgear to show solidarity and to be easily recognized. The patrol received international press coverage for their work keeping peace in the city.

Following the riot, the city of Tampa made a concerted effort to bring more African Americans into City Hall. The Mayor's office hired its' first African American secretary and an African American was selected to head the Tampa Housing Authority. The city would integrate its' fire department and hired African American Assistant City Attorneys.

In 1970, Stewart integrated his law firm and hired its' first white attorney, Martin Lawyer III. In hiring Lawyer, Stewart's law firm became the first integrated law firm in the history of the state of Florida. Rather than attempt other lawyers to integrate their own law firms as African Americans were trying to integrate white institutions, he decided to make the reverse integration himself. Integrating his law firm was one of the high marks in Stewart's legal career.

In 1971, Stewart entered the race for a seat on the Tampa City Council. Unfortunately, he lost his bid for the seat, which would have made him the first African American to be elected to the City Council. It would be twelve years later before an African American would sit on the City Council with the distinction going to Perry Harvey Jr. in 1983.

Stewart was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. He was the first African American to sit on the Board. He became a member of the Rough Riders Civic Club and became its' first African American member. He also founded the George Edgecomb Bar Association, Tampa's predominantly African American bar association, and founded the Tampa Organization of Black Affairs, an organization that pursued economic, political education, and youth development. For his many years of service to Hillsborough County, the Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award was created and is given annually to an individual for their lifetime achievements to the improvement of the lives of African-Americans and has promoted diversity in the legal profession.



M cCANTS STEWART

...was born on July 11, 1877 in Brooklyn, New York as the eldest son of Charlotte L. Harris Stewart and of Thomas McCants Stewart. Both his parents were college educated with his father serving as a lawyer, a confidant of Booker T. Washington, and

as an Associate Justice to the Liberia, African Supreme Court.

After attending the public schools in Brooklyn, Stewart entered Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama at the age of sixteen. Although his father was a follower of Washington's self-reliance philosophy, Stewart himself was not. He was eventually expelled from Tuskegee but was later readmitted graduating in 1896.

Stewart returned to New York and earned his law degree from the New York University's School of Law. To begin his legal career, he took a job in his father's law office as an associate attorney. He worked at his father's law firm for one year before moving to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he enrolled into the University of Minnesota Law School to further his legal education. At Minnesota, Stewart served on the school's newspaper staff and was active in the literary society. He was elected as the Secretary of his senior class and Sheriff of the Moot Court. He also worked for the Twin City American, a local newspaper, and the Afro-American Advance, another local paper.

While at the law school, Stewart sued a local restaurant for discrimination after being denied service. The restaurant owner had previously allowed African Americans service but after white patrons began not patronizing the establishment, he barred blacks entry. The owner was found in violation of the amendments that prohibited segregation and was fined.

After receiving his LL.B., as the first African American to receive an LL.B. from the University of Minnesota, he began practicing law in Minneapolis and St. Paul. He married Mary Delia "Mayme" Weir and bore one child, Mary Katherine. He kept his job at the local newspapers to supplement his income and began to build his law firm. Stewart became a member of the Republican Party and in 1902 he was elected as the Secretary of the Hennepin County Republican Club.

In 1904, Stewart decided to move to Oregon to test the open market for African American attorneys. In passing the state bar in Oregon, he became the first African American lawyer to practice law in the state of Oregon. He took a job as a Public Defender in the Portland court representing the small African American population residing in the city.

Stewart struggled with his law practice in Portland as whites refused to hire him for their legal needs. The African American population consisted of less than 1% of city residents and the educated African Americans did not need his services

so he focused on Japanese immigrants and their legal needs. After obtaining a few significant cases heard before the Oregon Supreme Court, the first African American attorney to appear before the court, Stewart gained a reputation as an able attorney. He began to take on discrimination cases and became successful in the cases he litigated.

In 1906, Stewart served as legal counsel in the "Taylor v. Cohn" case. The case involved the segregated practices of a Portland movie theater. Oliver Taylor, an African American Pullman car porter, had been denied general seating at the theatre and was forced to sit in the balcony. The Court ruled in favor of the theatre with Stewart making an appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court. The Supreme Court overruled the lower Court and a judgment was entered in Taylor's favor.

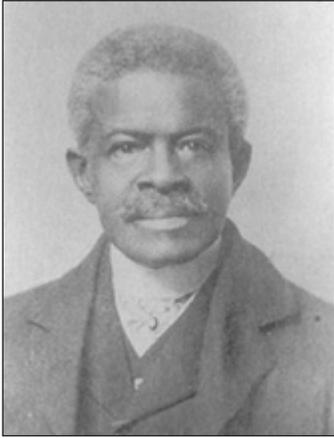
Although he was winning cases, Taylor still struggled financially. He had made investments into several private businesses, however, none brought financial security. He took on a job at The Advocate, the second oldest African American newspaper in Portland. Several years later, the building that housed Stewart's law office burned down and the newspaper gave him offices in their facilities from which he continued his practice until renovations were made to the burnt building.

Stewart went on to represent clients in areas of defamation, other discrimination cases, and employment issues. He became an outspoken advocate for oppressed African Americans arriving from the segregated South and fought to end lynchings that were occurring across the country. He even spoke out against then President Woodrow Wilson who Stewart did not feel was doing enough to end lynching.

In 1908, then Democratic Governor George Earle Chamberlain appointed Stewart as the Oregon Representative to the National Negro Fair held in Mobile, Alabama as the keynote speaker. He was then named by then Governor as the Chief Commissioner to then President William Howard Taft's National Emancipation Commemoration Society. In 1909, while running to catch a streetcar, Stewart slipped and fell causing severe damage to his left leg, which called for it to be amputated. Walking with a prosthetic leg, he soon developed eye problems. Unable to work for a period, he had to rely on charity to survive before returning to practice law.

Stewart decided to move to San Francisco, California in an attempt to improve his lifestyle. With his departure from Portland, the African American community was left with an African American attorney to represent their needs. In California, he met respected attorney Oscar Hudson and the two opened a law firm together.

Although life in San Francisco was better for him than Portland, Stewart still struggled financially in his practice. On April 14, 1919, with his eyesight almost gone and unable to read briefs and the newspaper, he wrote a farewell letter to his partner and family and then committed suicide by shooting himself in his head. Stewart was only forty-two years old.



THOMAS McCANTS STEWART

...was born on December 28, 1853 in Charleston, South Carolina to Anna Morris Stewart and George Gilchrist Stewart. He graduated from a Charleston's Avery Normal Institute before entering

Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1869 at the age of fifteen. While studying at Howard, Stewart was a contributor of articles published in the local African American newspaper, the Washington, D.C. New National Era.

Before completing his studies at Howard, Stewart transferred to the University of South Carolina at Columbia where he graduated in 1875 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He was one of the first African Americans to attend and graduate from the University. He remained at the University attending the law school where he received his LL.B. degree.

After graduation, Stewart married Charlotte Pearl Harris and taught mathematics at the State Agricultural and Mechanical College in Orangeburg between 1877 and 1878. He also he joined the law firm of South Carolina Congressman Robert Brown Elliott.

After completing his law degree, took a position teaching Mathematics at the State Agricultural and Mechanical College in Orangeburg, now the South Carolina State University. He taught at the school for only one year, and that year he married Charlotte Pearl. Stewart then joined the law firm of South Carolina Congressmen Robert B. Elliott and D. Augustus Straker.

Stewart then joined the faculty as a Professor of Mathematics at the State Agricultural College. He later left South Carolina to enroll into Princeton College in Princeton, New Jersey to study religion. Two years later, Stewart became an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and served as the Pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in New York City, New York.

In 1883, after become a close friend of Booker T. Washington, Stewart moved to Liberia, Africa to become a Professor at Liberia College. Following Washington's philosophy of self-reliance, he taught students on improving themselves and to not rely on others for a handout.

After serving for two years in Liberia, Stewart returned to the United States and settled in Brooklyn, New York.

Back in the states, Stewart became active in politics and joined the Democratic Party. He later became the President of the Brooklyn Literary Union before becoming a member of the Brooklyn School Board where he served for three years. As a member of the School Board, he was pivotal in the establishment of Public School Number 83 in Weeksville, the first officially mixed-race public school to have an African American, Maritcha Lyons, as the Supervisor of teachers.

In 1998, Stewart left New York and moved to Hawaii where he remained for seven years before relocating to London, England in 1905. Six years later, he returned to Liberia to become an Associate Justice on the Liberian Supreme Court. After serving as an Associate Justice for three years, Judge Stewart became critical of then President Daniel Edward Howard, which resulted in his removal from the Supreme Court. He left Liberia in 1914 returning to London.

Judge Stewart remained in London for the next seven years before moving to the U.S. Virgin Islands where he continued to practice law. He partnered with attorney Christopher Payne to form a new law firm and practiced alongside Payne for two years. While practicing law, he wrote three books, "Liberia: the Americo-African Republic: Being Some Impressions of the Climate, Resources, and People, Resulting from Personal Observations and Experiences in West Africa"; "Revised Statutes of the Republic of Liberia: Being a Revision of the Statutes from the Organization of the Government"; and "and Including the Acts of the Legislature of 1910-1911", published posthumously.

Judge Stewart died in St. Thomas Virgin Islands on January 7, 1923. He was sixty-nine years old. At his funeral, his casket was draped in the Liberian flag, a choice made by Judge Stewart before his death. Ironically, Judge Stewart son, McCants Stewart, also became a lawyer and was the first African American attorney to practice in the state of Oregon.



CARL BURTON STOKES

...was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Charles Stokes and Louise Stokes. Carl's father, a laundryman, died when Carl was three years old. His mother was left to raise Carl and his brother,

Louis, alone in Cleveland's first federally funded housing project for the poor, Outhwaite Homes. A good student, Stokes dropped out of high school, worked briefly at Thompson Products (renamed TRW), then joined the U.S. Army at age 18. After his discharge in 1946, Stokes returned to Cleveland and earned his high school diploma.

He attended several colleges before earning his Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He graduated from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1956 and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1957. While studying law, he was a Probation Officer. For four years, he served Assistant Prosecutor and became partner in the law firm of Stokes, Stokes, continuing that practice well into his political career. The law firm became successful after one year.

In 1962, he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives and served three terms. Doing his time in the House, he worked hard to make the legislative districts more even. At the time, Ohio had uneven representation among its Congressional and General Assembly districts. By the late 1960s, he found a district that could elect him to Congress. Instead of running, he deferred to his brother, Louis Stokes, who ran, won, and for three decades represented Cleveland in the US House of Representatives. In 1965, Carl ran for Mayor of Cleveland but lost the bid. He ran again two years later and his victory drew national attention, as he was the first black Mayor of one of the ten biggest cities in the United States.

Stokes defeated Seth Taft, the grandson of former President William Howard Taft, beating him by a 50% margin. Cleveland was a majority white city having a 37% black population. Most of his support came from businessmen living outside the city limits. He received great support for two lawyers, Ralph Besse and Elmer Lindseth, directors and officers of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company who wanted Stokes to rein in the City's Municipal Electric and Light Plant. Unfortunately,

Stokes's efforts were thwarted by a city councilman whose wards took advantage of a cheaper product.

As Mayor, Stokes Opened up city hall jobs And Contracts to blacks and women. He was a strong administrator, and is known for his vision and motivation. Although he feuded With the City Council and the Police Department for most of his tenure, He was able to also initiate "Cleveland: Now!", a public and private funding program aimed at the revitalization of Cleveland neighborhoods. The campaign was enough to reelected him in 1969.

After serving as Mayor, Stokes lectured to colleges and universities around the country. In 1970, the National League of Cities voted him its first black President-Elect. In 1972, he became the first black anchorman in New York City when he took a job with television station WNBC-TV. While at WNBC New York, Stokes won a New York State Regional Emmy for excellence in his craft, for a airing a segment about the opening of the Paul Robeson play on Broadway, starring James Earl Jones. After not being able to secure a national position on NBC in 1980, he returned to Cleveland and began serving as general legal counsel for the United Auto Workers.

From 1983 to 1994, he served as municipal Judge in Cleveland. He was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles by President Bill Clinton. While serving as Ambassador to the Seychelles. Stokes was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus and placed on medical leave. He returned to Cleveland and died at the Cleveland Clinic. His funeral was held at Cleveland Music Hall, presided over by the Rev. Otis Moss. and was carried on WERE radio. Stokes was buried at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Stokes has been awarded twelve honorary degrees, numerous civic awards, and represented the United States on numerous goodwill trips abroad by request of the White House. The U.S. Federal Courthouse Tower in downtown Cleveland, completed in 2002, was named the Carl B. Stokes Federal Court House Building. There are many other buildings, monuments and a street named for his memory within the City of Cleveland including the CMHA Carl Stokes Center, Stokes Boulevard, and the Carl Stokes Brigade Club. Every year at Lakeview Cemetery, members of the Brigade celebrate his birthday with a commemorative gravesite services.

In November 2006, the Western Reserve Historical Society opened an exhibit entitled, "Carl and Louis Stokes: from Projects to Politics", which focused on the brothers' early life at the Outhwaite projects, their service in World War II, and their eventual rise to politics. The exhibit ran through September of 2008. 



CHARLES MOOREHEAD STOKES

...was born on February 1, 1902 in Fredonia, Kansas but raised in Pratt, Kansas to Myrtle Garner Stokes and Reverend Norris Jefferson Stokes. He received his undergraduate degree and from the University

of Kansas. He received his law degree from the University's law school in 1931.

For the next several years, Stokes practiced law in Leavenworth, Kansas litigating a wide variety of cases. He then took a job as an Assistant Attorney working for the Kansas State Revenue Commission in Topeka, Kansas before deciding to leave Kansas to move to Seattle, Washington. In 1943, he began to practice law. He became successful in his law practice, as there were very few African American attorneys in Seattle at that time.

Stokes became involved in the civil rights issues of Seattle and joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a lobbyist, he assisted in enacting several laws that significantly impacted citizens in the state of Washington. He became an Executive member of the Washington State Committee Against Discrimination in Employment, which was instrumental in the passage of the 1949 Washington State Fair Employment Practices Act.

In 1950, Stokes, as a Republican, was elected to a seat in the Washington State House of Representatives representing the state's 37th legislative district. He became the first African-American to represent King County and the second African American in state history to occupy a seat in the House. Stokes did well while serving, so much so that by the end of his first term, he was selected the "Outstanding Freshman Legislator" by the Young Republican Club. He later became the first African American Vice President of the Young Republican National Federation. He also co-sponsored the Civil Rights Omnibus Bill, which placed Washington in the national forefront of civil rights legislation in the country.

In 1952, Stokes was re-elected to his seat in the House. That year, he joined the campaign of Presidential candidate Dwight Eisenhower serving as a Delegate to

the Republican National Convention. At the Convention, Stokes was selected to deliver a speech from the platform.

In 1954, Stokes made a run for a seat in the Washington State Senate. He was unsuccessful in his bid but two years later, he recaptured his House seat and returned to the Washington House of Representatives. He served for two more years before being defeated in the 1958 election by Democrat Sam Smith.

In 1960, Stokes opted to run for the Lieutenant Governor of Washington job. He was again unsuccessful in his bid. He then became the head of the presidential nomination campaign of Republican Nelson Rockefeller.

Stokes left politics to co-found radio station KZAM-AM and Liberty Bank. In 1968, the bank was absorbed by Emerald City Bank, which in turn was taken over by Key-Bank. That same year, Stokes was appointed as a District Court Judge to fill a vacancy. Judge Stokes remained with the Court until his retirement in 1978.

In 1962, Stokes joined with fellow attorneys Charles V. Johnson and William 'Fred' Lockhart to form one of the first African American law firms in Seattle. From the law firm, two of the partners would go on to become King County Judges and Stokes became one of those judges in 1968. He became the first African American to be appointed to the King County District Court.

During that same year, Stokes assisted in the founding of the Loren Miller Bar Club. He remained a member of the Court for ten years retiring from the bench in 1978. Charles Moorehead Stokes died of cancer in 1996. He was ninety-three years old. In his honor, the Seattle Freeway Park named a section of the I-90 freeway in Stokes' honor, the Judge Charles M. Stokes Overlook. In addition, his daughter, Stephanie Stokes Oliver, the former Editor of Essence Magazine, wrote a biography of her father, "Song for My Father: Memoir of an All-American Family".



LOUIS STOKES

...was born on February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Charles and Louise Cinthy (Stone) Stokes. Louis and his brother Carl B. Stokes lived in one of the first federally funded housing projects, the Outhwaite Homes.

Carl attended Central High School. Stokes served in the U.S. Army from 1943-46. After attending Western Reserve University and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law on the G.I. Bill.

Stokes began practicing law in Cleveland in 1953. He argued the “stop and frisk” case of *Terry v. Ohio* before the United States Supreme Court in 1968 before being elected to the House, representing the 21st District of Ohio on Cleveland’s East Side. Following the 1992 redistricting, he shifted to the newly created 11th District, covering much of the same area. Stokes served thirty years in The House of Representatives, retiring in 1999.

Stokes’ tenure in the House of Representatives included service on the House Appropriations Committee, where he was influential in bringing revenue to Cleveland. His interest lay particularly in veterans’ issues as he secured funds for health-care facilities for veterans in Cleveland.

In the 1970s, Stokes served as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, with his charges being investigating the murders of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.. He served on the House committee that investigated the Iran-Contra Affair. As Chairman of the House Ethics Committee, he oversaw the Committee’s investigation of the corruption scandal ABSCAM in 1979-80, which eventually led to convictions of one senator and six House members. Recalling Stokes diligence during those hearings, U.S. Attorney Steven Dettelbach said: *“We were in the midst of a huge ... corruption scandal, and public service was taking a public beating. But Lou Stokes was there as a shining beacon of integrity, of excellence and most important of all for us, of justice.”*

In 1992, Stokes ran for President as Ohio’s favorite son, winning the Delegates from his home district in Ohio. Seeing defeat in the wings, at the Democratic con-

vention, he refused to release his Delegate’s votes until the Clinton campaign formally asked for them. In 2012, Stokes retired as Senior Counsel in the law firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, with offices in Cleveland and Washington.

From 2006-08, the Western Reserve Historical Society opened an exhibition on the lives of Congressman Stokes and his brother titled *“Carl and Louis Stokes: From the Projects to Politics”*. The exhibit uses photographs, manuscript collections, and personal items to showcase Louis Stokes’ rise from the Outhwaite housing projects, his legal career, and his Congressional service. The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority opened the Louis Stokes Museum on September 13, 2007. This Museum houses Stokes memorabilia, video interviews, video footage, awards and a written history about him and his rise to prominence.

The former Congressman was inducted into the Karumu House Hall of Fame in 2007 for his contributions to the continued legacy of Cleveland’s black settlement house and theatre. Many buildings throughout the country have been named in Stokes honor including Howard University’s medical library, the Cleveland Public Library’s main building expansion, and the GCRTA’s Windermere station, aptly named the Louis Stokes Station at Windermere. The greater Cleveland area Veteran’s hospital was renamed the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center on the campus of the National Institutes of Health is named the Louis Stokes Laboratories.

On July 20, 2015, it was reported that Stokes had both brain cancer and lung cancer. He died on August 18, 2015 at his home in Cleveland from the diseases at the age of ninety. He was a Prince Hall Freemason, and a member of the Cleveland Alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.



JUANITA KIDD STOUT

...was born on March 7, 1919 in Wewoka, Oklahoma to Mary and Henry Kidd. Both of his parents were schoolteachers but received less pay than their white counterparts

due to teaching in segregated schools. Stout learned to reach at the age of three and at six years old, he was enrolled into his elementary school's third grade. At sixteen, Stout was enrolling into college.

Stout began her collegiate career at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa majoring in Music. While in college, she became a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, she returned to Oklahoma and accepted a job as a music teacher.

With the breakout of World War II, Stout traveled with a group of other young women to work in Washington, D.C. where she served as a legal dictator for famed attorney William H. Hastie and began her law studies. She then moved to Bloomington, Indiana to attend Indiana University's Law School. Her husband, Charles Otis Stout was attending the university to obtain a Doctorate degree. Stout would receive her LL.M. degree from Indiana's law school as well in 1954.

In 1950, Stout and her husband moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania after she received an invitation to work for attorney Hastie, who she had worked for several years previously and had been appointed to the Court of Appeals. Stout worked for Hastie for four years before opening her own law firm in 1954. She later joined the District of Columbia's District Attorney's office where she built a reputation for successfully prosecuting criminal cases.

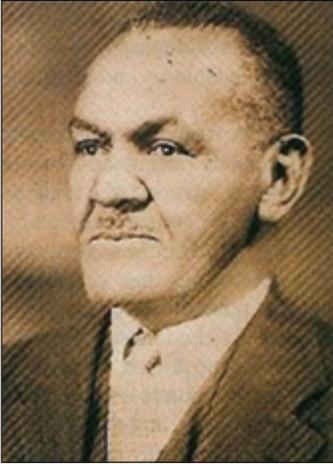
In 1959, Stout was appointed by then Pennsylvania Governor David L. Lawrence as a Judge to the Municipal Court in Philadelphia. She became the first African-American woman in the state to serve as a judge in the state of Pennsylvania. She was elected to a full ten-year term in the next election becoming the first African American woman to be elected to the state post.

Stout was later elevated to the Court of Common Pleas where she presided over homicide cases. In 1988,

she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania serving as the first African-American woman in the United States to serve on the Supreme Court of any state in the United States. Later that year, Stout's husband, Charles, died. She would serve for only one more year on the bench before she reached the mandatory retirement age of seventy years old.

For her legal accomplishments, Stout was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania City Courthouse was renamed in her honor, the Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice and the National Association of Women Judges presented her with its' Justice of the Year Award. Stout was presented with the Sandra Day O'Connor Award by the Philadelphia Bar Association and given a Legend of the Bar Award by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Judge Juanita Kidd Stout died in Philadelphia in 1998. She was seventy-nine years old.



JOHN THE BAPTIST J.B. STRADFORD

...was born in 1861 a slave in Versailles, Kentucky. He received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. He obtained his law degree from the Indiana Law School in Bloomington, Indiana.

He married his wife, Augusta, and the two would live in several cities where he practiced law, including Lawrenceburg, Ken-

tucky before settling in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1899 after the discovery of oil and the Indian Territory moved toward statehood. Stradford would become the richest African American in Tulsa and owned a rooming house, rental properties, and the largest African American-owned hotel in the United States. He advocated equal treatment and racial solidarity for African Americans and strove to improve the economic lives of the community in which he lived.

After Oklahoma became a state in 1906 and the oil boom was in its' stride, Stradford became a pivotal force in the development of the Greenwood section of Tulsa. The Greenwood neighborhood would become the richest neighborhood for African Americans in the United States and became known as "Black Wall Street". The three major intersecting streets of Greenwood, Archer, and Pine would years later become the acronym for the world famous R&B musical band, The Gap Band featuring Charlie Wilson.

In 1916, Stradford brought protests to the Tulsa City Commission for its' segregation ordinances that he claimed casted a stigma upon African Americans in the eyes of the world and sapped the spirit of hope for justice before the law from the race itself. He acknowledged that the upside of segregation and Tulsa's black community was that the "white" dollars earned by black Tulsans stayed in Greenwood's Black Wall Street bringing riches to black merchants. Tulsa's white business and civic leaders were not happy with Stradford's rhetoric.

In his attempts to keep Black Wall Street prosperous, Stradford and Tulsa newspaperman, A.J. Smitherman invited W.E.B. Du Bois, the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University to speak in Tulsa in March of 1921. Du Bois told the gathered crowd that the hatred in the white man's heart was still strong and the only way to fight hate was with hate. He urged the crowd that when the lynching mobs came to take defense and arm themselves stating that the black community in Tulsa and across the nation had suffered enough.

In 1918, Stradford used his clout to aggressively litigate cases for black social justice. He defended clients that suffered from the Jim Crow laws that had made their way into Oklahoma since the Indian Territory was made a state in 1906. He stopped a lynch mob from hanging a black man in Bristow, Oklahoma and once almost killed a white man beating him severely for making a racist remark about Stradford's skin color while walking down the street in Black Wall Street. Other African American men who witnessed the beating had to pull Stradford off of the white man telling him not to kill him less he himself would be hanged for killing a white man.

Stradford was not one to suffer indignities from anyone. Once, while riding an interstate train, as the train crossed over into Oklahoma territory, he was asked to move from the luxury train car that he had paid to ride in to the back of the train where blacks were made to ride

due to the Jim Crow laws established in Oklahoma after statehood. Refusing to move from his seat, he was forcibly removed by the conductor and other passengers. He ultimately sued the Midland Valley Railroad for false imprisonment, however, the courts ruled against his claims, which angered many in the black community.

Stradford then decided to build a swank hotel to rival those that existed in white downtown Tulsa. Having amassed a great deal of money, he set out to build the famous, "Stradford Hotel. The three-story pressed brick and stone slab building cost him a hefty \$50,000 and was designated to serve black guests only. Unfortunately, he became cash strapped and needed to borrow money to complete the hotels construction. The hotel opened for business on June 1, 1918 and was one of the largest black-owned hotels in the country and became a centerpiece of Black Wall Street.

By 1921, Greenwood had become the political and economic center of black success in the country with the Black Wall Street having a robust and profitable amount of black businesses, including hotels, restaurants, private business, butchers, doctors, and even had its' own movie theater. The area would soon become involved in a race riot that would destroy the area and see it burnt and bombed. Many African American residents were killed in the rioting by white Tulsans in response to a story of an African American youth assaulting a white woman.

On May 30, 1921, Dick Rowland allegedly attempted to rape a seventeen-year-old white girl, Sarah Page, an elevator operator in a Tulsa hotel. He was arrested claiming his innocence stating that the elevator had merely jolted and he fell into the white woman operator. After his arrest, word began to circulate in the black neighborhood that a white vigilante mob had descended upon the Tulsa jail with threats of removing Rowland to have him hung. African American's armed themselves and went to the jail at the County Courthouse to protect Rowland. A scuffle ensued and gunfire erupted, which set off the infamous Tulsa Race Riot of 1921.

White vigilantes, with the support of the Klu Klux Klan and the Oklahoma National Guard, arrested everyone in the black neighborhood, killing hundreds, and burnt the thirty-five blocks of Black Wall Street to the ground after looting the businesses, including the Stradford Hotel. The Tulsa Race Riot was one of the most deadly riots in U.S. history. Stradford and other African American men were arrested and charged with igniting the riot. After making bail and under the threat of being killed, he jumped bail and fled to Chicago, Illinois. In Chicago, Stradford filed a lawsuit against the American Central Insurance Company in an attempt to recover some of his real estate losses from the Tulsa riot. He was not able to obtain a settlement as his insurance clause for damages caused by a riot knocked out any financial payments to Stradford. He lost all of his Tulsa investments. He would, however, go on to build some success by opening a candy store, a barbershop and a small pool hall in Chicago.

Seventy-five years after the infamous Tulsa Race Riot and after Stradford's relatives lobbied to clear his name, in 1996, City of Tulsa District Attorney Bill LaFortune made a motion to the Tulsa courts to vacate the charges against Stradford. Tulsa Judge Jessie Harris accepted the motion and a special ceremony was held to exonerate Stradford and restore honor to his name and to his contributions to the building of Black Wall Street. His descendants traveled from across the country, returning to Tulsa for the first time since 1921 to witness the ceremonial honor. John the Baptist Stradford was the first person indicted for the riot and was the last alleged outlaw exonerated. In essence, he was the first charged and the last freed.

John the Baptist Stradford died in 1935. He was seventy-four years old.





JOHN
H.
STROGER, JR.

was born May 19, 1929 in Helena, Arkansas. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1953. After graduation, he relocated to Chicago, Illinois where he became active in the Democratic Party of the South Side of Chicago.

A year after arriving in Chicago, Stroger was appointed as an Assistant Auditor with the Municipal Court of Chicago. He then became the Personnel Director for the Cook County Jail serving for six years. He then enrolled into Chicago's DePaul University College of Law graduating in 1965 with his Juris Doctorate degree. While studying for his law degree, Stroger worked as a Financial Director for the State of Illinois.

In 1968, Stroger ran for a seat as a Committeeman representing Chicago's Eight Ward. Two years later, he was elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners. While serving on the Board, Stroger would go on to chair every major committee the Board convened. He chaired the Finance Committee, the Health Committee, and the Building and Zoning Committee. He introduced new legislation to help minority and women owned businesses receive their fair share of contracts.

In 1994, Stroger was elected as the President of the Board of Commissioners. He would be elected as President in the next three elections. As Board President, Stroger set about to balance Cook County's \$2.9 billion budget. He instituted a Juvenile Drug Court to deal with the city's growing drug problem amongst Chicago's youth and created a Commission on Women's Issues to help women with domestic violence and other issues faced by Chicago's women residents. Stroger opened AIDS clinics and treatment facilities to combat the growing AIDS epidemic amongst Chicago's gay and drug addicted citizens.

Despite the advancements made under Stroger leadership, he came under increased fire in the later years of his presidency. His critics called his presidency one of scandal and patronage and his administration was designed to favor his supporters. His supporters, on the other hand, counterclaimed that he had dedicated his public career to providing quality and affordable health care

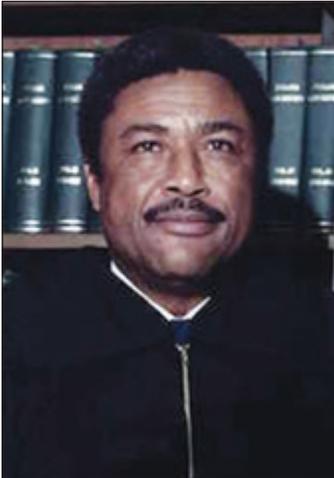
for the poorer residents of Cook County and was doing what was best for the people he served and not the power elite that controlled Chicago's base. While serving on the Board of Commissioners, to show appreciation for the work performed on behalf of Chicago and Cook County citizens, the new Cook County Hospital was renamed the John H. Stroger, Jr. Cook County Hospital in Stroger's honor.

Stroger has served on the Board of Directors to the Chicago Metropolitan Healthcare Council and the Board of South Shore Hospital. He served as the President of the National Association of Counties and served as a member of the Advisory Committee On Intergovernmental Relations. He was appointed to the Advisory Committee by then President Bill Clinton. Stroger was a member of the St. Felicitas Catholic Church located on the South Side of Chicago. He was married to his wife, Yonnie, and together they had three children, Todd, Yonnie Lynn and Hans Eric.

In 2006, Stroger removed his name from the Democratic ticket for Cook County Board President replacing it with his son, Todd Stroger. Some called the move nepotism while others applauded the legacy move. Todd would go on to win the general election winning fifty-four percent of the vote.

The elder Stroger's health began to fail having been a diabetic and had battled prostate cancer. He had undergone a quadruple heart bypass and suffered a severe stroke that left him partially paralyzed. After suffering seizures, Stroger was hospitalized and was never seen in public again.

John H. Stroger, Jr. died on January 18, 2008. He was seventy-eight years old. Before his death, he was able to cast an absentee ballot for Chicago Senator Barack Obama for the Presidency of the United States although he died before Obama took office.



JESSE NEALAND STONE, JR.

...was born on June 17, 1924 in Gibland of Bienville Parish, Louisiana. He received his law degree from Southern University's Law Center graduating in the first class the law school produced. After passing the bar exam,

Stone opened his law offices in Shreveport, Louisiana. In Shreveport, his law firm was the only African American law firm in the city.

After obtaining his law license, Stone became affiliated with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He also worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In affiliating himself with these civil rights organizations, Stone was able to work with Louisiana residents seeking relief from civil rights discrimination and racial discord. He also set his objective to desegregate the public schools of Louisiana.

As his legal reputation grew, Stone's prominence grew as well. He soon gained respect from then Governor John J. McKeithen who appointed Stone to a number of gubernatorial and legislative positions. He was soon chosen by McKeithen to become the Associate Director of the Louisiana Commission on Human Relations, Rights and Responsibilities. He later was appointed by McKeithen to be the Assistant State Superintendent of Education serving under then head of the Education Department, Bill Dodd. He was the first African-American to hold the position.

In 1971, Stone was chosen to become the Dean of his alma mater, Southern University Law Center. The following year, he was appointed as an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. He was the first African American to be named to the Supreme Court in Louisiana. In 1974, he left the Court to become the fourth President of the Southern University System. He would serve as the President of the University System for eleven years.

In 1985, Stone stepped down as the President. After leaving the Presidency, he became a professor of law at the Center. In addition to teaching, he became a member of the Southern Board of Supervisors, serving for four years.

He was the first inductee of the University's Hall of Fame and several years later an endowment was established in Stone's honor. The University also named a building on the school's campus after him, the Jesse N. Stone Lecture Hall. In addition, a commissioned judicial portrait of Stone was unveiled and installed at the Southern University Museum of Art in Shreveport.

After a long illness, Jesse Nealand Stone, Jr. died in his beloved Shreveport on May 14, 2001. He was seventy-seven years old.



CRAIG STEPHEN STRONG

...was born on September 5, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan to Manila Geraldine Powers Strong and Erman Strong. As a young man, Strong played the saxophone with the group the Junior Flips, was a Boy Scout, and served as a

school patrol. He attended Sampson Elementary School and graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1965, where he excelled in the sciences.

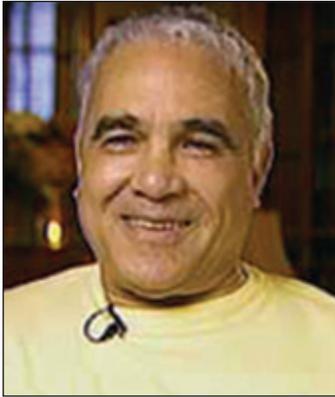
After graduating from Cass High, Strong enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1969. After completing his undergraduate studies, he was drafted into the military where he served in the Navy's Judges Advocacy Corps. He was the only African American serving in his unit at the time.

Returning from the military, Strong returned to Detroit and entered the Detroit College of Law where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1973. While earning his law degree, Strong worked for the Wayne County Legal Services for a period of time before taking a job with the Trade Union Leadership Council. After passing the Michigan State Bar exam, Strong then became an officer of the Wolverine Bar Association and eventually the President of the association. He was the youngest to serve as President at age twenty-nine.

Strong became active in Democratic Party politics and two years later was elected as a Judge the Detroit Records Court. He was later elected as a Judge to the 3rd District Michigan State Circuit Court. He was a founding member of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and was named as the association's President.

In 1997, Strong, an avid collector of African art and African American memorabilia, helped to establish the Charles Wright African American History Museum located in Detroit. For his dedicated work in establishing the museum and in leading fundraising efforts, Strong was presented with the Outstanding Museum Service efforts Award. As well as being an art lover, Judge Strong was a lover of fine clothing and the many photographs he took with national recognized celebrities stand as a testament to his sartorial taste.

Strong has served as the Judicial Chair of the National Bar Association (NBA) and was a member of a NBA delegation that traveled to South Africa for legislative matters. In South African, he served on the Supreme Court. Strong was also instrumental in the development of the International Black Bar Association. He was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Black United Fund of Michigan. He was also a member of the Masonic Temple in Detroit.



RUSSELL
BERTRAM
SUGARMAN, JR.

...was born on May 11, 1929 to Lessye Hank Sugarmon and Russell Sugarmon. He is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and attended local schools in Memphis. He attended

the Co-Operative Gammar School and Booker T. Washington High School graduating at the age of fifteen. He then enrolled into Morehouse University in Atlanta, Georgia where he began his undergraduate studies. He transferred, after his freshman year, to Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950. He obtained his J.D. degree from Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1953.

After completing law school, Sugarmon enlisted into the United States Army where he served for two years. He was stationed in Japan and received a Letter of Commendation for his service there. After being discharged from the Army, Sugarmon returned to the states and performed graduate work in Finance at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts before deciding to enter private practice back in his hometown of Memphis.

Sugarmon practiced law for three years in Memphis before deciding to run for the job of Public Works Commissioner. The racially charged race drew sharp lines in the political sand as he was the first African American to become a serious candidate for a major city office in Memphis and white opposition was massive. Outgoing commissioner, Henry Loeb, took an active participating role in the campaign and convinced other white candidates to withdraw from the election to keep the votes from being split amongst them, as Sugarmon was the only African American running in the race.

The white voters of Memphis united behind his opponent, Bill Ferris, the only white man remaining on the ballot by election time. Sugarmon lost his bid for the Commissioners job and Ferris assumed the position. Although he lost the race, the experience was a valuable lesson for him and other potential African Americans hoping to run for elected office and paved the way for them to become victorious in the future despite the extreme racism they may face.

Sugarmon joined with several other lawyers to form the law firm of Ratner, Sugarmon, Lucas, Willis and Cald-

well. He served as the founding partner of the firm. Several years later, Sugarmon was elected to the Tennessee Democratic Party's Executive Committee. Two years after that, he decided to re-enter the political arena and made a run for the Tennessee State Senate. He was successful in that attempt and took a seat in the state capitol.

In 1967, Sugarmon became a Referee to the Memphis Juvenile Court. He would serve the Court for the next eleven years and stepped down from the Juvenile Court bench to sit on the bench of the General Sessions. He was re-elected to the bench in the 1990 and the 1998 general elections.

That same year, Sugarmon was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives running as a Democrat. He represented the 11th District from 1967 to 1969. During that time, Judge Sugarmon had built a fine reputation as an elder statesman and was well liked by black and white litigants alike, his judicial peers, and the political establishment of Memphis. He was very active in the civic and political community groups in Memphis. He was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union. Both groups would give him honors and accolades for the dedicated work he performed on behalf of Memphis residents.

Judge Sugarmon was married twice. With his first wife, Miriam, he had four children and with his second wife, Regina, he had two stepchildren. One of his sons, Tarik, became a Memphis City Court Judge.



Q UENTIN T. SUMNER

...graduated received his law degree from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Law School in Durham, North Carolina. He followed future law partners Milton "Toby" Fitch, Jr., and

G.K. Butterfield who he would become partners with after they all passed the North Carolina Bar exam. Sumner took the test along with Fitch and Butterfield who had previously taken the test and failed. Sumner, Fitch and Butterfield all took the test together and Sumner passed the test on his first attempt.

After he passed the bar exam test, Sumner wanted to open a law office in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. He was introduced to a prominent white lawyer in Rocky Mount who invited him to have lunch to discuss his legal future. The two met at the Rocky Mount Carlton House where Sumner was kindly told that because he was African American and had attended an African American law school, that there was no place for him at his law firm.

After the lunch, Sumner returned to his car, hurt and angry. He prayed over what had just taken place in order to keep his composure. Rehashing the lunch encounter, he wished that at the minimum, the white lawyer would have told him that he could not be hired because he lacked legal experience or maybe to return later to apply after he had gained the necessary experience to work at such a high profile law firm. Instead, all he received from the lunch was that he could not be a member of the law firm because he was black and the law education he had received from NCCU was inferior.

Sumner prayed for guidance and strength for his future in the legal profession. He prayed for determination to continue his desire to become a practicing attorney and for the strength to carry on and prove to that white attorney that he was capable of becoming a qualified and tested attorney. His prayers were answered shortly thereafter when he received a telephone call from his law school friend Butterfield who asked him to meet him and Finch for lunch to discuss his future law plans.

The three met where Sumner learned of their plans to open a law firm and felt that he would be a great partner to join them. They decided to open the firm in Raleigh, North Carolina, as there were no African American law firms in eastern North Carolina. The knew that if they opened the firm there, they could become the largest African American law firm there due to the fact that there were none in existence. Even though there would be only the three of them, three would be the largest. They scrapped together \$500 each and used the \$1,500 for a lease and operating capital and made the bold move to open

their law firm choosing Wilson, North Carolina as the place to hand their shingles. They were fortunate to lease their 800 square foot office from Butterfield's father who was a dentist. They used a part of the office for legal while Butterfield's father used the other part for dentistry.

In 1975, the three young lawyers opened their offices at 615 N. Nash Street in Wilson. The three attorneys would go on to become leading African American attorneys that would change the legal landscape of eastern North Carolina. They defied all odds after being told that black attorneys could not make it in the segregated industry and built a successful practice focusing on issues surrounding civil rights and desegregation. Two of the three young lawyers would become Judges, Sumner and Fitch, while Butterfield would become a North Carolina Supreme Court Justice and a member of the United States House of Representatives.

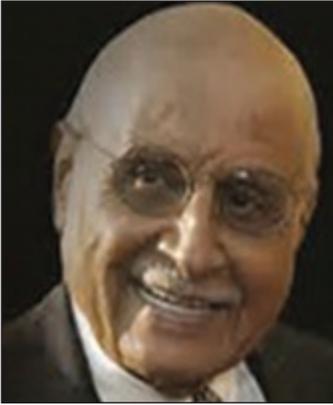
Through word of mouth advertising, the law firm grew quickly. They were able to meet their monthly bills and never missed paying those bills. Although they all lived in the homes of their parents to keep costs down, they never missed a payroll. In their humble beginnings, they shared a desk. While one was away from the office in court, the other used the desk. They then were able to obtain a loan to expand the offices as they grew. The firm would grow to have offices in the North Carolina cities of Greenville, Rocky Mount, Raleigh and Tarboro.

In one of the beginning cases that Sumner and his fellow attorneys took on involved the killing of a young African American boy by a white woman. Usually when a white killed a black, prosecutors would refuse to prosecute. This case was different and Sumner's firm was hired to do investigative work for the case and tensions were high on both sides.

In the case, Harry Lee Dickens, the African American youth was in his yard and a white newspaper boy, Mark Dupree came by. Loud heated words were exchanged and upon hearing the commotion, Dupree's mother arrives carrying a gun. A struggle ensued over the gun and Dupree was shot and killed. The mother was tried in the case for murder. Her defense team plead that there was a struggle over the gun but the gun fell to the ground discharging and killing Dupree.

It was later discovered that the mother indeed had brought the gun to the scene of the crime. The struggle over the gun was between the two boys. The mother decided to take the charge feeling that her chances of being acquitted were greater than that of her son. She was found not guilty.

Sumner's law firm would go on to try other important civil rights cases in North Carolina. The law firm went on to hire other African American lawyers that could not obtain employment with the high profile white law firms in the area and Sumner, Fitch, and Butterfield were happy to bring them into their fold. In 2003, the law offices of the three pioneers closed. The building they began in stands empty today but their legacy will live forever at 615 N. Nash Street in Wilson, North Carolina.



PERCY SUTTON

...was born on November 24, 1920 in San Antonio, Texas to Samuel and Lillian Sutton, both school teachers. The youngest of fifteen children, Percy's father, an early civil-rights activist, was one of the

first blacks to come to Bexar County, Texas. He went by the initials "S.J." Instead of "Sam" fearing a white man might shorten it to Sambo. Although his father was a full-time educator, S.J. farmed, sold real estate, owned a mattress factory, funeral home and a skating rink.

At twelve years old, Percy stowed away on a passenger train to New York City. Fortunately for Percy, his oldest sister, Lillian, who was twenty years his senior, was attending Columbia Teacher's College and his oldest brother John, a food scientist who had studied under George Washington Carver were both living in New York at the time. His family had resources during a time when many African-Americans had limited options.

His family had long been committed to civil rights and Percy, like others in his family, frowned upon prejudice and racism. At age thirteen, while passing out leaflets in an all-white neighborhood for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he was beaten by a policeman. That beating put Percy on the path toward civil rights involvement.

In 1936, he joined the Boy Scouts of America earning the rank of Eagle Scout. As an adult, he would be recognized and given the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. He has said that joining the Boy Scouts was an act that helped shape his life.

In 1942, Sutton joined the military and became an intelligence officer and a skilled World War II pilot, serving as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen earning several combat medals in the Italian and Mediterranean battles. Having military aircraft training, he later took up stunt-flying on the "barnstorming" circuit, but after a friend crashed, he thought more about the sport, gave it up and married his wife, Leatrice in 1943.

For the next several years, Sutton focused on his studies. He attended Prairie View A&M University, Tuskegee Institute, and Hampton Institute. His academic treks also include both Columbia Law School and Brooklyn College Law School.

The Korean War break out caused Sutton to return to the military. In 1953, at the end of the conflict, he was given his honorable discharge at the end of the conflict, he returned to New York City and opened a law firm in the city's Harlem. For the next seven years, during the peak of the civil rights movement, Sutton became one of the most nationally recognized and respected civil rights attorney in the America.

Sutton began his leap into the political scene in the 1960s. He quickly rose to become a leader in the Harlem Clubhouse, a political group controlling Democratic politics in Harlem at the time. After joining, he formed a powerful alliance with several other black politicians including future New York City Mayor David Dinkins, Congressman Charles Rangel, and Basil Paterson, who eventually served as the first black Secretary of State for New York and whose son, David Paterson, became the state's first black Governor in 2008.

From 1964 to 1966, Sutton also served in the New York State Assembly. In 1967, he ran for Borough President of Manhattan and won that seat by a landslide receiving eighty percent of the vote. As Borough President, Sutton labored for the economic development of Harlem and saw tourism as one of those developments. To campaign for the Democratic nomination for Mayor of New York City in 1977, he left the Assembly. He entered a crowded field of Mayoral candidates which included Congressman Ed Koch, New York Secretary of State Mario Cuomo, incumbent Mayor Abraham Beame, former Congresswoman Bella Abzug, and Congressman Herman Badillo. Koch came out victorious taking the nomination and mayoral race.

In 1971, Sutton co-founded Inner City Broadcasting Corporation which in turn bought New York based AM radio station WLIB and the FM radio station WBLS. These acquisitions made him the first black radio station owner in New York City. Within a few years, WBLS had the largest listening audience of any radio station in the nation. That same year, Sutton purchased the Apollo Theater in Harlem, revitalizing it and producing the award winning *"It's Showtime at the Apollo"*. Sutton's media empire grew to include nineteen radio stations.

In 1987, Sutton was awarded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Spingarn Medal. In 2007, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that named the post office on 125th Street in Harlem after Percy Sutton.

Percy Sutton died on December 26, 2009 in New York City.



WALTER L. SUTTON, JR.

...was raised in Marshall, Texas and attended segregated schools during his early years. He graduated at the age of sixteen from high school before enrolling into the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado. He graduated

from the University majoring in Economics and served as the Student Body Vice President. He was the first African-American to serve the student body in that capacity.

After graduation, he found employment with the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. At Ford, he was responsible for the logistics of shipping newly manufactured automobiles all over the country by rail. In Michigan, he was fortunate to have met a Judge from his hometown that suggested that he consider entering the field of law. Sutton decided to do so and studied law at nearby Detroit, Michigan's Wayne State University School of Law at night while working for Ford during the day. After his freshman year at Wayne State, his professors were so impressed with his studies that he was offered a full scholarship to the University of Michigan School of Law in Ann Arbor. He left his job at Ford to complete his law studies in Ann Arbor.

After completing his law studies in 1972, Sutton returned to work for Ford as a staff attorney. After two more years at Ford, he decided to return to his native Texas. He accepted a job with Lake Forest, Illinois based Tenneco Oil Company in their Texas location. He was the first African American to be hired in the legal department of the oil company.

Not long after beginning employment with Tenneco, Sutton was enticed to join Texas Instruments (TI) in Dallas, Texas. He again was the first African American to be hired to work in the company's legal department. Sutton soon discovered that there were only about a dozen black attorneys practicing in Dallas at the time. At TI, he focused on environmental law issues and over time became a pioneer in the field. He remained with TI until 1988, choosing to return to school to obtain a Ph.D. in Management Science at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD).

In 1989, Sutton completed his Ph.D. studies at UTD. He was the first African-American to receive the

high scholastic degree from the University. He was subsequently hired by the law firm of Hughes & Luce who wanted to expand the firm's reach into the field of environmental law. Sutton also represented approximately twenty-five Texas corporations and other association clients as a lobbyist at the state capital in Austin, including famed Perot Systems.

In 1993, Sutton left the law firm to accept a position with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He again became a first, the first African-American to lead the Dallas office of the EPA's Regional Counsel. He remained with the EPA for five years.

In 1998, then President Bill Clinton appointed Sutton as the Associate Administrator for Policy for the Federal Highway Administration (FHA). In 2000, he was appointed as the Deputy Federal Highway Administrator. As the Deputy, he was responsible for administering a \$60 billion budget and for the administration management of a national staff having more than 3,000 employees.

In 2001, Sutton left the GHA to become the Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the President at the University of Texas at Dallas. In his position, he served as the University's Community Ombudsman handling issues surrounding diversity, equity, equal employment opportunity, and ethics. During that time, then Dallas Mayor Steve Bartlett selected Sutton to serve as the head of Dallas' Environmental Health Advisory Committee. Sutton was the first African-American to lead the Committee. He also served as the Chair of the Environmental Law Section for the Dallas Bar Association and served as the President of the J.L. Turner Legal Association. In addition, Sutton served as President of the National Bar Association.

After four years, Sutton left UTD moving to Bentonville, Arkansas to take a job with Wal-Mart Stores. At Wal-Mart's home office, Sutton managed the company's legal department's diversity and external funding budget. He coordinated the company's diversity events.

Sutton currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. He has over thirty years of experience in corporate law, government relations on diversity and inclusion for Fortune 100 companies. He has served on the Board level to the American Bar Association, the National Judicial College, and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System.



DENNIS C. SWEET, III

...was born in 1955 in Jackson, Mississippi. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1977 from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. He obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from Washing-

ton, D.C.'s George Washington University National Law Center in 1980.

In his first professional legal job, Sweet served on the teaching staff at the Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he would teach Trial Advocacy for thirteen years. He also worked in the Public Defender General's Office in Washington, D.C.. He then took a job working for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1987, Sweet became a Delegate of the Fifth Circuit Judicial Conference. Five years later, he was elected as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives as a Republican. When his time was up in the Mississippi House, Sweet opened his own law firm and became a partner in Sweet & Freese PLLC located in Jackson, Mississippi.

Over the next decade, Sweet would represent major corporations, government agencies and private individuals in a wide variety of civil and criminal litigations. His legal and trial expertise has been instrumental in winning major verdicts for his clients. He won a major products liability verdict against Ford Motor Company in the amount of \$145 million for a wrongful death of a man thrown from one of the company's vehicles, a Ford Ranger. Sweet won a \$23 million medical malpractice verdict for parents of a child born with brain damage and won a \$150 million verdict for five of his clients against American Home Products, a drug manufacturing company, whose Fen-Phen drug caused health problems the five plaintiffs health problems.

Sweet also won a wrongful death verdict for the family of a woman who was improperly diagnosed with cancer and died from an overdose of painkillers. Hospice Ministries, the defending company paid the family \$4.5 million for the death of the woman who died. In another case, Sweet brought suit against the Jackson Marriott Hotel and the City of Jackson for the shooting of an unarmed

man by an off-duty Jackson Police officer. That verdict resulted in the city and the hotel collectively paying \$23 million to Sweet's client.

In criminal cases, Sweet has successfully defended those accused of murder, elected officials accused of voter fraud, doctors accused of healthcare fraud, and businessmen accused of bank fraud. He successfully defended African American farmers that were accused of defrauding the United States Department of Agriculture. He has also successfully defended common citizens in litigations that have affected their personal lives.

In 1990, Sweet became an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi and an Instructor at the National Criminal Defense College in Macon, Georgia. Sweet has served as a member of the District of Columbia Bar, the Alabama Bar, the Mississippi Bar, the Association Trial Lawyers Association, the Hinds County Bar Association, Magnolia County Bar Association, and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. He has served as a member of the Mississippi Board of Bar Commissioners.

Sweet has been honored by many organizations during his legal career. He has received the top legal honor from the Mississippi Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the R. Jess Brown Award from the Magnolia Bar Association. He has been recognized by and featured in Black Enterprise Magazine, Harper's Magazine, and Lawyer's Weekly USA. Sweet has also appeared on both Court TV and Dateline NBC.





JACK EDWARD TANNER

was born in 1919 in Tacoma, Washington. After graduating from Stadium High School as a star athlete, he joined the United States Army and served in World War II being stationed in the South Pacific in a

segregated unit. It was in the Army that he experienced his first dose of real discrimination.

After returning from the military, Tanner enrolled into the College of Puget Sound in Edmonds, Washington where he received his undergraduate degree. He then entered University of Washington Law School in Seattle, Washington where he obtained his law degree in 1955. He was the only African American at the law school at that time. While earning his law degree, Tanner worked as a longshoreman and had to keep that job after he received his law degree as no white law firm would hire him. With that, he opened his own law office in Tacoma.

In 1957, Tanner joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and became the Regional Director of the organization. He served as the Regional Director for eight years. He organized civil rights protests for the organization and eventually was named to the National Board.

In 1963, after the assassination of Mississippi civil rights leader, Medgar Evers, Tanner was called by then President John F. Kennedy to the White House in Washington, D.C. to speak on and advise the President on race relations in the United States. Tanner spoke not only of the race issues affecting African Americans, he spoke on the abuses of Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest and the federal governments refusal to honor treaties signed between the two parties. He was actively involved in helping to protect the fishing rights of Native Americans and had held protests in Olympia, Washington in that regard.

Back in Washington, Tanner became actively involved in the Washington State Democratic Party. He became the first African American to run for Governor of Washington when he entered the race in 1966. He gained national attention during the primary campaign but lost his bid for the Governorship. Despite losing, Tanner was able to forge relationships with Democratic Senator Warren Mag-

nuson and was selected to run the presidential campaign of Henry "Scoop" Jackson. Tanner was the first African American to run a presidential campaign in the United States. Jackson unfortunately lost the electoral race.

In 1977, Donald McGavick, Tanner's law partner, submitted his name as a candidate for a seat on the United States District Court. With the support of Senator Magnuson and Henry Jackson, he was appointed as a Judge to the federal court bench by then President Jimmy Carter. He became the first African American to be named to the District Court. He presided in both the Eastern and Western District Courts and had a caseload three times that of the other U.S. District Judges.

In 1980, Tanner drew criticism when he ruled that Washington's Walla Walla prison had violated the rights of inmates and the Eighth Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment. He drew praise in 1983 when he made a ruling, "comparable worth", that ensured equal pay for 15,000 Washington women state workers. The ruling drew national attention from women's rights groups that applauded Judge Tanner's decision on sex discrimination.

Judge Tanner's ruling was later overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals of the 9th Circuit, which ruled that the existing wage gap between men and women state workers was not proof of discrimination. The state of Washington would later settle the issue by paying \$482 million in back pay to women for six years of underpayment. The payments were rolled into the state employees base pay, which gave them a higher income than comparable state workers in other states.

The equal women's pay reversal by the Court of Appeals was not Judge Tanner's only reversal. During his tenure on the bench, he had 146 reversals by the higher court. Many of those reversals were due to Judge Tanner's deviation from the standard sentencing guidelines. Other reversals were made because of the harsh sentences given in some cases. On the other hand, he had a reversal of a sentence where he sentenced a woman to one day for attempting to kill her husband after being abused.

Despite his high number of reversals, Judge Tanner was not concerned. Although some thought he was out of step in his decision making process, he had his own form of adjudicating what the judiciary should accomplish and what Judges ought to stand for. He took senior status in 1991 and remained on the District Court bench knowing that when he left, there was little chance of another African American taking his seat.

Judge Jack Tanner died in 2006 at his Tacoma, Washington home of cancer. He was eighty-six years old.





RAYCHELLE A. TASHER

...received her Bachelor of Science degree in 2009 from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida in 2009 magna cum laude majoring in Political Science and Economics. While at FAMU,

she served as her senior class President, as a member of the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, as a member of the FAMU Economics Club and she also joined the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

In obtaining her law degree, Tasher remained at FAMU to attend its' College of Law and earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 2013. While in law school, she was a member of the Student Bar Association, the Black Law Black Law Students Association, the American Bar Association, and the FAMU Moot Court & Advocacy Board. She was also a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity.

Tasher founded the American Bar Association's (ABA) Law Student Division and became its' Vice President and Chair. She was the first African American to served as Vice President. She also joined the Ms JD program, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that promotes aspiring women in the legal careers. The program associates female law students with successful female mentors in the law profession and is sponsored in part by the ABA's Commission on Women in the Profession. Tasher was placed with Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy A. Quince.

As her law studies neared ending, Tasher wanted to continue her leadership role and wanted to assist in helping young lawyers in their legal careers. She was introduced to the Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) and its' Emerging Leaders Program, which is a program designed to place law student division leaders on a fast track to their careers in law. Tasher was appointed to the YLD Membership Board and the Women in the Profession Committee. As a member of the Board, she pushed for opportunities and programs that were focused on women in law.

After graduating from law school, Tasher became the Judicial Law Clerk for Judge Lisa T. Munyon of the Ninth

Judicial Circuit. She continues to be involved with the YLD and serves as a member of the YLD Scholars Program. This program is designed to attract more minority firms, small law office firms, government attorneys, and private and military attorneys to participate in the Scholars Program as mentors to young lawyers. In her role with the Scholars Program, Tasher has been asked to travel across the country to engage with young leaders at YLD conferences and seminars.

In 2016, Tasher became the Chair of the YLD Bankruptcy Law Committee. She has been pivotal in attracting a long list of women of color to become involved in the YLD Scholar Program's Alumni Membership. She was able to clerk in St. Louis, Missouri for Chief Judge Kathy Surratt-States of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Still involved with the YLD Scholars Program where she works to bring awareness to both the student leaders as well as the distinguished alumni that have become a part of the program.



ANNA DIGGS TAYLOR

...was born on December 9, 1932 in Washington, D.C. to Hazel B. and V.D. Johnston. Born as Anna Katherine Johnston, both of her parents were educators. Her father would later become the Treasurer of Howard University. John-

ston grew up surrounded by politics and civil rights issues as daily topics of discussion.

A gifted child, Johnston began her education in the public schools of Washington, D.C.. To further her education, her parents sent her to the Northfield School for Girls, a private high school in Massachusetts where she would graduate in 1950. As she did in D.C., in Massachusetts, she excelled in her studies.

For her undergraduate degree, Johnston attended Barnard College in New York City, New York graduating in 1954 after majoring in Economics. In 1957, she received her law degree from Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. As in all of her academic studies, she excelled.

After graduation, it was not easy for Johnston to find a job in the field of law as racism and prejudiced stood in her way. Fortunately, J. Ernest Wilkins, who would later be known as "The Negro Genius", hired her to his staff at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C.. At the Department she accepted the job of Assistant Solicitor.

In 1960, Johnston met Charles Diggs, a U.S. House of Representative representing Michigan. They wed and the couple moved to Detroit, Michigan to begin raising a family. They would remain married for eleven years.

In Detroit, Diggs accepted a job as Assistant County Prosecutor for Wayne County. She served as the Office Manager and Legislative Assistant to her husbands law firm, Zwerdling, Maurer, Diggs & Papp. In 1970, she became a partner. She became actively involved in the civil rights movement and in 1964 she spent the summer in Mississippi assisting the National Lawyers Guild in their efforts of desegregation and equal civil rights. For her work, she was highlighted on the cover of Jet Magazine, an African American news publication.

In 1975, Diggs became the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit. She would serve as Corporation Counsel for four years. The following year, she would become an Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit.

Unfortunately, the Diggs marriage suffered and they were divorced. In 1976, she married again, this time to S. Martin Taylor, a regent of the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. Three years later, then President Jimmy Carter appointed Taylor to the

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She became the first African American woman to be appointed as Judge to the Court. In 1997, Judge Taylor was named as Chief Judge to the District Court. Judge Diggs Taylor replaced Damon Keith, the first African American named to the District Court. A year later, she gained Senior Status.

In 2006, Judge Diggs Taylor ruled, the first federal Judge to do so, on the constitutionality of the National Security Agency's (NSA) controversial warrantless surveillance. In the case of "ACLU v. NSA", the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sued the NSA for alleged illegal wiretapping on American citizens. Judge Diggs Taylor ruled that the NSA's domestic wiretapping of U.S. citizens without court order violated the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and was unconstitutional. He issued a permanent injunction to end the practice.

The ruling was stayed pending an appeal to the Appellate Court. While awaiting the Appellate Court's ruling, the nation buzzed with vigorous political chatter. Some legal minds criticized Judge Diggs Taylor for her ruling while others applauded her findings. She did not, however, rule on the alleged NSA call centers database citing state secrets as her reasoning.

The Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog organization, called for a conflict of interest in Judge Diggs Taylor's ruling, claiming she is or was a Trustee and served as Secretary for the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan. The Judicial Watch indicated that the Foundation had made a \$45,000 grant to the ACLU of Michigan, the plaintiff in the case. Taylor ruled in favor of the ACLU, thus the appeal. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit overturned her ruling with the opinion that the plaintiffs lacked standing and vacated the parts of the ruling that were concerned with warrantless wiretaps.

Judge Diggs Taylor would go on to preside over several high-profile and politically charged cases including a billion dollar corporate take over case and one involving two unemployed autoworkers convicted in the beating death of a Chinese American. In another notable case, Judge Diggs Taylor ruled on the separation of religion and the state when she ruled on the removal of a religious nativity scene that was erected on city property. The scene had to be removed.

Judge Diggs Taylor is a member of several professional associations and organizations. She is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Cancer Foundation, the Sinai Hospital in Detroit, the State Bar Committee on the United States Courts, the State Bar of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Women Judges Association, the Women Lawyers' Association, the Women's National Democratic Club, and the Yale Law Alumni Association.



HOBART TAYLOR, JR.

...was born on December 17, 1920 in Texarkana, Texas to Charlotte (née Wallace) and Hobart T. Taylor, Sr.. His father was a millionaire having made his fortune in the insurance industry. He also owned a taxicab business

and was an investor into real estate. He was aligned with future President and Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson. The elder Taylor also was the financier of the famous lawsuit, "Grove v. Townsend", in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the state of Texas' all-white primaries as unconstitutional. The family moved from Texarkana to Houston, Texas where the younger Taylor graduated from Yates High School.

Taylor entered Prairie View Normal and Industrial College in Prairie View, Texas where he received his undergraduate degree majoring in Economics in 1939. He then attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he earned a Master's degree in Economics in 1941. He moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to attend the University of Michigan Law School, where he received both his Juris Doctorate degree and his LL.B. degree in 1943. While at Michigan's law school, Taylor served on the editing staff of the Michigan Law Review. He was the first African American law student to serve on the editing staff of the Law Review.

After leaving the University of Michigan, Taylor began working in the legal profession serving as a Research Clerk for then Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Raymond Wesley Starr. After a year serving as Starr's law clerk, Taylor entered private practice. After five years in private practice, he became an Assistant Attorney Prosecutor for Wayne County, Michigan. A year later, Taylor left to become the Corporation Counsel for Wayne County.

In 1958, Taylor left his employment with the county government returning to private practice. Three years later, he returned to work for Wayne County taking a job in the Civil Division of the District Attorney's Office. He also litigated cases for several Texas corporations while serving in the DA's Office. During that time, Taylor and his father became financial supporters of then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson's presidential campaign.

In 1961, Taylor was named by then President John F. Kennedy as the Special Counsel to the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities (PCEEO). Taylor had served at the President's staff that drafted the Executive Orders that created the Committee. The President had designated the top job at the Committee, the Executive Vice

Chairman, for Taylor but after pushback from white Texas conservatives not wanting a liberal African American to hold the post, Kennedy turned to John Field to fill the position. Despite not receiving the top job, Taylor is credited with initiating the term "affirmative action" while serving as Special Counsel to the Committee.

On September 10, 1962, Taylor was promoted to become the Executive Vice Chairman of the Committee. He was the first African American to lead a U.S. Presidential committee. After the assassination of President Kennedy and President Lyndon Johnson took control of the White House, Johnson appointed Taylor as the Associate Special Counsel to the President. With his appointment, he became one of the highest-ranking African Americans working for the U.S. government.

While Taylor served as Special Counsel to the President, he continued to serve as the Executive Vice Chairman of PCEEO. In his positions, he played a pivotal role in the implementation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Taylor resigned from his positions at the White House and PCEEO in 1965 after being appointed by President Johnson as the Director of the Export-Import Bank.

After three years at the Bank, in 1968, Taylor again returned to private practice. He accepted a position with the law firm of Dawson, Riddell, Taylor, Davis and Holroyd where he stayed for two years. He then became an attorney on the staff of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue.

While practicing as a private attorney, Taylor served on several Board of Directors, including serving on the Board of the Aetna Life and Casualty Company, the Burroughs Corporation, Eastern Air Lines, and The Great Atlantic. He also served on the Boards of the Pacific Tea Company, Standard Oil of Ohio, and the Urban National Corporation. In addition, Taylor served on the Board of Directors of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

In 1977, Taylor was appointed to the Commission on Postal Service and two years later, he was appointed to the Commission on Executive Exchange. He became a member of the Democratic National Committee and the Vice Chairman and Trustee of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. He also became a Trustee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Hobart Taylor, Jr. suffered for several years from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a nervous system disease. He died from the disease on April 2, 1981 while in the island of New Providence in The Bahamas. His body was transported back to the United States and was buried at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church Cemetery in Middleburg, Virginia.

Taylor was married to Lynette Dobbins of Birmingham, Alabama and together they had two children, Hobart III and Albert. The couple divorced in 1975. Taylor remarried, marrying Carol Angermeir in 1978. With his second marriage, he became the stepfather to her two children, Edward Rader and Teresa Warner.





JAMES HAROLD TAYLOR

...was born on July 7, 1926. He was reared in Elkridge, Maryland, an unincorporated community in Howard County. His father died in an automobile accident when he was ten years old.

His mother was left to raise Taylor and his nine siblings. She did so by working as a salesperson at a Baltimore, Maryland department store.

To support the family while he attended Carver Vocational-Technical High School in Baltimore where he studied bricklaying and masonry, he worked as a mailman, a railroad oilman, and a short-order cook. After graduating high school, for his undergraduate degree, he enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C. Graduating in 1950, Taylor then completed his military duties by joining the U.S. Army Air Forces, serving his mandatory two years.

Returning from the Army, he set out to earn his law degree. Taylor completed his law school studies at American University graduating in 1953. He became the earliest known African American to graduate from the school. When he passed the Prince George's County Maryland Bar Association exam, he became one of the first African Americans to be admitted to the County bar association.

After passing the Prince George's County bar, Taylor took a job as a Citizenship Examiner with the U.S. Department of State Passport Offices. In 1956, he took, passed and was admitted to the Maryland Bar Association. Prince George's County, at the time, was and had been dominated by white conservatives for many years. It would remain that way for many years to come.

Despite being a minority in the bar, Taylor rose through the ranks to a position of prominence. By 1963, he had gained enough political capital that he became an Assistant State's Attorney. He became the states first African American to hold the position.

In 1969, then Democratic Governor Marvin Mandel appointed Taylor as a Judge to Maryland's 7th Judicial Circuit. He would focus on family and juvenile cases. In ruling on those cases, some prosecutors thought he was too soft on crime.

During his tenure, many prosecutors felt that Taylor was too forgiving in his judicial rulings. His compassion for minors was especially noticed by all that came before him as he believed that everyone could be rehabilitated. In a 1977 case of drunken driving accident that resulted in a manslaughter charge from the death of a four-year old child and the injuring of five others, Taylor dispensed a lighter sentence than many thought should have been heavier. The sentence handed down many felt did not fit the crime, but nonetheless, Taylor stuck by his decision stating that he did what he thought was right. In 1980, he became a Judge on the Prince George's County Circuit Court.

After eighteen years on the bench, in 1987, Taylor retired and returned to private practice. He also served as an independent consultant for the development of business development for minority businesses. As he had done on the bench, he took a softer approach to his cases, as he always would look back on his early childhood to understand the plights of many of his clients. Believing one was a product of their environment, he worked to improve the lives of those he came into contact with.

Taylor off the bench was a man that loved life and the County and communities he served. For the local community college, Prince George's Community College, he served as a Trustee. He served on the Board of Nations-Bank, now Bank of America as well as several Maryland state legal associations. A lover of luxury cars, Taylor owned two Rolls-Royces, a sailboat and a small airplane. He loved challenges and life itself immensely.

Married twice, Taylor died peacefully on October 31, 2012 at his Upper Marlboro, Maryland home from congestive heart failure at the age of eighty-six. From his first marriage to the former Lillian Miles, he had two children. With his second wife, he had one son and a stepdaughter. In his honor, the school he gave so much time and care to, the Prince George's Community College, named a paralegal endowment in his honor.



ROBERT HERBERTON TERRELL

...was born on November 27, 1857 in Charlottesville, Virginia to Louisa Ann Terrell and Harris Terrell. The family moved to Washington, D.C. where Terrell attended public

schools before being sent to the Groton Academy in Groton, Massachusetts. He received his undergraduate degree in 1884 cum laude from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He earned his law degree in 1889 from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law graduating as class Valedictorian.

In his first professional job, Terrell took a job as a teacher in the District's public schools. He took the job due to the fact that African American law graduates could not obtain employment with the established white law firms because of their discriminatory practices. In his second professional job, he worked as the Chief Clerk in the U.S. Treasury's Fourth Auditor's Office.

In 1892, Terrell opened his own law firm in Washington but to support his family, he returned to teaching and took another Principal's job at the Washington, D.C.'s M Street High School. He became involved in politics and as a Republican he aligned himself with the philosophy of Booker T. Washington. He also aligned himself and gave support to then Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit William Howard Taft who would later become the 27th President of the United States in 1909.

In 1896, Terrell joined John R. Lynch to create the law firm of Lynch and Terrell in Washington D.C.. Terrell would only work in the firm for two years, as he was appointed in 1898 by then President William McKinley as a Major and Paymaster of volunteers serving in the Spanish-American War. A year later, Terrell became the Principal of the Preparatory School for Colored Youth in Washington, D.C. where he met Mary Church, a teacher at the school. The two were married and together they had two daughters.

In 1901, Terrell was appointed to serve as a Justice of the Peace in Washington D.C.. He became the first African American Justice of the Peace to serve on the bench in Washington. He would serve on the bench for nine years.

In 1910, then President William Howard Taft appointed Terrell to serve as a Judge to the District of Columbia Municipal Court. His nomination ran into staunch opposition from Southern Democratic Senators but he was confirmed to the bench and took his seat on January 15, 1910. He became the first African American Judge in the nation's capital. He was re-appointed to the bench by Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Woodrow Wilson. Judge Terrell remained on the Municipal Court until 1925 when he died.

While serving on the Court, Terrell also served on the faculty of the Howard University's Law School. He also became a Charter member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (the Boule). The Boule is the first and oldest African American fraternity in Washington.

In 1921 Terrell suffered a stroke. A year later, he suffered another one that left him paralyzed on one side of his body. Terrell suffered from asthma and his health declined yet he still performed his duties on the bench.

Judge Robert Herberton Terrell died on December 20, 1925. He was sixty-eight years old. His obituary was printed in "The Crisis" magazine, the official publication of the magazine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Several years later, the Howard University Law School was closed. That same year, the Robert H. Terrell Law School was established in Judge Terrell's honor. Twenty-seven years later, in 1952, the District of Columbia opened a junior high school, the Robert H. Terrell Junior High School, in his honor. The school would be torn down in 2008 and replaced with the R.H. Terrell Recreation Center.



DONALD M. TEMPLE

... received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1975. In 1978, he earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Santa Clara in Santa Clara, California.

While at Santa Clara, Temple served as the Student Bar Association President. He was the first African-American elected to serve as the schools first President. Temple received his LL.M. degree from Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University's Law Center in 1981 where he concentrated on International and Constitutional Law. He furthered his legal education by attending the Rene Cassin Human Rights Institute, in 1977, at the University of Strasburg in France.

In 1978, Temple took a job working for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Office of General Counsel for the Administrative Law Division. His duties centered on bid protests and debarments. Twelve years later, he decided to enter private practice law.

In 1990, Temple opened his own law practice, The Law Offices of Donald M. Temple, P.C. in downtown Washington, D.C.. He concentrated his practice on administrative hearings, appellate litigation, arbitrations, civil trials, and mediations. He was licensed to argue cases before courts in the District of Columbia courts, the Maryland state courts, and the federal courts.

For the past twenty-seven years, Temple has practiced law from his Washington, D.C. offices focusing on civil, commercial and appellate litigations. He handles cases involving civil fraud; construction related issues; and contracts and contract disputes. He also represents clients needing corporate governance; foreclosures assistance; real estate transactions; personal injury settlements and theft conversions. In addition, Temple represents clients needing reputational torts, workplace labor disputes, employment discrimination including Title VII and 42 USC Section 1981, human rights violations; police misconduct cases including Section 42 USC 1983, constitutional litigation involving equal protection and due process claims, and estate disputes and settlements.

Temple has successfully litigated cases against American Eagle, the City of Philadelphia, CVS, the District of Columbia Police Department, Eddie Bauer, and the Grand Hyatt Hotel. He has won cases against the Hunton and Williams Law Firm, the ICMA-RC Pension Fund, the

Invest Corporation, and the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission. He has also been successful in cases brought against Montgomery County, Maryland; Prince George's County, Maryland; the District of Columbia Government; and the United States Government.

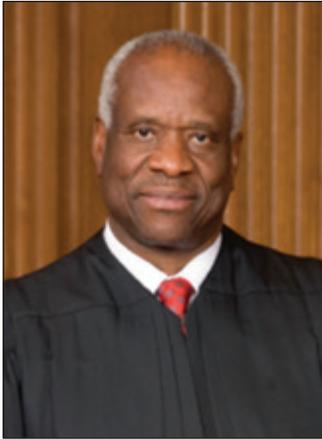
An advocate for the protection of civil rights, Temple has taken on a case involving a whistleblower and obtained a \$1.7 million jury verdict settlement in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against the D.C. Office of the Chief Financial Officer. In another D.C. case, Temple won re-instatement for an African American female law professor at the University of the District of Columbia. In the case he won re-establishment of the professors tenure.

Temple represented Maryland mega church, Jericho Baptist in the U.S. District Court of Maryland involving a case of interplead funds and obtained a favorable summary judgment ruling for the church. He represented the African Hebrew Israelite community in a trademark infringement and conversion case heard before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

In 1997, Temple is credited with coining the term "consumer racism" in a case where he obtained an unprecedented \$1 million dollar verdict against Eddie Bauer in the U.S. District Court for Maryland. He litigated a case of police misconduct, which helped to bring an end to police aggressively using dogs and their biting causing serious bodily harm. He has also successfully won appellate cases, which were lost in the lower courts.

Temple has served as the Chairman of the D.C. Civilian Complaint Review Board, has served as the Chairman of the Congress Heights Community and Economic Development Center, and has served as a candidate to represent Washington, D.C. as a Delegate seat to the United States Congress. He is the founder of the Charles Hamilton Houston Law School Preparatory Institute ("CHH"), which is a self-sufficient seven-week program that prepares future law students to enter law school. The CHH has held thirty-seven classes and has produced many lawyers, law partners, and Judges that are practicing or presiding in courts all across the country. Temple also is the founder of the D.C. Chapter Concerned Black Men and the Congressional Black Associates.

Temple has received countless honors and awards. A few of his commendations include the National Bar Association's Gertrude E. Rush Award and the Washington Bar Association's Ollie Mae Cooper Award. He has also been presented with the National Black Law Student Association's Cora T. Walker Award. In addition, Temple has been inducted into the District of Columbia Hall of Fame and the Washington Bar Association's Hall of Fame.



CLARENCE THOMAS

...was born on June 23, 1948 in Pin Point, Georgia to Leola Williams and M.C. Thomas. His mother was a domestic worker and his father a farm worker. Descendants of African slaves, the family spoke Gullah as a first language. The Gullah/Geechee people lived in the low country regions of Georgia and South Carolina and practiced much of their

African linguistic and cultural heritage in their everyday lives.

Thomas' father left the family when he was two years old. Although his mother worked, she could not earn enough and the family had to resort to charity. At the age of seven, the family house burnt down leaving them homeless. Thomas and his younger brother Myers were sent to live with their maternal grandparents in Savannah, Georgia. There they enjoyed a better life including indoor plumbing and regular meals. His grandfather, a hard working man taught Thomas the importance of getting a good education, something he took to heart.

In high school, Thomas was the only black person in his class. He graduated as a honor student. Raised Roman Catholic, at the age of sixteen, he considered entering the priesthood, and became the first black student to attend St. John Vianney's Minor Seminary in Savannah. He also attended Conception Seminary College, a Roman Catholic seminary in Missouri, although briefly. He left after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., feeling that the church did not do enough to combat racism.

Thomas enrolled into the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. There, he helped found the Black Student Union. Majoring in English, to polish his Gullah language slang, he vowed to "to conquer the language". He became a member of Alpha Sigma Nu and the Purple Key Society. He graduated from in 1971 with an A.B. cum laude in English literature.

After graduation, Thomas was classified 1-A in the the military draft but was medically exempted due to curvature of his spine. He then entered Yale Law School, where, in 1974, he received a Juris Doctor degree. Unfortunately, many law firms assumed he had obtained his degree because of affirmative action requirements doubting that he was as smart as his grades indicated.

On September 13, 1974, Thomas was admitted to the Missouri bar. He became an Assistant Attorney General of Missouri, the only black member on State Attorney General John Danforth's staff. In 1976, Danforth was elected to the U.S. Senate. Thomas left to join the Monsanto Chemical Company in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1979, he moved to Washington, D.C. to work for Senator Danforth as a Legislative Assistant.

In 1981, he became a part of the Reagan administration. He served as Assistant Secretary of Education for the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. He became Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") from 1982 to 1990. President George H.W. Bush nominated Thomas, in October of 1989, to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Justice Thurgood Marshall, the lone black on the Court was retiring and Thomas was Bush's choice. Through an uneventful vetting process, he was confirmed to his seat by the United States Senate on March 6, 1990.

In the confirmation process during that era, U.S. presidents

would submit a list of potential nominees to the American Bar Association (ABA) for a confidential rating of their judicial temperament, competence, and integrity on a three-level scale of well qualified, qualified or unqualified. The ABA rated Thomas as qualified, but with one of the lowest levels of support for a Supreme Court nominee. The ABA rating had very little impact on Thomas' nomination.

The formal confirmation hearings began on September 10, 1991. Thomas was reluctant to answer the Senators' questions during the appointment process as he had some opposition to his nomination. Some of his early writings had referenced the legal theory of "natural law". Historically, natural law referred to the use of reason to analyze both social and personal human nature to deduce binding rules of moral behavior. Thomas limited his statements stating that he regarded natural law as a "philosophical background" to the Constitution. Some Senators were weary of Thomas' criticism of affirmative action and suspicions that he might not be a supporter of Roe v. Wade.

The confirmation hearings were almost concluded when reports began to appear concerning Thomas' "moral character" and behavior during his tenure at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Word spread that the FBI had interviewed one of Thomas' co-workers, Anita Hill, a black attorney, who had worked for Thomas at the Department of Education about possible sexual harassment. Hill was called to testify. In her testimony, she stated that Thomas had continuously asked her out on dates and made comments of a sexual nature, which she felt believed as sexual harassment or at the minimum, "behavior that is unbecoming an individual who will be a member of the Court."

Thomas denied the allegations, saying: *"This is not an opportunity to talk about difficult matters privately or in a closed environment. This is a circus. It's a national disgrace. And from my standpoint, as a black American, it is a high-tech lynching for uppity blacks who in any way deign to think for themselves, to do for themselves, to have different ideas, and it is a message that unless you kowtow to an old order, this is what will happen to you. You will be lynched, destroyed, caricatured by a committee of the U.S. Senate rather than hung from a tree."*

During the confirmation process, Hill was the only person at the Senate hearings to testify about the unsolicited sexual advances. There were several other women available to testify with but were not called. One did submit a written statement indicating that Thomas had asked her out for a date, however, she did not feel his behavior was intimidating nor did she feel sexually harassed, although she add that some other women might have taken his actions differently. Another former assistant of Thomas' submitted written testimony indicating he had not harassed her but stated that, *"If you were young, black, female and reasonably attractive, you knew full well you were being inspected and auditioned as a female."*

Despite the accusations, Thomas was confirmed by a 52-48 vote on October 15, 1991 by the narrowest approval margin in more than a century. In the final Senate floor vote, 41 Republicans and 11 Democrats voted to confirm while 46 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted to reject the nomination. Thomas was sworn in by Byron White on October 15, 1991.

On the bench, Thomas has been described as one of the most conservative members of the Supreme Court. He has generally declined to engage in judicial lawmaking, instead viewing his constitutional role on the court as an interpreter of the law, rather than the maker of the law. From 1994 to 2004, as an average, Thomas dissented his opinions the third most frequent of all Justices.

Thomas married his college sweetheart, Kathy Grace Ambush in 1971. They had one child, Jamal Adeen. They divorced in 1984. He married Virginia Lamp, a lobbyist and aide to Republican Congressman Dick Armey in 1987. They have not children together.





JOHN CHARLES THOMAS

...was born in 1950 in Norfolk, Virginia. His mother, Floretta Sears Thomas, an activist, founded the Committee Undoing Racial Evil, led the civil rights group, The Committee of 100 Women, and was active in the Women's Political Caucus. Growing up in

a politically active household, Charles, he did not chose to be called John, was required to participate and to give an intelligent opinion on any political topic being discussed.

Thomas was raised by a group of family members, i.e., by his grandmother, his grandfather, and fourteen uncles and aunts, all of whom were either militarily trained or college educated. It was his grandfather that gave him the love of poetry and the courage to speak to a group, as he would often make Thomas recite poetry to a group of his grandfather's friends. He would also be called to the pulpit of the family church, the First Baptist Bute Street Church, to recite Bible versus.

Before moving to New York, Thomas attended Jacox Junior High School in Norfolk. Although it was more than ten years after the Brown v. Board of Education ruling had been passed prohibiting segregated schools in the U.S. education system, the practice still existed. Thomas was scheduled to enroll into the all-black Booker T. Washington High School, but the "Freedom of Choice" law had been passed which allowed blacks to attend white schools and vice versa. Thomas was one of the students selected to attend a white school to prove that integration could work. With that he attended the Maury High School, graduating with honors in 1968.

After completing high school, Thomas enrolled into the University of Virginia in Charlottesville majoring in American Government. While in undergrad, he served on the University President's Committee on Equality, Education, Opportunity, Obligations and Rights. He also served as the President of the Black Students for Freedom, an organization of students focused on the civil rights of African American students. He completed his studies and received a Bachelor of Arts degree as a distinguished student on the Dean's List.

In 1969, then Governor Linwood Holton had been elected to the State House in Virginia. Remembering is campaign promise to include more blacks in the state government, Thomas wrote the Governor reminding his of his campaign promise. Impressed, the Governor appointed Charles to the Virginia Commission on Children and Youth.

To earn his law degree, Charles remained at the University of Virginia where he received his law degree from the Univer-

sity's Law School in 1975. Unable to find a job as the law firms he interviewed with were afraid to hire him in lieu of losing clients, he was fortunate to receive a call from one of the more prestigious law firms in the country, Washington, D.C.'s Hunton & Williams, later renamed styled Hunton, Williams, Gay & Gibson. They hired him making him their first African American attorney. In 1982, he made partner. In being named partner, Thomas became the first African American in the history of the United States to make partner in a southern law firm.

A year later, Thomas got married. One could say it was a wedding gift, while others simply say it was because of his intelligence and work ethics that then Governor Charles S. Robb appointed him to the Virginia Supreme Court. He again made a first in becoming the first African American to be named Justice to the Virginia Court. At only thirty-two years old, he was the youngest person, black or white, to be named to the Court.

While on the bench, Thomas made his mark and made it quickly. He wrote a key opinion that ruled that husbands could be charged with raping their wives. He was part of the ruling that the Court passed which made Virginia one of the first to allow DNA evidence into trials. Unfortunately, in his seventh year on the Court, Thomas suffered a seizure and was forced to resign his seat. It was later discovered that he had a brain tumor although benign.

A point of note that is well worth mentioning is that in Thomas becoming a Supreme Court Justice, ironically, one of the aunts that helped rear him when he was young, Leah Ward Sears, also became a Supreme Court Justice. She served in the Georgia Supreme Court. She too made several firsts. She was the first woman and the youngest person to sit on Georgia's Supreme Court.

Judge Thomas returned to private practice law with the law firm that first hired him years before, Hunton & Williams. In 2005, he was named as a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), based in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Court, created in 1983, is comprised of lawyers and former Jurists selected from around the world. The independent arbitral institution Court's purpose is to settle sports related disputes that involve rules of international sports federations and drug allegations and violations. The Court has offices in New York City, Sydney, Australia, and ad hoc offices in any host city selected to host an Olympic Game.

A member of almost every Bar association in the United States including the Virginia State, Richmond, National and American Bars, Thomas is also a member of several committees which are far to extensive to list here. His honors are vast and his commitment to community service is unchallenged. Armed with an AAA Complex Commercial Arbitrator and Mediator rating, Thomas continues to litigate and settle cases for his clients in Richmond, Virginia.



JOHN W.E. THOMAS

...was born in 1847 into slavery. He spent his childhood and learning years in Alabama. After becoming a school teacher and getting married, he left Alabama, moving his family to

Chicago, Illinois. Once becoming settled, he opened a neighborhood grocery store.

Several years later, with teaching still a passion, Thomas opened a small school in his home. That small school became the first school that existed for black education in Chicago. In his school, Thomas taught the young and the old, from the youngest that could learn to read to the oldest that cared to want to, his school gave them the chance.

By the time Thomas reached eighteen years of age in 1865, the Illinois state legislature repealed their discriminatory "Black Laws," that existed at the time. The laws were statutes designed to forbid blacks from voting, serving on juries or entering into contracts. With the passage of the 1870 Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, those "Black Laws," were ruled unconstitutional.

Opposition against blacks being a part of the state legislature began to dissipate. Now having the legal right, in 1874, Thomas took advantage of the opportunity entered politics. He became a delegate to the Republican county convention. He actively became involved with the Second Ward Republican Club.

At the Republican nominating convention in 1876, his name and that of a few others were being passed around as potential nominees to represent the Party in the upcoming election for the 2nd District of Illinois. Thomas began his campaign by hosting speaking engagements throughout the cities wards and neighborhoods. Some questioned his youthful capabilities as he was only twenty-nine years old, while others lauded his wise perspectives for such a young age.

Nonetheless, on November 7, 1876, after a closely ran campaign, Thomas garnered enough votes in the general election to become victorious in his bid for one of the three seats representing the 2nd District of the State of Illinois' state legislature. Thanks to federal changes in the

voting rights laws, Thomas' black community was able to nominate and elect him to the state office position. He became the first black in any mid-western state to be elected to office. As a Republican, he became first black to serve as a state legislator in the history of the state of Illinois.

After serving his term, Thomas ran for re-election in the 1882 general election. He won that election and went on to serve two more terms. While in the state legislature, he served on several committees, including the Judiciary Committee. His committee was pivotal in the passage state laws that banned discrimination in public places.

After leaving his seat in the state legislature, in 1892 Thomas served as a presidential elector for the Republican Party. He ran a successful civil law practice in Chicago for the next seven years. Credited as a leader amongst leaders, Thomas set the path for others to be voted into state government, and other black politicians soon did. Be it, past Chicago Mayor Harold Washington or current President Barack Obama, it was Thomas that paved the way for black political Illinois.

Thomas' care and love for Chicago and the people of Illinois was shown through his dedicated work. His legacy today stands strong in the Chicago African American legal society. Thomas gave his life to protecting the civil rights of his constituents up until his death in 1899 at the age of fifty-four. He was buried in Oak Woods Cemetery located on the south side of Chicago.



LAWSON EDWARD THOMAS

...was born on January 18, 1898 in Ocala, Florida to Hattie (Butler) Thomas and Robert James Thomas. He received his undergraduate from Florida A&M College in Tallahassee, Florida. He then attended the University of

Michigan in Ann Arbor where he obtained his law degree.

After receiving his law degree, Thomas returned to Florida in 1923 settling in Miami to begin practicing law. He would work in the legal profession for the next sixty-six years. It wasn't until 1935 that he his own law firm. When he did argue a cases in court, the courtroom would often be filled with African American spectators, as Thomas was one of the few African American attorneys practicing and people came to see him in action.

In one of his earliest appearances in a Miami courtroom, it had been customary for a white attorney to speak during court proceedings. Thomas opted to speak for his client himself and in doing so a Bailiff threatened to throw him out of a sixth floor municipal court building's window for breaking the custom. Thomas stood his ground, argued the case himself and won.

Thomas's first major success came when he represented a group of African American parents who brought a case against the Broward County School Board claiming unequal educational treatment of their children. At that time, the School Board allowed white children to attend school full time while the African American children's school year was three months shorter. The reason for the shorter school years was to force the African American students to work those three months picking beans in the bean fields during harvest season. Thomas successfully sued the School Board over the long established practice allowing the students a fair opportunity to learn at the pace of their white counterparts.

In other notable cases, Thomas was instrumental in litigating the challenge to obtain equal salaries for African American and white teachers. The case was litigated through the courts reaching the U.S. Supreme Court where Thomas's teachers won a favorable decision. In another case in Dade County, Florida, he successfully sued the city after organizing a beach "Wade-in" to protest against African Americans not being allowed into the city beaches and argued for a beach that blacks could enjoy. He also fought for African

Americans to serve on local juries arguing that the U.S. Constitution provided the option for U.S. citizens to be judged by their peers and African Americans needed to be judged by other African Americans who were their peers.

In 1947, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hired Thomas to represent Aaron Quince, a black nineteen year old that stood trial for allegedly murdering white twenty-nine year old housewife Leona Carter Sparkman. Thomas challenged the murder indictment on the grounds that Quince would not get a fair trial from the all-white juries that were usually convened and that blacks were arbitrarily omitted from juries because of their race. Circuit Court Judge George Jackson agreed with Thomas and threw out the murder indictment and instructed the County Commissioner to purge the entire jury box and refill it according to Constitutional rules.

After winning these historic cases, in 1950, Thomas was appointed as a Judge of Miami's Negro Police Court by Miami Mayor Robert L. Floyd. He became the African American Judge to serve on a Court in the South since Reconstruction. He was also the first African American to hold public office in the South since Reconstruction as well.

In opening the Negro Police Court courtroom, Judge Thomas hired one of Miami's first five African American police officers, Clyde Lee, as his Bailiff. He also hired an African American clerk, F.W. Reynolds to assist him in running his courtroom. The only setback to the Negro Court was that Judge Thomas could not hear cases involving white defendants. If a crime were committed by a black person and a white person the black person would be tried in the Negro Court and the white would be tried in a white court. If there was a crime committed by a black person against a white person, Judge Thomas could not preside over that case, which was sent to the white court having an all-white jury.

While adjudicating the law, Judge Thomas used his courtroom to teach thousands of Miami residents about the law. He gave the African American community the opportunity to witness that justice could be had by all. He is credited with decreasing juvenile delinquency and with Miami's crime rate in the black community reducing itself. Judge Thomas left the Negro Court bench in 1955.

Five years later, in 1959, Judge Thomas returned to the bench and served another five years. He was an advocate for civil rights and actively participated in social and political endeavors. In advocating for equal rights, he used the law as a tool and worked tirelessly to ensure the underserved understood their rights under the law.

Judge Lawson E. Thomas died on September 14, 1989. He was ninety-one years old.



Photo Not Available



LUCIA THEODOSIA THOMAS

...was born on March 10, 1917 in Cheyenne, Wyoming to Dottie Mae (Sears) McKinney and Benjamin Franklin Thomas. She received her undergraduate degree magna cum laude

from Xavier University in New Orleans in 1936. For her law degree, she attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor graduating in 1938. She continued her legal education at the Robert Terrell Law School in Washington, D.C. where she earned a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1940. Thomas completed her legal education when she received her Master of Laws degree in 1942 from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas began her working legal career serving as associate attorney to Benjamin H. Crockett in Chicago. She remained with Crockett for eight years. She then became an Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County, Illinois in 1957 where she worked for four years. She left the State's Attorney to work in private practice but returned to again work in the office in 1965 where she remained for four years.

In 1969, Thomas became an attorney in the legal department for the Cook County Juvenile Court. She remained with the Juvenile Court for four years. She joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)'s Legal Defense Fund. Thomas then became a law clerk to the Justices at the Appellate Court and during the same time she gave time to the Chicago Urban League.

In 1974, Thomas became an Assistant Corporate Counsel where she worked for three years. She then was appointed as a Judge in the Marriage Court for the Circuit Court Cook County. She served on the Court for seven years.

In 1983, Judge Thomas was named as a Moot Court Judge for the Illinois Institute Continuing Legal Education. Two years later, she became a member of the Unemployment Compensation Circuit Court to Cook County. She would serve in that capacity for five years.

Judge Thomas during her career has strove to be of assistance to young students encouraging them to edu-

cate themselves as a way to ensure a quality life. She believed that the more education a person obtained, the harder it is for doors to be closed against them. In that regard, Judge Thomas has donated almost \$500,000 for scholarships to help young people go to school and to further their education.

Judge Thomas has been honored with several awards including being the recipient of the Community Service Award, the Push Excellence Award, and the Auxiliary Ladies Grace Award. She has been presented with a BALS Award and a Merit Award. She has also been inducted to the Chicago's Citizen Hall of Fame.

Judge Thomas is a member of the Catholic Order Forrester, the National Association Women Judges, the Delta Sigma Theta, and the Catholic Lawyers Guild. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and the Illinois Women's Bar Association. She is also a member of the Cook County Bar Association, the World Association Judges, and the Illinois Judge's Association. In addition, Judge Thomas is a member of the National Bar Association's Illinois Judicial Council.



LARRY DEAN THOMPSON

...was born on November 15, 1945 and is a native of Hannibal, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in 1967 from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. He earned a Master's degree in 1969 from Michigan State University in

East Lansing, Michigan. In 1974, Thompson obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

While earning his law degree, Thompson worked at the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan as an industrial relations representative. Once he obtained his law degree, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri to take a job with the Monsanto Company. Later that same year, he joined the law firm of King & Spalding with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. At the law firm, Thompson co-founded the firm's special matters and government investigations practice.

In 1982, Thompson left King & Spalding to become the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia at the Department of Justice (DOJ). In his role as U.S. Attorney, Thompson investigated internal DOJ matters, prosecuted complex DOJ cases, and defended individuals and businesses in special matters brought to the attention of the DOJ. He also led the Southeastern Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. Four years later, he left the DOJ to return to King & Spalding as a partner. He remained with the firm for five years.

In 1995, Thompson served as the Independent Counsel for the Department of Housing and Urban Development Investigation. He remained as Independent Counsel for three years. After that, Thompson was selected by the U.S. Congress to chair the bi-partisan Judicial Review Commission on Foreign Asset Control.

In 2001, he served as the Deputy U.S. Attorney General at the DOJ appointed by then President Bush. He held the second highest-ranking post and led the department's National Security Coordination and the Corporate Fraud Task Force. He oversaw the prosecution of Executives involved with the Enron scandal and penned his signature to a DOJ memo granting the deportation of Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen to Syria where he was ultimately tortured.

Thompson signed the memo despite the recommendation of a convened immigration panel that was opposed to Arar's deportation. The panel cited Syria's past indiscretions in torture, which was a breach of international law that prohibited torture. For the abuse he received, Canada ultimately paid millions to Arar for their part in his deportation and torture. The United States has refused to make any payments to Arar on the grounds of "state secrets" by both the Bush and Obama administrations. Arar had filed a lawsuit against the United States Government,

which was dismissed on the grounds of "state secrets" policies by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals.

While serving at the DOJ, Thompson also served as the Director of the Provident Financial Corporation, a leading credit card issuer. The company was forced to pay \$400 million in settlement charges for consumer and securities fraud and was eventually sold to Washington Mutual for \$6.5 billion. In the deal, Thompson pocketed \$4.7 million in stock but did so prior to the securities fraud allegations. The Judicial Watch later filed suit against Thompson for allegedly inflating the price of the stock in order to increase his earnings in the sale. He denied any wrongdoings.

In January of 2003, he introduced to the DOJ a document titled, "The Thompson Memorandum", which was designed to help federal prosecutors determine whether to charge a corporation or an individual working for a corporation with criminal offenses. The tough requirements called for a corporation to turn over materials from internal investigations, waive attorney-client privilege, and not provide targeted executives with company-paid lawyers. Critics of the memorandum called the measure an attempt to erode attorney client privilege. The guidelines set by Thompson's memorandum were later softened by Deputy Attorney General Paul J. McNulty, who issued a revised version for implementation.

In August of 2003, Thompson left the DOJ to become a Senior Fellow with Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.. He served as a Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for the Institution. He also served as General Counsel at Pepsico located in Purchase, New York.

In 2004, Thompson's name was entered as a leading candidate to replace Attorney General, John Ashcroft who resigned from office on November 9, 2004. Alberto Gonzales ultimately was selected for the position. If Thompson had been selected, he would have become the first African American to ever have lead the DOJ. He was later mentioned as a replacement of retiring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. That recommendation also failed to materialize a coveted position for Thompson.

In 2011, Thompson became a John A. Sibley Professor in Corporate and Business Law at the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, Georgia. At the law school, taught Corporate Responsibility and White Collar Criminal Law, and served as a member of the Dean Rusk International Law Center Council. During that time, Thompson also taught courses at Georgia State University College of Law in Atlanta.

In July 2015, Thompson joined Finch McCranie, LLP. He is married to his wife Brenda Anne Taggart. Together, they have two sons.

Thompson has received numerous awards during his legal career for his professional achievements. He has received the Edmund Jennings Randolph Award from the DOJ. He has been given the Outstanding Litigator Award from the Federal Bar Association. He has been inducted into the Atlanta's Gate City Bar Association's Hall of Fame. In addition, Thompson has been given an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Pace University in New York.





M AVIS T. THOMPSON

...received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Doctorate from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the same University. She received further

legal education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government's program at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

During her legal career, Thompson has served as a St. Louis, Missouri Circuit Clerk for the 22nd Judicial Circuit and as a Prosecuting Attorney for the Missouri cities of Berkeley, Dellwood and Wellston. In serving as the clerk, she was the first African American woman to serve. She has served as an Assistant Attorney General in the state's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and on the State of Missouri's Division of Employment Security Appeals Tribunal. Thompson has also served as a Senior Associate Attorney in the law firm of Sandberg, Phoenix P.C.. At Sandberg, she worked in the firm's Health Law practice group.

In 2009, Thompson was elected as the President of the National Bar Association. As President, she used her experience as a registered nurse to nurture in health-care initiatives aimed at addressing cardiac and mental health issues. She helped to draw more African-Americans toward pursuing law careers and drew attention to the need for more mentoring of middle and high school students, law students and attorneys new to the profession.

On October 11, 2013, then Governor Jay Nixon appointed Thompson as License Collector for the City of St. Louis. In the 2014 general election, she was elected to a full term. She became the first African American woman to be appointed to the position and first to be elected to public office in two citywide elections.

Thompson has been active in the St. Louis community and her dedicated commitment to serving St. Louis's youth, its' senior citizens, and those in the community interested in education. She has taken on numerous initiatives aimed at bringing public service to civic and professional organizations. She has given her commitment to improving efficiency and service through personalized

training and applied science always using her motto of, "each one must teach one".

Thompson is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Mound City Bar Association, and the Women Lawyers' Association of Greater St. Louis. She is a Board member of the Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and serves on the Board of Trustees at the Mt. Herald Missionary Baptist Church. Thompson is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc..



LEONA POUNCEY THURMAN

...was born on July 1, 1911 in Russellville, Arkansas. After completing high school, she attended Henderson Business College in Memphis, Tennessee. After completing her undergraduate degree in 1931, she

moved to in Kansas City, Missouri to begin her professional career.

She found a job working as a secretary for the law firm of attorney James D. Pouncey. The two fell in love and were married in 1937. Unfortunately, Pouncey would die several years later.

Thurman then decided to return to school and left Kansas City to attend Washington, D.C.'s Howard University's Law School. She completed her law studies in 1949 and was awarded her law degree. She returned to Kansas City where she became the first African American woman to practice law in the city.

Thurman would spend the next thirty-four years practicing law in Kansas City focusing her attention on criminal law and later changing her specialization to family law. She met Odell Thurman, an administrator for the Kansas City school district, and in 1957 the two married. Thurman became active in the affairs of the local Kansas City African American communities, became involved with local politics, and joined the Republican Party. She also gave support to several local organizations, including the YWCA, the Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the League of Women Voters.

In 1969, Thurman served on a Pentagon panel of fifteen civic, business, and government leaders that was convened by then President Richard Nixon for the Department of Defense and charged with studying the operations of the Pentagon. The panel had as its' Chair, Gilbert W. Fitzhugh, the Chairman of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The year long study created a report to the President that gave suggestions on how to improve the overall operations of the management of the Pentagon by the Defense Department's brass.

Thurman was the elected as the President of the Southwest Bar Association. She was then selected to be

the Chair of the Women's Division of the World Peace through Law Center. Thurman also was selected to serve on a committee to restore a Kansas City neighborhood back to the Jazz center it once was. She served on the Board of Directors of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Mid-Continent Council of Girl Scouts of America, and the Carver Neighborhood Center.

In 1960, for her service to the residents of Kansas City in their legal needs, the National Bar Association presented Thurman with its' C. Francis Stradford Award. She would go on to give legal services representing Kansas City residents for the next twenty-five years. Thurman would die on May 1, 1975 and was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery.



PATRICIA
"PAT"
TIMMONS-
GOODSON

..was born on September 18, 1954 in Florence, South Carolina. She was raised on military bases, as her father was an enlisted United States Army Sergeant.

Her mother worked as a housewife. The family was stationed on Army bases in the U.S. and Europe.

Timmons-Goodson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech in 1976 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She remained at the school to attend its' law school where she earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 1979. She enrolled into Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina to obtain her Master of Laws degree doing so in 2014.

To begin her working legal career, Timmons-Goodson took a job as a District Manager for the United States Census Bureau's Charlotte Regional Office working for the Bureau for one year, 1979-1980. She then began working as an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of the District Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial District in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She remained in the office for three years.

In 1983, Timmons-Goodson became a staff attorney for the Lumbee River Legal Services. A year later, she was appointed as a District Court Judge by then North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.. In the 1986 general election, Judge Timmons-Goodson won the election to remain on the Court. She would go on to win the 1990 and the 1994 general elections as well.

In 1997, Governor Hunt appointed her to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. She remained on the bench for eight years leaving in 2005 to take a seat on the bench of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Appointed to North Carolina's highest court by then Governor Mike Easley, Judge Timmons-Goodson to replace Associate Justice Sarah Parker. In taking her seat on the Supreme Court, she became the first African American woman to serve as an Associate Justice on the state's highest court. In the 2006 general election, she was elected to remain on the court defeating Judge Eric Levinson. After six years on the Supreme Court bench, s Judge Timmons-Goodson retired

in 2012 being replaced by Court of Appeals Judge Cheri Beasley.

In 2014, then President Barack Obama appointed her to as a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. A year later, she was named as the Vice Chair of that Commission. On April 28, 2016, President Obama appointed Judge Timmons-Goodson to serve as a United States District Judge to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. She replaced Judge Malcolm Jones Howard, who took senior status on December 31, 2005. Unfortunately, her nomination expired on January 3, 2017 with the end of the 114th Congress.

Judge Timmons-Goodson has been honored during her distinguished legal career by many legal organizations and other civic institutions for her dedicated legal work. She has been awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the Liberty Bell, and been named the Appellate Judge of the Year. She has been given three honorary degrees and inducted into the North Carolina Women's Hall of Fame. She was also selected to give the commencement address for Johnson C. Smith University located in Charlotte, North Carolina.



ALPHONSO L. TINDALL, JR.

...was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but I was raised in New Haven, Connecticut. His father was a social worker and became the campaign manager for Henry Parker, the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut and

the first African American to run for Mayor. A nine years old, Tindall was getting a first hand look at governmental affairs from Parker, who was took the young Tindall under his wings, becoming a unspoken Godfather to him.

While in college at St. Olaf College located in Northfield, Minnesota, Tindall took his first internship that set the foundation for his future success. St. Olaf operated on a four month semester with a month off whereby the students would find an internship to work. Tindall needing an internship applied for several positions as a summer associates. With no call backs from any of his interviews, he haphazardly telephoned one of the firms that he had interviewed with, Hawkins Delafield & Wood L.L.P., in Washington, D.C.. To his surprise, someone in their office had forgotten to call him letting him know his start date and that he was late for work. He performed well that summer and would later accept full-time employment with the firm later.

In that summer intern job, Tindall experienced adversity that would prepare him for some of the larger issues he would face as an African American lawyer. He realized that he would have to work twice as hard and needed to be better than others to survive. In a separate internship, he was given an assignment in Washington, D.C. as an intern for Georgia Congressman Andrew Young. Tindall graduated from St. Olaf in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with Political Science and Economics. He went on to attain his J.D. degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law graduating in 1981.

Tindall passed the bars of both the Connecticut State Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. He held successful positions with several law firms including stints with Nixon Peabody and Greenberg Traurig in New York. He later joined Hawkins Delafield & Wood L.L.P., the law firm that gave him his first summer intern job, where he excelled again. Tindal, at the young age of thirty-four became the firms first African-American partner.

As a partner, Tindall was in charge of matters surrounding emerging markets, government relations, private-equity asset management, and public project financing. As a senior partner, he is seen as a positive influence for other minority employees of the firm. His presence gives the minority employees the opportunity to see success, something they too can obtain.

As a successful attorney, he represents some of the United States' largest cities in their public sector related matters. He assists his clients in the financing of their public projects. Ironically, as a child he helped support a Mayor get elected, and as an adult, he supports city's across the country with their municipal investments.

Tindall has vast experiences in public policy, public and project finance, and private equity and alternative investments. His expertise lies in the development and implementation of state programs created for the benefit of local municipalities. He focuses on the decision makers at the state and municipality levels and the processes they have in place. He serves as the state and local government's bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, and special tax counsel. In this capacity, he has represented many public authorities across the United States, including in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

Tindall has centered his public sector concentration in four areas of expertise for the municipalities. The first is to create a partnership with the his public or private clients. The second centers on the government's pension-fund monies. He negotiates the terms of the documents and transactions. The third area of focus is involving his clients into merging markets both onshore and offshore. The fourth area of Tindall's expertise is related to public-project financing. He represents investment banking institutions in their litigations.

Having had several people in his life to inspire him, including the late Ron Brown, who became the first African-American Chair of the Democratic Party, Tindall makes it his purpose to inspire others, including African American's to enter the law field as the rewards can be great with hard work and a focused mind.

Tindall currently is associated with the law firm of Schiff Hardin LLP, a national law firm with nearly four hundred attorneys and eight offices nationwide in Ann Arbor, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Lake Forest, New York, Palo Alto, San Francisco and Washington, DC.. 

Photo Not Available



EDWARD B. TOLES

...was born in Columbus, Georgia. In high school, while attending Englewood High School, Toles was able to attend a lecture on economic reform in Georgia given by Clarence Darrow, a

leading United States attorney and member of the American Civil Liberties Union. By the end of Darrow's speech, Toles had made the decision to become a lawyer.

To receive his law degree, Toles attended Loyola University's School of Law in Chicago, Illinois graduating in 1936. After passing the Illinois State Bar exam, he sat up offices in Chicago in 1938. He began to take on cases from local Chicago residents that centered on civil rights, discrimination and unfair housing. In one of his early cases, Toles represented three African American University of Illinois students who had been denied service in a local restaurant. He unfortunately lost that case but due to added pressure from the community, the restaurant would open its' doors to African Americans less than a year later.

For the next fifty years, Toles would service the African American community in similar cases striving to end discrimination and protect the civil and civic rights of African Americans and other minorities. He would work to promote legal opportunities for other African American attorneys and Judges knowing that there were not many that had entered the legal field of which many more were needed. Judge Toles was dedicated to issues of equal rights, particularly for the equal rights of African Americans.

In 1939, Toles took a job with the United States Housing Authority in Washington, D.C. as an Assistant Staff Attorney. With the breakout of World War II, he served as a war correspondent for the Chicago Defender newspaper covering black troops in England, France and Germany. After the war ended, Toles returned to Chicago and continued his law practice representing African Americans with the legal problems.

As his legal career grew, so did his leadership roles. He became a respected Chicago attorney and politically active amongst his legal peers. In the mid 1950s, he was

placed in a leadership role with the National Bar Association where he worked to make more judicial positions for African Americans. He was elected as the President of the Cook County Bar Association and served as President for two years. In that regard, he and other lawyers set up legal aid offices around the country during the 1960s working with the United States Office of Economic Opportunity.

For the National Bar Association, Toles served as the organization's historian. He had an intense interest in history, particularly the history that dealt with African Americans and the judiciary. His research has been utilized in the past by several members of the U.S. Congress and by others who have tried cases or have spoken on matters affecting African Americans and the law.

In 1968, Toles was appointed as a Chicago bankruptcy Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He was the first African American to serve as a federal bankruptcy judge in Chicago. He would remain on the Bankruptcy Court for the next seventeen years. While sitting on the bench, Judge Toles presided over some of the District Court's largest bankruptcy cases, including those involving the Chicago Executive Hotel, the Meisterbrau Brewery, and Unarco Industries, Inc..

Judge Edward B. Toles died of congestive heart failure in Chicago at the age of eighty-nine.



LYNN CANDACE TOLER

...was born on October 13, 1959 and is a native of Columbus, Ohio. Her childhood was tumultuous to say the least, as her father suffered from a bipolar condition, which caused her

to have a nervous breakdowns by the time she was in the fourth grade and another by the time she became a teenager. Simple things such as a mispronounced word or a dirty carpet could lead to an unfortunate episode with her father. Her saving grace was her mother's resolve and emotional strength, which turned Toler's weaknesses into controlled resolve.

After graduating from high school, Toler attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts majoring in American Literature where she received her undergraduate degree in 1981. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1984. Several years later, Toler married Eric Mumford and the two would have two children together.

Toler began her professional legal career as a practicing attorney specializing in civil law. After serving in private practice for ten years, in 1994, she was named as the sole Judge in the Cleveland Heights, Ohio Municipal Court and served the court for eight years. At thirty-four years old, Judge Toler won her judgeship in a predominantly Democratic District running as a Republican winning by a mere six votes. While serving the Cleveland, Ohio suburb of approximately 50,000 residents, she presided over cases involving misdemeanor crimes, traffic violations, and minor cost civil cases.

As her popularity rose, she was re-elected in the 2000 election, this time garnering 80% of the casted votes. During her second term on the bench, Judge Toler took a more nontraditional approach to litigating cases including assigning litigants to write hand written essays in lieu of more severe punishments. She took special care to young teenage girls and even created a mentoring program to assist them with their problems be they family or societal.

After retiring from the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court bench, from 2001 through 2006, Judge Toler served

as an Adjunct Professor at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio. There she created and taught courses on Civil Rights Law and Women's Rights. As a fair and level-headed jurist, Judge Toler soon began to receive national recognition and was named as the Host of 20th Television's nationally recognized television show, "Power of Attorney". After serving as the show's host for one year, she left to give time to her production company, Toler Corp based in Mesa, Arizona. Five years later, Judge Toler returned to the television screen, serving as the host of the nationally syndicated show, "Divorce Court", where she would spend the next eleven years. During that time, Judge Toler also serves as the Executive Producer of the half hour syndicated television show, "Wedlock or Deadlock", which provided counseling to married couples. In 2015, Judge Toler was named as a cast member of the WeTV show, "Marriage Bootcamp" and continues today as a part of the show.

Judge Toler has served on many boards during her legal career, including serving on the Boards of The Juvenile Diabetes Board and The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). She also served on the Board of The Cleveland Domestic Violence Center. In addition, Judge Toler has received many honors and accolades in recognition of her service to the legal profession. She has received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from The Cleveland Domestic Violence Center.

Judge Toler continues to live in Mesa, Arizona and still serves the legal profession as the presiding Judge on the Divorce Court while giving time to her production company as well.



STANLEY EUGENE TOLLIVER, SR.

...was born on October 29, 1925 in Cleveland, Ohio to Edna and Eugene Tolliver. He attended East Technical High School graduating in 1944. A gifted athlete, he won the Ohio State Championship in the 440-yard dash. He also won the Ohio State

Vocal Contest for his high school as well.

Tolliver was also a gifted musician having the violin as his choice of instruments. For sports, he was involved in heavyweight boxing. Along with his musical and athletic abilities, Tolliver was text book student.

Completing his high school studies, Tolliver enrolled into the Baldwin-Wallace College located in Berea, Ohio, where he graduated in 1948. He went on to earn his undergraduate law degree from the John Marshall School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. While at John Marshall he majored in opera. He was the founding President of an interracial fraternity that later merged with Pi Lambda Phi. He also ran track.

In 1951, Tolliver was drafted into the U.S. Army. During his time in the Army, he served in the Counterintelligence Corps. Completing his military duties, he took and passed the Ohio bar exam in 1953. He would, in 1968, earn his LLD degree and was awarded, in 1969, his Juris Doctorate degree.

During the civil rights era, Tolliver represented members of the Congress of Racial Equality, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and served as legal counsel for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was Counsel for convicted murderer Fred Ahmed Evans. Following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., a gun battle broke out between black militants and the Cleveland police. Once calm was restored, seven people had been killed and fifteen were wounded. Three of the dead were Cleveland police officers.

Brought up on charges for the murders, Tolliver took on the case to represent Evans. During the trial, Evan's brother, William "Bootsie" Evans, was shot and killed in the doorway of Tolliver's law office. The assailant was not charged as the police claimed the shooter acted in defense of a robbery. Evans was convicted of the murders and sentenced to death. Tolliver was able to get the sentence reduced to life in prison where Evans died of cancer in 1978. Angered by the shootings, Tollivers' home was shot up during a drive-by shooting that barely missed hitting several family members.

From that case, Tolliver and the Cleveland Police Department had a contentious Relationship. He would often accuse the police of improper conduct. He attacked the state prosecutors for their selective prosecution of crimes depending upon the race of the culprits. He advocated for the testing of police officers involved in a shooting requesting they take an alcohol test right after a shooting as was the custom involving civilian shootings.

In 1970, during student protests aimed at forcing the U.S. Government to end the war in Viet Nam and the protesting the Cambodian Campaign, the Ohio National Guard were called to the campus of Kent State University. Opening fire on the students, The Guard killed four students and wounded nine others. Tolliver was the only black attorney that represented the students in their defense.

Tolliver, along with other Ohioans, were pivotal in the desegregation of Cleveland's Public Schools. He was admitted to the argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1977. A year later, after Cleveland's Board of Education was found to be operating a segregated school system, Tolliver was named to the Committee on the Office of School Monitoring and Community Relations. In 1981, Tolliver was elected to the Board where he served for twelve years. He became the President of the Board.

During his legal career, Tolliver had an infinity to support the underdog. Many times he was successful but not all case ended with a victory. He represented FBI murder Melvin Bay Guyon and kidnapper and murderer, Mark DiMarco. Both were found guilty of their crimes.

Tolliver was an advocate for parental involvement in the lives of the school children of Cleveland. A lifelong member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he was deeply involved in the civil rights of his community. An active member in his church, Antioch Baptist Church, he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

He became the President of the Norman S. Minor Bar Association, Cleveland's first African American bar association. The local chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers elected him as their President as well. He also hosted a weekly radio show, "*Conversations with Stanley E. Tolliver, Sr.*" on local radio station WERE-AM. The show's purpose is to improve the lives of Cleveland's minority community and its' schools.

On January 3, 2011, after a lengthy battle, Stanley Eugene Tolliver, Sr. died at the Stokes Cleveland VA Medial Center complications from cancer. He was eighty-five years old. For his life long work's, Tolliver was the NAACP's Freedom Award. The City of Cleveland also named a street in his honor.





CHARLES E. TONEY

...was born in 1881 in Alabama. He received his law degree from Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. After completing his law studies, Toney moved to New York City, New York to began practicing law. Over the next

several decades, he handled common law cases along with the few black attorneys at the time.

In 1930, Toney was elected to the New York's Manhattan Municipal Court in the newly created Tenth District, which included the neighborhood of Harlem. The Tenth District was created through a bill sponsored by Francis E. Rivers, a Republican African American Assemblyman who served during that time. Judge Toney along with Judge James S. Watson were the first two African American attorneys appointed as a Judge on the local New York Bench. Judge Toney sat on the New York Municipal Court bench for twenty years serving two ten-year terms.

In 1935, Judge Toney became a member of the Board of Directors to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His kind humor and his common sense to complex issues helped the NAACP achieve many of the goals they fought to achieve as it relates to bringing more people of color into the organization and to fight the challenges that African Americans were confronted with during that time. Judge Toney was a fair Judge and looked at issues surrounding a case in his adjudication. As more and more blacks arrived in New York from the Deep South seeking a better life than afforded them there, he looked at circumstances surrounding alleged crimes with an understanding of the racial climate and the economic discrimination that affected many who may have committed a crime. He understood their civil rights battles and fairly ruled in his cases. Judge Toney, as did the only other African American Judge at the time, Judge Watson, used their common law-school experiences and their life experiences and served as role models to many in the New York African American community.

Judge Toney was affiliated with the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. Founded in the 1920s

as an organization that would allow blacks to be a part of a judiciary organization, as the white American Bar Association did not permit blacks to be members, the National Bar Association became the go to organization for black attorneys. As a member of the Judicial Council, Judge Toney and others worked to bring more African Americans into the legal profession, especially into the judiciary.

Judge Charles E. Toney died on March 22, 1950. He was seventy-two years old.



OPIO TOURE

...was born on March 31, 1954 in Muskogee, Oklahoma under the name of Ezellmo A. Stephens. He was the oldest of five children and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1976 from Langston University in Langston, Okla-

homa. While at Langston, Toure led a student protest and sit-in at the Governor of Oklahoma's office after thought was given to closing the University and turning it into a prison.

To obtain his law degree, Toure attended the University of Oklahoma School of Law in Norman, Oklahoma. He graduated from the University with his Juris Doctorate degree in 1979. He then attended Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he obtained a Masters of Divinity degree in 2001.

In 1994, Toure was elected as a member of the Oklahoma Democratic Legislature and served in the legislature for twelve years. While serving in the state House, he was appointed to several leadership roles and rose amongst his peers to become the Democratic Floor Leader. He also was elected as the President of the Oklahoma City Association of Black Lawyers. He served as the President of the Northeast Youth Athletic Association as well. In addition, Toure served on the Board of Directors of Oklahoma City Northeast, Inc. and as the County Co-Chair of the Oklahoma County Democratic Party.

Toure was involved in several key and notable legislations while a member of the Oklahoma House. He was part of legislation introduced that gave people who had been wrongfully convicted and imprisoned the right to be compensated for up to \$175,000 in damages. Toure was an adamant opponent against the death penalty and spearheaded House Bill 2635, a bill introduced to stop the execution of the mentally disabled who have committed crimes having intelligence quotients of 70 or below. The bill received bipartisan support with the U.S. Supreme Court later deciding a case, "Atkins v. the State of Virginia", which ruled that executing the mentally disabled was cruel and unusual punishment.

Toure was an opponent of the "Right to Scab" state constitutional amendment, which was a legislative pro-

posal that would give Oklahoma workers to right to be given notice before being terminated from their employment. In Oklahoma, workers could be terminated at any time for any reason and without notice. Toure left the state legislature in 2006 after his term-limit expired.

Toure, as an Alumni of Langston University, was central to the growth and funding of the University. He actively advocated for the advancement of the schools educational offerings and gave much time to those purposes. He served as an Assistant Professor at the school and was pivotal in the development of the institution's Pre-Law Initiative, a program aimed at attracting more African American students into law school.

Toure, as a practicing minister, served as the Associate Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Meridian, Oklahoma. A compassionate Christian, he worked endlessly to represent those that had no voice. His deeply held Christian beliefs were shown in the care he gave his parishioners, the elderly, and the community in which he served. Despite being out of the state legislature, Toure never stopped serving those without sufficient representation.

Toure suffered from a deteriorating lung condition and was awaiting a lung transplant. While waiting on a donor, he suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized in the intensive care unit of St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City. He unfortunately died before a donor surfaced.



STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

...was born on September 10, 1949 in Cleveland, Ohio to Mary Looney Tubbs and Andrew Tubbs. Her mother worked as a factory worker while her father worked as a skyscraper. Stephanie had three sisters of which she was the youngest.

Tubbs Jones, while in high school earned ten academic and athletic awards before graduating from Collinwood High School located in her hometown of Cleveland. To begin her collegiate career, she enrolled into Case Western Reserve University, also in Cleveland. While at Case Western, Tubbs founded its' African American Students Association. She received her undergraduate degree from Case Western's Flora Stone Mather College in 1971 earning a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Psychology.

Tragedy struck Tubbs Jones in 1976. Her husband, Mervyn L. Jones, a year before they were married, had been charged with robbery and aggravated murder. Pleading guilty to a lesser count of manslaughter, Mervyn was given "shock probation," Shock probation is granted by a judge who orders a convicted offender to prison for a short time. The remainder of their sentence is then suspended in favor of probation. The purpose of "shock probation" is to give the offender an initial experience of prison life, hoping the experience will serve as a deterrent to recidivism.

Despite his conviction, Stephanie stood by his side. She and Mervyn stayed married for twenty-seven years until Mervyn's death on October 2, 2003. Together, they had one son, Mervyn Leroy Jones, Jr.

To begin her law degree process, Tubbs Jones enrolled into Case Western's Law School. She completed her studies in 1974, graduating with a J.D. degree. In her first legal job, for the equal opportunity administrator's office of the northeast Ohio regional sewer district, she became their Assistant General Counsel. In 1979, Jones while working on a successful political campaign, was chosen, from amongst her peers, to run for public office. Running on a platform that highlighted the exclusion of minority members on the bench, Jones, was voted in as a judge on the Cleveland Municipal Court.

In 1983, then Ohio Governor Richard Celeste appointed Jones to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. She sat on the bench for eight years. She was soon promoted to a Cuyahoga County Prosecutor position. That appointment made Tubbs Jones Ohio's first African American prosecutor and the only black female prosecutor in any major city in the United States. She went on to be re-elected twice.

After leaving the bench, Tubbs Jones made a run for Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Mary Cacioppo, the winner of the Democratic Primary, for health reasons, withdrew from the race. Tubbs Jones took her place in the general election. Unfortunately, she lost to Republican incumbent J. Craig Wright. In 1991, after recovering from her defeat, Tubbs Jones took the job as the Cuyahoga

County Prosecutor. She served in that position until late 1998 when she resigned to run for Congress.

U.S. House of Representative Louis Stokes had retired from his Ohio district seat, leaving the seat open for grabs. Tubbs Jones put her name in the race. She rode her seventeen year career in public service and her well established political connections to an easy approval rating victory, receiving a whopping 80% of the votes in the general election from her constituents.

In 1999, Tubbs Jones took her seat in the 106th U.S. Congress. Sitting on her first committee, she served on the Banking and Financial Services (later renamed Financial Services) and other small business committees until 2001. She later served on the Standards of Official Conduct Committee from 2001 to 2003. That committee oversees the guidelines on ethics for House members and House staff. Reelected four times, Tubbs Jones eventually served on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee from 2003 to 2005. This committee controls U.S. tax laws.

During her tenure in Congress, Tubbs Jones represented some of Cleveland's more affluent suburbs as well as poor, inner-city neighborhoods. While in Congress, she helped to secure funding for housing development and to aid local businesses. She chaired the Congressional Black Caucus' Housing Task Force. The Task Force investigated allegations against subprime financial lenders and introduced legislation against predatory lenders. Tubbs Jones also gave efforts to secure Social Security and Medicare, and long-term care were preserved to senior citizens.

She gave great attention to children's issues focusing on their health and education. Her authored Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999 successfully was passed which increased funding for child-protection workers to obtain more training. The Act generated funds from forfeited assets, fines, and bail bonds.

Tubbs Jones, during her term in the 109th Congresses (2001-2007), introduced the Uterine Fibroids Research and Education Act which increased funding for the research of fibroids and provided better treatment for women having fibroid issues. She introduced a bill that created the Campus Fire Prevention Act which provided federal funds for fire suppression equipment in college housing. She also authored the Count Every Vote Act which improved systems in electronic voting. For senior citizens, she introduced legislation that addressed the legal status of cash balances for pension plans.

As Co-Chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, Tubbs Jones opposed the Iraq war voting against U.S. involvement. She voted for free trade agreements, despite representing constituents from unionized Districts. She was a leading voice for the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement of 2007.

Congresswoman Tubbs Jones, on August 19, 2008, while driving her car erratically and being followed by police, suffered a brain aneurysm. Her car left the road and came to a stop in a nearby field. Taken to Huron Hospital's Cleveland Clinic, an intensive care facility, Tubbs Jones was placed in critical condition and on life support. Unfortunately, she died the next day from complications related to her brain hemorrhage.

Tubbs Jones was remembered by the membership organizations that she was a member of including the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and their National Five Point Thrust Program, specifically the Social Action and Political Awareness Program. She was also a Golden Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.





MARCUS O. TUCKER, JR.

... was born on November 12, 1934 in Santa Monica, California. His mother was a school-teacher and a realtor while his father was a physician. He received his undergraduate de-

gree for the University of Southern California at Los Angeles (USC). His law degree was earned at Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School. He would later obtain a Master's degree from Chapman University in Orange, California.

After completing his law degree in 1960, Tucker returned to Santa Monica to take a job with the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office as a staff attorney. He was the first African American Deputy City Attorney to serve in his hometown Santa Monica. He then became a United States Assistant Attorney in Los Angeles where he served for two years. He was the first African American attorney to practice in Los Angeles. He then became a Court Commissioner.

In 1976, Tucker was appointed as a Judge to the Long Beach Municipal Court. He was the first African American appointed to the Municipal Court. A year later, Judge Tucker was named as the Presiding Judge of the Court. He was challenged by two opponents who wanted the seat in a nasty 1978 general election however Judge Tucker was elected to remain on the Court's bench.

While sitting on the bench, Judge Tucker was an advocate for the rehabilitation of teenage offenders. His desire to change the lives of young adults that have found themselves in the clutching of the law would become the central driving force for his adjudication from the bench. Judge Tucker was an advocate for the establishment of teen courts, established a playground facility for children to occupy themselves while awaiting court action, and initiated a low-cost program that could drug test parents while under the court's watch. Judge Tucker believed that children should be protected and feared that if not given proper guidance and direction while they were young, by the time they reached adulthood, it would be too late to correct their misguided behavior.

Judge Tucker would go on to preside over the entire Los Angeles County Juvenile Court system. He is cred-

ited with lower the rate of truancy among the children that came before the Court and refused to allow young offenders to be released from probation until they improved their school grades. In some cases, he enforced graduation from high school or the completion of a GED program before teenagers could be released from their probation status.

After many years serving on the Juvenile Court, Judge Tucker was appointed as a Judge to the Los Angeles County Superior Court. He took to the Superior Court the same determination for children's rights that he had while serving on the Juvenile Court. He would retire from the bench altogether in 2004.

Judge Tucker was married for almost forty-seven years to his wife to Indira Hale Tucker who passed away in 2012 at the age of sixty-eight. She was a genealogist, educator, and historian. She was the Co-Editor of the book, "The Heritage of African Americans in Long Beach: Over 100 Years" and co-founded the African American Heritage Society of Long Beach. Together, the couple had one daughter, Angelique.

Judge Tucker was given numerous awards by a variety of legal and community groups for his public service while serving on the bench. He was given a Jurist of the Year Award from the Juvenile Courts Bar Association and was recognized by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Long Beach chapter for his dedicated service. Judge Tucker was also inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame.



SAMUEL WILBERT TUCKER

...was born on June 18, 1913 in Washington, D.C.. He attended elementary school at the Parker-Gray School and graduated from high school from Armstrong High School. He then enrolled into the hometown school, Howard University where he

earned his undergraduate degree in 1933. Tucker then entered an independent legal training program and was able to take the bar exam at the young age of twenty. He passed the bar and was admitted to practice law on December 27, 1934.

Before Tucker began to practice law and opened an office in Alexandria, Virginia, he spent two years serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps. With the outbreak of World War II, he served in the 366th Infantry and saw combat in Italy. By the time of his discharge from the Army, Tucker had risen to the rank of Major.

When his military duties were completed, he returned to Virginia, opened a law office in Emporia, and began representing African Americans in civil and criminal cases. He was the first and only African American attorney in the town. He also became involved in civil rights issues affecting the black community.

Tucker then began to fight segregation and even staged a peaceful protest at the all-white library in Alexandria to force it to allow African Americans to use the library. Five young men were arrested for disorderly conduct with Tucker representing them to have the charges dropped. By September of 1939, Tucker had filed suit against the library to desegregate the facility and the local Court heard his petition. After presenting his case to the Court, it was agreed that the library should be opened to African Americans. Instead of allowing African Americans into the library, the city of Alexandria built a separate library was built for African Americans to use, the Robert H. Robinson Library.

Over the next decade, Tucker became one of the leading attorneys in Alexandria. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hired him to handle many of their civil rights cases in Virginia and Tucker was victorious in most of them. In one of his more notable cases, the case of the "Martinsville Seven", Tucker worked tirelessly on the appeal in the case, hoping to spare the lives of seven African American men accused of the rape of a white woman in 1949 in Martinsville, Virginia. At the time, only black men were executed for rape while white men who raped were sentenced to time in prison. Tucker argued in the case that over the past several

decades, forty-five black men had been executed for rape while no white man had been executed for the same crime. Unfortunately, the state of Virginia sentenced the men to death and held the largest mass execution for rape ever reported in the United States.

Tucker would then take on the fight to desegregate Virginia's public schools. He appeared before the United States Supreme Court on five different occasions making appeals for the Court to intervene and end segregation. Tucker, along with other lawyers hired by the NAACP filed fifteen petitions in their efforts to desegregate Virginia's schools. He also argued for the desegregation of all-white juries in cases where African Americans found guilty were given harsh and unusual punishment for their crimes. Tucker would go on to file civil rights and discrimination suits in fifty of Virginia's counties.

In 1960, Tucker began a new law firm in Richmond, Virginia along with fellow attorney, Tucker with Henry L. Marsh III. The pair immediately took on the task of integrating the public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia. By the mid 1960s, the two were litigating approximately 150 cases before the state and federal Courts. For his extreme dedication to desegregation causes, Tucker was named the 1966 "Lawyer of the Year" by the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund.

Tucker twice ran for a seat in the U.S. Congress and twice lost. Going in, he knew his chances of winning were slim but did so to show African Americans courage and to give them resolve to fight for their legislative rights and to give them a voice in government. In his fight to service the needs of the African American community, he served as the Chairman of the NAACP's legal staff of the Virginia State Conference and served on the NAACP's National Board of Directors.

Tucker has been given many honors and accolades for his tireless work on behalf of the NAACP. The organization awarded him their William Robert Ming Advocacy Award for his financial and personal given and the city of Emporia, Virginia erected a monument in his honor. The city of Alexandria dedicated the Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School in his name and also established the Samuel W. Tucker Fund to collect items related to Virginia's civil rights history.

In Richmond, the City Council, despite great controversy, renamed a bridge named after Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart after Tucker and the Virginia State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Conference established the Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Institute, named for both African American attorney Oliver Hill and Tucker. In addition, the a scholarship was created by the Oliver W. Hill & Samuel W. Tucker Scholarship Committee, which annually presents scholarships to deserving first year students at the law schools in Virginia and Howard University in Washington, D.C..

Samuel Wilbert Tucker died on October 20, 1990.





ALEXANDER PIERRE TUREAUD, SR.

...was born on February 26, 1899 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Eugenia Dejan and Louis Tureaud. Both of his parents had deep roots in the rich language and legacy of rural Saint James Parish New Orleans. There is

no doubt that during his early childhood and rearing years, Tureaud heard many stories of his ancestors and those of the rural South's struggles for civil rights and racial equality. He grew up in a culture of beliefs and laws full of code and protection of the community.

Tureaud received his early learning attending the public schools of New Orleans including the Bayou Road School. When he became a teenager, he left home making his way to Chicago, Illinois. Having a love for the arts, and being an inspiring actor, he performed in many theatrical productions while he worked as a railroad laborer to earn money.

Leaving Chicago, Tureaud moved to New York City to live with his brother. Civil minded, he became involved with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). At a very young age, he was able to gain tutelage from major black leaders and masterminds, including W.E.B. DuBois.

In 1918, at the age of nineteen, moved to Washington, D.C. finding a job as Junior Clerk in the library of the Justice Department. While working, he completed the requirements to receive his high school diploma. He would work at the Justice Department for seven years.

In 1925, Tureaud enrolled into Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C.. At Howard, Tureaud became involved with campus organizations, joining a fraternity and meeting his future wife, Lucille Dejoie. When his undergraduate studies were complete, Tureaud left Washington, returning to his native New Orleans.

Set on opening his own practice, Tureaud soon found it difficult to support his practice in the Jim Crow South. Thanks to the Comptroller of Customs, Walter L. Cohen, a leader in Louisiana's "Black and Tan" Republican group, Tureaud was able to secure employment in his office as Deputy Comptroller. The steady pay allowed him to keep his law business going by working part time.

As a part of the Customs staff, Tureaud had access to the ledgers and manifests kept by the Custom House. He was

familiar with the 1911 chronicle of New Orleans' history written by Rodolphe-Lucien Desdunes and wanted to document his Creole community's history. During the next several years, Tureaud would scour the city looking for any bit of information he could find. He inspected historical documents, manuscripts, poetry writings, and he listened to oral stories. Those collected items became the crux of the A.P. Tureaud Papers housed at the Amistad Research Center and Historic New Orleans Collection in New Orleans.

While preserving New Orleans' history, Tureaud penned and co-authored several articles, including "The Negro at the Louisiana Bar," and "The Negro in Medicine in Louisiana," co-authored by Dr. Clarence Clement Haydel.

In 1927, Tureaud joined the New Orleans Branch of the NAACP vowing to have the same tenacity for civil rights as fellow New Orleanans Rodolphe-Lucien Desdunes and Louis-Andre Martinet. He was well aware of the discriminatory practices of the southern white supremacist. It was during this time that Tureaud was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in 1935. He assisted the NAACP and Thurgood Marshall in the preparation for many of the civil rights cases that came before the court or that was created to challenge the courts.

Tureaud played a pivotal role in many civil rights cases. He represented teachers in their legal pursuit for equal pay in Louisiana. He was successful when he represented clients involved in local sit-ins to protest segregated restaurants. He represented clients that broke down doors for state-supported professional, graduate and undergraduate schools that did not admit blacks. He also represented a client who attempted dismantled the segregated city bus and transit buses which had separate seating for blacks and whites..

In that end, Tureaud and a group of other civil rights advocates, orchestrated an arrest of a black man that could pass for white for buying a ticket and having him sit in the white section of a railway car. From that planned challenge, Tureaud became a part of the team of lawyers that plead the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. In that case, the Supreme Court ruled constitutional Louisiana's "separate but equal" for of segregated travel. Unfortunate for the black riders, the provided accommodations were separate but not equal. Service and comfort were not on par with other railroad cars designated for whites. In 1864, Tureaud and his group collected almost one thousand signatures on a petition to change the Louisiana law and it was hand delivered to President Abraham Lincoln, demanding the right to vote. With the right to vote, the locals could vote out the Louisiana law of separate by equal. The Plessy decision would be overturned in 1954.

After a lengthy battle with cancer, Tureaud died on January 22, 1972. He was seventy-three years old.





REGINALD MAURICE TURNER, JR.

...received his Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 1982 majoring in Psychology. While at Wayne State, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.. He completed his law degree in 1987 graduating

from the University of Michigan. At Michigan, Turner served as the Law School Student Senate President. That year, he also became the President of the State Bar of Michigan.

To begin his legal career, Turner took a job working as a law clerk to Michigan Supreme Court Justice Dennis Archer. After working for Archer for two years, he then began his legal career practicing law in Detroit. It was not long before he obtained several recognizable clients and joined the law firm of Clark Hill PLLC. He soon represented past Justice Dennis Archer in his quest for a seat on the Michigan Board of Education. He did the same for future Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick in his attempt to become a Board of Education member.

In 1996 Turner served as a White House Fellowship in Washington, D.C. where he managed a Presidential Task Force. He also served as an aide to former Housing and Urban Development Secretaries Henry Cisneros and Andrew Cuomo. Several years later, Turner was served President of the State Bar of Michigan.

In 2003, Turner was appointed by then Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm as a member of the Michigan State Board of Education to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of Sharon Gire. While serving on the Board, he was instrumental in making improvements to the state's K-12 curriculum and became an advocate for teachers, administrators, students, and parents. During that time, Turner was selected to serve on Governor John Engler's Blue Ribbon Commission on Michigan Gaming and on the City of Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Advisory Committee. A year later, he became a member of the Board to the American Society of Employers. He would also later serve as the Chairman of the City of Detroit Board of Ethics.

In 2005, Turner was elected as the President of the National Bar Association. He served as President for one year. That year, Turner was then named as the Director and Board member to Comerica, Inc., one of the country's largest financial institutions based in Dallas, Texas. At Comerica, he served as the Chairman of the Board to the company's Enterprise Risk Committee, served on the Audit Committee, and

also served on the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee. Two years later, he became a member of the Michigan State Board of Education where he served for eight years.

In 2011, Turner became the Chair of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession for the American Bar Association. The following year, he became the Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. He served as a Delegate for four years. Also in 2012, Turner served as the Vice Chair to the Detroit Institute of Arts.

In 2015, Turner served as the Chairman of the Detroit Public Safety Foundation. That year, he also became the Director of the Masco Corporation. Masco is a leading manufacturer of home improvement products use in home construction. While at Masco, Turner served on the Board's Audit Committee and its' Governance Committee.

For seventeen years, Turner has served as a highly accomplished corporate litigator for Clark Hill. He serves as a government affairs advocate and strategic advisor for the firm and serves as a member of the Executive Committee. He also serves on the firm's Government Policy Group, and Labor and Employment Practice Group.

During his lengthy time with Clark Hill, Turner has successfully represented cases involved in class action and public policy matters in state and federal courts as well as administrative tribunals. He has given legal counsel in drafting labor and employment contracts in both the private and public sectors. In that regard, Turner has served on the State Bar of Michigan's Labor and Employment Section Council and the American Arbitration Association's Michigan Employment Advisory Council.

Turner has given much time to giving to many civic and charitable organizations. He has served as the Vice Chairman of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and as a Trustee of the Hudson-Webber Foundation. He has given time serving as a Chairman of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and has served on the organization's Executive Committee. Turner has served as the Secretary of the Wayne County Airport Authority and as Secretary of the Wayne County Business Development Corporation. In addition, Turner has served on the Advisory Committee to the Detroit's Brownfield Redevelopment Committee.

Turner has been recognized and honored by many legal institutions and associations during his storied career. He has been listed among the Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers, Crain's Detroit Business Power Lawyers and its' Most Connected, and the Michigan Chronicle Power 50. He was also recognized by the Michigan Lawyers Weekly and named by Best Lawyers as a Lawyer of the Year.

Turner is married to his wife Marcia and together they have two daughters, Nia and Imani.





TWANDA TURNER-HAWKINS

...received her Bachelor of Science degree from Tuskegee University where she majored in Dietetics. At Tuskegee, she was a member of the school's Gospel Ensemble. To obtain her law degree in 1993 from Georgia State College of Law in Atlanta,

Georgia where she served on the Moot Court and served as a Real Estate Law Tutor.

To begin her legal career, Turner-Hawkins accepted a job with Allstate Insurance Company working as a claims adjuster in their Atlanta offices. She then was appointed to handle catastrophic injuries for the company. She served as a lead trial attorney and managed over one hundred cases trying over forty jury trials.

Turner-Hawkins also oversaw the company's Savannah, Georgia offices. A few years later, she opened her own law firm, the Law Offices of Twanda Turner-Hawkins.

At Allstate, Turner-Hawkins would rise through the ranks to become the company's Corporate Counsel. She was given responsibility for the process management and litigation administration for the company's dispute resolution services in their Northbrook, Illinois location. She also was appointed as the Managing Attorney for the state of Pennsylvania. As Managing Attorney, Turner-Hawkins she was given responsibility over the staffing, the business administration, the leadership development, and the training of Allstate's employees. For Allstate, Turner-Hawkins was able to take the firm paperless and was able to reduce the company's real estate cost by twenty-five and reduced the company's postage by fifty percent for her department.

Turner-Hawkins has served as a member of the National Bar Association (NBA) and has served as a former Vice President of the organization's Regions and Affiliates. She served as a member of the NBA's Philadelphia Women's Lawyer Division, Co-Chaired the NBA's Diversity Pipeline Initiative, served as the Chair for the NBA's Mentoring Program. In addition, Turner-Hawkins served as the Director for Region III and Vice Chair for the Corporate Law Section.

Turner-Hawkins has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association,

and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. She has also served as a member of the Barristers Association of Philadelphia. As a member of the faculty to the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Turner-Hawkins taught the continuing legal education course, "How to Go Paperless" and "Litigation for Young Lawyers". She also served as a course planner for the Institute. In addition, she has served as a member of the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel.

For her service to Allstate, Turner-Hawkins was presented the company's Distinguished Leadership Award. She received the William C. Staszak Outstanding Teamwork Award and was named as one of Philadelphia's top sixty African American Lawyers by the Philadelphia Tribune. In addition, the National Bar Association presented Turner-Hawkins with its' Presidential Award.

Photo Not Available



ANDREW R. TYLER

...is a native of Indiana and began his higher education learning at the City College of New York in New York City. He completed his undergraduate degree from Columbia University in New York City. He earned his law degree from the Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the New York bar in 1945.

After passing the bar, Tyler set up practice in New York City where he would serve local residents in the legal affairs for the next several decades. During that time, he was elected as the President of the Harlem Lawyers Association and served for three terms. He also served as the New York Urban League's first Vice Chairman.

In 1967, Tyler was selected to serve as a Democratic Delegate-At-Large member to the New York Constitutional Convention in Albany. At the Convention, he was appointed to the Committee on Bill of Rights and Suffrage. Later that same year, Tyler was appointed as a Judge to the New York Civil Court.

In 1969, he was elected to a fourteen-year term to the New York State Supreme Court. In being elected to the Court, he was supported by members of both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. While serving on the New York Courts, Judge Tyler held several unpaid posts such as serving as the President and later Chairman of the Board for Haryou-Act, an organization that ran most of Harlem, New York's antipoverty programs.

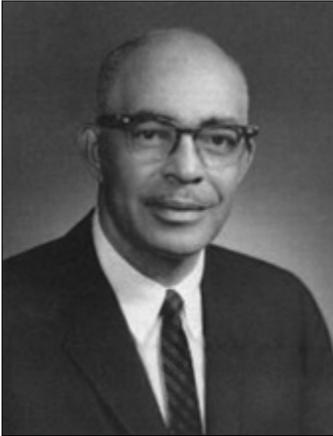
Justice Tyler's tenure on the bench became marred in controversy several years later when in 1976 in was convicted of perjury in a case that received much publicity, both locally and nationally. New York State Prosecutor, Maurice H. Nadjari, led a special investigation centered on corruption in the judiciary. The State's Prosecutor's Office had brought grand jury indictments against twelve New York Justices of which Justice Tyler was one. Nine of the indictments were dismissed in the early stages of trial preparations with three being set for trial. Of the three Justices that were tried, two were acquitted with only Justice Tyler receiving an unfavorable verdict and was removed from the bench. He was convicted on three counts of perjury, which carried a seven-year sentence in

jail. He was ultimately sentenced to five years probation, which he immediately appealed.

Charges of racist persecution were soon heard from Judge Tyler's New York supporters with calls for Nadjari's dismissal as a state prosecutor. It was argued that Nadjari's case against Judge Tyler was one of entrapment and the Judge should be reinstated. An appeal was made, which resulted in Judge Tyler's conviction being overturned by the Court of Appeals in Albany with a unanimous ruling. Justice Tyler was reinstated to his seat on the bench and with back pay being returned.

It was determined by the Court of Appeals that Prosecutor Nadjari had indeed trapped Justice Tyler and had pressured him into giving false testimony about his association with Raymond Marquez, a convicted gambler and numbers runner with ties to the underground syndicate. For his part in the debacle, Nadjari received a severe blow to his reputation as a state prosecutor and was removed from his job. Justice Tyler, after being reinstated, completed the remainder of his term and then left the judiciary.

Justice Andrew R. Tyler died on October 13, 1989. He was seventy-one years old.



EVERETT EMORY UTTERBACK

...was born in 1906 in Mayfield, Kentucky to Monima and Eldridge Utterback. His father supported the family by working as a brick mason. His mother was a housewife.

Utterback, a gifted athlete received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he attended on a track scholarship. On his 1931 University track team, he was named the Captain of the squad. He was the first African American athlete to be named the Captain for the schools track team.

In the 1929 Decathlon Championship, Utterback placed second behind winner Barney Berlinger. The following year, he won the National Track Championship in the broad jump. He was also the Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) broad jump champion. In the 1931 Penn Relay Championship, Utterback won first place in the hop, skip, and jump competition. During his collegiate career, he won nine individual championship trophies. For other track team members, he served as leg on the IC4A Indoor Champion mile relay team.

After completing his stellar track career at Pitt, Utterback enrolled into Duquesne Law School, now the Duquesne University School of Law where he received his law degree. He then opened his own law firm, Utterback, Brown and Harper. Because of his athletic popularity in college, he was able to attract several rising athletics to represent in their contract negotiations for the professional careers. Utterback represented 1935 World Light Heavyweight Champion John Henry Lewis in his contract negotiations and also prepared legal contracts for Gus Greenlee, the owner of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, a baseball team in the professional Negro League. Utterback also represented famed National Baseball League African American baseball pitcher, Leroy Satchell Paige.

Utterback would go on to represent many civic and social organizations and individuals, including serving as the General Counsel to the Pittsburgh Housing Authority. In that role, he served as the Director of Management to the Housing Authority's 5,900 housing units and its'

20,000 residents. As Director, at many times, he acted more like a social worker than an attorney.

Utterback was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and represented the association in civil rights cases in the Pittsburgh area. He handled several cases involving desegregation of public facilities and discrimination in housing, employment, and public access.

Utterback was honored by the University of Pittsburgh when they presented him with the school's Lettermen of Distinction Award. He was the first African American to receive the award. He was also selected to sit on the University's Board of Trustees, again becoming the first African American to hold such an honor. Utterback was also honored by the Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame when they inducted him into its' esteemed Hall. In addition, he was given honor from Allegheny County Council members when they presented Utterback, posthumously, with the Spirit of King Award, from the Port Authority.

Everett Emory Utterback died in 1992. He was eighty-six years old.



GEORGE BOYER VASHON

...was born in 1824 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania to John Baton Vashon and Anne Vashon. George's father, was a well respected leader in Pittsburgh's black community. He was a businessman, an abolitionist, and played an

important part in establishing the first school for blacks in Pittsburgh where George began his education. He attended his father's private school until 1837 when began attending a public school.

At an early age, Vashon, showed an aptitude for languages. At sixteen, he was able to speak Sanskrit, Hebrew, and Persian, and knew Greek and Latin well. In 1840, he enrolled in Oberlin Collegiate Institute in Ohio. There, he became a member of Oberlin's prestigious men's literary societies and the Union Society. He also taught school in Chillicothe, Ohio.

On August 28, 1844, Vashon graduated from Oberlin College becoming the first Black receiving Valedictory honors. He delivered a commencement address entitled "*Liberty of Mind.*" In that speech, Vashon stated that "*genius, talent, and learning are not withheld by our common Father*" from people of color.

In 1849, Vashon got his Master of Arts degree. He too, like his father, wanted to play a role in advancing the causes of black people. He felt that a career in law could help achieve that goal.

After returning to Pittsburgh, he studied law under the tutelage of Walter Forward, a judge and prominent person in Pennsylvania politics. Two years of reading law gave Vashon the knowledge he needed to apply for admission to the Allegheny County bar. His application was denied on the grounds that colored people were not citizens.

This misfortune made Vashon's look at other options. He made the decision to emigrate to Haiti. Before leaving the United States, Vashon traveled to New York to take the state bar examination. He successfully passed the exam on January 10, 1848, becoming the first black lawyer in New York.

In 1849, Vashon relocated to Port-au-Prince Haiti to become a professor of Latin, Greek and English and a

correspondent to Frederick Douglass's newspaper, "*The North Star.*" In 1851, returned to the U.S., moving to Syracuse, New York and joining the faculty of the New York Central College in McGrawville.

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 caused Vashon to become involved in the Underground Railroad and the struggle to bring about the ending of the system of slavery. He began to attend state and national conventions where these critical issues confronting their communities were being discussed.

From 1854 to 1857, Vashon worked as a Professor of Belles-Lettres and Mathematics at New York Central College in McGrawville. He was the third African American to hold a teaching post in a college or university. In 1863, Vashon became the second black President of Avery College in Pittsburgh. During this time, Vashon met and married Susan Paul Smith, the granddaughter of the Rev. Thomas Paul, Sr. of Boston. They had seven children.

After the Civil War, Vashon worked in the Solicitor's Office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands in Washington, D.C. He also became Howard University's first professor and was instrumental in establishing its law school.

When Vashon left Howard, he became a professor of Mathematics and Ancient and Modern Languages at Alcorn College in Rodney, Mississippi. In the fall of 1878, the yellow fever epidemic swept Alcorn's campus. George Vashon was one of its victims. He died on October 5, 1878 and is buried on the campus of the college.



J. DALE WAINWRIGHT

...was born on June 19, 1961 in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. summa cum laude majoring in Economics.

While at Howard, he became a member of Phi Bet Kappa. During his junior year at Howard, Wainwright was named a Luard Scholar and received a scholarship to study at the London School of Economics in London, England. After spending time in London, he returned to the United States to obtain his law degree. He enrolled in the University of Chicago Law School in Chicago, Illinois where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1988.

In 1999, Wainwright was appointed by then Governor George W. Bush as a District Judge to the 334th Civil Court in Harris County, Texas. With his appointment, Wainwright became one of the first two African Americans to be appointed to the Texas Supreme Court. The first was Wallace B. Jefferson who was appointed in 2001 and won a full term in the 2002 general election. Both Jefferson and Wainwright were Republicans. Judge Wainwright served on the Harris County Court for three years.

In 2002, Wainwright was elected to a six-year term as an Associate Justice to the Texas Supreme Court to replace Justice Deborah Hankinson. He was re-elected to a second six-year term in the general election of 2008. His second term on the Texas Supreme Court was due to end on 2014. Two years before his term was set to end, Wainwright resigned.

He then joined the law firm of Bracewell and Giuliani located in Austin, Texas. He served as the Managing Partner for the firm's Austin office. He remained with Bracewell and Giuliani for almost four and a half years.

In 2017, Justice Wainwright joined the law firm of Greenberg Traurig, LLP in its' Austin, Texas office. He serves as the Chair of the Texas Appellate Practice Group. At Greenberg, he represents clients in complex appeals in both the state and federal appellate courts.

Justice Wainwright has volunteered his time serving as an Advisor to the Legislative Committee to the Texas Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission. He also

serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice. He served as Chairman for only one month. He has served as a member of the American Law Institute, served on the Board of Directors of the Houston Bar Association, and the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Association. In addition, Justice Wainwright served as the President of the Houston Young Lawyers Association and was the co-founder of the Aspiring Youth Program.

Justice Wainwright has received several distinguished awards including receiving a Legal Excellence Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also received an Outstanding Legal Service from the Houston Lawyers Association. Wainwright and his wife Debbie have three sons, Jeremy, Phillip, and Joshua



DAVID
H.
WAGNER, JR.

...was born on July 23, 1926 in Davidson County, North Carolina to Pearlle Mae Thomas Wagner and David Wagner. His mother died shortly after he was born and he was raised with the help of his

grandparents, Nettie Eller Thomas and Frank Thomas, as well as his father Thomas. He began his formal education in both Davidson and Forsyth County public schools and graduating high school from Dunbar Junior-Senior High School.

Wagner then entered North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College, now N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro. He graduated from A&T in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Mathematics. He would later, in 1957, receive a Master's degree in Administration and Supervision in Rural Education from A&T.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Wagner enlisted into the United States Army where he was assigned to the Chemical Corps. Not long after entering the Army, he met Ruth Catherine Thompkins and the two would wed. Together, they had one daughter, Brenda. While Wagner was stationed in England, he received the terrible news that his wife had died in an automobile accident. The military allowed him to return to the states to bury his wife and to serve the remainder of his active duty in America.

While still serving in the Army, several years later, in 1953, he met Mollie Selena Craig. The two would marry and Mollie accepted and adopted his daughter Benda. With Mollie, Wagner had four more children, Davida, David, Davette and Davonia. By the time Wagner had completed his military service, he had risen to the rank of First Lieutenant and was honorable discharged from the Army.

Leaving the Army, Wagner took a job as a teacher at the Pender County Training School in Rocky Point, North Carolina. At the school, he taught Science and Mathematics. Two years later he left the school to become the Principal of a newly constructed school, Annandale Elementary School. Two years after that, Wagner returned to his hometown, Davidson County, to take a job teaching

at his alma mater, Dunbar Junior-Senior High School. In 1960, he left Dunbar to become the Principal at another Dunbar, Dunbar Elementary School in Lexington.

In 1966, at the age of 39, Wagner decided to return to school to obtain a law degree. He enrolled into Wake Forest University's School of Law. He was one of its first African American students to attend Wake Forest's law school. He completed his law studies in 1968 and was awarded his Juris Doctorate degree.

After passing the North Carolina State Bar exam, Wagner accepted a job working in the Mortgage Loan Department at Wachovia Bank. Even with his law degree, he earned less money than that he was paid working as the Principal at Dunbar Elementary School. After two years at Wachovia, Wagner left to pursue his law career. Not long after establishing his law practice, he secured the Winston Mutual Insurance Company as a client. He would remain the General Counsel to the insurance company for nearly twenty years.

By 1989, Wagner had become divorced from his second wife Mollie, and had met Evelyn C. Valentine who would become his third wife. After marrying Evelyn, Wagner returned to his hometown of Davidson County once again. He would remain there the remainder of his life.

While serving as a practicing attorney, Wagner delved into several entrepreneurial projects. He owned several businesses, including a bar and grill restaurant in Winston-Salem, a dry-cleaning business in Lexington a furniture manufacturing plant in Thomasville, and was a part owner of a television station in Charlotte. He also owned a senior citizen rest home in Charlotte and one in Winston-Salem. In addition, Wagner owned the Windows on Trade Restaurant in Charlotte and an apartment complex in Greenville, one in Fayetteville, one in Kings Mountain, and one in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Wagner gave much time and support to the local communities which he operated. He was a long time member of United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity where he served as a national officer, and was a member of the Gamma Kappa Boule. He was a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a member of the National Education Association and a member of the Winston-Salem Bar Association. In addition, Wagner was a member of the North Carolina Black Lawyers Associations and a member of the Winston Lake Senior Golf Association.

David H. Wagner, Jr. died on July 13, 2014. He was eighty-eight years old.





AUSTIN THOMAS WALDEN

... was born on April 12, 1885 in Fort Valley, Georgia to former slaves Jennie Tomlin and Jeff Walden. He graduated from Fort Valley High and Industrial School as the only black in his high school class in 1902. He earned his undergraduate degree from Atlanta University,

now Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia in 1907. He went on to attend the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he obtained his law degree in 1911.

Walden first began to practice law in 1912 with offices located in Macon, Georgia. He was one of only a few African American lawyers practicing law in Georgia during that time. In only a few short years, he was able to become one of the New South's first black political power brokers and earned a national reputation as a serious and dedicated civil rights lawyer.

In 1917, Walden joined the United States Army and served during World War I. He was assigned to the Judge Advocates Corps. While serving in the Army, he met and married Mary Ellen Denney of Baltimore, Maryland. Together, the couple had two daughters, Jenelsie and Austella. After two years serving in the Judge Advocates Corps, Walden was an honorable discharged having reached the rank of Captain and Assistant Judge Advocate.

In 1919, Walden left the military and returned to Atlanta to continue his law practice. He continued litigating cases where he had left off before entering the military, trying civil rights cases centered on improving the lives of Southern blacks. He would soon litigate several of the most pivotal cases for desegregation and for equal pay for African Americans and their respective services and or trades.

In 1948, Walden founded the Gate City Bar Association and served as its' first President. The bar association helped to provide African American attorneys with resources to litigate new legal developments and to encourage prospective African American attorneys to attend law schools they could not otherwise afford. The resources were sorely needed as more and more African Americans became in need of civil rights as the Jim Crow laws were coming into full effect.

During that time, African American students and lawyers had limited access to law libraries. They had difficulty in attracting news clients and were not afforded the opportunity to advertise in local papers having only word of mouth as their means of notifying the African American community of their existence. African American attorneys were not allowed join most other bar associations as they were designated for white only lawyers, thus Walden's founding of the Gate City Bar Association.

Walden and other African American attorneys would eventually be allowed to become members of the Atlanta Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He would go on to litigate cases in all levels of the Georgia court system and in the U.S. Supreme

Court. He took on the case to equalize pay for black teachers in Georgia and cases involving the desegregation of the Atlanta public schools as well as integrating the University of Georgia in Athens.

Walden would become and serve as the Legal Counsel for several large companies, including the Citizens Trust Company, the Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association, and the National Baptist Convention. While serving as a practicing attorney, he took on leadership roles in a number of community organizations. He served as the Chair on the Executive Board of Atlanta's Butler Street YMCA and the Atlanta Urban League. He served as the President of both the Atlanta University Alumni Association and the Atlanta Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Walden also served as the as the National Vice President of the NAACP and Co-Chaired the NAACP's Summit Leadership Conference, which was held in Atlanta. He served as a member of the NAACP's National Legal Committee and served as the Chair of the Trustees to the Wheat Street Baptist Church. Walden also served as the Chair of the Republican Party's Executive Committee representing the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia.

In 1940, Walden changed political parties, joining the Democratic Party. He would serve as a dedicated Democrat for the next twenty-five years. Recognizing the importance of African American voter participation, he worked to increase the number of African American registering to vote and in that regard, he founded and served as the Co-Chair of the nonpartisan, Atlanta Negro Voters League. Walden also served and led the All-Citizens Registration Committee.

During the 1940s, Walden brought great influence to African Americans in the political arena and more and more African Americans began to exercise their right to vote. With the new black voting block, significant progress was made in the Atlanta African American community. New street and sewer improvements were made and more African Americans were hired to fill Atlanta's city jobs, including the hiring of African American policemen to patrol in African American neighborhoods.

In 1953, Walden was appointed to the Atlanta's City Executive Committee. Years later, he became one of the first two African American's to serve as members of the state of Georgia's Democratic Executive Committee. He was then appointed by then President John F. Kennedy as a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

In 1964, Walden served as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He was among the first African Americans to serve in a Georgia delegation, as that year was the first time in which African Americans were allowed to serve as Delegates. Walden would go on to serve as the President of the Georgia Association of Citizens Democratic Clubs.

That same year Walden retired from practicing law. Retired but not through with helping the African American community, he opened a nonprofit community counseling office. In 1965, then Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. appointed Walden to serve as Judge on the Atlanta Municipal Court. Walden became the first African American Judge to serve on a Georgia court since the Reconstruction era.

Judge Austin Thomas Walden, the "Dean" of African American attorneys" died on July 2, 1965. He was eighty years old.





GEMMA GREENE WALDRON

...was born on October 1, 1956 in New York but raised in Los Angeles, California where she attended local Los Angeles public schools graduating from Fairfax High School. She earned her undergraduate degree from the

University of Southern California at Los Angeles (USC). While at USC, Waldron joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

To earn her law degree, Waldron moved back east to obtain her Juris Doctorate degree from Boston University Law School in Boston, Massachusetts in 1981. After completing her law degree studies, Waldron trekked back across the country to take an intern job with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. To begin her legal career, she accepted employment with the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Sacramento, California. At the Bureau, her responsibilities were to write legislation and opinions for California lawmakers.

Wagner's next legal position came by chance. On a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada to take her mother to see famed entertainer and singer Tom Jones, she happened upon a job opening listed in the Las Vegas Review Journal as an administrative lawyer at the Public Service Commission, now the Public Utilities Commission. The job opening was in Carson City, Nevada but she was encouraged to live in Reno, a short thirty-two miles north, doing so in 1990.

After moving to Reno and working for the Public Service Commission for a period of time, in 1992, Waldron took a job as a Deputy District Attorney in Washoe County. She served in the District Attorney's office for seventeen years. AS the County faced budget cuts, rather than being laid off from the office, she chose retirement. She was only fifty-five years old.

With her benefits and retirement package secure, Waldron opened her own law practice. As one of only a handful of African American attorneys in the Reno, Nevada area, she serviced low-income African American, Hispanic and poor white clients. She worked to make northern Nevada a better place for minorities to live and worked to protect their legal rights. She was a member of

the Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society (NNBCAS) and served as the President of the organization for two years.

Gemma Greene Waldron died on June 8, 2014. She was fifty-seven years old.



CORA THOMASINA WALKER

...was born on June 20, 1922 in Charlotte, North Carolina to Benetta Jones Walker and William Walker. When she was a child, the family and her eight siblings moved with to The Bronx, New York. Her parents unfortunately

separated and the family was left to survive depending on public assistance.

Walker would graduate from the James Monroe High School in the Bronx. To help her family become independent and not remain on support from New York's Department of Welfare, she obtained a job as a teletype operator with Western Union. To make extra income, she sold Christmas cards on the streets of New York. She then enrolled into St. Johns University, then located in Brooklyn, New York. Walker earned her undergraduate degree from St. Johns in 1945 majoring in Accounting. The following year, she received her law degree from St. Johns Law School.

After obtaining her law degree and passing the New York State Bar exam in 1947, Walker became the first African American woman to practice law in the state of New York. Unable to find a job with any of the established white law firms, she set up her offices in Harlem, New York. Walker was not able to join white social and legal association so she joined other organizations and networked any way she could. She read self help books and joined neighborhood charitable organizations.

Walker was able through her networking to obtain her first client, an undertaker and served as a collector of bad debts. She then took on cases aimed at eradicating biases in the legal system. She focused her attention to the legal needs of the Harlem community and fought for city improvements as a committed activist. Walker was fortunate to have received the attention of the New York Amsterdam News who featured her in their publication. Her long lost father reappeared and asked her to represent him after being struck by a car. She represented him in his claims for the injuries he suffered.

In 1948, Walker married New York attorney, Lawrence R. Baily. The couple had two sons, Lawrence, Jr., who would later become a practicing attorney, and Bruce, who would become a physician. Walker and her husband would remain married for ten years before divorcing. By that time, she had taken on a partner, renaming her firm, Doles & Walker.

As a practicing attorney, Walker represented corporate clients including the train company, Conrail; the Ford Motor

Company; Texas Instruments; and Kentucky Fried Chicken. She also represented individual residents in personal injury claims, wills and probate cases, and common law cases. Walker preferred to litigate cases for ordinary Harlem residents as opposed to the more elegant clients that could afford and called upon her services.

Walker was active in the Republican Party. In 1958, she once ran for a seat in the New York State Senate. She was unsuccessful in her bid. She tried again in the 1964 election but again came up short for the Senate appointment. During that same time, Walker became the first woman and African American woman to serve as the President of the Harlem Lawyers Association.

In 1970, The New York Times named Walker as one of the most powerful leaders in Harlem. She was the only female to make the coveted New York Times list. She was active in the National Bar Association and assisted in the founding of the Corporate Counsel Conference, which held an annual meeting sponsored by the Conference's Commercial Law section. The Corporate Counsel Conference was created to assist African American attorneys cultivate relationships with corporate clients.

For the Harlem community, in her effort to improve their lives, Walker was instrumental in the founding of the Harlem River Consumers Cooperative (HRCC). The Cooperative served to provide food to the local neighborhood and raised funds by selling shares in the Cooperative for \$5 per household, which allowed them further discounts on their food purchases. Within a few short years, the HRCC had annual sales exceeding \$2 million and became a threat to other union driven grocery stores.

Union officials initiated a protest campaign against the HRCC, which almost caused the closure of the co-op. After a federal investigation, it was discovered that union officials had accepted monies from a public relations firm whose partners owned a competing grocery store and played a crucial role in attacking the HRCC. Walker, of course, served as the representing attorney in the litigations surrounding the case.

By 1976, Walker's son, Lawrence, had earned his law degree and Walker invited him to join her firm. He did so and she changed the name of her firm to Walker & Bailey with offices in Harlem. She became the Senior Partner in the law firm. Walker & Bailey served as one of the city's few African American law firms serving the Harlem community. The two would practice law from her 125th Street offices before upgrading to a restored brownstone located at 270 Lenox Avenue until her retirement. In 1999, Walker retired from practicing law.

Cora Thomasina Walker died on July 13, 1006 of cancer. She was eighty-four years old.





DAPHNE WALKER

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Economics from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1994. She was awarded a full merit

scholarship to Atlanta's Emory University School of Law where she obtained her law degree in 1997. After passing the Georgia State Bar exam, Walker's first legal employment was in the Houston Judicial Circuit in Perry, Georgia. She became the first African American Assistant District Attorney for the Judicial Circuit prosecuting domestic violence cases.

Walker then became a Senior Assistant District Attorney to the trial division of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. She was later moved to the crimes against women and children unit where she focused her attention to child prostitution and human trafficking. In her role as the Fulton County District Attorney, Walker served as an advocate for the eradication of partner violence and for the protection of innocent children that were unable to protect themselves.

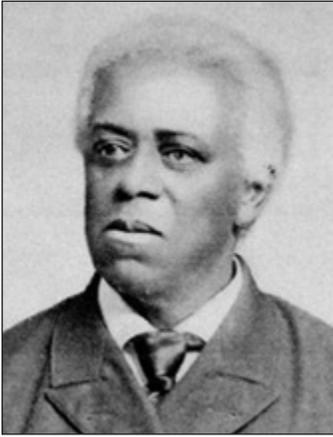
In 2002, Walker opened her own law practice, The Walker Law Group P.C.. Her focus centered on the rights of domestic violence victims, child custody cases, and child support enforcements. She supported and represented, pro bono, those unable to afford legal representation aimed at restoring their disrupted lives to normalcy.

In 2004, Walker was elected as the Chief Magistrate Judge of Clayton County, Georgia. She became the first African-American to be elected as a sitting Judge in Clayton County. Judge Walker would be re-elected in the 2008 election. In the 2012 general election, she again was re-elected, this time without opposition.

While serving on the bench, Judge Walker acquainted with the Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV), which is the largest nonprofit domestic violence organization in Georgia. She referred litigants that came before the court to the organization where they could receive help for themselves and their children harmed by domestic violence. Walker would go on to chair Georgia's statewide Judicial Council Task Force on Domestic Violence Courts.

After fifteen years serving on the bench, Walker stepped down and was named President and CEO of the (PADV), which she had recommended to so many victims that she had serviced while on the bench. As President, she brought extreme experience to the issues surrounding intimate partner violence and her compassion for the injured or abused gave strength to both the PADV and those seeking assistance from the PADV. In addition to her duties at the PADV, Judge Walker taught classes at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia. She also served as an Attorney Coach for the Riverdale High School Mock Trial Team. In 2015, Judge Walker became the President, CEO, and Executive Director of the Buckhead Christian Ministry, where she currently serves.

For her service to the legal profession and the communities in which she has served, Judge Walker was recognized and placed on the cover of Georgia Trend Magazine's 15th Annual "40 Under 40". She was also highlighted by another Atlanta based magazine distributed statewide as a "Who's Who in Black Atlanta" for her service in Georgia judicial circles. In addition, Judge Walker was given distinction for her service to the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta and the Girls Inc. of Greater Atlanta.



EDWARD GARRISON WALKER

...was born in 1831 in Boston, Massachusetts to Eliza and David Walker. His mother was a fugitive slave having fled the South and his father was an African American abolitionist

who authored a famous 1829 published appeal for black unity, "An Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World", where he urged fellow blacks to come together as one to fight civil oppression and civic injustices. The published text brought national attention to the inequities of slavery and called on individuals to defy racial inequality based on religious and political tenets.

Walker began his formal education by attending Boston public schools. In his younger years, he was trained to become a leatherworker. The craft would later be of great benefit, as he would establish his own a leather shop and employed fifteen leather workers. As a gifted craftsman, his leather goods were purchased by some of the wealthier Boston residents. Walker, due to his father's political involvement, was always near the center of political activity in Boston during that time.

In 1851, Walker, along with fellow abolitionists Lewis Hayden and Robert Morris, were among the team that fought for the release of Shadrach Minkins, a fugitive slave. Minkins had escaped slavery in Virginia and made his way to Boston and was working in a coffee house as a waiter when he was captured. Walker and several other white abolitionist attorneys filed a habeas corpus petition for Minkins's release, which was denied by denied by then Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, Lemuel Shaw. Not satisfied with the Justice Lemuel's ruling, a group of abolitionist stormed the jail, confiscated Minkins and hid him out in a Beacon Hill neighborhood home. He was then helped to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad. The abolitionists were indicted for their part in Minkins' escape but were later cleared of thy charges.

Walker began studying the law by working in the law offices of John Q.A. Griffin and Charles A. Tweed in Georgetown, Massachusetts. In 1861, Walker took the Massachusetts State Bar exam and passed with ease. He

became only the third African American to be admitted to the state bar.

After practicing as an attorney for five years, Walker turned his attention to politics. In 1866, he was elected to the Massachusetts General Court, the state legislature representing Ward 6 as a Republican. He was one of the two first African Americans to be elected to the state legislature. The other was and Charles Lewis Mitchell.

Although a Republican, while in the legislature, he opposed many of the ideas the Party proposed and in the 1867 election, he was not re-elected to the General Court. Walker then changed political parties and registered as a Democrat. Many other African Americans followed him and left the GOP for the Democratic Party.

In 1883, Walker was nominated as a Judge by then Governor Benjamin F. Butler. The Republican Party, still angry about Walker's departure from the Party, refused to ratify his nomination and instead awarded the judgeship to African American Republican, George L. Ruffin. Walker would be nominated for a Judgeship on three different occasions and with each nomination, the Republican Party loyalist voted against his appointment.

In 1885, Walker and other Democratic leaders, in response to the difficulties they faced in legislative politics, founded the Negro Political Independence Movement. Five years later, he was elected as the President of the Colored National League. Four years after that, Walker was named as the nominee of the Negro Party, a short-lived third party movement, as its' candidate for the Presidency of the United States. The party lost in that election.

Edwin Garrison Walker died of pneumonia on January 13, 1901. He was seventy years old.



THOMAS CALHOUN WALKER

...was born on June 16, 1862 into slavery in a small cabin at Spring Hill, Gloucester County, Virginia. The Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves was signed six months later by then

President Abraham Lincoln. Rather than move North, as did many of the newly freed slaves, Walker's parents chose to stay in Virginia working on the plantations in Spring Hill.

The owner and former master of the plantation where the Walker family worked died and left his property to his son, William J. Baytop. Baytop and his wife had no children and convinced Walker's parents to allow them to keep the young Walker and raise him. The parents agreed and renamed him Thomas, after his father Thomas Baytop, and after South Carolina Senator John C. Calhoun, thus, Thomas Calhoun.

When Walker became ten years old, he was old enough to work and was returned to the Walker family. Desperately wanting to go to school, his father would not allow him to do so believing he was too old to learn. Walker had to work the fields and whatever odd jobs he could find to support the family. At the age of thirteen, he was unable to read or write. He learned to do so when a Sunday school teacher gave him a book, "John Common's Book", where he learned to read the English language.

Determined to get an education, when Walker became a middle teen, he had saved ninety-two cents and with it, he left Spring Hill making his way to Hampton, Virginia in an attempt to enter Hampton Institute. Due to his limited resources and limited education, he was not admitted to the school. Undetermined, Walker made contact with the Hampton founder, General Samuel J. Armstrong, and pleaded to be allowed to enroll into the Institute. Impressed with his resolve, Armstrong agreed to allow Walker to be admitted conditionally that he work at the school doing the day and take classes at night. Armstrong offered Walker an opportunity to become a part of the first Work Study Program initiated in the United States.

Walker gladly accepted the offer and began his studies at Hampton. He worked on campus doing the day performing whatever tasks was assigned to him and attended night classes with some being taught by Booker T. Washington. He completed his studies and was awarded his diploma on June 16, 1883.

To further his education and to obtain his law license, he scrapped what extra money he could earn to buy books studying law. He made little progress until he met and began studying law under former Confederate General William B. Taliaferro. Taliaferro took a liking to Walker and gave him access to his private library. Under Taliaferro's tutelage, Walker completed his studies at Hampton and in 1887, he was admitted to the Virginia State Bar.

Walker returned to Gloucester County to begin his law career. He became the first African-American lawyer to serve in the County. Some historians believe he was the first African American attorney in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Nonetheless, as a lawyer, Walker began to work diligently on behalf of African Americans with humble means charged with various crimes. He represented black men falsely accused of the rape of white women, a common occurrence and charge used by white women after being caught with their black lovers during that time. He represented others that had committed a crime in their defense and hopes for a lighter sentence.

In 1891, Walker entered the world of politics. At the age of twenty-nine, he was elected to Virginia's Gloucester County Board of Supervisors. Five years later, he was appointed by then President William McKinley Walker as a Virginia Collector of Customs. He was the first black Collector in the state of Virginia.

Years later, in 1934, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Walker as an advisor and Works Project Administration Consultant of Negro Affairs to the Virginia Emergency Relief Administration. With his appointment and responsibilities, Walker was commonly referred to by the nickname of, "Black Governor" of Virginia. In his role in the administration, he fought for better education for blacks and lobbied for them to have a fair opportunity and if given the chance to further their education, as he had been given, they would be productive. For his resolve, Walker was then named as the Superintendent of Gloucester Negro Schools. As the Superintendent, Walker was known for donating money to help build and support schools designed for African Americans in Gloucester County.

For his work on behalf of the Virginia Emergency Relief Administration, Walker was offered the position of Consul General to Guadalupe but declined preferring to remain in Gloucester County and focus on his humanitarian endeavors. In 1921, Walker along with a group of others established the Gloucester Training School. The school served as the first free secondary public school for African-American students in Gloucester County. Years later, in 1986, it was renamed the Thomas Calhoun Walker School. Today the school serves the Spring Hill community as an elementary school.

Thomas Calhoun Walker died in 1953 in his beloved Gloucester County, Virginia. He was ninety-one years old at the time of his death.





**JAMES
L.
WALKER, JR.**

...received his law degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University. He obtained a Master's of Divinity degree from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. He serves as the

Managing Partner of Walker and Associates, LLP, a leading entertainment law firm. He also serves as the President of JW Consulting, LLC, an entertainment consulting, event management and planning company. In addition, he serves as the Managing Partner of J. Walker Realty, LLC, a commercial real estate acquisition firm.

In his legal practice, Walker focuses on the areas of entertainment litigation, business matters, intellectual property and corporate law. He has a long list of notable clients, including having representing actor and entertainer, Jammie Foxx; BET host Dr. Bobby Jones; Capitol Records pop superstar Cole; WNBA Star Ruthie Bolton-Holifield; and singer Yolanda Adams. He also has represented Director Bill Duke, Grammy Award Winners Hezekiah Walker, Shirley Caesar, Albertina Walker, and Tramaine Hawkins. In addition, Walker has represented international minister Jackie McCullough and award winning writer and producer Donald Lawrence.

Walker has represented renowned journalist and scholar Dr. Barbara Reynolds, noted author and scholar Randall Robinson, and platinum rapper and actor DMX. He has given legal services to concert entertainers Patti LaBelle and Freddie Jackson and has negotiated contracts with gaming facilities, including Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut to host the largest urban and gospel music summit, The Urban IMPACT Summit. The Summit was created to bring together top industry leaders, political representatives, music artists, and professional athletes to bring opportunities and support to youth and adults in the urban communities of the United States. For his real estate ventures, Walker has acquired five commercial units in Stamford and Hartford, Connecticut having of thirty-six units.

Walker has served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law where he taught Entertainment Law. He also served as a Professor at the

Boston College School of Law and the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music. He has published and released two music series, "This Business of Music" and "This Business of Urban Music". He also has served as a guest commentator on issues surrounding entertainment for national networks such as CBS, BET, G Gospel Music Workshop, Power of Attorney, and Court TV's Prime Time Justice.

Walker is married to Cristi C. Walker and together they have four children, Jordan, James III, Kristian Joi, and Zion.



JOHN WINFIELD WALKER

... was born in Hope, Arkansas and graduated in 1954 from Jack Yates High School in Houston, Texas. He then enrolled into the University of Texas in Austin, Texas as one of the first

six African American undergraduate students to enroll into the University. After announcing his intention to try out for the school's football team majoring in petroleum engineering, his admittance was rescinded. Walker immediately filed a federal lawsuit seeking to have his admission honored.

While awaiting for his lawsuit to take its course, Walker enrolled into Arkansas AM&N College in Pine Bluff to begin his undergraduate degree. He was never allowed to attend the University of Texas. Walker would ultimately graduate from AM&N in 1958 with a major in Sociology. He was married that year and also joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc..

As he graduated from AM&N, Walker took a job working as an Assistant Director of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations, an affiliate of the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, Georgia. He also became involved with Daisy and L.C. Bates and became involved with desegregating the Little Rock, Arkansas public school desegregation plans. He received a John Hay Whitney Fellowship and entered graduate school at New York University in New York where he received his Master's degree in 1961. He then attended Yale University Law School in New Haven, Connecticut graduating in 1964 with his law degree.

After obtaining his law degree, Walker was selected to serve as an intern with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund. He was the third intern to be hired by the Legal Defense Fund. Three years later, in 1965, Walker opened his own law firm in Little Rock, Walker and Chachkin, one of only three racially integrated law firms operating in the South at that time.

As there were only a few African American attorneys practicing Walker to represent clients with their civil rights and general practice issues. He would go on to

represent clients throughout Arkansas, as well as in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Waco, Texas; and Killeen, Texas. Over the next several decades, Walker would be credited with litigating over two hundred federal cases related to civil rights and desegregation.

The year that Walker opened his law firm, he became involved in Arkansas' most important racial case, the Little Rock school desegregation case. A suit had been filed by then attorney and civil rights attorney, Wiley A. Branton, Sr. and Walker joined in as a member of the team to integrate the public schools and the University of Arkansas's Law School. The two attorneys were also joined in the case by NAACP General Counsel and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall.

Later, in another historic discrimination case, Walker litigated a case against national retailer Wal-Mart, based in Bentonville, Arkansas. He successfully argued for fair employment on behalf of African American truck drivers. For his work on that case and the hundreds of other cases he litigated on behalf of equal civil right and desegregation, Walker was elected as a member of the Board of Directors to the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund.

In 2011, Walker had entered the political arena and was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives representing District 34 as a Democrat. While in the House, he continued his fight for equal rights for African Americans and other underserved Arkansas citizens working to ensure their civil rights were not abused or taken advantage of. In 2016, Walker was arrested after filming the police arrest of an African American motorist stopped and arrested for driving a vehicle without license plates or having a valid driving license. When asked the police why he was filming, Walker simply replied that he was filming to ensure the police did not kill the young man.



REGGIE BARNETT WALTON

...was born on February 8, 1949 in Donora, Pennsylvania. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971 from West Virginia State University in Institute, West Virginia. He obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from Washington,

D.C.'s American University Washington College of Law in 1974.

In his first professional legal position, Walton worked as a staff attorney in the Defender Association's office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He worked as a staff attorney for several years before becoming the Chief of the Career Criminal Unit in the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Attorney's Office. Walton then was named to a position in as an Executive Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. He was then named as an Assistant United States Attorney. He served in that capacity for four years.

In 1981, then Presidents Ronald Reagan appointed Walton as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He served as an Associate Judge for two years. He returned to serve again in 1991 being re-appointed by then President George H.W. Bush. Judge Walton remained on the Court's bench this time for ten years.

As a member of the Superior Court, Judge Walton served as the Presiding Judge of the Court's Family Division, Presiding Judge of the Court's Domestic Violence Unit, and as the Deputy Presiding Judge of the Court's Criminal Division. He also served as President Bush's Associate Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the Executive Office. In addition, Judge Walton served as President Bush's Senior White House Advisor for Crime.

In 2001, Walton was appointed by then President George W. Bush as a United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. Three years later, President Bush named Judge Walton as the Chair of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission, which was created by the United States Congress and given the mission to identify methods to stop incidents of prison rape. Recommendations were submitted to the President and the U.S. Attorney General and then implemented in Federal Bureau of Prison detention facilities.

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed Judge Walton to the federal judiciary's Criminal Law Committee. Judge Walton served on the Commission for five years. During that time, then Chief Justice John Roberts appointed Judge Walton as a Judge of the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. That appointment was for a seven-year term. In 2013, Judge Walton assumed the position of Presiding Judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Walton has presided over some of the most significant cases that have come before the Court. He presided over the 2007 "U.S. v. Libby" trial, which involved former Chief of Staff, Scooter Libby to then Vice President Dick Cheney. Libby was found guilty of four of five counts of perjury, obstruction of justice, and making false statements to federal investigators.

Judge Walton also presided over the case of the "U.S. v. Roger Clemens". In that case, professional baseball pitcher Roger Clemens was charged with three counts of making false statements to members of the U.S. Congress, two counts of perjury, and one count of obstruction of justice. Clemens has been called before Congress to testify on his use and other professional baseball players of performance enhancing drugs. Judge Walton has presided over other important cases while serving on the bench, including, "Hatvill v. John Ashcroft et al", the Guantanamo Bay detainment center and habeas corpus petitions, and "Mohammon v. Bush", another habeas corpus petition.

Judge Walton has traveled internationally to give his opinions and to provide legal instruction to other international Judges, including traveling to Irkutsk, Russia to instruct Russian Judges on criminal law. Domestically, he has served as an Instructor in the Harvard University Law School's Advocacy Workshop in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has also served as a faculty member at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

Judge Walton has been given far to many awards and honors to be listed here. A few of his distinguished honors include receiving the Presidential Who's Who District Court Judge of the Year, an Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree from West Virginia State University, and a Leadership in Education Award from the Washington Semester Program at American University. He has also been awarded an Honorable Robert A. Shuker Memorial Award, a James R. Waddy Meritorious Service Award, and a H. Carl Moultrie Award. In addition, Judge Walton has been inducted into the Mid Mon Valley, Pennsylvania All Sports Hall of Fame and the Ringgold High School Rams Club Hall of Fame.



BENJAMIN WARD

...was born on August 10, 1926 in Brooklyn, New York as one of eleven children. He graduated from Brooklyn's Automotive Trades High School in 1944 and was then drafted into the United States Army. He became a military policeman in the Army as well as a criminal investigator. He served two years in Europe be-

fore being honorably discharged.

Returning to the United States, Ward joined the New York Police Department (NYPD). He was the first African American police officer assigned to the 80th Precinct in his hometown of Brooklyn. As the first to police, he received resentment from both the white Brooklyn residents and his fellow white police officers as well. The precinct Captains refused to give him a locker in the station forcing Ward to dress at home and wear his uniform to work. He rode the New York City Subway in uniform for three years back and forth to work before being assigned a locker.

Ward served Brooklyn for fifteen years as an officer eventually rising to the rank of Lieutenant. He served in several different departments during those fifteen years, including working in the Patrol Division, the Juvenile Aide Division, the Detective Division, and the Legal Bureau. While working as a police officer during the day, Ward studied at night to earn his undergraduate degree at Brooklyn College. He would continue his night classes and earn a law degree from Brooklyn School of Law, graduating in 1965 with honors.

Ward would then be named as Special Legal Counsel to then New York Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary. He would then become, in 1966, the Executive Director of the NYPD's Civilian Complaint Review Board. Two years later, he became the Deputy Police Commissioner of Trials where he served as the Chief Hearing Officer overseeing all departmental disciplinary matters. Ward then was named as the Deputy Commissioner of Community Affairs having responsibility for the Youth Aid Division and the Auxiliary Forces Section.

In 1973, then Mayor John V. Lindsay appointed Ward as the Traffic Commissioner. As Traffic Commissioner, Ward reassigned uniformed traffic controllers to street duties to free other street police officers from minor traffic issues to patrolling to curb more violent crimes. The following year, Ward established the Criminal Justice Agency, which regulated and evaluated bail for those arrested to cut costs on housing arrested city residents.

In 1978, then Mayor Edward I. Koch named Ward as the Chief of the New York City Housing Authority. A year later, Mayor Koch named him as the head of the New York City Department of Corrections. He served in that capacity for four years before being named again by the Mayor as the New York City Police Commissioner. With that appointment, Ward became the first African American to lead the New York City Police force.

As Police Commissioner, Ward served at the helm of the largest police department in the United States. He took over the Commis-

sioner's job just as the use of drug use was on the rise, in particular crack cocaine. With the introduction of this new drug, crime in the city rose dramatically. Murders related to funding the use of drugs and murders related to organized crime increased as well.

Along with the increase in the popularity of crack cocaine, the city still had issues with race relations from years past, which culminated with the 1988 Tompkins Square Park Riot. Because of the crack cocaine epidemic, drug users, drug pushers, and those that had become homeless due to their drug use had taken over the city park as squatters. With neighborhood residents and city officials in arms about the 24-hour constant traffic through the park, the city wanted to institute a 1 a.m. curfew. Protestors gathered to oppose the city ordinance and clashes erupted between protestors and the police. The NYPD came in, heavy handed, to enforce removal of the squatters resulting in over one hundred complaints of police brutality. It was later determined that the NYPD had incited the riot.

Ward would oversee other controversial incidents involving the NYPD. In 1972, two police officers, Philip Cardillo, Vito Navarra along with other police officers responded to a call at a Harlem Nation of Islam Mosque, an African American Muslim religious organization. Commissioner Ward and leading members of the Mosque had an agreement that police officers would not enter the Mosque without approval. When the police entered the Mosque, they were met with gunfire. Cardillo was shot and killed during the gunfire exchange. Other police officers were forced out of the Mosque leaving Cardillo, Navarra, and fellow officer Ivan Negron locked inside.

The NYPD eventually broke down the doors of the Mosque to find Cardillo dead on the floor with Mosque member Louis 17X Dupree standing over him with a gun. Before he could be arrested, Minister Louis Farrakhan and Charles Rangel, the Harlem legislative representative arrived ordering the police not to arrest Dupree citing self defense for the officers having entered the Mosque despite an agreement that they would not. Farrakhan and Rangel warned of an impending riot if Dupree was arrested. NYPD officials ordered the officers to stand down and Commissioner Ward released those that had been arrested during a skirmish that occurred outside of the Mosque once word hit the community of what was taking place at the Mosque. Ward also apologized to Minister Farrakhan for the police violating the standing agreement that the police would not enter the mosque. His apology drew great criticism from members of the NYPD and many white city residents.

Ward would have to deal with many other life threatening and civil disturbance issues that faced the city during his tenure. He oversaw the city's organized crime issues, political racketeering issues, and the increasing drug problems that plagued the city. Ward would retire from the NYPD in 1989. He remained active in retirement by serving on various Boards of Directors for legal and civic organizations until becoming ill. Before his death, he served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, as an Adjunct Professor of Corrections at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and as an Adjunct Professor of the Hudson Valley Community College in Troy.

Benjamin Ward died on June 10, 2002. He was seventy-five years old.



HORACE TALIAFERRO WARD

...was born on July 29, 1927 in LaGrange, Georgia to his single mother, Minnie Ward. He was his mother's only child and never knew his father. He lived with his grandparents due to the fact that his mother lived as a domestic with the white family that she served. When he was nine years old, his mother

had made enough money to care for Ward herself.

Ward did not start elementary school on time but once he was enrolled, he was eager to learn. When he finished the fourth grade, he was skipped past his fifth grade and placed in the sixth grade. By the time he graduated from the East Depot Street High School in 1946, he was the Valedictorian of his senior class.

In 1950 Horace T. Ward became the first African American to challenge the racially discriminatory practices at the University of Georgia (UGA). Although the all-white UGA School of Law rejected Ward's application and a federal court subsequently upheld the university's decision, Ward's challenge to the university's segregationist policies began a legal process that would eventually bear fruit in 1961. He would later become the first African American ever to serve on the federal bench in Georgia.

After completing high school, Ward enrolled into Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia where he majored in Political Science. While at Morehouse, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Completing his undergraduate studies in 1949, he entered Atlanta University, later renamed Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta where he earned a Master's degree in 1950. While attending Atlanta University, Ward was mentored by William Madison Boyd, then the Chair of the Political Science Department and President of the Georgia branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Boyd was urged to look into a law career of which he always had an interest.

Georgia's premier law school at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, at the time, did not permit African Americans to attend its law school and Ward had no desire to attend a law school outside of the state. Boyd and the NAACP were looking for someone that would be willing to fight to break the segregated policies of the law school and asked Ward to participate. He agreed and applied for admission to UGA's Registrar, Walter N. Danner, on September 229, 1950. His application was forwarded to the University Board of Regents, a procedure that white applicants did not have to process through.

Ward received a reply from L.R. Seibert, the Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents who offered Ward out-of-state tuition assistance. Paying out-of-state tuition for African Americans wanting to enter the law profession was a common practice of higher learning institutions in the South during that time. Ward

responded that he did not seek out-of-state tuition but wanted to enter the UGA Law School asking Seibert to judge his application on its merits.

After repeated attempts for a decision on the application, after nine months, Registrar Danner informed Ward that his application had been denied. Ward tried for the next year in vain for an explanation of why his application was denied without any type of reply from UGA. Word finally came that Ward was unqualified despite his stellar academic performance and grades at Morehouse and at Atlanta University. The University then changed their admission policies requiring potential students to take an entrance exam and to provide two letters of recommendations, one from an UGA law school alumni and the other from a Superior Court Judge in the district where the applicant resided.

The NAACP then stepped in to litigate Ward's entrance into the law school. His case, represented by attorneys Constance Baker Motley and Donald Hollowell, was filed against the UGA on June 23, 1952. As the trial date drew closer, it had to be postponed as Ward was called to serve in the United States Army. He would have to serve two years. He did so stationed in Korea. Upon his discharge from the Army, the case was resumed.

The case would linger with motion after motion being filed by the UGA seeking dismissal of the case. After more than six years from Ward submitting his application, a court date was reset for December 17, 1956. That two was delayed but on February 12, 1957 a ruling came from then Judge Frank A. Hooper who dismissed the case on the grounds that Ward did not resubmit his application under the new guidelines established by the UGA and that Ward had since filing the application entered Northwestern University's Law School in Chicago, Illinois, which made the case a moot point. Ward decided not to pursue entry into the UGA Law School to complete his studies at Northwestern.

Ward went on to obtain his law degree from Northwestern in 1959. He then returned to Georgia and became a part of attorney Baker and Hollowell's legal team to continue the fight to desegregate the UGA. Two years later, in 1961, Hamilton E. Holmes and Charlayne A. Hunter were admitted to the UGA Law School by court order handed down by then Judge William A. Bootle, ending 175 years of segregation at the UGA Law School.

After the admissions of African Americans to the UGA, Ward went into private practice. He then served as a Deputy City Attorney for the city of Atlanta. He became an Assistant County Attorney for Fulton County, Georgia and served as a Judge to Fulton County's Civil Court. Judge Ward also served on the bench of the Superior Court of Georgia.

Ward then became a partner in the law firm of Hollowell, Ward, Moore, and Alexander. In 1965, he was elected as a Senator in the Georgia state legislature. Years later, then President Jimmy Carter appointed him as a federal Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He was the first African American ever to sit on a federal bench in the state of Georgia. Judge Ward attained senior status in 1994 and ironically was given an honorary law degree from the UGA, but not until 2014, sixty-four years after he first applied for admission.

Judge Horace Taliaferro Ward died on April 23, 2016. He was eighty-eight years old.



EVERETT E. J. WARING

...was born on May 22, 1859 in Springfield, Ohio to Melinda C. and James S. Waring. His mother was a former slave and his father was a Principal of colored schools in both Springfield and Columbus, Ohio. His father was also a descendant of Virginia Captain William Waring.

Waring graduated from Columbus High School in 1877.

He took a job as a teacher in the public schools of Columbus and Springfield with the help of his father. A year later, he became the Principal of the Columbus school that his father had served. He remained Principal of the colored school for five years until the city public schools were integrated and his job position was terminated.

In order to find work, Waring left Ohio and moved to Washington, D.C. to take a job with the Department of the Interior (DOI) as an Examiner of Pensions. He enrolled into D.C.'s Howard University to pursue his law degree while working at the DOI. He completed his law degree studies in 1885 graduating with honors. He passed the District of Columbia Bar exam and began to practice law in D.C.. The following year, Waring was awarded a Master's degree from Howard.

Waring was then asked by then Baltimore, Maryland's Reverend Harvey Johnson, the founder of the Mutual Brotherhood of Liberty, to assist him in the integration of Maryland's state courts that had laws restricting African Americans from practicing in the state courts. The Brotherhood was a Baltimore group formed to advocate and facilitate the fair treatment for African Americans and had been fighting for years to have African Americans admitted to the Baltimore City Superior Court Bar. Waring accepted Reverend Johnson's offer and moved to Baltimore.

In Baltimore, Waring then met his wife, Katie E. Johnson, the daughter of a prominent barber, Harry H. Johnson and together the couple had four children. He joined the Union Baptist Church and became active in the church's affairs. He would later join the St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church and served as the Superintendent of the Sunday school. Years later, in 1897, Waring would become an ordained minister.

Waring made his application to the bar and surprisingly was accepted and admitted to the bar of the Supreme Bench in Baltimore. With his admission to the bar, he became the first African American attorney in the state of Maryland. He then became the attorney for the Brotherhood. In 1887, Waring was admitted to practice before the Maryland State Court of Appeals in Annapolis.

In serving as the legal counsel for the Brotherhood, Waring took on cases that challenged segregation on steamships, discrimination in insurance policies, and other cases related to racial injustices. He litigated to have the public schools hire more African American schoolteachers, argued for the desegregation of juries in court trials, and lobbied for the eradication of lynching.

Waring joined the Odd Fellows, the St. James Beneficial Society, and the Knights of Pythias in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Waring also became actively involved in the Republican politics of Baltimore. When Ida B. Wells, the famed African American journalist and newspaper Editor paid a visit to Baltimore to speak, Waring served as the Chair of the meeting that she came to Baltimore to

give. By 1890, Waring had become a prominent civic leader in the African American community and had built a successful law practice as well. His law practice had provided him with a great deal of money, which allowed him to purchase a three-story brick home. With that purchase, he became more involved with real estate and eventually accumulated over forty houses.

In 1895, Waring established the Lexington Savings Bank. The bank was the first African Americans financial institution in the state of Maryland founded and managed by an African American. In the first held meeting of the banks potential stockholders, interested citizens purchased \$3,500 in stock and then could vote on the banks officers. Waring was chosen as the Banks' President. The bank opened for business on May 15, 1895 with \$10,000 in capital stock.

Waring stepped aside from his law practice to give full time to the banks operations as its' President. Within a year, the bank had several hundred depositors made up of laborers, elderly pensioners and poorer class Baltimore citizens. The Bank was able to convince several local African American church's to move their money to the bank, including the Sharp Street Church of Bengles. Unfortunately, less than one year later, the bank suffered a major scandal, which would run Waring's reputation and his career in Baltimore.

The bank's bookkeeper, George L. Stanley, noticing discrepancies in the banks affairs, had become suspicious of Waring. Stanley called an emergency meeting on Saturday, March 6, 1897 of the banks Directors with Waring called to explain the discrepancies. He told the Directors that he would have a full reporting on Monday, the next schedule meeting of Directors. Waring then went home and told his wife that he was going to Washington, D.C. for a short business trip. On Monday, Waring did not return and was absent from the bank's Director's Monday meeting. Two days later, on March 8, 1897, with Waring nowhere to be found, the bank was placed into receivership.

With Waring being the only one that had access to the bank's safe and with him being the only one that knew the combination, the bank's receivers forced upon the safe to find only \$28.72 in cash. The found several promissory notes, some of which were owed to Waring himself. Waring was still missing in action.

To prepare to return, Waring sent telegrams to several local Baltimore newspapers to announce when he would arrive and that he was prepared to give a full statement to be published that would explain the banks failure. On March 12th, Waring returned to Baltimore. Explaining that he had given thought to taking his own life because of the shortfalls of the bank, Waring gave details of his efforts to keep the bank afloat, including giving of his own money to cover the overhead of the bank. He gave part of the failure to the stockholders who had not given much of their time to the bank with all of the responsibilities falling upon his shoulders. He admitted that he tried to keep things in order but was unable. The Maryland State's Attorney ultimately charged Waring with embezzling \$700 from the bank.

After his indictment, Waring left Baltimore to return to Ohio. He only returned for the trial, which was moved from Baltimore City to neighboring Howard County in order to give him a fair trial. At his trial, Waring was acquitted of all charges as he himself did not benefit from the loss of the banks' money but instead was owed money from the promissory notes that he had left in the bank's safe, which showed that he was attempting to keep the bank afloat with his own savings. He, like other stockholders and bank depositors had lost money with the failure of the bank. With his reputation irreparably damaged, Waring, the first African American attorney in the state's history, left Baltimore never to return.



CRAIG A. WASHINGTON

...was born on October 12, 1941 in Longview, Texas. He received his undergraduate degree from Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas. He graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. To obtain his law degree,

Washington attended Texas Southern University Law School in Houston, Texas at the top of his class and with honors. After graduating from Texas Southern in 1969, he took a job at his alma mater as the Assistant Dean and as an Assistant Professor of Law.

After serving for one year as the Assistant Dean, Washington left Texas Southern to become a founding member of the Houston based law firm of Washington & Randle, later renamed, Washington, Lampley, Evans & Braquet. He then ran for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives representing the 86th District. Washington ran at the appropriate time, as the U.S. Supreme Court had recently passed legislation calling for one-man, one-vote across the voting districts of Texas and the United States. With the African American voters voting, Washington was victorious in his campaign. He would spend the next seventeen years in the state legislator, eventually becoming a Texas State Senator in 1982 representing the 13th Senatorial District.

In 1989, tragedy struck. Washington's friend, U.S. House of Representative George T. "Mickey" Leland was killed in the Gambela Region while traveling to Ethiopia. Washington, like many in Texas, was at a loss when word came of his death. In a special election, Washington was elected to replace Leland and to represent Texas' 18th Congressional District.

While in Congress, Washington served on several committees, including the served on the Committee on the Judiciary, the Control and the Government Operations Committee, and the Education and Labor Committee. He also served on the Energy and Commerce Committee and served as a member of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse Committee. In addition, Washington served as the Whip for the Congressional Black Caucus, the Whip-At-Large of the Democratic Whip Organization

of the House of Representatives, and as Vice-Chairman for the Democratic Study Group Executive Committee.

Washington was re-elected to the U.S. Congress twice but lost in bid for the third term in the Democratic primary of 1994. He lost some support when opponent and then Houston City Councilwoman Sheila Jackson Lee criticized Washington for his missed House votes and for not being a good steward of his personal finances. Lee defeated incumbent Washington, winning 63% of the votes.

Washington left Washington, D.C. and returned to private practice. He accepted a position as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Texas Southern University's Law School teaching Evidence and Criminal Law courses. He received national fanfare when he represented Tyrone Williams, a truck driver that was arrested in 2003 for the deaths of nineteen illegal immigrants he was transporting that suffocated in the back of the truck he was driving. The case was one of the deadliest cases involving human trafficking in U.S. history. Williams was sentenced to life in prison for the deaths.

Washington once found himself needing representation. He was accused by three teenage boys of shooting into their car as they exited the parking lot of Washington's law office. He claimed he fired in self-defense as the boys were attempting to back into him. Washington had previously instructed the teens that they were illegally parked on private property. He was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon but avoided jail time by pretrial diversions.

Washington's plea deal called for him to be placed on two years probation and having to complete sixty hours of community service. If he follows the conditions and guidelines set by the court during those two years, the charge against him will be dropped. With the case settled, Washington returned to perform work at his law office.



ERIC T. WASHINGTON

...was born on December 2, 1953. He received his undergraduate degree in 1976 from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. His law degree was earned at the Columbia University

School of Law in New York City, New York in 1979.

After graduating from Columbia, Washington began his legal career working for the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski in their Houston, Texas offices. There, he engaged worked on general labor and employment cases. He then moved to Washington, D.C. to take a job serving as the Legislative Director and Legal Counsel to Texas U.S. Congressman Michael A. Andrews. After spending time with Congressman Andrews, Washington returned to Fulbright & Jaworski, joining their D.C. offices.

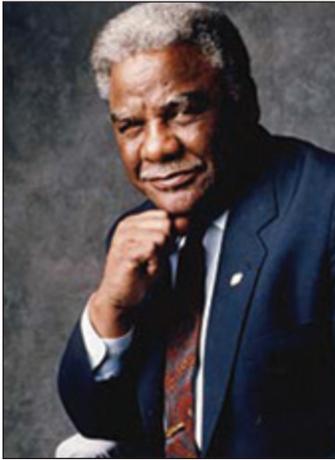
Washington's next legal position was as the Special Counsel to the Corporation Counsel, now called the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. He would then, in 1987, become the Principal Deputy Corporation Counsel serving in that capacity for two years. Washington then became a partner in the law firm of Hogan & Hartson where he remained for five years.

In 1995, Washington was appointed as an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. As an Associate Superior Court Judge, Judge Washington presided over criminal cases brought before the Drug Court. He also presided over Domestic Violence Unit cases, tax and probate cases, and presided over cases involving certification of other Judges. In addition, Judge Washington oversaw cases involving children abused and neglected.

In 1999, Judge Washington was appointed by then President Bill Clinton to the D.C. Court of Appeals. Judge Washington became the Chief Judge in 2005 and served in that role until March of 2017. During his tenure on the bench, he has served as the Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning Leadership Council for the District of Columbia Courts and has served as a member of the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts. Judge Washington has also served on the Access to Justice Commission.

Judge Washington has served on other committees involved with the District of Columbia Bar, including the

Bar's Nominating Committee and the Criminal Justice Act/Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect Committee. He also has served as a member of the Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary and the Steering Committee for the D.C. Affairs Sections. Judge Washington is a member of the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington and the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs Foundation. In addition, he was a former member of the Board of Directors for the Einstein Institute for Science, Health and the Courts and served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Standards, Credential and Accreditation Board.



HAROLD LEE WASHINGTON

...was born on April 15, 1922 in Chicago, Illinois to Bertha and Roy Washington. His father, one of Chicago's first Precinct Captains in the city and a lawyer gave young Walter plenty inspiration to continue the Washington legacy in Illinois. His mother was a songstress in the entertainment industry. Walter and his two

siblings, a grew up in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago. The center of black culture for the entire Midwest in the early to middle 20th century, Bronzeville gave Washington firm footing for his future aspirations.

Washington graduated as a member of its' first graduating class from DuSable High School, newly established as a racially segregated public high school. A gifted athlete in track, after placing first in the 110 meter high hurdles event and second in the 220 meter low hurdles, Washington became bored with the challenges of his classwork. Between his junior and senior year, he dropped out taking a job at a meat-packing plant before finding a job at the U.S. Treasury in Chicago.

He met his soon to be wife, seventeen year old Dorothy Finch, and quickly married her. He was twenty years old at the time, just old enough for the armed services. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on Sunday, December 7, 1941, the U.S. was drawn into World War II and Washington, without a high school diploma, was drafted into the United States Army.

After basic training, Washington's racially segregated unit of the U.S. Army Air Corps Unit of Engineers was sent overseas. Based in the Philippines, he and his unit were responsible for the building of runways for bombers and protective fighter aircraft on Leyte and Luzon Islands. They refueled planes, and worked on returning damaged aircraft.

Returning from the war, Washington decided to complete his G.E.D. requirements in order to attend college. Because of America's racial educational divide during those times, Washington, like many other blacks who were not permitted to enroll into major colleges, enrolled into Chicago's Roosevelt University, known for its' "nondiscriminatory progressive principles" where, in 1949, he earned a Bachelor's degree. He then enrolled into Northwestern University's law school located in Evanston, Illinois. He was the only black in his class and finished his degree requirements in 1952.

While at Roosevelt, Washington became involved in student and city issues. After being named to a committee that supported city-wide efforts to outlaw "restrictive covenants" in housing, i.e., the legal means that prohibited blacks and Jews from purchasing real estate in predominantly white Chicago neighborhoods, Washington was elected the third President of Roosevelt's Student Council.

As President, he took on such issues as student representation on faculty committees, a "Bill of Rights" for students, and the Illinois state legislators' probe of "subversives" and "loyalty oaths" for teachers. Washington graduated from Roosevelt in August 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He also became a member of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.

From 1952 through 1965, Washington worked in the offices of the 3rd Ward Alderman, former Olympic athlete Ralph Metcalfe and was pivotal in the organizing of the 3rd Ward's Young Democrats (YD). Not a radical by any means, Washington avoided the "in your face politics" of some of his allies. There he met Mary Ella Smith who he dated for twenty years before proposing.

Along with several others, in 1960, the Chicago League of Negro Voters (LNV), one of the first black political organizations in the city, was formed. Focused on the election of black candidates, the LNV helped win several Aldermanic seats and was instrumental in Washington's own run for the state legislature and that of Mayor.

Washington won election to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1965 serving the city's 26th District. He supported economic equality and was an advocate for black rights. He helped to spearhead to make the birthday civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. a national holiday. He fought for the Fair Housing Act, the state's Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC), and the state Civil Rights Act.

His time in the legislature brought one serious legal problem. Convicted of tax evasion for not filling several years tax returns, in 1972, Washington spent thirty-six days in jail. Despite that blemish, he became a State Senator in 1977. Three years later, he won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

On April 29, 1983, Washington was sworn in as Mayor of Chicago, largely due to the Voting Rights Act that he had supported during his time in the U.S. House of Representatives. With more than 100,000 new voters registered, he won 37% of the vote on and resigned his seat in Congress the following day.

As Mayor, Washington ran into stiff opposition to much of his proposed legislation and nominees to boards and commissions. He faced the issues of city population losses, a massive decrease in ridership on the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and increased crime. He was opposed by the "Vrdolyak 29", a name given to twenty-nine legislators that went against Washington's every move. Fortunately, they could not garner the 30th vote needed to override Washington's veto power. From that position, Washington ruled by veto.

Despite the opposition, Washington worked to reverse the redistricting of the city's wards that the City Council had created that gave them majority votes in legislative matters. During special elections in 1986, enough of Washington supporters had been elected to the City Council that gave Washington a 50-50 split of the fifty Aldermen. As Chairman of the City Council, his decisive vote enabled him to break a 25-25 tie-vote allowing him to enact his programs.

Establishing the Political Education Project (PEP) in 1984, Washington used this organization to support his interests in electoral politics. PEP helped organize statewide elections for political candidates and allies aligned with Washington's agendas. PEP was pivotal in helping the election of two Aldermen that helped Washington break the "Vrdolyak 29" hold on the City Council.

While at his office desk discussing school board issues with his press secretary, Washington suddenly slumped over falling unconscious. Rushed to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, unable to be resuscitated, Washington was pronounced dead at 11:00 a.m. on November 25, 1987. Cook County Medical Examiner confirmed that Washington had died of a heart attack. He is buried in Oak Woods Cemetery in his hometown, Chicago.



WALTER EDWARD WASHINGTON

...was born in Dawson, Georgia. A part of the Great Migration, named apply for the many freed slaves that left the southern U.S. states relocating to the northern states after

slavery end in 18673, Washington's family moved to Jamestown, New York where he attended public schools. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Howard University, joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and went on to obtain a law degree the university's School of Law in 1948.

After graduating from Howard, Washington was hired as a supervisor for D.C.'s Alley Dwelling Authority. President John F. Kennedy later appointed him as the Executive Director of the National Capital Housing Authority, a housing department of the District of Columbia administered by Congress. He ran the department until 1966 when he moved to New York City to head the much larger Housing Authority there.

At the urging of President Lyndon Johnson, in 1967, Congress passed a law replacing the three-commissioner government that had run the capital since 1871. A more modern government comprising a single commissioner and a nine-member city council was installed with all appointments made by the President. Johnson appointed Washington to the post of Commissioner, retitled as "Mayor-Commissioner." Washington became the first African-American Mayor of a major American city.

Washington assumed leadership of a city torn by racial divisions and a Congress full of hostility. His first budget to Congress was met with racial hatred. Democratic Representative John L. McMillan, chair of the House Committee on the District of Columbia, responded to the budget request by having a truckload of watermelons delivered to Washington's office. When riots erupted after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover urged Washington to shoot the rioters of which he refused instead walking by myself through the city urging the angry youths to go home.

On December 24, 1973, Congress enacted the District of Columbia Self-Rule and Governmental Reorganization Act which provided for an elected Mayor and City

Council. In anticipation of the new law, Washington began a campaign to run against six local challengers. He won the primary election by 4,000 votes. He easily won the November general election. With home rule going into effect January 2, 1975, Washington was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, becoming the city's first popularly elected Mayor since 1871.

In the 1978 Democratic mayoral primary, Washington ran for re-election against Councilmen Stanley Tucker and Marion Barry finishing third. He left office on January 2, 1979 announcing that city had a \$41 million budget surplus, based on the Federal government's cash-on-hand financial system. Using the more common accrual system, Barry corrected the financial picture showing that Washington had left a \$284 million debt and not a surplus.

After ending his term as mayor, Washington joined the New York-based law firm of Burns, Jackson, Miller & Summit. He opened the firm's Washington, D.C. office and built on his network. Washington remained a public figure beloved in the District. His political advice was much sought after for years.

As a tribute to Washington, he short alley running alongside the Wilson Building, 13½ Street, St., was designated Walter E. Washington Way in his honor. A new housing development in D.C.'s Ward 8 was also named the Walter E. Washington Estates. In 2006, the Council of the District of Columbia approved legislation renaming the Washington Convention Center located at 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW, in his honor, now known as the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Washington died on October 27, 2003, at Howard University Hospital. His body laid in state at the City Hall, the John A. Wilson Building, as hundreds of mourners came to pay their respects. His funeral the Washington National Cathedral was attended by just as many.



BARBARA MAE WATSON

...was born on November 5, 1918 in New York City, New York to Violet Lopez Watson and James S. Watson. From an early age, she knew she was destined for a legal career as her father

had become the first black judge elected in New York State and her mother was one of the founders of the National Council of Negro Women along with Mary McLeod Bethune.

Watson's family tree of important contributors to their communities and the United States at large is validated by her bloodline. Her grandfather, James Samuel Watson, was a New York City Municipal Judge and the first African American lawyer admitted to the American Bar Association. Her brother, James Lopez Watson, became the first sitting Judge of the United States Customs Court to hear cases in the Deep South.

Her cousin, General Colin L. Powell, became the U.S. Secretary of State during the George W. Bush presidency.

After completing her studies at Hunter Model School and High School, Watson matriculated to Barnard College in New York City, graduating in 1943. She accepted a position as an interviewer for the United Seamen's Service. Six years later, she began a charm school and modeling agency. She served as the Barbara Watson Models Executive Director until 1956. She then took a job as Coordinator of Student Activities at Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia.

Watson decided to obtain her law degree so she enrolled into the New York Law School. In 1962, she graduated with her degree in hand, ready to conduct business. During the next several years, she would work as an attorney for several New York City government agencies, including the Office of the Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, the Board of Statutory Consolidation of the City of New York, and as Director of the New York City Commission to the United Nations.

In 1966, Watson took the position as Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration for the United States Department of State. Serving as Special Assistant for two years, President Lyndon Johnson in

July of 1968, nominated her to become Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Security and Consular Affairs. She later acted as Acting Assistant Secretary. She became the first African American Assistant Secretary of State and the first woman to serve as Assistant Secretary of State. She held office for six years resigning from her post in 1974 when the Nixon Administration sought to replace her Democratic appointment with a Republican appointee.

Leaving government, Watson took a job as a legal consultant with Walter Annenberg's Triangle Publications of Philadelphia, later Radnor, Pennsylvania. She lectured at nearby colleges and universities and gave advice to her coveted clients. Three years later, Jimmy Carter was elected as the 39th President of the United States. Watson found herself back in government.

Upon taking office on January 20, 1977, now President Carter, asked Watson to return to work for the government. She accepted and took a position with the State Department as Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. Watson would remain in this office for three years until August of 1980.

Needing a United States Ambassador to Malaysia, President Carter appointed Watson to that post. With credentials in hand, she served as Ambassador March 1, 1981. After her appointment as Ambassador was completed, Watson returned to the U.S. and her business endeavors. Two years later, she died a sudden death.

On February 18, 1983, in Washington, D.C., at the age of sixty-four Watson died. A public servant all her life, she is remembered for her dedicated service to public endeavors having served for many years with distinction and grace.

Photo Not Available



JAMES LOPEZ WATSON

...was born in on May 21, 1922 in Harlem, New York City to Violet and James S. Watson. Raised in an educated family, his Jamaican born father, James S. Watson, for 18 years,

was a Justice in New York's Municipal Court. Watson, Sr. also served for four years as the President of the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Growing up in Harlem, the heart of African American cultural awareness, Watson was surrounded by a life filled with music, art, intellectual thought, civil rights and public service and affairs. As a young adult, he had a firm understanding for the process of law. Having worked alongside his father, by the time, the younger Watson finished high school, he knew that he too would be a lawyer and a judge.

After high school, World War II had begun and Watson entered the U.S. military to fulfill his duties as a soldier. During the war, he was assigned to serve his duties in Italy. He became a member of the all-black 371st Infantry Regiment, 92nd Division, better known as the Buffalo Soldiers of World War II. Wounded, he returned to the U.S. with a Purple Heart and the Infantry Combat Badge.

Once back in the U.S., Watson enrolled into New York University to obtain his undergraduate degree, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1947. For his law degree, he went on to attend Brooklyn Law School graduating with his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1951. As he began to practice private law, he found himself increasingly interested in politics. In 1954, he ran and was elected to the New York State Senate. In 1963, Watson he ran and was elected to New York's Civil Court.

In 1959, Watson met U.S. Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson. They formed a mutual admiration and respect for their common ideals. Johnson was selected by presidential candidate John F. Kennedy as running mate for the 1962 election. Two years later, the Caribbean country of Jamaica, on August 6, 1962, won its independence from Britain. Watson was chosen by President Kennedy to accompany Vice President Johnson to represent the U.S. at the Jamaican Independence Day celebrations.

Johnson and Watson's friendship continued to grow over the next several years. After President Kennedy was assassinated, Johnson assumed the presidency of the U.S..

In 1966, then President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Watson as a Senior Judge to the United States Customs Court. Charged with cases involving imported goods, how they are classified and valued. The rule on issues surrounding tariffs, the duties of custom procedures and unfair practices by traders. In 1980, the court was reorganized by Congress being renamed the United States Court of International Trade. Watson served on the court for thirty-five years.

As a sitting Judge of the United States Customs Court, any one of the nine judges, at any time, can be assigned to hear a case in any of the Federal District Courts in the United States. Watson sat on the bench and decided Customs Court cases in the states of California, Georgia, Florida, Oregon, Texas and Washington. As a Senior Judge, Watson presided over many civil and criminal cases.

The first African American to be assigned to hear cases in America's South, Watson became a first. After the Civil War and during the Reconstruction Era, there had been a few black judges that had presided over local courts. There had never been, however, a black to lead a federal court in the Deep South ever before.

In 1970, Watson, as a federal judge and as Chairman of the Court's Rules and Practices Committee, he had a hand in modernizing the courts processes. He was pivotal in bringing the Court in line with the rest of the federal judiciary system. He helped to introduce computers to the court. He was a leading voice in the implementation of the Customs Court Act of 1970. In 1991, Watson became the Senior Judge of the Court.

Judge James Lopez Watson, one of the most senior black members of the federal judiciary, died of cancer on Saturday, September 1, 2001 at his home in Harlem. He was seventy-nine years old at the time of his death.

In his honor, in 2003, the courthouse at 1 Federal Plaza in Manhattan was renamed the James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building.



JAMES SAMUEL WATSON

...was born on May 29, 1882 in Spanish Town, Jamaica to Elizabeth Jones Watson and James Michael Watson. Both parents were born on the Caribbean island of Jamaica. His father worked for the Jamaica Government

Railway as a conductor and platform foreman.

Watson's received his elementary and high school education in Jamaica. He attended Beckford and Smith's High School although he did not graduate. He began to work in earnest for money to continue his education. He took a job at Myrtle Bank Hotel as a cashier and another as a bookkeeper and chief clerk for Constant Spring Hotels in Kingston.

At the age of twenty-three, Watson had saved enough money to pay his way and moved to New York City. Arriving in the U.S., Watson immediately began to look for work. He also enrolled into a Harlem high school to complete his high school education. He graduated high school in 1910.

While attending high school, he was given a job at the law firm of House, Grossman and Vorhaus in New York City. Working during the day as a clerk, for three years, Watson took night classes at the City College of New York. He was also taking night classes at New York's Law School. He received an LL.B. degree from the law school in 1913.

On July 3, 1913, Watson became a United States citizen. Nine months later, he took and passed the bar exam and was admitted to the bar of New York. In May of 1914 he was admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. For six years, as a lawyer representing House, Grossman and Vorhaus, Watson assisted in many of the firm's most important cases. By 1920, he had worked his way up in ranks to become head of the firms' Department of Corporate and Tax Law.

Watson left House, Grossman and Vorhaus in 1920 to form, along with two other black attorneys, a private practice of their own. In 1922, in New York's Special Franchise Tax Division, he became Special Assistant Corporation Counsel to the City of New York. For ten years, Watson and his partners would represent many notable clients on various legal issues. He had as one of his most cherished clients, Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican born political leader, publisher, journalist, entrepreneur, orator, and proponent of the Pan-Africanism movement of the 1920s.

In 1930, Watson ran and was elected as a municipal judge in New York. He became, along with Charles E. Toney, one of the two first black judges ever elected in the state. Watson would go on to serve in that capacity for twenty years, retiring in 1950.

During his lengthy career, Watson was involved in several landmark cases. In 1934, he ruled in the case of North German Lloyd Steamship Company. A bondholder in the company sued over interest payments believed due them. In his decision, Watson ruled that the German government moratorium on interest payments to bondholders was not binding. The ruling was later upheld by the higher court.

In 1943, the New York City Bar Association, at their annual dinner, honored Watson. He had that year become the first African American lawyer admitted to the American Bar Association, since 1912. The American Bar Association had a strict no African-Americans being admitted policy. There had been several black members of the American Bar Association but their race "was not known" as they had passed for white.

In his 1940 campaign for re-election, Watson for the first time faced some difficulty. Although he was endorsed by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and prominent African American supporters including the powerful Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Watson had one big adversary that opposed his re-election. Tammany Hall, a New York City Democratic Party political machine, had many notable Irish members who were against Watson's nomination for the position. They eventually relented and Watson went on to win the re-election by a wide margin of nine-to-one. Three years later, in 1943, Watson would become the first African American since 1912 to become a member of the all white American Bar Association.

Many thought that Judge Watson should have become the first African American United States Supreme Court Justice. The fairness in his opinions and decisions made him a prime candidate for the Court. Unfortunately, the racial tide of those times would not permit such a nomination to occur. That distinction and appointment would later be given to Thurgood Marshall in October of 1967.

In 1950, Watson retired from the bench. Not done, he became the President of the Municipal Civil Service Commission. He served as President for two years until his death in 1952. To honor his service and that of his beloved communities, over 3000 people attended his funeral. Nearly every high ranking city official was in attendance. To give the highest honor from City of New York, then Mayor Vincent R. Impellitteri was one of Watson's pallbearers.



MELVIN LUTHER WATT

...was born on August 26, 1945 in Steele Creek, North Carolina to Evelyn Lucille (née Mauney) and Graham Edward Watt. He graduated from York Road High School in Char-

lotte, North Carolina before entering the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill graduating in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Watt graduated from UNC as a Phi Beta Kappa graduate and served as its' President.

Watt earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1970 from Yale University Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. At Yale, he served as a published member of the Yale Law Journal. After receiving his law degree, Watt returned to North Carolina to begin his law career.

In 1971, Watt became a practicing attorney for the law firm formerly known as Chambers, Stein, Ferguson, and Becton. While working as a staff attorney, Watt served as the manager of the successful political campaign of Harvey Gantt when Gantt ran for a seat on the Charlotte City Council. Watt would also manage the successful campaigns for Gantt when he ran for Mayor of Charlotte in 1974 and the unsuccessful campaign when Gantt ran for the United States Senate representing North Carolina in 1990.

During that time, Watt built his law firm where he specialized in minority business and economic development law. He also was involved in several small business ventures. In 1985, Watt entered the political arena himself and won a seat in the North Carolina Senate. He served for only one term before deciding to postpone any future political office until his children completed high school to devote more time to family matters.

In 1992, Watt returned to politics and was elected as a member of the United States House of Representatives as a Democrat representing North Carolina's 12th Congressional District. He would be re-elected to eight more terms and currently serves his North Carolina constituents proudly. While serving in the House, Watt has been a member of the House Financial Services Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

In of 2004, Watt was unanimously chosen as the Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and served in that position for two years. He has served as a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the Democratic Study Group, and the Steering Committee. He also co-sponsored the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

In 2006, Watt took part in the protest at the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. that called attention to the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and was arrested for his part in the protest. In Congress, Congressman Watt has voted on a liberal platform and is one of the most liberal congressional members to ever represent the state of North Carolina. He is a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and has voted along party lines.

In 2013, Congressman Watt was nominated by then President Barack Obama to become the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). His nomination drew sharp criticism from Republican members arguing that no politician should ever represent the agency. Some said he lacked technical expertise on housing financing with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid calling to invoke cloture on the nomination. After a testy voting process, Congressman Watt was eventually confirmed to become the Director on a Senate vote of 57-41 in favor. In becoming the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Watt is in charge of administering and has oversight of the FHFA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac, all federal housing entities under federal rule.

Congressman Watt lives in Charlotte along with his Wife, Eulada Paysour Watt and the couple have two sons, both graduates of Yale. He is a member of the Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church and serves as a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He is also involved with many local professional, civic and community organizations in the Charlotte area.



KEITH W. WATTERS

...received his undergraduate degree in 1976 from Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York with honors. While studying for his undergraduate degree, he worked as a journalist and had

several articles published that spoke on women's rights, worker's rights, civil rights issues, and the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. He then earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Washington D.C.'s Georgetown University Law Center in 1979. After leaving Georgetown, Watters remained in Washington to begin his professional legal career.

In 1980, Watters founded his law firm, Keith Watters & Associates. He focused his attention on the areas related to personal injury caused by automobile accidents. He represented victims and their injuries to ensure they received proper care from reliable doctors and negotiated settlements with insurance carriers to obtain satisfactory compensation. His specialties includes uninsured and under insured motorists, hit and run accidents, unknown drivers, rear end and parking lot accidents, and construction zone incidents. He also handles cases related to bicycle and pedestrian accidents, drunk driving citations, and accidents involving death.

Watters has served as the President of the Washington Bar Association (the National Bar Association, and the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. He has also served as the President of the Foundation of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. For the American Bar Association, Watters has served on several committees during his legal career, including serving on the Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee, the Professional Discipline Committee, and the Medical Professional Liability Committee. In 1997, Watters led an eighty-member National Bar Association delegation to Ghana, African where they held discussions on the emerging democracy's laws. He then served as a member of a conference that spoke about on line racism, which exposed the activities of white supremacist groups on the Internet.

In 2000, Watters became a member of the Board of Trustees of Ithaca College. He was elected to serve for

successive terms, leaving the Board in 2010. As a Trustee, he advocated for diversity at the College and called for greater financial aid for minority students. Watters has been asked to speak on these subjects and other national issues on several national news networks, including CNBC, CNN, Fox News Channel, and MSNBC, and other local news broadcasting channels.

Watters is licensed to practice before courts in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and New York. He can argue cases before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He can also litigate cases before the Court of Appeals of Maryland, United States District Court for the District of Maryland, the United States Court of Federal Claims, the United States Tax Court, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Columbia, and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland.

Watters has received many accolades and honors during his professional career. He has been named as a Trial Lawyer of the Year and has been recognized for his dedicated work by the National Association of Black Women Attorneys, the Washington Bar Association, and the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. He has been awarded the Gertrude E. Rush Award from the National Bar Association and is a Life Sustaining Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. That coveted award is only given to one percent of the Foundations lawyers.

Watters is married to Patricia Watters, also an attorney, who works along side him in his law firm. She oversees the firm's appellate work. They have three children, Katherine, Michael, and Ryan. The firm is located in Washington, D.C..



LUCILE A. WATTS

...is a native of Alliance, Ohio and attended public schools there. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Detroit and her L.L.B. and Juris Doctorate degrees in

1962 from the Detroit College of Law in Detroit, Michigan. The following year, Watts passed the bar exam and was admitted to practice law.

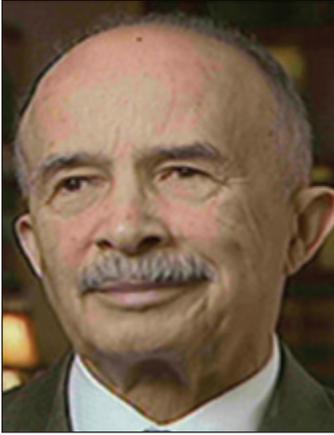
Watts began her professional legal career in private practice and opened her own law firm. She gave her attention to laws surrounding public housing and became the representing attorney to the U.S. House of Representative's Labor Committee. The Committee was charged with rewriting the U.S. Workmen's Compensation Law. Watts also served as a member of the Rules Committee for the District Court of Washington, D.C. In addition, she served as the legal counsel for a Pilot Rehab Project in Washington D.C. and represented the Township of Royal Oak, Michigan.

In 1978, Watts was elected as a Judge of the Common Pleas District Court for the City of Detroit. Two years later, she was elected as a Judge to the Third Judicial Circuit Court serving Wayne County Michigan. She became the first African American woman to serve on the Circuit Court in Michigan. Judge Watts would serve on the Court for fourteen years.

Judge Watts has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the Michigan Bar Association, and the Michigan Judges Association. She also is a member of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, and the Women Lawyers of Michigan. In addition, Judge Watts has served as the President of the Women's Division of the National Bar Association.

Outside of her judicial duties, Judge Watts has given of her time to support local charitable and civil organizations. She has given support to the national branch of the YWCA and supports the YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit. For the YWCA, Judge Watts has served as the Northern Branch Chair, has served on the YWCA Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, and has served as a member

of the Leadership Team. She also lends her time volunteering to Focus: HOPE, an organization that fights to eradicate racism and poverty by providing education and training to interested citizens. In addition, Judge Watts has served as the Vice President and Board member to Detroit's Woodward Academy.



P **AUL**
R.
WEBBER, III

... was born on January 24, 1934 in Gadsden, South Carolina to Clemmie Embley Webber and Paul Rainey Webber, Jr.. Both of his parents were educators having met as students at South

Carolina State University. His mother, was a published writer having written, "My Treadwell Street Saga and The College Soda Shop – An Education for Life", which told the story of the business of a Soda Shop store.

As a child, Webber attended the Felton Elementary School, which was a South Carolina State University Lab School. He attended Wilkinson High School graduating in 1951. To receive his Bachelor of Arts degree, he attended South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, graduating in 1955 with a degree in Political Science. He remained at the University to attend it's law school where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1957.

After passing the South Carolina State Bar exam, Webber moved to Columbia, South Carolina where he began his law practice. He also taught at Allen University. The following year he became married.

In 1959, Webber moved west to take a job at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) as an assistant law librarian. A year later, he accepted a position as associate legal counsel to Golden State Mutual Insurance Company. After working for the insurance company for five years, he became a trial attorney for the Antitrust Division of the United States Justice Department.

In 1967, Webber took a job as the managing attorney for the Neighborhood Legal Services Program. During the Los Angeles riots of 1968, he represented many Los Angeles citizens that were arrested for taking part in the disturbance. The following year, he became a partner in the law firm of Thompson Evans Dolphin and Webber. The firm would later change its' name Dolphin Branton Stafford and Webber.

Webber would later move back east to Washington, D.C. to teach at Howard University's School of Communications and at George Washington University's School of Law. Several years after that, he was appointed as a Judge to the District of Columbia Superior Court. For his

dedicated work on the bench, in 1996, Judge Webber was named as the "Outstanding Trial Judge of the Year" and was rated "One of the Best Trial Justices in the Washington Metropolitan Area" by Washington Magazine. He was named Senior Judge in 1998. To give honor to Judge Webber, the National Bar Association inducted him into its' Hall of Fame that year.

Judge Webber has served as a member of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Think Tank and the Council for Court Excellence. He is also a member of the Guardsmen. In addition, he has served as a Board member and general counsel to the Boule, Sigma Pi Phi.

Judge Webber is also the author of, "Enjoy the Journey, One Lawyer's Memoir". He is married to his wife, Fay DeShields Webber. Together, they have three grown children.



ALLEN J. WEBSTER, JR.

...was born in New Orleans, Louisiana but raised in Los Angeles, California. He received his undergraduate degree in 1963 from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California in

Business Administration. His law degree was obtained from the Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles in 1971.

After passing the California State Bar exam, Webster began his legal career working as an associate attorney at English Square Law Center in Los Angeles. He then became a sole practitioner and partner in the law firm of Hairston, Webster and Johnson. He would remain a partner in the firm for thirteen years. He specialized in civil law, criminal law, family law, and probate law.

In 1985, Webster became a partner in the law firm of Whitaker, Curls, Levine and Webster. He later accepted the position of Commissioner for the Compton Judicial District in Compton, California. He remained Commissioner for only a few years.

In 2001, Webster was appointed by then Governor Gray Davis as a Judge to the Los Angeles Superior Court. He presided over the criminal trial court and served as the supervisor to the civil courts. He later became the Assistant Supervising Judge for Los Angeles' South Central Judicial District.

Judge Webster has served as the President of the National Bar Association (NBA), has held leadership positions in the Judicial Divisions of the American Bar Association (ABA). He is also a member of the State of California's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee. As a Committee member, Judge Webster works closely with California youth helping them to reach their life's goals and to become productive citizens to their communities.

Judge Webster has served as the President of the Langston Bar Association as well as the California Association of Black Lawyers. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Law Practice Management Section of the California State Bar and is a founding committee member of the Los Angeles County Bar's Indigent Criminal Defense Committee and Panel. Judge Webster has

also served on the ABA's Task Force on Minorities and the Justice System and on the ABA's Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice. He has also served on the State Bar of California's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation, served on the Los Angeles County Solo and Small Law Firm Executive Committee, served as President of Southwestern University School of Law's Alumni Board, and also served as a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

In addition, Judge Webster has served as a member of the State of California's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee, the Los Angeles Superior Court's Fairness and Access Committee, the ABA's Judicial Division's Standing Committee on Minorities in the Judiciary, and the ABA's Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice Stand Your Ground Task Force. He has served as a Judicial Advisor to the California Association of Black Lawyers and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Indigent Criminal Defense Panel. Judge Webster has also served as the Co-Chair of the Convention Committee for the NBA and as a Board member for the Langston Bar Association.

Judge Webster has been given many awards during his legal career. One of his awards was presented by the American Bar Association when they gave him its' 2015 Difference Makers Award. The award is given to a living or deceased attorney that has made significant contributions to the legal profession. He has received the Wiley Branton Award from the NBA and was inducted into its' Hall of Fame and also inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Langston Bar Association.



KAREN
D.
WEBSTER

...is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and attended Lauderdale Elementary, now Walker Elementary and spent her middle school years at Longview Junior High. She graduated

high school from South Side High School before entering the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1981. For her law degree, Webster remained at the University of Tennessee to study at its' College of Law. She obtained her Juris Doctorate degree in 1985.

After passing the Tennessee State Bar exam, Webster took a job as an Assistant City Attorney and City Prosecutor. She served in that capacity for seven years working under Judges Larry Potter, Nancy B. Sorak, Kay S. Robilio, Earnestine H. Dorse, Sarah Kyle and Walter L. Evans. She was elevated to the position of Chief Prosecutor. Webster served as the Chief Prosecutor for seven years and handled over four hundred cases on a daily bases.

While serving as the Chief Prosecutor, Webster also served as an Academic Support Instructor at Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee. She also worked as a Business Tax Auditor for the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, Webster worked as Affiliate Broker at a local real estate agency.

In 2000, Webster became an Assistant County Attorney and an Assistant Contract Administrator for Tennessee's Shelby County Government. During that time, she also served as a Transactional Attorney for three years. She then returned to private practice. In private practice, Webber specialized in family law, juvenile cases, small claims, probate, and real estate closings.

In 2006, Webster was elected to the Shelby County Probate Bench. She was the first African American female to be named to the Probate Court. While serving on the bench, Judge Webster was known for her patience and her determination to performing her duties the right way. She became the "go to" Judge by her colleagues, those she supervised, and to her superiors.

Judge Webster has been married for over nineteen years and has two children.





BRUCE F. WEEKES

...was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey to Mildred Fountain Weekes and George N. Weekes. The oldest of five children, he graduated from in 1964 from Atlantic City High School where

he was a star basketball and baseball player. He received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1968.

After earning his undergraduate degree, Weekes enlisted into the United States Army Reserves. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. After serving for three years, he enrolled into Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. earning his law degree in 1971. He then passed the New Jersey State Bar exam and was admitted to practice the same year.

Weekes, a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow, took a job in Newark, New Jersey with Newark Legal Services. For the firm, he specialized in housing and consumer law. After two years with Legal Services, he served in the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender of Essex County also in Newark. He then moved to the Atlantic County Division in Mays Landing, New Jersey.

In 1976, Weekes opened his own law office in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He later became an Assistant Solicitor for the City of Atlantic City. He was the first African American to be appointed Assistant Solicitor.

Weekes then left the Solicitor's Office to accept the position of Chief Municipal Public Defender in the State of New Jersey being appointed by then Atlantic City Commissioner Horace Bryant. The City Commissioner established the position after the city initiated a full-time court system. Weekes again became the first African American to serve in that post.

In 1985, Weekes became the Chief Judge of Atlantic City's Municipal Court after being appointed by then Mayor James L. Ursy. As a Municipal Court Judge, Judge Weekes presided over one of the busiest courts in the state of New Jersey. He was fair in his decisions and was extremely fair to the youth that found themselves on the other side of the law. He helped high school students to

attend college and graduating college students to enter law school. Judge Weekes sat on the bench for twenty-seven years before retiring in 2012.

Judge Weekes served as a member of the National Bar Association (NBA) and served on its' Judicial Council. The NBA also inducted him into its' Hall of Fame. He serves as a Charter member of the Garden State Bar Association and served as a Past President of the Atlantic County Municipal Judges Association. Judge Weekes served as a member of the American Bar Association, the Essex County Bar Association, and the Atlantic County Bar Association. He is active in the National Howard University School of Law Alumni Association, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and serves on the Board of Directors of the Atlantic City Boys and Girls Club. Judge Weekes was also a Life Member of the NAACP.

Judge Bruce F. Weekes died on August 19, 2016. He was seventy years old.



RZO THADDEUS WELLS

...was born in Pennsylvania in the 1940s. When he was one year old, his family moved to Greensboro, North Carolina where his father took a position as a minister in the Church of God in Christ. Wells attended the public schools

of Greensboro. He knew from an early age that he wanted to become a lawyer.

After graduating from high school, Wells enrolled into Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1953. He chose Boston University School of Law as the school to study for his law degree due to the fact that the law schools in the South did not accept African American students at the time. He graduated from Boston University in 1956. While in college, Wells joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. After completing his law studies, Wells moved to New York City, New York to begin his law career.

Soon after arriving in New York, Wells was drafted into the United States Army. Instead of enlisting into the Judge Advocate General's Corps as most lawyers did, he chose to become a weather observer. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he became a clerk in the Wall Street law firm of Fink and Pavia. After passing the New York Bar exam, Wells became a junior partner for William Chance, Jr., an African American attorney. They formed a law firm with Nathan Mitchell, Chance, Mitchell & Wells. He stayed with the firm for three years before leaving to join attorney R. Franklin Brown to establish, Wells & Brown, which later became Wells, Brown, Mason, Bums & Hall.

It wasn't long before he landed a big case representing Levi Valentine, one of the defendants in the famous "Rap Brown Case". Wells also became the legal counsel to the largest Pentecostal Church in the world, the Church of God in Christ and served as one of the lead attorneys for civil rights organization, the Council for Racial Equality (CORE). Wells would go on to represent other attorneys, judges, and elected officials. He even represented underworld gangsters, "Bumpy" Elsworth Johnson and "Red" Dillard Morrison. In addition, Wells served as legal counsel to Jazz great, Miles Davis and served as legal counsel to the "Five Percenters", a division of the Black Muslims.

Wells then became the President of the National Bar Association (NBA). As President, he campaigned for other African American attorneys to become involved and worked to improve the association's finances as a way to grow the organization. With additional funding, he felt the association could do more

to help the African American community. He also opened the Executive Board meetings to anyone that wished to attend and actively recruited attorneys to join the NBA from the Bahamas.

Wells worked to increase the legal training of attorneys entering the field of law urging them to take advantage of educational opportunities that will help them better serve the African American communities. He formed new committees to address the needs of the organization and staffed them with those he thought could assist him in growing the organization. He set out to attract more young attorneys to join the organization and become actively involved.

Wells' efforts paid off as the NBA drew record crowds to its' New York and Las Vegas conventions. As President, he was critical of the state of Pennsylvania's rule that limited the amount of cases an African American lawyer could take on at one time. He argued that the policy was unfair to attorney's livelihood and how could the state dictate what was too much and what was too little. Wells also lobbied for African Americans to elect African American judges that would have the interests of the African American community at heart. He also tried to bring about a better relationship between the NBA and the Black Law Students Association, which had a generation gap in the two separate association's operations. After his term expired as President of the NBA, Wells became the Vice President of the National Legal Aid and Defender's Association. He also became a member of the Board of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

In the early 1970s, Wells was chosen by then President Richard Nixon to become a part of a Department of Defense delegation of three attorneys to travel to Germany on a fact finding mission, "Operation Awareness", that sought answers to problems between African American enlisted servicemen and German nationals. Wells was given a federal GS status, which is equivalent to a Major General rank. Wells would later become a member of a five-member advisory group appointed by then Attorney General Elliot Richardson that ultimately led to the appointment of Archibald Cox as the first Watergate Prosecutor.

An avid golfer, Wells was one of the founding members of the National Negro Golf Association, the oldest African American golf association in the world. He is a member of the New York Bar Association, the Massachusetts Bar Association, and the United States Supreme Court Bar Association. He has privileges to try cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second and Fifth Circuits and before the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. Wells also served as a guest faculty member in the Trial Advocacy program for the New York County District Attorney. He currently serves "Of Counsel" to the New York prestigious law firm of Donaldson & Chiliest, LLP.



THEODORE VON "TED" WELLS, JR.

...was born on April 28, 1950 in Washington, D.C. to Phyllis and Theodore V. Wells, Sr. Growing up in the inner city of D.C., Wells' family lived in a small Northwest Washington rowhouse. A sports enthusiast and gifted football player, his mother, a U.S.

Navy mailroom worker insisted that Wells put equal time into both endeavors. Focusing on both academics and football, he became a powerhouse on the field and an astute student in the classroom.

After graduating from D.C.'s Coolidge High School in 1968, Wells, having won a football scholarship, attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. He became one of twenty black students on campus. While at Holy Cross, he was mentored by Reverend John E. Brooks, an American Jesuit priest and the 28th President of the College of the Holy Cross. Brooks wanted to integrate the predominantly white campus and saw in Wells, a perfect candidate to help change the landscape. Wells was also fortunate enough to be mentored by famed celebrity and entertainment lawyer Edward Bennett Williams. At Holy Cross, Wells was also elected as head of the Black Student Union, an on campus organization having equal rights and African American cultur for black students as its' purpose.

Leading the Student Union in a walkout of the university due to the school's unfair student body racially motivated practices, Wells was joined by fellow classmate and Black Student Union member, Clarence Thomas, a future U.S. Supreme Court Justice. During this time, he married his high school sweetheart, Nina Mitchell. The following year, he received his B.A. degree.

Wells then enrolled and simultaneously took classes at Harvard's Law School and Harvard's Business School, both located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Being one of only forty-three black students on campus, he studied diligently for both fields to prepare for business and the law surrounding the business that he ultimately wanted to practice. In 1976, he received both his J.D. and M.B.A. degrees, a feat not achieved by many.

Well armed with his two degrees, Wells accepted a one year law clerk position with Third Circuit judge, John J. Gibbons. While clerking for Judge Gibbons, Wells worked alongside future Supreme Court Justice, Samuel Alito. That makes two future Supreme Court Justices that Wells has had close associations with.

Leaving Judge Gibbons, Wells accepted another brief position with Los Angeles law firm Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker. Returning to the east coast, he joined the Lowenstein Sandler law firm in New Jersey. It was here that he honed his trial room techniques. Learning from noted attorneys such as as internationally known, Matthew Boylan, Wells rose rapidly through the ranks. By 1982, he had made partner.

Having white collar crime as one of his leading legal services, the following year, Wells successfully tried a 1979 case for Hudson

County New Jersey Prosecutor Harold Ruvoldt. Charged with bribery and extortion of \$115,000 from a New York real estate developer before he became Prosecutor, Ruvoldt, if convicted, stood to spend several years behind bars. The Prosecution claimed Ruvoldt had helped to facilitate the construction of several shopping malls in New Jersey. He was acquitted by a Federal jury in Newark with Wells assistance.

In a 1990 case, Congressman Floyd Flake was brought up on charges by his congregation for mishandling of church funds. Wells came to his rescue. In another high profile case, he successfully defended Raymond Donovan, then U.S. Secretary of Labor. In a Bronx, New York courtroom, after an eight-month trial, state charges of fraud and grand larceny were dropped against Donovan. From these cases and others in 1993, Wells the American College of Trial Lawyers, elected Wells as a Fellow. A year later, the National Law Journal chose him as o one of the most influential lawyers in America. They would bestow the same honor upon him in 1997 and 2000.

Other prominent cases that Wells has served as attorney include the 1996 case of Franklin L. Haney, a wealthy Tennessee financier who had become involved in a presidential election campaign finance controversy. In 1988, he successfully defended U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Michael Espy against U.S. government charges. In 2000, then U.S. Senator Bill Bradley ran unsuccessful for President of the U.S. He chose Wells as his National Campaign Treasurer.

Wells then became a partner in the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He co-chaired their litigation department. During his time their, his high profile cases continued to increase. He has defended a variety of clients and cases. Included in these cases are major corporations including Carnival Corporation, ExxonMobil, Johnson & Johnson, Mitsubishi Corporation, and Phillip Morris.

On Wall Street, he represented defendants in the first RICO case brought by the U.S. government. The RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) legislation was enacted as a means of combating organized crime in the United States. The act, passed in 1970, also allows prosecutors to seek civil penalties for racketeering activities performed as part of an ongoing criminal operation.

Wells defended U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli in his 2002 campaign contribution scandal. In 2003, he defended then Vice President Dick Cheney's former Chief of Staff, "Scooter" Libby, in the Valerie Plame CIA leak scandal in 2003. In 2008, Wells represented former Governor of New York, Eliot Spitzer against allegations of involvement in a prostitution ring. More recently, the National Football League has engaged Wells and his firm to investigate claims of bullying by a former Miami Dolphin player and to become involved in the the New England Patriots' deflated football scandal. In 2013, he aided billionaire hedge fund manager Steven A. Cohen in his defense of multiple insider trading charges against him, his company (S.A.C. Capital Advisors), and its' employees by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Over the years, Wells has earned a well deserved reputation as being one of the best trial lawyers to step into a courtroom. His successes have made him a leading legal mind amongst his peers. He is one of the most sought-after white collar criminal lawyers in the United States today as his success record easily verifies.





TOGO DENNIS WEST, JR.

...was born on June 21, 1942 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. As a young boy he became an Eagle Scout with Bronze Palms and graduated from Atkins High School where both of his parents taught. He graduated as the Vale-

dictorian of his class in 1959.

West received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering in 1965 from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University cum laude and was the top student in his graduating class. While at Howard, he joined the Zeta Phi chapter of Alpha Phi Omega fraternity. He also became a member of the Kappa Psi chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

West obtained his law degree from Howard's School of Law. While earning his law degree, he served as the Managing Editor to the Howard Law Journal. He also met and married his wife, Gail Berry while in law school. Together, they had two daughters.

After completing law school, West served as a clerk for a federal judge before entering the United States Army. From 1965 to 1968 West served in the Army Field Artillery Corps and from 1969 to 1973 he served in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. In leaving the Army, West was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

To begin his legal career, West joined the law firm of Covington & Burling. He then became an Associate Deputy Attorney General in the administration of President Gerald Ford. During the administration of President Jimmy Carter, West held several posts, including serving as the General Counsel of the Navy for two years, serving as General Counsel of the Department of Defense for one year, and as the Secretary of the Army. While at the Department of Defense, West became involved with the Aberdeen, Maryland scandal, which prompted the establishment of stricter enforcement of the Army's sexual harassment policies.

In 1981, West returned to private practice and joined the law firm of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler. After working for the law firm for a period of time, he then became the Vice President for Government Relations for the Northrop Corporation. He would later leave Northrop

to join the administration of newly elected President Bill Clinton.

In 2004, West served as President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington, D.C. think tank that focuses on issues related to minority concerns. After two years with the Joint Center, West left to return again to private practice. In private practice, West and retired Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Vernon Clark, led a Department of Defense investigation into the Fort Hood, Texas massacre and issued a report in January of 2010 on their findings.

West has served as a member of the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America and was named a Distinguished Eagle Scout by the organization. For his dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America, he was awarded the Silver Buffalo Award. West also served as the President of the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

West also gives of his time as a Board member to the Mount Vernon Preservation Society. He is a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. and serves as a vestryman. West also serves as the church's Senior Warden.



RICHARD E. WESTBROOKS

...received his law degree from the John Marshall School of Law in Chicago, Illinois. After passing the bar exam, he set up offices in Chicago and began to serve Chicago citizens with their issues with the law. He soon made a

name for himself and served as the legal counsel for the Chicago Defender, a local Chicago newspaper serving the African American community.

Westbrook represented the newspaper against a libel suit brought by separationist Marcus Garvey. The newspaper's editor and publisher, Robert Abbot, had called for federal dismantling of Garvey's United Negro Improvement Association. In a twist of fate, Westbrook would later serve as legal counsel to the Republic of Liberia.

Westbrooks was a founding member of the Cook County Bar Association, the African American law association began due to the all-white Chicago Bar Association not allowing African Americans to become members of its' association. He also served as the association President.

In 1938, Westbrook served as the legal representative to then U.S. Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell. Mitchell was involved in a public transportation discrimination case that was eventually argued before the U.S. Supreme Court by Westbrook. His handling of the case brought praise to Westbrook for many of his peers and the African American community as well.

In 1942, Westbrook was chosen to represent Elijah Muhammad, the leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI). Muhammad had been drafted into the United States Army and was refusing to enlist based on his religious beliefs and the fact that he was forty-five years old and his age made him ineligible to serve. The current guidelines of the 1940 Selective Training and Service Act showed the age of American citizens eligible for the draft to be between eighteen and forty-four.

The federal government held the position that the Selective Training and Service Act stated that any person that conscientiously objected to serving the country in a time of war could be put to works of national importance rather than being sent to prison. The government held that Muhammad was not too old to dig ditches, work on road

and bridge repairs, or to serve as human testing subjects for government experiments and Muhammad could perform one of these tasks. Other NOI members had refused to enter the draft and were arrested.

Westbrooks would go on to represent thousands of clients with their legal woes from his Chicago office. He would become widely known for being one of the first African American attorneys to hire highly skilled African American female attorneys in his law firm. In his law practice, Westbrook took on cases that advocated fairness for African American citizens to be treated as equal to their white counterparts and fought discriminatory practices of many white Chicagoans.



JOHN FRANCIS WHEATON

...was born on May 8, 1866 in Hagerstown, Maryland. He attended segregated schools in Hagerstown before entering Storer College, a historically black college in located in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, graduat-

ing in 1882. Wheaton worked as a shoe shine boy, sold newspapers and performed chores for his professor in order to support himself.

Wheaton became politically active and joined the Republican Party. He attended Republican conventions and served as a speaker at the 1888 convention where Presidential candidate Benjamin Harris was endorsed. He served as an Alternant Delegate at the Chicago, Illinois convention at the age of twenty-two.

In 1889, Wheaton married Ella Chambers and they bore two children, Layton and Frank. He began his legal career serving as an apprentice in Hagerstown before moving to Washington, D.C. to enroll into Howard University. While studying at Howard, Wheaton worked as a clerk on Capital Hill. With the presidential election of Democrat Grover Cleveland, Wheaton lost his job as a clerk and decided to become a lawyer. After completing his studies at Howard, he took and passed the Maryland bar exam. He then decided to leave Washington, D.C. and moved to Minnesota.

In 1893, Wheaton enrolled into the University of Minnesota Law School and graduated the following year. He became the first African American to graduate from the law school and served as the elected class Orator. Leaving law school, he was able to become a clerk in the Minnesota state legislature. He later served as a Deputy Clerk for the Minneapolis Municipal Court.

After serving as a clerk, Wheaton opened his own law practice and began to serve the Minneapolis African American community with their legal needs. He took on many civil rights cases and fought to pass legislation against discrimination. Wheaton also lobbied for African American soldiers to become volunteers in the Spanish American War.

In 1898, Wheaton was elected to a seat in the Minnesota House of Representatives where he represented the

42nd District, the most aristocratic section of Minneapolis. While serving in the House, he introduced a civil rights statue that granted equal access to African Americans and other minority races to bars and restaurants. At the 1896 Republican Convention, Wheaton was chosen to represent Minnesota as an Alternate Delegate to State Senator Charles Alfred Pillsbury.

At the 1900 Republican State Convention, Wheaton gave a speech that called for African American representation at the convention. He nominated himself and won. He served in that Convention as an Alternate to Knute Nelson.

After the conclusion of the Convention, Wheaton left Minneapolis moving to Chicago where he co-founded a life insurance company. After several years in Chicago, he moved to New York City, New York and opened a law firm in Manhattan with law partner, James Curtis.

With the Republican Party changing its' political policies, Wheaton changed his to become a Democrat. As his law firm grew, he became a prominent member of the city's political powers. He became the National President of the Black Elks Club and landed Marcus Garvey's wife in her divorce from Garvey. Wheaton became a community organizer in Harlem and ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the New York State Assembly.

In 1919, Wheaton was appointed to the staff of the New York City District Attorney's Office. He worked in the office for only one year. The following year, Wheaton ran into financial disaster after posting a \$10,000 surety bond for an accused murderer. The client did not show for trial and after looking throughout the city for the accused murder, facing financial ruin, Wheaton took his own life on January 15, 1922 by inhaling gas. At his funeral, nearly twenty thousand people turned out to pay their respects for him. Wheaton was interned at Woodland Cemetery in the Bronx, New York.



LOYD G. WHEELER

...was born on May 29, 1848 in Mansfield, Ohio but spent time in Chatham, Canada due to his father's involvement with Underground Railroad. When the state of Ohio passed a law making it illegal to harbor escaped

slaves, Wheeler's father moved the family to Canada where he attended public school and began college. After his mother died, the family returned to the United States and settled in Chicago, Illinois.

In Chicago, Wheeler worked as a shoeblick and for the railroad. He then landed a job working for the post office and was the first African American mail carrier in the city of Chicago. He enrolled into Union Law College, now the Northwestern University School of Law where he earned his law degree. While studying for his law degree, Wheeler studied and worked in the law office of George Bellows. He completed his law studies in 1869 and was admitted by the Illinois State Bar to begin his application of the law. He was the first African American to be admitted to practice law in the state of Illinois.

With his law degree in hand, Wheeler left Chicago and moved to Arkansas. He joined the Republican Party and was elected as a Delegate to the 1870 State Convention. The following year, he was admitted to the Arkansas Bar.

He joined in a partnership with A.D. Jones but that partnership did not last long. Wheeler was given the post as County Attorney for Pulaski County and left the firm. After two years serving as the County Attorney, he joined in with African American attorney Mifflin Gibbs to form another law firm. That partnership also was short lived as Wheeler was appointed to become a member of the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners.

He became active in Arkansas politics as a Republican and served as the 1872 Republican presidential elector for U.S. Presidential candidate Ulysses S. Grant. The following year, Wheeler became involved in an historic civil rights case involving four African American men who had been refused service at a Main Street saloon in Little Rock, Arkansas. Wheeler and Gibbs took on the case asserting that under the 1873 Arkansas Civil Rights Act, the

four men's civil rights had been violated. The two able attorneys were victorious in the suit and won a judgment against the saloon for the four African American men.

By 1879, with the end of the Reconstruction period, there were less and less African American Republicans in Arkansas with the majority changing parties to become Democrats. After several encounters with the Ku Klux Klan, Wheeler left Arkansas and returned to Chicago. He stopped performing legal work and assumed management of the business affairs of John Jones, a wealthy relative of his wife, Ranie Petit. Wheeler and Ranie had seven children.

Wheeler would become a man of great influence during the ensuing years in Chicago. He became a Major in the Sixteenth Battalion of the state of Illinois militia. The business he ran for Jones, The John Jones Clothes Cleaning and Repairing Establishment had become successful and he invested his profits into real estate, which provided him and his family a prominent lifestyle. Wheeler invested in the Evolution Club, a prominent literary society and gave time teaching Philosophy at several Chicago churches. He also served as the Superintendent of the Olivet Baptist Church's Sunday school.

In 1891, Wheeler became one of the founders of the Provident Hospital and Nurse Training School. He served as the President of the school and as a member of the Board of Trustees. Over the next years, he continued to be involved in local community affairs and to operate his and his partner's successful businesses. He also was instrumental in the establishment of a Chicago branch for Booker T. Washington's National Negro Business Men's League.

In 1903, as the business began to fail, Wheeler decided to make a change. He was given an offer by his friend Booker T. Washington to come to Tuskegee, Alabama to run the business affairs of Tuskegee Institute. He accepted Washington's offer and became the Superintendent of the Institute's buildings and campus grounds. After six years in Alabama, Wheeler's health began to decline. He died on August 28, 1909. He was sixty-one years old.



CLINTON WAYNE WHITE

was born October 8, 1921 in Sacramento, California. He graduated from a Sacramento high school as the Valedictorian of his class. He enrolled into the University of California at Berkeley (UC-Berkeley) to begin his undergraduate

degree but was not able to complete his studies before being drafted into the United States Army. After completing his military duties, he returned to UC-Berkeley to complete his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1946.

White obtained his LL.B. degree from the Boalt Hall School of Law at UC-Berkeley in 1948. After completing his law degree studies and passing the California State Bar, White became one of the first African American attorneys to be admitted to practice law in San Francisco. He would later become one of the founding members of the Charles Houston Law Club.

In 1970, White received national attention when he served as the lead attorney for the defense team in the "Zebra" murder trials in San Francisco. In the case, fifteen white San Francisco residents were murdered by a group of African American men known as the "Death Angels". Racial tensions ran high in the city as police stopped and detained random African American men in an attempt to find the men responsible for the wave of killings. Eventually four men, Manuel Moore, Larry Green, Jessie Lee Cooks, and J.C.X. Simon, were arrested for the murders and tried. White defended the men during the trials, which resulted in the men being found guilty of first-degree murder and conspiracy charges. They were sentenced to life imprisonment.

In 1977, White was appointed by then Governor Jerry Brown as a Judge to Alameda County Superior Court. The following year, Judge White was appointed to the California Court of Appeals. He presided over the Justice of Division 3 for the First Appellate District. He would serve on the Court of Appeals for the next seventeen years, retiring in 1995.

While serving on the bench, Judge White was respected and admired by both state prosecutors and defense attorneys for his skills as a jurist. His oratorical skills were second to none and he served as a protector

of the underdog. He did not show bias to a person's race or creed and gave everyone the same kind treatment that he wanted for himself.

White was a legend in the cross examination of litigants and always represented his clients in a professional manner. Many of his peers learned from his techniques and would refer to him as a teacher without a classroom. He believed in carrying the fight to his opponent and served as a mentor to many young African American attorneys. He supported charitable organizations in his community and served as a coach for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Connie Mack baseball team.

Judge White died on May 22, 2001. He was married to his wife, Fay, and they had one daughter, Ann, and three sons, Benjamin, Peter, and Teddy.



FRANK H. WHITE

...was born on August 19, 1927 in Decatur, Alabama. He was the oldest of his six siblings and knew when he was ten years old that he wanted to become a lawyer. His mother served as the Principal at a segregated black

elementary school and took him to the local court to witness the trial of the, "Scottsboro Boys". The nine African American youths had been accused of raping two white girls. White was astonished by the cross examinations of the defense attorney, Samuel Leibowitz, and saw himself in the future having a similar role. Leibowitz, a master trial lawyer, wove his way through the facts to show that the alleged rapes could not be true. In witnessing the trial, White was so impressed that he instantly devoted himself to becoming a trial lawyer.

When White became a teenager, his family moved to Winter Haven, Florida where he completed high school. He then enrolled into Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona, Florida where he earned his undergraduate degree. In the middle of completing undergraduate school, White was drafted into the United States Army where he served for two years. After being discharged from the Army, he moved to Washington, D.C. and completed his undergraduate studies at Howard University. At Howard, he met his future wife, Clearwater, Florida native, Elaine Carson.

White went on to obtain his law degree in 1959 from Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando, Florida. He graduated first in his class. After graduating, he had the opportunity to join the first African American law firm in Tampa, Florida operated by African American attorneys, Fred Minnis and I.W. "Ike" Williams, but opted to open his own law firm as a sole proprietor.

White, a soft-spoken young man began his practice taking on whatever cases came his way. Although he was mild in his demeanor, he was an imposing huge figure standing nearly six feet, eight inches in height. As one of the very few African American attorney's in the state of Florida, his practice immediately began to grow and he was called on to handle general law cases as well as cases related to civil rights.

White was then joined in his law firm with African American attorneys, James B. Sanderlin and Frank Peterman. The team of talented attorneys, in 1961, began to take on the Pinellas School Board in an attempt to end school segregation in the County. Their suit and efforts would eventually end school desegregation in the County's public schools. After gaining popularity and winning several victories, the firm was dissolved with White taking a job in the Public Defender's Office.

As an attorney for the Public Defender's Office, White towered over his opposing attorneys, both naturally and figuratively. His presence was both felt and seen when he entered a courtroom. His heart and his kindness for his clients and the African American community were the only thing bigger than his presence. His care and concern for his clients was shown at times when, after a client had been sentenced to prison, one could see White wipe away a tear shed for the young man being sent away. Before leaving the Public Defender's Office, he had risen to the position of Chief Assistant in the office.

In 1976, White was elected as a Judge in Pinellas County. He became the second African American Judge to serve on the County bench following his friend and past law partner, Judge James B. Sanderlin. When Judge White eventually stepped down from the bench in 1993, he was the only African American Judge presiding over a court in the United States.

While sitting on the bench, Judge White was always cognizant to the court's proceedings and what was occurring in his courtroom. He first was assigned to preside over civil suites, minor criminal cases, and cases involving traffic citations. After five years sitting on the bench, Judge White was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court by then Governor Bob Graham. He was thought to be the perfect appointee due to his tremendous grasp of constitutional law. The unfortunate aspect of his trying of criminal cases was his heart. After having to preside over the criminal cases for an extended period of time, the agony of sentencing and confining men to prison became too much for Judge White's heart. He made a request to the Administrative Judge to be moved permanently and was reassigned to handle only civil cases. He then retired a year before his term was to end in 1993.

Judge White began to have health problems. His wife, Elaine, after sixty years of marriage died which added grief to his already sensitive heart. He himself would suffer a stroke compounding the health problems he was having.

Judge Frank H. White died on June 20, 2012. He was eighty-four years old.





JOHN VALERY WHITE

...received his Juris Doctorate degree from Yale University Law School in New Haven, Connecticut in 1991. At Yale, he served as the Notes and Topics Editor for the law school's Law Journal. He also participated in the Jerome N. Frank Legal Service Organization.

White joined the staff of Louisiana State University's (LSU) Paul M. Hebert Law Center and was a J. Dawson Gasquet Memorial Professor of Law. He taught at the school for fifteen years. While teaching, he lectured and wrote several writings on the subject of civil rights law. During that time, he served as a Distinguished Visiting Professor to the University of Insubria in Como, Italy. As a Visiting Professor, White explored the role of civil rights law and ideas of cultural theories surrounding globalism.

At Insubria, White organized and directed a summer school course in Comparative Law. He ran a similar summer program under LSU's direction in Lyon, France. White then served as an Orville Schell Fellow at Human Rights Watch in New York City, New York. As a Fellow, he focused his attention to working on prison and human rights practices in Egypt.

In 2007, White was named as the second Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada (UNLV) in Las Vegas, Nevada. He served as the Dean for five years. He then became the Executive Vice President and Provost of the law school. He served for three years in that position.

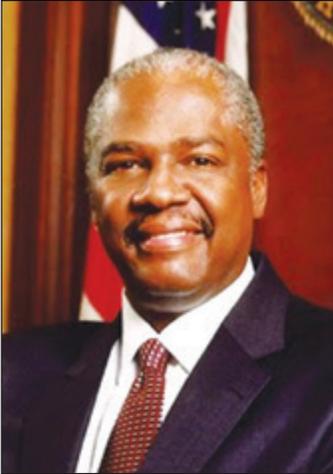
In 2015, White was named as the strategic advisor to the President of the UNLV. After one year, he became the Acting Chancellor for the Nevada System of Higher Education. He also served as a Professor of Law at the Boyd School of Law.

White has served on the Board of Trustees for the Law School Admissions Council and served as a member of the Governing Board for the University Medical Center. He served as the Chairman of the Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS), a nonprofit organization that promotes collaboration between educators, researchers, and industry leaders aimed at creating a safe climate for research on and for the development of future of un-

manned aircraft systems. The NIAS also worked to protect the privacy and to guard the public's safety.

White has served as a member of the ARC Board of Directors for Opportunity Village in Las Vegas as well as having served on the Board of Directors to the Andre Agassi Foundation. He also served on the Board of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. In addition, he served as a member of Governor Brian Sandoval's Graduate Medical Education Task Force. The Task Force had the responsibility of making recommendations to Governor Sandoval aimed at expanding and to improve Nevada's graduate medical education programs.

White has one daughter, Gracia Maria, and is married to his wife, Jocelyn Cortez.



RONNIE L. WHITE

...was born on May 31, 1953. After graduating from high school, White enrolled into St. Louis Community College where he received an Associate of Arts degree in 1977. He then attended St. Louis University in St.

Louis, Missouri, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979. He earned his J.D. degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1983.

To begin his law career, White accepted an Internship with the Jackson County Prosecutors Office. He then became a legal assistance with the Department of Defense Mapping Agency. In 1987, White accepted a position in the Office of the Public Defender in St. Louis as a trial attorney. He then became a Principal in the law firm of Cahill, White and Hemphill. He also worked with the St. Louis Office of the Special Public Defender.

In 1989, White decided to enter the political arena. He ran as a Democrat for a seat in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was victorious in his bid for the seat.

In 1993, Judge White was appointed City Counselor for St. Louis where he would serve for one year until then Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan appointed him to a seat on the Eastern District of the Missouri Court of Appeals. A year later, the Governor gave White another appointment, this time to the Supreme Court of Missouri. With that appointment, White became the first African American Chief Justice in Missouri's history. He would run twice more to retain his seat on the Court, being elected each time. He would serve as the Chief Justice until 2005. He would retire from the Court in 2007. While serving as Chief Justice, White also served as an Adjunct Professor at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

In 1997, then President Bill Clinton nominated White for a seat on the United States District Court. Although his nomination passed the review of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, it ran into resistance from then Missouri Senator John Ashcroft who opposed the nomination claiming White was pro-criminal because of White's position on death penalty cases that had come before him while he ruled from the Missouri Supreme Court bench. The nomination became embroiled with racial overtones

and the nomination ultimately failed in a 54-45 party-line vote. It was later discovered that White's main opposition to his nomination came from the Missouri police associations, who were all-white.

In 1998, White accepted a position with the law offices of Cahill, White & Hemphill. There he would practice as a private law attorney. In 2007, he accepted a similar position with the law firm of Holloran White Schwartz & Gaertner LLP

In 2013, White's name came into play for a federal post when then President Barack Obama nominated him to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Again, White's nomination ran into opposition when it was call out of committee. U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid then filed a motion to invoke cloture, a procedure for ending a debate and taking a vote. A vote was held and White's nomination was confirmed with a 53-44 vote. On July 17, 2014, White received his judicial commission.

White's professional memberships include being a member of the Missouri Bar and the Judicial Conference of Missouri. He served as the Conference's Presiding Officer. He also served as the Chair of the Appellate Judicial Commission. White has served as a Board member of the Jamison Memorial C.M.E. Church Youth Group, a Board member of the Maria Droste Residence for Women, a Board member of the Regional Justice Information Services Commission, and a Board member of the St. Louis Housing Authority.

White has been given many honorariums and awards during his professional career. A few of those honors include receiving the "Distinguished Non-Alumni Award" from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, the "Outstanding Public Service Award" from the Harris-Stowe State Community College, St. Louis, and a Honorary Doctor of Laws from the Harris-Stowe State Community College, St. Louis.



LAWRENCE DOUGLAS WILDER

was born on January 17, 1931 in Richmond, Virginia to Beulah Olive (Richards) and Robert Judson Wilder. Named after African American writers Paul Laurence Dunbar and Frederick

Douglass, Wilder was the seventh of eight brothers and sisters. His father was an insurance salesman while his mother worked as a maid.

Fairing a little better than most of the blacks in Richmond at the time, the Wilder family labeled their economic condition as “gentle poverty.” Going by his middle name, Douglas saw education as a pathway to a better world. After graduating from the all-black Armstrong High School, he decided upon entering Virginia Union University. He worked his way through college by waiting tables at hotels and shining shoes. He completed his studies in 1951 with a degree in chemistry.

Wilder was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War where he volunteered for combat duty. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, along with two other soldiers, because of their bravery during the Battle of Pork Chop Hill in northern Korea. Finding themselves cut off from their unit, they bluffed nineteen Chinese soldiers into surrendering. By the time of his discharge, Wilder had attained the rank of Sergeant.

Returning home from the war, Wilder worked in the state medical examiner’s office while he pursued his master’s degree in chemistry. He changed his career plans in 1956 and enrolled into Howard University’s Law School in Washington, D.C.. He graduated in 1959 and immediately established a law practice back in his hometown of Richmond. In 1958, he married Eunice Montgomery. The couple had three children before divorcing in 1978.

Wilder began his career in public office by winning a 1969 special election for the Virginia State Senate becoming the first African American elected to the Virginia Senate since Reconstruction. In 1985, he was the first African American to win a statewide election in Virginia, winning the 35th Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. On November 8, 1989, he was elected Governor of Virginia by less than half a percent becoming the first African

American elected Governor in the nation. He was sworn into office on January 13, 1990 by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr.. In recognition of this landmark achievement, the NAACP awarded Wilder the Spingarn Medal for 1990.

As governor, Wilder’s focus was on crime and gun control. For Virginia’s transportation initiatives, he lobbied Congress for monies to reallocate highways to those states with the greatest needs. He oversaw the residential and office development boom that took place in Northern Virginia without sufficient federal money for infrastructure improvements.

In May of 1990, because of its’ policy of apartheid, Wilder ordered state agencies and universities to divest themselves of all investments in South Africa, making Virginia the first Southern state to take such action. Although there was public pressures to cease, he continued Virginia’s law on capital punishment by executing fourteen inmates.

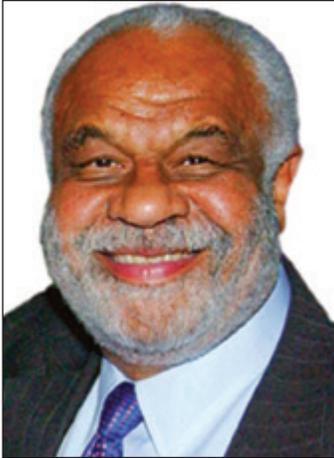
In 1992, Wilder declared himself a candidate for President but withdrew before primary season had ended. He left office in 1994 to for the U.S. Senate as an Independent but lost in his bid for that office. Twelve years later, on May 30, 2004, he announced that he would make a run for Mayor of Richmond. At that time, the Mayor was chosen from the nine members of Richmond City Council. Wilder had been a leading proponent of a Mayor-At-Large proposal policy that was approved by voters referendum in November of 2003 with roughly eighty percent of the voters voting in favor of the measure. On November 2, 2004, Wilder became the first directly elected Mayor of Richmond in sixty years. He served one term.

Joining the faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University, Wilder became an adjunct professor in public policy. He founded the United States National Slavery Museum, a non-profit organization based in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The museum attempted to obtain a tax exempt status but was denied. Assessed property taxes were not been paid which forced the organization into Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection.

Wilder again made national news when, in 2012, he refused to support Barack Obama, the nation’s first black president, who was running for a second term. His reasoning was that although he supported Obama in 2008, he felt that the president’s tenure in the Oval Office had been a disappointment.

In 2015, Wilder published an autobiography titled, *“Son of Virginia: A Life in America’s Political Arena.”*





FLETCHER "FLASH" WILEY

...was born on November 29, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois. His family moved to Indianapolis, Indiana when he was four years old. When he was eleven, he was selected to become one of the initial students in the "Gifted

Child Program" initiated by the Indianapolis Public Schools. He was the only African American student to participate in the program.

After completion of the program, Wiley attended and graduated from Shortridge High School in 1960. He then entered the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was the first Indiana African American to be accepted to the military academy. He played on the Academy's football team and was the first African American to become a member of the team. For his speed on the gridiron, Wiley was given the name, "Flash", which he would be called the remainder of his life. He graduated from the Academy in 1965 as the fifth African American to complete studies at the Academy.

While at the Academy, Wiley was named as a Fulbright Scholar. He furthered his education studying L'Institut Des Etudes Politiques at the University of Paris in France in 1974. In leaving the Academy, he had earned the rank of Captain. Wiley then entered the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government where he obtained a Master of Public Policy degree as well as a Juris Doctorate degree from Harvard's Law School. While at Harvard, he was a founding member of the Black Alumni Associations of both Harvard's Kennedy School and Harvard's Law School.

After completing his studies at Harvard, Wiley would spend the next four decades practicing law where he concentrated his energies to the areas of corporate and commercial law, entertainment law and real estate, and small business development. He became an integral member of the law firm of Budd, Reilly and Wiley in Boston, Massachusetts, which became the largest minority owned law firm in New England. During that time, he also served as the Vice President and General Counsel to PRWT Services, Inc., joining the company in 1996 and served diligently for twelve years, retiring in 2008.

Wiley has been recognized for his services to the legal profession by many legal associations and organizations

during his lengthy career. His law firm was honored and named in 2009 as the "Company of the Year" by Black Enterprise Magazine. Wiley also served on the Advisory Board of the PRWT.

Wiley served as the Director of The TJX Companies, Inc., a leading retailer of apparel and home fashions based in Framingham, Massachusetts and has served as Director of Haymon Boxing, LLC, a professional boxing management company based in Las Vegas, Nevada. Wiley has served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Centaurus Group, LLC based in Waltham, Massachusetts. At Centarus, he served as an investor and principal consultant for the firm's commercial real estate developments and managed investment ventures for the company. Wiley also served as legal counsel to the law firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, formerly known as Bingham McCutchen LLP. At the law firm, he specialized in corporate and commercial law.

In 1984, Wiley founded and chaired the Governor's Commission on Minority Business Development. In his role on the Commission, he sought to improve business opportunities for African Americans and other minority groups. He sought equal access to projects and business services that had excluded African Americans from fair and open state and municipal contracts. Wiley also served as the President and National Chairman of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association, Inc. and served as the Chairman of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

In 2011, Wiley was named to the Board of Visitors of The Air University by then U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. He was appointed to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy by then President Barack Obama.

Wiley has also served as the Director of the New England Legal Foundation and has served as the Overseer of the New England Region Anti-Defamation League. He also served as the Chairman of the Board of The Dimock Center, Inc.. In addition, Wiley has supported the Crispus Attucks Children's Center, Inc..

Wiley has been given several distinguished awards including being inducted into the 2010 "Academy of Distinguished Bostonians". He was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Cambridge College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The New England School of Law in Boston also presented Wiley with a Doctorate of Laws degree.

Wiley is licensed by and serves as a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the National Bar Association. He is married to his wife, Benaree Pratt Wiley, and the couple lives in Brookline, Massachusetts. Together, they have two children, Pratt and B.J.





ROBERT LEON WILKINS

...was born in Muncie, Indiana in 1963. He grew up in a single parent home with his mother. He graduated from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude, in Chemical Engineering. He received his Juris Doctorate in 1989 from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While at Harvard, Wilkins served as Executive Editor of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.

In his first job in the legal profession, Wilkins clerked for Judge Earl Gilliam, a sitting Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. When the clerk appointment was completed, Wilkins returned to his hometown of Muncie, Indiana. He briefly practiced law before he took a position of Staff Attorney in the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C. in 1990.

Wilkins was named Chief of Special Litigation for the Public Defender Service's in 1995. He held that position for five years. In 2000, he began aiding the Public Defender Service and Curry & Wilbourn, a D.C. law firm.

In 2002, Wilkins joined the D.C. law firm of Venable LLP as a partner. Focusing on indigent clients, he became Counsel for Interlocutory Appeals. He was lead counsel on all juvenile related matters. For serious offenses such as murder and armed robbery, Wilkins served as lead trial counsel as well.

Wilkins has tried hundreds of cases before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and has argued cases before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. As an advocate for civil rights, as a victim of racial profiling by law enforcement himself, he has fought to ensure the civil liberties of African American and others are not infringed upon. Wilkins knows first hand.

As Wilkins and several relatives returned from their grandfather's funeral in Chicago, he was pulled over by a Maryland State Trooper for alleged speeding. Wilkins' car was subjected to a drug-sniffing dog search and made to be embarrassed standing on the side of the road.

Wilkins, along with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed suit against the Maryland State Police Department citing an infringement upon their civil rights. Wilkins

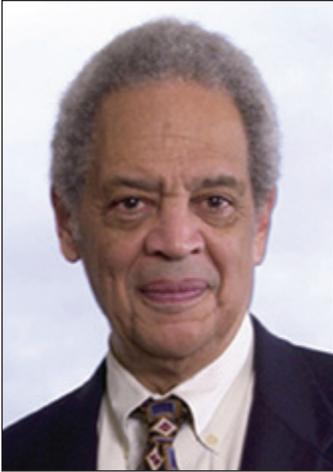
was lead plaintiff and co-counsel in the suit. In *Wilkins, et al. v. State of Maryland*, Wilkins won a verdict that changed the law and procedure of how and when the State Police stopped black drivers. In the case, it was shown that the State Troopers had in place a policy to stop black drivers in expensive cars. From Wilkins' case, the term, "Driving While Black", was coined.

With the verdict, the State of Maryland mandated statistical tracking of police stops showing percentages of African American drivers stopped as opposed to white drivers. After the case revealed the explicit discrimination in the police policies, new and improved training practices for officers were implemented. Unfortunately for the Maryland State Police Department, they had did not know that when they profiled Wilkins and his traveling companions, they did not know he was a lawyer, and has been a defender of the public most of his legal career. In the end, Wilkins won and the Maryland police implemented new policies and practices to combat racial discrimination.

His work at Venable, centered mostly on intellectual property litigation, complex commercial litigation, and white collar criminal defense. In patent disputes, he has represented both the plaintiffs and the defendants in resolutions to the issues. Always the public defender, Wilkins ensures through his pro bono work that the indigent has legal representation. He has given countless hours to clients having civil rights complaints, child custody issues, asylum and citizenship issues, social security benefits denials, and other civil cases.

At the urging of Washington, D.C.'s Congresswoman and Delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton, President Barack Obama nominated Wilkins to become a Judge on the District Court for the District of Columbia. On May 20, 2010, Wilkins was officially sworn on December 27, 2010. Taking his seat on the bench, Judge Wilkins would hear varied cases covering a range of issues. From administrative issues and environmental matters to election law to national policy. As Judge of the District Court in Washington, D.C., he certainly knew his plate would be full.

To Judge Robert Leon Wilkins' tribute, The American Bar Association rated his ability to serve as a federal appellate judge and gave him its' highest rating of unanimously well qualified. Wilkins was also asked by President George W. Bush to be a member of his presidential commission for the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture.



ROGER WILKINS

...was born on March 25, 1932 in Kansas City, Missouri to Helen Jackson Wilkins and Earl Wilkins. His mother was the first African American National President of the YWCA and his father worked as a journalist. He began

his formal education at the Crispus Attucks Elementary School, a segregated African American school.

After his father died in 1941, Wilkins' family moved to New York City, New York to be with relatives before relocating to Grand Rapids, Michigan where he graduated from Creston High School. Wilkins then attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he received his undergraduate degree in 1953. His law degree was obtained from the University of Michigan Law School in 1956. While earning his law degree, he interned with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and served as a senior member of Michiganama, the school's leadership society.

After completing his law degree studies, Wilkins took a job as a welfare lawyer in Cleveland, Ohio before relocating to New York City. With the election of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, Wilkins was appointed as a Special Assistant to the Agency for International Development in Washington, D.C.. A very outspoken and savvy man, he was selected to join the campaign to coordinate the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

In 1965, Wilkins became an Assistant Attorney General in the administration of then President Lyndon B. Johnson. At the age of thirty-three, Wilkins was one of the highest-ranking African Americans to serve the President in the Executive Branch. Wilkins was charged with trouble shooting the racial unrest that was occurring across the country. He met with Mayors and community leaders about the recurring violence and looked for ways to curb it, although it was not his task to suppress the disturbances.

Wilkins brought awareness to the causes of the rioting pointing out inadequacies in housing and unfair employment to many in the American society. He called for more government help for the poor and to make improvements in the lives of those that lived in the country's

ghettos. Wilkins believed that the real threat to the stability of the country lay in correcting the conditions in which minorities lived.

In 1966, Wilkins became the Director of Community Relations Service. He served in that capacity for three years before leaving the federal government for private practice. He worked for the Ford Foundation for a period of time before joining the Washington Post's editorial staff. Wilkins worked alongside famed Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein, Herbert "Herblock" Block, and Bob Woodward during the infamous Watergate scandal that caused the resignation of then President Richard Nixon. For his work on the scandalous case, Wilkins earned a Pulitzer Prize in 1973.

In 1974, Wilkins left the Washington Post to join the New York Times. After spending five years with the Times, he became a member of the staff to the Washington, D.C. based Washington Times newspaper. He remained with the paper for only a brief time before becoming a radio news commentator, taking a position with National Public Radio (NPR).

In 1982, Wilkins served as a Senior Fellow for the Washington, D.C. think tank, the Institute for Policy Studies. He then served as a Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He remained with the University until his retirement in 2007. At George Mason, Wilkins was one of the most popular Professors teaching at the school. During that time, he served as the publisher of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) publication, *The Crisis*. Ironically, his uncle, Roy Wilkins served as the Executive Director of the NAACP.

In 1990, Wilkins was a member of the team that coordinated the U.S. tour of South African civil rights activist and future president, Nelson Mandela. Wilkins worked along with future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, his mentor, to assist Mandela in bringing awareness to the American public about the unjust practices of Apartheid, the official South African form of government. For that cause, Wilkins would be arrested for taking part in U.S. protests against the South African regime.

Wilkins was three times. His marriages to Eve Tyler and Mary Myers ended in divorce before he married Patricia King. King served as a Professor of Law at Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University. Roger Wilkins died on March 26, 2017 from complications of dementia, one day after his eighty-fifth birthday.



ELMO WILLARD, III

...was born on September 14, 1930 in Beaumont, Texas to Faye Durden Willard and Elmo Willard, Jr.. His mother was a school-teacher and his father was a mortician. He graduated from Beaumont's Charlton-Pollard High School

in 1947 and then entered Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated from Fisk in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Business Administration with minors in History and Psychology. Willard then attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law to obtain his law degree.

During the 1950s, Howard University Law School played a very important role in crafting desegregation laws that were implemented throughout the country. Its' teaching professors and visiting lecturers tested civil rights theories through its' moot courts that gave pathways for practicing attorneys. While at Howard, Willard was fortunate to be taught by some of the best African American attorneys practicing law or teaching, including Thurgood Marshall and Robert Carter.

In Willard's final year at Howard's Law School, he served as the Chief of the Student Critique Team, which analyzed the groundwork for the legendary 1954 civil rights education case of "Brown v. Board of Education". Marshall used Howard law students in moot court trials before arguing the case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Willard's involvement in the moot trials and as a member of the critique committee gave him his foundation to fight for civil rights for African Americans. Willard completed his law degree studies graduating third in his class in 1954.

After obtaining his law degree, Willard returned to Beaumont and opened a law firm with fellow attorney, Theodore R. Johns, Sr.. Willard and Johns immediately began to take on cases involving civil rights violations in the Beaumont area. Their first major victory was a 1955 desegregation case against the City of Beaumont to integrate its' public parks, Fayson v. Beard. Willard then in the case of Jackson v. McDonald in 1956, litigated the desegregation of Beaumont's Lamar State College of Technology, now Lamar University. While litigating that

case, Willard's offices were vandalized and whites led a two weeks protest in an attempt to keep the university segregated.

When African American students and local Beaumont residents protested discrimination in other areas of the city, including conducting sit-ins at whites-only restaurants and were arrested, Willard came to their defense to represent them against charges filed against them. Many of those arrested could not afford to pay for the needed services but still received representation for their efforts of civil disobedience to end desegregation. Willard and Johns were happy to give of their services free of charge as the protestors were in many cases risking their lives to make the lives of others better. Pro bono legal services were at the minimum the least Willard was willing to do.

In 1981, Willard and fellow attorney Clayton Mayfield won another significant case that desegregated the South Park Independent School District. Representing the Black Citizens Action Committee, they argued successfully that the school district was in violation of the discrimination laws passed in 1954 in Brown v. Board of Education and operating the separate but equal doctrine was unconstitutional. The school district was forced to desegregate its' public schools.

Willard went on to successfully litigate other cases in Beaumont involving desegregation in employment practices and housing discrimination He filed law suit against corporate entities including Bethlehem Steel, Goodrich and Goodyear Chemical Companies, Gulf States Utilities, Jefferson Chemical Company, Pure Oil, and Temple-Eastex. In his suit, Willard pointed out the disparity between the pay of African Americans and that of whites. He was able to show how African American workers were delegated to the lower paying jobs in the company than their counterparts.

Elmo Willard died on April 5, 1991. He was sixty years old.

Photo Not Available



ARTHUR L. WILLIAMS, JR.

...received both his undergraduate and law degree from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). To begin his professional career, he joined at Rockwell International Corporation

in Downey, California. His responsibilities at Rockwell was giving counsel to procurement personnel about contract interpretations, submitted proposals, and pertinent government regulations that related to the Space Shuttle Program's Global Position Satellite and B-1 Bomber, a multi-billion dollar project.

Williams left Rockwell in 1980 moving to Las Vegas, Nevada to accept a position with Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Inc. as General Counsel, Vice President, and Secretary. He was the first African American attorney ever hired by Reynolds in these capacities. Williams served as lead attorney in any litigated matter, including administrative and regulatory hearings and complex radiation and environmental matters. He remained with Reynolds for five years.

Williams was licensed to practice law in several state jurisdictions, including the Supreme Court of California, the Supreme Court of Nevada, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Northern District Court of California, and the U.S. District Court of Nevada. He was a founding member of the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association and was twice elected as President of the chapter. Williams served as a member of the American, Clark County, Nevada, and California Bar Associations.

Williams served on the Water District Task Force, the Clark County School Desegregation Task Force, and the Supreme Court of Nevada's Task Force for the Study of Racial and Economic Bias in the Justice System. He served as a dedicated community member and was involved in many community organizations all aimed at improving the lives of the citizens of Nevada. He also served as a member of the Executive Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), as a Special Representative of the Boy Scouts of America, and as a supporter of the Frontier Girl Scouts of America. Williams is a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity as well as a member of the National Brotherhood of Skiers. For the National Brotherhood of Skiers, he served as President of the Las Vegas Chapter.





DANNY
C.
WILLIAMS, SR.

...received his undergraduate degree from Dillard University in New Orleans and his law degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In 2012, Williams was appointed by then President Barack Obama as a United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma where he served for five years. The Northern District's jurisdiction covers eleven counties, including the city of Tulsa. While serving in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Williams is credited with initiating a Violent Crime Initiative that addressed criminal activities in city.

With the Republican Party winning the presidency of the United States in 2017 and with the U.S. Congress controlling Capital Hill, Williams decided to resign his post. Resigning along with him was fellow attorney Mark Green. Williams then entered private practice.

Williams joined the law firm of Conner & Winters. He serves as a member of the firm's litigation group. He handles and litigates issues surrounding commercial business matters, particularly in the area of Eminent Domain. He also serves as legal counsel in cases of white-collar criminal defense.

Williams is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and the U.S. Court of Appeals 10th Circuit.

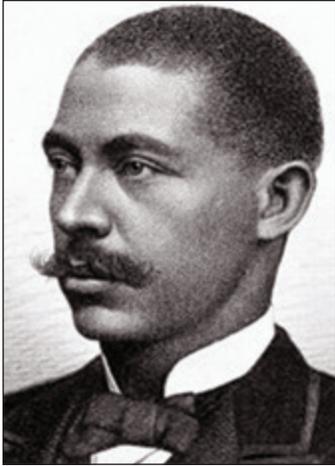
Williams has been called upon to speak to Tulsa concerned citizens on matters of the law and community affairs many times. He served as the Commencement Speaker at a University of Tulsa College of Law graduation ceremony, served as the Guest Speaker to the University of Tulsa College of Law's Judge Carlos Chappelle Pathway to Law Series, and served as the Speaker to the Tulsa Downtown Lions Club. Williams was the Graduation Speaker for the Council on Law Enforcement Training (CLEET), a speaker for the Discovery School of Tulsa Internet Safety Conference, and was Guest Speaker for the Federal Reentry Program for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Williams has also given time to speak and mentor to the youth of Tulsa. He has spoken to students as the Com-

mencement Speaker at Tulsa's Carver Middle School, as a History Speaker at Booker T. Washington High School, and as the Banquet Speaker for the Bartlesville, Oklahoma's Fraternal Order of Police Annual Officer of the Year Banquet. Williams has given a speech before the fraternal membership at the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Founders Day celebration, the Tulsa Job Corps, and the Dove Science Academy's Internet Safety Program. Williams has served on the Board of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and the Greenwood Cultural Center.

Williams has been given many honors and recognitions during his legal career, including:

- Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Diversity Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association
- Hall of Honor Community Service Award from the 100 Black Men of Tulsa, Inc.
- Outstanding Citizen Award from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
- Outstanding Achievement Award from the John F. Kennedy High School



GEORGE WASHINGTON WILLIAMS

...was born on October 16, 1849 in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania to Thomas and Ellen Rouse Williams. He was the oldest of four children, all boys. His brothers were John, Thomas and Harry Lawsom. Wil-

liam's early education was limited and his life situation landed him in a "house of refuge" where he learned barbering. To escape this situation, at the age of fourteen, Williams enlisted in the Union Army. He used an assumed name to enlist and fought during the final battles of the American Civil War.

After the war, Williams decided to go to Mexico and help the Republican army fight to overthrow Emperor Maximilian. Under the command of General Espinosa, he received a commission as Lieutenant, learned to speak Spanish, and built a reputation as a great gunner. Johnson would return to the U.S. in the spring of 1867.

Back in the United States, Williams continued his military career, enlisting for a five-year stint in the army. In 1868, while serving in the U.S. western Indian Territory, he was wounded and remained hospitalized until his discharge.

Now in civilian life, as a U.S. veteran, he decided to attend college. He applied and was accepted to Howard University, a historically black college in Washington, DC. His stay at Howard was not completed as in 1870, he began studies at the Newton Theological Institution near Boston, Massachusetts. In 1874, Williams became the first African American to graduate from Newton.

After graduation from Newton Seminary, Williams was ordained as a Baptist Minister and held several pastorates, including the historic Twelfth Baptist Church of Boston. During a visit to Chicago in 1873, he met Sarah A. Sterrett. They were married the following spring and had one son together.

With great support from many leaders of his time, leaders such as Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison, Williams, in Washington, D.C., founded "*The Commoner*", a monthly journal, although he only published eight issues.

After the journal ceased production, Williams moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where he began his law studies un-

der Alphonso Taft, the father of President William Howard Taft. This tutelage helped him to later become the first African American elected to the Ohio State Legislature where he served one term from 1880 to 1881.

In 1885, President Chester A. Arthur appointed Williams as "Minister Resident and Consul General" to Haiti, an appointment he never served. Despite confirmation by the U.S. Senate and the U.S. State Department, he was not allowed to assume his post due to opposition from the incoming Democratic President Grover Cleveland who instead nominated John Edward Thompson to the position.

Johnson went on to write earth shattering histories about African Americans in the United States: *A History of Negro Troops in the War of Rebellion* and *The History of the Negro Race in America 1619-1880*. The second book was the first overall history of African Americans, showcasing their participation and contributions beginning in the earliest days of the U.S. colonies being established through his present days.

In 1889, Williams asked for and was granted an informal meeting with King Léopold II of Belgium. At that time, the Congo Free State was the personal possession of the King. He controlled a private militia that enforced rubber production by the Congolese people. In the rubber plantations, there were widespread abuses by the militia. After the meeting, despite the objections of the monarch, Williams went to central Africa to see for himself the conditions.

After assessing the horrible conditions, on July 18, 1890, from Stanley Falls, he addressed "*An Open Letter to His Serene Majesty Léopold II, King of the Belgians and Sovereign of the Independent State of Congo*". In the letter, he condemned the brutal and inhuman treatment that the Congolese people of the Congo Free State were suffering at the hands of Europeans as well as at the hands of the Africans supervising them. He spoke of the role that Henry M. Stanley, sent to the Congo by the King, played in deceiving and mistreating the Congolese people. He reminded the King that the crimes committed were all committed he King's name which makes him as guilty as the perpetrators. He pushed his appeal to the international community asking them to "*call and create an International Commission to investigate the charges herein preferred in the name of Humanity ...*". This cry for help spurred the first public outcry against King Léopold II's regime in the Congo. The world now knew that the regime had caused the loss of millions of lives.

On his travels back from Africa, on August 2, 1891 Williams died suddenly in Blackpool, England from tuberculosis and pleurisy. He remains are buried in Layton Cemetery, Blackpool, England.





**SAIAH
"IKE"
W.
WILLIAMS**

...was born on December 15, 1926. He was raised by a great aunt and had a stuttering problem as a child. He was given the nickname of "Juicy" by his neighborhood friends because of when he stuttered, spit would sometimes fly out of his mouth. He would stutter all of his life.

Despite his stuttering issues, Williams graduated from Gibbs High School in 1945 as the Valedictorian of his high school class. After high school, he joined the United States Army before enrolling into New York University in New York City where he earned his undergraduate degree. He remained at the school to attend its' law school and obtained his law degree.

After completing his law degree requirements, in 1959, Williams returned to St. Petersburg to begin his legal career. He became one of St. Petersburg's first African American attorneys to practice in the city and county of Pinellas. He joined with fellow African American Fred Minnis, Sr., to form a law partnership. There were very few African American attorneys practicing in the state of Florida at the time and most African Americans had to rely on white attorneys who may or may not have their best interest in mind or may in secret be a member of the segregated South's segregationist parties.

With Williams and Minnis opening their law firm, a tremendous milestone for African Americans needing caring legal representation, the law firm soon began to grow. He pushed for racial equality and worked to open doors for African Americans and other minority groups. Williams followed in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and tried to make a difference in the lives of the attorney's that worked in his law firm and the community in which he chose to serve.

Williams was a beacon of inspiration for many young African American attorneys and opened doors for them to become successful attorneys. He mentored and guided several successful clerks and graduating attorneys including Morris Milton, Frank Peterman, and James Sanderlin. Sanderlin would become the first African American to be elected to a countywide office in Pinellas County and the first African American Circuit Judge.

Williams was the founder of the Southside Republican Club began after taking the position that the Democratic Par-

ty took the African American voters for granted. He led voter registration campaigns and urged other African Americans to join him in voting Republican in upcoming elections. He even made a run as a Republican for a seat on the St. Petersburg City Council in 1963, but lost his bid for the seat. He did win the primary election but lost in the general election.

Williams ran unsuccessfully twice for a seat in the state legislature losing on both occasions. In 1967, he was elected as the President of the St. Petersburg chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As President, he called for the city of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County administrators to integrate its' personnel by hiring African Americans, particularly in the public schools. Williams also became the first member of the St. Petersburg Bar Association.

Williams was always interested in the welfare of the city and county's youth. He was concerned with their futures and encouraged them to make the most of their lives they possibly could. He was hopeful that they could further their educational desires and worked to give them that opportunity.

In 1986, Williams founded the organization, Blacks Against Dangerous Drugs to combat the increasing drug problem that began to impact the African American community. He also founded the African American Voters Research and Education Committee. This organization was created because of his political change from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party.

Williams was a very giving man and donated to several charities while at the same time representing many clients for free. He once gave \$50,00 to the Bethel Community Baptist Church. Although he was a benevolent man, he came under fire in 1990 by the Florida Bar Association and was suspended after investigations showed that he had failed to pay several clients their share of settlements won in their cases. He subsequently resigned from the bar association.

Unable to practice law, Williams gave of his time to the volunteering for the African American Voters Research and Education Committee. His popularity in the African American community remained strong and was greeted warmly by members of the community when he saw him out and about around the city. He was a man that never forgot his humble beginnings and loved his wife Anne, who died at the age of eighty-three. The couple had been married for fifty-four years. Three days after the death of his wife, on March 16, 2009, Williams himself died from the Alzheimer's disease he battled. He was eighty-two years old.



J EAN WILLIAMS

...received her Juris Doctorate degree from the law school at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois in 1951. She was the only African American woman enrolled in the law school while she was there. She took and passed the Illinois State Bar exam that same year. Williams then opened

her a law firm where she represented welfare recipients and served as a criminal defense attorney. She would operate from her Chicago law offices for the next nineteen years.

Williams defended protestors during the civil rights era when arrested for disorderly conduct when they participated in demonstrations to demand equal economic justice and fair housing practices. She came to the aid of those that supported Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he came to Chicago to fight for Chicago and the surrounding area's African American's civil rights and marched against the city's policies of segregation. During that time, Williams also served as legal counsel to the Chicago Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

In 1971, Williams left Chicago moving to Arizona to care for her parents who had retired and were living in Tucson. The following year, she was admitted to the Arizona Bar. She was the second African American woman to be admitted to practice in the state by the Bar. After a brief stay in Arizona, Williams took a job in California serving as the Executive Director of a senior citizen law center. Her parent's health began to deteriorate so she returned to Tucson to again care for them.

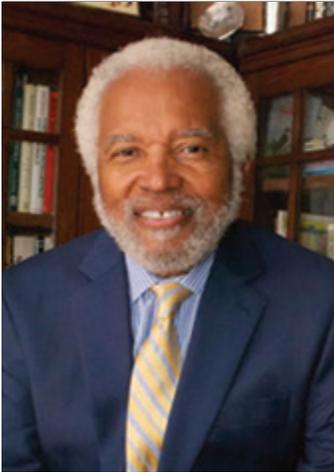
Back in Tucson, Williams took a job as a staff attorney for the Southern Arizona Legal Aid Society. She then worked for a year for the Pima County Public Defender's Office where she represented Arizona residents unable to afford their own lawyers. The following year, in 1974, Williams was appointed to become a Judge to the Tucson Municipal Court. She was the first African American to serve the Municipal Court as a Judge.

Judge Williams presided over the Tucson Municipal Court for two years. She was then named in the same position to the Phoenix Municipal Court and relocated

two hours north to Phoenix. She became the first African American female to preside over a Municipal Court in Phoenix as well. Judge Williams would sit on the Phoenix Municipal Court for the next twenty years before retiring.

While sitting on the bench, Judge Williams fought to make a state holiday to celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which was a daunting task in the majority white state. Many of the Arizona residents were opposed to the holiday and resisted for many years that notion. The proposed celebration in Arizona was first observed in 1986 when then Governor Bruce Babbitt followed suit with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and signed into law the honored date to celebrate Dr. King's birthday. The following year, newly elected Governor Evan Mecham rescinded the holiday citing that Babbitt did not have the authority to instill a state paid holiday single handedly. It would be seven years before Arizona would restore the celebration of King's birthday doing so in 1996.

During her tenure on the bench, Judge Williams faced struggles of being both an African American Judge in a predominately white state presiding over predominately white cases. In addition, she was an African American woman in a white male dominated field. Nonetheless, she was an outspoken and feisty jurist that challenged gracefully but firmly opposition to her decisions and rulings. She served gallantly on the bench during her twenty-year career as a pioneer for both women but especially for African American women. She indeed was a role model and inspiration to many young African American female attorneys that were entering the legal profession in Arizona.



JUNIUS WILLIAMS

...grew up in Richmond, Virginia in a well-educated family that strove for academic excellence. After graduating from high school, he attended Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts where he received his undergraduate

degree in 1965. In his last year at Amherst, Williams joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). For the organization, he assisted in organizing voter registration campaigns and participated in civil rights demonstrations in Amherst.

After completing his undergraduate degree, Williams moved to Newark, New Jersey. He joined forces with political activist Tom Hayden and other young radicals in the Students for a Democratic Society where he helped to organize African American residents to fight against civil issues related to housing, education and community policing. Williams, after the Newark Riot of 1967, left the group to form the Newark Area Planning Association (NAPA), which opposed the gentrification of the city's urban renewal plans. While Williams gave time to the Newark community, he returned to obtain his law degree from Yale University Law School in New Haven, Connecticut.

After completing his law degree, Williams returned to Newark to continue working with local ministers and members of the Black Panther Party on civil rights issues that affected the African American community. He played a part in stopping a highway that was to be built to run through Newark's Central Ward. He was a part of the negotiating team that reached an agreement that built one thousand affordable homes and created new jobs for Newark residents. He also played a significant role in the election of Kenneth Gibson, Newark's first African American Mayor.

After being elected, Mayor Gibson appointed Williams to become the head of then President Lyndon Johnson's federally funded Model Cities Program. Williams was only twenty-six years old when he was appointed to the position. Once he began his work on the program, he became disillusioned with the rivalries, alliances, and betrayals that were a part of Newark's City Hall. When Williams began to voice his displeasure with the oper-

ations of the program and dealings within City Hall, he became a political threat to the Mayor and was fired.

Williams realized that many of the African American politicians that had been elected had lost touch with the community that they were elected to serve. In 1982, Williams made a run for the job as Mayor but was unsuccessful in his bid. Despite losing the job as the head of the city, he continued working in the trenches of Newark's streets as an organizer, legal representative of the underserved, and as a Newark public school advocate. He worked even more diligently for the needs of lower income Newark residents as elected officials failed to uphold the promises that they had made to the citizens of Newark in running for their elected positions.

Williams became a highly requested speaker and energizer of people. He was called upon to give speeches at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City, and the Shiloh Baptist Church in Trenton, New Jersey. He also gave speeches to several colleges and universities across the country.

Williams was then elected as the President of the National Bar Association (NBA). As President, he became an advocate for democracy in the countries of Zimbabwe and South African. He spoke before the United Nations in that regard and submitted a paper on behalf of the NBA that was published in seven different languages. During that time, he penned his political memoir, "Unfinished Agenda, Urban Politics in the Era of Black Power", which addressed poverty, failing schools and crime in the United States.



PATRICIA J. WILLIAMS

...was born on August 28, 1951 in Boston, Massachusetts to Ruth and Isaiah Williams. Her mother was a teacher and her father was an technical editor. Growing up in the Roxbury section of Boston, a white working-class neighborhood, al-

though accepted because of the length of time the family had lived there, Williams soon felt the prejudices prevalent in Boston when it came to housing.

By middle school, Williams, realizing that her skin color was becoming a topic amongst students, began to hear other damning stories throughout her neighborhood of how more and more blacks were moving in and how property values were decreasing. Despite these "block-busting" tales that were being fostered by white Realtors, Williams parents instilled into her and her lone sister their history, their worth, and their value. They encouraged her and her sister to study hard and let their educational acumen lead them.

Taking heed, Williams focused on her studies and not her color. Completing high school, she was accepted to the prestigious Wellesley College, a liberal arts college in Wellesley, Massachusetts. She graduated within three years obtaining a Bachelor's degree in 1972. Three years later, as one of the first group of affirmative action students, she completed her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Of the 536 graduates in Harvard's Law School, Williams was one of only ten blacks in her graduating class.

With degree in hand, Williams accepted her first legal job with the City of Los Angeles, California as a Consumer Advocate. From that job, she was able to acquire civil and criminal trial experience. Focusing on consumer fraud, she found herself litigating more criminal and civil cases than she had thought would be involved in the consumer protection area. From claims of phony medical cures to human sterilizations, Williams found herself in the mist of a plethora of varied consumer protection cases.

In 1978, Williams left her job as Consumer Advocate to take a position as Staff Attorney with Los Angeles' Western Center on Law and Poverty. In this position her focused moved from consumer protection to that of commercial and contract law. She became involved with cases concerning credit card scams and fraudulent banking practices. After a few years at the Center, she decided that teaching was a viable alternative to what she was currently doing.

Interested in creative writing as opposed to the more sterile paperwork that she was performing, she accepted an Associate Professor of Law position at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, California. She stayed at the university for four years. In 1984, she received an opportunity to return to the east coast. She took a job in New York City with a public interest law school at City

University of New York. This newly formed law school had as its' emphasis to train and educate lawyers to have a commitment to the needs of the poor and under served. Plus, she was close to family and friends.

Unfortunately, the founder and financial patron for the law school committed suicide. The school which politically leaned to the left had not yet been accredited and the more conservative surrounding community began to put political pressures on the administrators and faculty. With faculty being fired and the local community up in arms, Williams sat the writing on the wall and decided to leave the teaching job at City University.

She accepted a tenured teaching offer in 1988 at the University of Wisconsin. She also took on a Visiting Associate Professorship at Stanford University School of Law in California as well as a Visiting Scholar at Stanford's Institute for Research on Gender and Women. In addition, she was a Visiting Scholar-In-Residence at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Two years later, in the spring of 1992, Williams became a Visiting Professor of Women's Studies at Harvard University's Women's Studies Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts, close to her hometown of Boston. That same year, she took on a Professorship at Columbia University School of Law in New York City. While teaching, Williams still had writing on her mind.

Her writings turned more toward the consumer media arena. She began to write more on leftist views and protest politics. She penned articles for magazines such as *Ms.*, *The Nation*, and *The Village Voice*. She also wrote for some mainstream periodicals, including *The Christian Science Monitor* and *The New York Times Book Review*.

In 1991, Harvard University Press, published Williams' *The Alchemy of Race and Rights: Diary of a Law Professor*. In 1995, Williams's *The Rooster's Egg: On the Persistence of Prejudice* was published. In 1997, she published her, *Seeing a Color-Blind Future: The Paradox of Race* and her *Open House: On Family Food, Friends, Piano Lessons and the Search for a Room of My Own* was published in 2004.

Williams is currently Columbia University's James L. Dohr Professor of Law. She has taught at Columbia since 1991. She is a member of the Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the State Bar of California. She served the Medgar Evers College for Law on their Advisory Council and did the same for Social Justice of the City University of New York. She sat on the Board of Governors for the Society of American Law Teachers and the Board of Trustees of Wellesley College. She held a MacArthur Fellowship from June 2000 until June 2005.

Williams was honored on March 1, 2013 when Columbia Law School's Center for Gender & Sexuality Law held a symposium featuring famed attorneys Anita Hill and Lani Guinier, among others. Considered one of the more provocative intellectuals in American law, Williams is a firm believer that law should have a cultural significance and that experiences are precursors to law. She emphasizes that race is a fundamental determining factor in the U.S. legal system.



SAMUEL L. WILLIAMS

...was born in 1933 and died in 1994 at the age of sixty-one. Williams began his collegiate career at University of California located in Berkeley, California. A student-athlete, he played dual sports. He was a football

quarterback and played several baseball positions while at the same time being named an Academic All-American.

Graduating in 1955 from U.C. Berkely with a B.A. in Criminology, Williams had to put his educational endeavors on hold as the U.S. became involved in the Vietnam War and he was called to duty. Enlisting into the U.S. Army to perform his two year military service, Williams rose to the rank of First Lieutenant in the Military police Corps. With his discharge, he returned to California.

Williams immediately returned to his studies, enrolling into the University of Southern California's School of Law located in Los Angeles. He graduated in 1961 earning his LL.B. After graduation, he took a job in the State of California' Department of Justice offices as Deputy Attorney General. He held the post for three years.

In 1965, he decided to enter private practice. He accepted a position with the California based law firm of Hufstedler & Kaus. He later became a partner of the firm. In 1965, after the Watts riots in Los Angeles, the Governor of California, Pat Brown, established the McCone Commission to investigate the cause of the riots. Williams became the staff attorney for the Commission.

Over the next several years, Williams became a distinguished attorney known throughout Los Angeles as an individual committed to social justice, civil rights and civic affairs. Prominent in local and community interests, he was asked to sit on many civic and prominent corporations' boards.

Williams accomplishments are many. He served as President of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He was President of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners and has the distinction of becoming the first African American to serve as President of the California State Bar.

While sitting on the board of the the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, Williams was called to

serve on the advisory committees involving the 1991 Los Angeles beating of California citizen Rodney King. He is given credit for assisting in the re-making and re-structuring of the judiciary system in California. His avid campaigns as a chair and as a member of several nominating commissions for judicial selections for federal bench positions within the state, he has tirelessly fought to ensure fair representation was provided and was done with the principles of equal justice for all.

Williams has been a board member of several prominent corporations. He has sat on the boards of he Bank of California, the Los Angeles Music Center, the University of Southern California, and Walt Disney Company. He has been honored with such awards as the Los Angeles Legal Aid Foundation's Maynard Toll Lifetime Service Award for his dedicated work over the years for the people of Los Angeles. He was also given the Shattuck Price Award, from the Los Angeles County Bar Association. The Shattuck Price Award is the Association's highest tribute given. The State legislature saluted Williams him with a Memorial Fesolution *"for his illustrious record of professional, personal, public and civic achievement."*

Williams died suddenly on July 28, 1994 of a heart attack.



AVON NYANZA WILLIAMS, JR.

...was born in 1921 in Knoxville, Tennessee to Carrie Belle Williams and Avon Williams. He was the fourth of five children. Williams graduated from Johnson C. Smith University, an historically black university located in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1940. He enrolled into the Boston University

School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts. Upon passing the bar, he took both the Massachusetts and Tennessee bar exams, passing both. He was admitted to both bars in 1948.

Upon graduation and receiving his bar admittance, Williams moved to his birthplace of Knoxville, Tennessee. He practiced law there until moving to Nashville in 1953. In Nashville, he became an active member of the NAACP. His first cousin, Thurgood Marshall, for the Legal Defense and Educational Fund of the NAACP, was their chief lawyer. It wasn't long before Williams began to assist the NAACP and other civil rights opponents in their representations. He became extremely active in the Nashville area Civil Rights Movement.

During his involvement with civil rights issues, he met civil rights attorney, Z. Alexander Looby. Joining Looby's law firm, Williams became a key figure in the fight against segregation, voting rights and civil rights. Together, Looby and Williams would represent many of the African American opponents of the Deep South's segregated practices. Williams would become the first to file a Tennessee public school desegregation suit. His *McSwain v. Board of Anderson County, Tennessee* lawsuit filed in 1950 began a legal battle that would last over thirty years.

In 1951, Williams and his team would file suit against the University of Tennessee. The university's graduate school, like all other law schools in the south, did not allow black students. They instead gave cash stipends to them to attend law schools in other States. In his lawsuit, *Gray v. University of Tennessee*, Williams represented four black students that were not being permitted to register for classes at the Tennessee law school. Williams' team changed that.

An advocate for the desegregation of Nashville's public schools, Williams served as counsel for plaintiffs in the city's long running battle to desegregate their schools. Williams and his partner Looby, in 1955, filed a lawsuit against the Nashville public school system. The *Kelley v. Board of Education of Nashville* case mirrored the *Brown v. Board of Education* federal ruling and demanded school desegregation. Both Williams and Looby became thorns in the sides of many while supporters of segregation and their separate but equal philosophy of the South. The desegregation lawsuit took over thirty years before the Tennessee schools were mixed. During that time, Williams received countless death threats from angry white supremacists, including the local police.

Williams, one of only a few black civil rights lawyers in Nashville, represented many black students that had been arrested for taking part in the Nashville sit-ins of the 1960s. While representing these civil rights protesters, he was active in his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi's community and social activities and was a part of the faculty of Nashville's

Meharry Medical College, one of a handful of historically black medical schools in the United States.

In 1969, Williams ran for the Democratic seat to the Tennessee State Senate. The state had redrawn the district lines and Williams focused his attention to the newly configured district centered on the historically black section of North Nashville. Winning the election, he became the first African American State Senator ever elected in the state of Tennessee.

As State Senator, Williams became one of the most prominent men and lawyers in Nashville. His influence ran high and as a leader and savvy attorney, his advice was sought after by many. His unrelenting pursuit of the Democratic agenda, particularly in civil rights cases, placed him in a coveted position with Nashville's black community and at odds with the opposing white segregationist and their determined views.

To Williams' credit, he won a significant victory in the mid 1970s when the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled in *Geier v. Blanton* that two Tennessee universities could merge together as one. With that ruling, the University of Tennessee-Nashville merged with the historically black school, Tennessee State University. For the first time, a black school took over a white one. An unprecedented ruling that was. From that ruling, the integration process went into full effect across the state ultimately desegregating all public elementary, junior high, high schools, colleges and universities in Tennessee. He is credited with forcing the public schools to teach African American history in the classroom.

During his long lustrous legal career, Williams' clientele were majority black litigants. He represented black school teachers that had been deprived of their jobs. He took on a case of a twelve-year-old boy who had been charged with raping a white woman. Opposed to the death penalty, Williams made numerous appeals for a black man convicted of murder by an all white jury despite the overwhelming evidence of his innocence. From that case, he became obsessed with breaking the cycle of all white grand juries. He worked tirelessly for indigent defendants and their right to have free transcripts of their trials for appeal purposes.

After representing the black community in their pursuit for civil rights for over forty years, Williams health began to turn toward the worst. He contracted ALS, better known as the "Lou Gehrig's disease", so called after famed baseball player Lou Gehrig was diagnosed with the Disease. ALS or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects the nerve cells in the brain and in the spinal cord.

Despite this debilitating disease, Williams ran for re-election in 1988 to his state Senate position. He easily won. Although he completed his four year term, he did so with the aid of an attendant and private driver. Fisk University, in 1989, bestowed upon Williams an Honorary LL.D. degree for his dedicated work on behalf of African Americans. In 1992, after his Senate term ended, Williams did not seek re-election realizing that the rigors and demands of his Senate life were too much for him to bear.

After his retirement, his health continued to worsen. He held on for a few years until his death in 1994. In tribute to his years of service to the citizens of Nashville, Tennessee State University, formerly the University of Tennessee at Nashville, renamed its' downtown campus in Williams' Honor. On August 29, 1994, Avon Williams died. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Nashville, the second cemetery established for blacks to be buried in Nashville.





JOSEPH K. WILLIAMS, III

...was born and raised in the Manchester area of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's North Side. He and his three brothers and two sisters grew up in a house filled with extended family with friends and other relatives visiting throughout his

upbringing. Williams grew up, so to speak, in the halls of the local courthouse, as his grandfather worked as a janitor in the Allegheny County Courthouse. In addition, his father worked as a building engineer in the Federal Building, located just a few blocks away. Between the two buildings, Williams began his legal career as a child.

Williams attended a working class neighborhood public school in Pittsburgh and won accolades for his studies at an early age. When he was in the tenth grade, he won an academic scholarship to attend Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut while only a junior in high school. Confidently arriving on campus, the change of scenery from Pittsburgh to New Haven gave Williams an opportunity to see what he could do on his own. He was assigned to a class taught by famed Alex Haley, the author of the award winning novel and TV mini series, "Roots", as well as well known literary scholar A. Bartlett Giamatti, who later became the President of Yale and the Commissioner of major league baseball.

Williams at first thought being accepted to Yale at such a young age and having two esteemed Professors to learn from was great luck. It was then that he understood a long held saying of his father that, "luck happens when preparation and opportunity converge". Williams knew he was prepared to be at Yale and the opportunity to learn was at hand.

Williams completed his high school studies at Yale and returned to Pittsburgh to enroll into Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University where he received his undergraduate degree. He then entered the University of Pittsburgh where he earned a Master's degree in Psychology. For his Juris Doctorate degree, Williams attended Pittsburgh's Duquesne University School of Law in 1985.

After graduating from law school, Williams began his professional legal career in private practice. He would devote the next twenty-four years to private practice law in the Manchester area. During that time, he married, moved to a farm on the outskirts of Pittsburgh to raise a family, and gave

time to personal hobbies and volunteer work. He purchased several historic properties, including an 1884 Queen Anne home, which housed his law offices. He began collecting fine Persian and Caucasian carpets and breed competition dogs for international dog shows. He also trained dogs for police work, which helped to pay his law school bills.

Judge Williams is an avid lover of fine art. His offices chambers and home walls are adorned with works of art by many famous artists, including a lithograph of the Saint-Gaudens Civil War sculpture of the Massachusetts 54th Infantry. He has pen and ink works of Pittsburgh artist T-More and other works of art that bring elegance to his immaculate surroundings. His love of paintings and sculptures is not limited to these two aspects, as Judge Williams has a love of elegant cushions and fine furniture is showcased in the immaculate mahogany desk that sits in his office.

In 2008, Williams was appointed by then Governor Edward Rendell to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term on the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas. The following year, he was elected to a full ten-year term. He continues to serve on the Criminal Division bench today. When he took his seat on the bench, it was true justice that when he put on his judicial robe, he gave thanks to his father and grandfather who had worked in and taken care of the halls of the local courthouse and the federal building when he was a child. Now he sits behind the bench that they once cleaned and kept.

In serving on the bench, Judge Williams kept the principals taught him by his father and grandfather and used them in adjudicating cases that came before him. He would often tell defendants that came before the Court that everyone falls down, but the issue is, does one learn from that fall? He would tell them that falling can be a natural thing but curling up in a fetal position and staying down the rest of their lives is not.

For his service to the judiciary, Judge Williams has been awarded the Homer S. Brown Outstanding Attorney Award. He has served as the President of the Homer S. Brown Law Association, as a member of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, as a member of the Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Judge Williams has also served as the Secretary of the Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh's Sports and Exhibition Authority.



ARCHIE WALTER WILLIS, JR.

...was born on March 16, 1925 in Birmingham, Alabama to Mamie and A.W. Willis, Sr.. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School before entering Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama where in 1950 he received his Bachelor of Arts. He received his law degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin in 1953.

After receiving his law degree, Willis moved to Memphis, Tennessee and opened his own law firm. Several years later, he became the legal counsel for James Meredith in his attempt to desegregate the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. He then joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to fight for the integration of the public schools of the city of Memphis.

In 1955, Willis assisted in the founding of the Mutual Federal Savings and Loan, the first Savings and Loan owned and operated by southern African Americans. For the Savings and Loan, he served as the Executive Vice President and Secretary. Willis later served as a co-founder of the nationally chain of Mahalia Jackson's Chicken Systems.

In 1964, Willis was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly. He was the first African American to be elected to the Assembly since Reconstruction. Three years later, he made a run to become the Mayor of Memphis although unsuccessfully. In 1974, he was instrumental in the election of African American Harold Ford Sr. to the U.S. Congress.

In 1966, Willis co-founded the Supreme Mortgage and Realty Company and served as its' President. The mortgage company was the first African American owned mortgage company in any southern state in the United States. Willis helped to fund the Mallory Heights School Housing Project, the Durango Subdivision, the Adler Hotel and four buildings in the historic district of Beale Street.

In 1967, he co-founded the law firm of Ratner, Sugarmon, Lucas, & Willis. The firm was the first integrated law firm to be began in Memphis. He devoted much of

his legal time to litigate cases surrounding housing for African American. He was involved with creating Shelby County's Homebuyer's Revolving Loan Fund to help low and moderate income first-time buyers receive mortgages. Willis also lobbied to create funding for the Tennessee Housing Development Agency and served on the Shelby County Housing Task Force.

During his legal career, Willis has served on several city, state, and national committees and commissions including having served on the Tennessee's first Human Rights Commission. He also served on the National Civil Rights Museum Commission, which played an instrumental part in bringing the historic site into existence. Willis also served as a member of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce and the Shelby County Culture of Poverty Task Force, the State Racing Commission, and the Center City Revenue Finance Corporation.

Willis was a member of the Pentecostal Temple Institutional Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and served as the legal counsel for the church. He served as the representative for the church's acquisition of downtown real estate purchases, including the purchase of the Chisca Hotel. For his dedicated work for the citizens of Memphis, the Auction Avenue Bridge in Memphis was renamed the A.W. Willis Bridge.

Archie W. Willis, Jr. died in Memphis on July 14, 1988. He was sixty-three years old.



PENNY L. WILLRICH

...received her undergraduate degrees in Political Science and History from the University of Texas at Arlington. She obtained her Juris Doctorate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Antioch School of Law.

She furthered her education when she earned a Master's Degree in Human Services and Community Psychology from Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts. Willrich also obtained a Ph.D. degree in Criminology from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In 1987, Willrich accepted a position as the Managing Attorney and Director of Domestic Violence with the Community Legal Services. In her role with the Legal Service, she testified before the Arizona state legislature on domestic violence and family law issues. She was a member of the team that rewrote the states' Domestic Violence Victims Handbook and passed legislation that addressed issues surrounding domestic violence shelters.

In 1992, Willrich worked in the Arizona Department of Economic Safety's Administration of Children, Youth and Families Division. She was pivotal in obtaining state legislation that funded a multi-year statewide technological improvement initiative that acquired new computers for social workers. New software and added technology allowed the Administration to better track needed services provided for children in foster care.

In 1995, Willrich was named as a Commissioner to the Maricopa County Superior Court. She was assigned to the Court's Juvenile Division. While serving as a Commissioner, Willrich was selected by the Arizona Supreme Court to draw up the initial draft for juvenile court rules.

In 1999, Willrich was appointed by the Governor Jane Dee Hull to serve as a Judge to the Superior Court of Arizona. She was the first African American woman to serve on the state's highest court. While sitting on the bench, Judge Willrich presided over cases in the Criminal, Juvenile, and Family Divisions. She served on the bench for six years stepping down from the bench in 2005.

In 2005, Willrich became a member of the faculty to the Arizona Summit Law School. Six years later, she was appointed as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

at the Phoenix School of Law. Willrich was an advocate of pro bono services and provided those services free of charge to residents of the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Shelter; the Save the Family of Mesa, Arizona organization; and to the Arizona Youth Innocence Project. She is licensed to practice law before the Northern District Courts of Texas and the District Courts of Arizona. She also has privileges to argue cases before the Fifth and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Willrich has served on the Board of Directors to the Arizona Advocacy Network, the Arizona Black Lawyers Association, and the Arizona Disciplinary Commission. She also has served on the Boards of the Arizona State University Center for Applied Behavioral Health and the Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary and the Downtown Phoenix Partnership. In addition, Willrich served on the Board of Directors of the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Willrich has been awarded many community and professional awards during her career honoring her dedicated work on behalf of the residents of Arizona. She was presented with the prestigious Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity's John J. MacAulay Legal Educator Award for her lifetime of compassion and courageous service to the legal professional. She received from The Links, Inc. a Jurisprudence Living History Award and was recognized by the Jack and Jill of America, Inc. for her exceptional service. In addition, the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services, Education named Willrich as the Family Law Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, and she received the NAACP Roy Wilkins Award.



R HONDA HUNTER WILLS

...received her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin in International Business. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Texas at Austin Law School. She clerked with Texas Supreme Court before becoming a member of the law firm of Vinson & Elkins, LLP based in Houston, Texas as an associate attorney. She focused on her attention to class action lawsuits for large corporations both nationally and internationally.

Wills would leave the law firm several years later after being denied a promotion to partnership. Before leaving, she filed a sexual harassment and discrimination lawsuit against the firm. The case was settled for an undisclosed amount and sealed through a confidentiality agreement.

After leaving Vinson & Elkins, Wills joined forces with fellow attorney Juanita Jackson to form a partnership, however, that partnership lasted for less than a year. She stepped out on her own and formed the law firm of Wills Law Firm, PLLC. She is licensed to practice in both New York and California.

Operating as a solo practitioner, Wills turned her attention to representing clients against insurance companies and other corporate giants in cases involved with personal injuries, employment issues, sexual harassment, discrimination, and worker's compensation cases. She took on cases of sexual assault, injuries caused while on public or private premises, and consumer fraud cases. Wills has argued cases in several courts, including the Southern, Northern, and Western Districts of Texas, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, all New York State courts, and the United States Supreme Court. She has won judgments in excess of \$75 million.

Wills starred in a Houston based "docu-reality" TV show, "Sisters in Law", which showcased the lives of several African American women lawyers practicing in the city. The show was aired on WE TV and had various themes ranging from rape and incest to suicide and death. The show was signed for ten weeks and eight segments with Wills and the others agreeing to be followed twenty-four hours a day for the ten weeks the show was to be aired.

The show was designed to set itself apart from the cat fighting, bitch calling, and back stabbing reality shows that were being aired on national cable channels. The show wanted to show African American women who were not represented as angry or that married a rich athlete or entertainer. The show followed the women through their daily lives of client interviews, including accused murderers, and took the viewers into the courtrooms with the women attorneys.



BUTLER ROLAND WILSON

...was born on July 22, 1861 in Greensboro, Georgia. He received his undergraduate degree in 1881 from Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a member of the varsity baseball team and served as team Cap-

tain. He was also the class orator for his senior class.

To obtain his law degree, Wilson attended to Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts and earned a Bachelor of Laws degree with honors. While earning his law degree, he served as a press correspondent for "The Hub", a Republican weekly publication by Archibald H. Grimké. Wilson completed his law studies in 1881 and was admitted to the state bar the same year. Also that year, Atlanta University bestowed upon him a Master of Arts degree.

To begin his law profession, Wilson became partners with Grimké for a short period of time. He then worked alongside Judge George Lewis Ruffin until his death. He then joined forces with Ruffin's son, Hubert Ruffin. The younger Ruffin would also die the following year and Grimké would practice law as a solo practitioner. Wilson married Mary Evans of Oberlin, Ohio in 1894.

In 1912, Wilson became the first African American member of the American Bar Association. He also became a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association, the American Red Cross, the Massachusetts Men's League for Woman's Suffrage, was the third President and a Charter member of the Boston Literary and Historical Association, a First Grand Counselor the Knights of Pythias, a 33rd degree Mason, a Supreme Counselor of the Scottish Rite Lodges of America, and an Odd Fellow. In addition, Wilson served as an Auditor and Director of the Boston Home for Aged Colored Women and served as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Harriet Tubman House. He was also a member of the National Board of Directors to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as well as a member of the South End Improvement Association Executive Committee.

Wilson was a member of the Republican Party and served as an Alternate Delegate-At-Large for two Republican Conventions. He served as an organizer and Charter

member of the Republican Club of Massachusetts. For his service to the Party, in 1898, then Republican Governor Roger Wolcott appointed him as the Master in Chancery for Suffolk County. He was later appointed to the Board of Appeals for fire insurance rates by then Republican Governor Samuel W. McCall.

Wilson was pivotal in the Massachusetts Legislature amending an anti-discrimination law that banned racial discrimination in public places including barbershops, due to the fact that he was twice denied service at a barbershop. Wilson and fellow attorney Clement Garnett Morgan were instrumental in eliminating discrimination in public swimming pools and successfully protested the Boston public schools eliminating the use of the book, "Forty Best Songs", which had lyrics that used the word "darkey" and "nigger".

When the Tremont Theatre showed the screening of the controversial film, "The Birth of a Nation", a film that depicted African Americans in an unsavory light and pushed for white supremacy, Wilson was a member of the legal committee that testified appeared before the State Senate Ways and Means Committee in 1915. He represented African American fugitives that had fled from the segregated South and fought against extradition on the grounds that if they were returned, they would be lynched. In that regard, Wilson was a member of the legal team that successfully defended John L. Johnson who had fled from Charleston, West Virginia after being charged with violating the Mann White Slave Act, an act that made it a felony to transport a woman or girl across state lines for prostitution or debauchery.

Butler Roland Wilson died on October 31, 1939. He was seventy-nine years old.



JIMMY WILSON

Wilson is a proven leader with an impressive track record in both the public and private sectors. He has provided confidential advice to Fortune 500 firms, faith-based organizations, foundations, governmental agencies (in-

ternational, national, state and municipal), non-profits, private equity placement firms, and individuals throughout the United States and around the world.

He has negotiated business arrangements for some of the entertainment industry's most recognized Celebs and Icons. He has performed services for some of the best names in their respective industries, including Hollywood, the Fashion world, Sports Athletes, Amusement Operators, Nightlife social activities. Connecting his clients to the resources and results they seek, is what Wilson does.

Wilson's approach to his clients' successes is to apply a cutting-edge strategic business management plan, implementing an understanding of the value of "brand" protection. Taking a Disney-style approach in client service sensitivity, Johnson uses his network and access to decision makers in the industries he services. A quick study, he has overseen the closing of deals ranging from a mom and pop start-up business needing short term fixes to billion million dollar deals involving the development of inner harbors and mega shopping malls.

In the commercial shopping center industry, Wilson has been a pioneer and leader in the model of corporate management leveraging people's assets through diversity and teaming. In that, he has lead multi-disciplinary teams in most major markets in the United States, as well as the Middle East. Not one to waste time, his focus to the details allows him and his clients to maximize their efforts and energies to bring about the best result that one seeks.

Wilson was hired by the middle eastern Qatar Foundation/Sidra Medical & Research Center (SMRC) in Doha, Qatar to provide a Healthcare Retail Strategic Plan. The \$9 billion medical campus the Foundation wanted to be build would be at the center of Qatar's new "Education City", designed primarily for women and children. The Healthcare Retail Plan that Wilson provided has the dis-

inction of being only the second all-digital, paperless healthcare system in the world. The plan provided an environment that provided amenities and services that would keep its' clients on the medical campus, including dining, fitness work outs, and Shopping.

In Texas, Wilson was asked to provide a Professional Business Plan for a Development Authority. The Authority was charged with the development and commercialization of a military base that was closing under the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission's orders. Wilson was called in to oversee the transformation of the 1,250-acre military base having 400 buildings. Wilson and his team completed a Market Condition Analysis and Retail Plan for the Authority.

Wilson then completed a project for Johns Hopkins/HEBCAC in Baltimore, Maryland. For them, he created a Professional Strategic Business Plan and community outreach program for Hopkins \$2 billion Biotechnology Park. The neighborhood revitalization plan required 500 families to be relocated. Wilson developed a "Rules of Engagement" component to the proposed development that resulted in a Business Inclusion Agreement. The agreement, approved by the community and its political leaders, gave the residents, the citizens of Baltimore, and Hopkins' management team assurances and comfort that propelled the redevelopment initiative to the next level.

Wilson has directed many commercial real estate development management projects. He has created retail merchandising and leasing policies for 14 regional urban marketplaces and shopping centers, comprising 16 states and associated field offices. Wilson has overseen the grand openings of many of the largest shopping malls in the U.S. with attendances in excess of 4.5 million.

Wilson has managed over eighty projects around the world that have generated retail sales in excess of \$2.5 billion. Many of the standards widely used in the retail industry today in shopping malls around the world, Wilson has had his hand in the development and management of the them. His system of institutionalizing "graduated rents", "co-branding", and execution of "letters of intent" is currently being used by sixteen national retail chain accounts.

As well as a lawyer, Wilson is indeed an entrepreneur. He has owned seven businesses in California, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania.





L IONEL WILSON

...was born on March 4, 1915 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Louise and Jules Wilson. When he was three years old, his family moved to Oakland, California where he graduated from predominantly white McClymonds High

School in 1932 with honors. After graduation he went to work for a local newspaper.

After working for several years at the newspaper, Wilson entered the University of California at Berkeley where he received a Baccalaureate degree in Economics in 1939. To support himself while in undergraduate school, he worked as a porter, in a sugar factory, as a laborer, and dishwasher. He participated in on the University sports teams as a gift athlete playing baseball, basketball, and tennis. After completing undergraduate school, he was drafted to a semi-professional baseball team but retired from the sport in 1943 due to racial discrimination and exclusionist policies.

He enlisted into the United States Army and served in World War II. He fought in a combat unit in Europe and made the rank of First Sergeant. After completing his military duties, Wilson enrolled into the Hastings School of Law in San Francisco, California where he received his law degree in 1949. With his new law degree, he entered private practice specializing in civil rights cases for both paid and pro bono clients.

In 1953, Wilson ran for the Berkeley City Council unsuccessfully. He made a second attempt in 1955 and lost that election as well. Five years later, he was appointed by then Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr. as a Judge to the Oakland Municipal Court. He was the first African American to serve as a Judge in Alameda County.

In 1965, Wilson was elected as the Chairman of the Oakland Economic Development Council, a federal government anti-poverty group. Four years later, Governor Brown named him to the Alameda County Superior Court. He remained on the bench for eight years before leaving the bench to run for the Mayor of Oakland.

In his bid to become Mayor, Wilson received support from local labor groups, liberal Democrats, and the Black Panther Party. With his election, he became the first

African American to serve as Mayor of Oakland. He was also the first non-Republican Mayor to serve in several decades. Wilson went on to be re-elected to three consecutive terms and was an advocate for civil rights and affirmative action. He was supportive of local businesses and his pro growth policies helped to propel economic growth for the downtown sector of Oakland.

Wilson was defeated in his fourth attempt for re-election in 1990. His years of support of big business over neighborhood development had turned the tides of support and the African American voters voted against him. In the end, the escalating crack cocaine drug epidemic and his seemingly indifference to the increasing of inner city issues led to his political power being eroded. Most importantly, his failure to have the National Football League's Oakland Raiders return to the city was the final straw and he finished in third place during the election winning only 17% of the vote.

Lionel Wilson died on January 23, 1998. He was eighty-two years old.



MARGARET BUSH WILSON

...was born on January 30, 1919 in St. Louis. She earned his undergraduate degree from Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama and his law degree in 1943 from Lincoln University Law School, a historically Black college

in Jefferson City, Missouri. She was the second African American woman to be licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri.

In her first professional job, Wilson worked for the federal government's Rural Electrification Administration. After getting married, she started her own practice with her husband, Robert E. Wilson, Jr.. Unfortunately, the two would later divorce.

In private practice, Wilson served as legal counsel to an African American family who had purchased a home in a whites-only section of the city and had the sale blocked by city courts because of the restrictive covenants employed. Wilson served as the litigator for the Real Estate Brokers Association in the case of "Shelley vs. Kraemer". The U.S. Supreme Court heard the case and ruled upending state enforcement of restrictive covenants.

In 1948, Wilson ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was the first African American woman to enter the race in the state's history. She ran as a Progressive Party member but later changed her affiliation changing to the Democratic Party

Wilson served most of legal career specializing in issues surrounding housing law. She was a member of the legal team that challenged the state of Missouri's restrictive covenants that barred African Americans from purchasing homes in whites-only neighborhoods in Missouri. Wilson's efforts led to state court ruling in the landmark 1948 U.S. Supreme Court case of "Shelley vs. Kraemer", which held that state courts could not constitutionally prohibit the sale of homes and businesses to African Americans even if the property is covered by a legal racially restrictive covenant.

Wilson became involved with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and rose quickly through the organization's ranks. She rose quickly to become the President of the St. Louis chap-

ter and President of the Missouri chapter. She organized demonstrations at St. Louis banks and other businesses to force them to hire African Americans for jobs historically reserved for whites.

In 1963, Wilson was elected to the National Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was the first African American woman to head the organization. Twelve years later, in 1975, she was named as the NAACP Chairman. Eight years after that, she fell out of favor with Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks amidst a public feud. Hooks had questioned Wilson's management of the organization and after her refusing to take part in an organizational accounting audit, she was unilaterally suspended from the NAACP for insubordination and improper conduct. The NAACP's Board eight days later stripped her of all ceremonial duties. Wilson was then removed from her overall role at the NAACP. At the annual NAACP's annual convention, she was refused the customary Chairman's speech and later in the re-election campaign, she was denied a seat on the Board.

After leaving her NAACP leadership post, Wilson returned to St. Louis. She would to practice law in St. Louis for the remainder of her life. She died on August 11, 2009. She was ninety years old.



JUDITH
ANN
WILSON
ROGERS

...was born on July 27, 1939 in New York City, New York. She attended Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts graduating in 1961 with an A.B. degree. In 1964, she received her

J.D. from Harvard Law School, also located in Cambridge. Her LL.M. degree, she obtained in 1988 from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

In her first job as an attorney, Rogers clerked on the Juvenile Court of the District of Columbia. After one year, she took a position as an Assistant US attorney for the District of Columbia. She remained in that position for three years.

Rogers then left the Washington, D.C. area, taking a position in San Francisco, California as a staff attorney for the Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation. Three years later, she would return to Washington to assume the position as a trial attorney for the Department of Justice. During the 1970s, Rogers would work in several legal positions for the City of Washington, D.C. and the U.S. federal government.

In 1971, Rogers accepted the position of General Counsel, Congressional Commission on the Organization of the District Government. Serving in that position for a year, in 1972, she became Legislative Program Coordinator, Office of the Mayor of Washington, D.C.. Working for then Mayor Walter Washington, she served the city in this capacity for three years.

In 1974, Mayor Washington named her as Special Assistant for Legislation in his office. For five years, she handled litigation for the city. From 1979 to 1983, she assumed the position of Corporation Counsel for the city.

From 1983 to 1988, Rogers was a judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. In 1993, President Bill Clinton nominated her to replace then Judge Clarence Thomas in his seat on the Court of Appeals as he had been nominated and confirmed as a Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. It was not long before Rogers was named Chief Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

In one her more notable cases, in July of 2014, the Federal Circuit Court dismissed a case challenging

Obamacare (The Affordable Care Act). Pacific Legal Foundation, the plaintiffs, challenged the President Obama's plan for a new American healthcare system based on the constitutional requirement that all revenue bills originate in the U.S. House of Representatives and Obamacare had not been. The Senate had taken a U.S. House of Representatives' bill, removed what was in the original bill but kept the House bill number. Arguing that the insertion of the President's healthcare plan into a bill originated in the House but pushed through the Senate was unconstitutional in its' procedures, opponents of the healthcare plan were poised and eager for its' defeat.

The case was heard by a three-judge panel. Hearing the case were Rogers, Judge Robert Leon Wilkins and Judge Cornelia T.L. Pillard. The three judges ruled that the law was not intended to be a tax as the plaintiffs were arguing but instead it was meant merely to promote the purchase of health insurance for the public and to decrease the number of uninsured people in the nation. The judges, however, did rule that there was a tax penalty people who did not obtain health insurance. The three judges did find just as the Supreme Court found, that the plaintiffs claims were secondary to the true intent of the law. In late July of 2014, the Federal Circuit Court dismissed Pacific Legal Foundation's case that challenged the enactment of Obamacare.



HENRY TRAVILLION WINGATE

...was born on January 6, 1947 in Jackson, Mississippi. For his undergraduate degree he attended Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. He graduated in 1969 with a B.A. degree. He received his J.D. degree in

1972 from Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut.

After completion of his degree requirements, Wingate became a law clerk in Jackson, Mississippi for the Community Legal Aid Department. He stayed with the department for only one year. He left the Department to open his own offices. Not long after opening his practice, Wingate was called to military duty. Answering the call, he enlisted into the U.S. Navy where he became a Lieutenant in the Naval Legal Services Office (NLSO).

For two years, he served as a Assistant Defense Counsel. From 1974 to 1976 he took the position of Trial Counsel. Leaving government, Wingate accepted a position with Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California an Adjunct Instructor. After one year, he took the same position at Tidewater Community College in South Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In 1976, Wingate took a position with the State of Mississippi as a Special Assistant Attorney General. After four years, he again left government to return to teaching. He took another Adjunct Professor position, this time at Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi from 1978 to 1983. He also decided to join the United States Navy Reserve.

Wingate became the Assistant District Attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court District, State of Mississippi in 1980. After four years as Assistant District Attorney, he took the job as Assistant U.S. Attorney of the Southern District of Mississippi. He left that position in 1985.

On September 11, 1985, President Ronald Reagan on the recommendation of Mississippi U.S. Senator Thad Cochran, nominated Wingate to become a federal judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. Less than six weeks later, the United States Senate confirmed Wingate to his seat on the bench. In 2003, he was appointed Chief Judge serving as Chief until 2010.

Judge Wingate while on the bench heard some notable cases. There were very few times where Judge Wingate received a critical review of his opinions and rulings. He was, however, was criticized on March 25, 2010 by a three judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court cited that Judge Wingate failed to enter a judgment in a 2002 case in which a person won \$1.3 million on a jury verdict against his former employer.

Judge Wingate brought the ire of many because of the length of time it took to get a case through his court. He was known for delaying cases for weeks and sometimes months. Wingate heard the case of former Mississippi attorney Paul Minor, Bush-era political corruption case. Minor was facing facing a lawsuit from the insurance company USF&G which was a result of the criminal case. Some believe his slow and deliberate speed in ruling on cases could have been political while others felt he needed the time to understand and rule appropriately.

Wingate began to be attacked from the local press. A local newspaper questioned his ethics and his temperament in judicial matters. Other reports suggested he was either incompetent or lazy. The court logs showed Wingate had a larger amount of backlogged cases than that of other judges. His case log showed 49 cases and 97 pending motions exceeding six months, the most of any sitting judge. The judge with the second highest number of pending motions, Judge Carlton Reeves, had a total of 17. A third judge had 6 pending motions while there were 0 pending motions for the remaining 11 sitting judges.

Judge Grady Jolly of the Fifth Circuit once criticized Wingates' court for the lack of speed in resolving cases. The Circuit's Court's Judicial Council had received filed complaints against the Southern District Court in Mississippi. Judge Jolly also requested a rulling that Jolly's court seek resources necessary to prevent problems that may not be necessary.

Despite the attacks and criticism, Judge Henry Travillion Wingate, not swayed, survived the negative press and continued his role as a federal judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi.



JAMES HARRIS WOLFF

...was born on August 4, 1847 in Border Springs, Mississippi to Eliza and Abraham Wolff. The family moved to Holderness, New Hampshire where he was raised. He was taught work ethics as a child and when old, while going to high school, he earned money

by working as clerk at the local post office and as a helper in a small store. He completed his studies at the boarding school Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Wolff made an attempt to join New Hampshire regiments, however the U.S. Government Army did not allow African Americans into its' military units so Wolff enlisted into the U.S. Navy, which welcomed them. He reached the rank of Landsman and served on the USS Maratanza and the USS Minnesota. During the war, his unit served in the North Atlantic and the West Gulf and saw other action while protecting the Mississippi River. Wolff was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1865.

Returning from the military, Wolff entered the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts in Hanover. After two years at the college, he left moving to Boston, Massachusetts to study law with attorney and ex-U.S. Congressman Daniel Wheelwright Gooch. Wolff also completed his college studies attending Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was admitted to the Suffolk Bar Association in June of 1875.

Wolff moved to Darien, Georgia to teach school for a year before relocating to Baltimore, Maryland. He was admitted to the Maryland Bar as the first African American to be admitted to practice in the U.S. Circuit Court. After practicing in Maryland for a period of time, Wolff returned to Boston and opened a office there.

Wolff married Mercy Anna Birmingham in January of 1880. The couple would have four children, a daughter and three sons. While establishing his law office, Wolff served as a clerk in the State House' Adjunct General's Office, appointed to the position by then Republican Governor John D. Long.

Wolff then became active in the local political and legal scenes of Boston, becoming an acquaintance of George Lewis Ruffin, the first African American Municipal Judge to serve in the United States. Wolff began to speak out on the conditions of the African American community and gave speeches throughout Boston on the matter. He once

was called upon to give a speech to a Republican gathering where he A Thorough Organization of the Negro Vote as a Factor in Political Victory".

Wolff became even more active in the struggle for equal rights for African Americans. He successfully won several cases of discrimination, including bringing suit against a local skating rink that refused to permit African Americans to use its' facilities. Wolff brought three other suits against the same rink for similar refusals with the owner being fined each time.

Wolff joined forces with two other attorneys to form the law firm of Walker, Wolff & Brown, the first African American law firm formed in Massachusetts. Wolff would leave the firm after on a few years to become the Chairman of the South End Equal Rights Association. He was a follower of Booker T. Washington, supported the Republican Party, and was critical of those that did not have the best interest of African Americans in mind.

Judge Wolff possessed a profound knowledge of constitutional law. His skilled abilities to litigate cases won decisions from many courts, including receiving favorable verdicts from the U.S. the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. He tried many civil and criminal cases successfully during his lengthy career with one notable case being the case of Henry Taylor, a recent graduate from Boston University Law School and member of the Massachusetts bar. Taylor had moved to Baltimore, Maryland and had applied for admission to the Maryland State Bar with his application being denied due to his color. Wolff represented Taylor in the suit ordering that Wolff be allowed to become a member of the Maryland Bar.

The case was argued before the Maryland Court of Appeals and did so extensively and exhaustingly. He pointed out the constitutionality of state statues that prohibited people of color from being admitted to the state bar. Taylor's presentation to the Court was articulated in a manner that his peers applauded his results.

Wolff became the President of the Wendell Phillips Club and was a member of the Crispus Attucks Club. In 1889, both Clubs co-sponsored a banquet held to commemorate the life of Crispus Attucks and to remember the Boston Massacre. At the dinner, Wolff spoke out against America's expansion in the Philippine Islands, citing forced occupation against the will of the people was not acceptable.

For his profound stances on civil rights and his loyalty to causes important to human kind, then Commander John E. Gilman of the Massachusetts Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) appointed Wolff as the Judge Advocate General of the organization. He became the first African American GAR Judge Advocate General in the history of the United States. In 1901, Judge Wolff was elected as the Commander of the Massachusetts GAR being approved by a vote of 500 to 15.



DWAYNE D. WOODRUFF

...was born on February 18, 1957. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Louisville (UL) in Kentucky in Louisville, Kentucky in 1979. He obtained his law degree in 1988 from Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Woodruff entered the UL on a football scholarship and was a star for the team's football team. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football League (NFL) in the 6th round of the 1979 draft. In his first year in the league, the team won the coveted NFL Super Bowl XIV beating the Los Angeles Rams. During that year, Woodruff played in all sixteen games and during the playoffs that year, he made two interceptions, which helped propel the Steelers to their Super Bowl Championship.

In 1982, Woodruff led all team members in interceptions, ranked as the co-leader of the NFL's American Division, and was named the team's Most Valuable Player. He would go on to lead or co-lead the Steelers in interceptions for five seasons, doing so in 1982, 1985, 1987, 1988 and 1989. Woodruff is ranked in fifth place on the Steelers All-time interceptions list with thirty-seven. He is also ranked third on the Steelers All-time list for interceptions returned for touchdowns. If not the biggest, indeed it is one of the biggest interceptions Woodruff had, occurred against Miami Dolphins in December of 1988. He returned a pick seventy-eight yards to the Dolphins two-yard line. The following play, the team scored for a 7-0 lead. The Steelers went on to win the game 40-24. Woodruff, as a defensive player, recovered four fumbles in his career and returned one sixty-five yards for a touchdown against the Atlanta Falcons giving the Steelers a 7-0 lead. In that game, the Steelers went on to win 34-14.

While playing professional football, Woodruff studied for his Juris Doctor at Duquesne University School of Law, completed his requirements in 1988, and was admitted to the Pennsylvania State Bar that same year. He then accepted a position as an associate attorney with the law firm of Meyer Darragh while still playing in the NFL. He performed in both professional fields for three years before leaving the NFL.

In 1997, Woodruff became a founding member of the law firm Woodruff & Flaherty, P.C., now Flaherty Fardo, LLC in the Shadyside section in Pittsburgh. After eight years in private practice, he was elected, in 2005, as a Common Pleas Judge serving Allegheny County, which encompassed

the city of Pittsburgh. Assigned to the Family Court Division, Judge Woodruff presided over the bench for his ten-year post and was re-elected to the Court in the 2015 with his term ending in 2026. In the 2015 general election, he made a run for a seat on the bench of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court but was unsuccessful in his campaign. He is set to run in the 2017 elections, hoping to win a seat on the Court.

In 1982, Judge Woodruff established the Woodruff Scholarship, which presents annually a \$2,000 award to a deserving senior at Ohio's New Richmond High School, his alma mater. In 2015, at New Richmond's homecoming game, he presented to Ron Bird, the football coach, the "NFL Golden Football", and to commemorated the 50th anniversary by honoring high schools that produced Super Bowl players. For that school and other schools, Judge Woodruff and his wife, Joy Maxberry Woodruff, host a mentor recruitment breakfast for the Urban Pathways Charter School to raise resources for the school's programs. He has participated in mock court trials for middle schools, high schools, and law schools and has been called upon to speak at several graduation ceremonies and guest speaker at conferences and seminars.

Judge Woodruff and his wife serve the community well with charitable giving through their Pittsburgh organization, "Do The Write Thing". The couple serves as Co-Chairpersons of the program, which is a segment of the National Campaign to Stop Violence (NCSV). It gives middle school students an opportunity to study violence in their lives through classroom conversations and with written text aimed to engage youth in the cause and effects of violence. The program encouraged students to examine their personal decisions and to commit to making positive ones. Judge Woodruff's NCSV program gave empowerment to people allowing them to take control of their personal lives and to fight the cycle of family and domestic violence in their homes, schools and neighborhoods.

Woodruff has served as the Chairman of the Board for the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and has served as the Vice President of the NFL Players Association. He also served on the Board of the United Way of Allegheny County and is a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. For the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Woodruff is a lifetime member.

In his honor, University of Louisville dedicated the Woodruff Academic Center in Judge Woodruff's. His football jersey hangs in Papa John's Cardinal Football Stadium as well. He has been inducted into the University of Louisville Athletics Hall of Fame, the New Richmond High School Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame. Woodruff has been presented with the Kentucky Governors Cup Award as well as receiving a Judicial Outstanding Leadership Award from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court System.





DEBORAH C. WRIGHT

...was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina but raised in Dallas, Texas. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts and her law degree from Harvard's School of Law.

She remained at Harvard to obtain her M.B.A. degree.

Wright began her professional career working for the First Boston Corporation and later the Partnership for New York City, New York. She was then appointed by then Mayor David N. Dinkins to the Board of the New York City Housing Authority and to the New York City Planning Commission. In 1994, Wright was appointed by then by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development. She is credited with creating an unprecedented initiative to privatize residential buildings belonging to the City of New York, which would allow New York residents to own their own apartments and homes.

In 1996, Wright was named as the President and CEO of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ) where she served for three years. During her time at the UMEZ, she led the team of developers that executed an investment strategy that increased the economy of Harlem. A public sector funding campaign created a \$250 million capital budget to expand cultural and business businesses in the area. The influx of capital to Harlem brought recognizable name brand stores to the area, brought a movie theater chain in, and transformed financial transactions that allowed retail businesses the financing opportunities that had been closed to them. Wright's innovative approach to increasing community revenue was a benchmark for other areas across the country to expand their economic efforts to creating retail areas and to help those retailers survive.

In 1999, Wright was named as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Carver Bancorp Inc. and Carver Federal Savings Bank. Carver is the largest African American and Caribbean American publicly traded federally chartered savings bank in the United States. The bank has over \$700 million in assets and branches spread across the inner city neighborhoods of Harlem, Brooklyn

and Queens, New York. Under Wright's leadership Carver grew in both deposits and reputation. The company did so well that it was named by Black Enterprise Magazine as the 2006 "Financial Services Company of the Year" and later named Wright as one of the "25 Most Powerful Women in Banking" in October of 2010. In 2005, she became the Chairman of Carver where she remained for fifteen years, retiring in 2016.

In 2014, Wright was named as the non-executive Chairman of the Board of Carver Bancorp, Inc. where she remained for two years. In 2015, Wright served as a Senior Fellow in the Economic Opportunity and Assets Division of the Ford Foundation for one year. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors to Citigroup Inc. and has sat on its' Audit, its' Consumer Compliance, and its' Ethics and Culture Committees. She served as a Chair to the Audit Committee for Time Warner Inc. and as Chair to the Finance Committee for Voya Financial. Wright has served as the Audit Chair of the Executive Committee to the Board of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, New York and sat on the Boards of Kraft Foods, The Children's Defense Fund, and the Harvard University Board of Overseers. In Addition, Wright is the founding Board member of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation that was given charges of rebuilding lower Manhattan after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Centers in New York City.



JONATHAN JASPER WRIGHT

...was born on February 11, 1840 in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. His family moved to Montrose, Pennsylvania when he was six years old. He attended elementary and high school in Montrose during the winter months only. During the

warmer weather months, he worked the farms spread across Susquehanna County.

Having saved some of the money he had earned working the farms, Wright was able to enroll into Lancasterian University at Ithaca in New York. After completing his course studies, he returned to Montrose. He was able to land a job “reading the law” for a local law firm, the only job a black wanting to practice law could do at that time. For additional financial support, he took at job as a teacher while working at his law profession.

In 1864, Wright was named a Delegate to the National Convention of Colored Men meeting in Syracuse, New York. The Convention was held to coordinate activities aimed at calling for a nationwide ban on slavery. Chaired by abolitionist Frederick Douglas, the Convention passed resolutions that not only called for the ending of slavery in the United States, but also called for racial equality under the law and to end universal suffrage for all blacks in the country. The Convention was pivotal in ending slavery in the United States.

After two years at the Montrose law firm, he took a similar position in a Judge’s office in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He applied to take the Pennsylvania Bar exam but was denied because of his race. He decided to leave Pennsylvania, accepting a teacher’s job in Beaufort, South Carolina with the American Missionary Society. Wright’s assignment was to create and organize schools for freed blacks and to give them legal advice. Not earning enough money on his teacher’s salary, he also worked as a day laborer to supplement his income.

After the Civil War ended, Wright returned to Montrose demanding that he be given the opportunity to take the Bar exam. With times changing, somewhat, the examining committee saw that Wright was qualified and recommended that he be allowed to take the exam. Taking and passing the exam, Wright was admitted, on August 13, 1865, into the Pennsylvania State Bar and the privilege of practicing law in the state.

A year after entering the Pennsylvania State Bar, Wright was appointed by then General Oliver Otis Howard to head the new created Freedmen’s Bureau branch in Beaufort. The Bureau had been established by the U.S. War Department, now the Department of Defense, to oversee the relief, education and well being of the freed slaves after the ending of the Civil War. Wright was charged with issuing rations, clothing and medicine to the many blacks that had left the South seeking a better life in the North. Many of them landed in Pennsylvania.

In 1868, Wright again left Pennsylvania, returning back to South Carolina. He took and passed the South Carolina Bar exam and became a legal advisor for the Freedman’s Bureau. While working for the Bureau, he was selected to be a member of South Carolina’s Constitutional Convention. He was selected as the Convention’s Vice President and assisted in the drafting of the judiciary section of the State Constitution. Those drafts were included in the draft of the final Constitution. They remain a part of the South Carolina Constitution today.

Wright then ran for a State Senate seat. He was elected as a Senator serving Beaufort County. In 1870, at the young age of thirty, he was appointed to the South Carolina Supreme Court. In the upcoming election, Wright was elected to a full six-year term. During his time on the bench, Wright wrote eight-seven opinions and participated in 425 cases. He dissented in only one of those cases. He became Justice of the Court and served for seven years. He left the Court after the white Democratic Party, using fraud, intimidation and violence, gained control of the states politics.

With control of state politics, the Democratic controlled legislature made an attempt to impeach Wright from his seat on the Supreme Court alleging corruption and malfeasance. Wright denied the charges and vowed to fight the charges. Realizing that he would not survive the charges, he resigned from the bench in 1877. Leaving the bench, he returned to private practice, opening an office in Charleston, South Carolina.

After practicing law in Charleston for a short time, Wright moved to Orangeburg, South Carolina. There, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, he established Claflin College’s law department. He taught classes and served as a Trustee to the Board.

Jonathan Jasper Wright died of tuberculosis at his Charleston home on February 18, 1885. After his death, Avery College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, bestowed upon Wright an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Photo Not Available



EDWARD HERBERT WRIGHT

... was born on September 28, 1863 in New York City, New York. He attended New York City public schools before enrolling into the College of the City of New York. He completed his

graduate studies in 1881 at the age of seventeen.

He took a job teaching for three years at a New Jersey school. He then moved west to Chicago, Illinois, penniless. He had worked his way from New Jersey to Chicago as a Pullman porter on the train. Arriving in Chicago in 1884, he found a job working in a real estate office and beginning to become associated with the political landscape of Chicago.

He found a better job in the Registry Department at the Post Office. His industrious work ethics and he dedicated resolve drew the attention of Republican Party leaders. Wright was then selected to serve in the County Clerk's Office. After serving well there, he was pegged to run for a Committee seat representing the Second Ward of Chicago. He ran and was victorious in his campaign and became the first African American to serve Chicago as a Committeeman. Wright served on the Committee for six years.

While serving on the Committee, Wright was able to work with his white counterpart politicians to secure advancement opportunities and appointed posts for qualified African Americans. He brought change to Chicago's white political landscape by reputedly and consciously trying to find common ground. A man of his word, if Wright took on a task, he stayed with it until resolved one way or the other, but resolved.

In 1888, the Republican National Convention was held in Chicago. Wright, an active participant, was given the position as Bookkeeper and Railroad Incorporation Clerk in Springfield, Illinois. His appointment made him the first African American to have ever served as a clerk in the Illinois state government. With the next election there was a political party change and Wright left Springfield and returned to the Chicago city clerk's position he held before.

In 1895, Wright became a South Town Clerk, remaining for one-year. He then entered the race to become a

County Commissioner in the 1896 general election. He won the race to become only the third African American to have achieved such a position. Wright was admitted to the state bar that year as well.

In 1915, Wright was appointed by then Chicago Mayor William Hale Thompson as the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the city of Chicago. He became the highest paid African American employee working for the city. Four years later, he was named as the Special Attorney for the Traction Commission. The following year, in 1920, Wright was elected as the African American Ward Committeeman representing the Second Ward as a Republican.

With his election to the legislative arm of the city, Wright became the first African American to become a Committeeman. He held the responsibilities of nominating judges and who to send to a state or national convention to represent the Committee. As a race conscious man, Wright ensured that African Americans be a part of any contingency representatives. He lobbied successfully for other white Committeemen to side with him to create more and better opportunities for African Americans.

Wright has been credited with creating countless jobs for African Americans in the legislative branch, including judges, senators, and state representatives. In 1927, Wright retired from political life. After having a difference of opinion with the Mayor of a nomination for a First Ward seat, the Mayor turned away from Wright and Wright lost his seat in the next election.

Wright not only left politics, he left Chicago. He moved to Rochester, Minnesota where he died on August 6, 1930. He was sixty-six years old.



WILHELMINA
MARIE
"MIMI"
WRIGHT

...was born on January 13, 1964 in Norfolk, Virginia. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut cum laude. She earned her

Juris Doctor from Harvard's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Wright began her legal profession in 1989 serving as a clerk for Judge Damon Keith. After two years clerking, she joined the Washington, D.C. law firm of Hogan & Hartson, LLP as an associate attorney. Four years later, Wright joined the Minneapolis, Minnesota office of the United States Attorney's Office. Her responsibilities at the office centered on prosecuting complex economic fraud cases and violent crimes.

In 2000, then Governor Jesse Ventura appointed Wright as a Judge to the Ramsey County District Court where she served for two years. He then appointed her to the Minnesota Court of Appeals where she served for ten years. At the end of that post, the current Minnesota Governor, Mark Dayton, appointed Judge Wright to the Minnesota Supreme Court. She was the first African American woman to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court. She also represented school districts across the country as legal counsel.

On April 15, 2015, then President Barack Obama nominated Judge Wright to serve on the bench of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota as a United States District Judge. Her confirmation was passed by a U.S. Senate vote on January 19, 2016 with Wright receiving a favorable vote of 58-36.

Judge Wright has given legal opinions and was called upon to speak on varied subjects both domestically and internationally. She served as a consultant of criminal justice training the developing the rules of law in Geneva, Switzerland. Judge Wright was the first jurist and first African American to serve as a state district judge, an appellate court judge, and a state Supreme Court Justice.

For her dedicated service to the legal profession, she has been given many distinguished awards, including the Myra Bradwell Award from the Minnesota Women Law-

yers and the Lena O. Smith Achievement Award from the Black Women Lawyers Network. Judge Wright also received the B. Warren Hart Award for Public Service from the Saint Paul Jaycees. In addition, she received a Special Achievement Award and a Director's Award for Public Service from the United States Department of Justice.

Judge Wilhelmina Marie Wright is married to Dan Schmechel. They have one daughter.



A PRICE WOODARD

...was born on January 26, 1919 to Lenora Work Woodard and Ambrose Price Woodard.

In 1961, Woodard, as a Republican, was elected to the School Board and served on the Board for four years. He drew some criticism from the African American community where some believed he was a “Negro agent for the white power structure”. The 1960s were a mix of peaceful living mixed with assorted civil rights demonstrations and protest having government officials and community leaders being assassinated.

In 1967, Woodward was elected to the Wichita City Commission. Two years later, he was named the President of the Commission. With the outbreak of the riots associated with civil rights demonstrations and protests, Woodward worked to calm the African American communities and established a reputation as a concerned community leader.

The Wichita City Commission is tasked with appointing a Mayor if the current Mayor were to resign, become incapable of performing the duties of the office, or die while in office. There came a time when such a vote was necessary and the Committee members selected Woodward to serve as the Mayor of Wichita, Kansas for one year. He was the third African American to head a large U.S. city, following only Washington, D.C. and Cleveland, Ohio.

After Woodward, Wichita would not elect another African American Mayor until 2007, when Carl Brewer was elected to the post. Brewer served for two four-year terms and due to term limits could not seek re-election.

After his retirement, in his honor, the city of Wichita built an inner city park and named it the A. Price Woodward Park located at 401 West Douglas in Wichita. The land for the park was purchased by the city of Wichita in 1972 from the Urban Renewal Agency. The beautiful multi-level park has waterfalls, fountains, a water pool, and an amphitheater. The park also has a performing art's center, a convention center that sits adjacent to the Arkansas River, a picnic area, and a food court.





SHEILA A. WOODS-SKIPPER

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1978 from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and obtained her Juris Doctor from Temple University School of Law also located in Philadelphia.

After receiving her law degree, in her first professional job, she served as a law clerk to Judge Charles Wright of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Woods-Skipper spent three years as a law clerk before leaving to become an Assistant District Attorney in the Homicide Unit to the city of Philadelphia's Major Trial's Division.

In 1999, Woods-Skipper was named as a Judge on the bench of the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. Her elected term was for four years. Pennsylvania's Court of Common Pleas consists of ninety judges divided between the Trial Division, Family Division, and the Orphans' Court Division, which covers estate law. The elected Presiding Judge of the Court presides in the position for five years. Judge Woods-Skipper was assigned to the First Judicial District's Administrative Governing Board, which operated similarly as a Board of Directors for the District would. She later became the President Judge of the Court.

In January of 2016, President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to serve as Chair of the Administrative Governing Board of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. In that role, she was responsible for the assignments of all newly appointed elected Judges to one of the divisions of the court and had power to request from the Supreme Court assigned services of Senior Judges to help dispose of back logged cases in the Philadelphia County Court. Judge Woods-Skipper also set the appointments for out-of-county Judges to preside over special conflict cases and assigns judicial chambers for the Court of Common Pleas.

Judge Woods-Skipper, as President of the Court Judges, adopted and implemented new rules, initiated innovative administrative orders, and set directives to improve the overall operations of the Court. She prepared an Emergency Judge Schedule, which assigned a Court of Com-

mon Pleas Judge to preside over cases during off-Court hours when an emergency arises. Judge Woods-Skipper also ensured that the Election Court, which had numerous satellite locations be adequately staffed judicially during all primary and general elections that gave enabled citizens wishing to exercise their right to vote ample time to do so.

Judge Woods-Skipper was in charge of the Court's library wherever the Court established a library. She also held responsibility over the Court Messenger Service, the Mental Health Review Office responsible for all hearings pursuant to the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976. In addition, she supervised petitions seeking to modify monetary judgments, sureties associated with violations of bail and failure to appear orders, and maintains the Disbarment Docket for attorneys suspended or disbarred by the Supreme Court.



GEORGE HENRY WOODSON

...was born on 1866 in Wytheville, Virginia three days before the ratification of the 13th Amendment. His father, George, was a farm laborer, and his mother, Lena, was a homemaker. He graduated from

Petersburg College in 1890. In 1896, he completed his collegiate studies at Howard University's law school in Washington, D.C.. Woodson arrived in Iowa with the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry. He served the military from 1890-1893 as an NCO. Woodson was one of the co-founders of the Niagara Movement and later became Deputy Director of Customs in 1924, IN 1924, he became Commissioner of the Virgin Islands and was appointed a Representative of the Virgin Islands to the Republican National Convention.

In 1925, Woodson assisted in the founding of the Iowa Negro Bar and the National Bar Association. A prominent lawyer having offices in the coal-mining town Buxton and Des Moines, Iowa, he became first President and Resident Emeritus of both organizations and a super hero to the Black legal community.

Nearly four million African Americans benefited from the abolition of slavery in the United States when it ended. George grew up hearing firsthand stories from his parents about American slavery, which help steer him to a lifelong commitment for justice and equal rights.

Woodson's first wanted a career in the military. On June 11, 1883, he enlisted, in Louisville, Kentucky, to Company I of the 25th Infantry. He claimed to be twenty-one years old. He was accepted and five years later, in June 1888, he earned his Honorable Discharge as a Private at Fort Missoula, Montana. Leaving Montana, he returned to Virginia and enrolled in the Virginia Normal & Collegiate Institute (now Virginia State University). He earned, two years later, a Bachelor's degree. He graduated from the Howard University Law School in 1895.

In February 1896, he opened a law office in Muchakinock, Iowa, a company-owned coal-mining town in Mahaska County. Several years later, he had formed a legal partnership with S. Joe Brown, a State University of Iowa Phi Beta Kappa and Law School graduate. The remained

partners for twenty years. In 1921, Woodson moved to Des Moines to serve as Deputy Collector of Customs, a position he held for twelve years. until his death, ten days after suffering a stroke in July of 1933.

Woodson, along with others, in 1900 founded the Iowa Chapter of the Afro-American Council. Two years later, he called on all African American attorneys in Iowa to meet in Des Moines to establish the Iowa Negro Bar Association. Five years later, in 1905, Woodson would answer the call of W.E.B. DuBois to the "Talented Tenth", purposed to found an all-black national civil rights organization. From these calls, Woodson became one of "the Original 29" members of the Niagara Movement, which advocated full civil rights for African Americans, a forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Ten years later Woodson would again assist DuBois in NAACP interests, becoming one of the charter members of the Des Moines Branch of the NAACP. In 1925, Woodson and other attorneys founded the National Bar Association in Des Moines. Woodson's hard work and leadership was recognized as he was elected as the organization's first President. From this position, he continued to work on behalf of his constituents. In 1926, President Calvin Coolidge appointed him to head the commission to investigate conditions in the Virgin Islands.

Woodson is also credited with "fathering" the Republican Party amongst African Americans in Iowa. This credit was given shortly after his move to the state in 1896. He quickly became the party's black leader. In June of 1898, he ran unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination for Mahaska County Attorney. He tried again to run for office seeking the Republican nomination for a seat in the Iowa House. This attempt met the same fate as did his first attempt a year earlier.

Despite those losses, Woodson remained a sought-after speaker. His speeches touched on many subjects and were unapologetically partisan. He believed that blacks should own their land and gain equal rights through conventions. He believed that progress came through affiliating with organized labor so not to lose an opportunity to affiliate and fraternize where one could make friends, secure for the black race a lasting benefit.

His views earned him a seat at the 1901 Republican State Convention and a 1912 nomination to the state legislature, the first for an African American in Iowa history. He continued working on behalf of African Americans until his death on July 7, 1933.



FREDERICK T. WORK

...was born on August 27, 1935 in Nashville, Tennessee to Edith McFall Work and John W. Work III. He received his undergraduate degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where he played basketball as a member of

the school's basketball team. He remained in Nashville, to obtain his law degree from Vanderbilt University's School of Law. He was one of the first two African American students to receive a law degree from Vanderbilt.

In 1960, he married Beverly Myers, his college sweetheart, and the two moved to Gary, Indiana where he began his legal career, which would span for over fifty years. The couple had two sons, Frederick Work, Jr. and Kevin G. Work, who both became doctors. Work, in building his law practice, dedicated his time to servicing his client's needs and becoming involved in local politics in Gary.

While building his law practice, Work served in other positions, including serving as attorney for Calumet Township, serving on the Board of Directors for the Federal Public Defender Program, and serving as the First Chairman of the Lake County Combined County Election Board. Work has served as a member of the Lake County Board of Registration, has served as the Director of Internal Security for City of Gary, and has served as a Criminal Justice Instructor at Calumet College. Work was also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was a Frontiersman, and served as the Boule' for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

He became supportive of many civic organizations in the city and his hard work paid off when in 1972, he was elected as a Court Judge in the Gary, Indiana Court. He was the first African American to be elected to the Court's bench in the history of the Indiana court.

Frederick L. Work, after falling ill and needing surgery, died on September 13, 2010. He was seventy-four years old.





THELMA WYATT CUMMINGS MOORE

...was born on July 6, 1945 in Amarillo, Texas to Annie Lavernia Lott Wyatt and James Odis "J.O." Wyatt, Sr.. She was raised during a time when segregation was the norm of the times and racial hatred was rampant. At the age of four, she witnessed her family's home be burnt down by the Ku Klux Klan due to her father's help to the African American community as a physician. At the age of ten, after the passage of the legendary 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case of "Brown v. Board of Education", her father ran for a seat on the Amarillo School Board. The Ku Klux Klan again appeared to intimidate her family and a cross was burned on their family's new front yard.

Wyatt Cummings Moore graduated from Amarillo's Carver High School before attending the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965. She majored in Zoology and French and became a member of the Pi Delta Phi Honor Society before graduating. She then entered the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois through a Psychodynamics Fellowship for a year.

In 1971, Wyatt Cummings Moore obtained her Doctor of Law from Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia as the only African American woman enrolled in the law program. She graduated from Emory with distinction and earned the highest score on the exam. In leaving Emory, she was inducted into the Bryan Society, became a member of the National Law Honor Society, and served as the Order of the Coif.

Wyatt Cummings Moore entered the legal profession and her career grew rather quickly. She practiced private law for several years before becoming a trial attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) under the guidance of "Mr. Civil Rights", Donald L. Hollowell. She then accepted a position as General Counsel to the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Management where she worked for Judge Horace T. Ward.

In 1977, Wyatt Cummings Moore was appointed to the Atlanta Municipal Court by then Mayor Maynard H. Jackson. She was later appointed to the bench on the Atlanta City Court. In being appointed to both courts, Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore became the first African-American woman to serve on both of the State Courts of Georgia. Five years later, she was elevated to the Superior Court of Georgia, the busiest trial court of all the state's courts.

Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore eventually became the Chief Administrative Judge of the Fulton County Superior Court, the first woman and the first African American woman to serve in that capacity. On the Court, Chief Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore provided strategic leadership aimed to bring about equal justice to the state courts and the citizens it served. She founded the Family Court in Fulton County, which became a model for other county courts and set policies adapted by other courts in Georgia and across the United States.

After being re-elected to the bench six times and serving for thirty years, Chief Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore stepped down and retired from the Court. She founded her own law firm, Moore Law LLC and continued to serve the legal profession as a private practicing attorney. She focused her attention to advising government agencies, major corporations, public and private institutions, and individual clients with their legal needs. Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore developed the ability to handle complex legal matters through neutral certified mediations, which saved both plaintiff and defendants time and at many times, money. During that time, she also served as the legal counsel to Ethics Boards and to the Marketing Departments for several Georgia municipalities.

Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore has served as the Chairwoman of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, has served on the Board of Governors of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and served on the Joseph E. Lowery Institute for Justice and Human Rights at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta. She served as Chair of the Emory University Board of Visitors, served as an Emory University Board of Trustee, served as a member of the Emory Law School Council, and served on the Advisory Board of the Center for Ethics at Emory.

Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore, in helping law students to enter the profession, taught law courses at Emory School of Law, Clark Atlanta University, and Morris Brown College, also located in Atlanta. In giving honor to Chief Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore for her dedicated service to the judicial bench, the Fulton County Government commissioned and unveiled a portrait of her to be hung on display in the Fulton County Justice Center Tower. She was presented with a Legacy Award from the Gate City Bar Association, a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legacy Award, a Concerned Black Clergy President's Award and the Randolph Throver Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to humanity. In addition, the Gate City Bar Association inducted Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore into its' Hall of Fame. Judge Wyatt Cummings Moore was once married to Judge Luke C. Moore but after his death later married Arthur B. Cummings, Sr.. They have two daughters, Khari Sekou and Ayanna Rashida.





ALBERT
RUSSELL
"AL"
WYNN

...was born on September 10, 1951 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1973. While studying for his undergraduate degree, Wynn was initiated as a member of the Beta Epsilon chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He began his graduate studies in Public Administration at Washington, D.C.'s Howard University before entering D.C.'s Georgetown University where he earned a law degree in 1977.

After law school, Wynn accepted a position with the Consumer Protection Commission in Prince George's County, Maryland as its' Executive Director. After four years as Executive Director, he left to open his own law practice, Albert R. Wynn and Associates. While building his law practice, he became involved with the local politics of Prince George's County.

In 1982, Wynn founded his own law firm before being elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, serving for five years. He then ran for a seat in the Maryland Senate and was victorious in his bid and served for five more years in the State Senate. Wynn would rise amongst his fellow peers to become the Deputy Majority Whip.

In 1992, Wynn was elected as the Democratic representative to the State of Maryland's Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served in Congress for eight terms and represented the voters and residents of Montgomery County and Prince George's County, Maryland. He lost his 2008 bid for re-election to rising political star, Donna Edwards. While in Congress, Wynn served on the Energy and Commerce Committee as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. As Chairman, he had jurisdiction over matters involving drinking water, toxic chemical usages and the nation's toxic cleanup superfund. He also served as a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality. Wynn was a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, served as Chairman for the Political Action Committee, and as a member of the Minority Business Task Force and the Environmental Justice Task Force.

Congressman Wynn sponsored several legislative bills that were introduced to Congress during his term. He supported improved federal contracting opportunities for small and minority businesses and was recognized for his efforts on behalf of the Small Business Administration when he received the Administrator's Leadership Award twice. He supported then President

George Bush's and Vice President Dick Cheney's energy bill some thought to have far too much favoritism and controversial to the economics of the African American communities.

In his 2000 re-election, Wynn made national headlines when his estranged wife, Jessie Wynn, who served as the Campaign Manager for Wynn's Republican opponent, John B. Kimble, appeared on a local radio show to represent Kimble's campaign. She hit a nerve in African American women voters when she made the claim that he did not have respect for African American women. She went on to say that he had left her for a white woman, something she felt an African American man should never do. He survived the dissolution of his marriage and kept his seat in Congress.

During the Iraqi War debate, Wynn was one of only four of the thirty-six Congressional Black Caucus members to vote in favor of the 2002 joint resolution that voted in favor of the Iraqi U.S. invasion. Voting along with Wynn were Bill Jefferson of Louisiana, Sanford Bishop of Georgia, and Harold Ford, Jr. of Tennessee. Wynn supported immigration laws that integrated illegal aliens into the U.S. society as long as the country had secure border control and provisions. He believed that once an immigrant is inside the country, they should be treated with respect and should receive fair treatment.

Wynn lost his 2008 bid for re-election to rising political star, Donna Edwards. Ironically, Edwards had clerked for him when several years before and had run against him in the previous election where Wynn squeaked out a win to remain in Congress winning 49.7 percent of the votes to Edwards 46.4 percent. In the 2008 election, Edwards criticized Wynn for his support of the Iraqi War, for being in favor of the repeal of the estate tax, for giving support to then President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney's controversial energy bill, and pointed out that he was too much aligned with the Republican Party and not the constituents that elected him to office. She vowed to serve the voters in the way she was charged to and not align herself otherwise. After receiving several key endorsements, Edwards easily pulled ahead of Wynn projecting over 60% of the vote. Wynn suddenly decided to resign his seat in Congress, which called for a special election. Edwards was elected to complete Wynn's term and took her seat in the U.S. Congress.

After leaving Congress, Wynn became a partner in the law firm of Dickstein Shapiro. The firm is a large lobbying group whose clients include the tobacco industry, the entertainment industry, energy, and the software industry. Wynn also represents matters related to as the Teamsters. After serving the mandatory one-year away from Congress, he became a lobbyist on Capitol Hill.

Wynn currently serves as the Senior Director at Greenbert Traurig, LLP. He is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and is married to his wife, Clore Wynn with two daughters, Gabrielle and Meredith. The family attends the Maple Springs Baptist Church in Capital Heights, Maryland.





**JAMES
ANDREW
WYNN, JR.**

...was born on March 17, 1954 in Robersonville, North Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his Juris Doctor in 1979 from the Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, Wis-

consin. He would further his legal education obtaining a Master of Laws in Judicial Process in 1995.

After graduating from law school, Wynn enlisted into the U.S. Navy and the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He served on active duty for four years and was stationed at the Navy base in Norfolk, Virginia. Wynn would remain a member of the Navy for the next twenty-six years serving in the Navy Reserve as a military judge. He left the Navy in 2009 having reached the rank of Captain.

Returning from the military, Wynn moved to North Carolina where he opened a law practice having offices in Greenville and Wilson, North Carolina. During the next decade, he would serve the local community in general practice issues. Some cases centered on discrimination and civil rights while others focused on family and domestic laws. In 1999, Wynn was nominated by then President Bill Clinton to become a Judge to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. After being confirmed without a hearing from the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, he served on the Court for ten years before being elevated in 2010 to serve as a Justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court. Justice Wynn also served as a member of the American Bar Association and served as Chair of the Appellate Judges Conference and Chair of the Judicial Division.

In 2009, Justice Wynn was once again nominated for a seat on the Fourth Circuit. This time, then President Barack Obama made the nomination. The nomination was confirmed on August 5, 2010 by unanimous consent by the U.S. Senate and resumed the bench a few days later. While serving on the bench, Justice Wynn served as the Chair of the American Bar Association's Judges Advisory Committee on Ethics, as Chair of the American Bar Association's Appellate Judges Conference, and as Chair of the American Bar Association Judicial Division.

Justice Wynn has been given many distinguished and honored awards and citations during his illustrious career. A few of the awards bestowed upon him include winning a Meritorious Service Medal three times, receiving a Navy Commendation Medal twice, and being given a Naval Reserve Medal. He was also presented a National Defense Service Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Medal.





WILLIAM FRANCIS YARDLEY

...was born in 1844 in Knoxville, Tennessee to a white Irish mother and a black Father. Although this made the child “free by birth”, the parents facing a future lifetime of racial abuse, abandoned the baby

leaving it on the door steps of a white family. The Yardley’s took in the baby, naming and raising it as their own.

Although he was being raised by the Yardley’s, his adopted white family, because of the segregated South, he had to attend the school designated for colored children. The school, located in Ebenezer, Tennessee, now West Knoxville, was taught by Thomas William Humes, a St. John’s Episcopal Church Rector and Union sympathizer during the Civil War. During that era, blacks had one school for students of all ages.

Yardley’s parents, wanting much more for their adopted child, provided him with the opportunity to read and write early. Up until he turned twenty-one years of age, Yardley was provided with the best apprenticeships available. While studying in Ebenezer, Yardley read every law book available. He had as his mentor Tennessee’s Knox County judge George Andrews. In 1870, Yardley married Elizabeth Stone, and two years later, at twenty-eight years old, Yardley passed the bar.

Soon thereafter, he was elected to Knoxville’s Board of Aldermen where he served a one year term. In his law practice, Yardley’s clients were primarily African American. Although he had several larger clients, such as Continental Insurance Company, he tended to take on clients that needed better representation but were not financially secure. He was known to handle criminal cases for black clients where without him, they may not have any representation at all.

He served as Knox County’s Justice of the Peace from 1876 until 1882. He published Knoxville’s first black newspaper in 1878, the *Knoxville Examiner*. The paper promoted African-American rights, advocated for the poor, and stood for better labor laws. In 1882, he established a second newspaper, *The Bulletin*.

In the summer of 1876, while serving as Justice of the Peace, Yardley was given the position as the Second Assistant Fire Chief for Knox County. Appearing at a local Republican rally, he was prevented from speaking because of his race. Angered, he traveled to the state Republican convention in Nashville. There he spoke about the exclusion. He spoke against proposed miscegenation laws and Tennessee’s

segregated schools. He even proposed for the removal of racial references in the state Constitution. That pronouncement raised the ire of the mostly white convention delegates. To everyone’s surprise, he then announced that he would run for Governor.

In the 1876 gubernatorial election, Yardley ran as an independent for the top job in the state of Tennessee. The state’s Republicans decided not to oppose Democrat James D. Porter, so Yardley entered the race. His political platform stood against segregation, unfair labor laws, and was vehemently against the state law allowing “first class train fares for second class passengers”, which effected only the poor.

Despite the negative and racist rhetoric he faced, Yardley continued his campaigning across the state. The political and media onslaught was ravaging. Newspapers began to print horrible racist editorials about him. The Knoxville Tribune, once printed in its’ paper, calling Yardley an “egotistical darcy who practices law when he is sober enough and not engaged in doing the dirty work for the Republican machine”.

Yardley did have support from other newspapers and political patrons. Despite their support, it wasn’t enough as he finished fourth, with less than one percent of the vote. He returned to his law practice and continued helping people and his community in his way, protecting their rights.

Despite losing the gubernatorial election, Yardly continued his calling giving his support to African American candidates running for elected office. He called on blacks to get involved with the political agendas. His campaigning and support helped elect between 1880 and 1900, six black aldermen in the city’s Fifth Ward.

Within a few years, Yardley would become the first African American attorney to appear before the Tennessee Supreme Court. He argued against a Tennessee law that required jailed inmates to work in order to pay the costs of their prosecution. Yardley lost the case and that practice would stand for several more years before being abolished.

One of Yardley’s more high profile trial cases occurred in October of 1919. Maurice Mays, a local mulatto, (a name given to a person of mixed race, black and white), had been arrested, accused of the murder of a white woman. Yardley came to his defense. Although there was no evidence introduced linking Mays to the crime, he was found guilty and sentenced to death by execution. The murder was the spark that ignited the infamous Knoxville Riot of 1919. That riot was, many say, the city’s worst racial incident in the city’s History.

After years of service to the Knoxville, Tennessee citizens, the people of the State of Tennessee, and most importantly, his family, William F. Yardley died in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 20, 1924. He was eighty years old.

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