

*Deliberations*



*Honoring America's*  
*African American Lawyers*

*Volume 2 of 3*  
*(F - O)*



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# *Deliberations*

*Honoring  
African American Lawyers*

*Publisher*  
**William Reginald Colbert**

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What is **LAW**?

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*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 and to help them pay for a portion of those needed services. Simply, probonolegalfund.org's purpose is to pay for the first one hour consultation fees of selected people and their cases needing legal representation. In paying for those fees, we will challenge attorneys to "match" our payment through a "probono legal challenge", which will give support to those in need of legal 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 one of our Deliberations 3-Volume Book Set or any one of our Decorative and Fine Art Giclee or Prints, 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 over a two year period. Through our "attorney challenge", we hope to provide legal services to 6,500 people needing 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 clients can visit the website "probonolegalfund.org" 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 help those in need of legal services find a "caring" attorney to assist them with their legal issues.

**probonolegalfund.org is a free attorney listing aimed to assist both the attorney and the client.  
The 3-Volume Book Set is designed to showcase attorney's both past and present.**

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## Volume Two

### *Table of Contents*

#### Lawyers F through O

---

WHAT IS LAW .....	ii
WHAT IS probonolefalfund.com .....	iii
Publisher's Page .....	ix

**PAGE NAME**

1.	Farrelly, Alexander Anthony	26.	George, Sugar T.
2.	Farris, Charlye O.	27.	Gibbs, Mifflin Wistar
3.	Finney, Jr., Linnes	28.	Gibson, Truman K.
4.	Fisher, Ada Lois Sipel	29.	Gilbert, M. Shanara
5.	Fitch, Jr., Milton L. _Toby	30.	Gilliam, Earl B.
6.	Fitzgerald, Cornelius C.	31.	Gladwin, Walter H.
7.	Fleming-Poe, Lavinia Marian	32.	Glanton, Willie Stevenson
8.	Flowers, Sr., W. Harold	33.	Glascor, Honorae Alfred
9.	Foley, Tiye	34.	Glass, Robert D.
10.	Forbes, George L.	35.	Goodwin, James
11.	Ford, Geraldine Bledsoe	36.	Gordon, Alexandria
12.	Ford, John Marshall "Jack"	37.	Gordon, Claudia L.
13.	Foxx, Anthony Renard	38.	Gordon, Walter Arthur
14.	Francis, Norman C.	39.	Gordon, Walter Lear
15.	Francis, William Trevane	40.	Gray, Fred David
16.	Francois, Terry	41.	Grayson, Merissa V.
17.	Franklin, Buck Colbert	42.	Green, Al
18.	Franklin, Jr., Robert V.	43.	Green, Clifford Scott
19.	Freeland, Wendell G.	44.	Green, John Patterson
20.	Freeman, Charles E.	45.	Green, William T.
21.	Freeman, Frankie Muse	46.	Greener, Richard Theodore
22.	Freeman-Wilson, Karen	47.	Greenup, Jeff L.
23.	Frye, Sr., Henry E.	48.	Gregory, Roger L.
24.	Fulton, Shirley	49.	Grey, William Henry
25.	Gary, Willie E.	50.	Grey, Jr., Robert James
		51.	Grimké, Archibald Henry
		52.	Groff, Peter C.
		53.	Groves, Harry E.
		54.	Guinier, Lani
		55.	Guy, III, Addeliar Dell

---

56. Guyot, Jr., Lawrence Thomas  
57. Haden, Laurie N. Robinson  
58. Haden, Mabel Rebecca Dole  
59. Haddon, Phoebe A.  
60. Hairston, Joseph H.  
61. Haley, George Williford Boyce  
62. Hall, Amos T.  
63. Hall, Melvin C.  
64. Hamilton, Eugene Nolan  
65. Hankins-Nesbitt, Ruth  
66. Hardwick, Johnny  
67. Hargo, Gabriel Franklin  
68. Hargrove, Sr., John R.  
69. Harper, Conrad K.  
70. Harper, Nathaniel R.  
71. Harper, Sara J.  
72. Harris, Doris May  
73. Harris, Jessie  
74. Harris, Kamala Devi  
75. Harris, Ken  
76. Harris, Patricia Roberts  
77. Harris, Robert Lewis  
78. Hart, William Henry Harrison  
79. Hassell, Sr., Leroy Rountree  
80. Hastie, Jr., William Henry  
81. Hatcher, Richard Gordon  
82. Hatchett, Joseph W.  
83. Hatchett, Glenda A.  
84. Hawkins, William Ashbie  
85. Hawkins, Virgil Darnell  
86. Hayes, Dennis Courtland  
87. Hayes, George Edward Chalmer  
88. Haywood, Margaret Austin  
89. Henry, Milton  
90. Hershaw, Lafayette, McKenne  
91. Hewlett, Emanuel D. Molyneaux  
92. Hibbler, John A.  
93. Higginbotham, Jr., Aloyisus Leon

94. Hill, Anita Faye  
95. Hill, Oliver  
96. Hinds, Lennox S.  
97. Holden, Kip  
98. Holder, Eric Hampton  
99. Hollowell, Donald L.  
100. Holmes, Jerome A.  
101. Holmes Norton, Eleanor  
102. Holsey, Joyce Edline  
103. Hood, Harold  
104. Hooks, Benjamin Lawson  
105. Horton, Lenora F.  
106. Horton, Sr., Odell  
107. Houston, Charles Hamilton  
108. Howard, Kenneth R.  
109. Howard, Perry Wilbon  
110. Howard, Jr. George  
111. Howard, Jr., Raymond  
112. Howard, Sr., Charles P.  
113. Hubbard, Arnette Rhinehart  
114. Hughes, Joyce A.  
115. Hunt, Silas Herbert  
116. Hutchins, Styles Linton  
117. Hutton, Herbert Jefferson  
118. Ifill, Sherrilyn  
119. Ireland, Roderick L.  
120. Island, Harry  
121. Jackson, Alphonso R.  
122. Jackson, Juanita Alexandra  
123. Jackson Lee, Sheila  
124. Jackson, Jr., Elmer C.  
125. Jackson, Jr., Maynard Holbrook  
126. Jefferson, Bernard Samuel  
127. Jefferson, Silas  
128. Jefferson, Wallace B.  
129. Jennings, Alice B.  
130. Johns, Theodore R.  
131. Johnson, Bernette Joshua

- 
132. Johnson, Charles Vernon  
133. Johnson, Glenn T.  
134. Johnson, Edward Austin  
135. Johnson, Harry E.  
136. Johnson, Jack Bruce  
137. Johnson, James Coody  
138. Johnson, James Weldon  
139. Johnson, Jeh Charles  
140. Johnson, Justin Morris  
141. Johnson, Leroy Reginald  
142. Johnson, M. Tia  
143. Johnson, Thomas P.  
144. Johnson, III, Charles S.  
145. Jones, Alberta  
146. Jones, Ben F.  
147. Jones, Elaine Ruth  
148. Jones, Jolanda  
149. Jones, Jr., James E.  
150. Jones, Nathaniel R.  
151. Jones, Paul F.  
152. Jones, Randy K.  
153. Jones, Scipio Africanus  
154. Jones, Starlet "Starr" Marie  
155. Jones, Tierra Danielle  
156. Jordan, Barbara Charlene  
157. Jordan, Emma Coleman  
158. Jordon, Jr., Vernon Eulion  
159. Joyner, Arthenia L.  
160. Judd, Kevin  
161. Kearse, Amalya Lyle  
162. Keeble, Sampson Wesley  
163. Keith, Damon Jerome  
164. Kellar, Charles Lionel  
165. Kennedy, Jr., Harold Lillard  
166. Keenen, Kim M.  
167. Kiel, Kristin Pollard  
168. Kilpatrick, Kwame Malik  
169. King, Cheyene "C.B." Bowers  
170. King, Patricia A.  
171. King, Vivian R.  
172. King, Jr., John  
173. Kirk, Ronald  
174. Lacour, Vanue B.  
175. Lafontant Mankarious, Jewel Stradford  
176. Lancaster, Gary L.  
177. Landry, Pierre Caliste  
178. Lane, George Motley  
179. Langston, John Mercer  
180. Langford, Charles Douglas  
181. Latimer, Allie B.  
182. Latimer, Sr., Caesar Cooleridge  
183. Latting, August Arvis  
184. Lawson, Jr., Belford Vance  
185. Leary, Sr., John Sinclair  
186. Lee, Debra Louise  
187. Lee, John Kenneth  
188. Lee, Joseph E.  
189. Lee, Lena S. King  
190. Lee, Michael Waring  
191. Lee, Terry Hart  
192. Leggett, Ida  
193. Leggett, Isiah "Ike"  
194. Leighton, George N.  
195. Leland, George "Mickey" Thomas  
196. Levy-Pounds, Nekima Valdez  
197. Lewis, David B.  
198. Lewis, William Henry  
199. Lewis, Reginald F.  
200. Lightfoot, William P.  
201. Lillard, Robert Emmitt  
202. Little, Charisse  
203. Little, Walter R.  
204. Lockard, Hosea T.  
205. Lofton, Oliver  
206. Logan, Benjamin H.  
207. Looby, Zephaniah Alexander
-

- 
208. Lowery, Samuel R.  
209. Lucas, Jane Cleo Marshall  
210. Lucas, John Gray  
211. Lumumba, Chokwe  
212. Lumumba, Chokwe Antar  
213. Lynch, John Roy  
214. Lynch, Loretta Elizabeth  
215. Lyons, Judson Whitlocke  
216. Lytle, Lutie  
217. Mack, Julia Cooper  
218. Manuel, Wiley W.  
219. Marshall, Thurgood  
220. Marks, III, John Robert  
221. Marsh, Sr., Harold M.  
222. Marsh, III, Henry Leander  
223. Martin, Lesra  
224. Martin, Martin A.  
225. Martin, William "Billy"  
226. Martinet, Louis Andre  
227. Matlock, Debra  
228. Mathis, Gregory Ellis  
229. Maxwell, Cassandra  
230. McAnulty, Jr., William E.  
231. McBeth, Veronice S.  
232. McCabe, Edward P.  
233. McClain, William Andrew  
234. McCree, Jr., Wade Hampton  
235. McDonald, Gabrielle Anne Kirk  
236. McDowell, Cleveland  
237. McElwee, Samuel Allen  
238. McGee, James Howell  
239. McGhee, Fredrick L.  
240. McGee Brown, Yvette  
241. McGuinn, Warner T.  
242. McKissick, Sr., Floyd Bixler  
243. McMechen, George W.F.  
244. McMillan, Theodore  
245. McPhail, Sharon  
246. McQueary Smith, Beverly  
247. Meanes, Pamela J.  
248. Meacham, Jr., Thornton J.  
249. Mehlinger, Louis Rothschild  
250. Mercer, Christopher Columbus  
251. Meredith, James Howard  
252. Michaux, Henry McKinley "Mickey"  
253. Mickle, Stephan P.  
254. Miles-LaGrange, Vicki  
255. Miller, Thomas Ezekiel  
256. Ming, William Robert  
257. Minnis, Sr., Fred G.  
258. Mitchell, Arthur Wergs  
259. Mitchell, David B.  
260. Mitchell, Juanita Jackson  
261. Montgomery, James Douglas  
262. Moore, Cecil Bassett  
263. Moore, Cornell Leverette  
264. Moore, Rodney G.  
265. Moore, Jr., Howard  
266. Morcom, Claudia Clementine House Shropshire  
267. Morgan, Clement G.  
268. Morial, Ernest Nathan "Dutch"  
269. Morial, Marc Haydel  
270. Morris, Edward H.  
271. Morris, William R.  
272. Morris, Jr., Herman  
273. Morris, Sr., James Brad  
274. Morris, Sr., Robert  
275. Morrow, Everett Frederic  
276. Morton-Finney, John  
277. Moseley-Braun, Carol Elizabeth  
278. Mossell, II, Aaron Albert  
279. Moultrie, I. H. Carl  
280. Murphy, Harriett M.  
281. Murphy, Jr., William "Billy"  
282. Murphy, Sr., William H.  
283. Murray, Anna Pauline "Pauli"
-

- 
284. Murray, Sr., Donald Gaines
  285. Myers, John
  286. Nabrit, Jr., James Madison
  287. Nabritt, III, James Madison
  288. Napier, James Caroll
  289. Neal, Earl Langdon
  290. Nelson, Adrienne
  291. Nesbitt, George B.
  292. Newman, Jr., Theodore R.
  293. Nicholson, Odas
  294. Nix, Jr., Robert Nelson Cornelius
  295. Nix, Sr., Robert Nelson Cornelius
  296. Nix, Sr., Theophilus R.
  297. Nutter, Thomas Gillis
  298. Obama, Barack Husein
  299. Obama, Michelle Lavaughn Robinson
  300. Ogletree, Jr., Charles James
  301. O'Leary, Hazel Rollings Reid
  302. Ortique, Jr. Revius Oliver
  303. Overstreet, Morris L.
  304. Owens, Charles L.



**W**ILLIAM  
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](http://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.







## ALEXANDER ANTHONY FARRELLY

...was born on December 29, 1923 in Carlton, Frederiksted St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands to Mary Hardcastle Farrelly and Patrick Farrelly. He was the second of two boys born to the couple

and attended St. Patrick's Elementary and High School. The school was run by Catholic nuns and played trumpet as his instrumental requirement.

Farrelly's mother died when he was fourteen years old. His father's earnings from his manager's job at a sugar cane plantation in St. Croix were enough to keep the family together. Before completing high school, Farrelly left St. Croix moving to St. Thomas, Virgin Island to live with friends of the family where he completed his high school requirements. Although living in St. Thomas, his heart remained with his family back in St. Croix.

After completing his high school studies, Farrelly joined the United States Army. He was stationed in Puerto Rico before being shipped to New Orleans, Louisiana. He served during World War II and it was in New Orleans that he began to feel the effects of racism. Despite the treatment he received during the segregated South, he was determined to succeed. He completed his military duties and was honorably discharged from the Army in 1946. He left the Army having reached the rank of Sergeant.

Before leaving the military, Farrelly joined the Tau Club, a club made up of WWII Veterans. The club had a private building where veterans could convene, discuss common issues, and enjoy themselves alongside fellow comrades. The club would dissolve years later.

Farrelly then moved to New York to attend the St. John's University in Queens using his G.I. Bill to pay for his tuition. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1954 from St. Johns. He went on to receive a Master's degree in Law from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut in 1958.

After passing the New York State Bar exam, Farrelly worked as a private practicing attorney in New York City. He later began working for the United Nations as a Caribbean Area Specialist. After several years working in New York, Farrelly felt the Island calling him to return.

He returned to St. Croix and became involved in the local politics while representing local residents with the legal needs.

In 1987, Farrelly was elected as the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands. He served as the Governor for eight years. As Governor, Farrelly worked to increase affordable housing for the residents of the Island. He was able to purchase from the Danish government the West Indian Company and worked to increase the educational opportunities for Virgin Island school children.

In 1989, after Hurricane Hugo destroyed homes and business in the Virgin Islands, Farrelly was instrumental in the rebuilding of the Island. He was known for giving women positions in his administration and giving them administrative power to carry out tasks given. He gave women not only administrative positions but positions in the judiciary as well. He even hired women for his personal security detail.

In 1991, Farrelly married Joan Harrigan making her the territory's First Lady. She worked within his administration as the Director of the Coastal Zone Management in addition to her duties as First Lady. She worked on issues that empowered women and reduced the problems surrounding domestic violence, teenage pregnancies, and literacy amongst the young and older Virgin Island residents.

Alexander Anthony Farrelly died suddenly on September 10, 2002. He was seventy-eight years old.



## CHARLYE OLA FARRIS

...was born June 30, 1929 in Wichita Falls, Texas. Both of her parents were educators. Her mother was an elementary schoolteacher and her father was a Superintendent in the Texas Woodland Consolidated School District of Limestone County.

As one would expect, Charlye was a gifted student. She graduated as Valedictorian of her all-black Booker T. Washington High School at the age of fifteen in 1945. The Texas school districts did not integrate until forced to do so by the federal courts in 1969. At the age of eighteen, she graduated from Texas' Prairie View A&M College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

After earning her undergraduate degree, to appease her parents, she taught third and fourth grade elementary school for one year in Stamford, located in west central Texas two hours away from Wichita Falls. She then decided to pursue a law degree, which at the time was viewed as a "man's job", to the dismay of her parents.

At that time, there were no African American women licensed attorneys in the state of Texas. The only law school in Texas that admitted blacks to study law was the newly created Texas State University for Negroes in Houston, renamed in 1951 as Texas Southern University, and admission was very difficult. Seeing that her chances of admission were slim, Farris moved to Denver, Colorado and applied for admission there. She was accepted and spent one year at the law school.

After her first year in Denver, Farris transferred to Howard University in Washington, D.C. to complete her studies at its' law school. There, she was surrounded by some of the most brilliant law minds that the country had to offer. In her final year of studies, she and her civil rights class were able to help in laying out the foundation for the legendary civil rights case of *Brown v. Board of Education* led by esteemed lawyers, George E.C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, and James M. Nabrit, Jr., as they practiced their dry runs to the class.

After completing her requirements at Howard in 1953, Farris received her law degree and returned to Texas. She passed the state Bar exam in October of that year after reading so in the local newspaper. Her father, now very proud, drove her to Austin, Texas to witness her being sworn in as the first African American woman to be licensed to practice law in the state of Texas.

She returned with her father to Wichita Falls and began to practice law. She was the first woman to practice in the County of Wichita. Her beginning practice was not without turmoil. She had to suffer indignities, as did the other black attorneys, such as separate drinking fountains and restrooms. She could not attend the local Bar association meetings as they were held in segregated hotels. As a woman, she would have to prove her worth far more than any man had to, either black or white.

Despite these setbacks, Farris worked diligently for her clients and soon won a reputation as a tireless and brilliant legal mind. For her dogged efforts, in 1954, she was unanimously elected by the members of the Wichita County Bar Association to serve as a Special Wichita

County Judge (County Judge Pro-Tem). With her appointment, Farris became the first African American to serve as a Judge since Reconstruction in any capacity. In announcing her appointment, the local newspaper ran an article about her accomplishments but here picture was not included as the paper's policy was not to print photographs of African Americans in the newspaper.

Not being able to lease property in the downtown area until after the 1964 Civil Rights Act was passed, Farris' early offices were on the city's east side near the railroad tracks. A humble beginning but one well worth the effort, with the new desegregation laws being implemented, she moved her offices downtown where she would operate for the next forty years. With the passage of the Civil Rights Acts, Farris turned her attention to housing and rental property issues involving blacks being denied access to property, as she had been when she began her practice.

Farris then filed a suit, *Billouin v. City of Wichita Falls*, in Wichita County's 30th District Court aimed at ending discriminatory practices in the buying and rental of homes and offices by African Americans. This suit also included hotels that implored white only policies for hotel stays and had restrictive covenants that prohibited anyone not Caucasian to attend meetings being held in their hotels. Farris fought to end these practices.

In her efforts to end the restrictive covenants, Farris used the same covenants to obtain an injunctive relief for a neighbor against a Wichita police officer who wanted to house his police dog in the neighborhood. The injunction kept the police officer from building a doghouse in the neighborhood. Because dogs had been used to terrorize African Americans in their civil rights pursuits, police dogs were a symbol of attack to her neighborhood and she was not in tune with that. She performed the casework for the injunction pro bono.

In 1973, Farris was selected as an Acting District Judge of the 78th District Court in Wichita County. She became the Chairperson of the District 14-A Grievance Committee of the State Bar of Texas. She also became a member of the Board of Directors of the Wichita County Bar Association and the Board of Regents of Midwestern State University in her hometown of Wichita Falls.

Farris is a former Trustee and member of the Gilbert C.M.E. Church of Wichita Falls.

For her many legal achievements on behalf of the residents of Texas, the Wichita County Bar Association created a scholarship in her honor that helps potential law studies attend college. The Wichita Falls School District named an elementary school in her and her mother's name. Farris has received many awards and recognitions for her dedicated service including one from the National Bar Association that honors outstanding women lawyers in the field of law. She was also awarded the "Outstanding Fifty-Year Lawyer Award" by the Texas State Bar Foundation.

Farris has led a legal career that has been both honorable and courageous. Having bridged a gap between African American women lawyers and the legal profession itself, her legacy is equivalent to that of the most successful and storied male attorneys to ever have practiced. Up until the time of her death, Farris's work never diminished and her resolve for equal access and equitable fairness never wavered.

Charlye Ola Farris died on February 18, 2010. She was eighty-seven years old.



**L** INNES  
FINNEY, JR.

...is a native Milledgeville, Georgia and graduated from of Baldwin High School in 1975. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro,

Georgia. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida in 1982. While earning his law degree, Finney served as President of the Black Law Students Association and was the recipient of the College of Law Student Leadership Award.

After passing the Florida State Bar exam, Finney entered private practice. Over several decades, he serviced local Florida residents in the legal needs. He later became a partner in the law firm of Gary, Williams, Finney, Lewis, Watson & Sperando, P.L. located in Stuart, Florida. There he litigated a broad range of cases involving class action suits, commercial and international litigation, personal injury and wrongful death cases, medical malpractice, and product liability.

In 2006, Finney was elected as the 64th President of the National Bar Association (NBA). The NBA is the oldest and largest national legal association of predominately African American lawyers and judges in the United States and has over 45,000 judges, lawyers, law clerks, and law students in its' membership. As President, he focused on the voting and election process, helping middle school students remain in school and hopefully pursue a legal career, and Hurricane Katrina relief.

Finney, in his role as President of the NBA, was charged with ensuring the organization's initiatives and programs grew. The NBA's award-winning Crump Law Camp, the MLK Advocacy Competition for high school students, and the organization's judicial evaluations and reviews processes, were all programs that Finney gave his time to. His commitment and determination to increase the effectiveness of the programs of the organization made him an excellent manager to those involved in the programs but also the members at large.

Finney has devoted great time to ensure that the voting rights of Florida citizens and those of the entire nation are protected. He has fought for fair elections, addressing his concerns to state legislatures and local civic leaders

in the voting districts throughout Florida and states where issues involving fraudulent voting laws have been enacted. As President of the National Bar Association, Finney gave great support to the organization's "Election Protection" program.

Finney, in association with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the People for the American Way, and other organizations interested in voting rights regulations and election processes, disseminated information aimed at informing voters of their rights and privileges in voting. He lobbied and assisted in the training of thousands of poll monitors and called upon lawyers across the country to inform their constituents, clients and local civic leaders on election laws. Finney, in his resolve to ensure voting was fair, in one of the Florida elections, he planned to man a command center for the Florida election organizers.

Finney currently serves is a member of Greenspoon Marder's Personal Injury practice group. Finney specializes in the areas of commercial litigation, general civil litigation, personal injury, product liability, and police misconduct.

Finney has been called upon to speak as a lecturer to many law schools and legal organizations across the country. He is a mentor to young lawyers and plays a substantive role in their legal development. He is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and serves as the organization's Southern Province Polemarch. He represents the Southern region for the fraternity, which includes the areas of Alabama, Florida, the Bahamas, Panama, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For the organization, Finney also serves as a Board of Directors member. In addition, he serves as General Counsel for the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation, which oversees the fraternity's philanthropic affairs.

Finney is a member of Trial Lawyer's Section to the Florida Bar Association and served as a member of the Executive Council. He is a member of the Florida Academy of Trial Lawyers and the Academy of Trial Lawyers of America. He has served as a member of the Florida Association for Community Action, Fort Pierce Teen Center Advisory Council, and as a Trustee of the Board and former Chairman to the United Way of St. Lucie County. In addition, Finney is a lifetime member of the NAACP.





## ADA LOIS SIPUEL FISHER

...was born February 8, 1924 in Chickasha, Oklahoma to Martha Belle Smith and Rev. Travis B. Sipuel. She graduated as Valedictorian of her senior class at from Lincoln High School in 1941. She matriculated to Arkansas A&M College in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. After a year

of studies, she decided to return to Oklahoma and enrolled into Langston University, in Langston, Oklahoma where she earned her undergraduate degree in 1944, with honors, majoring in English. While at Langston, she married her husband, Warren Fisher. She also became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Wanting to go to law school, Fisher knew she would have to leave the state in order to do so, as Oklahoma had no law school that admitted black students. Instead, they paid a stipend to the black students to attend law school in out-of-state colleges and universities that admitted blacks to their respective law schools. Fortunately for her, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was making a big legal push to integrate all-white state universities and their law schools across the country. The NAACP recruited Fisher to challenge admission to the Oklahoma University School of Law (OU). She gladly accepted and applied.

Fisher applied and was accepted by then President Dr. George Lynn Cross. The state statues of Oklahoma, however, prohibited blacks and white to attend classes together and professors were prohibited from teaching a mixed-race class. In addition, a per-day fine of \$50 was imposed on a professor who taught a mixed-race class and the students were fined \$20 per-day if they attended a mixed-race class.

On April 6, 1946, with the help of the NAACP and local leaders, Fisher filed suit in the Cleveland County District Court. Although represented by future U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, the three-year battle did not end well for Fisher. Losing she appealed to Oklahoma Supreme Court. She lost again, with the Court ruling that Oklahoma's that the segregated laws affecting Oklahoma's education did not violate the United States Constitution. Fisher then filed her complaint, "Sipuel v. Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma that Oklahoma", with the U.S. Supreme Court. Fisher's case would help set precedent for landmark "Brown v. Board of Education".

Fisher was victorious and won a verdict directing that the University provide to Fisher the same educational opportunities that they would provide to any student attending the University. The U.S. Supreme Court remanded to the Cleveland County District Court to process the ruling. Oklahoma University was not happy with the ruling.

Rather than co-mingle a black student with a white student at OU, the University created a separate law school just for Fisher. In short order, the Langston University School of Law was created. Classes were held in a Senate room at the State Capitol. Fisher ob-

jected to the separate classes and filed a motion to the Court citing unequal and unfair education facilities and the quality of the education she would receive was subpar to that gotten by the white students.

Fisher again lost with the Court decision. The Cleveland County District Court ruled that the education and facilities offered to Fisher by OU were "equal" to that which they provided to all other students. Fisher filed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the Lower Courts ruling.

Fishers' team, still not satisfied, prepared to make a second filing to the U.S. Supreme Court. Not wanting to face the nine Supreme Court Justices on the same issue, Oklahoma Attorney General Mac Q. Williamson decided not to fight and relented. On June 18, 1949, Fisher was admitted to the University of Oklahoma School of Law. She became the first African American woman to be admitted to the law school. Twelve days later, Langston University was closed.

Welcomed but unwelcomed, Fisher focused on her studies. Despite having to sit in a part of the room marked "colored", black students had separate eating halls and restrooms. There were separate reading areas in the library and the football game had a roped off area that blacks could stand.

Although Fisher had ended segregation at OU's Law School, its' Graduate School was still segregated. Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP recruited George W. McLaurin to challenge admission. A case was filed, "McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents", alleging unconstitutional "equal" educational opportunities. This case, too, would reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

Two years later, On June 4, 1950, the Court ruled that OU's "separate but equal" was in violation of the U.S. Constitution and therefore they must provide not separate, but equal educational opportunities to all students. Not having the finances to create a separate graduate school as they had done in the Fisher case, OU decided to reverse itself and to begin to admit black students. McLaurin won the doors were opened to African American students wanting attend graduate school at OU.

Fisher would be awarded her law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in August of 1952. She became the first African American and first African American woman to graduate from the Law School. To further her education, she would go on to earn a Master's degree in History at the University.

Fisher practiced law for a short period in her hometown of Chickasha before accepting a faculty position at Langston University in 1957. She became Chair of the Department of Social Sciences and by the time she retired in 1987, she had become Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In 1992, then Governor David Walters symbolically appointed Fisher to the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. The University of Oklahoma awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters and a garden on campus was named in her honor, The Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Garden. The Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame posthumously inducted her as a member.

Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher died on October 18, 1995. She was seventy-one years old.



**MILTON  
F.  
"TOBY"  
FITCH, JR.**

...was born on October 20, 1946 in Wilson, North Carolina to Cora Whitted Fitch and Lilton F. Fitch, Sr.. He grew up in a family devoted to civil rights reform and the protection of the black communities. His father was Milton F. Fitch, Sr., the Field Coordinator for the Southern

Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As a young boy, he would travel across the state with his father and other civil rights activists participating in demonstrations and protests of the conditions of the blacks in North Carolina. They would make regular trips to Beaufort County, Henderson County, Hyde County, Person County, and any other county that needed their help. His father became the first African American letter carrier in the city of Wilson since Reconstruction when he successfully sued the federal government in a discrimination suit.

Fitch, affectionately known as Toby, grew up in the 1960s when the civil rights movement was at its' height. As did many, Fitch had his share of racial experiences that left a mark on psyche. One such experience happened in 1964 when he and another Wilson youth attended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Washington, D.C. National Convention. At the convention, he witnessed racism at the highest level.

In an attempt to disrupt the convention, white supremacist George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, released white mice into the convention crowd during a banquet at The Statler Hotel, now The Capital Hilton. He witnessed convention goers being harassed in the streets of Washington as hundreds of NAACP delegates and supporters marched from the hotel to the United States Justice Department in protest of the murders of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner killed Mississippi earlier that year after going to Mississippi to investigate voting rights irregularities in the states elections. It was there that Fitch knew that his calling was to do something about the situation that black people faced during the turbulent 1960s.

After graduating from Charles H. Darden High School, Fitch attended North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina where he received his undergraduate degree in 1969. He remained at NCCU to obtain his law degree, which he was awarded in 1972. While attending law school at NCCU, Fitch served as one of the schools football coaches.

From 1969 through 1973, Fitch coached football at NCCU as the Defensive Coordinator and Defensive Line Coach. During the 1972 and 1973 football seasons, thanks to his defensive coordination, the team won the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Football Championship. That year's team, nicknamed the "Wrecking Crew," was ranked Number 1 in the MEAC both years. They were ranked Number 1 in pass interceptions.

The team appeared in two post-season games, the Boardwalk Bowl and the first Pelican Bowl. During his coaching tenure, Fitch

trained and produced several standout football players, including two Kodak All-Americans, Maurice Spencer and Charles "Bubba" Smith. He coached Alexander Jones, a MEAC Defensive Player of the Year, nine First Team All-MEAC selections, two Second Team All-MEAC selections, two players selected to play in the Black College All-Star Game, and four NCCU Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees. Nine of these players played professionally in the National Football League.

Fitch, to ensure that his players were not stigmatized as "dumb jocks" interacted with school instructors and professors to ensure his student athletes attended class and kept library books in his office so that both freshman and upper class athletes could study together and mentor each other. He stressed life after football and built character in his players to ensure they could make positive contributions to the society in the future.

In 1975, Fitch turned his attention to law. He opened a law firm, Fitch, Butterfield, and Sumner where he took on general practice law cases. The firm took on cases involving voter registration rights and the equalization of public services and accommodations. They fought the sanitation department for equal trash pickup, the recreation department over equal public swimming pools, and equal employment in city and state hiring.

In 1985, Fitch was elected to serve in the North Carolina General Assembly where he would serve for nearly nineteen years. While serving in the Assembly, he became the Second Majority Whip. In that role, he became the first African American to preside over the North Carolina House.

In 2001, then Governor Mike Easley appointed Fitch as a Judge to the North Carolina Superior Court. In the upcoming election, he was elected to a full term. His eight-year term expires in 2018. He will retire at the mandatory age of seventy-two. He will have served the citizens of North Carolina for thirty-six years.

For his service to the people he represented and having the respect of his peers, in 2003, Fitch was named as the Grandmaster of Prince Hall Masons of North Carolina. He was the first African American to be named to the post. He and his father are the only people in the history of the organization to hold the highest position within the organization as father and son. Unfortunately, less than a month after being named Grandmaster, Fitch suffered a fatal heart attack.

When Fitch took over as Grandmaster, the Lodge was nearly \$1 million in debt. Realizing that this debt came in a large part from the amount of money that the organization and its' sister organization, the Order of the Eastern Star, spent the state of North Carolina on hotels and conferences, he began a campaign to construct their own multipurpose grand lodge. He set about to repair the organization's credit and to build a reserve. He also set a committee to search for land on which to build the lodge.

A man who demanded excellence, Fitch was able to get the other mason organization in North Carolina to sign a resolution that recognized the other. With that recognition, Fitch was able to lobby white supporters to find increased revenue and to help segregate the mason organizations. The agreement, signed in the old House of Representative chambers of the State Capitol, ended 138 years of separation.

Milton F. "Toby" Fitch, Jr. currently serves on the North Carolina Superior Court through 2018 when he is set to retire.



## CORNELIUS C. FITZGERALD

...was born on September 29, 1863 in Jonesboro, Tennessee to Mary A. (Ford) Fitzgerald and Joseph M. Fitzgerald. After completing high school, he attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee before

completing his undergraduate work at Berea College in Berea, Tennessee.

Prior to obtaining his law degree, Fitzgerald spent time in Kansas and Oklahoma, then Indian Territory before returning east to Washington, D.C. to accept a job with the federal government. While working in Washington, he enrolled into the Howard University School of Law where he received his LL.B. degree in 1892.

After receiving his law degree, Fitzgerald moved to Tennessee where he opened a law office to begin his legal career. After one year, he again returned east and opened a law office in Baltimore, Maryland where he would practice law for the next forty-two years. He was admitted to the Maryland State Bar in 1893.

Arriving in Baltimore, Fitzgerald soon met Gertrude Smith. The two would wed in 1897. They had one son, John McFarland Fitzgerald. The family settled into West Baltimore, the most prominent section of the city for African Americans.

Fitzgerald set up offices at 215 St. Paul Place, which became the central area for legal practitioners due to its' closeness to the courthouse. He focused his attention to estate and real estate law. Most African American lawyers at that time entered into these two areas of law at that time. He became successful in the profession, as he worked with noted Baltimore African American attorneys, W. Ashbie Hawkins, George M. Lane, and Warner T. McGuinn. He also served as co-counsel to cases with prominent white attorney Charles F. Stein.

Having an entrepreneurial spirit, Fitzgerald also served as a public notary and as an insurance specialist. He entered into a business arrangement with his brother James, and the two purchased 1.35 acres of land in nearby Anne Arundel County, which the state of Maryland later bought from them in order to build a parkway, the

Baltimore-Washington Parkway, to make commuting between the two cities easier.

Fitzgerald was a member of the Republican Party. He was also a member of the Colored Business Men's Exchange, which was established to promote the business activities and mutual well being of African American businessmen in Baltimore. He was a 33rd degree Mason and a member of the Order of Good Hope and the Order of Moses.

Fitzgerald was on the Board of Trustees to the African American Providence Hospital and served as its' President. He gave time to the Big Brother Movement and the YMCA. He was a major contributor to the Maryland Home for the Friendless. Fitzgerald also was a member of the Madison Street Presbyterian Church.



## LAVINIA MARIAN FLEMING-POE

...was born on August 13, 1890 in Newport News, Virginia. She completed her beginning formal education at segregated schools in Newport News. After graduating from high school, Fleming found

work before continuing her higher learning education.

In 1910, Fleming worked as a stenographer for E.C. Brown, the President of the Crown Savings Bank. Brown was an African American banker, a notary, and a real estate agent. A year later, she married Abram James Poe who worked as a waiter. Together, they had two children, Florence Alice and Abram, Jr.. She then obtained a job working in the law office of African American, Thomas Newsome. It was while working for Newsome that Fleming-Poe decided to become a lawyer.

At that time, there were only a few law schools that Fleming-Poe could apply as the three top Virginia schools, the University of Virginia, the University of Richmond, and Washington and Lee University, all excluded African Americans from attending their law schools. She decided to move her and her children several hours north to Washington, D.C. where she enrolled into Howard University's School of Law. She received her law degree from Howard in 1925. She passed the Virginia bar that same year as one of the first African American women to be admitted to the bar of any Southern state.

Fleming-Poe opened a law practice in her hometown of Newport News as one of the very few African American attorneys practicing in the city. As a member of the Eta Pi Sigma Chapter of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., she became a legal representative for the organization. She then took on a role as a mentor to other young African American women wishing to enter the legal profession.

Fleming-Poe became a charter member of the Old Dominion Bar Association, founded as a vehicle for African American attorneys to close ranks around. She served as the association's Secretary. She then joined the National Bar Association (NBA) and served as an Assistant Secretary for the national organization. At the sorority's Ninth Annual Convention, Fleming-Poe was asked to address

the membership where she delivered a stirring speech on "Women's Contribution to the Bench and Bar".

Fleming-Poe also served as the Delegate to the National Convention of the National Association of Women Lawyers, a biracial but predominantly white association. As a member, she supported the organization's work in attracting more African American women, particularly Virginia's African American women. She spent the remainder of her legal career, working on behalf of African American concerns and to establish the working rights of other lawyers while serving the community in which she lived.

Fleming-Poe was a member of the First Baptist Church of Newport News and taught Sunday school at the church. She owned the building where she lived and operated her law practice from. She was active in local civic and community organizations working to make the community a better place in which to live.

Fleming-Poe died on March 20, 1974. She was eighty-three years old.



## W. HAROLD FLOWERS, SR.

...was born on October 16, 1911 in Stamps, Arkansas to Beulah Sampson Sampson and Alonza (sometimes spelled Alonzo) Williams Flowers, Jr.. His mother was a schoolteacher and his father ran a small business. Of his two brothers, he was the eldest.

At the age of sixteen, Flowers witnessed the lynching of John Carter in Little Rock, Arkansas. The year was 1927. Racial tensions were already high in Little Rock but after the dead body of a twelve-year old white girl had been found in a church, the tensions grew even more intense. A janitor and his half-white son were arrested. Several days later, John Carter, an African American, was accused of assaulting a white woman and her daughter in the area. A lynch mob formed, found Carter, and hung him from a telephone pole, shot him, dragged his body through the streets before burning his body in public view. Seeing this, the young Flowers vowed to fight for civil rights and that incident set in motion his path to becoming a lawyer.

He attended elementary and high school in the public schools of Stamps. He received his law degree from the Robert H. Terrell Law School in Washington, D.C.. He was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in 1935 and opened his offices in Pine Bluff Arkansas.

Flowers began his private practice law career taking on civil rights cases. In 1940, he organized the Committee on Negro Organizations (CNO). The organization was intended to focus on the concerns of ordinary everyday black people as many of the other main stream civil rights groups focused on larger issues involving the black community including school integration, transportation discrimination, and/or hotel and restaurant desegregation.

Flower's CNO in its' beginning was looked at suspiciously but soon received community support as it looked at local issues of public works employment and youth concerns. He launched political campaigns aimed at ending the poll taxes that prohibited many blacks from being able to vote. He gave special attention to the banning of African American participation in the National Youth Administration.

For his efforts, Flower's was able to have the first African American census taker hired in St. Francis County. His efforts in the voting rights agenda caused the number of African American eligible voters to rise from 1.5 percent to 17.3 percent within six years. For the local schoolteachers, he sued the school district for equal pay for their services.

In 1941, Flowers lobbied Arkansas Governor Carl Edward Bailey to provide out-of-state tuition for African American graduates students as the state of Arkansas did not provide integrated schools for African American students to attend. At the same time other attorneys, including Scipio Jones, were pressuring the University of Arkansas in the courts to open admissions to African American students. Flowers and Jones' lobbying paid off when the state Universi-

ty began to provide financial assistance to students who were able to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C. and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the United States. Soon thereafter, the Arkansas state government began to offer financial assistance to African American students seeking higher education.

In 1946, Flowers was elected as President of the Pine Bluff branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also served as the President of the state Conference of Branches. With the help of the NAACP, he took on the case involving integrated the law schools in the state of Arkansas.

In 1947, Flowers took on the case of two brothers who stood accused of killing two white men. With death sentences hanging over their heads, Flowers was successful in winning commutations for the two men. In the case, he demanded that the jury be comprised of black jurors and was awarded his request for the trial. His insistence of black jurors was pivotal in winning the case, as that was the first time since Reconstruction that blacks had served on a jury in Arkansas.

In 1948, with assistance from fellow lawyers from the (NAACP), Flower's was successful in another suit when the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville opened their law school to its' first African American student, Silas H. Hunt. The University became the first higher learning institution in the state of Arkansas to admit African American students voluntarily. Five other students, affectionately called "The Six Pioneers" would be admitted to the law school.

In 1949, Flowers filed suit against Arkansas' DeWitt County Public Schools. That suit was later incorporated into the legendary 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas that abolished segregation in public education across the United States. For the next three decades, Flowers would devote his time to the concerns of the African American communities throughout Arkansas.

He would litigate cases aimed at ending discrimination in other areas that involved African American's disenfranchisement and unequal practices throughout Arkansas. In his pursuit of teaming with other attorneys and his ideals, Flowers has been given credit for the re-establishing of a black attorneys organization, the Wonder State Bar Association, which had lain dormant for ten years. The organization would later rename itself in Flower's honor, "W. Harold Flowers Law Society." In 1953, he became the President of the National Bar Association.

In 1969, Flowers became an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. In 1978, he became Co-Pastor of a church in Little Rock, Arkansas. He would serve as Co-Pastor for three years.

For his dedicated service to the citizens of Arkansas, Flowers was rewarded when in 1977, he was appointed as a Special State Circuit Judge. He became the first African American appointed to the Jefferson County Court. He would serve on the Court for three years. In 1980, then Governor Bill Clinton appointed Flowers to the State Court of Appeals as an Associate Justice.

W. Harold Flowers, Sr. died on April 7, 1990. He was eighty-nine years old. He is buried in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens.



## TIYÉ FOLEY

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree and her Bachelor of Science degree in 2009 from Rice University in Houston, Texas. She majored in Mechanical Engineering and earned a minor in Hispanic Studies. She

obtained her law degree from the University Of Texas School Of Law in Austin, Texas in 2013.

After passing the Texas State Bar exam, she took a job as a clerk with ExxonMobil although she only remained with the company for a year. She then took a position with the law firm of Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams with headquarters in Galveston, Texas where she served as an associate attorney. She remained with the law firm for almost two years.

In 2015, Foley was offered a practicing attorney position with the firm, Baker Donelson. The firm's headquarters are located in Memphis, Tennessee. Her specialty lies in litigating cases involving intellectual property.

When she is not practicing law, Foley serves as a blogger for, Fashion de Jure, her own blog, which showcases women's fashions and works to bring empowerment to women. Her fashion tips help women in their appearances both in the courtroom, in the professional and corporate offices, and in their personal styles and social environments. Foley uses Fashion de Jure as a vehicle to inspire young women and inner city girls to be proud of their beauty and female independence.

Foley 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 Foley 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 ath-

lete 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.

Foley volunteers her time to the Legal Redress Committee and is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Houston branch. She serves on the Cause Civil Rights and Social Action Committee. She also gives of her time to mentor younger up and coming lawyers and those still in law school.



## GEORGE L. FORBES

...was born on April 4, 1931 in Memphis, Tennessee to Eleanor and Cleveland Forbes. Raised in a sharecropper family, when he was old enough, he joined the United States Marine Corps. He then attended college on the government sanctioned G.I. Bill and attended Baldwin-Wallace College in

Berea, Ohio where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1957. He then attended Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland, Ohio where he earned his J.D. degree in 1961. He passed the bar the same year and began his career in practicing law.

In 1953, he was elected to the Cleveland City Council representing Ward 27. Of the thirty seats on the Council, ten were African American. He, along with the other African Americans serving on the Council, worked to ensure that the black constituents that elected them were represented when it came to housing, employment, and political representation. Forbes was instrumental in the election of Carl Stokes, Cleveland's first African American Mayor and any major city in the United States.

In 1967, Forbes became the Chairman of "Operation Registration", which targeted African Americans in Cleveland in a voter registration campaign. Having been re-elected to his Council seat each time he ran, in 1973, Forbes was elected as Council President. He would serve as President for fifteen years holding unprecedented power. Some felt he had too much power, and pushed back.

Forbes was a passionate, outspoken man with unyielding power in the community as well as the political arena. As a Democrat, his concern for the poor and disenfranchised showed in the support he gave to fellow political figures and their platforms. He stood against banking interests when it came to city finances and would stand his ground for the beliefs he endorsed. This was evident, as he had heated exchanges with his colleagues, a few which turned physical.

In 1971, Forbes and several other attorneys opened a law firm, Rogers, Horton & Forbes. The firm became the largest minority-owned law firm in the state of Ohio. It operates today as Forbes, Fields & Associates Co., L.P.A..

In 1973, Forbes was elected as City Council President. He became the first African American to hold this position. He would serve as President for the next fifteen years. He would also be instrumental in negotiating the merger between the Cleveland Transit System, which was owned by the City of Cleveland and the privately held Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.

Rising in power and community leadership, he turned his attention to a few business interests. He became part owner of a popular radio station, WERE, which was converted into an all-talk show. Unfortunately, the talk format was not supported and the station was sold. During his time as City Council President, the City of Cleveland had to file bankruptcy, unable to pay its' bills.

In 1979, Forbes was brought up on charges having eleven counts of bribery, extortion, and theft in office. The charges were associated with alleged kickbacks in a gambling scheme. Forbes was ultimately acquitted of the charges.

In 1989, Forbes entered the race for the Mayor's job running against his own protégé, Michael R. White. Supposedly great friends and aligned colleagues, the campaign was and ugly and highly contested one. With both candidates hurling accusations and slurs against the other, White came out victorious. With his defeat, Forbes graciously congratulated White on his win, and left politics for private practice.

Several years later, Forbes became quite visible again when he was selected as the President of the Cleveland chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1995, then Governor Victor Voinovich named Forbes to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC). His tenure at the Bureau was marred with controversy and he was removed from his position in 2005 after it was discovered that his daughter whose company, MDL Capital Management, had been hired to manage a Bermuda-based hedge fund and the firm had mismanaged it losing \$216 million.

Forbes pled guilty on July 5, 2007 to ethics charges related to the BWC management. He was convicted of filing false financial disclosure statements and conflicts of interest. It was revealed that he had accepted gifts from investment brokers either doing business or seeking to do business with the BWC. Forbes was fined \$6,000, ordered to repay the same amount to the BWC and given 60 hours of community service.

In October of 2008, Forbes received a public reprimand recommendation by the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Ohio Supreme Court. Instead, the Ohio Supreme Court called for Forbes to be sanctioned. He received a six-month suspension of his law license if and only if he committed further misconduct.

In 2008, Forbes rebounded from the BWC debacle when he negotiated a deal between African American ministers and supporters of Cleveland's Domestic Partner Registry ordinance. The ministers were in support of repealing the ordinance. Forbes was able to convince them to drop their efforts.

During his lengthy legal career, Forbes served on several Boards. He served on the Board of Directors of the Businessmen's Interracial Committee on Community Affairs, the Cleveland Chapter of The National Urban League, the Council of Economic Opportunity, the John Harlan Law Club, and the National Association of Defense Lawyers for Criminal Cases. Despite his controversial career, Forbes is respected amongst many of his peers for the power he obtained and those that he helped to political seats that helped the City of Cleveland rebound from its financial woes. He has been honored as a recipient of the Louis Stokes Community Visionary Award and the City Council, in his honor, renamed their kids Highland Hills free overnight summer and winter camp for after him. The NAACP awarded him their Freedom Award and Cleveland State University honored Forbes with the Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition, Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio awarded Forbes an Honorary Doctorate degree in 1989.

Despite the many ups and downs of his career, George L. Forbes continues to practice law and work for the constituents he serves.



## G ERALDINE BLED SOE FORD

...was born on November 5, 1926 in Detroit, Michigan to Mamie Geraldine Bledsoe and Harold E. Bledsoe. Her mother was a political activist and an official with the Michigan Employment Security Commission.

She was also elected to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. Her father was a successful local civil rights attorney and activist. Ford grew up in a household that was full of political discourse with topics ranging from civil rights, the law, politics, and community awareness. It was not unusual for the family to have dinner guests from civil rights leaders and national activists to famous entertainers and international strategists.

Ford attended Detroit's Northern High School graduating in 1944. She was selected as one of the top students in the United States and given an opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House as a reward for her academic achievements. She enrolled into the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948. She then attended Wayne State University in Detroit to earn her law degree in 1951.

To begin her legal career, she joined the law firm, Bledsoe, Ford and Bledsoe, which belonged to her father. Her brother later joined the firm as well. After learning and applying the rules of law taught by her father, in 1962, Ford accepted a position as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. She would later be appointed as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit. She would be the first African American woman to serve in that capacity.

In 1964, Ford was appointed as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit. In 1966, she ran for the Judge's seat on the Detroit Recorder's Court. No other African American woman had ever been elected to the Court. No other African American woman had been appointed to such a lofty position without having prior experience in the lower Courts. Despite her beginning inexperience, her campaign was vigorous and her legal case credentials were unquestionable. In each election

for the next thirty-three years, she would lead the ballots and be re-elected in each election held. In 1999, the Detroit Recorder's Court would be reorganized, and Ford was named as a Judge to the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan where she would serve for an additional year before retiring.

Although Judge Bledsoe was called "Mean Geraldine" because of the tough sentences that she handed out to violators of the law, she did have a softer side in her interpretations of the law. Many attorneys would agree that she was extremely strict, especially if an attorney was not prepared in their cases. In her rulings, her focus on affirmative action at the local Universities showed her concern for African American students and their futures in law. For young African American girls and women, she was a role model that gave them hope and aspirations to achieve goals that may seem unachievable. Indeed, Judge Ford was a no nonsense type of Judge but her decisions and rulings were fair and just.

Judge Ford has been awarded many congratulatory honors before and after her retirement for her many years serving Detroit and Wayne County Michigan. For her service, Detroit's Wayne State University awarded her with their Distinguished Black Alumni Award. Honoring her for becoming the first African American and African American woman to serve as President of their Alumni Association, the University of Michigan Alumni Association, which has memberships exceeding 400,000 members, gave her their Spirit of Michigan Award and Alma College in Alma, Michigan bestowed upon her an Honorary Doc Doctor of Law Degree. In addition, just as her mother had been years before, in 2004, Judge Bledsoe was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

Geraldine Bledsoe Ford died on October 5, 2003. She was seventy-six years old.



**J**OHN  
MARSHALL  
"JACK"  
FORD

...was born on May 18, 1947 in Springfield, Ohio to Edna and Stanton Ford. When he was only six weeks old, his parents separated to later divorce. His mother would marry to a John Watkins and they had one son, Bruce.

Ford's mother worked Wittenberg University in Springfield as a cook in a fraternity house. Knowing she had children, fraternity members would give her books that she brought home for Ford. Those books gave him a voracious reading habit.

Ford attended Springfield South High where he was a standout student athlete. On the school's football team, he was a star guard, which won him a scholarship to Ohio State University in Columbus (OSU). His coach was the legendary Woody Hayes. In his sophomore year, he suffered a career ending injury, which in the long run, ended up being a blessing in disguise. He would receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work in 1969.

He would enroll into the University of Toledo's Law School in Toledo, Ohio, where he would earn Master of Arts degree in Public Administration. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1975. While in college, because of his avid love of reading, Ford was given the nickname of "The Professor".

Leaving school, Ford took on a variety of jobs including working as a youth counselor and the Director of a drug-treatment program. His professional career took a foothold when he accepted a teaching job at the University of Toledo. Rather than be on the outside picketing for equal rights, he wanted to be on the inside, fighting the same battle but from within the guidelines of the law. He would teach at the university for twenty-two years. He also taught at Bowling Green State University, in Bowling Green, Ohio and Owens Community College in Perrysburg, Ohio.

In 1987, in his first attempt at elected office, Ford easily won a seat on the Toledo City Council winning sixty percent of the vote. He was re-elected to the Council in the next general election, again receiving the highest number of votes. In 1993, he was elected as President of the City Council.

In 1994, Ford left the City Council to fill a vacancy in the Ohio House of Representatives. Four years later, he won the position of House Minority Leader. With term-limits pro-

hibiting him from remaining in the House, Ford decided to run for Mayor of Toledo, Ohio. With his victory, Ford became the fifty-seventh Mayor of Toledo and the first African American to hold the post.

Ford ran for a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives, where he would serve for seven years. For the last three, he served as the Leader of the House. In 2000, Ford was selected to be a speaker at the Democratic National Convention.

In 2002, Ford was elected as the Mayor of Toledo winning over friend and Democratic colleague, Carty Finkbeiner. Ford became Toledo's first African American Mayor with his win. Four years later, Finkbeiner would defeat Ford in the general election, a devastating blow to Ford's psyche and his power.

As Mayor, Ford formed CareNet to provide healthcare to the uninsured. He instituted a smoking ban in restaurants and public spaces and a domestic partnership program, long before it became fashionable or became a mainstream media topic. He changed the city's policies on procurement and the issuance of city contracts to ensure that minorities could get their fair share of the city's budgeted expenditures.

Ford improved city services from curb repair, housing ordinances, and road and highway improvements. He built the first wheelchair accessible playground for the disabled. Ford is credited with the establishment of the Toledo Youth Commission, designed to help the city's youth in developmental programs. He is responsible for the creation of an abatement program, a curfew for the youth, a drug paraphernalia law, and a medication program for the elderly. Ford also established two city-funded programs to combat drug and alcohol addiction.

After leaving office, Ford taught and wrote political articles for The Sojourner's Truth, Toledo's African American newspaper, where he found a platform to expose his political and social ideals. For many years, Ford would pen many controversial commentaries for Toledo's political community. In 2006, Ford returned to Bowling Green State University as a Practitioner-in-Residence for the school's College of Arts and Sciences. He also served as a professor in the Political Science Department.

A year later, Ford returned to Toledo and was elected to serve on the Toledo Board of Education. He would serve on the Board of Education until he made a run for the Toledo City Council. In 2013, Ford won a seat on the City Council and would serve on the Council, until his death.

John Marshall "Jack" Ford was a member of the Omega Psi Pi Fraternity. He died on March 21, 2015 from complications related to kidney disease. He was sixty-seven years old.



## ANTHONY RENARD FOXX

...was born April 30, 1971 in Charlotte, North Carolina. His mother, Laura Fox, raised him as a single mother with the help of his grandparents, Mary and James Foxx. He attended West Charlotte High School in 1989 before enrolling into Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina. At Davidson, Foxx served as the school's first African American student body President.

He graduated from Davidson in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. After winning a Root-Tilden Scholarship, the most prestigious public service scholarship at the New York University School of Law in New York City, Foxx earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1996. With his law degree in hand, Foxx returned to his hometown of Charlotte.

Back in Charlotte, Foxx took a job with the law firm of Smith, Helms, Mullis, and Moore. After spending a short time with the firm, he became a clerk for Judge National R. Jones of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio. He then accepted a position with the United States Department of Justice as a trial lawyer for the department's Civil Rights Division. He then served on the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

Foxx returned to Charlotte in 2001 to become the business litigator for Hunton & Williams, a firm served the financial services and energy technology industries. During his time at Hunton & Williams, Foxx served as the campaign manager for North Carolina House of Representative Mel Watt in his pursuit of a seat in the House. Watt was successful in his bid to the House. After working for Hunton & Williams for eight years, Foxx became the Deputy General Counsel for hybrid electric bus manufacturer, DesignLine Corporation. Years later, Foxx would be sued for \$420,000 by the Trustee for DesignLine claiming that Foxx did not adequately perform his job while working at the firm.

In 2005, Foxx ran and was elected to an At-Large seat to the Charlotte City Council. In the 2007 election, he was re-elected to a second term. While serving on the Council, Foxx served as the chair of the Transportation Committee. On the Committee, he was helpful in organizing a successful transportation bond package that was the most ambitious in the city's history.

Foxx also chaired the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization, which controlled the planning committees for the greater Charlotte metropolitan area. He implemented plans that allowed the city to establish record-breaking low interest rates, lower construction prices, and created new city construction projects without the need to raise taxes. He would remain on the Council until deciding to enter the race for Mayor of Charlotte.

In 2009, Foxx became the Mayor and quickly began to implement new city initiatives. He was the youngest Mayor to serve as the city's Mayor and would serve for four years. He was also the second African American to serve to the highest elected position in the city after Harvey Gantt. Foxx was the first Democrat to be elected Mayor since 1987.

As Mayor, Foxx faced almost a thirteen percent unemployment rate and immediately implemented policies to reduce that unemployment rate. He created over 4,000 new jobs, held town hall meetings for unemployed workers and called on local small business to hire the unemployed and to find ways to create new jobs for the unemployed. He initiated a recycling program and for environmental issues and pushed to reduce greenhouse gases. He also improved the regional transit plan for Charlotte and the surrounding area.

Foxx is credited with improvements at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport including the construction of a new runway. He led a Charlotte business leader's delegation to Washington, D.C. to meet with senior White House officials in an effort to increase spending measures by the U.S. Congress to expedite economic recovery for Charlotte. Their efforts paid off when three weeks later, then President Obama made a trip to Charlotte to meet with the staff of Duke Energy, the local energy supplier of electricity to the area, which resulted in a spike in positive job growth figures.

The Charlotte Streetcar Project was started by Foxx, which created a design-build-finance strategy to improve the outer belt loop of I-485. He extended the LYNX light rail system to make commuting and rail transportation easier for Charlotte residents.

In 2013, Foxx was nominated by then President Barack Obama as the seventeenth Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation. His confirmation was confirmed in a vote of 100-0. He would serve as Secretary for four years.

As Secretary, Foxx oversaw a \$70 billion budget having over 55,000 employees. As Transportation Secretary, he managed the regulations of air, land, and maritime transportation. At the 2014 Department of Transportation's 93rd Annual Transportation Research Board, Foxx acted as the Board's Chairman. Later that year, he announced seventy-two grants to be given under the Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program intended to fund rapid transit projects across the United States.

For his work as Secretary, Foxx was asked to give the keynote speech in Detroit, Michigan for the rail signing ceremony at Detroit's Grand Circus Park, the terminus for Detroit's new streetcar route. In 2015, Foxx was named the designated survivor for the U.S. Presidential State of the Union Address. The designated survivor or successors are housed at a separate secure location whenever the President, Vice President, and the other in-line successors to the President are all in one location, including meeting with Congress on Capitol Hill, as the State of the Union Address held with all members in attendance.

Foxx is married to Samara Ryder and has two children, Hillary and Zachary. Although, he works in Washington, D.C., Foxx's love for Charlotte will never diminish. Anthony Renard Foxx resides in Charlotte and commutes between Charlotte and Washington, D.C..





## NORMAN C. FRANCIS

...was born on March 20, 1931 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Raised in a poor family, neither of his parents graduated from high school. His father worked as a barber and because the family had no car, he rode a bicycle to work each day. Although they were poor and uneducated, Francis' par-

ents pushed him and his three sisters and a brother to get an education.

As a child, Francis attended local Catholic schools and because of his parent's insistence, he never missed school. In order to miss school, he would have to be seriously ill. As religious parents, they ensured that Francis and his siblings attended Sunday Mass regularly and were punctual in their attendance.

Francis graduated in 1948 from St. Paul High School. One of the Sisters that taught him in high school arranged for him to obtain a working scholarship to Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He worked in the University library repairing damaged books. By his senior year in college, he had become the night Supervisor of Library Services. While earning his undergraduate degree, Francis served as his class President each of his four years at Xavier. He was named to the schools Honor Roll and was active in the National Federation of Catholic Colleges.

In his senior year, he was elected as the student body President. He left Xavier in 1952 after completing his Bachelor of Science degree. He then enrolled into Loyola University New Orleans becoming the schools first African American student. He subsequently entered the schools law school where he received his J.D. degree in 1955. At the law school, he was one of the two first African American students to be admitted and the first African American student to graduate doing so with honors.

After completing law school, Francis enlisted into the military serving for two years. Returning from his Army duties, he took a job in the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Orleans wanting to help to integrate U.S. federal agencies. In his fight for integration, Francis became the Legal Counsel for the President of Xavier University's student body, Rudolph Lombard. Lombard had been arrested for attempting to eat at a local restaurant's lunch counter in protest of the segregated Jim Crow laws that existed at the time. Francis and Lombard were pivotal in the restaurant, McCrory's on Canal Street, ending their desegregation policies.

Although he had earned his law degree and was practicing law, Francis soon made a decision to forgo practicing law, instead turning his focus to education. He gave up his practice and returned to Xavier University in 1961. Because of his excellent academic record while studying at Xavier, the religious order that operated the school, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, offered him the position of Dean of men at the school. As Dean, he was instrumental in the University allowing the Freedom Riders use University housing facilities.

The Freedom Riders were a group of lawyers and activists that tested Louisiana's segregated railroad and bus transportation that prohibited blacks from riding on trains. The group was credited with helping to take the legendary Plessy case that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which changed federal laws in the transportation industry in the

United States. The group had been attacked in Anniston, Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama and had been flown to New Orleans by federal Marshals. Francis convinced the schools administrators to allow the group of activists to be boarded at Xavier.

By 1963, Francis had risen to the position of Director of Student Personnel Services. A year later, he was named as Assistant to the President. In 1967, he became the schools Executive Vice President.

In 1968, Francis was named as the President of Xavier University, the first lay or non-clergy President in the schools history. He also became the first male and the first African American to head the Catholic school. Whether by coincidence or God's will, Francis was named as the school's President on the same day that the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Francis would serve as President until 2015.

During the next forty-seven years, Francis would help Xavier University grow in size and academic excellence. The University would triple in student size, would create larger curriculums and would expand its' endowments to over \$160 million. Campus facilities would be improved and alumni giving would reach levels never thought achievable.

While serving as President of the University, Francis also served as Chairman of the Board of Educational Testing Service. He also served on the Board of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Southern Education Foundation. He served as President of the American Association of Higher Education and the United Negro College Fund. After the devastating effects of Hurricane Rita in 2005, Francis was called upon by then Governor Kathleen Blanco to serve as the Chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority charged by the state of Louisiana to develop plans for the rebuilding and recovery of Louisiana citizens and the state's infrastructure. Francis also was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Francis has been a member of many advisory committees and organizations. He has served as a member of the National Advisory Research Council of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, the National Assessment of Higher Education Program, and the National Commission on Excellence in Education. He has served on the Advisory Board of the Society of St. Joseph, the Board of Regents of Loyola University, the Board of Trustees of the Catholic University of America, the Executive Committee of the College and University Department of the National Catholic Educational Association, the Board of Directors of the National Catholic Council for Interracial Justice, and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Francis has been given many awards and honors including thirty-five Honorary Degrees from colleges and Universities across the county. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush and was named by the Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the 100 most effective college Presidents. In 1991, Francis was invested as a Knight of Malta and is a lifetime member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

For his years of dedicated leadership, President Barack Obama penned a letter to Francis giving him the President's gratitude for the many men and women that have become productive adults to the country after leaving Xavier University. Xavier, in Francis honor, launched the Norman C. Francis Leadership Institute which according to its' website was formed "to educate and prepare professional men and women for consequential civil engagement and purposeful social responsibility." Well liked and well respected, Francis retired from the University with a star-studded celebration held on November 21, 2008 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.



## WILLIAM TREVANE FRANCIS

...was born on March 26, 1870 in Indianapolis, Indiana. When he was seventeen years old, he found his way to St. Paul, Minnesota. He found a job working for the Northern Pacific Railway as a messenger. He joined the Pilgrim Baptist church where he met his

wife, Nellie Griswold, who was a singer in the church's choir.

Francis himself was a gifted singer and had a wonderful voice and the two would often perform together. He was also a great actor and starred in a pageant, "CUBA" in 1898. He performed locally while still working for the railroad company.

At Northern Pacific, for his talents and good work, Francis was promoted to a clerk's job. He then was promoted to a stenographer's job before being assigned as a clerk in the legal department. By 1901, he had become the temporary Chief Clerk.

In 1902, Francis became more involved in politics and civil rights. He attended a meeting of the National Afro-American Council held in St. Paul ignited his desire to do more to help the black community. He joined the Republican Party and began to support several mainstream civil rights organizations and served as an officer to a few. He was enamored by the philosophy of Booker T. Washington although he faulted white Americans for the issues faced by black Americans.

Francis, from his years of working in the legal department at the railroad company was able to enroll into the St. Paul College of Law, now the William Mitchell College of Law where he earned his law degree in 1904. He was then named as the full-time Chief Clerk at Northern Pacific. He became one of the highest-ranking African-American's employed at any company in the state. He also used his legal training in private practice.

In 1906, Francis entered the race for a seat on the St. Paul City Assembly. He lost in his bid for the seat. Six years later, he entered the race for a seat in the state legislature. He a gain lost in his bid for the seat losing badly.

In 1911, Francis sought an appointment as U.S. Minister to Haiti. He even lobbied for the job to then President William Taft and had support from local Republican politicians. Unfortunately, he was not named to the post.

In 1912, after the death of fellow attorney Frederick McGhee, Francis took over McGhee's private practice firm. Francis assumed and took over more civil rights and criminal cases. He also litigated discrimination suits, divorces, personal injury, and probate cases.

In 1914, he litigated the case of Pullman train porter George T. Williams winning a \$3,000 judgment from his employer for malicious prosecution. The judgment was the highest ever awarded during that time. It was unfortunately reversed on appeal.

In 1915, the film "Birth of a Nation" was being shown in movie theaters across the country. The film glorified the Ku Klux Klan and demonized blacks and was deplored for its' rancid racism. Francis lobbied the St. Paul City Council to ban the showing of the film in the city but was not successful.

In 1919, challenged the St. Paul police's practice of holding black women in custody without charge. He filed a habeas corpus suit against the police. He was successful in obtaining the release of the woman. Francis took on other cases involving discrimination against local retail establishments for refusing to give service to blacks on the grounds of race.

In 1920, Francis was appointed as a member of the Minnesota Republican Central Committee. He campaigned for the election of Presidential candidate Warren G. Harding and served as a elector during the general election. Harding would be victorious in his bid for the White House.

In 1925, Francis and his wife Nellie purchased a house in an all-white neighborhood of St. Paul. His white community residents were not welcoming to them and protested their arrival. Nonetheless, Francis and Nellie moved in. Despite crosses been burned in their front yard and verbal abuses slung upon them, they stayed.

In 1927, Francis was appointed by then President Calvin Coolidge as the United States Minister and Consul to Liberia, West Africa. He became Minnesota's first African American diplomat. As Consul, Secretary of State Henry Stimson assigned Francis to investigate and to report back to the U.S. Government any violations of forced labor of Liberian men who were dying in Monrovia of yellow fever. The Secretary wanted to know the causes of the epidemic and why the disease was spreading.

Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, an American tire manufacturer was developing large rubber plantations and held vast holdings of land in Liberia. Complaints were pouring in to the U.S. Government citing abuse of the company's labor forces. Francis conducted a covert nine-month investigation and concluded that Liberian government officials, including the country's President, Vice President and Postmaster General, had all profited from supplying forced labor to the rubber plantations. They were forced to resign, however, Firestone received no punishment.

From Francis' reports, the government considered the pros and cons of Firestone's alleged abuses versus the U.S.'s need for the rubber and determined that the business ventures of Firestone were vital to national security and the U.S. prosperity and did not sanction Firestone. Within days of submitting the report, Francis himself contracted the disease. He never returned to the United States. After suffering for four weeks, he died in Monrovia from the deadly yellow fever disease.

His wife Nellie returned to the United States to settle in her hometown of Nashville, Tennessee where she remained until her death in 1969. She had brought her husband's body to Nashville with her when she returned from Africa and she was buried along side him at the Greenwood Cemetery in Nashville.

William Trevane Francis died on July 15, 1929. He was fifty-nine years old.





## TERRY FRANCOIS

...was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1921. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. His law

degree was received in 1949 from the Hastings School of Law at the University of California in San Francisco, California.

Before completing his law studies, Francois entered the military serving in the Marines as a Platoon Sergeant during World War II. After completing his military duties, he returned to San Francisco to begin his law career. He soon aligned himself with another young lawyer, Willie L. Brown, Jr.. The two decided to share a law practice together. He also formed a partnership with Carlton B. Goodlett, the publisher of the Sun-Reporter, San Francisco's largest African American newspaper.

The two young lawyers and Goodlett began to look into issues of civil rights, equal and fair housing practices, and the economic advancement of the African American community in San Francisco. They joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in those efforts.

In 1952, Francois litigated and won a major case against the San Francisco Housing Authority. The Authority had a discriminatory policy that prohibited African American from living in new constructed property in neighborhoods in the city unless the person had previously lived in the that neighborhood. Because of segregation at that time, the city's housing rules prevented African Americans from living in certain neighborhoods therefore they could not live the newly constructed city housing projects. Francois fought and changed that law. Other cities across the country soon followed the precedent. In addition, Francois was selected by Margherite Mays, the wife of Hall of Fame baseball player Willie Mays to represent her and her estate after the death of the famed baseball player.

In 1955, Francois sought the Presidency of the San Francisco branch of the NAACP but lost a disputed election due to his more militant stance on civil rights issues. Four years later, he would win the election and become President of the chapter. As President, Francois ran successful campaigns to desegregate the city's hotels and restaurants.

In a 1963, an organized a protest against the Sheraton-Palace Hotel took place. The protestors blocked the entry doors to the hotel preventing hotel guests from entering. Many of the protestors were arrested. Although Francois disagreed with the blocking of the entryway, he did represent the demonstrators. In

settling the case, Francois was able to negotiate with the hotel which included the hotel hiring its' first African American workers to work in the hotel.

In 1964, then Mayor John Shelley appointed Francois to fill a vacancy on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He was the first African American to sit on the Board and served on the Board for the next thirteen years. On the Board, one of his first major acts was casting the deciding vote that disallowed a free-way to be built through Golden Gate Park.

Francois is credited with bringing urban renewal projects to the African American communities of San Francisco. The development in the Western Addition brought new vitality to that community. Some African American residents opposed the development taking the position that current black residents would not be able to remain in the neighborhood, as they would be priced out not being able to afford the new rents and mortgage payments. They labeled it, "Negro Removal".

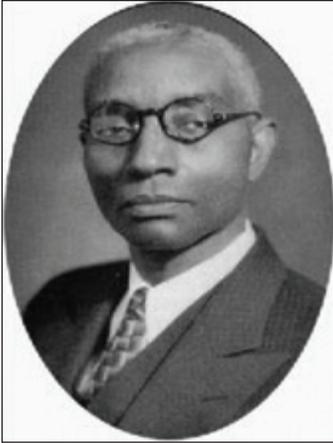
The development plan grew in its' opposition with even Francois old law partner, Willie Brown, and newspaper publisher Goodlett opposing the project. Goodlett even went as far as to label Francois an enemy of the community. Some even called for Francois to be removed from the Board of Supervisors. Nonetheless, Francois was re-elected to the Board and the project proceeded. Francois would be re-elected to the Board into the next decade.

In 1977, Francois retired from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He stepped down as a protest against a citizen run initiative that called for a change in the manner by which Supervisors on the Board were elected. The citizens of San Francisco wanted to move from a citywide election based system to a district based system that gave each district a designated representative from their respective districts.

Francois opposed the initiative as he had little trust for the local neighborhood activists who promoted the initiative. Again, his old friends, Brown and Goodlett, took the opposing side of Francois. A new plan was instituted, however, in 1980, Francois successfully ran a campaign to reverse the district based election process.

In 1988, Francois left the Democratic Party to join the Republican Party. He endorsed the Presidency of George H.W. Bush. As a Republican, he supported the efforts of the San Francisco Urban League and sat on its' Board of Director.

Terry A. Francois died on June 12, 1989 from cancer. He was sixty-seven years old.



## BUCK COLBERT FRANKLIN

...was born on October 7, 1879 near Homer in Pickens County, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory. On today's map, Homer would be located in southeastern Oklahoma near the Arkansas Border. Franklin was given the name Buck as an honor to his grandfather, a slave that was able to purchase

his freedom and that of his family. He was also the father of the civil rights advocate and historian, John Hope Franklin. Franklin would later write the historical 1947 book, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*.

Franklin first began practicing law in Ardmore in southern Oklahoma. A predominantly white segregated Jim Crow Era town, it was difficult for Franklin to find legal work. With racial tensions across the southern belt of the U.S. at an all time high, civil liberties for blacks were at an all time low. Franklin, a civil rights advocate, seeing the racial prejudice and major flaws in the legal system first hand, knew what needed to be done. Once reprimanded and silenced, because of his race, in a Louisiana courtroom, Franklin's focus became civil rights in the law.

Seeing the need for blacks to be represented in the courtroom, Franklin moved his office to a small black town of Rentiesville. Oklahoma at the time had several of these small black townships spread across the southeastern part of the state. The robust "Black Wall Street" of Tulsa was only seventy miles north.

In Rentiesville, he began to assist local citizens with their legal issues. He met and married Mollie Parker, in 1915, and started a family. After six years in private practice in Rentiesville, Franklin decided to move to the larger city of Tulsa. Not long after arriving in Tulsa, the worst riot in U.S. history happened. One ironic aspect about that riot, was that it was whites that were rioting.

Tulsa was a divided city with the whites on one side and the blacks on the other. The whites had their downtown area and the blacks had theirs. The underlining issue was the black downtown area was thriving economically and the white downtown was not. Black Tulsa, better known as, "Black Wall Street" and sometimes referred to as "Little Chicago" was made during the economic boom of the oil industry.

Many blacks were forced to Oklahoma during the Native American "Trail of Tears" march forced upon them from the U.S. takeover of their eastern lands. Many Native American tribes had slaves as did white southerners. After the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in January of 1863, some tribes signed treaties to free their slaves, but had to bring them into the tribe as citizens. During the first and second Oklahoma land allotments, many blacks received 200 acres of land and the mineral rights that came with the land.

By 1921, Black Wall Street was thriving. The black community had over 600 business. The community had doctors, lawyers, den-

tists, a movie theater and churches. The 36 blocks that comprised Black Wall Street were within a boundary of three streets, Greenwood, Archer, and Pine. The famous musical group, The GAP Band featuring Charlie Wilson, uses the initials of the three streets to spell out the bands' name; G=Greenwood, A=Archer, and P=Pine.

Race relations, because of some of the financial differences, were not good. An incident occurred whereby a young black male, Dick Rowland, was accused of assaulting a young white elevator operator, Sarah Page, in a local hotel. Accounts from the black youth, stated that the elevator jolted and he simply fell into her. Nonetheless, word began to spread amongst the black community that a group of white vigilantes were headed to the jail to extract the young man and hang him.

A group of well armed blacks when to intervene and to ensure that the young man received a fair trial as they did not believe the accounting of the story. As one might imagine, words were exchanged, a push became a shove, a white man slaps a black man and the black man shoots the white man dead. Instantly, the white community went on a rampage.

The next twenty-four hours were absolutely horrendous. Whites roamed the city, in what seemed like a killing spree. The apprehended or killed any black they could find. Blacks fought back. The police and the Oklahoma Guard were called in. Stories spread that some of the police and guard were KKK members and engaged in the mayhem as well.

The numbers vary but some say 300 hundred black people lost their lives during the riot while others put the number above 3,000. Nonetheless, by the time calm was restored, whites had looted all of the black community, including Black Wall Street, set fire to everything, and burnt the town to the ground. The blacks that did not flee for their lives were made to live in stalls at the Fairgrounds or tents, if there were any.

It was at this point that Buck Franklin became a hero. Even though his own law offices were burnt down, he put up a tent and immediately began to work to file claims on behalf of the surviving victims of the white riot. During the riot, he was a voice of calm, begging the blacks not to retaliate as two wrongs did not make a right.

During the rebuild of north Tulsa after the deadly riot, The Tulsa City Council passed a city ordinance that forbade any new construction unless the building materials were fireproof. The Council also was voting to change the zoning for where Black Wall Street stood making it commercial and industrial and not residential.

Again Franklin came to the rescue. He filed suit against the City and lead it all the way to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. He argued that the city ordinance was tantamount to robbery as many of the surviving black citizens had nothing left and could not afford the increase cost of fireproofed materials. Franklin urged black Tulsa to defy the ordinance.

Franklin won the lawsuit on behalf of his client, a black citizen of Tulsa who, like everyone, lost everything in the riot. As a result of the victory, black Tulsa immediately took on the task of rebuilding the black community destroyed seemingly overnight. Franklin, Isaiah I. Spears, P.A. Chappelle, and several other attorneys, led the battle and represented black Tulsa in their pursuit of regaining that which was taken away.





## ROBERT V. FRANKLIN, JR.

...was born on January 6, 1926 in Toledo, Ohio to and Josephine Beard Franklin and Robert V. Franklin, Jr.. He attended elementary at Gunkel School and graduated in 1943 from Scott High School before matriculating to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. After

completing his undergraduate studies at Morehouse, Franklin returned to Ohio where he enrolled into the law school at the University of Toledo to earn his law degree in 1950.

Franklin joined the United States Army to fulfill his military duties before resuming his law career. Leaving the military in 1952, he returned to Toledo once again joining lawyers J. Slater Gibson and William N. Thomas in their law firm for a short period of time. Gibson and Thomas owned one of the two African American law firms that existed at the time in Toledo. After marrying his junior high and high school sweetheart, Kathryn Jane Harris, he then took a job as a City of Toledo Prosecutor. He later became the Assistant City Law Director.

While serving as a private practice attorney, Franklin also served as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Toledo branch President. In addition, he served as the President of the Ohio Conference of NAACP Branches. As President, he focused his attention to the many civil rights and discrimination cases that came to the NAACP.

In 1960, then Ohio Governor Michael DiSalle named Franklin to the bench of the Toledo Municipal Court. Although three other African American lawyers had been named to the Court, Franklin was the first to be named in northwestern Ohio. He was named later that year as a Delegate-At-Large to the Democratic National Convention. The Convention chose future President John F. Kennedy as its' candidate during that Convention.

Along with his legal practice duties, Franklin also gave of his time to serve as the President of the Businessman's Club of the Indiana Avenue Branch of the YMCA. He served as a member of the organizations Board of Managers as well. He became active in the Toledo Bar Association and the Toledo Chamber of Commerce.

For his civic contributions, Franklin was appointed to the Domestic Relations Court and served on several Toledo Municipal Court. He was the first African American to serve on either Court. He would serve as the Court's Presiding

Judge as well. In 1968, he was elected to the Common Pleas Court of Lucas County. He would be re-elected to the bench three times, serving for a total of seventeen years until his retirement in 1985.

In his retirement, Judge Franklin served by special appointment to the Ohio Supreme Court as a visiting judge in state courts where he gave opinions on cases that came before the Court. For Lucas County Common Pleas Court, he coordinated and monitored lawsuits filed that involved claimant's harm caused by asbestos. He would preside over hearings and trials in all of Ohio's twenty-five counties.

Judge Franklin volunteered much of his time away from the bench volunteering to local community and civic organizations. His Christian upbringing taught him that it is imperative to give back to the community in which he resided and to lift up his fellow man in time of need. As a member of a community, it was important to Franklin that he must lead by example.

Judge Franklin has served as a member to many associations and organizations. He served at President Lyndon Johnson's request as a Special Consultant to the U.S. State Department in matters related to Germany, France and Austria. He served as a member of the Ohio Municipal Judges Association and the Old Newsboys Goodfellow Association and as President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association. He was a Trustee at his alma mater, Morehouse College and served as Chairman Emeritus of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Inc.'s Boule Foundation.

Other organizations that he gave service to includes the AAA Northwest Ohio, Defiance College, the Ohio Black Family Coalition, the Ohio Judicial Conference, the Ohio State Common Pleas Judges Association, the Toledo Area United Appeal, the Toledo Community Foundation, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the Toledo YMCA.

A man having great integrity and fairness, Judge Franklin has been honored by many of his peers, associates and respected attorneys. He was named four times as one of Toledo's 10 Outstanding Young Men in years 1954, 1955, 1958 and 1960. He was given the "Outstanding Young Man of the Year Award" by the Toledo Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Order of the Heel from the Toledo Junior Bar Association. The University of Toledo Law Alumni Association also awarded him with their Distinguished Toledo Attorney Award as well.

Judge Franklin was a life long member of the Third Baptist Church in Toledo. He gave to his church and to the community surrounding the church. For his beloved alma mater, Morehouse College, he gave over thirty years of his time, energy, and money in a committed effort to help young students prepare for the future their goals.

Robert V. Franklin, Jr. died in Toledo, Ohio's Mercy St. Anne Hospital on November 29, 2011. He was eighty-five years old.





## WENDELL G. FREELAND

...was born in 1925 in Baltimore, Maryland and attended segregated schools there. A well skilled student, he won a scholarship to Howard University in Washington, D.C., graduating cum laude in 1947. He obtained his law degree in 1950 from the University of Maryland School of Law.

He served in the military during World War II as a bombardier in Europe. He was a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black regiment. As a short man, he easily fit into the cramped quarters of the airplanes bombing compartment.

The Tuskegee Airmen, long hailed as a special regiment of the U.S. Army Air Forces, had fought in some of the most important air battles during World War II. At the time, blacks were not a part of the overall Army pilots group as segregation was in full force. The Army, after allowing blacks into the service, designated a separate unit for blacks to participate in.

As members of the 466th Bombardment Group, Freeland and other black officers protested this policy and took part in the Freeman Field mutiny, which occurred in 1945 at Freeman Army Airfield near Seymour, Indiana. The U.S. Army Air Forces base had segregated facilities for black and white airmen. Freeland and his group, tired of the mistreatment being given to them, especially after having fought so diligently during the war, decided to integrate the all-white officer's club on the base.

In the ensuing incident, one hundred and sixty-two black officers were arrested. Some of them, after being released, were arrested again when they returned to the club in protest. Three officers were court-martialed and one was convicted. It would take fifty years before the U.S. Army wiped the records clean for the officers that participated in the protest. For his involvement, Freeland was given high esteem by his fellow black airmen and the black community. The Freeman Field mutiny began the process of ending racial discrimination in the U.S. Army Air Forces and the integration of the officer's club in Indiana.

Freeland enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he received his undergraduate degree. After receiving his undergraduate degree, he returned to his hometown of Baltimore enrolling into the University of Maryland School of Law where he earned his law degree. Freeland was one of the first African American law students to graduate from the University's School of Law.

After completing his law studies in 1950, Freeland, and his new wife Jane, moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He took a job as a practicing attorney with the law firm of Smith Jones. After working for a few years with the Smith Jones, he accepted a position as an Assistant District Attorney before returning to private practice.

In private practice, Freeland took on cases that dealt with the civil rights of African Americans. Having taken part in civil rights protests while in the Army, the civil rights of ordinary citizens were

no different. He defended anyone that came to him seeking help. If a client could not pay, he would barter with them for their services, depending upon what skills that possessed. Many times, he performed the legal services for free.

In 1960, he met Elsie Hillman, a white Republican power broker and philanthropist. At that time, the Republican Party was attempting to get more African Americans to join their ranks. Freeland became Hillman's political attorney and handled issues surrounding her philanthropy giving and political donations. Their relationship would last for many years.

In 1962, Freeland served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Pittsburgh. He then became the organization's Senior Vice President of the National Board. He would stay with the Urban League for five years.

Freeland fought discrimination and racial equality at any and every turn. In his attempt to improve the lives of African Americans and to bring an end to the disenfranchisement of the black community, he took on education as one of the systems to fight for a change. His determined work brought results to integrating the segregated city swimming pool of Highland Park.

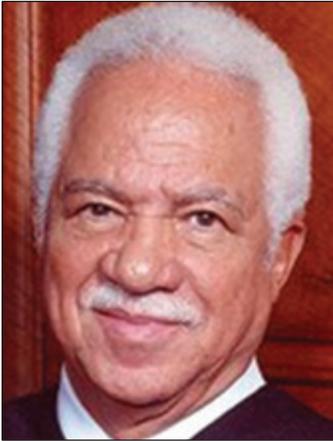
In 1963, Freeland gave a speech during a meeting of the Allegheny County Council on Civil Rights calling for compensation for blacks from government entities for past treatment and suffrage of the African Americans. Tired of slogans and not actions, he forcefully pointed out that it was time to make a call to action for change in the civil rights laws and practices. He challenged local manufacturing and service-oriented companies to hire more African Americans to their production lines and customer care positions. For the African Americans themselves, he challenged them to develop their skills and become prepared for the opportunity that they were fighting for.

In his attempts to desegregate the Pittsburgh public schools, he conducted meetings between the Pittsburgh Public Schools Board and the black community that led to dialogue between the two. He called for the hiring of more black teachers in the schools.

In 2010, Freeland was able to convince the State Supreme Court to admit to the Pennsylvania Bar posthumously, George Vashon, a legendary black lawyer from Pittsburgh and first African American Professor to be hired by Howard University in Washington, D.C.. Vashon had made application to the Allegheny County Bar twice before and each had been declined. With the help of Philadelphia attorney Nolan Atkins and Freeland's great-grandson, Freeland made petition to the Court on behalf of the descendants of George Vashon.

A kind, caring, and dynamic man, Freeland helped in the formation of the Hill House Association and served as President of the Urban League of Pittsburgh. In giving of himself to his community and causes, he not only "talked the talk", he "walked the walk" as stories are told. Making a lasting contribution to African Americans was of his highest priority. A man with a common touch, he was respected by many. So much so, that the famous The Carlton Restaurant in downtown Pittsburgh named several drinks in his honor, including their special "Wendellini".

Wendell G. Freeland died of pancreatic cancer on January 23, 2014. He was eighty-eight years old.



## CHARLES E. FREEMAN

...was born in 1933 in Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia receiving his undergraduate B.A degree in liberal arts in 1954. He earned his J.D.

from John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois in 1962. After obtaining his law degree, he took and passed the Illinois State Bar and began in private practice law the same year.

Beginning his legal career, Freeman took a job as an Assistant Attorney General. He then became an Assistant State's Attorney before becoming an attorney for the Board of Election Commissioners. In 1965, then Illinois Governor Otto Kerner appointed Freeman as an Arbitrator to the Illinois Industrial Commission. He served the Commission for eight years where he heard more than 2000 cases surrounding work related injuries.

In September of 1973, then Governor Dan Walker appointed Freeman as a Commissioner on the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Illinois State Senate approved the nomination. His responsibilities at the Commission were to regulate the rates charged by Illinois utility companies. As Commissioner, he had power over the public services involving electricity, gas and telephone communications.

Three years later, Freeman entered the race for a seat on the Circuit Court. Victorious in his bid, in September of 1976, he took his seat on the Circuit Court bench. He re-ran and was re-elected to the Court in the next two elections. He would serve on the Court for ten years. While serving on the Court, he would become the first African American to conduct the swearing in ceremonies of a Mayor, when he did so when his good friend, Harold Washington won the Mayor's seat in 1983.

In 1986, Freeman was elected to the state's Appellate Court where he would serve for four years. In 1990, he ran and was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court. Winning the election, he became the first African American to be elected to sit on the Court. After serving the Court for nine years, in 1997, Freeman was selected

as the Court's Chief Justice. He would serve as Chief Justice for three years.

After becoming the senior member on the Court, Freeman in 2002 was re-elected to occupy his seat on the bench. He was re-elected once more in the 2010 election to another ten-year term. Freeman has given much time to reforming the Court's administrative processes and cases involving prosecutorial misconduct while sitting on the bench. He also has given great time to ensuring that the state's judicial system is accessible and accountable to the citizens of the state. His current term will expire in 2020.

Justice Freeman is a member of several bar associations, including the Cook County Bar, DuPage County Bar Association, and the Illinois State Bar. He is a member of American Judges' Association, the American Judicature Society, the Illinois Judges Association, and the Illinois Judicial Council.

In October of 2012, two Stanford University Political Science professors, Adam Bonica and Michael Woodruff, created a scoring system in an attempt to determine partisan ideologies of State Supreme Court Justices across the United States. The scoring system that they devised used 0 as its' beginning measuring point. Any Judge scoring below 0 was rated as more liberal while a score above 0 was set to indicate a Judge having a more conservative view. Judge Freeman's rating scored a -.09, which rated him as having a more liberal ideology. The average rating for most Illinois liberal Judges was -0.31. Freeman's political affiliation was with the Democratic Party.



## FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

...was born on November 24, 1916 in Danville, Virginia to Maude Beatrice Smith Muse and William Brown Muse. He grew up in a well-educated family. He learned to play the piano at an early age and attended Westmoreland School. A gifted and

progressive student, at the age of sixteen he was accepted to Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia, the alma mater of his mother. She then enrolled into the Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C., where she received her law degree in 1947, graduating second in her class. While at Howard, Freeman joined the Epsilon Sigma Iota Sorority, the first legal Sorority of women of color in the United States.

After graduating with her law degree, Freeman could not easily find work. After several of her applications were denied by the law firms she had applied to, she decided to open her own firm. In the beginning she gave her services away pro bono. She handled family law matters of divorce and child custody and some criminal cases. After two years, she took on cases provided by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as their legal counsel. In a 1949 case, Freeman was a part of the legal team that brought suit against the St. Louis Board of Education. That case became attached to the legendary U.S. Supreme Court case of "Brown v. The Board of Education".

In a 1954 case, Freeman served as the lead attorney for another landmark case, *Davis et. Al. v. the St. Louis Housing Authority*. That case would end legal discrimination in the St. Louis public housing agencies. Liking St. Louis, she decided to stay there.

In 1955, Freeman took a job as a Staff Attorney for the St. Louis Land Clearance and Housing Authorities and settled in. At the Authority, she was appointed to the job of Associate General Counsel. She later became General Counsel to the entire department and worked there four years before deciding to leave.

In 1958, she was named as a charter member of the Missouri Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She assisted the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as Legal Counsel. She did the same for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) when she assisted them with changing the hiring discrimination as the local Jefferson Bank.

In 1964, she was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson as a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. With her appointment, she became the first African American woman to hold the office. The Commission is a federal fact finding agency whose responsibility is to accept discrimination complaints and to investigate them to identify any discrimination and enforce compliance to the rules of the Civil Rights Act.

While on the Commission, Freeman played a pivotal part in the creation of the Citizen's Commission on Civil Rights. She would be re-appointed to the position by the next three Presidents; Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter; serving the Commission for fifteen years.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter named Freeman as Inspector General for the Community Services Administration. She would only serve for one year. With the election of Republican candidate Ronald Reagan as the new U.S. President, demands were requested by the Reagan administration for the resignation of Democratic members aligned with President Carter.

Leaving Washington, Freeman returned to St. Louis. She took on old and new clients and began to settle in once again. In 1982, She and a group of former federal officials formed the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights, a bipartisan group whose purpose was committed to ending racial discrimination. They devised ways aimed at reversing the harmful effects of the hatred.

Freeman volunteers her time to several organizations in St. Louis and nationally. With her firm, Montgomery Hollie & Associates, L.L.C., she serves as legal counsel to the Board of the World Affairs Councils of America in St. Louis. The Councils mission is to spread understanding of world affairs and build relationships through leadership. She also volunteers as a teacher teaching Sunday school classes at Washington Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, also located in St. Louis. Freeman also penned and published her memoir, "A Song of Faith and Hope".

Volunteering her time and assisting many to achieve, Freeman has supported many organizations in their endeavors. She has served as Trustee Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Howard University in Washington, D.C.. She has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Council on Aging, Inc., and as National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. She has been a Board member of the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District, the National Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, the St. Louis Center for International Relations, and the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

She has been honored by many including having received Honorary Degrees from institutions including Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia; Howard University in Washington, D.C.; the University of Missouri-St. Louis University; and Washington University in St. Louis. The National Bar Association also inducted her into their esteemed Hall of Fame. One of her most gracious awards was given to her by the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia inducted her into their International Civil Rights Walk of Fame.

Freeman has received the NAACP's Spingarn Medal Award and the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession's coveted Spirit of Excellence Award. On her ninety-ninth birthday year of 2015, President Barack Obama named Freeman as a Member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Frankie Muse Freeman celebrated her 100th birthday on November 24, 2016.



## KAREN MARIE FREEMAN- WILSON

...was born October 24, 1960 in Gary, Indiana. She graduated as Valedictorian of her Roosevelt High School. He matriculated to Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. She obtained her law degree from Cambridge's Harvard Law School with honors.

After leaving law school, Freeman-Wilson returned to Gary, where she would pass the state bar and enter the legal profession. For the next several decades, she would grow in her profession as an abled and savvy legal counsel to local residents needing legal assistance. Her dedicated work would earn her a seat on the local Gary court. In 1995, Freeman-Wilson was named as a presiding Judge of the Gary, Indiana City Court. She served on the Court for five years. She also served the Gary Urban Enterprise Association as its' legal counsel. She served as legal counsel to the Urban Enterprise Association for five years as well.

In 2000, then Governor Frank O'Brian appointed Freeman-Wilson as the Indiana Attorney General. She served the remaining term of Jeff Modisett who moved on to serve as General Counsel to the Democratic National Convention. In the upcoming election, she would lose the Attorney General job to Republican Steve Carter. While serving as Attorney General, after an internal 2001 audit, it was discovered that Freeman-Wilson, without approval from the Governor or other agencies, during her eleven months in office had issued more than \$700,000 in grants. Admitting her mistake, Freeman-Wilson pointed out that although she did not have approval, the grants were given to good causes including the \$500,000 grant given to the Indiana Minority Health Coalition, which improved the overall health of Gary's minority residents.

After leaving the Attorney General's Office, Freeman-Wilson became the Chief Executive Officer for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), a nonprofit group. As CEO, she was pivotal in the trials of Prometa held in the Gary Drug Court. Prometa was a drug developed for the treatment for methamphetamine addiction. During that time, Freeman-Wilson also served as the Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission and as the Executive Director of The National Drug Court Institute based in Washington, D.C..

Under her leadership at the NADCP, the number of drug courts in the United States doubled from 850 to 1700. For the judicial arena, the NADCP became the premier organization advocating for drug treatment for U.S. citizens. She was able to consult with the Department of Justice and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Office of White House Drug Control Policy to create and implement new drug poli-

cies. Her work on drug policies helped pioneer new drug courts in Indiana and across the U.S. In 2007, Freeman-Wilson left the Drug Court to assume a Board position with Hythiam Inc. based in Los Angeles, California. Hythiam was the company that sought to license the Prometa protocol.

In 2011, then current Mayor Rudy Clay did not seek re-election due to battling prostate cancer. He endorsed Freeman-Wilson to take his place. Although she had ran for the Gary, Indiana Mayor's job in 2003 and 2007, in the 2011 general election, she won the Democratic mayoral primary. In winning eighty-seven percent of the casted votes, Freeman-Wilson became the first woman and first African American female Mayor of Gary and of any other city in the state of Indiana.

As Mayor, Freeman-Wilson's development ideas and blueprint for Gary was put into effect. Her "Karen for Gary" campaign promised to make improvements in safety for Gary residents and her economic development plans called for the improvement of the city's image. She followed through on her campaign promises. For Gary's beloved favorite citizen, famed singer Michael Jackson, Freeman-Wilson, however, refused to allow his childhood home to become a museum.

Mayor Freeman-Wilson gained national exposure when she was showcased on an episode of the television show "Undercover Boss", a show whereby the CEO or owner of a business goes undercover to gain a better understanding of their employees and any issues involved with their businesses. On December 21, 2016, the Mayor, disguised as a woman from Nashville, Tennessee, was able to evaluate the working conditions of city workers. At the end of the show, the owners of the businesses usually bestow upon those they interacted with a gift of some sort. For her appearance, Freeman-Wilson was able to rely on private and personal donations.

Having travelled extensively across the United States to speak and engage in the city of Gary business, there is no place like home, Gary, Indiana, to Freeman-Wilson. Her love and passion for the city is unwavering. For Gary residents, Freeman-Wilson fought passionately on behalf of abused nursing home seniors and the city's youth. She fought against gasoline gouging during turbulent times and ensured that the settlement monies paid to the state of Indiana by the tobacco industry went to health care of Gary citizens and to campaign against smoking.

Freeman-Wilson's efforts have not gone unnoticed by her Gary citizens, her peers and national party leaders. The National Democratic Leadership Council named her as on of the top 100 Democrats to watch. The Party then asked her to address the National Democratic Convention in Los Angeles. For her tireless efforts in combating drug use and the issues surrounding drugs, Freeman-Wilson has been recognized by the U.S. Drug Czars, several Governors of the state of Indiana, and several State Supreme Court Justices across the United States.



## HENRY E. FRYE, SR.

...was born on August 1, 1932 in Ellerbe, North Carolina to Pearl (Motley) Frye and Walter A. Frye. He began his formal education by attending the Mineral Springs School. He matriculated to North Carolina Agricultural

& Technical University in Greensboro graduating in 1953 with honors. While attending undergraduate school, Frye was a part of the University's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) where he earned the commission of Second Lieutenant.

Frye enlisted into the United States Air Force and served in Korea and Japan. He reached the rank of Captain while serving. After completing his military duties, he returned to North Carolina. There was an upcoming general election slated and Frye wanted to vote. Denied the right to register by the "literacy" tests that was being implanted at the time, it was then that Frye decided to become a lawyer. He felt that this unfair law should be changed and he might be the one to do it.

In 1955, Frye enrolled into the University of North Carolina Law School where he graduated, with honors, in 1959. While in law school, he married Shirley Taylor. Together they had two children.

For the next four years, Frye would practice law as a private attorney. In 1963, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the North Carolina Middle District. He would remain with the Middle District for five years. He then became an Adjunct Professor at the North Carolina Central Law School before returning to private practice.

In 1968, Frye ran and won a seat as a State Representative to the North Carolina General Assembly. He was the first African American elected to the State House of Representatives and was the only African American in the entire Assembly. Re-elected to his seat in the next six elections, Frye would serve in the House until 1980 when he ran for a State Senate seat. Winning the Senate seat, he would serve for only one term. While a State Senator, he also served as an Instructor at North Carolina Central University's Law School located in Durham.

In 1983, then Governor James Baxter Hunt, Jr. appointed Frye to replace retiring Judge John Phillips Carlton as an Associate Justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court. This

appointment made Frye the first African American to serve in the State Supreme Court. In the following election of 1984, Frye, in his own right, won the general election to retain his seat on the bench. He was re-elected again in 1992.

In 1999, then Governor James Grubbs Martin appointed Frye as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In the next election held in 2000, Frye was not successful in his re-election bid losing the seat to Isaac Beverly Lake, Jr.. With that loss, Frye left the bench when his term ended.

Returning to private practice, Frye joined the law firm of Brooks & Pierce in Greensboro. He also accepted a staff position with North Carolina A&T State University as a Visiting Professor of Political Science and Justice. Frye also served in a legal capacity to several academic, civic, non-profit, and professional organizations in their goals of community outreach and other legal issues.

A highly recognized community advocate, caring business leader, and litigious legal mind, Frye is a member of several corporate and private Boards. He has sat on the Board of Directors of the American Judicature Society, the Greensboro National Bank, the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, and that of the Leadership North Carolina. He also served as the Director of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

Frye is a member of the American Bar Association, the Greensboro Bar Association, the National Bar Association and the North Carolina Bar Association. He is also associated with the Conference of Chief Justices. A fraternal member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Frye is dedicated to community involvement and goes to great lengths to ensure he and his fraternity are well represented in that area of giving.

Frye has been honored with many citations and awards during his illustrious legal career. He has received the "Appellate Judges Award" from the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers; the "Brotherhood Award" from the National Conference of Christians & Jews; the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; the "Greensboro Business Leaders Hall of Fame" from the Junior Achievement of Central North Carolina. He also received the North Carolina Award for public service.

In 2009, Frye became the Honorary Co-Chair of the U.S. Senate campaign of Kenneth Lewis. In 2013, he was selected as Chairman of the North Carolina Institute of Political Leadership. Frye currently practices law with Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard in Greensboro, North Carolina.



## SHIRLEY FULTON

...was born in Kingstree, South Carolina on her family's farm. She was the second oldest of five children. She left the family farm at an early age, sixteen, to attend college. She was accepted to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina.

After completing her undergraduate studies, she enrolled into Duke University in Durham, North Carolina where she earned her law degree in 1980. Fulton obtained her law degree while doing so as a single mother. She would go on to receive further legal training at the McColl School of Business at Queens University in New York.

Fulton used a connection that she had made in graduate school and accepted a job in Charlotte, North Carolina as a Prosecutor. She was the first African American female Prosecutor the office had ever had. She was later appointed as a Judge to the bench of the District County in the 26th Judicial District and in 1988, she was elected to Superior Court. She became the first sitting Judge on the states Superior Court. Although she was the first African American woman to reach her position in North Carolina, she was humble in the assessment of her achievements, knowing that there were many, many other African American women that paved the way for her and that it took so long for an African American woman to be named. She would serve on the bench for fourteen years.

While serving on the bench, Fulton took a leading role in developing a system-wide plan to improve the overall functions of the Court. She campaigned for bonds, which provided funding of the new Mecklenburg County Courthouse and initiated programs aimed at addressing the communal needs of non-English speaking citizens that use the Court's services or are there on a judicial matter.

In 1993, Fulton was diagnosed with breast cancer. After several years of battling the disease, she took a leave of absence from the bench. Entering Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, for treatment, with the best medical treatment available, she was

able to recover and return to the bench. She was soon appointed as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge. In 1998, she gained further legal training when she earned her MBA degree from Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina. She would five years later, in 1988.

In her storied career, Fulton has served in many capacities and has served as legal counsel to several associations and organizations. She has served as an Assistant District Attorney, a District Court Judge, Resident Superior Court Judge, and a Senior Resident Superior Court Judge. She has served as President of the Mecklenburg County Bar, Vice President of North Carolina Bar Association, and Chair of the Board of Advisors for the Charlotte School of Law. A well-respected leader deeply involved in local communities affairs, Fulton also served on the Board of Directors of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Task Force.

Fulton has given a lifetime of active commitment to leadership in community-based programs in the communities in which she served. As President of the Wesley Heights Community Association and owner of The Wadsworth House, she has given the community a source and a base from which to engage. The Wadsworth House is an establishment where corporation and/or civic and social associations and organizations can commonly meet or hold events.

Many awards and honors have been bestowed upon Fulton for the service given to the communities served by her and respected peers and associates. She was awarded from the North Carolina Association of Woman Attorneys their Judge of the Year Award. The Urban League of Central Carolinas, Inc. presented to Fulton their Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award, was named one of Charlotte's Super Lawyers by Super Lawyers Magazine, and won an Achievement Award from Black Pages, a publication that honors African Americans and their accomplishments and achievements.

Articles of been written about her success in publications such as the Charlotte Business Journal, the Charlotte Post, and the Charlotte Observer. She has appeared on air on the Home and the Garden television broadcast. In her honor, a portrait of Fulton was commissioned and hangs on display in the Mecklenburg County Courthouse as a testament to her dedicated service to the North Carolina justice system and the people that she served.



## WILLIE E. GARY

...was born on July 12, 1947 in Eastman, Georgia as one of eleven children to Turner and Mary Gary. Although born in Georgia, Willie's Childhood was spent in migrant farm communities throughout Florida,

Georgia and the Carolinas. From childhood, Gary wanted to be the best and armed himself with a passionate work ethic, learned from his humble beginnings.

His unwavering desire to earn a college education ultimately led him to Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Having earned an athletic scholarship from his all-state high school football player career, Gary went on to become the Co-Captain of Shaw's football team during the 1969, 1970 and 1971 seasons.

Completing the necessary requirements, Gary received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Shaw and immediately enrolled into North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina. There he earned a Juris Doctorate Degree. Upon earning his law degree, he returned to Florida with his childhood sweetheart, Gloria.

In his professional life, Willie E. Gary earned the reputation as "The Giant Killer". He won record breaking cases against some of America's most well known corporate giants on behalf of his clients. He won some of the largest jury awards and settlements in U.S. history, including cases valued in excess of \$30 billion. Gary's amazing success has earned him national recognition as one of this country's leading trial attorneys.

In the May 2002 edition of *Ebony Magazine*, he was featured in as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans." *Forbes Magazine* also listed him as one of the "Top 50 Attorneys in the U.S." Gary has been featured in many of the nation's most respected media publications, such as *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, *Ebony*, *Jet*, *People*, *Black Enterprise*, *Fortune*, *The New Yorker* and *The National Law Journal*.

His remarkable legal career and tireless work on behalf of his clients has been well documented in the media, including "60 Minutes," the "CBS Evening News," and ABC's "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings." He has also appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and CBS's "The Ear-

ly Show" with Bryant Gumbel. Although a well sought out attorney, Gary's triumphant rise to the top is no overnight success. He worked diligently for his clients concerns.

Gary was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1974 and opened his hometown's first African American law firm with the help of his wife Gloria. The firm has grown into a thriving national partnership known as Gary, Williams, Parenti, Watson and Gary, P.L.L.C., consisting of thirty-seven attorneys, a team of paralegals and a professional staff of over one-hundred. The firm operates out of three offices. Two of the three offices are located on the St. Lucie River in historic downtown Stuart, Florida; one of which is the former Pelican Hotel where Gary worked as a dishwasher during his teenage years.

Gary is a member of the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, American Association for Justice, Martin and St. Lucie County Bar Associations and the Million Dollar Verdict Club. He has tried cases in forty-five states and is in great demand as a motivational speaker throughout the United States, delivering speeches at law schools, universities, churches, chambers of commerce's, and other groups throughout the country.

Gary often travels on his thirty-two passenger, custom designed Boeing 737, which carries a full flight crew and is appropriately named "Wings of Justice II." The luxurious jetliner facilitates Gary's extensive travel schedule, allowing him to handle more cases, while enabling him to get home faster so he can spend time with his family.

Known as a businessman, churchman, humanitarian and philanthropist, Gary is deeply involved in charity and civic work. He is committed to enhancing the lives of young people through education and drug prevention. In 1994, he and his wife, Gloria, formed The Gary Foundation to carry out this formidable task. The Gary Foundation provides scholarships, direction and other resources to youth, so they can realize their dreams of achieving a higher education. In 1991, Gary pledged \$10.1 million to his alma mater Shaw University. He has also donated millions of dollars to dozens of Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the U.S.

In addition to being a lawyer, philanthropist and motivational speaker, Gary continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of numerous universities and foundations. He has received honorary doctorates from dozens of colleges and universities and is active in numerous community organizations including the NAACP, National Urban League, Civitan International, United Way of Martin County, Martin Memorial Hospital Foundation and many others. 

Photo Not Available



## SUGAR T. GEORGE

... was born in the year 1827 to Nancy Lovett and Sorrow Pigeon, a Muscogee Creek native. They were slaves belonging to a David Pigeon. George was sold to Mariah McIntosh, a Muscogee Creek Indian. George was a slave of the Upper Creeks of the Muscogee Creek Nation from the Alabama clan. The Muscogee Creek Nation was one of the "Five Civilized

Tribes" that were relocated in the early 1830s during the infamous "Trail of Tears" that moved the Native Americans from their eastern lands of Georgia and Alabama to modern day Oklahoma. The Creek Nation at the time controlled the majority of land covering the states of Georgia and Alabama.

It is a well known fact that Native American tribes had slaves, just as did some southern whites. During the relocation of the tribes, many of the slaves, and other blacks intermingled into the tribes and made the journey with the nations. George was one of those black slaves. The only difference was that George spoke several languages fluently, including English and the tongues and dialects of different native clans.

George became one of seven Native American interpreters that played an important role in the treaty negotiations between the U.S. Government and the Muscogee Creek Nation. All of the interpreters, like George were slaves belonging to several of the local Muscogee Creek Chiefs or Creek citizens. The interpreters spoke several of the Native tribes languages and were fluent in the different dialects. Chief Yargee, leader of the Musogee Tribe, did not speak English and used the interpreters to translate negotiations with the U.S. Government and other tribal leaders and to ensure the tribal treaties that were signed were legal according to both Indian law and that of the U.S. Government.

Over the years, the interpreters, although slaves, began to receive a stipend for their work. George was able to buy his own freedom and that of his family. Now a free man, George could charge more for his abilities and did so. He was soon able to buy his own land, cattle and horses.

In Indian Territory (Oklahoma), the Muscogee Creek Nation was divided into to groups. There were the Upper Creeks and the Lower Creeks. Chief Yargee and the Upper Creeks had little interest in mixing with whites. However, the Lower Creeks of the tribe had intermarried with whites in Alabama before the relocation which put Chief Yargee at odds with the Lower Creeks. When the Civil War broke out, the two factions of the tribe were on opposing sides.

To avoid fighting, Muscogee Creek Chief Opthole Yahola took a band of Indians and fled into Kansas leaving their property behind. The Confederates followed their bloody trail into Kansas where many Upper Creeks lost more than property, they lost their lives. This military act would become pivotal in later years during the Indian settlements after the Civil War ended.

Surviving the massacre, George immediately joined the U.S. Army serving as an interpreter. He was a part of company "H" of the 1st Indian Home Guards. George, who could read and write, and because he had natural negotiating skills, quickly became a Leader. He soon was made 1st Sgt. of his unit. Although black soldiers were not given the rank of an officer, George was in charge whenever a white officer was not around to command.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the "5 Civilized Tribes", (Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Creek), were divided in their loyalties toward the Confederacy and the Union. Those that aligned with the Union, which the Upper Creeks did and the Lower Creeks did not, during the ensuing battles lost everything and many lost their lives fighting for their freedoms. George served as a interpreter and negotiator between the tribes. During the Civil War, the U.S. Government was in need of Indian interpreters. George became one of the mouth pieces between the government and the native nation leaders. Many times, George was the main protector of the

legal rights of the natives as he controlled the dialogue between the opposing parties.

After the war, George became not only a translator of tribal and national policies, as they relate to Native American rights today, he became a part of the negotiating team chosen to represent the Chief Yargee and the Muscogee Creek Nation in the settlement treaties of the 1860s and 1870s. During those times, George amassed power, money and political prestige. He served on the Muskogee Creek Nation Tribal Council became a Town King as well.

When the Civil War ended and the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the treaties that George and his fellow interpreters had helped to negotiate between the government and the tribe took effect. In filing war claims, as a U.S. soldier, George filed one of the first claims as part of the Loyal Creeks Act of 1867. Enacted by the U.S. Congress to compensate Native American tribes for their losses during the Civil War, George, as did other natives in fleeing Oklahoma for Kansas, and in the Kansas massacre, had lost much. For his military duties, he and over 300 Freedman and 60 black soldiers of the Indian Home Guards received compensation.

For his black Indian heritage, George and other blacks faced being left out of the settlements concerning lost property as it related to the war. In the post Civil War negotiations with the government, the Lower Creeks, not having many black citizens in their tribe as they had over the years assimilated more toward a European lifestyle, wanted to exclude the Upper Creek blacks from the negotiations and all future benefits as tribal Muscogee Creek members. Chief Yargee, a believer of inclusion of the blacks, chose George, Cow Tom, Harry Island, Silas Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Ketch Barnett, and John Meyers to represent him and the Muscogee Upper Creeks in the negotiations with Washington to protect black Indian rights as he spoke no English.

During the settlement process, the government convened a meeting at Ft. Smith in Arkansas whereby all "5 Civilized Tribes" were represented. Chief Yargee and the Upper Muscogee Creek clan were the only tribe to bring to the meeting black Indians in an official capacity. Of the five tribes represented at the negotiating table, the Upper Creeks were the only tribe that wanted to include blacks in the settlement agreement. To ensure that blacks were included, Chief Yargee sent a contingent to Washington, D.C. to argue the case before the government and George was a part of the team of "interpreters", lawyers at this point, representing and arguing a case.

In their presentation and arguments to the U.S. Government, it was argued that the black Indian should be included in the due benefits as many had served in the Union Army and had fought side by side with white soldiers. It was argued that the blacks should be included in due benefits under the tenets of the Emancipation Proclamation that made a Muscogee Creek slave, a citizen of the Tribe. To exclude the blacks from the restitution of lost property and loved ones' lives during the war would be unconstitutional.

George, a veteran of the war, and his fellow "interpreters", now acting as lawyers negotiating with the federal government, pointed out that in the fight for the territory and land in Indian Territory, one of the bloodiest battles to occur was the "Battle of Honey Springs", also known as "the Affair at Elk Creek" was fought mainly by black soldiers on both sides of the fighting forces. George and his team were victorious. In the signed treaties, the black Indians were given the same benefits as any citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation. This given right would play a gigantic role in the creation of "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma during the oil boom of the early 1900s.

After the closing of the Civil War, in the final settlement with the U.S. Government, those that were "loyal to the Union", as the Confederacy had lost, for claims and benefits to be paid, according to the 1870 Loyal Creek Abstract, "it was ascertained that of the loyal Choctaws and Chickasaws who thus lost property there were 212; of the loyal Seminoles there were 340; of the loyal Creeks 1,523". Chief Yargee, George and the other interpreters were right. The Creeks lost more fighting to end slavery than any other tribe. Thanks to George and his team, who fought to ensure that the tribes included their black slaves in the signed benefits due, the black Indian was included.

Sugar T. George died on June 30, 1900. He was buried in Agency Cemetery, a cemetery for blacks in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He is buried in the same cemetery as his fellow interpreters, Cow Tom and Harry Island. When he died, some same George was the wealthiest Negro (Black Indian) in Indian Territory.





## M IFFIN W ISTAR G IBB S

... was born on April 17, 1823 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Maria and Jonathan Gibbs. His mother worked as a laundress and his father was a Methodist minister. He died when Gibbs was a child. Growing up in Philadelphia was unlike the South,

as Pennsylvania was a free state and Philadelphia had several free flourishing black communities.

As an adult, Gibbs learned carpentry through an apprenticeship with a journeyman carpenter. An avid reader, he attended debates at the Philadelphia Library Company of Colored Person where he honed his oratory skills. Because of his exceptional speaking style, abolitionist Frederick Douglass, in his efforts to bring an end to slavery in the South, invited Gibbs to speak on an abolitionist lecture tour. From those tours, Gibbs became even more active in the abolitionist movement in Philadelphia.

Following the many others that journeyed to the west in the big "Gold Rush", Gibbs relocated to California. Arriving in San Francisco, California, Gibbs' first job was as a bootblack, shining shoes. His bootblack business flourished and it wasn't long before he was a successful merchant. He would go on to found the city's only black newspaper, *Mirror of the Times*. He became a leader in the city's black community.

In 1858, California passed legislation intended upon discouraging blacks from coming to the state or remaining in the state. The legislation deprived blacks from owning property and prohibited blacks from testifying or giving evidence against a white person in court. Blacks were required to wear a badge of identification.

Gibbs as well as other blacks were angered at these discriminatory laws. Being pressured out of California, he and two others traveled to British Columbia, Canada to meet with Governor of the province, Sir James Douglas, to learn more about how Canada treated the blacks there. The three men were on a fact finding mission to seek possible equality under the British flag.

Gibbs and his associates were assured by Douglas that if they relocated to Canada, they would be treated like other residents in this frontier as the county wanted more population and they were not prejudice against a man because of his skin color.

Gibbs returned to California and began to recruit blacks to move to Canada. Beginning in 1858, Gibbs convinced an estimated 800 African Americans and their families to from California to the Victoria, Canada area with some settling on Vancouver Island. The California blacks became a major segment of the frontier population.

In 1861, Gibbs became a naturalized British citizen as did fifty-two others. He remained in Canada for ten years. In the time, he became involved in the community and politics. He also worked as a merchant.

The following year, Gibbs decided to enter the race for a Victoria City Council seat. He came in 7th. If he had gotten four more votes, he could have taken his seat on the Council. Five years later, in 1867, Gibbs was elected to the Council, finally taking his seat. He became the second black elected official in Canada and the third on the North American continent to ever be elected to office.

In 1868, the Yale Convention was held. Gibbs was chosen as a delegate for the Salt Spring Island delegation. The delegation played an important part toward British Columbia joining Canada in the confederation. Gibbs would stay involved with Canadian politics for nearly ten years.

In 1869, Gibbs, in a business venture, entered into a deal to develop a coal mine in the Queen Charlotte Islands. To do so, he needed to build a railroad to transport the coal. In doing so, he is credited with building British Columbia's first railroad. Always having the welfare of the black community on his mind, Gibbs helped to organize the colony's first Militia. The all-black unit was known as the African Rifles.

Deciding to return to the United States, Gibbs chose the capital of Arkansas, Little Rock as his destination. With no law school to attend because of his race, as most African American law students, he read for an attorney. In 1870, he passed the Arkansas bar.

Gibbs became politically active in the Republican Party and was soon appointed to a number of judicial and government positions, including the position as County Attorney of Pulaski County, Arkansas. He was elected to the Office of the City Judge in 1873 as a Republican. He sat on the bench for twenty-four years.

President Rutherford B. Hayes named Gibbs registrar of the Little Rock district land office in 1877. He would serve in that position for twelve years. In 1889, Gibbs was appointed as Receiver of Public Monies in Little Rock by President Benjamin Harrison.

In 1897, Gibbs was appointed by Republican President William McKinley as the American Consul to Tamatave, Madagascar. He served that post for four years, resigning in 1901 at seventy-eight years old for health reasons.

Gibbs returned to the United States and launched his most venturesome business venture when he launched the Capital City Savings Bank, in Little Rock. Savvy in his business ventures, Gibbs soon became a partner in the Little Rock Electric Light Company. He invested wisely into real estate and soon became a wealthy man.

Amid rumors of insolvency, the bank closed on June 18, 1908. The Chancery Court appointed a receiver to assess the banks position. It was discovered that the bank had been poorly managed and its' records were unorganized. A grand jury was convened to investigate the bank's management. Gibbs and other bank Directors were indicted for accepting deposits in an insolvent bank. Facing jail time, Gibbs reached a settlement with the Court in an out-of-court agreement where Gibbs paid only \$28,000 in claims against him. He was able to save the bulk of his personal fortune.

Miffin Wistar Gibbs, on July 11, 1915, died at his home in Little Rock at the age of ninety-two. His remains are buried in the Fraternal Cemetery in Little Rock.





## TRUMAN K. GIBSON

...was born on January 22, 1912 in Atlanta, Georgia to Alberta Dickerson Gibson and Truman K. Gibson Sr. His mother was a teacher and intellectual member of the respected Atlanta University enclave. His father was a very successful insurance executive that rose to prominence in the Atlanta Mutual Insurance Company, the largest African

American insurance company in the United States at the time.

As a teenager, as Atlanta's racial tensions were high and the Jim Crow, white supremacist segregated, his father moved the family to Columbus, Ohio. Once there, he founded the Supreme Life and Casualty Company, which became one of the most successful African American businesses in the United States.

Gibson, Jr., although light skinned, was one of a few black students that attended the nearly all-white Columbus high schools that he graduated from. His family's educated awareness of civil rights gave him a balance of what he learned at school, and that he learned at home. As a teen, he sold newspapers on the streets, particularly "The Crisis", published by famed W.E.B. DuBois, a friend of his father.

After high school, Gibson moved to Chicago, Illinois to begin studies for his undergraduate degree. He enrolled into the University of Chicago where, in 1932, he received his degree. While in undergrad school, Gibson was selected as a Research Assistant to the production team of Harold F. Gosnell's book on Negro Politicians in Chicago. Through that network, Gibson was able to meet Chicago's power elite. He would remain at the University of Chicago where, in 1935, he obtained his law degree.

Unable to join the Chicago Bar Association, which did not admit blacks, he joined the Board of Directors of his father's insurance company. He would work at Supreme Liberty Life and practice private law for the next five years. He became the legal counsel for up and coming and gifted young boxer, Joe Louis, who later became the Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World. Gibson negotiated Lewis's boxing contracts and managed his business affairs.

In 1940, Gibson helped to organize the American Negro Exposition held in Chicago. The Exposition was held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 1865 signing of the U.S. Constitution's 13th Amendment, the Emancipation Proclamation. His work was noticed by in Washington, D.C. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and he was named to a post on the staff of Henry L. Stimson, then the Secretary of War for the U.S. federal government. He was assigned as a Civilian Aide to the offices of William H. Hastie. His task was to investigate and report on civil rights complaints filed by African Americans enlisted in the U.S. Army.

In one of his cases, he defended the rights of a group of black soldiers at Fort Riley in Kansas. Many of the applications filed by black candidates to attend the Officer Candidate School at Fort Riley had been delayed in the processing or had not been processed at all. Ironically, Joe Louis, whom Gibson had represented in his boxing career happened to have been drafted into the Army and was one of the soldiers training at Fort Gibson and a part of the complaining group. Future baseball great and first black to integrate professional baseball in the United States, Jackie Robinson was also a member of the candidates hoping to attend the Officer Candidate School.

In 1943, Hastie resigned his position and Gibson took over as Chief Civilian Advisor to U.S. Secretary War Stimson. In his role, Gibson played a pivotal role in production of filmmaker Frank Capra's

1944 war propaganda film, "The Negro Soldier", which portrayed black soldiers in a positive light as brave, intelligent, and patriotic military men. The film was credited with the increase of black men enlisting into the Army and for giving blacks a sense of pride, which helped to erase some of the negative stereotypical images given to blacks on the big screen in Hollywood movies.

For his contributions to the film, Gibson was given the Legion of Merit Award by the U.S. Armed Forces for his exceptional performance in his call to duty to make the film a reality. Gibson also led the creation of the radio program "America's Negro Soldiers", which popularized the efforts and services provided by black soldiers serving in the U.S. military. Frequent guests of the show included performers, entertainers and others interested in civil rights issues.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman appointed Gibson to a nine-member civilian commission charged with compiling a report aimed at creating universal training programs to end segregation in the military. He was the only black of the nine members chosen to the panel. In his investigations, Gibson traveled to Italy to inspect the treatment of black soldiers serving in the 92nd Infantry Division. In a military's report to the panel, the black soldiers had been labeled as cowardice. Upon examination, it was determined that the unit was a scapegoat and their civil rights were being trampled upon. The commission's report, after fourteen months of investigations, was presented to President Truman who then signed Executive Order 9981, which ordered the desegregation of the armed forces in the United States.

After completing his charges for the President, Gibson returned to Chicago and private practice. His boxer client, Joe Louis, was having great success and had tax problems and needed help on his management team. Gibson became the Director and Secretary of Louis' business, Joe Louis Enterprises. Serving as Louis' manager and promoter, the two went on to become true Champions of the World.

With great success in managing Louis, Gibson then became the Secretary of the International Boxing Club (IBC), an international championship title fight promotion organization. He would soon become the organization's President. As President, he spearheaded IBC's rise in national televised boxing matches around the world. In 1959, Gibson was named one of three Directors of National Boxing Enterprises, a Chicago-based production company that brought the "Friday Night Fights" to television that was televised around the U.S. and the world.

Unfortunately, the IBC was later dissolved after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it had violated antitrust laws. The organization had been accused by then Welterweight Champion Don Jordan of extortion and the siphoning off his boxing earnings and U.S. Prosecutors agreed and had filed charges against Gibson and his partners. After the case had been adjudicated, Gibson and four others, Frankie Carbo, Louis Tom Draga, Joe Sica and Frank Palermo, were found guilty of the charges. For his role in the crime, Gibson received a monetary fine and five years probation. The settlement agreement called for the IBC to be dissolved.

Fortunately, Gibson did not lose his law license. He returned to private practice taking on clients such as the School for Automotive Trades in Chicago and the Chicago Land Clearance Commission. He joined the Board of Directors of Chicago Community Fund and Roosevelt University became a member of the Cook County Bar Association to name a few. He would hold memberships in many social, political, educational, and private organizations. His awards are vast and his honors list is long.

Unfortunately for Gibson, in 1977, he was charged and convicted of crimes related to a stock-swindling case. He was fined \$1,000 and his law license was suspended for two years. He was given five years probation on bank fraud in the case as well.

Truman Kella Gibson, Jr. died on December 23, 2005. He was ninety-three years old.



## M. SHANARA GILBERT

...was born and named Margaret Catherine Gilbert on June 5, 1950 in Gap, Pennsylvania located in Lancaster County. She received her undergraduate degree from Syracuse University in Syracuse, New

York where she majored in Political Journalism. While earning her undergraduate degree, she founded and Co-Directed the City University Law School's Defender Clinic. She also volunteered of her time working with the Attica Defense Committee. It was at the Committee that she met Dean Haywood Burns who was coordinating the defense team. The experience of working on behalf of prisoners profoundly changed her life.

To obtain her law degree, Gilbert attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1980. After graduation, she was hired as a staff attorney with the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. After a period of time in Washington, D.C., she took a job with the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services.

In 1989, Gilbert joined the staff of the City University of New York (CUNY) Law School at Queens College as an Associate Professor of Law. She became a member of a clinical program and was charged with developing and institutionalizing both the clinical program but the clinic itself. In 1993, Gilbert served as a consultant to the Ford Foundation. In her duties, she wrote a report on the status of university legal aid clinics in South Africa.

Gilbert took special care for students and dedicated herself to their wellbeing and academic excellence. She gave as much pro bono time as she could when not working on the highly visible and important New York criminal justice cases that she litigated. Through her teachings and professionalism, she was both a mentor and a role model to her young law students. One of Gilbert's greatest contributions and be a hallmark to her legacy is her sense of equal justice for all and she instilled into each of her students that same sense for equal justice.

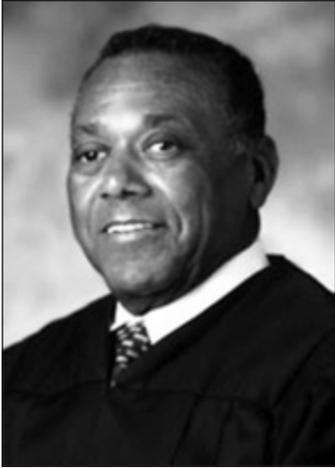
Gilbert has penned and contributed to several laureate publications printed in the scholarly profession of law.

In 1990, she wrote, "Racism and Retrenchment in Capital Sentencing: Judicial and Congressional Haste Toward the Ultimate Injustice" and in 1993, she wrote, "An Ounce of Prevention: A Constitutional Prescription for Choice of Venue in Racially Sensitive Criminal Cases". She has been published in several law journals and reviews, including "In Memorium: A Tribute to W. Haywood Burns and M. Shanara Gilbert: Revolutionaries in the Struggle for Justice", by Charles J. Ogletree, Jr..

Gilbert served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Black Lawyers and as a past Chairwoman of the NCBL's Section on Criminal Justice. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem. She has given of her time to many other civic, civil, and social organizations while serving her duties as a teacher.

For her dedicated contributions and many philanthropic endeavors to the CUNY Law School renamed it's law library in Gilbert's honor, The Shanara Gilbert Law Clinic Library at CUNY School of Law Queens College. The law school also bestowed upon her, The Haywood Burns/Shanara Gilbert Award and the University of Nepal named a charitable gift in her honor, The Shanara Gilbert Clinical Law Prize. In addition, the Society of American Law Teachers presented her with The Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award and she received The Shanara Gilbert Fellowship from the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

On April 2, 1996, while traveling in South African to attend a conference on democracy, international law, and the drafting of South Africa's new constitution, Gilbert died in an automobile accident. Dying along with her was W. Haywood Burns, the former Dean City University of New York Law School at Queens College. A truck ran a red light near Cape Town at a high rate of speed striking the car broadside, killing those inside.



## EARL B. GILLIAM

...was born on August 17, 1931 in Clovis, New Mexico to Lula Mae Gooden Gilliam and James Earl Gilliam. The family left Clovis to move to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for a short time before relocating to

San Diego, California when Gilliam was ten years old. He graduated from San Diego High School before entering San Diego State University in San Diego. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University in 1953. He obtained his law degree from the University of California's Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, California in 1957.

After receiving his law degree, Gilliam took a job as a Deputy District Attorney in the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. He worked in the office for two years. He then entered private practice for two years before being named as a Judge on the San Diego Municipal Court. He would serve on the Court for twelve years.

In 1963, then Governor Edmond G. Brown appointed Gilliam to the San Diego Municipal Court. He was the first African American to sit on a San Diego Court bench. He was just thirty-two years old. Eight years later, in 1971, Judge Gilliam was elected as the Presiding Judge.

In 1975, then Governor Jerry Brown appointed Gilliam as a Judge to the San Diego County Superior Court. Again, he became the first African American to serve as a Judge on the Superior Court. He served on the Superior Court for five years.

In 1979, then President Jimmy Carter appointed Gilliam as a federal Judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. He was the first African American Judge appointed to serve in the Southern District of California. He was confirmed and took his seat on the Court on August 20, 1980. In 1993, he assumed senior status.

While serving on the bench, Judge Gilliam served as an Adjunct Professor at Western State University School of Law in Fullerton, California. He would serve the university for the next twenty-four years. For his dedicated

service to the law school, the University dedicated its' Moot Courtroom in Judge Gilliam's honor.

Judge Gilliam served on many private and professional associations and organizations during his professional career. He served on the Board of Overseers of University of California San Diego, the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and the Burn Institute. In his civic duties, he gave support to the San Diego Kind Corporation, the Boys Club, the YMCA, Model Cities, and the Urban League.

For his contributions to the residents of San Diego, the San Diego African American Lawyers Association honored Judge Gilliam by changing its' organization name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. The U.S. Government also renamed one of its' post offices after him, the Earl B. Gilliam United States Post Office. The Post Office is located on Imperial Avenue in San Diego.

Judge Earl B. Gilliam died on January 28, 2001. He was sixty-nine years old.

Photo Not Available



## WALTER H. GLADWIN

...was born in 1903 in Verbice, British Guiana, one of the northern countries of South America. As a teen, his family moved to the United States landing in Bronx, New York. He struggled

through his elementary and high school years surviving in the big city working odd jobs to help support the family and to make ends meet.

After completing high school, he enrolled into New York's City College and earned his undergraduate degree, completing his studies in 1936. To support himself during undergrad and through law school, Gladwin worked part-time as an elevator operator and at night at a printing company. He attended New York City's Law School and, in 1941, he obtained his J.D. degree.

After receiving his law degree, Gladwin entered private practice law. After practicing common case law for several years, he took a job as an Assistant District Attorney serving the Bronx borough of New York. He became the first African American Assistant District attorney to be hired by the office. He would work in the District Attorney's Office for several more years before turning his attention to politics.

Concerned with the representation and the services being rendered to his borough, Gladwin decided to enter the world of politics and entered the race for an Assembly seat to represent Bronx. There had never been an African American Assemblyman before, so Gladwin entered his name into the political race and would go on to win a seat on the Assembly representing the Bronx. He became the first African American Assemblyman in Bronx's history. He would serve in the Assembly until being named as a Criminal Court Judge in 1957. When he assumed his seat on the Criminal Court, he became the first sitting African American Judge on that Court's bench.

In 1957, then Mayor Robert F. Wagner appointed Gladwin to the Criminal Court in New York. He would rule on several high profile cases while sitting on the bench including the infamous case involving the stabbing of the wife of Norman Mailer, a well-known actor, activist, novelist, journalist, filmmaker, and playwright.

Mailer, married six times, was married to his second wife, Adele Morales, at the time. At a party, after a heated disagreement, Mailer stabbed his wife in the heart with a penknife. She recovered and did not press charges. The incident did, however, lead to a host of women's protest and women's rights organization taking a stand in the protection of women and their wellbeing.

After leaving the bench, Gladwin returned to private practice. He would later move his offices from east Bronx to Highland Mills in Orange County, New York. He would continue to practice law until his retirement in 1983. While serving his law clients, he also served several organizations with the legal needs. He served as President of the Bronx Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was a member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America.

Walter H. Gladwin died on June 12, 1988 in Arden Hill Hospital, Goshen, New York of a heart attack. He was eighty-five years old.



## WILLIE STEVENSON GLANTON

...was born on March 19, 1922 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Her mother was an elementary school teacher and her father was an activist that organized the local Negro Civic League aimed at addressing issues surrounding black people lives in Hot Springs.

When Glanton was in middle school, she was fortunate to have several teachers, including her mother, that pushed her in her studies as she was able to learn discipline while studying which gave her an ability to focus that many did not obtain at such an early age. After graduating high school, she attended Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee for her undergraduate studies majoring in Business Education. Upon the urging of her class advisor, Glanton signed up to take a national federal exam which gave her an opportunity to study in Washington, D.C..

Glanton moved to Washington and entered the Robert H. Terrell Law School. While earning her law degree, she would be surrounded by some of the brightest legal minds the city had to offer. After obtaining her law degree from Robert H. Terrell, Glanton took a job with the U.S. Department of War. While working in Washington, she was able to meet and work alongside great women such as Mary McCleod Bethune and Mary Church Terrell that would mentor her in both politics and community affairs. She would spend seven years at the Department before getting married moving to Iowa in 1951.

She took and passed the Iowa State Bar to become the second African American woman to be admitted to the Iowa Bar, doing so in 1953. The first had done so in 1918. It was difficult to obtain office space in Des Moines as segregation was practiced in Iowa but Glanton was able to find meager offices from which to operate. A year later, she took a job with the Polk County District Attorney's Office. She was the first African American Polk County female Assistant Attorney hired by the office. After working for the County for several years, Glanton left the County accepting a position with the federal government.

Glanton joined the League of Women Voters and began to support their organization's agenda and assisted in their voting registration campaigns. In 1960, Glanton was selected as a part of a group by the U.S. State Department to go to African and Southeast Asia to study the laws of each country and report how those laws affected the women of those countries. The report illustrated how selective laws applied to the everyday lives of women in the countries visited.

After completing that State Department appointment, Glanton returned to Iowa. She was selected as one of eleven Democratic representatives to run against their Republican counterparts in the upcoming November election. Receiving the second highest number of votes cast, Glanton won a seat in the Iowa House of Representatives. She became the first African American to serve in the House and only one of two African Americans serving in the General Assembly. She resigned in 1966 to take a job with the United States Small Business Administration (SBA).

For the Small Business Administration, Glanton served as an equal opportunity advocate. As in her previous position, she became the first African American to be hired by the agency. She would stay at the agency for the next twenty-one years dedicating her life to civil rights, human services and the law.

In 1986, Glanton was elected as President of the Iowa Chapter Federal Bar Association. As President, she took part in a 22-member group that traveled to China, Finland, and the Soviet Union to hold face-to-face meetings with representatives there surrounding civil rights issues and other concerns of the communities there and how they compared to the same issues and concerns in Iowa. She was the first African American woman to serve as President of the Iowa Bar.

Glanton has been given many awards and honors. She was honored as "One of the Top Ten Influential Black Iowans" by the Des Moines Register and has been inducted into the Iowa Bar Association's Hall of Fame. For the work she performed on behalf of The Links, Inc., a national volunteer organization, she was awarded the "Legacy Celebration Award". She received from the Young Women's Resource Center their "Visionary Woman Award" and the Blacks in Government, a government employee political organization, presented to her their "Judge Luther T. Glanton Community Service Award for Meritorious Service to the Community at Large". She is also listed amongst the "Who's Who' in America" .

Glanton has been named to many boards, councils, and commissions and has served on several association, church, civic, and community committees. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Bar Association's Committee on Women and Minorities, the Des Moines General Hospital, the Elsie Mason Manor, the Golden Circle Incubator, the Iowa National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Ligutti Tower Housing, and the Mid-City Vision Committee. Glanton also served on the Board of Trustees for for Des Moines University in Des Moines, Iowa.

For Drake University, also located in in Des Moines, Glanton served on the President's Commission on Student Diversity. She assisted the Boy Scouts of America's Executive Council with legal needs for their Mid-Iowa Council. She also gave time to the Greater Des Moines Charter Commission.

In 2004, in honor of her and her husband, Des Moines University established the Glanton Scholarship Fund to honor.





## HONORAE ALFRED GLASCOR

...was born on January 15, 1914 in Augusta, Georgia to Fannie and Sebron Glascor. His parents were sharecroppers. At the age of seven, his family relocated to Columbus, Ohio to

escape the struggles of the segregated South. He attended public schools and graduated from East High School. He went on to attend The Ohio State University (OSU) graduating in 1939 with a B.A. in History. He received an Advanced degree in Law from the Ohio State as well.

That year, he passed the Ohio bar and the Ohio State Supreme Court admitted him to practice law in the state. In his first job as an attorney, he worked in the offices of Ray E. Hughes and Wilbur King, two prominent Ohio attorneys. A few years later, he met and married Mary Carter Milner. Together, they had two children.

A very religious man, in 1961, he co-founded of The Second Community Church, serving as founding trustee. A gifted singer, he sang in the church choir and taught Sunday school. He, of course, was the church's legal advisor.

In 1967, Glascor received from Ohio State University his Juris Doctorate degree. For the next three decades, he would represent many Ohio citizens in their legal issues. He became one of the most sought out attorney's in the state.

As a reward for his years of service to Ohio citizens, in 1976, then Governor James A. Rhodes appointed him to a seat on the Franklin County Municipal Court. Glascor would sit on the bench for the next twelve years. In 1983, he was appointed Presiding Judge, serving in this capacity for three years.

Retiring from the bench in 1990, Glascor became a Visiting Judge for the Ohio State Supreme Court. His passion of mentoring young lawyers was unprecedented. He encouraged many young aspiring students to chase their dreams and their interests through pursuing a higher education.

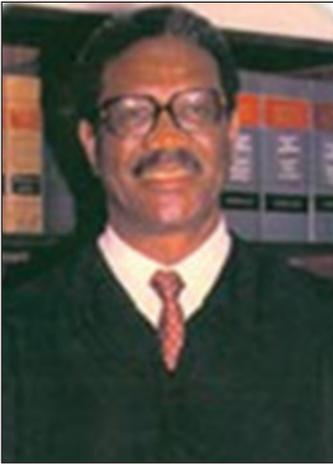
A civic minded person, Glascor was involved in many local organizations. He sat on the Board of the Columbus Police Athletic League Board, was a member of the Boy Scouts of America Extension Committee, the OSU Alumni

Association, and was a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

He was a charter member of the Robert B. Elliott Law Club and a sponsor of the Faith Mission, a shelter for the homeless. He gave his time, money and energy to the U.S. Special Olympics Foundation. He was also a member of the .S. Army Draft Review Board during World War II. A devoted and caring member of the Ohio Bar Association and the Columbus Bar Association, he was active with the organizations for over sixty-five years.

President George H. W. Bush acknowledged Judge Glascor for his dedicated service. Praising him for not only for his service to the state of Ohio and its' citizens, but praising him for his world wide travels. Glascor had visited and conducted business in forty-five U.S. states and every European capitals. He made trips to Canada, South America, USSR and many Caribbean and Pacific islands.

Known for his kindness and graciousness, Glascor would often praise lawyers from the bench and if there were a need for a reprimand, he usually did so in private. He and his wife maintained an in lake home in Logan County of western Ohio. Known as "Buckeye Country," there, he entertained family and friends. Judge Honorae Alfred Glascor died on October 20, 2011 at the age of ninety-seven.



## ROBERT D. GLASS

..was born on November 28, 1922 in Wetumpka, Alabama to M.E. and Isaiah Glassr. His father worked as a farmhand on local farms in the area and his mom was a domestic worker. Growing up in a poor family, Glass's parents

could not afford the needed schoolbooks so he was unable to attend the segregated schools of the Deep South where he was reared. Because of the family's dire financial situation, his formal education did not begin until he was ten years old. That education came in the way of him receiving a set of 4th grade books given to him by his cousin.

Glass's mother was employed as his housekeeper in an Alabama Judge's home. Although he was far too young to be enrolled in law school, fortunately, his mother was able to borrow law books from the Judge with the hope that one day her son would become a Judge. The Judge would invite the young Glass to attend court proceedings so that Glass could observe and understand the legal processes. In turn, Glass served as the Judge's caddy where they would discuss legal issues and pending cases. This invaluable experience gave Glass an education that easily surpassed that he would have been receiving had he been attending school.

When Glass was able to attend public school, he did so in impoverished segregated schools where his education was subpar to that he had gotten while caddying for the Judge and attending the courtroom proceedings. There he learned life lessons. He enlisted in the United States Army and served during World War II. In the Army, he reached the rank of Sergeant while earning several medals of distinction. He left the Army in 1946. Leaving the Army, Glass enrolled into North Carolina Central University in Durham where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude graduating in 1949.

Applying for admission to the all-white University of North Carolina, he was denied entry because of his race. He sued the school and was represented by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. By the time the case was won, Glass had entered the Law School of North Carolina College and had graduated, in 1951, cum laude, with a Bachelor of Laws degree as the top student in his law school class.

Glass took and passed the North Carolina Bar in 1962 becoming the first African American to be admitted. Although he had passed the North Carolina Bar, his family moved to Waterbury, Connecticut and he moved with them. His first job in Wa-

terbury was as a Claims Examiner for the Connecticut Department of Labor. He took and passed the Connecticut Bar during that year.

In 1964, he became a member of the Waterbury Committee on Human Rights where he focused on the well being of the citizens of Waterbury. Two years later, he accepted the position as Assistant United States Attorney for Connecticut, serving for one year. In 1967, five years after first arriving in Connecticut, he was given an appointment as a Juvenile Court Judge where he served with distinction for eleven years. That appointment made him the first African American Juvenile Court Judge in Connecticut.

In 1978, Glass was pointed to the Connecticut Superior Court. Six years later, in recognition of his administrative talents, Glass was picked to become Administrative Judge for the Judicial District of Waterbury. He remained the Administrative Judge until he was pegged for a seat on the Connecticut Supreme Court. He was sworn in on June 26, 1987 becoming the first African American Supreme Court Justice in the state's history. He left the Court in 1992 when he reached the mandatory retirement age of seventy. In retirement, Glass willingly became the Co-Chairperson of Connecticut's Minority Justice Task Force.

While serving on the Court, Glass contributed to over 135 majority opinions that helped other Judges understand the complex legal issues that the Court had to resolve. Not limiting his judicial skills solely to the criminal field, Glass has written opinions related to housing problems in the urban areas and questionable waivers of Miranda rights to persons under arrest. His commitment to fair and equitable justice for all is unparalleled which leaves Glass's legacy untarnished and well respected.

Glass was deeply religious that loved his church. With him always in his wallet was the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. He also carried in his wallet a copy of the U.S. Constitution. An imposing figure standing 6 feet and 7 inches tall, one might have felt intimidated by his size, however, Judge Glass treated each person with respect, not for what they may have been in their lives but for the type of person that they have become.

His dignity and wisdom was second only to his modesty. Always praising the accomplishment of others, Glass was quick to give confidence to those in need. He encouraged young people reach for their dreams and always urged them to answer life's challenges whenever it called and to say to it, "Yes, I can! Yes, I can make it". His patriotism and love of America was never taken for granted, it was shown.

Robert D. Glass passed away on November 27, 2001 at the age of seventy-nine.



**J**AMES  
GOODWIN

..was born on



## ALEXANDRIA GORDON

...is a native Floridian raised in Pine Hill, Florida, a subdivision located in Orange County. She became involved in the legal process at an early age when her father, an Orlando, Florida police officer was killed while

performing his duties. Living through that experience was one of the motivating incidents that steered Gordon toward a legal career.

As a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship recipient, she earned her undergraduate degree in Business Administration in International Business from Florida International University in Miami, Florida in 2010. To obtain her law degree, she chose Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law in Orlando where she completed her studies in 2015. She then took and passed the Florida State Bar exam.

Gordon began her legal career serving as an associate attorney in the law offices of Dan Newlin & Partners in their Orlando offices. Her specialty at the firm surrounded personal injury law. It was not long before she was elevated to a Managing Attorney status and was given a personal injury case that would take several years to litigate.

After working at Dan Newlin & Partners for two years, Gordon accepted several jobs with different agencies, including working as a Guardian Ad Litem for the FAMU College of Law Legal Clinic. She then accepted a position with The Hartford, a large national insurance company. During her time with The Hartford, Gordon was promoted from her entry job as a claims adjuster to claims manager and to ultimately becoming a Counsel Associate.

Gordon became an expert in the insurance field and served as an arbitrator to claims and litigated cases in dispute from independent insurance carriers. She made binding decisions in liability and medical claims and handled thousands of personal injury cases. Her job as the arbitrator was to find the best solutions for the insurance providers while making sure the claimants received their due process and adequate compensation for their claims.

After almost four years with The Hartford, in 2016, Gordon became the managing attorney for her own law firm, The Gordon Law Firm. For the last two years, she has served her local community in Apopka, Florida and the surrounding Orlando communities well. She has been actively involved in several local charities and works on behalf of other non-profit organizations. She is a member of the Florida Bar's Young Lawyer's Division and has given time to the American Civil Liberties Union's Florida Chapter where she works in defense of Floridian's civil liberties and equal justice issues.

Gordon is a past Miss Black South Florida winner and uses that title to provide education and inspiration inner city youth and to give them confidence to achieve the best they wish to become. She gives back to her central Florida community and other communities throughout the state when asked to speak as the former Miss Black South Florida. Gordon also formed the Community Service and Diversity Committee, which fosters a culture of community development and commitment among other attorneys having the purpose of charitable giving.



## CLAUDIA L. GORDON

...was born in Jamaica. As a young child, she experienced sharp pains in her ears and after being diagnosed, it was determined that she was losing her hearing. By the age of eight, she was deaf. After

the diagnosis, Gordon's family learned that she had been reading lips for some time thinking she was hearing voices.

Being a deaf child was not easy for Gordon as she faced some discrimination due to her handicap. When she reached the age of eleven, her family moved to New York and enrolled her into the Lexington School for the Deaf in East Elmhurst. She was elated with the move because she was around others having the same handicap and she could receive the education she was not receiving in Jamaica as a deaf child.

After completing high school, Gordon enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C. where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political Science in 1995. She was a Patricia Robert Harris Public Affairs Fellow at Howard and served as a member of the Golden Keys National Honor Society. She was also a member of the Political Science Honor Society.

Although she was deaf, Gordon was gifted student. She remained in Washington to attend American University's Washington College of Law to obtain her law degree. She became the first African American attorney in the United States. Although she was deaf, Gordon was gifted student. For her academic acumen, she received a Skadden Fellowship for law graduates to work with disabled people. With that Fellowship, Gordon was paid to work at the National Association of the Deaf Law and Advocacy Center. At the Deaf Law and Advocacy Center, Gordon provided direct representation for poor deaf people, particularly deaf African Americans.

After serving for a period of time at the Center, Gordon worked for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs at the U.S. Department of Labor. She was appointed as an assistant to the Director. She then became a consultant to the National Council on Disability. That led her to joining the Department of Homeland Security as a Senior Policy Advisor in the Office for Civil

Rights and Civil Liberties. She then served as the Vice President of the National Black Deaf Advocates and gave time to the National Coalition for Disability Rights.

In that regard, in 2013, Gordon was appointed as the Associate Director for the White House Office of Public Engagement. She served as a Public Engagement Advisor to the Disability Community and was the first deaf person to work at the White House serving in a detailee capacity and served for one year. Gordon was an advisor to then President Barack Obama keeping him informed of disability issues.

Gordon has received several awards for her service to the deaf community. She has received the Department of Homeland's Security Secretary's "Gold Medal Award" and the American Association of People with Disabilities' "Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award". In 2004, Gordon was named as the Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Lexington School for the Deaf. She has also served as a guest lecturer in Gallaudet University's Department of Social Work. Gallaudet University is a university located in Washington, D.C. for the hearing impaired.



## WALTER ARTHUR GORDON

... was born on October 10, 1894 in Atlanta, Georgia to Georgia Bryant Gordon and Henry B. Gordon. When he was ten years old, his family relocated to Riverside, California. He attended

Riverside Polytechnic High School and matriculated to University of California, Berkeley.

A gifted student-athlete, Gordon earned sports letters in football, wrestling, and boxing. In football, he was a star line man for the football team playing every position on both offense and defense. He became an All-American in 1918, the second African American to receive the award. The first was famed Paul Robeson. Gordon was eventually named to the College Football Hall of Fame.

As the best on his boxing team, he won the California State Championship. He won the California State Championship in wrestling as well. At 6'0" and 200 pounds, his size simply over powered his opponents, forcing them into submission or defeat with a knockout. At Cal-Berkeley, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was a founding member of the University of California, Berkeley's Alpha Epsilon chapter. In 1918, Gordon completed his undergraduate studies and began his studies for his law degree.

Enrolling into Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, he began his laws studies in earnest. He received his law degree in 1922. He became the first African American to graduate from the law school. After obtaining his law degree, he took a job with the Berkely Golden Bears football team as a scout and part-time assistant coach. He also joined the Berkeley, California Police Department at the urging of Police Chief August Vollmer. Accepting the offer, Gordon became Berkeley's first black police officer. While performing both jobs, Gordon, in his third career, began his law practice in Oakland, California.

While a police officer and working with the university football team, Gordon gave much of his free time serving and aiding local civic organizations. He led the Alameda County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and served as Vice-President of the Lawyer's Guild of San Francisco.

He also became a member of the Commonwealth Club of California.

In 1930, Gordon retired from the Oakland Police Department and became the Branch President of the Berkeley NAACP. As President, he was selected by California Governor Earl Warren to go to Los Angeles and assess the causes of the 1943 Zoot Suit Riots that had occurred there. A conflict had erupted between U.S. servicemen and Mexican American youths. The disagreements got out of hand and a riot ensued.

A mob of white sailors, soldiers, and Los Angeles private citizens viciously attacked the Mexican youths not liking the zoot-suits that they wore. The white attackers ripped the clothes off of their backs and beat the youths with their fists and other objects they found lying around.

The riot lasted six days, ending only when the U.S. Navy declared the City of Los Angeles off-limits to all servicemen. Gordon lent his expertise to resolving the issues at hand. His report recommended severe punishment for all military and civilians Involved. His report also recommended better police training and relationships with the Mexican youths.

In 1943, Gordon retired from his job as the Assistant Coach with the Berkeley football team. He accepted a position with the California Adult Authority, the state's parole board. He served on the Authority for nine years becoming its' Chairman. A year later, he retired from law altogether.

In 1955, Gordon was appointed as Governor of the United States Virgin Islands by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower. For this achievement, UC Berkeley named him the "Alumni of the Year." After serving for three years as Governor, he gave up his position to become a Federal Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Island. He served on the Court for ten years, leaving in 1968.

Returning to the states, Gordon moved back to Berkely to enjoy the remainder of his life. Walter Arthur Gordon died in Berkeley, California on April 2, 1976 at the age of eighty-one.



## WALTER LEAR GORDON

...was born on June 22, 1908 in Santa Monica, California to Vertner and Walter Lear Gordon Jr.. An only child, his mother took care of home while his father delivered mail by horseback for the federal government. As a young man, Gordon, Jr. earned extra income by selling newspapers outside of the meeting hall of the civil

rights organization, the Los Angeles Forum. By being around men who worked on the civil rights issues that affected the community in which he lived, Gordon, Jr.'s interest in the concerns of his people grew tremendously. What he was able to overhear and watch develop gave him a foundation of care for the well being of people that would carry him throughout his legal career.

After completing his high school studies, Gordon took a job on a cargo ship working in the mess hall. He traveled back and forth to the Panama Canal and eventually made his way to Boston, Massachusetts where he stayed for two years. He decided to complete his college education and returned to California.

He enrolled into the University of Southern California in Los Angeles but stayed there only eighteen months. He transferred to Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio where he would complete his undergraduate studies and receive both his undergraduate degree and his law degree in 1936. Once he completed his law studies, he again returned to California.

Returning to Los Angeles to begin his law career, Gordon knew there were not many black attorneys in the city at that time. In 1937, Los Angeles was just as segregated as was the Deep South. He was fortunate to obtain a small office in the offices of the local black weekly newspaper, The California Eagle, which had been founded by an escaped slave in 1879. The newspaper was located in the "city's heartbeat" area of the city, which benefited Gordon greatly as he had plenty of people that needed legal representation and he was one of the first to establish a business there. His business quickly grew. He became a landmark to his Los Angeles community representing some of the most well known celebrities to the many lesser-known citizens of the neighborhood.

At the time, the Los Angeles County Bar Association did not admit blacks and there were no places for black law firms. There were several independent attorneys practicing but not collective group working together on any issues affecting the black community. Gordon worked to fill that void. He began to mentor and coordinate common information that may affect the community and opened his doors to anyone that wished to speak to him about their concerns.

In 1945, Gordon had built a successful law practice. He had made enough money that he was able to buy an empty lot across the street from the newspaper that housed his law office. He built a building from ground up and would operate his law firm from that neighborhood office for the next sixty-five years.

Gordon took on his client's cases with a "we'll figure out how to pay for it later" attitude. There was no case that he would not work to defend or represent. Gordon took on a case in the early 1940s representing a dozen black railroad dining car workers that had been charged with tax evasion alleging they had not reported all of their tips in their tax calculations. Gordon took on the case and was able to settle the case with each porter having to pay only a \$25 fine. In another case, a group of black Deputy Sheriffs that had claims against them for arresting a man while off-duty.

The Deputy Sheriffs has been prosecuted by the state for carrying their weapons while off duty against policy rules, as blacks were not allowed carry their guns while not in uniform. Gordon was able to get the men exonerated by arguing and citing ancient English law that punished Sheriff's for not carrying their guns at all times. He pointed out that their oath called on them to "protect the King's peace" at all times, thus they must have their firearms on them at all times. The Court agreed with Gordon.

In 1949, tragedy struck too close to home for Gordon. His parents were discovered murdered in the Highland Park home. Taking a toll on Gordon, he no longer accepted cases involving the defense of violent criminals, but did continue representation of bookmakers, those charged with less violent claims, and everyday citizens. He defended successful entertainers and civil rights activists targeted by the federal government for the social and civil rights activities. A few of his more famous clients included African American activist Angela Davis and members of the Black Panther Party, musicians Jimi Hendrix and jazz great Miles Davis, and international singers Dorothy Dandridge and Nat King Cole.

One of Gordon's more notable clients was famed entertainer and singer Billie Holiday. During her most successful years, Gordon represented Holiday, and she had many cases to defend. In one of his defenses of her, Gordon was able to have a case dismissed from Court where Holiday was accused of assaulting a white patron who had heckled her during one of her performances. While singing her famous "Strange Fruit", a song about the lynching of black people, not liking the lyrics began to heckle Holiday. Holiday, in her feistiness responded in her particular manner. The Judge ruled in the case that the heckler was a troublemaker and threw the case out.

Gordon would win more cases on appeal than any other attorney at the time. Because there were not many black lawyers to represent them and white lawyers charged high rates to represent blacks, many blacks had no representation and could not fight charges, many of which they were not guilty of, and were sentenced to fines and jail time. Gordon was able to reduce the jail times and have many of the fines removed.

Gordon was an avid collector of photographs. Starting years before, when he first began his career, he began to collect photographs discarded by the California Eagle that showed the lives of everyday people in the community and stories related to the history of Los Angeles. Gordon felt it was important to document society and the people who were college educated and worked in trained professions. Over the years, he has collected nearly 800 images. He donated the collection to the Charles E. Young Research Library at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Walter Lear Gordon, Jr. died on April 16, 2012 at the California Hospital Medical Center in Los Angeles. He was one hundred and three years old.





## FRED DAVID GRAY

... was born on December 14, 1930 in Montgomery, Alabama to Nancy (Jones) Arms and Abraham Gray. The youngest of five children, his mother domestic and cook for families in Montgomery while his father worked as a carpenter. He died when Gray was two years old.

Gray attended the Loveless School until the seventh grade until the families economic condition became to great for his mother to handle. Although she worked two jobs, Gray's mother, having no husband to assist and the Great Depression in full effect could not make ends Meet. Compounded with the lack of economic opportunities for African Americans in the Deep South, she had no choice but to ship him away to boarding school in Nashville, Tennessee.

Gray attended the Nashville Christian Institute (NCI), a boarding school operated by the Churches of Christ. There, he assisted NCI President and noted preacher, Marshall Keeble. They visited churches of the largely white denomination spreading the Gospels. After graduation, Gray Enrolled into Alabama State College for Negroes, located in Montgomery, Alabama. He graduated in 1951 receiving a Baccalaureate degree.

Wanting to become a historian and a preacher, Gray was encouraged by a teacher to apply for law school. At that time, there was no law school in Alabama that would accept African Americans. He applied and was accepted to Case Western Reserve University's School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Case in 1954. After passing the bar, he returned to Montgomery and opened a law office.

To fulfilled one of his mother's dreams, Gray became a licensed preacher of the Churches of Christ. He began to preach, doing so at the Holt Street Church of Christ where his parents had long been devout members. He later moved to Tuskegee, Alabama where as a preacher, he helped merge the white and black denomination's and churches as one in 1974. He served on the Board of Trustees for Southwestern Christian College, a historically black college near Dallas, Texas which was affiliated with the Churches of Christ. Years later, in 2012, another Churches of Christ affiliated school, Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, would bestow upon Gray a Doctorate of Humane Letters Honoris Causa.

Gray came to prominence during the Civil Rights Movement. In one of his first cases as a Alabama lawyer, he defended Claudette Colvin, the first person arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery city bus to a white rider. Nine months later, he would represent Rosa Parks for the same offense. This time working with Martin Luther King, Jr. and E.D. Nixon, President of the Montgomery Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the case became national Headline news and the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955.

During the more than year-long boycott, Gray represented the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization overseeing the boycott. The United States Supreme Court ultimately condemned bus segregation practices in the case which started with Colvin's ac-

tion, researched and filed by Gray, *Browder v. Gayle*.

In 1956, Alabama Attorney General John Malcolm Patterson prohibited the NAACP from operating in Alabama. For eight years, Gray provided legal counsel to the NAACP, through three state courts and two federal courts before the organization was permitted to operate in the state. In 1960, Gray also defended successfully Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s charges of tax evasion, winning from an all-white jury an acquittal.

Gray won other notable civil rights cases including the 1962 case of *Comillion v. Lightfoot*, which overturned the state's redistricting of Tuskegee designed to excluded most of the majority black resident from voting. This case contributed to "one man, one vote" bills. He also argued the 1963 *Williams v. Wallace* case, which protected marchers from Selma to Montgomery.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that ruled segregation of public schools was unconstitutional, Gray represented, again successfully, Vivian Malone and James Hood, who had been denied admission to the University of Alabama. Despite then Governor George Wallace's "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" tirade, they enrolled in the university. Gray then led the effort to desegregate Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

In 1963, in the *Lee v. Macon County Board of Education* case, which ultimately led a three-judge panel of U.S. District Judges to order all Alabama public schools not already subject to court orders to desegregate, Gray was the attorney of record. Gray ultimately filed lawsuits that helped to desegregate more than one hundred school systems, as well as all public colleges and universities in Alabama.

One of the most dramatic cases taken on by Gray was when he represented plaintiffs in the class-action lawsuit over the controversial federal Tuskegee Syphilis Study conducted from 1932 through 1972. Thinking they were receiving free health care and funeral benefits, many rural African-American men were subjects in a study to test untreated syphilis. Although Penicillin had become a standard treatment for Syphilis by 1947, the research subjects were denied that medication as well not told their true illness.

In 1972, Gray filed the case, *Pollard v. U.S. Public Health Service*, after a the study and abuses were leaked by *The Washington Star* newspaper and *New York Times*. Gray successful reached a \$10 million and medical treatment settlement for the seventy-two living men. There were a total of 399 men in the study with 327 of the already dead. In addition to the men, forty spouses and nineteen children had been infected and were compensated.

As a result of Gray's lawsuit and settlement, Congress passed federal laws establishing Institutional Review Boards for the protection of human research subjects and the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, now the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) in the Department of Health and Human Services.

In 1997, Gray founded the Tuskegee History Center. This non-profit museum offers educational resources concerning the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and contributions made by others in the fields of human and civil rights. He served as President and a Board Member.

Gray, along with Thomas J. Reed, in 1970, became the first African Americans elected as legislators in Alabama since Reconstruction. In July of 2002 he was elected President of the Alabama State Bar Association, the most important professional organization for lawyers in the state. Gray also received the National Bar Association's Equal Justice Award, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Drum Major's Award, and the World Conference of Mayors' Legal Award.





## MERISSA V. GRAYSON

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Florida in Gainesville in 2003. He obtained her law degree from California's University of West Los Angeles in

2009. After passing the California State Bar, she took several beginning legal positions before deciding to open her own law firm in two years later. She has worked as an independent practicing attorney ever since.

The Law Offices of Merissa V. Grayson, founded by Grayson in 2011, specializes in family law, criminal defense, small business matters, and entertainment law. She works hand in hand with entrepreneurs and entertainers to protect their business interests and ensure their career decisions are in alignment with their overall life goals and career objectives. She protects those wronged in an unjust way and fights for their restoration rights to help them re-establish that which has been lost.

On the family law side of her business, she realizes that at one point the separating or dysfunctional family was a happy family, had love for each other, and if there are children involved, had plans for a happy life together forever. She realizes that terrible things happen in life and to counter those unfortunate mishaps, Grayson attempts to have her clients look at their situations from a position that not all is lost as they are going through some type of unfortunate ordeal.

Grayson works to make the transition of separation and divorce a peaceful one knowing that one will need to relocate and rebuild their home while the other may stay but still must rebuild a broken home, particularly if there are children involved. Schooling, primary care custody and other parental rights must be explained for the benefit of the child. She also is cognizant of the emotional wear and tear on the involved party's emotions, their possible embarrassment toward family and friends, and their financial needs and sacrifices that come along with family issues.

Realizing that each case is different, Grayson takes time to listen to the concerns of her client and the needs of those they wish to protect. She finds ways to make the situation less complicated and educates them as to what

legal options they have so they can confidently make wise decisions that will impact the remainder of their and their loved ones lives. Foley works out for her clients the complex child custody and visitation matters that play a pivotal role in a child's development after a family has divided itself.

Foley has been noted as one of the legal stars to watch as she assists other "stars", especially entertainers and future entertainers in protecting their talents, their careers, their assets, and most importantly, their families. Understanding that entertainers fall prey to their own successes, she offers her clients strategic strategies, which allows them to skirt possible legal problems as they conduct their everyday business. If by chance, a client does fall under some type of scrutiny or alleged criminal act, she works to achieve optimal success in litigating the circumstance surrounding the clients legal process.



## A<sup>L</sup> GREEN

...was born on September 1, 1947 in New Orleans, Louisiana. After graduating from high school, he attended Florida A&M University before transferring to Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama where he received his

undergraduate degree. To obtain his law degree, Green attended the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. He was awarded his Juris Doctorate degree in 1974.

After passing the Texas State Bar, Green co-founded and co-managed the law firm of Green, Wilson, Dewberry, and Fitch. After practicing law at the firm for four years he was elected as a Justice of the Peace in Harris County, Texas serving the 7th Precinct, Place Two in 2004. Green remained on the bench in Texas for twenty-six years.

Green served as President of the Houston, Texas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. As President, he focused his attention on employment and minority hiring in Texas. He formed an alliance with Texas's Hispanic communities to bridge a gap between their communities and the African American communities.

In 2003, Texas redrew their Congressional districts. In the redistricting, the 25th District, represented by Democrat Chris Bell, had consisted of 65% white voters. With the redistricting, the 25th District became the 9th District and the population demographics changed dramatically, which made the old 25th District's population change from 65% white to 17%. Blacks made up 37% of the new demographics while 33% was Hispanic. This new voter base placed Bell in an awkward position as he needed the support of the African American and black vote to be re-elected. Realizing that his new voter base had changed, Bell filed an ethics complaint to no avail.

Green saw an opportunity and entered his name as a candidate for the new 9th Congressional District. In the 2004 March Democratic primary election, he defeated Bell with 66% of the 9th District voters choosing Green over Bell. In the November general election, Green outdistanced the Republican nominee Annette Molina to take a seat in Congress. He has been re-elected to his seat in Congress in each of the elections held since 2004.

In Congress, Green gave his attention to the same issues he had when he worked with the NAACP, issues involving minority concerns. He has worked for fair hous-

ing and employment opportunities for the poor. His devotion to the less fortunate has kept his voters voting for him and has secured his seat in Congress for thirteen years.

In 2011, Green, a believer of pro-choice, voted against an amendment to the Affordable Care Act that would prevent the removal of covered insurances for abortions. He has consistently voted against any measures that would prevent government spending to cover abortion. Eight bills have come before the House intended to end government funding for abortions and eight times he has voted to keep government spending as an element of the Affordable Care Act. For his affirmative votes in favor of government spending, he has received a 100% rating from the Planned Parenthood organization and NARAL Pro-Choice America. The National Right to Life Committee on the other hand has given Green and 0% rating.

Green is a supporter of gun control and has spoken out against the increased killings of young African American men, including the killing of Florida teen Trayvon Martin by "community watchdog", George Zimmerman. For his vote on tighter gun control, the National Rifle Association gave Green a 0% rating. The Gun Owners of America gave him a 25% rating while the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence rated Green's Lifetime Score at 83%.

On budget issues, Green follows his fellow Democrats in the views. He supported then President Barack Obama on every bill introduced by the President during his two terms. During the President Obama's predecessor, President George Bush, Green voted against each of Bush's bills intended to cut spending and taxes. He voted in favor of the government bailout of the 2009 auto industry bill citing its' necessity to keep American in the auto industry working.

Green, on May 17, 2017, on the floor of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. called for the impeachment of newly elected President Donald Trump. He was the first member of Congress to officially call for the inquiry despite others wanting to do so. His call made him the first African American initiate a call for impeachment against a sitting President.

Congressman Green has served on several House Committees and Sub-Committees. He has been recognized for his exceptional service to the community and for his outstanding leadership to his constituents. His awards are far to extensive to list and his memberships to associations and organizations that he has serviced are far to vast to list as well. For his beloved Houston residents, Congressman Green continues to serve them on Capital Hill. Green is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.



## CLIFFORD SCOTT GREEN

...was born on April 2, 1923 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents had migrated from the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands several years before Green was born. He graduated high school from West Philadelphia High School in 1941. Not wanting to go to college, Green took a job

working in a Philadelphia restaurant and a drug manufacturing company.

In 1943, Green joined the United States Army Signal Corp. Although he wanted to join the United States Air Force, he could not, as the U.S. armed forces was segregated. After joining, Green was shipped to Kessler Field, now Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. It was there that he got his first taste of military racism and segregation. His unit was housed in tents away from white soldiers and their bathroom and eating facilities were subpar to what the white soldiers were given. He served in the military for three years rising to the rank of Sergeant.

Green returned to Philadelphia after leaving the Signal Corp in late spring of 1946. Intending to enroll into local Drexel University that fall on his available G.I. Bill, he discovered that another local University, Temple University had classes that began in a few weeks. He decided to enroll into Temple. He began his collegiate studies majoring in Economics, as he wanted to become a certified public accountant. Realizing that there were no potential jobs predicted in accounting, he quickly changed his major to pre-law.

He completed the undergraduate requirements for the Economics degree he had begun when he started at Temple and in 1948 he graduated with with a B.S. degree in Economics. He continued his studies at Temple and enrolled into Temple's Law School. There were only ten black students that enrolled that year.

During law school, Green participated on the school's Moot Court team and the Law Review. His Moot Court team won the Philadelphia Regional competition of the American Bar Association's national competition. In 1951, he received his LL.B. degree from Temple with honors. He graduated in the top three of his class and was awarded prizes for obtaining the highest grade point average in his Constitutional Law and Conflicts of Law classes. For his efforts, Green received both the Robert E. Lamberton and A. Lincoln Meyers Memorial Awards for respective grades.

After passing the Pennsylvania State Bar in 1952, Green began his legal practice by taking over the practice of Thomas Reed, a black attorney that had accepted a job with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. Green had applied to the same DA's office but knew that prosecuting was not fit for him. Several months after taking over Reed's practice, Green partnered with Harvey Schmidt to form the Schmidt and Green law firm. Several years later, he brought prominent African American political lawyer J. Austin Norris, Doris M. Harris and A. Leon Higginbotham in as partners. To-

gether, they formed the first African American law firm in the city of Philadelphia. Throughout the existence of the law firm, it has produced four federal Judges, one federal magistrate, two Court of Common Please Judges, and one attorney appointed to a federal Presidential appointment.

As the firm became more diverse in their service offerings, Green focused his attention to the needs of local and national churches. He became legal counsel to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, the Father Divine Church, and the National Baptist Convention. He would give service to his church clients until he was appointed to the bench.

In 1954, Green took a job as a Special Deputy Commonwealth Attorney General. Working for the Director of the Bureau of Workman's Compensation, his responsibilities were to approve claims for compensation and benefits under occupational disease statutes. Green, a lifelong member of the Republican Party had worked for the Party as a Ward Leader for several years. That year, he ran on the Republican Party ticket for a seat on the City Council but was unsuccessful.

In 1959, he ran for a seat on the Municipal Court but again lost his bid for elective office. In 1962, Green and several Ward Leaders broke away from the mainstream Republican Party and gave their support to then Governor William Scranton. Scranton ultimately won the Governor's seat and in 1964 the Governor named Green as a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia. In the next election, Green was elected to a full term. During his time on the Court, he primarily handled Juvenile Court matters.

In 1971, an opening became available on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. President Richard Nixon nominated Green for the position making him the second African American named to the Court and the eighteenth African American named as an Article III Judge. The U.S. Senate confirmed Green to the bench within a few days. He would serve on the bench for thirteen years before seeking a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. His nomination to that Court was denied, so Green remained with the District Court. In 1988, Green reached Senior Status where he served until his death.

Judge Green has been the recipient of many awards and honors. He has received the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association and the William H. Hastie Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Philadelphia Chapter of the Criminal Law Committee of the Federal Bar Association named an award after him, the Clifford Scott Green Bill of Rights Award, as did the Philadelphia Chapter of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. The PBA Minority Bar Committee presented to Green their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Judge Green serves on the Board of Trustees of Temple University and is a member of the Board of Trustees for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and of the Philadelphia State Hospital. Judge Clifford Scott Green died of a cerebral hemorrhage caused by pneumonia on May 31, 2007 in Philadelphia. He was eighty-three years old.



## JOHN PATTERSON GREEN

... was born on April 2, 1845 in New Bern, North Carolina to Temperance and John R. Green. Both of his parents were freed slaves. Green's family was not able to afford to pay for him to attend school so he worked during his

school years as a harness maker, a tailor, and a waiter.

Green's father died when he was five years old. Leaving North Carolina, his mother moved the family to Cleveland, Ohio. Green was able to study on his own and was able to learn to read and write proficiently. By the time he was twenty-one years old, he had self-published his own writing, "Miscellaneous Subjects by a Self-Educated Colored Youth". From the proceeds of the sale of the book, Green was able to attend school high school and study law.

He enrolled into Central High School where he would graduate at the age of twenty-four in 1869. That year, he married Annie Walker Green. Together, they had four children.

During the next year, Green enrolled into the Union Law School of Cleveland. He was able to complete his studies in one year and obtained his law degree from Union in 1870. He joined the local political scene and soon made significant inroads and made an impression with the local community.

In 1872, Green traveled to South Carolina where he was admitted to the South Carolina Bar. A year later, he was admitted to the Ohio State Bar. That same year, he was elected as the Justice of the Peace for the City of Cleveland. He was the first African American elected to an office in Ohio's Cuyahoga County and the first African American to be elected to political office north of the Mason-Dixon line.

In 1882, Green was elected to the Ohio State House of Representatives. He was the second African American to be elected to Ohio's House. He would serve in the House for two years. Six years later, Green would again be elected and would serve for two years.

In 1891, Green ran and was elected to the Ohio State Senate. He became the first African American elected to

the state Senate. While serving in the Senate, he sponsored twenty-one bills. Most of the bills introduced centered on labor issues. In 1890, he sponsored House Bill 500, which created an Ohio state holiday to honor men and women for the work they had performed. He urged labor unions to stage a parade and for families to take a day to enjoy themselves. He chose the first Monday in September as the day for the day for no work but for picnics or any other enjoyment one wished to partake in. That day became known as Labor Day in Ohio. The federal government would adopt the measure three years later and effectively made the Ohio Labor Day a national holiday.

In the House, Green served on the Corporations and Library Committees. He fought to change the contract labor system being used in the state prisons. He then served on the Turnpike Committee. Green also worked on behalf of veterans and lobbied for better benefits for them.

In 1897, Green was named by then President William McKinley as a United States Official Stamp Agent for the United States Post Office. After eight years in that position, he was named the U.S. Official Superintendent of Finance at the post office. He held that title for only one year until the government abolished the position. He returned to Cleveland and opened a law firm with his two sons.

In 1912, Green's wife, Annie died. Later that year, he would remarry to Lottie Mitchell Richardson. They had no children together.

Once Green left the state legislature, he worked in private practice the remainder of his professional career. He also worked as a postal official and practiced law well into his older years. He became the oldest practicing attorney in the state during that time. To document his life, Green penned his autobiography, *Fact Stranger Than Fiction*.

John Patterson Green was struck and killed by a Cleveland street car on August 30, 1940. He was ninety-five years old.



## WILLIAM T. GREEN

...was born in May of 1860 near Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. At the age of twenty-four, he moved to the United States settling in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Within a few years, he

had made a reputable name for himself and became involved in the local politics of the African-American community in Milwaukee.

He received his education at St. Catherines Collegiate Institute in Milwaukee where he worked his way through working as a janitor at the state capitol. He earned his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison in 1892. He was one of the first African Americans to graduate from the law school.

After receiving his law degree, Green opened a law practice in Milwaukee. He was the first African American to establish a law firm in the city. He took on criminal cases including murder, worker's compensation cases, and matters related to constitutional law.

Green organized the Union League of Wisconsin after African American Owen Howell had been denied access to the main seating level at the Bijou Opera House in Milwaukee. Green brought suit against Jacob Litt, the proprietor of the building that housed the Opera House. The case was heard by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which rendered a ruling of discrimination against Litt. In arguing the case, Green became the first African American to argue a case before the state Supreme Court. His victory in the case led to the creation of the state's, "Wisconsin Civil Rights Act of 1895". For the Civil Rights Act bill, Green drafted the foundation of the bill, which acted to protect all citizens' civil and legal rights and to end discrimination in restaurants, hotels, barbershops, saloons and other public places.

Green later represented the Afro-American League of Milwaukee in opposition to the Cady Bill, a bill that sought to prohibit marriages between African Americans and whites. The bill, introduced by Republican Frank A. Cady of Wood County, was eventually defeated by vote. Ironically, Green later joined the Republican Party and was elected as a Delegate to represent the city of Milwau-

kee at the state conventions. Although Green supported the Republican Party, he never received party support or rewards for his service and was never appointed to any official position.

William T. Green died on December 3, 1911. He was fifty-one years old.



## RICHARD THEODORE GREENER

...was born in 1844 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the age of nine, his mother left Philadelphia and moved to Boston, Massachusetts. He was enrolled into elementary school in Boston but was removed in order to work to help his family earn money. At a job he found, his employer agreed to pay

for him to enroll into a preparatory school at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.

Greener did well at Phillips Academy, graduating in 1865. Well enough that he earned enough money to attend Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. He spent three years at Oberlin before transferring to Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1870. Pitts was admitted to Harvard as an administrative experiment to determine if African Americans could compete at a higher institution such as Harvard.

At Harvard, Greener excelled. An avid reader, he learned quickly and having great abilities as an orator, he became well known. In his senior year, his reading skills won him the Harvard College prize for reading. His reading and teaching abilities were so skilled, Greener taught two white Harvard students who would both win a prized Harvard College reading challenge.

The Rochester, New York Daily Democrat, on August 16, 1869, published an expose on Greener and printed scheduled speeches that he would make on campus or around the state. The paper gave accolades to his perseverance of achieving the ability to show that an African American could indeed excel if given the opportunity. The Harvard administrative team that ran the experiment was elated with both Greener, but also with the New York Daily Democrat for telling the world about the success had by all. The paper went on to applaud Greener for his graduation success stating that he should be proud of his achievement and had served the school and its' class courses honorably, as the first African American to have completed law classes at Harvard.

Greener married his wife, Genevieve Ida Fleet in 1874. Together, they had six children. The couple would later separate but remain married as husband and wife. One of their children, Belle, would become the personal librarian for business mogul J.P. Morgan, as she passed for white.

Leaving Harvard, Greener received a job as a Principal at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia's Male Department. He took over the job after the Octavius V. Catto, the previous Principal, who had been shot during the Philadelphia race riot of 1870. He remained Principal for three years.

In 1873, Greener became the Principal of the Sumner High School in Washington, D.C., a college preparatory school for African American students. That same year, he was appointed as a Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. He was the first African American faculty member at the University. Greener also served as the University Librarian and is credited with reorganizing the library's Civil War catalog of holdings, which were in disarray.

As Librarian, he wrote detailed studies on rare books held in the library's archives. He was responsible for the department's Latin

and Greek curriculum and how it was taught in the classrooms. He also taught classes on International Law and the Constitution of the United States. Greener's detailed work allowed him to be chosen by the General Assembly of South Carolina as a member of its' Commission to revise the South Carolina school system.

In 1873, Greener served as Associate Editor and writer for The New National Era. Frederick Douglas served as the Editor of the publication. While working on the Era, Greener also served as Associated Editor for the National Encyclopedia for American Biography.

In 1875, Greener became the first African American to be elected as a member of the American Philological Association. The association is the primary academic society for classical studies in North America. A year later, he was chosen to represent South Carolina in the Union League of America. The following year, he became the President of the South Carolina Republican Association. Greener was also active with the Freemasonry Order.

In 1877, the Sumner High School was closed by financier Wade Hampton III. Hampton was a wealthy landowner and farmer and largest slave owner in South Carolina. With that, Greener left South Carolina and moved to Washington, D.C. to open a law office there. Before leaving South Carolina, Greener was certified to practice cases before the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

In Washington, Greener was soon admitted to the District of Columbia Bar Association. He was able to get a job teaching at Washington, D.C.'s Howard University in its' Law School. A year later, he became the Dean of the Law School. He remained the Dean for two years.

In 1880, Greener took a job with the federal government. He became a law clerk of the First Comptroller of the United States Treasury. He remained with the Treasury for two years.

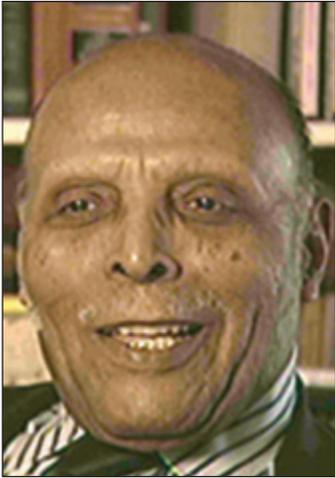
In 1885, Greener served as Secretary of the Grant Monument Association. As Secretary, he is credited with leading the initial fundraising effort to raise money to build a mausoleum for General and President Ulysses S. Grant. Grant's Tomb today is still the largest mausoleum in North America. Greener was able to receive donations for the project from over 90,000 people worldwide to fund the construction of the tomb. While the construction of the tomb was underway, Greener served as Chief Examiner of the Civil Service Board of New York City.

In 1896, Greener he served as the head of the Colored Bureau of the National Republican Party in Chicago. Two years later, then President William McKinley, appointed Greener to a post in Vladivostok, Russia. There, he met a Japanese woman, Mishi Kawashima. Still married to his first wife, Genevieve, Greener took Mishi as his common law wife. Together, they had three children.

Greener served in Russia during the Russo-Japanese War. He was the American representative and served as a monitor and liaison between the two and the U.S. Government. He was fired from his job in 1905 and returned to the United States settling in Chicago, Illinois.

He set up a law office but took a job as an insurance agent to support himself while he built his law practice. He occasionally found a paid lecture project where he spoke on race relations, the effects of racial discrimination, and economic disparity in the society at that time.

The Chinese government awarded Greener an Order of the Double Dragon Award. He received honorary degrees from Howard University in Monrovia College in Liberia. Richard Theodore Greener died on May 2, 1922. He was seventy-eight years old.



## JEFF L. GREENUP

...was born on March 24, 1919 in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. He grew up in a religious family, as his father was a Deacon in a local church. Racism and segregation were rampant at the time and everyday life was a struggle when it came to fair and equal treatment of

blacks by whites in Louisiana. In that, Greenup's entire family were staunch activists in the fight for civil rights.

Greenup made a decision to become a lawyer when he was thirteen years old. His father owned a small produce selling company and sold his vegetables to the local communities surrounding their farm. On one delivery, a powerful businessman decided he did not want to pay for the produce he had received. After a heated argument, both Greenup and his father were arrested for speaking back and arguing with the white man. A.P. Turead, a famed Louisiana civil rights lawyer known as "Mr. NAACP", represented them. Watching Mr. Turead handle the case inspired Greenup and he decided that he wanted to be an attorney.

During and after the trial both Greenup and his father were harassed by local whites opposed to their defenses in the case. For his safety, Greenup's father sent him to New Orleans. There, he finished his high school studies. He enlisted into the U.S. Army where he would spend the next four years. He fought in World War II spending time in the combat zones of Burma, China and India.

After his release from the Army, Greenup moved to New York City and enrolled into Long Island University. Using his G.I. Bill money, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University in 1948. He remained in New York to obtain his law degree, which he received in 1951 from the Brooklyn Law School. He was admitted to the New York State Bar that same year.

In his first job as a lawyer, Greenup decided to work for himself. He and two other partners founded the law firm of Mack, McFadden and Greenup. They would handle small general practice law cases.

In 1963, represented his eighty-two year old Aunt who had been arrested for protesting civil rights violations against African Americans in Louisiana. Dissatisfied with the treatment of blacks in Clinton, Louisiana, she had been arrested by the local Sheriff and jailed. He and his partners took on her case.

Greenup and his partners began to look at other cases around the United States that dealt with unfair treatment of U.S. citizens. In addition to the law firm he operated, Greenup partnered with three others to form a United Nation's law firm that was a more diverse law firm. The new firm, Greenup, Schimmel, Golar & Levister, had four partners and fourteen associate lawyers. Because of its' diverse makeup, the firm became known as the "United Nations Law Firm".

The firm took on cases primarily dealing with case trial litigations and was a big contributor to underserved community clients and used their pro bono programs to assist those unable to pay for their services. Still taking on national cases, during the summer of 1964, Greenup defended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists in a case held in St. Augustine, Florida. The six-week trial was delayed after the tent that Dr. King was staying in was dynamited. Fortunately, an eleven-year old boy overheard the plot and warned Greenup who promptly moved Dr. King to new quarters. As warned, Dr. King's tent was dynamited and thankfully, no one was injured.

Greenup would go on to represent national civil rights organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He represented the local branches of the organizations as well. Not one to forget his humble roots, Greenup took on cases involving individual African Americans that had legal issues surrounding violations of their civil rights.

Back in New York, Greenup became the legal counsel to the Harlem Urban Development Corporation, an organization founded to help in the development and growth of Harlem and its' residents. Still working with the NAACP and its' civil rights agenda, Greenup was elected to the Presidency of the New York Branch of the NAACP. He would be elected to six consecutive terms.

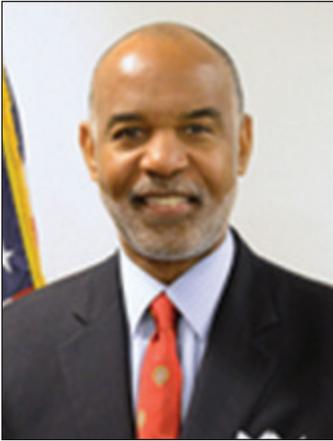
Taking on some of the most high profile cases in New York, Greenup became a fixture in the Courts of the city. He litigated the case of ten-year old, Clifford Glover, an African American boy killed by a New York City police officer. Greenup argued the wrongful death case and was able to obtain a significant financial settlement for Glover's family.

Greenup and several others, in 1984, founded the Metropolitan Black Bar Association. The organization's aim was to help minorities involved in the New York legal profession advance equality and excellence in the field of law. Greenup began to look at civil rights, not only in New York and the United States but that around the world.

He was selected to travel to Russia to study their legal system and its' comparison to that of the United States. He was a part of the team that travelled to South Africa to monitor the country's first democratically held election that removed the system of Apartheid there. Throughout the remainder of his legal career, Greenup continued his fight for the rights of those that he served.

For his dedicated legal work, Greenup was honored and given salutations by many. He received a Valor Award from the NAACP, the Wiley A. Branton Award from the National Bar Association, and the Ming Advocacy Award from the New York City branch of the NAACP. He was also a member of Harlem's Kappa Omicron Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Jeff L. Greenup died on March 1, 2013 . He was ninety-three years old.



## ROGER L. GREGORY

...was born July 17, 1953 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Petersburg, Virginia where his father became a tobacco factory worker. He was raised in Petersburg and attended public schools there. After graduating

from high school, he attended Virginia State University located in Petersburg where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude in 1975. He enrolled into the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he received his Juris Doctor degree from the University's School of Law in 1978. While in college, Gregory joined the Omega Psi Phi and the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternities.

After passing the bar, in his first two jobs as an attorney, he worked for two different law firms for four years. He served as an associate attorney for the Detroit, Michigan law firm of Butzel, Long, Gust, Klein & Van Zile before moving to Richmond, Virginia to join the law firm of Hunton & Williams, also as an associate attorney. In 1982, he opened his own law firm with a partner. His partner, L. Douglas Wilder, would go on to become the first African American Governor of the State of Virginia or of any other state in the country. Gregory acted as the firm's Chair of Litigation Services.

After serving the Richmond community for several years, his cases and reputation grew. So much so, that on June 30, 2000, President Bill Clinton nominated Gregory to take a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The seat had sat vacant since it was created almost a decade before, as the U.S. Senate had not approved of Clinton's previous nominee. When Gregory's name was placed as a nominee, the U.S. Senate again refused to move forward on the vote. President Clinton, despite pushbacks from the Senate, appointed Gregory to the seat on December 27, 2000 while Congress was in recess.

With only Congressman Trent Lott of Mississippi voting against his nomination, as Lott did not like the fact that Clinton had nominated Gregory while Congress was in recess, Gregory was confirmed to the seat with a 93-1 vote. The appointment was to last only through the end of the 2001 Congressional legislative session, however, when newly elected President George W. Bush came into office, he re-nominated Gregory whose nomination was approved on May 9, 2001. Taking his seat on the Fourth District Court, Gregory became the first African American to serve on the Fourth District Court's bench. He was also the first Judge to be appointed to the Court from two different politically aligned U.S. Presidents. In July of 2014,

Judge Gregory would become the Chief Judge of the Court, the first African American Chief Judge since the Court's founding in 1891.

In one of his most notable majority opinions, Judge Gregory joined in with Justice Henry Franklin Floyd in the landmark *Bostic v. Schaefer* case, which declared that the Virginia law that banned same-sex marriages was unconstitutional. The Court's ruling gave Virginia citizens of the same sex the opportunity to become legally married in the state. The other states under the jurisdiction of the Fourth Circuit; Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia; soon followed suit and reversed similar laws banning the marriage between people of the same sex.

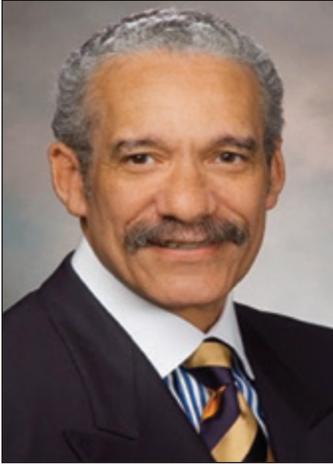
As Chief Justice, Judge Gregory oversaw the Court's Judicial Council and the 160 judges that served in the Fourth District's lower Courts. His duties included the management of cases involving bankruptcy and other matters brought before the District Courts. He also set rules and policies enforced by the federal Court.

The Fourth Circuit Court prior to Judge Gregory's arrival had been categorized as one of the more conservative Courts of all the Circuit Courts in the country. Judge Gregory's vision was a bit more open to the liberal needs of the community in which it served. He envisioned a Court whereby people could come to learn more about the Court and the laws it was designed to implement. He wanted to remove the fear that many immigrants had when it came to becoming full-fledged American citizens. Under Judge Gregory's leadership, the Fourth Circuit Court changed its' conservative approach of litigation to one more inclusive. Thanks to more liberal and diverse Judges being appointed to the Court, the Fourth Circuit Court is one of the first Circuits in the country to have him as its' first African American Chief Justice, it also has the first African American female Justice in Judge Allyson K. Duncan and its' first Latino Judge in Judge Albert Diaz.

In his service to the community and other organizations outside of his duties on the bench, Judge Gregory has taught as an Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law at Virginia State University. He has served on the Board of Trustees at the University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University. For Virginia Commonwealth, he served as a Past Rector of the University.

Judge Gregory has been given several honorary degrees for his dedicated service to legal jurisprudence. He has received honorary degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond; Virginia State University in Petersburg; Virginia Union, also located Richmond; and Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania. In appreciation of his service to its' school, Judge Gregory was awarded by University of Richmond School of Law the schools coveted William Green Award for Professional Excellence. The award is the highest honor that can be given to a awardee by the University.





## ROBERT JAMES GREY, JR.

...was born in Richmond, Virginia. His mother was a renown school teacher and his father was a Master Sergeant. As a young boy, Grey once asked his father for some spending money. Agreeing that he needed extra money to

spend on himself, his father took him downtown to obtain a work permit telling the young Grey that it was better to earn money than to ask for it. He then obtained a job at the local Colonial Store scrubbing floors and stocking shelves. That work ethic would carry Grey throughout his teenage and adult life.

Grey graduated from Richmond's John Marshall High School. He enrolled into his hometown Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) earning a degree in Business Administration in 1973. He earned his law degree in 1976 from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

For his first legal job, Grey moved to Washington, D.C. to join the National Labor Relations Board. After two years getting his feet wet into D.C. politics, he returned to Richmond to teach business law at VCU. He also opened his own law practice in the city.

In Richmond, Grey became involved in the local politics. He supported Democrat Chuck Robb's 1982 race for Governor of Virginia. For his support, Robb once elected, appointed Grey as Chairman of the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. In his appointment, Grey became the youngest and first African American to lead the Board. Taking over a department having 1,500 employees, Grey found a bureaucratic mess which he set about the task of modernizing the retail operations of the agency.

After serving as Chairman of the Board, in 1978 Grey returned to private practice where he served as partner in his firm of Grey & Wesley. In 1985, he left to become a partner with Mays & Valentine. In 1992, he became the Chair of Virginia's Commission on Opportunities for Minorities in the Profession where he served for three years. He also chaired the Virginia delegation in the House of Delegates until 1998. He then joined the Richmond firm of LeClair Ryan.

In 2002, he joined the powerful law firm of Hunton and Williams as a partner. Having built a solid reputation amongst his peers, his focus for the firm centered on mediation before litigation. A year later, thanks to the support from

his political allies, Grey was elected as the 128th President of the American Bar Association (ABA). He became the second African American to head the association.

After being elected as head of the ABA, Grey then became the Chair of the House of Delegates, the association's second-highest office where he oversaw the policy-making of the organization for two years ending in 2000. He then became Chair of ABA's Committee on Research about the Future of the Legal Profession. This Committee was charged with the analysis of trends that affect the law profession and the implementation of fundamental values aimed at preserving and advancing law.

Grey's major initiative while at the ABA was the American Jury Project. Understanding the need for the improvement of the American jury system, he asked other legal organizations to join him in his pursuit of improving the system. Joining him in his endeavor were organizations such as the American College of Trial Lawyers, the American Trial Lawyers Association, the Conference of Chief Justices, the Defense Research Institute, and the National Center for State Courts. Together, the efforts of the combined organizations set about the task of creating a more healthy environment for jurors including better pay and to give them their due respect as a part of the litigation process. He and his fellow attorneys worked to show the jurors that they were just as important to the legal process as the judges and lawyers were.

In 2010, Grey was appointed as the Executive Director of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, an organization created to advance diversity in the legal profession. In March of that year, the United States Senate confirmed him as a member of the Board of the Legal Services Corporation. The corporation is the U.S.'s largest provider of civil legal assistance to the poor.

During Grey's lengthy legal career, he was Chair of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, the Chair of the Greater Richmond Partnership, the Chair of Youth Matters, and President of the Richmond Crusade for Voters. Grey has been honored by many during his illustrious career. He was named as one of the "Strong Men and Women in the Community," by Dominion Power, Virginia's state power company. The United Negro College Fund awarded him their Flame Bearer Award. The Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Business bestowed upon him their Alumni Star Award and the Washington Lawyers' Committee honored him with their Wiley A. Branton Award. In addition, the National Bar Association gave Grey their Gertrude E. Rush Awards Ceremony and the National Association for Community Leadership awarded him their the Distinguished Leadership Award.





## WILLIAM HENRY GREY

... was born on December 22, 1829 in Washington D.C. as a free man. He attended John F. Cook pay school and as a child, he served as a servant to Virginia Congressman Henry A. Wise. When he was eleven years old, his

family relocated to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania before moving further west settling in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1852, at the age of twenty-three, Grey joined the St. John Masonic Lodge. He would later be named, in 1873, the Grand Lodge of Arkansas' first Grand Master after it was established. During the cholera epidemic breakout of 1852, his parents died. Grey then left Ohio and moved to St. Louis, Missouri where he found work as a cook on a steamboat that sailed up and down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Two years after arriving in St. Louis, Grey married Henrietta Winslow. Together they had nine children.

Grey and his family became members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church with Grey serving as a minister in the denomination. By 1865, Grey had relocated his family to Helena, Arkansas and opened a grocery store and bakery, with business partners, Oliver Winslow and H. B. Robinson. In Helena, Grey would become one of the leading African American leaders in the state. Although, he was never a slave, he fought for the freedom of others enslaved and was actively involved in politics working to free those in bondage. He became involved with Republican Party and advocated politically for changes in the laws that had enforced slavery.

In 1868, Grey was selected as a Delegate to the Arkansas Constitutional Convention representing Phillips County. There were seven other African Americans selected to attend the Convention representing their respective County's. During the Convention, Grey became one of the leaders representing African American concerns. He spoke on the Convention floor more than twenty-five times on issues concerning African Americans and their welfare. Grey also served on four committees working on issues related to boundaries, education, elective franchises, and city and village government organizations. He also proposed a resolution aimed at establishing federal aid for the poor, which would allow recently freed slaves to homestead on government land.

Grey argued on behalf of African Americans' right to purchase these lands after having fought during the Civil War

and having died for the pursuit of freedom and democracy. He asserted that African Americans had served this country well, including fighting during the Revolution for liberty, which would not have been attained without the bloodshed of African Americans. Grey stated that without the efforts of the African American soldiers, the wars would have been lost, thus African Americans were owed a debt. He urged his Arkansas state government to pay amounts due African Americans, however, in a vote of 53-10, his proposal was defeated. He then spoke against the proposed measure to forbid interracial marriage. After the Convention, Grey remained loyal to the Republican Party. With African Americans having been given the right to vote, he was elected as a member of the Arkansas General Assembly.

In 1869, Grey received the right to practice law, although he never practiced as a full time attorney. He was instead appointed by then Governor Powell Clayton as the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Phillips County. The following year, Grey was named Ex-Officio Recorder of Deeds. The next year, in 1872, then Republican Governor Elisha Baxter appointed him as the Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands.

In the 1872 Republican State Convention, Grey was selected to give the seconding nominating address to Republican Presidential Candidate Ulysses S. Grant. He was the first African American ever selected to address the state convention in such a manner. Two years later, Arkansas elected a Democratic Governor and the Party called for a new Constitutional Convention with the purpose of taking away certain citizenship rights for African Americans.

In 1875, Grey was appointed to fill an open seat in the Arkansas State Senate. While in the State Senate, he still served as the Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands. While on travel to New York to make arrangements for Arkansas's exhibit at the World's Exposition to be held in Vienna, Austria, he suffered a stroke. He was forced to return to Arkansas.

After partially recovering, Grey was appointed as the Clerk of Phillips County's Probate and County Courts where he served until 1878. He suffered a second stroke, which left him left paralyzed. He disappeared from public life and continued to live for ten more years.

William Henry Grey died on November 8, 1888. He was fifty-eight years old. In his honor, the Arkansas Grand Lodge erected a monument at his gravesite in Helena.



## ARCHIBALD HENRY GRIMKÉ

...was born on August 17, 1849 into slavery near Charleston, South Carolina to Nancy Weston and Henry W. Grimké. The eldest of three boys, Archibald's mother was enslaved as a mixed European and African woman while his father was their master and a widower. The two lived as common law husband and

wife and were active in the political arena of South Carolina and the social area as well.

In South Carolina during that time, the state discouraged manumissions, the freeing of slaves, by requiring slave owners to file a petition with the legislature in order to do so. The state rarely granted a petition permitting freedom so rather than petition, Grimké moved his family to a plantation outside of Charleston and to a discretion path to raise his children. He taught his children to read and write at an early age, which was rare for a slave owner. In 1852, Grimké fell ill and was on his deathbed. To protect his black wife and children, he willed them to his son, Montague Grimké, by his first wife, with instructions that they were to be treated as family members.

After he died, Henry Grimké's sister, Eliza who was the Executor of Henry's will, moved the family to Charleston and allowed them to live freely but did not support them financially. When the children were school age, they attended public school with freed blacks. Several years later, Montague disavowed his father's wishes and claimed the slaves as his own. He brought Archibald and his brother, Francis, into his home and made them his servants. As the boys became older, Montague hired them as workers. Archibald's brother rebelled against Montague and as a result he was sold back into slavery. Archibald fled and lived with relatives for two years until the Civil War ended.

With the freeing of slaves at the end of the Civil War, Grimké and his brother attended a Freedom's school where their academic talents were recognized. Their teachers supported their education goals and the two boys were shipped north. They were enrolled into the Lincoln University in Lincoln, Pennsylvania, a university established for black students.

At Lincoln, they were contacted by his father's sister, Angelina Grimké Weld, who years before had opposed slavery and left South Carolina. They had moved north before Henry's involvement with his slave wife and became abolitionist and were active speakers against slavery. Angela, who lived in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston, happened to read an article about the academic achievements of an Archibald Grimké noting the rarity of the name. She reached out to Archibald and discovered that he was her brother's child. Unlike Henry's other sister, Eliza and son Montague, Angela acknowledged the boys and their mother and offered financial assistance. She paid the boys tuition to graduate school if they wanted to attend. After receiving their undergraduate degrees from Lincoln in 1870, Archibald attended Harvard University Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Francis turned to religion and attended Princeton Theological Seminary in

Princeton, New Jersey and became a minister. After receiving his law degree, Grimké opened his own law firm in Boston. He met and married Sarah Stanley, a white woman from the Midwest.

After setting up his law practice, Grimké became active in politics and began speaking about racism and rise of white supremacy in the South after the end of Reconstruction. He became the Editor of a Republican newspaper, *The Hub*, and attempted to build his subscription base of black readers. He and his paper supported equal rights for blacks and became even more involved in politics. For the 1884 Republican Party's State Convention, he was chosen as a Delegate.

As his career grew, so did his respected popularity. In 1884, Grimké was appointed to the State Hospital Board for the insane. Having become close to his aunts in Hyde Park, he supported their causes of women's rights. He published articles related to that in his newspaper. For his support, Grimké was elected as the President of the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association. That year, he left the Republican Party feeling that they were not doing enough toward the issues that he embraced. He then began working for the *Boston Herald* as a special writer.

In 1894, Grimké was appointed as the American Consul to the Dominican Republic. He served as Consul for four years. When his appointment was up, he returned to Boston.

As the racial climate in American seemed to get worse, Grimké continued his fight for civil rights, along with his aunts. He became involved with the National Council of Colored People operated by civil rights giant Frederick Douglass. The organization focused on the education of blacks and their life improvements. He was opposed to the compromising position proposed by Booker T. Washington that sought to educate blacks for more agricultural and industrial jobs instead proposing higher education for blacks which would yield higher paying jobs.

In 1901, Grimké, along with several other businessmen, established *The Guardian* newspaper. The group chose newspaper editor William Monroe Trotter, who also opposed the philosophical teachings of Booker T. Washington as *The Guardian's* editor. Grimké and Trotter would also establish the Boston Literary and Historical Association, a group made of members from the academia, civil rights, business, social and legal arenas.

In 1903, Grimké became the President of the American Negro Academy, which promoted higher education for blacks and supported black scholars. He published the Academy's papers that dealt with issues surrounding the black community. In one of his articles, "Modern Industrialism and the Negroes of the United States", Grimké spoke on the Negro and capitalism. He felt that capitalism was one way that blacks could achieve economic independence.

In 1905, Grimké began another publication, *The Age*, which became a leading black newspaper. He continued writing about civil rights issues and taking a stance against discrimination. He even criticized then President Theodore Roosevelt for failing to support adequately black troops during a riot in Brownsville, Texas.

In 1907, Grimké joined forces with W.E.B. DuBois and others in forming the Niagara Movement, an organization established to further the causes of blacks. He also joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He moved to Washington, D.C., where he daughter lived, and served as the President of the Washington, D.C. branch of the NAACP. He later became the National Vice-President.

In 1928, Grimké fell ill. Two years later, Archibald Henry Grimké died. He was eighty years old.





## PETER C. GROFF

...was born on April 21, 1963 in Chicago, Illinois but raised in Denver, Colorado. After graduating high school there, he enrolled into the University of Redlands in Redlands, California where he received his Bachelor's degree

in Communications with a minor in Political Science in 1985. He earned his J.D. degree in 1992 from the University of Denver's College of Law.

In his first legal job, he became an Assistant to Denver City Council Member Allegra Haynes. After three years serving in that position, he accepted a similar position with then Denver Mayor Wellington Webb. In 1977, he assisted in forming the Center for African American Policy at the University of Denver. He has served as the Center's Executive Director since then. He has also served as an attorney for the law firm of Vaden and Evans, LLC.

Groff has been involved in Colorado politics from early on in his career. He has worked on and managed several political campaigns over the years. He acted as Deputy Political Director for Roy Romer's 1994 gubernatorial campaign. In 1998, he Chaired the campaign for Denver Public Schools Mill Levy funding bond. A year later, he managed the re-election campaign for Denver Councilwoman Allegra Haynes.

In 2000, Groff launched his own campaign for a seat in the Colorado House of Representatives. Running another successful campaign, he was re-elected to the House in 2002. In February of 2003, he was appointed to fill the vacancy of state Senator Penfield Tate after he resigned the seat. With his appointment, he became the sixth African-American state Senator in the history of the state of Colorado. He followed in his father's footsteps who had before him become Colorado's second African American state Senator elected.

Rising quickly through the Senate ranks and being referred to as the "Conscience of the Senate", in 2005, Groff became the President Pro Tem of the Senate. In 2007, the President of the Senate, Joan Fitz-Gerald, launched a campaign to run for a U.S. Congressional seat. While she conducted her campaign, Groff began to handle some of

her state legislative duties. He assumed the role as Senate President as of January 2008, becoming the highest-ranking African American official ever elected in Colorado. He became also the first African American to lead either Colorado General Assembly chamber.

During his time in the Colorado legislature, Groff has been a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Legal Services Committee, and served as Chair of the Senate's State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee. In his twenty-five years of public service, he has served in various capacities including serving the U.S. Department of Education as their Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in President Obama's administration. He served the Johns Hopkins University's School of Education as a Visiting Fellow and has served as the President and CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

Groff is the Principal at MCG2 Consulting, LLC. His focus is still centered on instilling new and unique education reform measures. Some of his landmark Colorado cases were aimed at combating health disparities for state citizens as well as prohibiting racial profiling. He was pivotal in the state's requirement for booster seats for children as well.

Peter C. Groff is married to the Rev. Regina C. Groff, Pastor of Denver's Campbell Chapel AME Church. Together, they have two children.



## HARRY E. GROVES

...was born on September 4, 1921 in Manitou Springs, Colorado. He graduated as Valedictorian of his high school class, a class that did not have many African Americans attending as Colorado was a mostly all-white state. He won a scholarship to the University of Colorado and graduated cum laude in 1943. When he entered the University, the school had segregated dormitories. Objecting

to that practice, Groves became the first non-white to be housed in the dorms.

Groves had hoped to enter the academic world teaching English at a local high school. Instead, he joined the United States Army where he served in the European Theater as a Second Lieutenant in the Army's artillery division in World War II. After completing his military duties, Groves returned to the states, relocating to Chicago, Illinois and enrolled into the University of Chicago. There, in 1949, he earned his J.D. degree. While in law school, he married his second wife, Evelyn Apperson. His first marriage ended in divorce having one child.

Groves possessed writing skills and an understanding of the law that brought him attention from scholars across the country. He won a Ford Foundation Fellowship, which allowed him to continue his legal studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At Harvard, his legal interest turned to constitutional law of newly formed nations around the world. He took particular interest in the countries of Asia.

Groves left Massachusetts to accept a teaching job at North Carolina College for Negroes, now North Carolina Central University. Not long thereafter, the Korean War broke out and the U.S. Army recalled Groves back into the military. He was assigned to an infantry company at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. He applied to become a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Permission was granted from military powers in Washington, D.C. and Groves did not have to leave the country to fight in the war. Instead, he spent the duration of his time serving in the military with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. During that time, Groves was elected to the Fayetteville, North Carolina City Council where he served from 1951 to 1952.

Leaving the military for the second time, Groves took a job as Dean of the Law School at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. A historically black university, as Dean, Groves opened the school to whites. Because of his extensive studies in Asian legal history, he was asked by the University of Singapore in Malaysia to become a Visiting Professor in its newly opened law school. He did so and loved it so much that he remained at the University and would eventually become the Law School's Dean. While at the University, he would write four books on the Malaysian Constitution. He would give numerous lectures and tours of Malaysia and other Asian countries.

In 1965, Groves returned to the United States and accepted the position as President of Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. The mid sixties were a time full of turmoil and racial strife. On campus and across America civil rights protest were at an all time high. Insurrections and riots were springing up on college campuses and Groves was concerned about what was happening on his campus, Central State.

He summoned the President of the Student Body to his office to discuss the issues and protests on campus. The University, predominately black, had students that wanted the white students removed from campus. Groves refused to do that and emphatically stated that they would not be removed but protected. With his life threatened and after a riot ensued, Groves lost control of the campus and had to call in the police to shut the campus down right before the Christmas break.

After the riot was quelled and before the new semester began, Groves resigned his position as President of the University. He felt that any President that loses control of his school and could not control the students assigned to his care, should not serve as the school's President. In a conciliatory move, he stepped down.

When classes resumed and the student body got word that Groves had resigned, a petition was formed and circulated requesting that he return as President of the University. He graciously accepted the offer. Unfortunately, a short time thereafter, his wife became ill and Groves, in the best interest of her health and in compliance with the doctor's prescribed order of "peace" as her remedy, he again resigned from his post as President of Central State University.

Leaving the University, this time for good, in 1981, he was offered a newly created position as a Brandis Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Accepting the position, he bought a fourteen-acre farm, built a new home on it, tended horses, and other farm animals, while working for the University. He would remain at the school until his retirement in 1986. In 1993, Groves served as the Chair of the Ethics Committee for the United States Olympic Committee. He served for three years.

Groves was a member of several prestigious academic fraternities including Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Kappa, and Kappa Delta Pi. He has received other important awards, such as a Carnegie Research Grant, the Judge John L. Parker Award from the North Carolina Bar Association, and an induction into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame.

In retirement, Groves was far from complacent. While living in a senior citizens community, during a public meeting held, he made a complaint about the facility he and his wife were living in. Not satisfied with his public statements, the Executive Director of the facility came to Groves' apartment to instruct him that if in the future he had a complaint, to bring it to him personally and privately and not spout them in a public forum. Groves, not liking the Executive Director's instructions, decided to look into the rights of residents of the facility.

In reviewing North Carolina's General Legislative Statutes, he discovered that Chapter 58, Article 64 of the Statutes protected and regulated continuing care retirement communities. The Statutes also gave residents of senior care communities the right to organize and to be made aware of any changes in operations at the facility. Using his years of legal acumen, Groves began enactment to enforce the facility to improve upon the care given and to address his original complaints.

The Executive Director, unaware of Groves' past legal career, did not take Groves' actions seriously until it was too late. Catching him off guard, by the time the Executive Director realized the severity of his legal acts, Groves was well on his way to establishing new legislation in North Carolina as it related to senior citizens' care. Many of the new facilities established to provide care for seniors had no real state legislation in place to deal with any complaints or issues surrounding their operations. In addition, many state legislators knew nothing about the industry.

Groves formed a non-profit organization that developed into the Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association (NCCCRA). He recruited residents of the retirement communities throughout Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. He travelled across the state to lobby for the cause of senior citizens' rights. He built a constituency of seniors, lawyers, and concerned elected officials in the state legislature to stand with him. He even called in the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to lend a hand. Groves educated them on the subject matter and introduced laws to combat the misuses. He was able to get legislation passed that addressed the care for senior citizens in the state and made new legislation to protect their rights of seniors across America.

Groves' persistence put into laws that ensures that any person that operates a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) must be licensed by the state in which they operate, must provide annual financial statements showing operational expenses and reserves, must be insured, and may not sell or transfer ownership without prior approval from the state agency regulating CCRC's. In addition, the CCRC must submit audits upon request. The national arm of the CCRC's, the NCCCRA, now has more than 4,000 member CCRC's in their association.





## L ANI GUINIER

...was born on April 19, 1950 in New York City, to Eugenia “Genii” Paprin and Ewart Guinier. Of mixed race, her mother was Jewish and a civil rights activist

while her black Panamanian-born, Jamaican and Harlem raised father was a scholar who, in 1929, was one of two blacks admitted to Harvard College, now Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Neither of them received financial aid nor lived in the dormitories. In order to do either, they needed to submit a photograph with the application which would of course be denied. Unable to afford the continued tuition, Guinier’s father dropped out. To the Guinier bloodline testament, he did return to Harvard years later, in 1969, as a Professor and Chair of the Afro-American Studies Department.

Guinier was said to have always wanted to be a civil rights lawyer since the age of twelve. After watching a television news broadcast of famed attorney Constance Baker Motley escort James Meredith, the first black to enroll into the University of Mississippi. Taking a page from her mothers life, she became a great lawyer.

Graduating third in her class from Andrew Jackson High School, Queens, New York, she matriculated to Radcliffe College graduating in 1971. She then enrolled into Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. She received her law degree in 1974.

She began her law career as a clerk for Judge Damon Keith before serving as Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Drew S. Days in the Civil Rights Division during the Carter Administration. In 1981, she was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar. She then joined the NAACP’s (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) as an Assistant Counsel, eventually becoming Head of its Voting Rights Project.

When President Bill Clinton won the U.S. presidency in 1993, he nominated Guinier to return to the Attorney General’s office, this time as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the same office she where she was Special Assistant. Unfortunately, Clinton withdrew his nomination after conservative journalists, began launching a wave of negative press that brought light to some of her controversial writings, some of which even Clinton himself called “anti-democratic” and “very difficult to defend”.

Republican Senators mounted an aggressive anti-campaign against Guinier’s nomination and President Clinton the platform he wanted to carry out. They branded her agenda and her infamously as a “quota queen,” a phrase coined by a Reagan-era Justice Department official. Most of the African-American community took great offense with the term as it was a derivative of the racially insensitive term, “welfare queen”, used to describe African American women receiving government assistance, “welfare”. Others believed her writings focused on the challenges of affirmative action. In fact, she was an opponent of racial quotas.

National journalists, spurred by their political allegiances, alleged that Guinier’s writings indicated that she was in agreement with “race-conscious districting”, i.e., the shaping of electoral districts to ensure a majority black majority. Both terms were precursors to the term “reverse discrimination” which many whites used later as a means for entry into programs set aside for minority involvement. History recorded one Republican shouting, she thinks, “only blacks can represent blacks.”

Guinier’s nomination became so contiguous that one New York newspaper Editor proclaimed that Guinier was in favor of “segregating black voters in black-majority districts” which polarized and condemned her nomination. In the face of continued negative media attention, several Democratic Senators urged President Clinton that despite his desire, the Republican opposition was to great and urged him to withdraw her nomination. Taking their advice, Clinton withdrew Guinier’s nomination on June 4, 1993.

Guinier responded acknowledging that her writings were often “unclear and subject to vastly different interpretations,” but stated that she believed that the political attacks against her had been distorted and had shed an uncharacteristic light on her academic philosophies. She moved on with her life.

Guinier became a Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School for the next ten years. She then joined the Harvard Law School. Called to lecture at many law schools and universities around the country, she has stood strong in her opinions and beliefs, never wavering, and taught them HER law as law goes. She has been called to lecture at the most prestigious law schools and universities in the U.S. including Stanford, UCLA, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Texas at Austin, Rice, New York University (NYU), and the University of Chicago. She was a visiting Professor at Columbia Law School and a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University.



## ADDELIAR DELL GUY, III

...was born in 1924 in Chicago, Illinois. He attended public schools in the Chicago area before matriculating to college. He received his law degree from Chicago's Loyola University School of Law in 1957. After passing the Illinois State Bar, he began to practice private law in

the city where he was raised. It wasn't long before he had to stop his law career and serve time in the United States military.

Guy served in the military and had a distinguished career while serving. During World War II, he served in the Coast Guard. During the Korean War, he served active duty in the Army as a paratrooper. An honored military man, Guy was given a Korean Service Medal, two Battle Stars, a Combat Infantryman's Badge, a Meritorious Award Medal, and a Purple Heart. He also acted as legal counsel for several service men while on active duty.

After leaving the military, Guy returned to Chicago to resume his law career. He again began to practice private law. After several years, he took a job as Assistant Corporation Council for the City of Chicago. He became a partner in the law firm of Peterson, Johnson, and Guy where he built a reputable business in the city and became known in some political circles.

In 1964, at the urging of his friend Harold Washington, who would later become the first African American Mayor of the City of Chicago, Guy attended the Young Democrats Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. While there, he was introduced to Nevada Clark County District Attorney Ted Marshall, who suggested that Guy submit an application to work in the Clark County District Attorney's office. Guy did so and was hired. His hiring made him the first African American to practice law in the State of Nevada. He also became the first African American Deputy District Attorney in Clark County. He would later become the first African American Chief Deputy District Attorney when he was elevated to the office.

Judge Guy was a trailblazer for African Americans in the legal profession. As famed baseball great Jackie Robinson did for baseball, Judge Guy did for Nevada law. In being appointed to the bench, he felt it necessary to represent the African American community in a light that they had not been seen in before. As a role model, he wanted young men and women and young boys and girls to see him in a positive light. He felt that far to many of the youth looked up to men that either drove expensive cars and had materialistic items to flash rather than a person that stood for justice, the law and cared about the well fair of the community in which they lived.

A firm believer in fair play, integrity and the protection of the community, he was quick to give a life lesson to anyone that came before him and how their actions may or may not have played a positive role in the community. He would take the time from his rulings to give a young offender advice on how to handle some of the problems they faced in living an everyday life in today's society. He believed in planting seeds into the hearts of today's youth so that

they could be contributors to a better society tomorrow, the next day or even twenty to thirty years in the future.

Judge Guy would point out to the most successful of black litigants that he may have encountered that despite their success, as life measures life, no black man has truly made it if compared to his white counterparts. He felt that far to many African American students were graduating from high school without being able to read and write. He was sickened that many of them landed before the Court for him to handle situations that they should not be in because of their living conditions, surroundings and lack of personalized assistance. He sought to make better role models for them to see and wanted to be one of them. He led by example and was beyond reproach.

Judge Guy's motto of "I can and I will" would be the base for the high standards that he lived by and that he sought out in others. In his efforts to help others, he used education as his tool. He established the Addeliar D. Guy III Law School Scholarship Fund which allowed more students to become involved in the law process as defenders of right as opposed to being on the other side of the law and being prosecuted. He also established the "Spirit of Nevada Art and Essay Contest" for middle and high school students. The program rewarded students with stipends and scholarships to help them further their educational goals. Several young men that did not make it through any of the programs created by Judge Guy, did write him while incarcerated thanking him for helping them through serving their time in jail that became productive citizens of their respected communities.

In 1975, the Eighth Judicial District Court was created and then Governor Mike O'Callaghan named Guy to a post in Department Eleven. He would serve on the bench for twenty years. Judge Guy has served the community in many ways outside of the bench. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Addeliar D. Guy Boys and Girls Club's Advisory Board, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Boy Scouts of America Advisory Board, the Community College of Southern Nevada Advisory Board, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Advisory Board, the National Conference of Christians and Jews Executive Board, and Utah U.S. Senator Harry Reid's Academy Selection Board. His judgeships include being a Juvenile Court Judge, a District Court Judge, a Chief District Court Judge, and an Alternate to the State Supreme Court Justice.

His awards are many and his recognitions are long. He has been given a "Distinguished Service Award" from the Clark County Bar Association and Clark County ProBono Project, the "Outstanding Achievement As Judge" from the NAACP, the "Distinguished Nevadan" from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, the "Silver Beaver Award" from the Boy Scouts of America, the "Mountain Top Award" from the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, and the "Silver Lilly Award" from the Easter Seal Society. The Nevada Veterans Administration Ambulatory Care Unit named a care center in his honor and posthumously, he was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame.

Judge Addeliar Dell Guy, III died on March 20, 1997 at Sunrise Hospital from complications of emphysema.



**LAWRENCE  
THOMAS  
GUYOT, JR.**

...was born on July 17, 1939 in Pass Christian, Mississippi on the southern coast of Mississippi, some seventy miles east of New Orleans, Louisiana. Growing up in the segregated Deep South in American, Guyot felt the pains of racism at an early age. He attended Tougaloo

College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, which is located just north of Jackson, Mississippi.

While in college, Guyot's concern for the fate of blacks in Mississippi grew immensely. He joined forces with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in a national voting rights campaign. He focused on Mississippi's many counties that had not blacks registered to vote due to voter intimidation and other fears imposed on potential black voters

While in undergraduate school in Tougaloo, in June of 1963, civil rights activists Fannie Lou Hamer and two other civil rights workers were arrested in nearby Winona, Mississippi for entering an all-white bus station. Guyot went to Winona to pay the civil rights activist's bail. When he saw that the workers had been roughed up, he questioned their treatment while in police custody. In retaliation to his questioning, Guyot was arrested, stripped naked, beaten, and his testicles burned by the police. The abuse went on for four hours until a doctor advised the police to stop for fear of killing Guyot.

Placed in a cell, the police left the door open and placed a knife nearby in hopes that Guyot would try to escape. Knowing they would kill him, he stayed inside his cell. He would later recount the story in a 1997 book by Howell Raines, "My Soul Is Rested: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement in the Deep South".

Several days later, on June 12, 1963, civil rights activist, Medgar Evers was assassinated in the driveway of his Jackson, Mississippi home. The eyes of the nation turned to the civil rights issues in Mississippi and fearing national backlash if another civil rights activist were murdered, Guyot and the other civil rights activists were released. Guyot returned to Tougaloo College to complete his undergraduate degree which he did that year.

Later that year, Guyot was arrested again and imprisoned in the infamous Parchman Farm, a part of the Mississippi State Penitentiary. He was again beaten but the defiant Guyot would not break under the treatment of the Penitentiary guards. In protest, he went on a seventeen-day hunger strike where he lost one hundred pounds. He refused to let the "establishment" win and would not be disgraced. Despite the racial turmoil he endured, the arrests and imprisonments he survived, and the many beatings he took, Guyot completed his undergraduate studies at Tougaloo College. In 1963, he received his degree in Biology and Chemistry.

In 1964, Guyot became the Director of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). He became an outspoken voice against the disenfranchisement of blacks and fought for equal rights for his people through out the state and the surrounding southern states where segregation was in force. In 1966, as an anti-war can-

didate, he made a run for the U.S. Congress representing Mississippi. He was not successful although he did bring more awareness to the concerns of the black citizens of Mississippi.

To continue with his civil rights fight, Guyot became the Director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). While conducting one of their voting rights campaigns, three civil rights workers had come to Mississippi to investigate complaints of voter intimidation and voting irregularities. Three of the men, Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney, would be murdered by local white supremacists with the help of a local Sheriff and his Deputy. Guyot, who had met with them the night before their deaths, had told them that they were safe, as there was national publicity surrounding the voting rights issues and nothing should happen to them. Unfortunately, Guyot's beliefs were wrong and the three men were murdered. Guyot would carry his unfortunate advice with him the rest of his life.

Guyot and other civil rights organizations lobbied the U.S. Justice Department to become involved in the fight for civil rights and the Department eventually heeded their calls. Through constant and consistent protests, civil rights became an everyday topic across the country. Guyot, in his role as a leader in the fight for civil rights, played a pivotal part in laying the groundwork for the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

He then moved north to attend Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey where he received his law degree in 1971. After obtaining his law degree, Guyot looked around the country to find a job that could help make a difference in the civil rights of blacks. He found that platform in Washington, D.C. in a young fellow Mississippi civil rights activist, Marion Barry who was taking on the status quo in Washington. Guyot moved to Washington, D.C. and joined Barry's efforts. He took several jobs with different District of Columbia agencies and served as an Advisor to Barry. Several years later, Barry would be elected Mayor and would go on to serve for many years, eventually being labeled, "Mayor for Life".

In 1987, Guyot appeared in several documentaries about civil rights issues including the fourteen-part American television series "Eyes on the Prize" that aired nationally. During the 1990s and through the mid-2000s, Guyot was a regular commentator on national news shows such as Fox News, where he would have heated discussions with conservative Republican hosts, Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity. He continued to encourage people to vote as their vote was important to the future of the country.

Guyot retired in 2004 after serving for years as a Program Monitor for the Washington, D.C. Department of Human Services' Office of Early Childhood Development. A supporter of same-sex marriages, he was a trailblazer for equal rights for African Americans and a forerunner of the liberties that African Americans have today. Although he was an avid advocate for African American civil rights, Guyot was married for many years to a white woman having married her at a time when it was "forbidden" by white Southerners to do so. Despite his personal preference, Guyot gave his life to fighting for equal rights from African Americans in the United States and she stood by his side.

Lawrence Thomas Guyot, Jr. died on November 24, 2012 at his home in Mount Rainier, Maryland from heart problems related to diabetes. He was seventy-three years old.



**L**AURIE  
N. ROBINSON  
HADEN

...attended North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina. She graduated magna cum laude in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. At NCCU, she was crowned the coveted title of Miss North Carolina Central University where she. In her role, she became an

national Ambassador for the university and provided public service to the university's 5,000 students.

For her law degree, Robinson attended Indiana University's School of Law in Bloomington (IB). She graduated in 1998 after receiving her Juris Doctorate degree. At IB, she was elected as the Student Law Association President. She also served as Editor of Notes and Comments for the Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies and as a member of the Moot Court Board. She also earned from New York University her certificate in Entertainment Media Management graduating with a 3.8 GPA.

In her first legal position, Robinson took a job as an intern with the National Football League in New York City. In her role as intern, she worked in the Labor Management Division. While there, she published in the Indiana Law Journal a legal comment, *"Professional Athletes--Held to a Higher Standard and Above the Law: A Comment on High-Profile Criminal Defendants and the Need for States to Establish High-Profile Courts."*

Completing her internship, Robinson accepted a position with the New York law firm of Seyfarth Shaw LLP before leaving to join Epstein, Becker and Green, P.C.. At both firms, her focus was on management in labor and employment issues. She left Epstein to join CBS Broadcasting as as their Assistant General Counsel.

At CBS, she joined the Labor and Employment Division. As Assistant General Counsel, she represented the networks 150 television and radio stations in employment, immigration, and labor matters. She currently serves as the Director of CBS Training and Development.

Robinson founded the Corporate Counsel Women of Color (CCWC) where she served as the CEO. CCWS is a non profit organization consisting of over 1,900 women attorneys of color who primarily work for Fortune 1000 and Forbes 2000 companies representing their legal departments. Designed to promote diversity in the legal work place, the non profit organization and Robinson have received many accolades for the work that is being done by CCWC.

A gifted writer, Robinson has written articles for several legal-related publications. She penned the published article,

*"Pre-Employment Personality Testing: Under the Americans With Disabilities Act, How Much Latitude Do Employers Have to Incorporate These Tests In the Hiring Practice?"* for the American Bar Association. Other published works include: *"Drafting An Effective Release"* for the New York Law Journal; *"Retail Industry Picketing and Handbilling: Rights of Non-Employee Union Representatives and Striking and Off Duty Employees to Access to Shopping Malls, Parking Fields, Stores and Other Private Property"*, for 17 Labor Lawyer; *"Religious Discrimination: Multi-State Survey, ALL-ABA Course of Study"*; and *"The Globalization of Female Child Prostitution."* Her writings have been recognized by legal scholars and those of the United Nations in New York.

For her dedicated work in promoting diversity, Robinson's deeds have been recognized by many including corporate giant The Coca-Cola Company's legal department. She has been honored by the Women's Venture Fund in receiving their Highest Leaf Award and the Charting Your Own Course Spirit Award. She was given the Power of One Award by both the Los Angeles Black Women Lawyer's Association and the Diversity Visionary Award from the Chicago Black Women Lawyer's Association. She also was awarded the Diversity Champion Award by the New York City Bar Association.

In recognition of her leadership, Ebony Magazine featured Robinson in their annual womens edition. The article showcased her abilities to inspire and make changes to women in the legal profession. The Network Journal named her to the 40 Under Forty List. She was named one of the top 15 Christian Leaders by Precious Times Magazine and as an industry leader in Vault's View From the Top: Advice from Legal Women Leaders.

The National Bar Association's Women Lawyers Division named Robinson as the recipient of their very first Mahala Ashley Dickerson Award. Diversity & The Bar Magazine gave honors by naming her as one of the 10-Up-And-Coming African-American Lawyers to Watch.

A powerful power broker, the Inside Counsel listed Robinson to the list of 50 of the most influential in-house counsels in North America.

Robinson is a much sought after speaker. She has spoken before many gatherings of both women and men attorneys about workplace diversity. She has been asked to speak before the American Bar Association, the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Delta G.E.M.S Women in Law, the Inside Counsel Super Conference, the Law Enforcement Center Fair, the National Bar Association, and the South Asian Women Leaders Forum. In her most recent appointment, Robinson joined the Board of Directors of the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.





## MABEL REBECCA DOLE HADEN

... was born on February 17, 1914 near Lynch Station located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She was the eighth of eleven children and began her formal education attending a one-room schoolhouse where her

two older sisters served as her teachers. She was given praise for her desire to learn and would often steal away to read any book she could find and desired to become a lawyer at a very early age.

In her teenage years, Haden moved to Asheville, North Carolina to live with her sister, Alice, and attended the boarding school, Allen Home School. The school, established during Reconstruction by several New England white prohibitionist women, served as a learning institution for "colored girls". Haden was a stubborn and defiant student that could only be controlled by her sister Alice. Due to her disruptive behavior, she was forced to transfer to the Barber-Scotia School for Girls in Concord, North Carolina. After a period of time at that school, Haden eventually graduated from Pittsylvania County High School in Gretna, Virginia.

Haden was not able to afford college tuition and took a job teaching at a public school in Campbell County, Virginia. She later took a job in Danville, Virginia teaching at a public school. While teaching, she supported her family while trying to save enough money to attend college.

In the early 1930s, Haden moved to Washington, D.C. taking a job as a nanny for several years. She attended night school and received a second high school diploma. After several years serving as a nanny, Haden was able to pay her tuition to attend Washington, D.C.'s Howard University. One semester before graduation, she ran out of money and had to stop her education. She took a job as a switchboard operator at a Catholic social services agency to save more money to complete her education.

While working for the service agency, a priest, the Rev. Michael J. Ready, agreed to pay Haden's tuition to return to college to complete her education. Rather than return to Howard, she chose the less expensive Virginia State College in Petersburg, Virginia where she received completed her undergraduate degree. She then returned to Washington to teach at Neval Thomas Elementary School. After several years teaching, determined to become a lawyer, Haden decided to return to Howard to obtain her law degree. She completed her law degree studies in 1948, graduating as class President.

Haden became one of the first African American female lawyers to practice law in the District of Columbia. She began practicing taking on cases in criminal law. In order to obtain clients, as did many attorneys, Haden would sit in front of the local courthouse on the "mourner's bench" where she and others would find clients seeking an attorney. She eventually earned enough money to open an office. She then changed her practice's focus from criminal law to civil law.

In 1987, Haden represented Washington, D.C. popcorn vendors that had been prohibited from selling fresh popcorn on the streets of Washington. After an hour trial, she was victorious in her litigation and won a change in the city ordinance. That case set the precedent for other street vendors to sell their wares on D.C. streets, as many were unable to afford a brick and mortar business

Haden would practice law for nearly four decades in Washington. She provided legal representation to countless indigent clients and worked tirelessly to encourage young African American women to enter the field of law. She financed a scholarship fund to assist those that wanted to become lawyers and created an annual Red Dress Ball for the Association of Black Women Attorneys to celebrate the achievements of African American female lawyers. In her desire to help other African American attorneys, Haden co-founded the Association of Black Women Attorneys along with colleague Wilhelmina Rolark. Haden served as the association President and Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

Haden was an advocate for the betterment of young people and worked in that regard crossing racial lines to help any student interested in the law. For those that became involved on the wrong side of the law, she worked to improve their lives, particularly those that may have been incarcerated. She collected law books from law firms around Washington, D.C., which she used to create a law library at Lorton Prison, a now closed prison located in Lorton, Virginia that was used to house Washington, D.C. convicted felons.

Haden returned to college to earn a Master's in Law degree from Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University in 1956. She was the first of two African American women to graduate with a Master's in Law from the University. While attending Georgetown, Haden also received a real estate broker's license.

For her dedicated service to Washington, D.C. citizens in the legal needs, Haden was awarded the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association. She was married for thirty-seven years to her husband, Russell George Smith who worked as an accountant. After retiring from the legal field, she spent time writing poetry and serving local community charitable organizations.

Mabel Rebecca Dole Haden died on October 12, 2002. She was eighty-eight years old.



## PHOEBE A. HADDON

... received her undergraduate degree Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. After receiving her Bachelor's degree, she attended law school at Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut, where she received

her LL.M degree. She would receive her J.D. degree from Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While at Duquesne, she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Duquesne Law Review.

Haddon clerked for The Hon. Joseph F. Weis, Jr., United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The mentored time Haddon spent learning and understanding law under Judge Weiss's tutelage would prove valuable years down the road. She began her professional career practicing law with the law firm of Wilmer Cutler & Pickering in Washington, D.C.. Leaving private practice, Haddon accepted a teaching position at the Temple University's Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she would remain until accepting a position with the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. During that time, Haddon took a year sabbatical to work on a research project she was spearheading, a study centering on "contemporary challenges in legal education". Upon completion of the study, she joined the faculty at the University of Maryland.

In 2009, Haddon joined the faculty of the University of Maryland Carey School of Law. She was the first African-American to become Dean in Maryland Law School in one hundred and fifty years. As Dean, Haddon is credited with generating new and innovative ideas that brought resources to the Law School that helped students academically but also gave vitality to their intellectual pursuits. In her efforts, in 2011, University of Maryland Law School received a \$30 million commitment from the W.P. Carey Foundation. That was the largest donation the School had ever received.

The added resources allowed Haddon to strengthen her health care programs, which were already nationally ranked. She brought renewed energies to the schools clinical and environmental law programs and targeted the needs of the schools faculty. For the student body, she worked to ensure the school was diverse in its' makeup and showed her commitment to them but her open door policy.

Haddon was a four-time award winner of the National Jurist Award. She was named as one of the "25 Most Influential People in Legal Education" in 2012, 2013, 2014, and

2015. As one of the most Influential Marylanders, Haddon was named as one of the "Top 100 Women" in Maryland by the Daily Record newspaper. The Society of American Law Teachers also awarded her their Great Teacher Award.

Haddon worked tirelessly for her law students and for the community. Her vision was to raise the national and international profile of the University of Maryland Carey School of Law to higher levels than that where it stood. She made more scholarships available to aspiring law students. She advocated making the study of law a global effort, and pointed out the difficulty of managing a school and taking on debt while being buried in student debt. She was thoughtful in her leadership and advocated a strong belief in legal education. Haddon felt that by educating those that practiced the law and those that have may have gotten caught in the throws of the laws, knew how to apply or to reject their rightful rules of law.

Haddon has served on several Boards including the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women, the Cooper University Health System, the Delaware Valley Community Reinvestment Fund, the Philadelphia Education Fund, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Samuel S. Fels Fund, the William Penn Foundation, and the Women's Law Project. Haddon served as a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on the Future of Legal Services, the American Bar Association's Kutak Award Committee, the Lawyers' Round Table, the Network 2000, and the 2011 Class of Leadership Maryland. She served as Co-President of the Board of Governors for the Association. With the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's Board of Directors, Haddon was a Class C Director. She was a member of the Executive Committee of the Society of American Law Teachers, the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools, the Law School Admissions Council, the Diversity and Inclusion 360 Working Group, and the Commission on the Future of Legal Services, both for the American Bar Association. She also served as Vice-Chair of the Smith College Board of Trustees.

Many associations and organizations have honored Haddon with awards, accolades and citations during her illustrious career. In 2014, she was a guest speaker at the 91st Annual Meeting of the American Law Institute. At the People of Color's 20th Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference, she gave the keynote address. That year, the Philadelphia Business Journal counted Haddon as one of their "2014 Women of Distinction" and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture located in Baltimore, Maryland gave tribute to Haddon for her contributions to the African American community. In 2015, the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association's Women's Initiative gave her their "Leaders in Law Platinum Award". In 2016, the National Association of Women Business Owners in South Jersey gave her their "Trailblazer of the Year Award".





## JOSEPH H. HAIRSTON

...was born in 1922 near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was orphaned as a child but that did not hinder him in his early schooling. By the time he had completed his high school studies in 1940, Hairston had become a member of the U.S. National Honor Society. Impressed by the uniforms of military soldiers, he decided to forgo college and immediately

enlisted into the Army. Unfortunately, in order to be admitted to the Army, blacks had to be assigned to one of the all black units the Army had created when it first began to allow blacks to serve. There were no vacancies and Hairston would have to wait. Several weeks later, a vacancy became available in the Medical Unit in West Point. He took the opening.

Hairston completed his Officer Candidate School (OCS) in October of 1942 and was one of the first African American officers commissioned in the 92nd Division, an all black unit. The unit was shipped to Italy in 1944 where Hariston served in an artillery battalion. After World War II ended, he remained in the Army serving as a helicopter and airplane pilot. He served in action again during the Korean War and was the Army's first African-American helicopter pilot to fly for the Army's Air Force division.

It was in the military that Hairston first felt the brunt of racism. While serving, he and his unit were subjected to inferior housing, given the worst jobs to perform while on duty, and they could not have their wives visit for dinner. There were unwritten policies that did not allow a black soldier to outrank a white one. What was most disheartening to Hariston, was that on the return trip from overseas, the captured soldiers were treated far better than the black soldiers that had served and helped in their capture. Prisoners of war could eat in the mess halls while the blacks could not.

Despite the overt racism that he faced, Hariston remained in the military after the war had ended although he was no longer subservient in his dealings with military staff and officers, plus, he had a good understanding of the military laws as they stood. Determined to face racism face-to-face, he took a non-violent approach to changing the way blacks were treated in uniform. Although he knew it was an uphill battle because of the ineptness of some of the military leaders, he remained in the service.

Hariston was shipped to Fort McClellan, Alabama to the Infantry Replacement Training Center. Having been trained as an artilleryman, there was nothing for the black soldiers to do. In order to keep the men busy, many, including Hairston were assigned to training companies having officers that were juniors to the men they trained. Again, racism was showing its' ugly face.

If any black soldier complained about any of the harsh treatment that were given or challenged a decision by any white officers, they were immediately disciplined and set on a course to run them out of the Army. At the training school in Alabama, Hairston received a rating by a junior officer that had no authority to rate him at all. Not liking the low rating, Hairston complained. Despite being disciplined, he fought the rating all the way back to Washington and the Department of Defense to have the rating expunged.

Hairston began to look at other problems that African American soldiers were having within the military. A group of soldiers, including Hairston, were shipped to another base, Fort Knox in Kentucky. Hairston's daughter had grown old enough to attend the first grade in elementary school. The on-base elementary school did not allow black children to attend. Hairston protested to the Post Commander but the school would not change their policies. Instead, they arranged for his daughter to attend a school in Elizabethtown, which was thirty miles away. A staff driver was assigned to drive her there and pick her up each day. Not long thereafter, Hairston and his family were shipped out to another base, Fort Benning, in Columbus, Georgia.

In the mid 1950s, the Army downsized and Hairston was relieved of duty. He left the Army and entered Georgetown University to earn his law degree. After passing the Bar exam, he took a job with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

As he had experienced in the Army, racism was alive and well at the IRS. As one of the first African Americans to join the office, Hairston was first in line to feel the full force of it. His immediate Division Director, although a nice man, was a racist. Having experienced plenty of racism while in the military, Hairston knew how to deal with it and did.

As the turbulent 60s rolled around, Hairston took part in the organized civil rights demonstrations and protests, including the 1963 March on Washington, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Hearing that the March on Washington had been scheduled, he felt there may be violence and wanted to ensure no violence happened. It so happened that he had served in Italy with Julius Hopkins who was the head of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a civil rights organization founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1942. He contacted Hopson suggesting a plan of action to combat any violence if it were to occur.

As Hairston worked for the IRS, as a federal employee, he could not take credit for any of the plans that were to be implemented. Hopson would be the leader of a security group of "Marshalls" that would work to protect the tens of thousands of people that would attend the March. Using their military training, the two men developed Army formations from a volunteer security detail that operated similar to an Army regiment. They appointed Regimental Commanders, battalions and companies, each having radio communications to report back up the chain if any potential problems arose. The Regimental Commanders, if needed, had direct access to the police that could be brought in if needed.

Because of the security detail that Hairston and Hopson created, including the safety of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., no violence occurred during the peaceful March on Washington. As the march unfolded and King gave his famous, "I Have A Dream" speech, Hairston sat on top of the Lincoln Memorial and watched the entire peaceful march from the sidelines, radio in hand. Beside him stood a Washington, D.C. police Major ready to call in his officers if necessary. No police were troubled that day.

Going back to his day to day job at the IRS, Hairston would go on to become the first African-American Senior Executive and would become its' first African American Chief Counsel. For his years of service to the legal matters at the IRS and for his dedicated military service, Hairston was honored with a tribute to his life co-sponsored by the George Washington Law School and the Washington Bar Association in 2014. At the Kenneth D. Gray Excellence in Jurisprudence Award Luncheon held at George Washington's Grand Ballroom in the Marvin Center, he was presented with an award that honors military service members, veterans and their families. There is no one more deserving to receive the award than Joseph H. Hairston.





## GEORGE WILLIFORD BRYCE HALEY

...was born on August 28, 1925 in Henning, Tennessee to Bertha George Haley and Simon Alexander Haley. His parents were both professors at several Universities and education was always a priority to him and his two brothers,

one of whom was Pulitzer Prize winner Alex Haley. When his parents were professors at Alabama A&M in Normal, Alabama, Haley was fortunate to be able to meet many important educators including George Washington Carver.

When he was a young boy, his family moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas where he would begin his formal education at J.C. Corbin High School. A gifted musician, Haley played the French horn and although still in high school, he played with the local Arkansas AM&N College marching band. Arkansas had segregated schools and many of the schools only gave an education for grades 1 through 7. In order to provide education at a higher level many families moved to larger cities within the state, Little Rock, or moved out of the state. In Haley's case, he would be sent to Bordentown School, a military boarding school in Bordentown, New Jersey.

After completing high school, Haley was drafted into the U.S. military. He spent the next three years serving his country. After being discharged from the military in 1946, he enrolled into Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. At Morehouse, he became a classmate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a future civil rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner. After completing his undergraduate studies, Haley graduated from Morehouse in 1949.

Haley returned to Arkansas to attend the University of Arkansas, which was going through a desegregation plan, in order to earn his law degree. Although he was the victim of extreme racism, including having urine thrown in his face, Haley took his studies seriously and thrived at the school. He even wrote articles for the school's Law Review. Haley would become the second African American to graduate from the University of Arkansas Law School, doing so in 1952.

After passing the Bar exam, Haley joined the law firm of Stevens Jackson in Kansas. The law firm would be credited with being the architects of the landmark civil rights case of *Brown v. the Board of Education*, which began with an educational segregation case against the City of Topeka. Haley, while working at Stevens Jackson was able to work alongside legendary attorneys including Thurgood Marshall, who argued the *Brown* case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

While working at Stevens Jackson, Haley also served as Deputy City Attorney for ten years stopping only when he ran for the job of Kansas State Senator in 1964. He would win his election campaign becoming a Kansas State Senator. He would sit in the state legislature for four years serving only one term.

In 1966, Haley entered into the race for a seat in United States House of Representatives from Kansas. He was not successful in his attempt. Washington, D.C. however, would still become a big part of his future. Haley would practice private law for a few years before being named by President Richard Nixon in 1969, as Chief Counsel of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, now called the Federal Transit Administration. He would serve in the position for four years.

Haley had been friends with civil rights advocate, Martin Luther King, Jr. since their college days at Morehouse in Atlanta. When King visited Kansas State University in January of 1968, three months before his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee in April of that year, Haley was there to greet him. After King was shot and killed, investigators found written notes in King's pocket that included the names of several people including Haley's.

In 1973, Haley was named as Associate Director for the Equal Employment Opportunity at the United States Information Agency (USIA). He would become the Agency's General Counsel and Congressional Liaison soon thereafter. Three years later, he became a partner in the law firm of Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell and Hippel with offices in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.. In 1981, he left the firm to open his own office. After five years in private practice, Haley again ran for an electoral position, this time for a U.S. Senate seat from Maryland in 1986. He was again unsuccessful and returned to private practice.

In 1990, Haley was appointed by then President George H.W. Bush as Chairman of the Postal Rate Commission. In 1993, Haley became the Commissioner, serving through 1998. President Bill Clinton then appointed him as the United States Ambassador to Gambia in West Africa where he would serve through 2001. Haley would be one of a very few people to serve in an official capacity under seven different Presidents across both political parties, Democrat and Republican.

When his Ambassador appointment ended, Haley returned to the United States settling in Silver Spring, Maryland, a suburb of Washington D.C.. He would become the Executor of his brother, Alex Haley's estate.

Ambassador George Williford Boyce Haley died on May 13, 2015 peacefully at his Silver Spring, Maryland home. He was eighty-nine years old.



## AMOS T. HALL

...was born on October 2, 1896, in Bastrop, Louisiana. He attended local elementary and high schools in the Bastrop area. He attended and graduated from Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Hall would

become one of the most important Civil Rights lawyers in Oklahoma history.

Hall was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1925. Shortly thereafter, he was admitted to the Tulsa, Oklahoma County Bar Association.

As he developed his legal business, Hall became more active in civic matters. Tulsa was still healing from the deadly riot that occurred just four years prior destroying all of the black Tulsa community, including famed "Black Wall Street". The civil complaints that Hall represented were not as blatant as they were prior to the riot but they were there as his case load showed. For over twenty years, Hall would serviced the legal needs of his clients in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and the surrounding local black communities, of which there were several.

In 1948, Hall was the attorney of record for the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers. In a fight for equal salaries for black teachers, he filed suit against the Oklahoma City School Board. In his *Freeman v. Oklahoma City School Board*, Hall voiced his complaints to the Courts seeking better wages for the black teachers and the association he represented. For the next twenty-one years, he fought for the rights of black teachers.

In 1948, Hall took on the University of Oklahoma in a fight to integrate their law school. Ada Lois Sipuel, a young black woman, had been denied admittance to Oklahoma's Law School because of her race. He filed suit on her behalf. His landmark case, *Sipuel v. Board of Regents of University of Oklahoma*, challenged the "separate but equal" policy in Oklahoma as it relates to higher education. Hall won the case and the Oklahoma Law School began to accept black students seeking their law degrees.

In 1969, Hall was appointed as Special Judge of the District Court of Tulsa County. He served for only one year. He ran for elected office in the 1970 election seek-

ing the position of Associate District Judge of Tulsa County. He was elected and served as an Associate District Judge until his death. In winning the general election for the judgeship, Hall became the first African American to be elected to a county wide office in the history of Oklahoma. That made him the first African American to be elected a judge in Oklahoma as well. Two great feats, indeed.

Still civic minded, Hall assisted organizations and served as their general counsel. He represented as an attorney the State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Hall himself was a member of the National Legal Committee of the NAACP. He also served as the President of the Tulsa branch of the NAACP for eleven years.

Hall, a Mason, was actively involved in his Masonic Temple proceedings and activities as, from 1941 to 1971, he served as the Grand Master Mason of the state of Oklahoma. In his Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, he was a member, he was of the Xi Omega Chapter. Hall was also a Board member of the Tulsa YMCA. He led their Capital Fund Drive to raise funds to build the Carver Youth Center.

Hall has been an active member of his church, the Morning Star Baptist Church of Tulsa and the First Baptist Church of North Tulsa for many years. He was involved within the community of which he lived. He was honored for his years of service to Tulsa when the city named a local city park in his name.

Other honors that Hall has received include the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen of Tulsa; an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Langston University, a public university located in Langston, Oklahoma, and the only historically black college in the state. Wiley College, a four-year, private, historically black, liberal arts college located on the west side of Marshall, Texas, awarded Hall with an Honorary Doctor as well. He has received many citations, including the U.S. Treasury and the March of Dimes National Foundation. Tulsa Historical Society & Museum has bestowed upon Hall salutations for his years of service to the City of Tulsa and its' citizens.



## MELVIN C. HALL

...attended Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education in 1978. He then enrolled into the University of Oklahoma College of Law in Norman,

Oklahoma and earned his law degree in 1981.

After passing the Oklahoma State Bar, In Hall's first job as a lawyer he became an Assistant District Attorney for the Cleveland County District Attorney's office in Norman. He would serve as an Assistant District Attorney for two years. He then took the position as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission. He would stay with the Commission for four years leaving in 1987.

Hall then made a brief stay with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as an Enforcement Supervisor before moving to private practice. In 1988, Hall joined the law firm of Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbison & Lewis, P.C., where he focused on employment law and federal civil litigation. Four years later, he would be elected as a shareholder partner in the firm.

In 1992, Hall was elected as a Regent to the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents where he would serve for seven years. He became the Chairman of the Board in 1998. In becoming the Chairman of the Board, he became the first African American to be named as Chairman of the Board in its' history.

In 2000, Hall was nominated by then President Bill Clinton to a seat on the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma as a federal Judge. Unfortunately, after being vetted by the American Bar Association, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Justice Department, Hall's nomination was not confirmed. He returned to what he loves to do, teach and litigate law.

Hall has travelled around the state of Oklahoma and the nation as a lecturer on issues involving employment law and civil rights issues. A proven litigator, he is licensed to practice law before several courts, including the United States District Court of the Eastern of Oklahoma, the United States District Court for the Northern Dis-

trict of Oklahoma, the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

Hall has served on several Boards, commissions, and organizations in his outreach to the local and national communities that he serves. He has served on the Boards of the Arvest Bank, the Executive Committee of the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies, the Board of Visitors of the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and the Law Centennial Committee of the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Hall has been given many awards and honors during his professional legal career. He has received the A.C. Hamlin Tribute of Appreciation and Commendation from the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus, the Ada Louis Sipuel Fisher Diversity Award, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Langston University, the Melvin C. Hall Leadership/Scholarship Award by the Board of Regents at Langston University, the Melvin C. Hall Leadership/Scholarship Award by the Board of Regents at Oklahoma University, and the Trailblazers Award from the University of Oklahoma Black Alumni Society. Hall also received a Proclamation from the City of Norman, Oklahoma.

Hall also served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Oklahoma where he teaches classes on his specialty, employment law. He also teaches laws related to civil rights. A firm believer of reserving judgment until the facts of a case are learned, Hall stresses to his students, peers, and clients, that a well informed decision tends to make for a successful outcome. Hall was able to bring diversity to the University of Oklahoma Law School and was able to give minorities students more comfort in their study of law that they may not have gotten had Hall not been a member of the law faculty. He was able to foster an environment of inclusion that made the learning experience comfortable, hospitable, and friendly, a successful combination of his personal traits.



## EUGENE NOLAN HAMILTON

...was born on August 24, 1933 in Memphis, Tennessee. His mother worked as a domestic and his father worked for the U.S. Post Office. After graduating from a local Memphis high

school, he entered the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where, in 1954, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics. He remained at the University to obtain his law degree, which he did in 1958.

Hamilton then enlisted into the United States Army Signal Corps. In the Army, he served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. After completing his military duties, he moved to the Washington, D.C. area to begin his law career.

Arriving in Washington, Hamilton was able to secure a job in the Department of Justice (DOJ). He worked in the DOJ's Civil Division as an associate attorney. He remained at the DOJ for several years before being appointed to a Judgeship in Washington.

In 1970, Hamilton was named as an Associate Judge to the Washington, D.C. Superior Court. While sitting on the Superior Court bench, he presided over cases in all divisions of the Court. In 1993, Judge Hamilton was named as Chief Judge. He was the second African American to become head of the Court.

As Chief Judge, he oversaw a \$76 million operating budget. He also managed fifty-nine full-time Judges that had a case backlog of more than sixty thousand cases. In addition, Judge Hamilton established a pilot program, the Urban Services Corps, to assist juvenile nonviolent offenders in re-establishing themselves after being a litigant in the court system. The program consisted of boot camp training followed by months of supervised probation with job training skills to help them find employment after completion of the program. Judge Hamilton served as Chief Judge for seven years.

Judge Hamilton did come under far for the management of the Court. In 1998, Washington, D.C.'s local newspaper, The Washington Post, ran an article on Judge Hamilton and the D.C. Court that showed that the Court was \$4.9 million in debt from payments due to lawyers

for the Court's indigent clients the lawyers had represented. The debt was allegedly caused due to poor planning by Court administrators. Judge Hamilton countered that the debt was a result of the federal government's takeover of several programs run by the Court, including the adult probation program that took funding away from other Court programs.

While serving on the bench, Judge Hamilton taught law courses at Harvard University School of Law in Cambridge, Massachusetts and American University in Washington, D.C.. He stepped down from the bench in 2000 after thirty years adjudicating case for the Court. He did, however, continue to hear cases as a senior status Judge.

Judge Hamilton was an advocate for children's rights and cared deeply for the welfare of young adults. In that regard, he and his wife Virginia adopted four foster children and hosted more than fifty. Several of the children that he cared for were handicapped in which gave Judge Hamilton gave special care. In his last case before stepping down from the Court, he presided over a case of a ten-year local Prince George's County boy that had been abandoned at Washington, D.C.'s Children's National Medical Center Psychiatric Ward. Judge Hamilton was able to have the child transferred to a permanent facility near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Judge Hamilton was married for over fifty-five years to Virginia David Hamilton and together they had nine children, including those that they adopted. He died on November 19, 2011 of a heart attack. He was seventy-eight years old.



## RUTH HANKINS- NESBITT

...was born in South Boston, Virginia as Ruth Hankins. She and her seven brothers and sisters attended the local public schools and graduated high school in South Boston. Hankins

entered the Virginia Theological Seminary and College, now Virginia University of Lynchburg, Virginia.

After completing her undergraduate degree requirements, she was certified to take a job as a teacher. She moved to Chicago, Illinois for a short period of time before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1944. She enrolled into the Robert H. Terrell Law School in Washington, D.C. where she obtained her law degree.

To pay her tuition, she worked at night at the United States Treasury. After working at the Treasury for a period of time, she moved to the Department of Defense. Hankins took the bar exam in Virginia and became one of the first African American women to be admitted to the Virginia State Bar.

After passing the bar, Hankins opened her own law firm back in Washington. While establishing her professional career, she taught English and Law courses at night in local business schools around D.C. She became a staff attorney the D.C. Bar Association in their Legal Assistance Office and General Counsel to the National Beauty Culturists League Inc.. She also served as legal advisor to the Stoddard Baptist Nursing Home. During this time, Hankins married Vardell C. Nesbitt and together they had one daughter, Denise.

In 1960, Hankins-Nesbitt became involved in local D.C. and national politics. She joined the Democratic Party, became active in the efforts of the organization, and soon became the President of the D.C. Democratic Women's Club. Several years later, she was named as Co-Chairperson of then Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey's presidential bid. She served as Co-Chair of the District of Columbia Women for Humphrey.

In 1967, Hankins-Nesbitt was appointed to the Hackers License and Appeal Board. The Board was the governing entity of the D.C. taxicab drivers. After eight years working at the Appeals Board, Hankins-Nesbitt was ap-

pointed as Chairwoman of the D.C. Public Service Commission, which has responsibility to regulate the public utilities industry in the city. She became the first African American to serve on the Public Service Commission and remained at the Commission for fourteen years.

In 1973, Hankins-Nesbitt was elected President of the Washington Bar Association. She became the first female and the first African American woman to serve as the association's President. She paved the way for other African American women to ascend in the legal profession and opened up opportunities for others to be hired in key management and decision-making positions. Her work as President of the Bar was inspiration to women in the private sector as well.

In 1974, Hankins-Nesbitt ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the District of Columbia City Council. A year later, she was chosen as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the National Bar Association. She was the second woman to lead a major association in the United States. She served as Chair or Co-Chair for the next fourteen years.

That same year, Hankins-Nesbitt was named to the Board of Trustees of Washington, D.C.'s Metropolitan Baptist Church. She was the first woman named Trustee to the Board. She remained a member of the Board for seventeen years. She was then named a Deacon to the Church. Hankins-Nesbitt also served as a Sunday school teacher teaching both children and adults.

In 1976, for her dedicated work to the legal profession, the D.C. Women's Bar Association named Hankins-Nesbitt as its' Lawyer of the Year. The National Bar Association presented her its' Gertrude E. Rush Award and she received the Ollie Mae Cooper Award from the Washington Bar Association. In addition, Hankins-Nesbitt received the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit, was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Bar Association and the D.C. Women's Hall of Fame.

Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt died on April 12, 2007 from complications of dementia. She was eighty-seven years old.



## J OHNNY HARDWICK

...is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. He attended high school in the public schools of Montgomery before attending Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama where he received his Bachelor of

Science degree in History and Political Science. He obtained his law degree from Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska. After leaving, he took and passed the Alabama State Bar and began his professional career in private practice. He served as a private practice attorney in various legal roles until he was appointed as a Judge.

Hardwick worked for the State of Alabama as an Assistant United States Attorney in the State's Attorney General's Office. He also worked for the state of Alabama as a Special Deputy Attorney. In addition, Hardwick served on the bench of the Montgomery Municipal Court and the town of White Hall's Court.

In 2002, then Alabama Governor Don Seigelman appointed Hardwick to the 15th Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Alabama. During the general election, he was elected to a full six-year term in his own right. When the general election came up in 2008, Hardwick was elected again to a seat on the 15th Circuit Court bench, defeating opponent, Randy James. He was victorious winning sixty percent of the casted votes.

In the 2014 general election, Judge Hardwick easily won another term on the Circuit Court bench, as he ran unopposed. His current term will expire on January 17, 2021. While serving on the bench, Judge Hardwick also served as a referee in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions of the Montgomery County Circuit Court.

Hardwick served as an Assistant Professor of Management in the College of Business Administration at his alma mater, Alabama State University. He taught other courses while an Assistant Professor, including teaching courses in Business Law and Public Management. He also taught a course in Organizational Theory, Commercial Law and Criminal Procedure at Alabama State. In addition, Judge Hardwick served as the Dean of Student Affairs and in other administrative positions.

In 2014, Hardwick was asked by the staff of the State's Attorney General's Office to recuse himself from a case involving former state education official Deaann Stone and her husband on alleged misdoings when she served as the Director of the federal programs for the Alabama State Department of Education before resigning. Some thought that the Judge might become bias as his son, Khalfani Ahmed Hardwick, was being tried by then Attorney General Michael Duffy on the attempted murder of Clayton Riley, a Class A felony. A fair and honest adjudicator, Judge Hardwick sought the advice of Alabama State's Judicial Inquiry Commission for advice.

Due to the request for recusal, the Stone case was placed on hold. Judge Hardwick vowed to do whatever the Judicial Inquiry Commission dictated. He did, however, have concerns about not litigating any cases handed down by the Attorney General's Office, as other sitting Judges would have to take on the already over burden Court cases.

For his service to the legal profession, in 1976, Creighton University awarded Judge Hardwick with an honorary degree. He had been previously given an Outstanding Service Award by the University for his distinguished service. Judge Hardwick continues to adjudicate from the bench for the state of Alabama's 15th Circuit Court.

Photo Not Available



## GABRIEL FRANKLIN HARGO

...was born in 1843 in Ohio according United States census records of 1870. Not much is really known about Hargo's early beginnings but it is believed that he grew up in Ohio's black commu-

nities of Mercer, Paulding, Shelby, and/or Van Wert. All of these small black towns have long disappeared from the Ohio landscape and records have been either lost or destroyed.

What is known about Hargo is that he was admitted to the University of Michigan (UM) Law School in October of 1868. In July of 1870, he was awarded his law degree from the UM Law School. In receiving his LL.B. degree, Hargo became the first African American to be awarded a law degree from the UM Law School. He was also the second African American to earn a law degree in the United States, following George Lewis Ruffin who had graduated a year earlier in 1869, from Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

While earning his degree at Michigan, Hargo, during his senior year, served as the Lincoln Debating Society's Sergeant-at-Arms. While attending school, she lived off campus in a rooming house. Hargo's graduation ceremonies were different from others in that the Michigan Law Department held their own commencement exercises in June separate from the University's undergraduate commencement programs. In the 1870 program, Michigan Law School graduated one hundred and nineteen students.

Hargrove did not complete her studies until July. During the July commencement exercises, as the Law School had already had their commencement program in June, Hargo had to accept her degree, as the lone graduating law student, at Michigan's undergraduate commencement program. When Hargo's graduation information was posted in the local papers, there were typos with the local paper reprinting corrections.

After receiving his degree, Hargo moved to Grover Hill, Ohio where he taught school in Sub-District Number Two, which was a "Negro" school. It would be fifteen years before Ohio would desegregate their public schools. While teaching, Hargo studied for his law degree.

On April 8, 1873, Hargo was admitted to practice law in Ohio. On April 17, 1873, The Paulding County Plain Dealer ran a report of Hargo's passing of the bar in its' newspaper. In its' reporting, the newspaper reported that Hargo had made application to open his law practice in the District Court the town of Defiance, Ohio.

Hargo would appear again in The Paulding County Plain Dealer a few months later. On June 4, 1873, Hargo took out an advertisement in the newspaper to announce the upcoming marriage to his wife, Mary Elizabeth Smith. They were married eight days later.



## JOHN R. HARGROVE, SR.

..was born on October 25, 1923 in Atlantic City, New Jersey to Georgine and Raymond Hargrove. He was a baby when the family relocated to Baltimore, Maryland. He began his forma learning at Saint Catherine's Academy (now Saint Pius

School) and graduated high school from Douglass High School in 1941.

He began his college studies at Morgan State College in his hometown of Baltimore. World War II broke out and Hargrove stopped his studies to serve his duties in the military. He chose the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and upon being discharged in 1946, Hargrove had risen to the rank of Sergeant.

Returning from the war, Hargrove enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C.. In 1947, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the institution. He then traveled to Baltimore, Maryland to earn his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1950 and promptly passed the State Bar.

In 1957, Hargrove was appointed as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland. He was the first African-American to be hired by the District Attorney's Office. He would remain at the DA's office for five years.

Leaving the DA's Office, in 1962, Hargrove accepted an appointment as a Judge of the old People's Court. He lost the appointment in the next general election. Entering private practice, he teamed with Joseph C. Howard, Sr. to form their law firm, Howard and Hargrove. A few years later, he was elected as a delegate to the Maryland Constitutional Convention in Annapolis.

In 1968, Hargrove was named Judge of the old Municipal Court of Baltimore City, which was renamed the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City in 1971. In 1974, he was named as Associate Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, now called the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. He would sit on the Court's bench for ten years.

In 1984, Hargrove was nominated by President Ronald Reagan as a Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. The U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination and Hargrove took his seat. He became the second sitting African American Judge to wear the robe. He would sit on the bench for the next thirteen years until his death in 1997.

As a testament to the reputation Judge Hargrove built for himself, the liberal Democrat was nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 to fill a U.S. District Court seat vacated by Shirley B. Jones. Judge Hargrove would become the second black to sit on the federal bench in Maryland. But it wasn't easy.

Hargrove has had many significant first occur his lifetime. He was the first to become a Baltimore federal prosecutor, the first to be named Deputy U.S. attorney, and the African American to be admitted to the all-white Maryland Bar Association.

In his honor, the Baltimore City District Courthouse is named in his honor. The John R. Hargrove, Sr. building is located in the southern section of the city. Ironically, his son John Raymond Hargrove Jr., would become a Judge to the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City in 1998. He was appointed to the position by then Maryland Governor Parris Glendening. He would leave the bench serving a Senior Position.

Realizing the position he had attained as an African American, Hargrove built a strong following amongst aspiring attorney who studied under him and who he mentored through their understanding of the law. He assisted many hopeful attorneys reach their goals including having protégées such as Maryland Chief Judge Robert M. Bell and U.S. District Judge Andre M. Davis. Imposing an environment shred in the pursuit of excellence, Hargrove became a giant in his community and with his legal peers.

Not one to take himself too seriously, he did not give the law that luxury. He was precise and deliberate in his evaluation of each case and would apply the appropriate law to the appropriate case. Always seeking to have a positive outcome, he would use his sense of humor to lighten cases that needed relief. He was able to turn complex problems into easy solutions.

If confronted with a question or for advice, Hargrove was quick to take on the challenge with a reply of "That's no problem", and either answer the question or set out to find the solution. He never based his decisions on who the lawyer presenting before him was or whom they represented. His courtesy and fairness during the litigation process was a given and he treated each participant as he would want to be treated, with kindness.

An avid golfer, Hargrove was a lover of sports, having been a swimmer in his younger day. He loved traveling and with each opportunity, he did so. He was invited to travel to Italy with the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore for meetings with the Catholic Church. He was also asked to visit Scotland to assist in similar negotiations.

John R. Hargrove, Sr. died of a heart attack on April 1, 1997. He was seventy-three years old.



## CONRAD K. HARPER

was born on December 2, 1940 in Detroit, Michigan. His mother was an English teacher and his father was an attorney. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from Howard University in Cambridge,

Massachusetts and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He obtained his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School also located in Cambridge.

In beginning his professional legal career, in 1965, Harper took a job as a staff attorney with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund (LDF). He performed work on several civil rights cases, including serving on the legal team that argued the case of "Keyes v. Denver School District Number 1", in which the United States Supreme Court ruled on de facto school segregation. The 1954 U.S. Supreme Court "Board v. Board of Education" had ruled public school desegregation unconstitutional, however, some states did not integrate their schools for many years.

In 1971, Harper joined the law firm of firm Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in New York City, New York and would later make partner in 1996. In making partner, he served as one of the only two African Americans to make partner with the firm at that time. At the law firm, Harper focused his attention on civil rights issues, environmental law, product liability, and securities. During that time, Harper also served as the Director of New York Life Insurance Company, as Director of Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc. (PSEG), and as Director of PSEG's Electric & Gas Company. In addition, Harper served as the Director of PSEG's Power LLC, as the Director of the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and served as a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

In 2000, Harper was named as a member of the Harvard Corporation, the highest governing body that oversees Harvard University. He was the first African American to ever be named to the University's Corporation. He served on the Corporation for five years resigning in 2005

in protest of the high salary being paid to then Harvard President Lawrence Summers. Harper was dissatisfied with Summers' leadership at the school and could not longer support the Harvard President.

Harper as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of the City of New York, the New York Public Library, and the New York Urban League. He also served as the Chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and as the Legal Adviser of the Department of State. He served as a member of the American Law Institute (ALI) and the ALI's Council. He served as both the Second Vice President of the Institute and later as the First Vice President. Harper also served as an advisor to the ALI's Recognition & Enforcement of Foreign Judgments project and the Transnational Rules of Civil Procedure project. In addition, Harper has served as a Counselor on the Restatement Fourth and the Foreign Relations Law of the United States.

Harper was active in a number of legal bar associations, including the New York City Bar Association. He was the first African American to become a member of the association. He served as a member of the association's Federal Legislation Committee, the Civil Rights Committee, the Legal Education Committee, the Admissions Committee, and the Executive Committee. Harper served as the Chairman of the Board to the association's pro bono initiative, Volunteers of Legal Service. In 1990, he became the association's first African American President. As President of the bar association, Harper worked to increase minority and gender diversity for the association's administration and service committees. He also served as a member of the American Bar Association, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, and the New York State Bar Association.



## NATHANIEL R. HARPER

...was born in February of 1828 in the state of Indiana to Susan and Hezekiah Harper, a former slave. Nathaniel was raised in the Centre Township of Indianapolis, the family having modest means provided

by his father who worked as a blacksmith.

After completing high school, Harper attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he obtained his law degree. To begin his legal career, he moved to Louisville, Kentucky to open his law practice. After passing the bar exam in 1860, Harper was admitted to the Kentucky State Bar and proceeded to practice law in Kentucky. He was the first African American lawyer admitted to the state bar in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

To supplement his income from his budding law practice, Harper, a conservative Republican, accepted minor assignments from the Republican Party. He campaigned for Republican candidates seeking office and became familiar with the inner workings of party politics. He was passive in his position leading up to the 1875 Federal Civil Rights Act, which prohibited racial discrimination in public places such as restaurants, hotels, amusement parks, and on public transportation. He called upon African Americans to be passive and to proceed slowly in the demand for equality. He urged African Americans to take the position of educating the race before asking for equal rights and to use education as a higher morality standard than existed within the race at the time.

For his conservative approach toward politics, Harper was appointed by then Kentucky Governor W. O. Bradley as a member of the State Industrial Bureau. In his role at the Bureau, Harper was charged with investigating, organizing, and to encourage Bureau members to become active participants and bring in more industrial ventures. He traveled across the state of Indiana asking for and giving assistance to the establishment of industrial centers needed to stimulate the country's economy.

In 1872, Harper co-founded Louisville Weekly Planet, a local community newspaper. He also owned the Tallaboo Dramatic Company, a theatrical performing arts

company that toured through central Kentucky for many years. Both business ventures helped to line the pockets of Harper.

In 1888, Harper became Kentucky's first African American Judge. He served on the bench for seven years before being urged by his fellow African American Republicans from Louisville's 7th District and Tenth Ward to run for a seat in the Kentucky State Legislature. Not wanting a black on the Republican ticket, officials of the party feeling that an African American on the ticket would hurt the party overall, blocked Harper's selection by instituting a rule that the candidates must be picked not by the current Ward based voting but by a mass vote of the attending Delegates.

When word spread of Harper's blockage to the election, African American Republicans threatened to leave the party and form their own, which would then represent the concerns of the African American communities. Not wanting to be a part of a racial flare up prior to the election, Republican Party leaders met with Harper and offered him a good job where he would become a spokesperson for the party and be charged with recruiting more African Americans to the party and to handle any flare ups that may arise in the future. In exchange for the job, Harper would have to renounce his candidacy in the election. He accepted the job and withdrew from the race.

African Americans were outraged at Harper's decision for "selling-out". Harper, unconcerned, exited from the political world. Not long after ending his political aspiration, then Governor William O'Connell Bradley appointed him as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Agriculture, Labor and Statistics of the Colored People of Kentucky. He would continue working at the Bureau until retirement.

Harper died on January 27, 1921. He was ninety-three years old. Years later, the Kentucky Bar Association's (KBA) Young Lawyers Division's Diversity Committee created an annual award, the Nathaniel R. Harper Award to be awarded to someone that has exhibited extraordinary commitment to law and Kentucky citizens.



## SARA J. HARPER

...was born on August 10, 1926 in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Cleveland public schools before enrolling in to her hometown school of Case Western Reserve University. She

would obtain both her undergraduate and her law degree from the University and was the first African American woman to graduate from Case Western Reserve University's Law School.

Entering into the field of law, Harper first took a job as a Prosecutor for the City of Cleveland. For a brief time, she also served as Legal Counsel to the United States Marine Corps judiciary becoming their first ever African American woman to serve. Before retiring, she would rise to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After serving as a Prosecutor for several years, she was appointed by Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes as Judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court. In the next election, she was elected to a full term.

In 1980, Harper ran as a Republican for Chief Justice of Ohio and won. She became the first African American woman to serve as Chief Justice. After serving her term, Harper then ran for a seat as Justice on the Ohio Supreme Court where she again won. She became another first, the African American woman to sit on the Ohio Supreme Court. While conducting her judicial responsibilities, she also served as President of the Cleveland branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As President, she fought against the police practice of strip-searches African Americans when detained.

In 1990, Harper became a member of the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals, becoming one of the first of two African-American women elected to the court. A champion of civil rights, in her efforts to aid the African American community, Harper co-founded a victim's rights program. To assist them in the wrongs that may befall upon them, she felt the victim needed equal rights under the law. Her program would spread nationally with other jurisdictional communities adopting Harper's program. At the center of her program is getting parents involved with

their children with the hopes that as a unit, together they can inspire their children to focus on education.

To further her program and to help her local community, she founded the Sara J. Harper Library, located at East 43rd Street and Outhwaite Avenue in Cleveland. A program at the Library was created to assist children to learn to read, write, and create. The library will soon celebrate its' 28th year of success.

Not done, Judge Harper's commitment to her community continued. She established the Sara J. Harper Leadership Institute, whose purpose is to seek out future leaders. The Institute provides them opportunities to become protégés and trains them as future community leaders. It gives them encouragement to succeed and a thriving environment aimed at sparking educational interest to make the participants of the Institute productive, contributing, and self-realizing citizens.

Harper continued to give service to the communities that she served and lived in, on and off the bench. For her continued service to the city of Cleveland, the Cuyahoga County Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) dedicated and renamed a street in her honor. Sara J. Harper Way is located only a few blocks away from the neighborhood library that bears her name. On her 90th birthday, a celebration was held at the Outhwaite Community Center, which is located in the same the neighborhood, which houses both the library and the street named in her honor. At the event, then Mayor Frank G. Jackson presented Harper with a City Proclamation for her contributions to the City of Cleveland.

Harper has been the recipient of many accolades, including receiving the 2014 Republican National Convention Trailblazer Award. The award recognizes and the contributions of black Republicans to the Republican Party. She has received a Lifetime Achievement Award and has been inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.



## DORIS MAY HARRIS

...was a born in Philadelphia in 1923. She attended Overbrook High School graduating in 1941. She matriculated to Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in 1946. She would remain at Howard where she

obtained her J.D. degree from the University's Law School in 1949. She was the second African American woman to graduate from the law school.

She returned to Philadelphia, passed the Pennsylvania State Bar and began her legal career. She began as a general practice attorney. She would then take on government and municipal jobs including spending time with the United States Government Regional Counsel of the Office of Price Stabilization as an Attorney-Advisor. She also served as an Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Philadelphia and as an attorney for the U.S. Small Business Administration. She even served as the Assistant General Counsel for the School District of Philadelphia.

After spending time on the government side of the law business, Harris, along with a group of other concerned African American lawyers opened their own law firm. At the time, there existed no African American law firm registered in the city of Philadelphia. As a co-founder of Norris, Schmidt, Green, Harris and Higginbotham, Harris is credited with being a part of the first African American law firm to be established in Philadelphia.

After serving the Philadelphia community, in 1971, Harris appointed to the Court of Common Pleas. She served the bench with integrity, professionalism, and pride having a purpose of building within her self and other African American lawyers, a high expectation of stylish excellence. She acted as a "Mentor in Chief" to many young African American lawyers entering the legal field. When it came to pursuing the merits of the legal profession and the law, she dedicated herself to bridging the gap between the male dominant, shark infested waters of the law profession, and the young African American women that were tomorrow's future representatives of law on both sides of the room.

When it came to cases involving juveniles, she used her keen intellect to cipher through the issues involving the child and the child themselves. She always looked to improve the life of the persons involved, knowing many times it may be to no avail. When it came to African American women lawyers in the Philadelphia area that represented children, she supported their efforts.

She had high standards and she expected the same from her peers and the lawyers that plead their cases before the Court. Her

law clerks had an expectation of excellence in preparation and the process of implementing the law. Each of the clerks that have mentored under Judge Harris has established themselves in their own right to notable positions within the field of law. Harris, a firm believer in committed education, has been an inspiration to many young girls, collegiate young women, and women having professional growth hoping that many of them will choose the field of law.

In her resolve to improve the lives of the people in her community, Judge Harris partnered with the "Say Yes To Education and Tell Them We Are Rising Programs", sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association/Philadelphia Futures. The campaigns purpose was to bring awareness to the children in the community and their educational needs. She conducted holiday toy drives and ran book bag campaigns to help those in homeless shelters and the needs of the homeless children that lived there, all to improve their living conditions.

On February 28, 1989, a commissioned portrait of Judge Harris, sitting as a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas, was unveiled and presented to her by the Women Lawyers Division, Philadelphia Chapter, of the National Bar Association. A financial honorarium, The Judge Doris May Harris Image Award, was also created in her name by the Chapter to be given annually to an African American female attorney who exemplifies the high standards and dedicated commitment to the law as did Judge Harris.

Judge Harris has served on many Boards and organizations during her professional career including the Judicial Planning Commission of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Executive Board of the United Way, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Women's Christian Alliance. She has been a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Executive Board of the United Way, and the Women's Christian Alliance. And, of course, she has always been a supporter and mentor to the Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association.

Judge Harris also served as a community activist. Her deep commitment to her community was demonstrated in the many programs she created and the many community outreach activities she became involved with. She helped establish a pro bono legal defense fund to help represent the poor. She mentored young teenage girls at the Harriet Tubman House. She even adopted students at the John Wanamaker Middle School, helping them with their educational needs.

During her years on the bench, Judge Harris was involved in numerous professional and community activities. She has served members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Judicial Planning Commission of Pennsylvania, the LINKS Inc., the National Council of Negro Women, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Saint Thomas Episcopal Church.

Judge Doris May Harris died in April of 1985.



## JESSE HARRIS

...was born on October 21, 1954 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Jessie and Edwin Harris. He attended E.W. Woods Elementary School and Carver Junior High School in Tulsa. He then obtained a

four year scholarship to Northfield-Mount Hermon College Preparatory School in Gill, Massachusetts. He graduated from that institution in 1972.

Harris decided to become a lawyer as a teenager after having his identity stolen by a close friend. His friend had been caught driving without a license and used Harris' name during a traffic stop. Away at boarding school, Harris had no idea of the incident until he returned home to find a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

Going before the municipal judge, he explained the situation noting that he was away at boarding school and could not have committed the infraction. The judge dismissed the charge against him. That court room hearing, made Harris want to become a judge so that he could help others wrongly charged with a crime.

Harris received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. He went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from The National Law Center at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C..

During law school, he worked as a Manpower Development Specialist for the U.S. Department of Labor. In his duties, he researched and analyzed labor legislative provisions and history. He prepared witnesses in their testimony before congressional hearings.

In 1979, he returned to his hometown of Tulsa taking a job as an Economist with the City of Tulsa until he received his Bar exam results. There, he was responsible for the design and implementation of special economic development contracts for the city. After receiving notification of passing the bar exam, Harris became an Assistant City Attorney in Tulsa.

In 1982, Harris became an Assistant District Attorney for Tulsa County. He reviewed requests for filing misdemeanor and felony cases, handled arraignments, and motion hearings. He also litigated felony and misdemeanor trials. He served in that capacity for over four years.

In 1986, Harris was appointed as a Municipal Court Judge. His cases centered on criminal misdemeanor violations, motion hearings, zoning violations, and misdemeanor jury and non-jury trials. In 1987, he was ap-

pointed as a Special District Court Judge. Serving in that capacity for nine years, he presided over preliminary hearings, misdemeanor trials and divorce cases.

In 1995, Harris became the first African American District Court Judge to serve in the Fourteenth Judicial District of the state of Oklahoma. He presided over criminal felony trials, probate cases, guardianship cases, adoption cases and trust cases. He remained on the bench until his retirement in 2014.

One of Harris' more notable cases involved an African American businessman and hotel owner, J.B. Stradford, who seventy-five years before, in 1921, was accused of instigating one of the deadliest race riots in American history, the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot. The riot left thirty-five Tulsa city blocks in ruins, burnt to the ground, leaving nothing but ashes. Stradford left Tulsa shortly after the riot. He became a prominent lawyer in Chicago, Illinois for many years. He died in 1935 in Chicago.

The May 31, 1921 riot began after the arrest of a young black man on charges of assaulting a young white woman that operated an elevator at a Tulsa hotel. A white mob, armed and angry, had gathered at the Tulsa County Courthouse to lynch the young black man. Black residents from north Tulsa, known at the time for its' wealth, as "Black Wall Street", went to the jail to protect the young man. A scuffle ensued and a white man was shot by a black resident.

For the next twenty-four hours, the white mob began a killing spree that ended with many blacks killed. Much of the wealth of black Tulsa residents was confiscated, homes were looted, and most of the black community was burnt to the ground. Many of the black residents fled Tulsa to save their lives.

Stradford and others were arrested and charged with inciting the riot. He argued that he had come to the courthouse as a peace maker hoping to stop any violence. Seventy-five years after the 1921 riot, one of Stradford's relatives sought to clear his name. The relative contacted an Oklahoma State legislator who asked Tulsa County District Attorney, Bill LaFortune, to reopen the case. Doing so, LaFortune found that the case had been mishandled and agreed to present the case to the court.

Hearing the case, Judge Harris vacated the conviction of Stradford and all of the other African Americans charged with crimes. The charges were dismissed. Judge Harris made his determination in the presence of four generations of Stradford's family in a ceremony at Tulsa's Greenwood Cultural Center. The Center ironically stands across the street from the location where Stradford once owned a 65-room hotel that was destroyed in the riot. Judge Harris' judicial career lasted approximately twenty-eight years.



## KAMALA DEVI HARRIS

...was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland, California, to Shyamala Gopalan Harris and Donald J. Harris. Her mother, of Indian descent, was a breast cancer specialist at McGill

University hospital located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Her Jamaican born father was an Economics professor at Stanford University in Stanford, California.

Unfortunately, Harris' parents divorced when she was young. She and her sister grew up with her mother and graduated high school in Montreal. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1986. With the urging of leading civil rights attorneys Thurgood Marshall and Constance Baker Motley, Harris entered law school.

She attended the University of California's Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. She earned her J.D. degree in 1989.

She was admitted to the California Bar three years later.

Harris accepted her first job as an attorney serving as a Deputy District Attorney in Alameda County, California. In her two years there, she prosecuted hundreds of violent felonies. In 1998, she moved to the Office of the San Francisco District Attorney where she became the Managing Attorney of the Career Criminal Unit. At the same time, she headed the Division on Children and Families.

In 2000, Harris joined the City Attorney's Office in San Francisco as Chief of the Community and Neighborhood Division. The division was charged overseeing the city's civil code enforcement laws. In 2003, Harris was elected District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco. Her election made her the city's first female African American and Indian American District Attorney. Running again in 2005, she won re-election. While a District Attorney, Harris established the Environmental Justice Unit. The unit was responsible for successfully prosecuting several businesses, individuals, and industries for pollution violations.

In 2009, Harris published, *"Smart on Crime: A Career Prosecutor's Plan to Make Us Safer"*. In her writings, she looks at criminal justice from an economic point of view. She presents proposals that were aimed at reducing and

preventing crime. She won wide acclaim for her views.

Harris was nominated in 2010, by the Democratic Party of California to become California Attorney General. She had wide support and endorsements, including the Black Women Organized for Political Action, the Mexican American Bar Association, the National Women's Political Caucus, and South Asians for Opportunity. She was victorious in her campaign.

As Harris entered office, California was hit hard with a mortgage foreclosure crisis. Harris played a role in negotiating the National Mortgage Settlement, a joint state and federal settlement program involving residential mortgage foreclosures and loan servicing by banks. With Harris' help, California homeowners received \$12 billion of debt reduction. Overall \$26 billion was won for the homeowners thanks to the efforts of Harris and others.

In 2012, Harris asked all California mobile app developers to comply with California laws with respect to privacy issues. Noncompliance ran the risk of a \$2500 fine. Harris is also credited with drafting the 2013 California Homeowner Bill of Rights. She presented to the state legislature, a package of reforms that gave homeowners more options in their struggles to keep their homes. In 2014, the Homeowner Bill of Rights was passed by the California state legislature and Harris announced her bid for re-election.

Current Democratic U.S. Junior Senator Barbara Boxer announced her intended retirement from the U.S. Senate at the end of her term in 2017. Harris was one of the first to place her name in the race for the seat. On the day that Harris made her announcement to run, Gavin Newsom, California's Lieutenant Governor, a close political ally of Harris', announced that he would not run for Boxer's seat. Harris now was the front runner to replace Boxer. Harris set out to raise money for her campaign and the contributions began to pour in. Key endorsements soon followed. It wasn't long before Harris' campaign treasury had millions of dollars in her war chest.

Winning in every poll by February of 2016, Harris secured the California Democratic Party's endorsement to run for U.S. Congress on the Democratic ticket. In the vote, Harris had received a whopping 78% of the vote, 18% more than the 60% needed to secure the endorsement. More endorsements soon followed, including that of then California Governor Jerry Brown. Her opponent in the 2016 general election is fellow Democratic candidate Loretta Sanchez. Who ever wins in the November election, the California Democratic Party is pleased. No matter the loser, a Democrat will replace Boxer.





## PATRICIA ROBERTS HARRIS

...was born on May 31, 1924, in Mattoon, Illinois, to Bert Fitzgerald Roberts and Hildren Brodie. Her father, a railroad dining car waiter left the family when Harris was young

and she was raised by her mother. From her modest beginnings, she studied and excelled in school and her studies. Her hard work awarded her with a scholarship to Howard University in 1941.

Harris graduated Summa Cum Laude from Howard University in 1945. At Howard, she was elected Phi Beta Kappa and served as Vice Chairman of the Howard University chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1943, she supported the organization by joining one of the nation's first lunch counter sit-ins. At that demonstration, she met William Beasley Harris, a member of the Howard law faculty. They married twelve years later on September 1, 1955.

From 1946 to 1949, she did postgraduate work in industrial relations at the University of Chicago and at American University. The next four years were spent working as the Assistant Director of the American Council on Human Rights. During that time, she became the first National Executive Director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. In 1960, Roberts received her J.D. from the George Washington University National Law Center, Washington, D.C.. From a class of ninety-four students, she ranked number one.

Harris began her U.S. government career in 1960 as an attorney with the Department of Justice. Working in the appeals and research section of the criminal division, she met Robert Kennedy, the newly elected U.S. Attorney General and established a friendship lasting years.

In 1961, Harris briefly worked for the U.S. Department of Justice before deciding to return to Howard University as an Associate Dean of Students. She also lectured to the Howard's law school students. In 1963, she attained full professorship and in 1969, was named Dean of Howard University's School of Law, the first black woman ever to assume that position. She resigned a month later after having not received support from then

Howard University President James E. Cheek in her strong stand against student protests on the university campus.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy appointed her Co-Chairman of the National Women's Committee for Civil Rights. In 1964, Harris was elected from the District of Columbia as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. She worked on Lyndon Johnson's presidential campaign and seconded his nomination at the 1964 Democratic Convention. After his win, President Johnson appointed her Ambassador to Luxembourg where she served four years from 1965 to 1967. She was the first African American woman named as an American envoy.

Following her service as Dean of Howard's School of Law from 1969 to 1972, she moved to the private sector, joining one of Washington, D.C.'s most prestigious law firms, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson. During this time, Harris was named to the Board of Directors of IBM. She Also served on the boards of Scott Paper Company and Chase Manhattan Bank.

In 1972 and 1973, Harris was appointed Chairman of the Credentials Committee and a Member-At-Large of the Democratic National Committee. President Jimmy Carter took office in 1977 and appointed her to two cabinet-level posts during his administration which made her the first African American woman to enter the Presidential line of succession. Although thirteenth, she attained the position. From 1977-1979, Harris served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 1979, she became Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The Department of Education Organization Act came into force on May 4, 1980. With that, the educational functions of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare were transferred to the Department of Education. The department was renamed the Department of Health and Human Services. Because Harris did not face Senate confirmation as Secretary, she remained there until President Carter left office in 1981.

In 1982, Harris ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Washington, D.C., losing the September 14th primary election to incumbent Mayor Marion Barry. Moving on, she was appointed as a full-time professor at the George Washington National Law Center, in D.C. She taught at the university until her death from breast cancer, on March 23, 1985. She was interred at the Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C.



## ROBERT LEWIS HARRIS

...was born on March 4, 1944 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas to Lucy and Benjamin Harris. When he was in high school, his family moved to California where he graduated from Oakland Technical

High School in 1961. He enrolled into Merritt College in Oakland where he received his A.A. degree in 1963. He would earn his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Francisco State University in 1965.

After passing the California State Bar, Harris took a job as a Probation Officer, working for four years before enrolling into law school. He entered the University of California Berkeley Law School (Boalt Hall) and received his J.D. degree in 1972. He then took a job on the law firm of Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E). He would spend the next thirty-four years as a business attorney for the company.

It was in 1973 when Harris first became active with the local Bar associations. Once involved, he not only liked it, he became deeply involved. By 1976, he had become the President of the Charles Houston Bar Association (CHBA), which is an association comprised of Black lawyers in Northern California. In 1977, Harris founded the California Association of Black Lawyers in an attempt to give the local black lawyers a common goal organization on which to build cohesion.

In 1978, with his popularity growing within the legal community, Harris joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in successfully defending NAACP lawyers in a libel and slander suit. Harris' hard work would soon pay off. In 1979, he was named as President of the National Bar Association. He was the first West Coast lawyer to ever be elected as President.

In 1982, Harris became the founding member of the Board of Directors for the National Bar Institute set up to be a funding arm for the National Bar Association. That year, he would serve as the President of the Wiley Manuel Law Foundation, the funding arm of the Charles Houston Bar Association. He would serve as Chairman of the Legal Redress Committee of Oakland branch of the NAACP a year later.

1985, Harris was successful in arguing a landmark corporate case before the U.S. Supreme Court. He won a First Amendment rights claim protecting Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) right of free speech. His success was not left unrecognized. In 1986, the NAACP presented Harris with the organization's highest legal honor, the W. Robert Ming Award for his advocacy of law. The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity would bestow upon Harris the same honor when they presented him with their organizations' Laurel Wreath Award. Harris would receive from the National Bar Association their C. Francis Stradford Award.

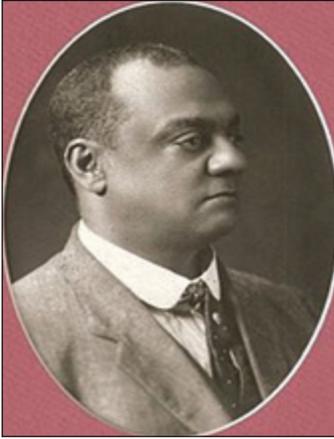
In 1987, Harris enrolled into the Harvard Business School's Advance Management Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He completed his course study a year later. He then joined the corporate ranks at PG&E. Harris's ascension to the top was set in motion. He quickly rose to become Vice President of Community Relations.

Harris was promoted to Vice President of Environmental Affairs and is credited with expanding PG&E's environmental protection endeavors. He took stewardship over any issues or concerns related to caring for the environment and PG&E's care as well. During his lengthy career at PG&E, Harris strove to make the community he lived in a better one.

Harris has given back to his local community and organizations he serves in many ways. For the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, he has served as "Grand Polemarch", the highest ranking position in the organization. For the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's Boulé, he served as "Grand Sire Archon-Elect".

Harris' memberships are long and his service to them is dedicated. He has served on the Board of Directors of the African American Experience Fund of the National Parks Foundation; the American Association of Blacks in Energy as General Counsel; the California Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Advisory Committee; the California League of Conservation Voters; the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area as Co-Chair; the National Environmental Policy Commission; the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce; the Port of Oakland; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; and the United Negro College Fund of the Bay Area. In 2007, Harris was inducted into the from San Francisco State University Hall of Fame.





## WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON HART

...was born on October 30, 1857 in Eufaula, Alabama. His father, Henry Clay Hart, was a white slave trader. He received his education from the American Missionary Association School, a day

and boarding school located in Eufaula. Because the South had separate schooling for black and white students, a group of missionary's established hundreds of these schools in the South as a way of providing education to black students. He attended the school for seven years.

In 1874, the Reconstruction Era state government that was in power was being attacked by a group of white conservatives that wanted to take over the government. Hart spoke out in favor of the Reconstruction Era government. He began to receive serious threats on his life so he left Eufaula hurriedly. He headed north, walking all the way to Washington, D.C.

Once he arrived in Washington, Hart enrolled into a college preparatory program at Howard University. In 1880, he graduated from the program with a Preparatory Department Certificate. He then enrolled into Howard's undergraduate program. In 1885, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree.

Once his undergraduate studies were complete, Hart remained at Howard enrolling into its' law school. In 1887, he received a Bachelor of Laws degree and went on to receive, in 1891 his Master of Laws (LLM) degree. During his time in law school, in order to pay his tuition, Hart worked as a private secretary for New York Senator William M. Evarts.

While completing his LLM degree at Howard, the university, in 1890, named Hart as the Dean of the its' Criminal Law Department. His starting salary was \$1,500. Seven years later, he would become the Dean of the Agriculture Department. Hart would go on to teach at Howard for twenty-five years.

A highly recognized authority on torts, corporate, and criminal law, Hart wanted to increase the classroom space for the university. He and William Henry Richards, a fellow law school professor, helped secure funding to

build the law school's first classroom building. Lobbying Congress for funding, they were able to procure \$10,000 to fund the construction of the law school building.

While teaching and serving as Dean at Howard, Hart needed more income. He worked extra jobs at the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Treasury, and as the Assistant Librarian of Congress at the Library of Congress for six years. In 1889, he became the first black lawyer appointed as Special U.S. District Attorney for the District of Columbia.

In a landmark case, Hart, in 1904, challenged Maryland's Jim Crow laws. While traveling, he sat in the whites-only section of a railroad car. The Conductor ordered him to move into the car designated for blacks as the train crossed the Maryland state line. He refused. He was promptly arrested and charged with violating Maryland's "separate-car" Law. He received a court fine of \$5.

Hart appealed his conviction to The Maryland Court of Appeals. The Court ultimately ruled that Maryland's Jim Crow laws were illegal as they applied to restrictions on interstate commerce. In the Court's opinion, it was surmised that as long as a black was crossing state lines, the racial segregation laws could not apply. If a black was traveling as an intrastate passenger rather than an intrastate travel, the law would apply.

In 1897, Hart purchased 700 acres near Fort Washington, Maryland, from Senator Evarts. On the land, which ran along the banks of the Potomac River, he began a school for young black boys to attend, the Hart Farm School and Junior Republic for Dependent Colored Boys. Hart was able to house up to two hundred students at the schools.

Hart and twenty-eight other black intellectuals, including historian and Pan-Africanist W. E. B. DuBois, on July 11, 1905, founded the Niagara Movement, a black civil rights organization. The organization Declaration of Principles laid the foot print for what would later become the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which would be founded five years later.

Right after founding the Niagara Movement, Hart, forty-seven years old at the time, married Mary M. Olney, a white woman. They had three children. Many of Hart's descendants remain in the Washington D.C. area.

On January 6, 1934, while in New York City, Hart died. His remains were returned to Washington, D.C. and buried in the Columbian Harmony Cemetery. In 1959, the Columbian Harmony Cemetery closed and his remains were moved to National Harmony Memorial Park in Landover, Maryland.



## **L**EROY ROUNTREE HASSLE, SR.

...was born on August 17, 1955 in Norfolk, Virginia to Ruth and Joseph Hassell. His mother worked as an elementary school teacher and a social worker. His father was employed as an Assistant High School Principal. Hassell graduated from high school in Norfolk, Virginia

from Norview High School in 1973. Voted "most likely to succeed", Harris matriculated to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia where he received his undergraduate degree in 1977. When Hassell arrived on the Virginia campus, mixed housing for black and white students were prohibited. While there, those rules were found unconstitutional and Hassell became the first African American to reside in campus housing, specifically having a coveted room in "The Lawn", an part of campus designed by Virginia great Thomas Jefferson. He also won the Scholar of the Year Award while there.

Hassell then enrolled into Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Harvard in 1980. While at Harvard, he worked as a Recruiter for the Admission Office on campus and edited the Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.

After law school, Hassell returned to Virginia to take the Virginia State Bar, which he promptly passed. He took a job at the Richmond headquarters of McGuire Woods, the second oldest law firm in Virginia and one of the oldest in the United States. Hassell made partner at McGuire Woods in seven years, a year ahead of the average time it takes to make partner, eight. While at McGuire Woods, he also served as Co-Counsel to the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He also served the Richmond School Board as their Chair.

In 1989, Governor Gerald Baliles appointed Hassell to the Virginia Supreme Court at the very young age of thirty-four. In 2002, the state legislature voted in changes to the process whereby State Supreme Court Justices and Chief Justices are selected. For the first time in Virginia's legislative history, Chief Justices would be chosen not by seniority, as had been done before, but by vote of the Court's Jurist. Hassell's fellow peers chose him as the Chief Justice of the group. He was only thirty-seven years old. He also became the first African-American Chief Justice in Virginia's legislative history.

While serving on the bench, Chief Justice Hassell pushed for an independent judiciary and sought greater access for all Virginians needing legal services. For the mentally ill, he created a commission to reform the outdated mental health laws still being implemented in Virginia. Chief Justice Hassell would serve on the bench, being elected to two four-year terms, leaving the bench on to January 31, 2011. During his last year on the bench, Chief Justice Hassell was ill suffering from complications of lymphoma.

In what may be one of the most notable cases that Hassell made an opinion on involved the right of the Klu Klux Klan to burn crosses as a means of freedom of speech, protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Hassell dissented in the case citing although the First Amendment did indeed give a person the right to express themselves and their opinions, however, it those First Amendment rights did not give one the right to infringe upon another's rights. His opinion that the Klu Klux Klan could burn their flags, but not in a manner that will cause another to fear bodily harm.

In another challenged case, Hassell was one of two Justices that dissented from the opinions of his peers. Daryl Renard Atkins, having an IQ of 59, had a murder conviction verdict judged against him and had been sentenced to death. His IQ level, however, qualified for him to identified as "mentally retarded", the term used at that time to describe the mentally ill. By being classified mentally ill, which Atkins clearly was, his treatment by the Court would be different. The major question before the Court was could the mentally ill be tried as adults. Hassell dissented in his opinion and the case was overturned.

Hassel was a reasonable and fair Jurist. He was evenhandedness in judicial decisions and consistent in his rulings. He was thoughtful in his deliberations and thoroughly committed to his decision once made. He was conscientious in his assessments to his cases and just in the laws application. Hassell knew the importance of self-sacrifice and public service and he was never to busy to help.

Believing that if one worked hard and were able to get along with your peers, had confidence in themselves and cared for the community they were given jurisprudence to rule, that person would succeed. With high integrity, the legacy will live long. A firm believer in community service, giving back, and lending a helping hand, Hassel did more. In his civic duties, he gave legal counsel to the Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts as their Director, the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and the Richmond Renaissance. He also served the Richmond School Board as their Chairman.

Other organizations gave tribute to Hassel with honors and awards. He received the American Bar Association's "Liberty Bell Award"; the Richmond Jaycees "Outstanding Young Citizen Award"; the Virginia Bar Association's "Distinguished Service Award"; the Virginia Jaycee's "Outstanding Young Virginian Award"; and the YMCA's "Black Achievers Award". The Library of Virginia and Dominion Power together named Hassell as one of their "Strong Men and Women in Virginia History".

Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr. died on February 9, 2011. He was fifty-six years old. Upon hearing of Hassell death on February 9, 2011, the Virginia State Legislature set in motion plans to honor him in the most dignified manner possible. His body would lie in state at the Virginia State Capitol Rotunda, its' casket draped with the Virginia State Flag. The state's tribute to Hassell was both dignified and honorable. He was the first African American to have such honors bestowed upon them



## WILLIAM HENRY HASTIE, JR.

...was born on November 17, 1904 in Knoxville, Tennessee to Roberta Childs and William Henry Hastie, Sr.. Having a heritage that included both African-American and Native American blood-

lines, Henry at a very young age, was rare and different. It was said that on the maternal side of the family, a female ancestor was a Malagasy princess.

Hastie's childhood began in Tennessee, however, he was raised in Washington, D.C.. He graduated first in his class from Dunbar High School. He then matriculated to Amherst College in Massachusetts graduating magna cum laud.

After completing his studies, Hastie was offered two fellowships for graduate work. The first one was to Oxford University in Oxford, England, United Kingdom with the second being to the University of Paris, Paris, France. Declining both, Hastie decided instead accepted a job with Bordentown Manual School in New Jersey's as a faculty Member. He stayed there until 1927, when he entered Harvard University Law School.

He went on, in 1930, to receive his LL.B. from Harvard Law School. Returning to Washington, D.C., he became a faculty member of the Howard University School of Law. A year later, he passed the District of Columbia Bar and was admitted to practice law. In 1933, returned to Massachusetts to obtain his S.J.D. degree from Harvard Law School.

Again returning to Washington, DC, Hastie practiced private law from 1930 to 1933. He served as Assistant Solicitor for the Department of the Interior from 1933 to 1937 where he advised the agency on America's racial issues. President Roosevelt, In 1937, appointed him to the United States District Court for the Virgin Islands. With this appointment, Hastie became the first African-American Federal Judge, serving for two years.

Resigning from the court in 1939 to become the Dean of Howard University's School of Law, Hastie returned to Washington D.C. to teach again. One of his students was Thurgood Marshall, a future Supreme Court Justice who Hastie would later act as a co-lead lawyer

with Marshall in the voting rights case of *Smith v. Allwright* in 1944. While at Howard, he joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

From 1940 to 1942, during World War II, Hastie took on a civilian role as Aide to Henry Stimson, the Secretary of War. He became an advocate for the equal treatment of African Americans in the Army and argued for their unrestricted use as soldiers. He urged the Army to integrate the troops, which was an uphill battle. He eventually resigned in protest noting his reasons as racial segregation in the Army's Air Force training facilities, the inadequate training for African-American pilots, and the unequal and unfair distribution of assignments between blacks and whites. His protests did prompt the Army and the Navy to begin limited experimentations with integrated units. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) awarded Hastie with the Spingarn Medal in recognition of this protest action and to honor his lifetime achievements. He again returned to Howard University's School of Law.

In 1946, President Truman appointed Hastie Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, making him the first African-American to hold this position. He served as Governor from 1946 to 1949. After completing the assignment, Truman, on October 21, 1949, then appointed Hastie to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He became the first African-American Appellate Judge. He served on the Appellate Court for twenty-two years.

Hastie, at the time the most distinguished African-American on the Federal bench was considered as a candidate to become the first African-American Justice of the Supreme Court. President John F. Kennedy, in 1962, considered Hastie as a successor for retiring Justice Charles Whittaker, however, as politics can sometimes go, in the Senate, he faced fierce opposition from southern Senators such as James Eastland (D-Mississippi), Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Although relatively conservative, Hastie received opposition from Chief Justice Earl Warren, who thought Hastie would be too Conservative. Kennedy instead appointed Byron White indicating that during his Presidency, he expected to make more appointments to the Court and intended, at a later date, to appoint Hastie to the Court.

Although he was never appointed as a Supreme Court Justice, Hastie in 1968, did become Chief Judge of the Third Circuit. He stepped down on May 31, 1971 after three years receiving Senior status as Chief Judge.

While playing golf in Philadelphia on April 14, 1976, William Henry Hastie, Jr. died.





## RICHARD GORDON HATCHER

...was born in Michigan City, Indiana, on July 10, 1933. The youngest of thirteen children, his father Carlton worked manufacturing railroad cars for Pullman Standard while his mother,

Catherine, was a factory worker. Blind in one eye, Hatcher still made a name for himself as a high school athlete in track and football. His athletic abilities awarded him an athletic scholarship to Indiana University, in Bloomington, Indiana in 1951.

Hatcher's activism began in his sophomore year at college. He participated in a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) organized protest of a segregated campus restaurant. That protest lit the fire in him that carried him through his political career. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in business and government, Hatcher enrolled into law school at Valparaiso University located in Valparaiso, Indiana.

After starting law school in 1956, Hatcher helped organize a "sit-in" at another restaurant in Michigan City. His passion for equal rights and equal opportunity began to grow and he worked to correct that at every turn. After passing the bar exam in 1956, Hatcher moved to Gary, Indiana, set up a private practice, serving East Chicago, Indiana. He soon became a Deputy Prosecutor for Lake County, Indiana. In 1962, he became President of a civic and social club, Muigwithania, Swahili for "unity" and/or "togetherness", focusing on activism.

By 1963, he was a City Councilor and soon became the Council President with a platform of civil rights and housing aimed at helping the city's poor. He was the first and only freshman elected President of the City Council in Gary's history. Although he faced white opposition that was responsible for much of his legislative failures, Hatcher managed to break through the entrenched white Democratic interests and earn popularity among black voters.

Hatcher was elected Mayor of Gary, Indiana in 1968, holding that position for nineteen years. While Mayor, he became an international figure known for his fervent and prolific stance toward civil rights. He developed new and innovative approaches to urban problems and became an international spokesman for minorities, civil rights, the poor and for American cities. He gave speeches alongside

Martin Luther King, Robert F. Kennedy, Jesse Jackson, and other historic proponents of the civil rights movement.

On April 5, 1968, he, along with other politicians and civil rights leaders, addressed President Lyndon B. Johnson, on the topic of the King assassination the night. Attempting to ease the racial tensions, Johnson was eager to hear Hatcher's views and solutions to the pending civil unrests. Under Hatcher's administration, Gary avoided the race riots common in the late 1960s.

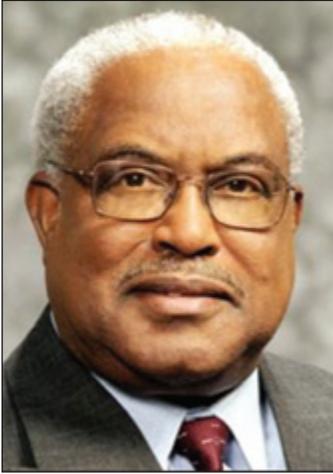
Hatcher worked diligently to improve the lives of Gary residents. He used previous experiences including that as an advisor to Lyndon Johnson's administration on urban regeneration and black interests. He helped Gary become a major recipient of federal funding for housing, the fight against poverty, and to combat crime during his time in office.

Hatcher helped African American entrepreneurship by awarding the majority of the city's contracts to black business owners. He brought in outside government and private capital to support Gary's economic development and growth and promoted activities designed to discourage middle class blacks from fleeing the city. He worked to instill pride in the city's African American residents, an approach that became known as "Gary-Genesis."

In the 1984 U.S. presidential election, Hatcher served as the Chairman for Jessie Jackson's campaign. From 1981 to 1985, he served as the Vice-Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. In 1988, he started his own consulting firm, R. Gordon Hatcher & Associates. From 1988 to 1989, he worked as an Institute of Politics Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. In 1989, he also began teaching political science at Roosevelt University and in 1991, he became a senior research professor at Valparaiso University. In the summer of 1996, Hatcher taught a law course at Cambridge University in England. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Indiana University-Northwest.

Hatcher has memberships in many organizations including the American Bar Association, the Indiana Bar Association; Gary Bar Association; NAACP (Executive Board of Indiana); Co-Founder, Muigwithania Social and Civic Club; National Chairman, Jackson for President, 1984; President, National Civil Rights Museum and Hall of Fame, 1986; and Board of Directors, Marshall University Society of Yeager Scholars. In 1971, he was named one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" by *Ebony Magazine*.

He was married to Ruthellyn Marie Rowles and they raise three children: Ragen Heather, Rachele Catherine, and Renee Camille.



## JOSEPH W. HATCHETT

...was born on September 17, 1932 in Clearwater, Florida. His father worked the cotton fields while his mother worked as a maid. He received his early schooling from Clearwater's segregated public schools. He attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee where he earned a degree in Political Science graduating in 1954.

Florida, like most southern states, did not provide any schools that blacks could attend that were pursuing a law degree so Hatchett, as did many black students, he left the state to obtain his law degree. Enrolling into Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C., he received his degree in 1959, graduating with honors. With law degree in hand, he returned to Florida, passed the state Bar and opened his private practice law firm.

Like many attorneys across the south, Hatchett began working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their Legal Defense Fund. Southern Jim Crow laws were still in effect and Hatchett had more than his share of cases to litigate. For six years, he filed many suits that assisted in the ending of segregated public schools, public swimming pools, hotels, and other public facilities.

On September 2, 1975, then Governor Reubin Askew named Hatchett to the Florida Supreme Court. With the appointment he became the first African American elected to the Court. A year later, during the general election, Hatchett won re-election to the bench. He served on the bench for four years. Hatchett then took a position with the Department of Justice as Chief Assistant United States Attorney and Conscientious Objector Hearing Officer. He also served in the Middle District of Florida as a United States Magistrate Judge.

In 1979, Hatchett became another first. He was appointed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter to fill a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama). He became the first African American to be appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In 1981, the Fifth Circuit split to create the Eleventh Cir-

cuit. Hatchett moved from the Fifth to the Eleventh Circuit. He remained with the Eleventh Circuit until 1999.

Leaving the Fifth Circuit, Hatchett served as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (Florida, Georgia, and Alabama). He was part of the three judge Court that drew up the reapportionment plans in 1980 for the Florida legislature. He would be a part of the 1990 reapportionment plans as well.

When Hatchett left the bench, he accepted a position as Counsel Attorney with Akerman Senterfitt in Tallahassee, Florida. He serves as the firms' Co-Chair of Appellate Practice. He also serves as their Co-Chair of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Hatchett, in 1999, led the a team of state and federal litigators in the state's 2000 reapportionment plans as well. The State of Georgia, because of Hatchett's vast experience in such matters, chose him to assist their legislative leaders in their redistricting plans for the Georgia House and Senate.

In appreciation of his life's dedicated work, in 2005, Hatchett was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame to recognize his more than forty years of service to the cause of African American equality and justice in the U.S. Courts. The American Bar Association recognized him with their Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession awarded him their "Spirit of Excellence Award". The award is presented annually to a selected lawyer that has given significant contributions to the betterment of ethnic diversity within the legal profession.

Justice Joseph W. Hatchett, although being almost eighty-three years old, is still a practicing attorney with Akerman LLP in Tallahassee.



## GLENDA A. HATCHETT

...was born on May 31, 1951 in Atlanta, Georgia. She attended undergraduate school at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973 majoring in Political Science. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from Emory University's School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia.

In her first professional job in the legal profession, Hatchett clerked in the United States District Court in the Northern District of Georgia. She then accepted a position with Atlanta based, Delta Air Lines. Hatchett would go on to become Delta's first and highest ranking African American woman to serve in a legal capacity for the global airlines. She served as Senior Attorney and Public Relations Manager. She litigated cases in federal courts across the United States. Globally, she supervised crisis management situations while at the same time managing international media relations for the airlines for the markets in Europe, Asia and the United States.

In 1990, left Delta to become Chief Presiding Judge of the Fulton County, Georgia Juvenile Court. In accepting the appointment Hatchett became the first African-American Chief Presiding Judge of a state court. The appointment also made her the head of one of the largest juvenile court systems in the United States. She remained on the bench in Fulton County until for ten years.

In 2000, Hatchett left the Fulton County Court to become host Judge on a nationally syndicated television show, "The Judge Hatchett Show". Produced by Sony Pictures Television, the two-time daytime Emmy Award nominated show would run for eight seasons. It would also be syndicated worldwide, as "The Best of Judge Hatchett".

In 2004, she penned a national best-selling book entitled, "Say What You Mean, Mean What You Say", published by HarperCollins. She would release another writing, "Dare to Take Charge: How to Live Your Life on Purpose", in 2010. The second release became a #1 National Bestseller.

Hatchett spent the next several years litigating private law and wrongful death cases while managing her many speaking engagements. She travelled across the country serving as guest speaker to various conferences and conventions. At the 2013 Pennsylvania Conference for Women's 10th Anniversary gathering, Hatchett was the keynote speaker. Attending the Conference were some of the powerful women in the United States. Hillary Clinton gave the closing speech and remarks. Hatchett's Conference statements were so profound that she was invited to return to speak in the future.

In 2014, Hatchett left daytime TV and returned to Atlanta. She opened a law firm, The Hatchett Firm, PC, that specialized in Catastrophic Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, and Class Action cases. Still in high demand for speaking engagement, she was asked to be one of the speakers set to honor the first two African-American students that enrolled into the University of Georgia, Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Hamilton Holmes. Hatchett gave the 1961 speech in which she thanked the two "firsts", for paving the way for African Americans such as herself and others like her, to break barriers for future generations.

She became a guest commentator and legal analyst to several media outlets where she spoke on topics related to national issues. She

has made over a dozen appearances on the international cable network CNN as a guest commentator. She has appeared on national TV broadcasts of Good Morning America, Nightline, and The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour. She has also appeared on other broadcasts such as Jimmy Kimmel Live; the Mo'Nique Show; The View; and The Young and the Restless.

In the fall of 2016, Hatchett returned to TV in another court show, "The Verdict with Judge Hatchett". The show, produced by Entertainment Studios follows her similar show where she acts as an arbitrating Judge of a small claims court. Her decisions are binding through on-air contracts signed by the plaintiff and defendant prior to the airings of the taped shows.

While she taped her new show, Hatchett still conducted the cases held by her law firm. She represented the national news headline case of Philando Castile, an African American St. Paul, Minnesota man who had been shot by local police. Castile was shot by Latino police officer Jeronimo Yanez in the suburb of Falcon Heights, Minnesota while sitting in the passenger seat of his girlfriend's car. The two had been pulled over by local police as "possible suspects" in a robbery. Castile alerted one of the officers that he had a gun in his belt but possessed an open carry firearms permit.

After being asked to produce his I.D., Castile reached for his wallet. For reasons unknown and to be discovered, Castile was shot and killed. Moments after Castile was shot, his girlfriend began to stream the event live from her cell phone to Facebook's new feature, "Facebook Live". The event was then broadcast instantly across the United States. The video clip went viral. The twin cities' residents of St. Paul, Minneapolis, and those around the nation were appalled after seeing the video. Castile seemed to comply and do everything right as far as being in compliance with the rules of notification as far as open carry case law is concerned.

With police killings across the country at an all time high, the residents of St. Paul, Minneapolis and the surrounding communities protested. They took to the streets with demonstrations and community marches to show their anger and frustration with the rise in police shootings. A three-day vigil was held in front of the local police headquarters with police in full riot gear and protestors not afraid and not backing down in their stance. After several days of peaceful protests, national civil rights leaders and local community activists were able to quell the communities anger, asking for them to let the courts do their due diligence and to bring charges against the officer that had shot Castile. Officer Yanez was ultimately charged with killing Castile and prosecuted.

Judge Hatchett represented the rights of Castile's girlfriend and family and in the case. Across America, there had been a spike in police killings of young black men and legislation was pending that addressed the profiling of African Americans and the frisking of them when stopped. In Castile's case, it would be discovered that he had been stopped or ticketed at least fifty-two times by the local metropolitan Minneapolis-St. Paul and suburban area police departments.

Hatchett has served as a mentor to young female attorneys and young African American girls as a means of giving forward. She has initiated programs aimed at giving young women an opportunity to achieve their desired goals and ambitions having positive role models as beacons of success. She served as a national Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), helped to institute the Guardian Ad Litem programs, and made many presentations and speeches across the country on behalf of abused or neglected children that came before the Courts. She gives of her time to the Boys and Girls Club Keystone Program and other programs that focus on truancy and other needs of children.

Her awards and recognitions are far too lengthy to list here. She has been honored by the most prestigious law associations and the most lofty civic organizations. Judge Hatchett's contributions to law and social justice stand second to none.





## WILLIAM ASHBIE HAWKINS

...was on August 2, 1862 in Lynchburg, Virginia to Susie Polk (Cobb) and Robert Hawkins. After graduating high school, he enrolled into the Centenary Biblical Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. The school would

later become Morgan College.

Hawkins married fellow Virginian Ada M. McMechen and together the two had two daughters, Aldina and Roberta. He then attended Maryland University where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1891. To obtain his law degree, he enrolled into the Howard University School of Law where he received his law degree in 1892.

After law school, Hawkins became involved with the Republican Party movement, which involved attorney George M Lane. For the Party, he gave speeches to the Committee of 100 members meetings, which almost garnered him a Republican Party candidacy for elected office. In his political growth, he began to look at the disparity between black and white communities.

Hawkins opened his law offices in Baltimore and soon joined forces with fellow attorney Warner T. McGuinn. The two became legal counsel to a case involving the 1910 segregation laws that then Baltimore Mayor J. Barry Mahool imposed on its' black residents. The law instituted did not allow blacks to move into a predominately white neighborhood. Hawkins and McGuinn were successful in their defense of a local black man who was beaten by a group of white community residents disturbed by the black man moving into their neighborhood. The segregation law, designed by white attorney Samuel West, was eventually ruled unconstitutional by the Criminal Court.

In 1911, took on a case against the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic Railway Company. Upset with the poor sleeping conditions that blacks were given during their travels on the trains, Hawkins sued the Railway Company seeking better conditions for blacks riding on the rails. Although his suit was not successful, his actions did bring some upgrades to the railroads for blacks.

In 1913, Hawkins served as legal counsel for John H. Gurry who had been indicted for violations of another

Baltimore segregation ordinance. In this case, he was successful in his litigation. The Baltimore Criminal Court and the Maryland Court of Appeals sided with Hawkins and ruled the ordinance unconstitutional. He later litigated the case of Buchanan v. Worley for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled racial segregation in residential areas was unconstitutional. Hawkins would serve as legal counsel for other cases for the NAACP as well as the Afro-American newspaper.

In 1885, Hawkins accepted a teaching job in Baltimore's public schools. He taught in the school system for seven years. During that time, he studied for the Maryland bar and was admitted on January 29, 1897. He then began his own law practice in Baltimore.

In 1905, after practicing solo for eight years, Hawkins teamed up with his brother-in-law, George W.F. McMechen and formed the law firm of Hawkins and McMechen, headquartered at 327 St. Paul Street. As the company grew, they moved offices to 21 E. Saratoga Street and then to 14 E. Pleasant Street. They remained partners until Hawkins died.

In 1920, Hawkins ran unsuccessfully for a seat as a Republican for the United States Senate. Although he garnered much support from the black community, his bid for election, he lost in the race. He soon became ill and began to withdraw from politics and practicing law.

He suffered from his illness for four years before ultimately succumbing to the terminal illness. William Ashbie Hawkins died from heart disease on April 3, 1941 at Provident Hospital in his beloved Baltimore.



## VIRGIL DARNELL HAWKINS

...was born in 1908 in Okahumpka, Florida, which is located about eighty miles northeast of Tampa, Florida. He attended public schools in the Lake County public school system. After completing high school he attended Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach,

Florida graduating with his undergraduate degree in 1940.

Hawkins took a job teaching school in the Lake County Florida Public Schools system. He became the Principal at one school. He would serve the public schools for eighteen years until he decided to obtain his law degree.

By 1949, Hawkins had become the Director of Public Relations for Bethune Cookman College. Deciding, at the age of forty-one, he looked at the available law schools within the state. He applied for admission to the all-white University of Florida (UF), located in Gainesville. His application was promptly denied because UF segregated admission rules did not allow blacks to attend the university.

In Florida, there were no integrated law schools and Hawkins wanted to change that. He appealed his UF denial under the Equal Protection Clause to the Florida Supreme Court. His appeal was denied. Instead, the Court ruled that the state must build a law school for potential black law students. To comply with the State Supreme Court order, the state of Florida chose Florida A&M University in Tallahassee as the university where the law school would be housed. During the next eight years, UF would deny eighty-five African Americans admission to its' law school.

After Hawkins made application for admission to UF and was denied, with the help from lawyers affiliated with national and local civil rights organizations, he filed suit in the state courts citing unconstitutional civil rights violations pertaining to equal access to education protected under the Amendments the U.S. Constitution. To deny him admission, the Florida Supreme Court invoked a "doctrine of state's rights". They also adopted new entrance requirements that Hawkins could never attain. His legal team quickly appealed to the higher federal Courts.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a landmark decision that changed educational landscape of the United States. The Court ruled that public schools in the U.S. must, with "all deliberate speed", become desegregated. Brown thought the historic Brown v. Board of Education case would turn the tide with admissions to the UF Law School. He was mistaken.

On three separate occasions, Hawkins applied for admission and was denied. Two years later, in 1956, a companion decision was handed down from the State Supreme Court ordering the UF to admit Hawkins. They refused on each occasion.

Hawkins's case would stay in the Courts for the next twenty-eight years. He indeed did help to break the color barrier at the University of Florida Law School, but protracted legal battles thwarted those efforts. The UF School of Law eventually allowed African Americans to be admitted to their law school but several few years later.

In 1958, in a settlement agreement with the University of Florida, Hawkins agreed to drop his lawsuit before the U.S. Supreme Court, against the University with the University agreeing to admit African American students. As agreed, Hawkins withdrew his complaint and on September 15, 1958, George Starke became the first African American student to enroll into the University of Florida College of Law. The University's graduate school was desegregated at the same time.

In early 1976, at the urging of members in the Florida State Bar Association requested that the Florida Supreme Court allow Hawkins to take the state bar examination. There were two major issues with his application. He had gotten his law degree almost twenty years earlier and from an unaccredited law school in another state, Massachusetts. Pointing out that if the segregated laws that prohibited him from attending the law school, he would have long ago had his Florida law license. They added to their argument, the mistreatment he endured during the process of attempting to integrate the law school. They called upon the moral hearts of the Justices as it was well past time to allow Hawkins to take the exam.

In November of 1976, after in depth deliberations, the Florida Supreme Court ruled in Hawkins favor. In a 7-0 vote, the Justices made opinion that UF open their doors for admission by African Americans to their law school. For his efforts, Hawkins did not have to take the Florida State Bar exam. He was awarded it and given the right to practice law in Florida. After twenty-eight years, Hawkins was able to open his law practice in Florida. Although small, his office was the biggest one he had ever owned. He proudly began to take on the needs of the community and set about building his law firm. Unfortunately, some of the fears that certain opponents of his professional acumen came into play.

Hawkins would have several blemishes on his attorney resume before he retired. When he was seventy-seven years old, he was brought before the Florida Supreme Court to answer charges of a complaint brought against him claiming misappropriation of funds in the amount of \$15,000 and a second charge about his competence. Hawkins competently and successfully withstood those accusations and and was found innocent of any misdoings.

In 1994, Hawkins again found himself answering to a summons from the Florida Supreme Court. This time, the complaint stemmed from his handling of several cases and errors made in adjudicating those cases. The Supreme Court censured Hawkins and placed him on probation for two years as punishment for his errors. With two other complaints pending, Hawkins chose to resign rather than go through the lengthy process of defense. He resigned from the Bar in April of 1985.

After suffering from complications of acute kidney failure, Virgil D. Hawkins died on February 11, 1988 in Ocala, Florida. He was eighty-one years old.



## DENNIS COURTLAND HAYES

...was born on January 29, 1951 in Indianapolis, Indiana to Nadine Whitlock Hayes and Robert Frederick Hayes, Sr.. His mother worked as a factory worker and his father worked as a bellhop a local hotel. He was one

of eight children and graduated high school from Crispus Attucks High School. He attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973. He remained at the university to obtain his law degree in 1977.

While earning his law degree, Hayes worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) where he saw first hand the disparities in employment practices in between black and white workers. He was able to see how the differences in equal pay affected black communities as opposed to white communities whose workers received a higher pay for their equal labor. He also worked as a Bailiff in the local courthouse where he saw the unequal treatment of African American litigants by white assigned attorney's, white Judges, and white juries. He vowed to use his law degree in the civil rights arena.

Before graduating from law school, Hayes began to give time to Legal Services Organization to assist African Americans who suffered housing discrimination and unfair business practices which held them back from due success for their business endeavors. Once he completed his law degree, he opened his law offices in Indianapolis and set about to litigate cases for African Americans to help them achieve what they desired to do legally and to make attempts to right the wrongs of past injustices they encountered. Unfortunately, many of his first cases dealt with divorces and bankruptcies all caused by the perils of the discriminatory society that his clients lived in.

Hayes joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and began to take on more cases involving discrimination suits. In 1981, he became the Chairman of the Indianapolis branch of the Legal Redress Committee. Four years later, he was appointed as an Assistant General Counsel and moved to New York City, New York to the national offices of the NAACP. A year later, he relocated to Baltimore, Maryland.

In Baltimore, he litigated civil rights cases before the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals. He supervised voting rights dockets and worked to have more African Americans elected to city Councils and other government Boards. In his role as General Counsel, Hayes was able to be instrumental in the adoption of single-member voting districts in cities throughout the Deep South. Those results opened the door for more African Americans to be elected to offices in areas where none had existed since the Reconstruction Era.

In 1990, Hayes served as Vice President at the Waring-Mitchell Law Society in Columbia, Maryland. He served as Vice President for three years. That year, he was also appointed as a Board member to the American Judicature Society. In addition, the National Bar Association named Hayes to their Board of Directors.

In 1993, Hayes was appointed as the Interim Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP. He was asked to assume the position after the tumultuous departure of then President Ben Chavis. He served as CEO for one month. He was asked again to take the helm in 2005 after the retirement of CEO Kweisi Mfume. He served in his second stint as CEO for nine months.

In his short-lived tenures as CEO, Hayes was able to achieve some milestones. He called out the Mexican government for publishing then circulating a postage stamp that featured a racist caricature of African Americans and challenged then President George W. Bush for using the race card in his attempts to reform Social Security. He then turned the reins of the organization over to the incoming NAACP President, Bruce Gordon.

In 1994, Hayes was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Diversity Committee to the American Bar Association. That year, he also served as the President of the Columbia Sportsmen's Association. The association works to protect and conserve natural resources throughout the United States through education to help outdoor sports enthusiasts act as caretakers of the country's air, land, water and wildlife.

Hayes has been honored by the NAACP on several occasions and has been given many awards by NAACP chapters across the country. The organization has named him as a NAACP Lawyer of the Year and he has received the Sagamore of the Wabash Governor's Award from the State of Indiana. His achievements for civil rights have been written about in numerous publications and he continues to practice law and working to assist those in need and to protect the environment. During what spare time he has, Hayes loves to swim, read, play his guitar and enjoy a good game of backgammon.



## GEORGE EDWARD CHALMER HAYES

...was born on July 1, 1894 in Richmond, Virginia. The son of an attorney, James H. Hayes, early on George was pushed to study law and to study politics, mainly Republican. In 1894, the Demo-

cratic and Republican parties were the polar opposites of what they are today.

Throughout his childhood schooling, Hayes was encouraged to learn. Learning from watching his father help, represent and care for others and learning from watching his environment of segregated Virginia. He watched, he absorbed and learned.

Accepted to study for his undergraduate studies at Ivy League's Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, Hayes graduated from the school in 1915. Three years later, he obtained his law degree from Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C.. With law degree in hand, Hayes set out to practice law.

For the next six years, Hayes would earn his living in law in private practice. In 1924, he accepted a Professorship at Howard University's School of law. He would teach there for thirteen years before he was asked to be the university's first Legal Advisors. During his time at Howard, Hayes worked alongside famed attorney, Charles Hamilton Houston, who, in 1929 had become Vice Dean of the Law School.

Houston, a staunch civil rights advocate was able to attract to join the faculty brilliant minds as Robert Carter, William Hastie, A. Leon Higginbotham Jr., James Nabrit Jr., Spottswood Robinson, and Thurgood Marshall. Having such a collection of dedicated and astute faculty, Howard became a breeding ground for the debate and discourse of issues surrounding civil rights. With Hayes as Dean, the university would go on to produce some of the legendary faculty and students practicing law that focused on civil rights.

Hayes and Nabrit teamed together in a 1954 case that involved the Washington, D.C. based Consolidated Parents Group. Founded in 1948 by Gardner Bishop, a barber and social activist. He and other parents had become upset with the overcrowded conditions at the African American junior high school, Browne Junior High. Together, Hayes and Nabrit convinced Bishop that more pressure to integrate the D.C. schools should be applied.

Hayes had been a member of the District of Columbia Board of Education for four years and had campaigned long and hard to desegregate D.C.'s schools. He faced an uphill battle. Taking Hayes' suggestion to apply more pressure on the Districts' School Board, Bishop and the Consolidated Parents Group agreed and a lawsuit was filed, *Bolling v. Sharp*. This suit became one of the four lawsuits filed across the country to challenge the segregation of public schools. Combined, the four cases, became the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education*. In that historical U.S. Supreme Court case, Hayes was the lead attorney. With the help of his Howard University staff, and others, Hayes won that case changing the educational system in the U.S. to become open to all, equal but not separate. In its 1954 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. With that ruling, the separate but equal educational doctrine was struck down.

In another 1954 case, Hayes was successful in defending Annie Moss. During that time, America was in a frightened state fearing Russian communism. Then Wisconsin Senator Joseph R. McCarthy had become the face and voice of an anti-communist campaign set on creating widespread fear that the Soviets were set on attacking America and had planted spies throughout the country. The fear mongering became to be known as "McCarthyism". He attacked American citizens claiming they were Communist. Moss, who worked as a civilian communications clerk in the US Army Signal Corps at the Pentagon, came under McCarthy's fire. Accused of being a member of the Communist Party, she was called before a Congressional hearing. In the end, it was determined that McCarthy was on a witch hunt and after the true truth was revealed, Moss was cleared to return to her job at the Pentagon and McCarthy for his efforts was censored by the Senate for his accusations against her and the American public.

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Hayes, a life-long Republican to the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission. This appointment made him the first black member of the Commission. It also made him the highest-ranking African American in D.C. government. No other black had served in a D.C. municipal agency in over one hundred years.

Hayes became the first black member of the District of Columbia Bar Association's Board of Directors. He became the first black Director of the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade for years later. While serving in those capacities, Hayes remained Howard University's Legal Advisor. His long time friend and Vice Dean Nabrit, by this time had become the President of the university.

On December 20, 1968, George Edward Chalmer Hayes died of pneumonia. He was seventy-four years old. 



## MARGARET AUSTIN HAYWOOD

...was born on October 8, 1912 in Knoxville, Tennessee to Mayme F. and Jonathan William Austin. The family moved to Washington, D.C. when she was eight years old where

she graduated from Cardozo High School. After graduating from Cardozo, Haywood went to business school not wanting to become a teacher as most African American women were steered to as a good stable job to have at that time.

Haywood would get married, although the marriage was a disaster and she found herself divorced with a child. She found a job working as a secretary and as a stenographer at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Houston, Houston and Hastle. At the law firm, she typed drafts of court pleadings for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) legendary civil rights attorney and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. While working during the day, Haywood enrolled into the Robert H. Terrell Law School taking night classes to obtain her law degree. She completed her Bachelor of Laws degree from Terrell in 1940.

After graduating with her law degree, Haywood volunteered teaching at the Terrill Law School, doing so for five years. In 1942, she was admitted to the D.C. Bar Association and became involved with the challenges of ending segregation in Washington, D.C. restaurants and other public establishments. She then joined a D.C. law firm where she handled domestic relations cases. Wanting more, after two years, Haywood decided to leave and opened her own law practice.

She met and married Harold T. Hawthorne, and although the couple would later divorce, they opened a law firm together. Haywood first gave her focus to tax and accounting issues for her clients. She then became more involved with civic and civil rights litigation and matters related to racial equality.

In 1952, she filed friend-of-the-court briefs seeking to uphold 1870s criminal laws, which made it illegal to discriminate against restaurant patrons on the base of race. The case, "District of Columbia v. John R. Thompson Company", eventually made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court where in 1953, the Court held that the old laws

were valid and constitutional. The Supreme Court then returned the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, which later ruled the laws as invalid.

In 1967, Haywood was appointed as a member of the Washington, D.C. City Council by then U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson. She served on the Council for five years. She was then named to the D.C. Superior Court where she served for ten years. After receiving senior status in 1982, Judge Haywood served on the Court for another two decades. As a Senior Judge, Judge Haywood served in the Probate Division of the Court although she presided over criminal cases, licensing, arrest warrants, and authorizing court ordered medical treatments.

In 1972, then President Richard M. Nixon appointed Judge Haywood as an Associate Judge to the D.C. Municipal Court. The Court was later reorganized to become the D.C. Superior Court. While serving on the bench of the Superior Court, Judge Haywood presided over misdemeanor criminal court cases and probate cases. She also adjudicated cases surrounding wills and estates.

Judge Haywood was a tough and no-nonsense judge who demanded attorneys appear before her prepared, having the knowledge of the law, and perform in an ethical manner. She worked to improve D.C. public schools and assisted in the welfare of children. She was also elected by the United Church of Christ as its' Moderator, the first time the Church had elected an African American woman to the position. As the Moderator, she presided over the Church's 728 Delegates to the Church's Ninth Biennial General Synod and Governing Council. In 1982, Judge Haywood took senior status on the Superior Court and would continue to serve the Court for the next two decades, retiring in 2002.

Judge Haywood has received many honorary degrees from various legal and civic institutions during her illustrious career, including being recognized for her legal service by Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois; Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota; Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina; and Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. The NAACP gave honor to Judge Haywood and the Women's Bar Association presented her with its' Woman Lawyer of the Year Award. She received the Charles Hamilton Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association and the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to D.C. Courts presented Judge Haywood with its' Trailblazer Award.

Judge Margaret Austin Haywood died of renal failure on January 9, 2004. She was ninety-one years old.



## MILTON HENRY

...was born in 1919 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was raised in a Christian home along with his eleven other siblings. He attended local Philadelphia public schools where he graduated from high school.

To fulfill his military duties, Henry enlisted into the military where he served in World War II. In the United States Army, he became a member of the distinguished Tuskegee Airmen of Alabama. Unaccustomed to the ways of the Deep South, once after a verbal altercation with a white bus driver, he punched the driver who demanded that Henry use a rear entrance to board the bus. Refusing to do so, the two became entangled in a verbal dispute and feeling disrespected, Henry punched the driver. A group of British cadets that were traveling on the bus came to Henry's defense and protected him from retaliation for other whites, which most likely saved his life.

After leaving the military, Henry enrolled into the historically black university, Lincoln University located back in his home state of Pennsylvania where he received his undergraduate degree. Because of the racial discrimination and unfair treatment he received in the military and the racial discord he witnessed while serving in the military in the South, Henry traveled throughout Philadelphia's black neighborhoods where he discouraged African American men from enlisting into the military due to its' segregated and racist policies.

A friend of Henry's asked him to accompany him to take an admissions test to be admitted to Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. He agreed to go along with his friend and even took the test himself. Ironically, his friend failed the test and was denied admission while Henry passed. He was subsequently awarded a full scholarship to attend the law school.

After graduating from Yale, Henry, who had become married, moved with his wife Marilyn, and their young daughter, to Pontiac, Michigan. Several years after arriving in Pontiac, Henry ran for the position of City Commissioner and won. As City Commissioner, steadfast on ending racial discrimination, he filed one of the first school desegregation cases in the North. Although he lost that case, his attempt made him a role model for other young African Americans that wanted to end segregation. His command of the English language, his knowledge of the law, and his abundance of courage gave him respect by others involved in the black power movement.

As he became more and more frustrated with the slow pace of racial change in the United States, Henry found himself aligning more and more with black nationalism. He was fortunate to have met civil rights leader Malcolm X and was selected to travel with him to Cairo, Egypt where they met with African and other international civil rights leaders. Inspired by what he had learned on the African trip and from his interactions with Malcolm, back in the United States, Henry organized a 1963 Detroit conference on racial issues. Malcolm graciously gave the keynote address where he delivered his famous, "Message to the Grass Roots" speech. Henry was able to record Malcolm's speech and release it under his own record la-

bel. Two years later, after Malcolm was assassinated, Henry served as one of the honored pallbearers at Malcolm's 1965 funeral.

Over the next several years, Henry became even more involved with the struggles of African Americans in the United States. He became even more frustrated with the treatment of blacks in the country that he began to look at the idea of black separation from America's white society. He and his brother Richard even adopted African names.

In an effort to obtain racial separation, the Republic of New Africa (RNA), a socialist organization proposing the development of a black nation, was created. Henry served as the Vice President of the organization. The RNA called on the government to carve out five Southern states, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana and Mississippi, that had large black populations left over from the slavery era as land to establish the black nation. Henry and his brother Richard brought more awareness to their desired separation when they demanded that the U.S. Government compensate the descendants of slaves \$400 million to help build the black nation within a white nation proposal. The federal government did not respond to their demands.

While he awaited a response from the federal government, Henry continued to represent clients caught up in the white-dominated court system seeking justice for African Americans. His dreams of a separate nation were soon dashed when violence erupted surrounding the RNA and the local and federal governments. As did the Black Panthers, the RNA members armed themselves for protection against police brutality, white racism, and white supremacy. The organization rented a meeting hall at a local African American church, Detroit's New Bethel Baptist Church, where the police showed up not liking the meeting or the RNA's agenda. Disagreements ensued and gunfire erupted. In the shootout, a white Detroit police officer was killed and a second one was wounded. Henry wasn't involved with the incident but drew national attention.

Many of the attendees at the meeting were arrested, including young and old Detroit residents. Most of them had charges later dropped with only a few facing charges from the shootout. Nonetheless, the RNA splintered, with a group of the members leaving Detroit, led by his brother Richard, Imari Obadele after his name change, moving to Mississippi to acquire land with the purpose of establishing their dreamed of black nation. Henry stayed behind in Detroit and supported his brother loyally from afar but distancing himself from Obadele's political alignment. Henry, although he could align himself for racial separation and had denounced the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his stance on nonviolence, Henry now found himself in agreement with a nonviolence position.

After the RNA moved to Mississippi, Henry while on a business trip to Ghana, Africa, he happened upon an old English church, he felt his spirit move. He returned to the United States and immediately enrolled into the Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio wanting to become a preacher. After completing his theological studies, he moved to Southfield, Michigan where he founded a church. Henry would continue practicing law during the weekdays while preaching on Sunday mornings. He moved away from his separatist views to find other means to solve the racial discord that he detested.

Milton Henry died on September 9, 2006. He was eighty-seven years old. At his funeral, attendees included representatives from the Tuskegee Airmen, an Honor Guard from the Republic of New Africa, and hoard of prominent lawyers, Judges and clergy, all claiming Henry as one of their own.



Photo Not Available



## LAFAYETTE McKEENE HERSHAW

...was born on May 10, 1863 in Clay County, North Carolina to Anne and Abraham McKeene. When he was old enough to work, he worked as a moonshiner in the mountains of North Carolina. He learned to speak French, German and Spanish. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia in 1886. He then enrolled into Washington D.C.'s Howard University School of Law where he earned his law degree in 1892.

After completing his law degree studies, Hershaw returned to Atlanta where he took a job as a teacher and Principal at the Gate City School. As an advocate for higher learning, Hershaw began to upset the Board of Education when he began speaking out on the quality of the education being given to the Atlanta students. He argued that the education received in the north was far better than that being taught in the south and used examples to prove his point. The Education Board subsequently fired Hershaw while others wanted him killed. As a compromise, Hershaw left Atlanta returning to Washington.

In 1890, Hershaw took a job with the Department of the Interior's United States Civil Service as Land Examiner. He again came under fire when a local newspaper, *The Colored American*, wrote an article critical of Hershaw's published editorial comments in *The Washington Bee* that seemed anti President Theodore Roosevelt. It was Roosevelt's position that color could not be an impediment to hiring, which garnered Hershaw his job as a Civil Service Commissioner. Hershaw reassured all that he supported Roosevelt's policies and to show his allegiance, toured the country campaigning for Roosevelt's stance on justice and civil equality.

In 1892, Hershaw gave a speech to the Bethel Literary and Historical Society entitled, "Protection and its relation to the American Negro". His call for improved protection of blacks, economically, judicially, and educationally echoed the sentiments of Booker T. Washington, as a means of improving the lives of blacks. In 1897, Hershaw was elected as President of the Society. As a resolution to the education issues surrounding black education, he called upon Congress, the District of Columbia Commissioners, and the city's School Board to improve the manual training of black students. He also addressed the issue of continued lynching of blacks in the South.

In 1893, Hershaw took a job with the Department of the Interior where he worked for Secretary M. Hoke Smith. He served the Secretary for three years and established a good relationship with Smith. Hershaw was also friends with Woodrow Wilson whom he knew from his time in Atlanta. Wilson would later become the 28th President of the United States in 1913.

In 1895, Booker T. Washington gave a speech in Atlanta, "The Atlanta Compromise Speech" where he outlined his conservative approach and a compromise to black education in the South in exchange for white political rule. His speech would reverberate across the country, which divided the black community as some endorsed the platform while others vehemently denounced it. Hershaw was a supporter of the proposition as he felt it brought harmony between the races. As the proposal unfolded, it seemed that those with government jobs supported the measures while those without opposed it.

In 1898, Kelly Miller, a black mathematician was the Commencement Speaker at the graduating class at Howard University. In his speech, he took a similar stance to that espoused by Booker T. Washington several years before and excerpts of the speech were published in the *Washington Post* newspaper. Hershaw supported the speech, which drew the ire of civil rights activists including Frederick Douglass. Miller contended that black achievements were inferior to those of whites and needed improvements. After Douglass was had an opportunity to review Miller's complete speech, he understood that much of the published speech was taken out of context and Miller's intentions were good.

Hershaw then turned his focus to the plight of urban blacks. He returned to Atlanta to present a study at the Third Atlanta Conference headed by W.E.B. DuBois. The purpose of the conference was civil rights and black life in America.

Returning to Washington, Hershaw and a group of black journalists began the Pen and Pencil Club, which quickly grew into one of the most prominent literary clubs in the city. Hershaw served as the club's President. As President, Hershaw frequently gave speeches regarding the economics, social ailments, and the history of blacks in America.

In 1905, the Tenth Atlanta Conference was held and Hershaw again attended as a presenter. This conference focused on the Negro problems at the Atlanta University and black education. Hershaw gave the closing speech written by DuBois entitled, "Address to the Country", which drew praise from the convention attendees.

Two months later, the group of educators, civil rights activists, and legal representatives met in Buffalo, New York at a meeting called by DuBois. Dubbed the Niagara Movement, DuBois became the organization's General Secretary. A second meeting was scheduled for August and Hershaw became the Secretary of the Movement and spoke before the group. By this time, Hershaw had changed his position from that of Booker T. Washington, falling in line with that of DuBois.

To promote the Niagara Movement's views, Hershaw, DuBois, and F.H.M. Murray published, "The Horizon" magazine. The magazine not only spoke on issues surrounding civil rights but it addressed women's rights as well. Hershaw penned a column in the magazine, "The Out-Look", which gave a view of the black experience from a white perspective. By 1908, the team began to disagree on content and direction and the Niagara Movement began its decline. A year later, DuBois began another organization, the National Negro Committee, and Hershaw came along. The National Negro Committee would grow into the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Hershaw would become the Director of the Washington, D.C. branch of the NAACP.

Hershaw would eventually resign as Director of the NAACP after he declined to support the organization in its fight against racial discrimination at the Department of Interior where he worked stating that he and his fellow clerks were happy with the conditions at the Department. Hershaw was labeled an elitist because of his high salary and his opposition for not putting his job on the line.

In 1925, Hershaw became the Assistant Law Examiner at the Department of the Interior, the highest position ever held by a black man in the Department. He would remain in the position until his retirement. In retirement, he would serve on various organizations and serve on many committees including the Oldest Inhabitants Association of the District of the Columbia. He also served as a Trustee of Atlanta University.

Lafayette McKeene Hershaw died on September 2, 1945 in Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D.C.. He was eighty-two years old. He was interned at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.



## EMANUEL D. MOLYNEAUX HEWLETT

...was born in 1851 in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Virginia Lewis Hewlett and Aaron Molyneaux Hewlett. His father was a professor of Physical Therapy at Har-

vard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts for twenty years. He received his law degree from Boston University, in Boston, Massachusetts. After completing his law degree and passing the Massachusetts State Bar, Hewlett moved to Washington, D.C. where he began his professional legal career. He also practiced law in Boston.

In 1890, Hewlett was appointed by then U.S. President Benjamin Harrison as a Judge in the District of Columbia Court, now called the Municipal Court. After serving that term, Hewlett was re-appointed by newly elected U.S. President Grover Cleveland to the Court. Both U.S. future Presidents William McKinley and President Franklin D. Roosevelt re-appointed Judge Hewlett to his seat on the Court. He served on the Court for sixteen years. During that time he married Elizabeth P. Brooks.

During those sixteen years, Judge Hewlett only had one of his cases reversed on appeal. He garnered respect from both the Democrat and Republican members of several bar associations and was named as one of the best Judges holding a commission during his tenure on the bench. After leaving the bench, Judge Hewlett entered private practice.

In private practice, Judge Hewlett argued cases before the same Court he had presided over as well as arguing cases before the United States Supreme Court. He litigated more cases before the U.S. Supreme Court than any other black attorney during that time. He presented oral arguments to over ten cases before the Court.

In one case argued before the Supreme Court, *Gibson vs. Mississippi*, for his eloquent presentation in representing the plaintiffs of the case, which involved the Mississippi lynching of African American Edward Johnson while being held under the Supreme Court's protection and accused of raping a white woman, Hewlett was able to obtain a Supreme Court contempt charge levied against the Chattanooga, Tennessee Sheriff, several of his Deputies, and other men associated with the lynching.

Johnson's previous attorneys had won a stay of execution from the Court until oral arguments could be heard. The Sheriff and other white supremacists vigilantes got word that the Court had issued a stay of execution and stormed the jail where Johnson was held, dragged him to a local bridge and hung him.

Hewlett's arguments for justice for the crimes committed by the Sheriff and those associated with the hanging, was the first case ever heard by the Supreme Court that dealt with a contempt order. Hewlett was the first African American to plead such a case. Hewlett would go on to represent ten more men accused of murder winning judgments where none of the ten men were executed. Judge Hewlett also represented several notable cases before the U.S. Court of Claims.

Emanuel D. Molyneaux Hewlett died on September 19, 1929. He was seventy-eight years old.

Photo Not Available



## JOHN A. HIBBLER

...was born in Arkansas in 1878. Not much is known of his early educational years. What is known is that he became a leading attorney in some of the early civil rights cases in the state

of Arkansas's history. He worked shoulder to shoulder with other leading African American attorneys to litigate many of the states civil rights cases that integrated the segregated political parties and brought inclusion of African Americans into mainstream Arkansas society.

In 1891, Hibbler was part of a political group that protested the passage of the "separate coach" bill, which segregated railroad travel and railway cars. During the next two decades, he would fight for equal rights for Arkansas citizens and worked to ensure their civil rights were protected. Hibbler, as an inspiring attorney, fought for the right to legitimately represent African Americans in the courts of Arkansas.

In 1916, Hibbler was admitted to practice before Arkansas' Pulaski County courts. He was then admitted to practice before the Arkansas Circuit Courts. On June 30, 1919, he was admitted to and given privilege to argue cases before the Arkansas State Supreme Court. As a licensed attorney, Hibbler and fellow African American attorney Scipio Jones, along with several other African American attorneys, had fought for several years to desegregate the Arkansas Republican Party. He and the other African American lawyers participated in protests against the Party's exclusion of African Americans and lobbied Party leader to become more inclusive of the needs of the black political vote. The fight for inclusion into the Republican Party would last for several years.

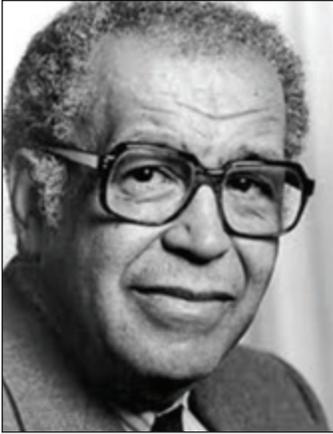
In 1917, Hibbler opened a law firm with fellow attorney Winfield F. Clark. In 1919, Hibbler served as a member of the legal team that defended twelve African Americans brought of on charges related to a race riot that occurred in nearby Elaine, Arkansas. Hibbler then became a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Little Rock branch.

During the 1920 Republican Party Convention, which was held at a segregated hotel, Hibbler, Jones, J.R. Booker, W.A. Singfield, and W.L. Purifoy attended the convention

and refused to leave until the lights were turned off in protest of the Party Convention leaders refusal to be inclusive of African Americans. They then held their own separate convention to address the issues that impacted African Americans.

In 1930, Hibbler joined with Jones and the firm of Booker & Booker to represent the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association in a suit against the Democratic City Central Committee to gain the right for African Americans to vote in primary elections. Several years later, Hibbler, along with other attorneys from the NAACP, were assigned by then NAACP General Counsel Thurgood Marshall, to bring suit against the Little Rock School District on behalf of a Black teacher that sought equal pay for what white teachers were being paid.

Hibbler would go on to litigate twenty-three cases on appeal to the Arkansas Supreme Court. In 1938, Hibbler became a member of the Wonder State Bar Association, an African American attorney group. He died in 1962 and is buried at Oakland Fraternal Cemetery in Little Rock.



## A LOYISUS LEON HIGGINBOTHAM, JR.

...was born on February 25, 1928, in Ewing, New Jersey to Emma Lee Higginbotham and Aloysius Leon Higginbotham Sr.. His mother was a maid and his father worked in a factory. The family lived in a predominately African American neighborhood.

He attended a segregated elementary and high school. At the

black schools in New Jersey, Latin, a course needed to be placed on an academic track to attend college, was not readily taught to black students. Higginbotham's mother moved him to Lincoln School in nearby Trenton, New Jersey, a high school built in 1923 exclusively for the education of African-American children in Trenton.

At Lincoln, Higginbotham was placed in a second-year Latin course even though he had not studied or taken first year Latin. His junior high school Latin teacher, seeing great potential in Higginbotham tutored him to ensure he would pass the Latin course. In order to help his parents pay for the tutoring, he worked while attending school on odd jobs like mowing lawns and shoveling snow. He also had a job as a bus boy at the Stacy Trent hotel in Trenton. He even forged his birth certificate to appear older so he could get a job working in a pottery factory shoveling clay.

At sixteen years of age, because it admitted black students, Higginbotham enrolled into Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana. Wanting to become an engineer, Purdue had one of the best engineering courses. It was also cheaper than Rutgers, the New Jersey school that he contemplated attending. He was one of only twelve black students out of the six thousand that attended Purdue.

Because of the racial prejudices at Purdue, in 1945, Higginbotham transferred to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. He, along with Coretta Scott, later Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., were the only blacks on campus. While at Antioch, Higginbotham became the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples' (NAACP) college chapter. As head, he advocated for legislation to lower the voting age to eighteen years old. He graduated from Antioch in 1949 with a Bachelors of Arts degree.

To pursue his law degree, Higginbotham enrolled into Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. He became a member of the moot court team and the Barrister's Union, a mock trial organization. In his first year on the team, he argued before future Supreme Court Justices, future U.S. Ambassadors, and a future law partner from Temple University, Clifford Scott Green. As a freshman, Higginbotham worked as a research assistant and was able to attend oral arguments in the case, *Sweatt v. Painter*, argued by Thurgood Marshall which centered on the University of Texas' Law School and the admission of black students. Marshall won the case.

In 1952, Higginbotham received from Yale his LL.B. degree. His first employment as an attorney was as a law clerk for Judge Curtis Bok of the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. A year later, he began work as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia. He became the first black given the opportunity to argue both in front of the Court of Common Pleas, and the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. He went into private practice two years later with Norris, Schmidt, Green, Harris, and Higginbotham, the first African American law firm in Philadelphia. Along with him, three of the partners became judges.

Although he practiced law privately, Higginbotham, from 1956 to 1962, was a Special Deputy States Attorney General. From 1960 to 1962, he was a Special Hearing Officer for conscientious objections for the United States Department of Justice and President of the Philadelphia chapter of the Na-

tional Association for the Advancement of Colored People. From 1961 to 1962, he served as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission. He also taught law at Rutgers University Law School in Newark, New Jersey.

In 1960, although he had supported Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey over John F. Kennedy for U.S. President, in 1962, Kennedy appointed Higginbotham to be a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission. He became the first African American appointed as a Commissioner on any regulatory commission in the history of the U.S.. In 1963, Kennedy nominated Higginbotham to be a judge on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The confirmation was delayed by segregationist and Mississippi Senator James Eastland, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Higginbotham did not receive the appointment until after Kennedy's assassination when Lyndon Johnson assumed the Presidency and named him to the post in 1964. He was only thirty-five years old at the time. Higginbotham would become a close ally of Johnson during the President's tenure.

In 1968, following the assassination of Robert Kennedy, President Johnson appointed Higginbotham as a member of the newly created Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence. He served as Vice Chairman of President Johnson's Kerner Commission in 1968. During Johnson's time in the White House, Higginbotham became one of Johnson's closest advisors.

As a District Court judge, Higginbotham spent thirteen years on the Bench. During a 1974 case, *Comm. of Pa. v. Local 542, Int'l Union of Operating Engineers*, he was asked to recuse himself from presiding over the case because the case centered on racial discrimination. Writing in his opinion that a judge should not be forced to recuse themselves solely because of their race. This ruling would later be used by several judges in their decisions not to recuse themselves from cases based upon their race, including other black and Jewish judges.

When President Carter took office, he promoted Higginbotham in 1977 to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He became Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals from 1990 to 1991. It was in that year that he penned a letter to Justice Clarence Thomas expressing his concern that Thomas would "turn his back on a century of racial struggles". In 1993, Higginbotham was granted Senior status on the Court but retired from the bench later that year.

Retired from the bench but not done, Higginbotham joined the New York City law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He also became a Professor of Public Service Jurisprudence at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Both positions he would keep the rest of his life. He would serve as Counsel to the Congressional Black Caucus, a group of African American members of Congress and in 1996, he became an adviser to Texaco on diversity and human resource matters. He also became a trustee of Thomas Jefferson University, the University of Pennsylvania, and of Yale University.

Internationally, Higginbotham played a part in the dismantling of the government of South Africa's Apartheid system. He consulted with President Nelson Mandela and together they founded the South Africa Free Election (SAFE) Fund. Higginbotham raised several million dollars to support fair elections in South Africa and was one of the international mediators for the first inter-racial election held there. He helped draft a new South African constitution after the newly elected government took office.

In 1998, Higginbotham suffered a series of strokes. He died in Boston, Massachusetts on December 14, 1998. He was married twice. With first wife of forty years, Jeanne L. Foster, he had three children. Divorcing, he later remarried Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham.

Higginbotham, during his judicial career received countless awards and honors. In 1994, the American Swedish Historical Museum awarded him their first Spirit of Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award. In 1995, President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1996, the NAACP awarded him their Spingarn Medal. The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law honored him by naming its' annual award after him, the A. Leon Higginbotham Corporate Leadership Award. Sixty-two different universities awarded honorary degrees to him. Higginbotham was one of America's most pre-eminent jurists, black or white.





## ANITA FAYE HILL

...was born on July 30, 1956 in Lone Tree, Oklahoma to Albert and Erma Hill. She was the youngest of thirteen children. Farmers, her family moved from Arkansas where her grandfather Henry Eliot were born into slavery. Raised in a Baptist family, Hill graduated

Valedictorian of her class from Morris High School, Morris, Oklahoma.

Enrolling into Oklahoma State University, she received her Bachelor's degree with honors in Psychology in 1977. She moved east to attend Yale Law School, obtaining her Juris Doctor degree, again with honors in 1980. After passing the District of Columbia Bar in 1980, Hill began her law career as an Associate with Wald, Harkrader & Ross, a Washington, D.C. firm law firm.

She then accepted a position as an attorney-adviser to Clarence Thomas, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. It was here that years later would become a central key witness in the nomination process for Thomas to become an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1982, Thomas became Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Hill left the DOE and followed Thomas as his Assistant. She then became an Assistant Professor at Oral Roberts University's Evangelical Christian O. W. Coburn School of Law teaching from 1983 to 1986. She moved on to join the University of Oklahoma College of Law faculty teaching commercial law and Contracts.

In 1991, Hill was thrown into the public media spotlight when then President George H.W. Bush, in search of someone to succeed retiring Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall on the Supreme Court, nominated Clarence Thomas, who had by that time become a federal Circuit Judge. Although he had only been a judge for a little more than one year, his confirmation had little opposition and was complete when his "good character", was brought into question. The media, discovering a private FBI interview that Hill had given was brought before the confirming committee. The hearings were then reopened and Hill was called to testify publicly.

The televised hearings of October 1991 were some of the most watched in U.S. history. Allegations of sexual harassment were launched against Thomas asserting that while he was her supervisor at the Department of Education and the EEOC, he acted in inappropriate and sexual manners against her. When asked why she followed Thomas to her second job, if the allegedly harassment were true, she stated that her ambition to work in a reputable position within the civil rights field was more important and thought the sexual overtures would end. She stated that she realized later how poor her judgment was.

In her testimony, Hill, stated that during her two years of employment as an assistant to Thomas, he had asked her for a date many times over, had used work situations to discuss sexual subjects such as women having sex with animals, and wanted to discuss films showing group sex or rape scenes. She spoke about Thomas graphically describing his own sexual prowess and other details of his anatomy. She recounted how Thomas had at one time examined a can of Coke on his desk and asked, "Who has put pubic hair on my Coke?"

Accused by one Senator of "working in tandem" with "slick lawyers" and anti-Thomas interest groups who opposed Thomas' nomina-

tion, Hill, who Thomas once considered a friend, remained vigilant in her accusations. Although there were four other female witnesses waiting to testify and support Hill's credibility, they were not called. It has been said that to quell the accusations, a deal was struck between Republicans and the Senate Judiciary Committee Chair, Democrat Joe Biden.

True or not, Hill agreed to take a polygraph test which supported the truthfulness of her statements. Thomas declined the test. He did however, make a vehement denial, claiming that the proceedings were a "high-tech lynching of an uppity Black" by white liberals seeking to block a black conservative from occupying a seat on the Supreme Court.

After extensive debating and by the narrowest of margins since the 19th century (52-48), Thomas was confirmed to the Supreme Court by the United States Senate. Whether Hill or Thomas told the truth, it was assessed that some one lied. Thomas took his seat and Hill was vilified.

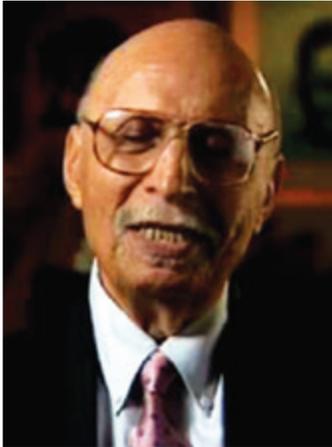
Angered by the manner in which Hill was cross examined and portrayed, a feminist group began a nationwide fundraising campaign, obtained matching state funds, all to endow a professorship at the University of Oklahoma Law School in honor of Hill. Oklahoma conservative state legislators, not happy with the proceedings, demanded Hill's resignation from the university. So angered, a bill to prohibit the university from accepting donations from out-of-state residents was introduced, while others went so far as to attempt to pass legislation to close down the law school due to Hill's testimony on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C..

In January 1997, Hill accepted a position as a visiting Scholar at the Institute for the Study of Social Change at University of California, Berkeley. She left to teach at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, beginning at the Women's Studies Program, before moving to the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. In 2011, she joined the law firm of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll in their Civil Rights & Employment Practice section.

Since those hearings, Hill has provided national television gender and race commentaries on programs such as Meet the Press, Face the Nation, and 60 Minutes. She has spoken on international commercial laws as well as race and women's rights. She has authored many articles published in national magazines including the New York Times, Newsweek and other scholarly and legal publications. She co-edited the book "Race, Gender and Power in America: The Legacy of the Hill-Thomas Hearings with Emma Coleman Jordan". In 1999, she published her autobiography, "Speaking Truth to Power", where she chronicled her role in the Clarence Thomas confirmation controversy.

Hill has made literary contributions to "The Nature of the Beast: Sexual Harassment" and the anthology, "Sisterhood Is Forever: The Women's Anthology for a New Millennium". She published a second book, "Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home", which has as its focus the sub-prime lending crisis that resulted in African-American being foreclosed upon.

As a gesture and honor to Hill, in March of 2015, the Brandeis University Board of Trustees unanimously voted to recognize Hill with a promotion to Private University Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's Studies. Many women today believe that Anita Hill and her Congressional testimony launched modern-day public awareness of sexual harassment in the work place and ultimately changed the behavior on working relationships for women in the U.S.



## OLIVER WHITE HILL, SR.

...was born on May 1, 1907 in Richmond, Virginia to Olivia Lewis White Hill and William Henry White Jr.. Hill's father left right after his birth. He returned to Richmond to visit several times before his mother divorced him when Hill was four years old. His mother worked at the Homestead Re-

sort located in Hot Springs, Virginia, about 160 miles away. In the winter months, she worked in another resort in Bermuda. Hill was left in the hands of his grandmother and grandaunt in Richmond.

When Hill was nine years old, his grandmother died. His mother, now remarried to a Joseph Cartwright Hill, a bellman at the Homestead resort, returned to Richmond for the funeral. His father, William returned as well. Each of them wanted Hill to live with them. His father lived in New York and living with his mother would mean moving to Hot Springs. African American children could not go to Hot Springs public schools and he did not really know his father, so he remained with his grandaunt and the two of them moved to Roanoke, Virginia.

Hill began his formal education in the Roanoke public schools. The school system, as did most of the Southern segregated school systems, only provided education and schools for grades one through eight. If an African American student wanted to gain higher education, they would need to move to a district or city that had one. Segregation laws prohibited black and white students from attending class together. There were no black high schools that one could attend, only grades one through eight.

As a young teen, to help himself and his aunt live, Hill worked. He took on a variety of jobs, anything that brought money in to help with food or any other need. He cleaned in a local ice cream parlor, that is, until the local police cited the owner for violation of child labor laws. He then delivered morning newspapers and block ice in the afternoons. As he grew older and physically stronger, he took on jobs where his strength and labor paid a bit more.

In 1916, Hill was in the sixth grade and the family moved to Washington, D.C.. Not liking Washington or the elementary school he had attended for one semester, not having anywhere else to go, he went to live with foster parents back in Roanoke. The Pentecosts took Hill in knowing he had only two years of public school education that he could obtain in Virginia.

When Hill completed his eighth grade studies, Jim Crow laws were still in effect and he could not attend the local white high school, as they still did not admit black students. Challenging the states statutes, was to some a choice between life and death, or at the least, being abused or run out of town. Hill returned to Washington, D.C. to live with his aunt and continue his education in the school the city, the ones he didn't like two years before.

A gifted athlete who played several sports including baseball, basketball and football, Hill graduated from D.C.'s Dunbar High School, one of the best high schools available in the country that offered black students a premiere education.

As a sophomore undergraduate student, Hill's brother, Samuel was studying for his law degree when he suddenly died of a cerebra hemorrhage. Samuel's widow gave Hill his brother's law books. They piqued his interest and became the catalyst that would begin of his law career. A socially conscious man, Hill was not happy with the 1920 U.S. Congress and their inability to pass legislation against the lynching of blacks in the South and having segregated schools, he decided that law was his calling and change was his objective.

Hill enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where in 1930, he received his undergraduate degree. He would remain at Howard to receive his law degree. To pay his tuition and living expenses, he worked various part-time jobs. He worked his summer months at public and private resorts throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, including the same resort his mother had worked.

While at Howard Law School, Hill was a classmate, a close friend, and was able to study with the great Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Working alongside esteemed Charles Hamilton Houston, the chief legal architect of the group of organizations that challenged the Jim Crow laws that lead to the desegregation of America's educational systems, its' transportation systems, and its' hotel and hospitality industries. That year, Hill finished second in his graduating class. His friend Thurgood Marshall finished first.

In 1943, Hill was drafted into the U.S. Army and served during World War II. He, as did the other black soldiers, experienced racial discrimination. He was unable to enlist into Officer Candidate School but was assigned to a unit of black engineers. Hill's unit served in the European Theater and later in the Pacific.

Hill opened his law practice in Roanoke. He immediately became involved in local politics and civil rights issues. He helped to organize the local branches of the Virginia State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Not liking being separated from his wife and his law practice was struggling financially, in 1936, Hill returned to Washington, D.C. to practice law and organize service workers.

Hill helped the Virginia Teachers Association and the black teachers in their fight for equal pay. He fought for children to be able to have access to school buses, fought for voting rights regulations, the protection of employees in the workplace, and the process by which juries are selected for trials in the courts. He won over \$50 million in settlements or funding for black students and teachers.[22]

In 1942, he worked with the Trial Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He was the first African American lawyer to work in the Division. He left after on year to form his own law firm, Hill, Martin & Robinson. In 1947, he first ran for the City Council of Richmond. Losing he ran again two years later and became the first African American, since Reconstruction, to become a member of the City Council of Richmond. He would lose his seat in the 1951 election. Years later, in 1999, U.S. President Bill Clinton would present Hill the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Oliver White Hill, Sr. died on August 5, 2007. He was one hundred years old. In appreciation for his lifetime of service, more than 1200 people viewed his body that rested in the Executive Mansion before his funeral was held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. His honors and awards are vast and his legacy is everlasting to those that he touched. Of all his achievements, "Oliver Hill Way", a street named in his honor, is one of his most memorable accolades.



## LENNOX S. HINDS

...received his Bachelor of Science degree from the City College of New York in New York, City in 1962. For his law degree, he attended Rutgers University's Law School in New Brun-

swick, New Jersey completing his studies in 1972.

To being his law degree, Hinds took a job as a research attorney for Citgo Corp working for the company for five years. He then became the Director of the Heritage Fund where he served for three years. In 1971, Hinds became the National Director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers of the United States and Canada. During that time, he was awarded an United States patent for x-ray spectrochemical analysis.

In 1978, Hinds made national news headlines when he came under fire and faced disbarment from the American Bar Association (ABA) for allegedly violating bar rules when he criticized a trial while it was underway. During the trial of Joanne Chesimard, better known as Assata Shakur, an African American activist and former Black Panther member, accused and later convicted of murdering a New Jersey state trooper in East Brunswick, New Jersey, Hinds held a press conference denouncing the trial, calling it a "legalized lynching" by a "kangaroo court". He was not the representing attorney for Shakur but claimed to be speaking on behalf of the National Alliance against Racist and Political Repression and the National Conference of Black Lawyers, where he served as its' Director. An investigation of his alleged breach of rules was conducted by the Middlesex County Bar Association who concluded that Hinds had broken ABA rules and could recommend to the state Supreme Court that Hinds to be disbarred.

Hinds filed a suit in the U.S. District Court, charging that the ABA was violating his constitutional right of free speech. He countered his charges arguing that he every right to make comment on the matter as a free citizens. The first Judge that review the lawsuit refused to take jurisdiction, so Hinds was forced to file an appeal to the Third Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the end, Hinds was able to weather the storm of his disbaring ordeal.

In 1979, Hinds served as a Charles H. Revson Fellow at CCNY's Center for Legal Education and Urban Policy. He would later become a Rutgers University professor and civil rights activist teaching criminal justice. He would also become legal counsel, representing South African activist Nelson Mandela in his United States legal matters.

For his professional expertise, Hinds was been called upon to give lectures on law around the world and has taught law legislation in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. His opinions on crimes against humanity under international law were published and taught in law schools for more than two decades. While lecturing, he served as the as Vice President and the representative to the United Nations (UN) for the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. The UN appointed Hinds as lead counsel representing defendants accused by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) of genocide, crimes against humanity, and other violations pertaining to international humanitarian law.

In January of 2017, Hinds became a Professor Emeritus in the Criminal Justice Program. He has legal practicing license and can argue cases before the United States Supreme Court, the ICTR, the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Permanent International Criminal Court in The Hague, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Africa. He served as the Senior Partner in the firm of Stevens, Hinds, and White, PC, with offices in New York, New Jersey, and Paris, France.

Hinds came under scrutiny again when the U.S. Department of Justice began an investigation of Hinds due to him being one of ten Americans that visited Tehran, Iran for a conference on American involvement in Iran. A New York judicial committee recommended that Hinds not be allowed to practice law in that state of New York because of his Iran trip and due to comments made in the Chesimard case. Hinds received great support against the call for restriction of his law license by the Middlesex community and to show support, they formed the Community Coalition to Protect Lennox Hinds. The group protested the attack on Hinds with voices shouting racial motivation and a call to silence attorneys critical of the courts actions and or proceedings.



## MELVIN LEE "KIP" HOLDEN

...was born on August 12, 1952 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Lee Holden, Sr.. He was one of five children. After completing high school, he enrolled into Louisiana State University (LSU) in his hometown, Baton Rouge where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in

Journalism in 1974. He received a Master of Arts degree in Journalism in 1982 from Southern University, also located in Baton Rouge. For his law degree, Holden stayed at Southern University where he obtained from its' Law Center his Juris Doctorate degree in 1985. He gained further education at the Oxford University Round Table in England.

While in college, Holden worked as a news Director for two years in nearby Port Allen for radio station WXOK. In 1977, he moved to radio station WWL in New Orleans to work as a reporter. A year later, he became a television reporter for Baton Rouge TV station WBRZ Channel 2.

Holden left television accepting a position as a Public Relations Specialist for the United States Census Bureau. In 1984, he became a member of the Baton Rouge Metro Council for District 2, where he served until 1988. He was then elected to the Louisiana State House of Representatives serving District 63. He served until 2002. Holden then was elected as a State Senator from District 15 where he served until 2004.

In 2005, Holden was elected as the Democratic Mayor-President of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The Louisiana state capitol is located in the Baton Rouge Parish. The East Baton Rouge Parish includes the suburban cities of Baker, Central City and Zachary. Holden would serve as Mayor-President for eleven years, until 2016.

Holden had twice attempted to be elected to the Mayor-President's job but failed. In his 1996 bid, he lost to Democrat-turned-Republican Tom Ed McHugh. In his third attempt, he was successful and became the first duly elected African-American Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish. He won largely due to his broad black voter base he garnered along with white suburban supporters, many of whom were Republican. Holden carried every precinct in East Baton Rouge Parish, the first time in Baton Rouge history that had been done.

Upon taking office as Mayor, Holden hired Walter Monsour, a Republican attorney as his Chief Administrative Officer. Despite the fact that Monsour had supported Holden's Republican opponent for the Mayor's job, he felt Monsour was the best person for the job as Monsour had served in the position twenty years earlier under then Democratic Mayor-President Pat Screen. As a compromise, the Democratic Mayor agreed that if Monsour accepted the position as Chief Administrative Officer, Holden would treat equally all parishes and precincts equally no matter who they had voted for. While Mayor, Holden served as a member of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition, founded in 2006 and co-chaired by Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, New York and Mayor Thomas Menino of Boston, Massachusetts.

As Mayor, Holden introduced programs to improve city services and to improve the city's facilities, including roads and bridges. His "Green Light Plan", a program targeting the improvements of streets and roads, saw two projects completed in his first term and seven more

under construction. Twelve more projects were placed in the design stages to be constructed over the next several years. Along with his Green Light Plan, Holden formed the "Green Light Baton Rouge Citizens Council". The Council developed a planning document, "Framework for Progress", which set the goals and guidelines and served as the blueprint to make Baton Rouge America's next great American city.

Holden revitalized Downtown Baton Rouge creating an arts and entertainment district. He marketed to the film and video industry aimed at bringing more revenue to Baton Rouge. He developed a "Riverwalk" development plan and partnered with the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce on an economic development initiative for East Baton Rouge Parish. He opened Minority Business Opportunity Centers to assist in the recovery efforts of small business after Hurricane Katrina and established a Bankers' Roundtable and loan program to assist small businesses in their economic recovery. Holden and the city of Baton Rouge would take in more than 200,000 evacuees during the Katrina devastation.

In 2012, Holden easily won re-election as Mayor-President. During the election campaign, Holden's Republican opponent and member of the Metro Council, J. Michael "Mike" Walker, Sr., ran a race baiting smear campaign against him. He introduced the fact that Holden provided a security detail for Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan when Farrakhan was invited to speak at Southern University in October of 2012. Walker ran advertisements shows Farrakhan personally thanking Holden, as well as the Baton Rouge Police Chief, for providing security and police escorts in and out of the city of Baton Rouge and to the New Orleans airport. Holden went on to defeat Walker and his two other opponents, winning sixty percent of the casted votes.

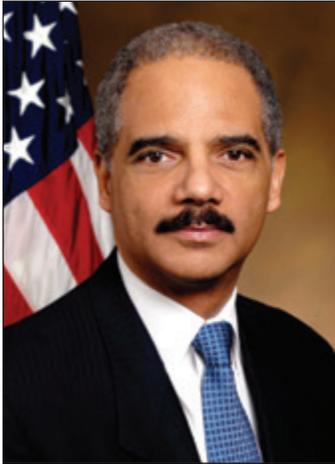
In 2014, Holden ran for the position of Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana. In the primary election, he defeated his Democratic challengers winning 33.3% of the vote. His next closest opponent, Republican Billy Nungesser, won 30% of the votes. In the second round runoff election, Holden lost to Nungesser with the votes cast 55.4% and 44.6%, respectively. Holden returned to the Mayor-President's Office to fulfill the remaining time left on his term-limit.

During Holden's administration, he was able to make great strides in improving the city of Baton Rouge. With public safety being one of his main goals, He was able to develop city services whereby his team of first responders all achieved the highest national rating for professionalism in their respective areas of service. The Baton Rouge Fire Department, the Baton Rouge Police Department, the Emergency Medical Services Department (EMS), and the East Baton Rouge Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, all were awarded the highest rating available.

In 2016, Holden ran unsuccessfully for a seat in Louisiana's Second Congressional District. He garnered only 20% of the votes against the 70% of the votes casted for the then current seat holder, Cedric Richmond. Holden then joined the firm of Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions. He specialized in arbitrations and mediations throughout Louisiana. He also worked with local, state, and national government officials in resolving legal disputes between private parties and governmental entities.

Holden has served as an Adjunct Professor at Southern University and taught courses on alternative dispute resolution. He was given an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Public Policy from Southern University. He was inducted into the Halls of Fame of LSU Alumni Hall of Distinction, the LSU Manship School of Communications Hall of Fame and the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame. The Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield also inducted Holden into their esteemed group of inductees.





## ERIC HIMPTON HOLDER, JR.

...was born on in the Bronx, New York, to Barbadian parents, Miriam and Eric Himpton Holder, Sr. Eric, Sr. arrived in the United States at the age of eleven. Miriam, born in New Jersey, had family origins in Barbados. Eric, Jr., attended public school in East Elm-

hurst, Queens until, at the age of ten, being selected to participate in a program designed for intellectual and gifted students.

After graduating from Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, N.Y., Holder, Jr. attended and played collegiate basketball at Columbia University where, in 1973, he earned a B.A. degree in American history. In 1976, he received from Columbia Law School his J.D. degree.

Joining the U.S. Justice Department's Public Integrity Section (1976-1988), Holder rose quickly in the ranks, assisting in the prosecution of Democratic Congressman John Jenrette who had been brought up on bribery charges in the "Abscam Sting Operation. Holder left Justice in 1988 after being appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve as a Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Holder left the bench in 1993 to accept an appointment from then President Bill Clinton as United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. He became the first black American to take the office of U.S. Attorney in U.S. history. He immediately oversaw the conclusion of the corruption case of Dan Rostenkowski and the Congressional Post Office scandal. In 1997, Holder was elevated to Deputy Attorney General. Holder. During this time, 1996 to 1997, he also served on The George Washington University's Board of Trustees.

As Deputy Attorney General, Holder was a vocal proponent of new hate crimes laws in the United States. Holder felt that current laws placed major constraints on the ability of federal investigators and prosecutors to assist in these types of cases. His responsibilities mainly involved areas of budget and personnel issues, briefing reporters on policy initiatives, national security issues, and major investigations. He oversaw the FBI investigations into bribery and corruption allegations in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and advised Attorney General of the U.S., Janet Reno in the Independent Counsel statute case.

In 2001, Holder went into private practice. For the next seven years, he would represent clients such as Merck, the National Football League, Chiquita and UBS. In late 2007, he left the practice to become Senior Legal Advisor for then Senator

Barack Obama's presidential campaign. His advice was pivotal to the election of the 44th President of the United States.

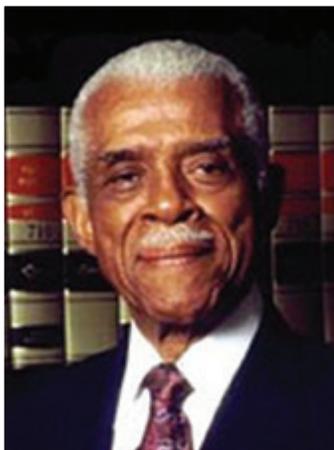
On December 1, 2008, Holder was named nominee for Attorney General of the United States. He was praised by Obama for his "toughness and independence." Familiar with the law enforcement challenges he faced, i.e., terrorism, counter-intelligence, public corruption and white-collar crime, Holder placed national security as his priority focus if confirmed. He was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 28, 2009 and confirmed by the entire Senate on February 2, 2009. With that, Holder became the nation's first African-American Attorney General. He was installed in office on March 27, 2009. Stepping down on September 25, 2014, Holder had the fourth longest tenure of any Attorney General in U.S. history.

As Attorney General, Holder defended with rigor the President's legal right to prosecute the War on Terror. He defended the legality of drone strikes against terrorists. One of his major legacy's is the shift of terrorism cases to the civilian federal courts which he was able to bring convictions in the most important terrorist cases during his tenure.

Holder, a staunch proponent of defending the Voting Rights Act of 1965, was critical of new voter ID laws in Texas, Florida and other states, which he thought might be politically and racially motivated. In the Arizona SB 1070 immigration law, he expressed concerns of Arizona's tough law could lead to racial profiling. Holder filed suit against Arizona citing that the state law is preempted by federal law.

While as Attorney General, Holder was involved in major decisions, prosecution and defense of cases involving Same-sex marriage, criminal investigations and prosecutions, marijuana, organized crime, leak investigations, and racism. He has began initiatives, such as the USDJ's 2013 Operation Choke Point, which investigated banks in the U.S., payment processors, payday lenders, and other companies believed to be at higher risk for fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing and other illicit operations.

Holder citing personal reasons, announced his resignation as Attorney General on September 25, 2014. Having been named as one of the "Greatest Washington Lawyers of the Past 30 Years" by Legal Times magazine, and by the National Law Journal as one of "the 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America," Holder's practice in the areas of civil litigation and white-collar defense places him amongst America's best attorneys, no matter the race.



## DONALD LEE HOLLOWELL

..was born on December 19, 1917 in Wichita, Kansas to Ocenia Bernice and Harrison Hannibal Hollowell. He earned his high school diploma at the same time he served in the U.S. Army. He enlisted early into the military and served six years. While rising to the rank of Private First Class Specialist Five in the Army's 10th Cavalry Regiment, the original all-black Buffalo Soldier regiment from Kansas, Hollowell took cor-

respondence classes to earn his high school diploma which he had by the time he left the Army in 1938.

As a child growing up in Kansas, Hollowell did not feel the effects of racism. Once a part of the Army, he did. While he served during World War II, he and other black soldiers received blatant racism and discrimination. They would have to eat in the kitchen, sleeping in the same housing where inmates and prisoners were kept, and using the same canteens and bathhouses as did every other black person. A documentary film, "Donald L. Hollowell: Foot Soldier for Equal Justice" would be produced in 2010 that talks about Hollowell's experiences.

After leaving the Army, Hollowell became involved with the Southern Negro Youth Congress (SNYC), a social justice organization. Their work inspired him to become a lawyer. He entered Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, where he excelled in his studies and on the athletic field as well. He was a three-sport athlete and Editor of the student newspaper. A religious man, he joined the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, later renamed the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with headquarters in Jackson. He was also the President of his freshman class.

In 1941, the U.S. Army recalled Howell back to the military. Japan had attacked the U.S. by bombing Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which brought the U.S. into World War II, and Hollowell's services were needed. He was deployed, first to Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia before being shipped overseas where he served in the European Theater returning as a Captain who served with distinction. Hollowell had married his wife, Louise Thornton while serving at Fort Benning and before being shipped overseas.

After leaving the Army for the second time, Hollowell returned to Lane College in Jackson to complete his studies. He would earn his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, in 1947. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois and enrolled into the Loyola University School of Law, where he obtained his law degree in 1951.

With law degree in hand and wanting to jump feet first into a hot bed of civil rights struggles and fights, Hollowell looked around the country for a place to hang his hat. He and his wife chose Atlanta, Georgia. His wife, Louise, would earn a graduate degree from Atlanta University, later renamed Clark Atlanta University, and would become a professor at Morris Brown College, also located in Atlanta.

After opening his law office, Hollowell immediately went to work. He sat out to meet local civil rights activists and to get involved in local issues that affected African Americans and their communities both locally and nationally. He quickly built a reputation of being a caring activists, who was extremely serious about equal rights and fighting racial discrimination with fervor.

Hollowell took the forefront as an advocate for the civil rights of African Americans. His fight for social justice brought him many high-profile plaintiffs that needed defense of some kind. His courage to stand in Atlanta's and other small courtrooms in some of Georgia's small towns, and the numerous defenses he made in front of all-white juries, gave Hollowell a distinction that not many attorneys attained in such a short period of time. As a result of his doggedness when it came to fighting for the rights of his clients, Hollowell became known throughout the state of Georgia as "Mr. Civil Rights", a name well deserved.

In 1956, Hollowell took on the case of Horace T. Ward. After being denied admission to the University of Georgia Law School (UGA), Hollowell filed a lawsuit on behalf of Ward against UGA. The case was dismissed. Not

done, three years later, in 1959 Hollowell represented three other African American students that indeed did break the color barrier when it came to higher education.

A suit was brought against the Georgia State College of Business Administration, later renamed the Georgia State University, by Howell. He challenged the University's state-sanctioned segregation policies citing them as violations to the U.S. Constitution. He successfully represented the three African American applicants who had been denied admission to the school, winning in federal District Court a decision that ruled the school's policies unconstitutional and paved the way for future legal actions.

In 1959, Hollowell took on another flagship case. This time, he represented two African American students denied admission to Georgia's highest learning undergraduate school, the University of Georgia. UGA claimed that the two students, Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter, were not denied admission based upon their race but for other mitigating circumstances surrounding procedural regulations. With the help of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Hollowell, NAACP attorneys Constance Baker Motley, Vernon Jordan and Horace Ward, took on the state. On January 6, 1961, federal judge, Judge William Bottle, issued an order that allowed Holmes and Hunter to begin taking classes at UGA.

Hollowell would go on to represent other college students who were arrested for protesting Jim Crow laws and conducting civil rights disobedience by waging sit-ins at local restaurants and refusing to leave their lunch counters.

In 1960, Hollowell and his co-counsel Horace Ward were asked to represent the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in one of his arrest. He successfully won Dr. King's release from Reidsville, a notorious Georgia State Prison. King had been arrested for participating in a student demonstration. Hollowell was victorious in his defense against the charges Dr. King faced.

In another case, Hollowell and his team, were able to save a fifteen-year old African American boy from electrocution by the State of Georgia. A young man from Monticello, Georgia had five days left before his scheduled execution. Howell was able to save the young man from the chair.

During the years to come, along with famed civil rights attorney C.B. King, Hollowell and his team would represent many civil rights activists including Dr. King once more. King found himself again on the right side of the civil rights fight when he was involved with the historic civil rights campaign known as the Albany Movement that began in Albany, Georgia. Hollowell filed suit against the University of Georgia for its' policy of racial segregation by not allowing blacks admission to its' school. His suit, settled in 1961 by federal court order, ended segregation at the University of Georgia. That year, the first two African American students, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton E. Holmes were admitted. Hollowell represented King again two years later, when he and other activists were arrested as a result of their participation in the Albany Movement

In 1966, Hollowell was appointed as Regional Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) by then President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Commission was established to monitor workplace discrimination. Hollowell became the first African American to head a major federal agency. He would remain with the agency for the next nineteen years. In 1971, Hollowell became Chairman of the Board and also served as President of the Voter Education Project where he ran voter registration campaigns. He is credited with increasing the African American voter roles from 3 million to 5.5 million.

In 1997, a book was published which chronicled Hollowell's service and achievements. His wife, Louise Hollowell and Martin Lehfeldt, a well known and gifted author, penned the book entitled, "The Sacred Call: A Tribute to Donald L. Hollowell - Civil Rights Champion", to showcase Hollowell's contributions to the civil rights struggle. It also shows the love between Louise and Donald who were married for over sixty-years. Louise, in her own right, graduated magna cum laude from Morris Brown College, a distinguished college in Atlanta, Georgia and served as a Distinguished Professor of English (Emeritus) at Morris Brown.

In 2000, a foundation was created to assist in education and social needs of children and seniors throughout Georgia. The Donald L. Hollowell Foundation holds an annual golf tournament where all proceeds go to the foundation's outreach programs to help children and adults in their learning and educational needs.

Donald Lee Hollowell died of heart failure on December 27, 2004. He was eighty-seven years old. In his honor, the City of Atlanta renamed busy highway U.S. 78, Bankhead Highway, after him. Atlanta's Emory University created a Professorship in his name and the University of Georgia Press published a full-length biographical film, "Donald L. Hollowell: Foot Soldier for Equal Justice", in his honor.





## JEROME A. HOLMES

...was born on November 18, 1961 in Washington, D.C.. After graduation from high school, he matriculated to Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He graduated in 1983 with a B.A. degree.

He enrolled into the Georgetown University Law Center, where he became the Editor of the Georgetown Immigration Law Journal. In 1988, he received his J.D. degree. In 2000, he received a Masters in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Holmes' first legal job was at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma in 1988. He clerked for Judge Wayne E. Alley. From 1990-1991, he then clerked for federal Judge, William Judson Holloway, Jr., on the Tenth Circuit Court.

Entering private practice in 1991, Holmes began working with the law firm, Steptoe & Johnson in Washington, D.C.. He worked there for three years as an Associate before returning to Oklahoma as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. As Assistant U.S. Attorney, he gave his attention to violent crime and political corruption. During his time at the Western District, Holmes served on the 1995 prosecution team for the Oklahoma City terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. He helped secure the convictions of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols.

After the tragic 9/11 bombings of the Trade Centers in New York City, he served for two and a half years as the Anti-Terrorism Coordinator in the Western District of Oklahoma. There, he coordinated highly sensitive issues surrounding domestic and international terrorism for federal, state and local initiatives. He served the Western District from 1994-2005 before returning to private practice.

Taking a position as Director of Oklahoma's largest and oldest law firm, Crowe & Dunlevy, Holmes' focus was corporate law and white collar criminal defense. He also oversaw complex civil litigation cases. He stayed with the law firm until taking a seat as a federal Judge.

While practicing private law, Holmes was nominated by President George W. Bush to fill a vacancy on the

United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. He withdrew his nomination when he was nominated by Bush to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Again, his diligence as a great litigator, pushed his name to the top of Bush's selection list for the Tenth Circuit Court. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit hears appeals from the federal District Courts of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming.

On May 4, 2006, President George W. Bush nominated Holmes to fill the seat vacated by Judge Stephanie Kulp Seymour on the Tenth Circuit Court. In less than three months, the U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination by a vote of 67-30. On July 26, 2006, Holmes became the first African American to serve on the Tenth Circuit Court.

On May 25, 2007, Holmes published his first opinion by for the court, *United States v. Ahidley*, which involved restitution in a federal case. His writing for a unanimous three-judge panel held that a criminal defendant was improperly ordered to pay immediate restitution to the victim of his crime. He later became the first federal appellate court panel to affirmatively weigh in on the constitutional right of same-sex couples to marry. He wrote an important agreement of opinion on the hostility in state bans for same-sex marriages.

While serving on the Tenth Circuit Court, Judge Holmes has served as a committed volunteer and leader in local community affairs. He has served on the governing Boards of many nonprofits, including the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City. He served as a President of Club 29, honorably. He also has served as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oklahoma and is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City (Class XX) and Leadership Oklahoma (Class XVIII).





## ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

was born on June 13, 1937 in Washington, D.C. to Vela (née Lynch) and Coleman Holmes. Her mother was a schoolteacher and her father worked as a civil servant. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Antioch College Yel-

low Springs, Ohio in 1960. She received a Master's degree in American Studies from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut in 1963 and obtained her law degree from Yale in 1964.

While earning her degrees at Yale, Holmes Norton became involved in the civil rights movement by joining and organizing for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Having been arrested while in undergraduate school at Antioch College for participating in protests and sit-ins in Maryland, Ohio, and Washington, D.C., she was well aware of the struggles of America's black population. By the time she graduated from Yale, her determination to make a difference for African Americans had long been established.

While at Yale, she traveled to Mississippi for the Mississippi Freedom Summer and worked alongside many civil rights leaders including Medgar Evers who would later be gunned down in his driveway by white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith. She witnessed the release from jail of the badly beaten civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer and saw first hand the intensity and violence of the enacted Jim Crow laws of the Deep South. Holmes Norton would later write about her experiences working with SNCC in the anthology "Sisterhood is Powerful: An Anthology of Writings From The Women's Liberation Movement", edited by writer Robin Morgan.

In 1970, Holmes Norton was a member of the founding Advisory Board of the Women's Rights Law Reporter, the first women's rights periodical published in the United States that focuses exclusively on women and their rights in the law profession. She was a signer of the Black Woman's Manifesto, a document created for the Black feminist movement. All of these remarkable achievements were done before she completed law school.

After obtaining her law degree, Holmes Norton worked as a law clerk for Federal District Court Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.. She then became the Assistant Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She successfully represented sixty female employees who filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against Newsweek magazine claiming the publication's management carried a discriminatory policy that allowed only men to become reporters for the magazine. She also won a U.S. Supreme Court case on behalf of the National States' Rights Party arguing the Constitution's First Amendment of freedom of speech had been violated.

In 1970, Holmes Norton became an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the New York University Law School. That year, then

New York Mayor John Lindsay appointed her to lead the New York City Human Rights Commission. There she held the first hearings on discrimination against women.

In 1977, then President Jimmy Carter named Holmes Norton as the first female Chair of the U.S. EEOC where she instituted the first regulations that outlined sexual harassment and made it a discriminatory crime that violated women's federal civil rights. She served as a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute in D.C. and as a Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. She also became a strong voice for the Free South Africa Movement.

In 1990, Holmes Norton was elected as a Democratic delegate to the House of Representatives. The Congresswoman represents the citizens of the nation's capitol who had no vote in federal elections. She has represented the District of Columbia since winning her first election.

As a Delegate to Congress, Holmes Norton is entitled to sit in the House of Representatives and vote on a Committee but she is not entitled to vote on the floor of the House. Other delegates to Congress represent America Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico also elects a Delegate to the House of Representatives.

Holmes Norton has introduced several bills for consideration. She introduced the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act, which would require the U.S. to disable and dismantle its' nuclear weapons. She introduced the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009, which gave D.C. a full voting Representative in the House and approved by the Senate but failed in the House. She also introduced a bill that would allow the citizens of Washington, D.C. the right to vote in Presidential elections. A political campaign was launched to bring national attention to the issue when she stated from the House floor that the citizens of Washington, D.C. were being forced to pay federal taxes without federal representation.

During her tenure as the legal representative of the citizens of Washington, D.C., Holmes Norton has been twice blocked by fellow House members from testifying on the House floor on bills associated with abortion. Her contemptuous treatment by some fellow members of the House has been noticed by other House members, but with the District of Columbia having only one sitting Delegate, Holmes Norton many times has her hands tied.

In 2014, Holmes Norton, in an effort to stop penalizing low level crimes, particularly crimes associated with marijuana, the D.C. Board of Elections put a question about marijuana legalization on the ballot. The question needed Congressional approval and Holmes Norton vowed to fight any attempt by Congress to prevent the implementation of the new D.C. law. The law became legal but had strict rules associated with its' passage including limiting the use in all public spaces, private clubs, bars, hotels, and restaurants.

Holmes Norton is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Progressive Caucus. She serves as a Board of Director member for several associations, foundations, and private organizations. In Congress, she has served on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. For the Committees, she has served on several Subcommittees.





## J OYCE E DLINE H O SLEY

...was born on January 7, 1927 in New York City, New York. Her mother was a Jamaican immigrant and a single mom that insisted that Hosley focus her attention on her academic studies, which

proved to be the greatest gift she received from her mother as she skipped several grades in elementary school and gained admission into the Arista Honor Society in High School. She continued her focused study habits in high school and was awarded admission to New York City's Hunter College where she graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry. She was only nineteen years old at the time of her graduation. While in college, she met William F. Hosley, Jr. and the two were married.

Joyce remained at Hunter College to continue her education and earned a Master's degree in Education for the visually impaired in 1951. She then taught elementary school in East Harlem, New York for several years while helping to support her husband who was studying medicine as a surgical intern. His studies were interrupted when he was called to duty in the military to serve in the Korean War. He was assigned as a surgeon to the United States Air Force stationed at Williams Air Force Base in Chandler, Arizona. The couple moved to Arizona where William would complete his military duties reaching the rank of Captain in the Medical Corps.

After Hosley's husband finished his military duty, the family moved back to New York for him to complete his surgical studies. The family then moved to California with the hopes of him acquiring employment there, however, those hopes were soon dashed as he was not hired to any of the jobs he sought because of his color. He then applied for a job in Prescott, Arizona and was hired. The family moved to Prescott.

Two years after arriving in Prescott, the Hosleys moved to Tucson where Dr. Hosley set up a medical practice and became the Chief of Surgery. He later became the Assistant Chief of Staff at Tucson's St. Mary's Hospital. Hosley herself stayed at home to raise the couple's two daughters and son.

Hosley's sister, after studying law at Georgetown University Law School in Washington, D.C., had become the first African American woman to earn a law degree from the school. It was then that Hosley became interested in becoming a practicing attorney. At the age of forty, she enrolled into the University of Arizona's (UA) Law School. She became the first African American to enroll into the Arizona law school.

She struggled in her first year of study but during her next year, she made the Dean's list.

While in law school, Hosley developed Retinitis Pigmentosa, a degenerative eye condition, which left her legally blind. Her condition did not hinder her studies, as she graduated as the first African American woman from the UA Law School in 1971. She was admitted to the Arizona State Bar later that year becoming the first African American woman to be admitted to the state Bar.

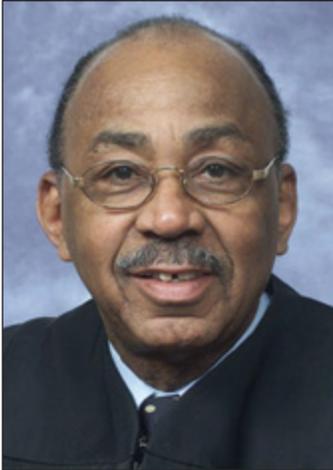
Hosley, in her first legal position, became a staff attorney for the Southern Arizona Legal Aid where she would spend the next twenty-five years. At the Legal Aid, she represented poor and disadvantaged Arizona residents unable to afford legal services. She focused her attention to domestic relations issues, particularly abused women and children. She also gave much attention to immigration laws and the suspensions and deportation cases of indigent immigrants and undocumented aliens.

In one of her most noted cases, in 1981 Hosley represented a Native American girl that had delivered a baby. The Arizona state government were terminating her parental rights under its' Abandonment Status law. Hosley appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. The case was denied a hearing by the Court, however, Hosley was able to have the child returned and the family was able to remain together through laws under the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Hosley has served on many legal organizations during her professional career. She has served as a member of the Pima County Bar Association, the American Women Lawyers Association, and the American Blind Lawyers Association. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Medicaid Auxiliary of Yavapai and Pima County Medical Societies, the Casa de los Ninos, the YWCA, the Girls Club, and the First United Methodist Church. She serves as a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a Charter Member of the Tucson Chapter of the Links, Inc., and a Charter Member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

For her dedicated work on behalf of poor Arizona residents, Hosley has been presented with several noted honors and awards. The American Bar Foundation selected her as a Fellow, an honor given to only 10% of attorneys admitted to its' State Bar and the Southern Arizona Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild gave her recognition for her contributions to Southern Arizona Legal Aid. The University of Arizona Black Alumni Association named her as the Phenomenal Woman of the Year and the State Bar of Arizona and the Maricopa County Bar Associations honored Hosley as a top One Hundred Women & Minority Lawyers citation. In addition, she was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the YWCA.

Joyce Edline Hosley died September 22, 2006 after suffering from cancer. She was seventy-nine years old. 



## HAROLD HOOD

...was born in 1931 in Hamtramck, Michigan. After graduating high school, he enrolled into the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. Upon leaving the Army with his honorable discharge, he enrolled into Wayne State

University in Detroit, Michigan where he earned his undergraduate degree, graduating in the top six percent of the students in his class.

He attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he earned his law degree. He opened his law firm after passing the Michigan State Bar exam in 1961. His career began to flourish rather quickly. He was asked to serve as Assistant Corporate Counsel for the City of Detroit. Eight years later, he was appointed to the position of Chief Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. He was the first African American to serve in that position.

In the 1960s, Hood became the Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney for Michigan's Eastern District. He became the first African American to serve as a U.S. Attorney in the office's history. He served the Court brilliantly and he understood the impact that the law had on everyday citizens and the effects it played on day-to-day living. He wanted a court system that was fair to everyone that his Court touched.

In 1973, Hood was appointed to the City of Detroit's Common Pleas Court. It was there that he met his wife, a Court Reporter and was married in 1977. An even-tempered judge, Hood treated everyone with politeness, including the prisoners that came before the Court. He would rise rapidly through the ranks of his peers to serve both the Recorder's Court and the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court. He would leave the courts as a member of the Michigan Court of Appeals and a Trustee on the Board of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

In 1987, Hood was appointed to a task force that studied racial biases and how they affected Michigan's courts. The Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Issues in the Courts would investigate, study and then recommend one hundred and twenty-two improvements

needed to bridge the gap in the fairness of how people of different ethnic groups were treated while interacting with the Court and how to improve their experiences when interacting with the courts. He would retire in 2003, as Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Court.

In 1997, Hood became the Co-Chair of the Michigan State Bar's Open Justice Commission. He chaired the Commission with the Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly. Together, they were charged with implanting the recommendations made by the Task Force. During that time, she also served as the Chair and Board Member of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, a volunteer community service organization; President of the the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit; and as a member of the Advisory Commission of the Nationals Institute on Alcoholism and Addictions.

Hood sang in his church choir doing so at the First Congregational Church of Detroit. He taught Sunday school and his wife served as a Pastor of the church. As a very talented chief, his corn casserole and barbecued beef brisket, was always a hit at the Sunday after-church meals. A servant leader, he knew how to both serve people and how to lead them as well.

Hood has been given honored and given many recognitions during his professional career. For his dedicated service, he has been awarded the Dennis W. Archer Award for Public Service; the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness's "Founders Award"; the Michigan State Bar's "Champion of Justice Award"; and the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame's "Phillip A. Hart Award". Hood was also honored when the Michigan Association of Black Judges established the "Judge Harold Hood Award", which recognizes exceptional performance in Judges in the state of Michigan.

Harold Hood died on May 5, 2015. He was eighty-four years old.



## BENJAMIN LAWSON HOOKS

...was born on January 31, 1925 in Memphis, Tennessee to Bessie White and Robert B. Hooks. He was the fifth of seven children. His father, a photographer owned a photography studio, Brooks Brothers, with his brother Henry. Although Hooks remembers wearing hand-me-down clothes, the

family lived fairly comfortably by the standards of black people at the time.

Hooks had a family legacy that ran deep in education as his paternal grandmother, Julia Britton Hooks (1852–1942), was only the second American black woman to graduate from Berea College in Kentucky, doing so in 1874. Her sister, Dr. Mary E. Britton, who also attended Berea, became a physician in Lexington, Kentucky. He grew up knowing the importance of a good education.

Although discouraged by his father, young Benjamin had a calling to the Christian ministry. After graduating from his segregated high school, in 1941, he enrolled into LeMoyne-Owen College, in Memphis, Tennessee taking pre-law studies. Required to use segregated lunch counters, water fountains, and restrooms, he became acutely aware of the racism in his hometown. He ultimately transferred to Howard University in Washington, D.C..

In 1944, he graduated from Howard University and joined the Army. One of his jobs in the Army was to guard Italian prisoners of war. He and other soldiers found it humiliating that prisoners were allowed to eat in restaurants from which they were barred vowed to do something about it was he was Discharged. After the war ended, he left the Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

To begin the study of law Hooks enrolled in the DePaul University's College of Law in Chicago, Illinois as no law school in his native Tennessee would admit him. Graduating from DePaul in 1948 with his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree, He returned to Memphis, took and passed the Tennessee bar to hang a shingle as a lawyer. Committed to breaking down the practices of racial segregation, Hooks fought prejudice and racism at every turn. As one of the few black lawyers in Memphis, Hooks earned a reputation for standing up for civil rights.

Hooks met lovely twenty-four year old Frances Dancy, a Science teacher and married her in 1952. He became friends with a leading civil rights organization in Mississippi, the Regional Council of Negro Leadership (RCNL), lead by Dr. T.R.M. Howard. He began to attend their annual Conferences. Surrounded by the likes of Thurgood Marshall, and other black Southern attorneys, Hooks eagerly participated in the formulation of litigation strategies to confront racism and prejudices of Mississippi and other states of the Deep South.

Still having that calling to the Christian ministry, Hooks was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1956. He loved visiting churches, taking part in Christian activities, and began to preach at the Great-

er Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, while practicing law at his busy law office. He joined the Southern Negro Leaders Conference on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration, later known as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, teaming with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and became an advocate for the restaurant sit-ins and other boycotts being conducted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It was then that he decided to enter the realm of politics.

Hooks ran unsuccessfully for the State Legislature in 1954 and for Juvenile Court Judge in 1959 and 1963. He did, however, attract enough black and white liberal voters, that in 1965, then Tennessee Governor Frank G. Clement appointed him to fill a vacancy in the Shelby County Criminal Court making Hooks the first black Criminal Court Judge in Tennessee history. By then, Hooks had become a sitting judge, a businessman, a lawyer, and a Minister.

As a Minister, he would fly twice a month to preach at Detroit's Greater New Mount Moriah Baptist Church. He also continued to help the NAACP in civil rights protests and marches. He produced and hosted several local Memphis television shows on civil issues and became a strong supporter of Republican political candidates. In 1972, President Richard Nixon appointed Hooks as one of five Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

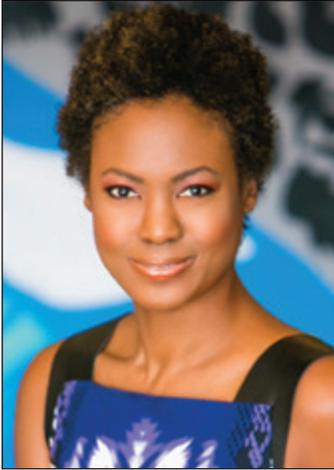
As a member of the FCC, Hooks quickly took on the issue involving the lack of minority ownership of television and radio stations in the U.S., the images portrayed of blacks in the mass media, and the broadcasting industry's dismal statistics on minority employment as a whole. Even after leaving the FCC, Hooks continued to work for black involvement in the entertainment industry.

On November 6, 1976, Hooks was appointed Executive Director of the NAACP. Determined to stop the rapid decline of the organizations membership that had dropped from a high of about 500,000 to only about 200,000 declaring that the civil rights movement was not dead. He vowed to continue agitating, litigating, and protesting to set mandates designed to ensure that Black Americans were not left behind.

Hooks did not lay all of the black Communities' problems at America's feet. He was a staunch advocate of self-help among the black community, urging wealthy and middle-class blacks to give their time and resources to the less fortunate. As times began to change, critics began to label the NAACP as "dinosaur" whose national leadership and civil rights agenda had become merely a living testament of glory days left behind. Younger members of the NAACP believed that Hooks had lost touch with black America and ought to resign.

For more than fifteen years, Hooks along with his wife Frances controlled the reins of the NAACP, retiring in February of 1992 at the age of sixty-seven. He served as an Adjunct Professor at University of Memphis' Political Science Department. In 1996, the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change there in his honor. He also resumed preaching where he began in 1956, at the Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis.

After nearly fifty years of marriage, on March 24, 2001, for the third time, Benjamin and Frances Hooks renewed their wedding vows. Of course, the ceremony was held at the Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis. Hooks died on April 15, 2010 at the age of eighty-five old.



**L**ENORA  
F.  
HORTON

...received her Juris Doctorate degree from Howard University School of Law in Washington D.C.'s in 2004. To begin her legal career, she moved to New York to join one of the most respected and

largest law firms in the world in its' Corporate Defense and Special Litigation practice group. In her position with the firm, she focused her attention on her client's issues surrounding on hedge funds, private equity, and criminal and regulatory investigations on the state and federal levels. She also litigated state and federal cases arising from commercial and investment disputes, including claims of fraud, securities class action, and derivative actions.

In 2009, Horton left her cushy prestigious job at the New York law firm to further her ambitions and commitment to provide pro bono and human rights representation to those in need. She enrolled into Fordham Law School in New York City where she received an International Law & Justice LL.M. degree magna cum laude. She then began researching, lecturing, publishing, and traveling both in the U.S. and abroad speaking on international justice issues. She took particular concerns on the connections of business and human rights law, peace-building, and post-conflict redevelopment.

After spending a few years on her research endeavors, Horton turned her attention to an investment into a beverage brand she developed, co-founded and served as the Chief Executive Officer. As she neared the launch of her business venture, she decided to sell half of the beverage company to focus on the legal matters of the company. She then established her law firm, LFH ESQ.

While establishing her law firm, Horton worked on her mission to help entrepreneurs, investors, business owners and visionaries avoid needless failures in their business ventures. She loved problem solving and wished to help business and her clients grow their enterprises. She became involved in their day-to-day business operations looking at ways to either avoid legal matters or to steer them clear of troubles they may have found themselves in.

Horton serves as the lead in THE KETNOI GROUP, a coaching and consulting firm. Her clients include start-up companies, small businesses, creative artists, impact investors, and angel investors. She works with nonprofit organizations and socially focused entrepreneurs. Horton believes in giving back to those in need and donates a great deal of time to her pro bono cases. She has been called upon to speak before many community groups, to moderate legal panels, to host social workshops, and to judge startup pitch competitions

Horton is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Southern District of New York courts, and the District of Columbia courts. She has appearance rights before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the U.S. Copyright Office, and the Equal Employment Rights Office (EEOC). She focuses her legal practice on representing public companies and financial institutions against common law fraud claims, civil RICO claims, state and federal securities claims, and in internal investigations.



## **O**DELL HORTON, JR.

...was born on May 13, 1929 in Bolivar, Tennessee to Rosa Lee McNeal and Odell Horton. He was the oldest of five children. He began working at an early age, six, when he delivered laundry for his mother who took in community laundry to support her family. His

father was a laborer at the Western State Mental Hospital in Bolivar. When he completed his high school studies, he enlisted into the military.

In 1946, Horton joined the United States Marine Corps serving for one year. He left the Corps only to join again four years later. In his second stint with the Corps, he served from 1951 through 1953. While serving in the Navy, Horton attended the United States Navy School of Journalism where he received a certificate of completion in 1952.

Horton received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1951. While at Morehouse, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He attended Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. where he received his LL.B. degree in 1956.

Horton knew early in his life that he wanted to become a lawyer after witnessing several racial incidents as a young boy. He first learned of the law when, as a teenager, the local Bolivar police raided his parents home looking for illegal liquor without a search warrant. His father demanded a warrant and refused to allow the police to search. They eventually left without searching the premises. Horton saw that his father, although uneducated, stood his ground and knew that the police needed a search warrant.

In another incident, Horton and a friend, after graduating high school, had travelled to Memphis from Bolivar to look for work. On their way back home, as they waited for the bus to arrive at the segregated Memphis Trailways Bus Depot, the Memphis police and a Navy shore patrolman entered the "colored" section of the bus terminal demanding those present show their tickets. Those that were sleeping while the waited were kicked in the leg to awake them. Once awakened, the police demanded that they provide their tickets.

The police kicked on black man that was sleeping jarring him awake. He told the policeman not to kick him, which resulted in him getting hit in the head with the policeman's baton. The two policemen then beat the man merciless, stomping him unconscious. He was then grabbed by his belt and pants, then dragged away out of the bus terminal and taken to jail. Horton witnessed the man take a beating for no reason. Horton wanted to help the black man but couldn't.

Horton finally decided to become a lawyer when, as a shoeshine boy in a barber shop, he noticed that one of the customers,

a white lawyer who was always impeccably dressed, always paid twenty-five cents for a shoe shine with others only paid ten cents. He knew that lawyers made good money and with that, coupled with the injustices that he witnessed between blacks and whites, he knew he wanted to become a lawyer.

After receiving his law degree from Howard University, Horton left Washington, D.C. in 1957 and returned to Tennessee settling in Memphis. He began his legal career practicing privately for five years, until 1962. He then became an Assistant U.S. Attorney of the Western District of Tennessee. He was the first African American to serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and did so for six years.

In 1968, he accepted a position with the City of Memphis as the Director of the Division of Hospital and Health Services. A year later, he was elected as a Judge on the Shelby County, Tennessee Criminal Court. He would serve on the Court for one year.

In 1970, Horton became the President of Memphis's LeMoyné-Owen College. He remained the President for four years. During that time, Horton appeared on local CBS station WREC-TV as a commentator.

In 1974, for the Memphis Mid-South Medical Center Council, Horton became their Director of Community Health Services. He served as Director for two years. He then became a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. He served as Judge until 1980.

Horton left the Western District when he was appointed by then President Jimmy Carter to a seat on the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. He was the first African American to become a Judge on the Western District. In 1987, he was appointed as Chief Judge. He served as Chief Judge for seven years. Judge Horton assumed senior status on May 16, 1995 where he served until his death.

Horton has been the recipient of numerous awards for his outstanding public service during his professional career. Howard University presented him with their Distinguished Alumni Award and the West Tennessee American Civil Liberties Union bestowed upon Horton its' Bill of Rights' Award. Known as a kind and gentle man with a sense of fairness and justice for all that came before him, Judge Horton believed that "demeanor, patience, kindness, the ability to speak well, the ability to listen, and the ability to write well", were all necessary tools to become successful in the field of law.

In 1997, Horton retired from his daily activities of being a sitting Judge. According to Horton, of the many decisions that he has made over his professional career, the best decision he ever made was the decision to marry his wife of fifty-two years, Evie Randolph Horton.

As a gesture to his legacy, on May 2, 2007, the City of Memphis renamed the Clifford Davis Federal Building as the "Clifford Davis and Odell Horton Federal Building" in Judge Horton's honor. Judge Odell Horton died on February 22, 2006. He was seventy-seven years old.



## CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON

...was born on in Washington, D.C. His father, William Le Pre Houston, was an attorney, and his mother, Mary Hamilton Houston, a seamstress.

Houston began his collegiate career at Amherst College in 1911. He was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, and graduated as Valedictorian in 1915.

When he returned to Washington to join his father's law firm, he began taking on civil rights cases. He taught English at Howard University before joining the U.S. Army for World War I.

The U.S. entered World War I which prompted Houston to join the then racially segregated U.S. Army as an officer. He did so and was sent to France. While in the military, Houston witnessed and endured the racial prejudices inflicted on black soldiers. These encounters fueled his determination to use the law as an instrument of social change. Witnessing this unequal and unfair treatment pushed him to become a lawyer.

After his service duties were complete, he returned to the U.S. to attend Harvard Law School in 1919. Once at Harvard, he became a member of the Harvard Law Review, becoming its' first African-American Editor, joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and graduated Cum Laude. He graduated in 1922. The following year, he earned a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) degree from Harvard, another first for an African American.

Houston served as Vice-Dean and Dean of the Howard University School of Law from 1929-35. His position gave him direct access to and influence on nearly one-quarter of all black lawyers in the United States, including former student Thurgood Marshall. Houston set out to train attorneys who would become civil rights advocates.

Houston oversaw the law school's accreditation by the Association of American Law Schools and the American Bar Association. He left Howard in 1935 and served as Special Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) until 1940. In that capacity, he argued several important civil rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. In working with the NAACP, Houston played a role in nearly every civil rights

case before the Supreme Court between 1930 and *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. He attacked and helped defeat Jim Crow segregation by showcasing the inequality in the "separate but equal" doctrine from the Supreme Court's *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision as it pertained to public education in the United States. That "masterstroke" brought about the landmark *Brown* decision.

In Missouri, in the *Gaines v. Canada* 1939 case, the Supreme Court ruled that it was not constitutional to give an African American student funds to attend an out-of-state law school instead of granting him admittance to the only law school in the state. Houston argued that it was unconstitutional for Missouri to exclude blacks from the state's university law school when, under the "separate but equal" provision, no comparable facility for blacks existed within the state.

He attacked the theory having as a plan to make it so expensive to be separate that one would abandon their separateness. From that platform, he began to demand for equalization of salaries for teachers and equal facilities in the schools. His efforts to dismantle the legal theory of "separate but equal" came to be after his death in 1950, culminating with the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) decision which prohibited segregation in public schools.

After leaving the NAACP, Houston continued working toward improving the rights for African Americans. In the 1944 cases of *Steele v. Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co.* and *Tunstall v. Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen*, the Supreme Court ruled that railway unions needed to fairly represent African-American employees. In *Hurd v. Hodge* (1948), Houston won the court's agreement that race could not be a discriminatory factor in the use and sale of property.

Houston died from a heart attack on April 22, 1950, at the age of fifty-four. He was posthumously awarded the NAACP's Spingarn Medal in 1950. In 1958, the Howard University School of Law building was dedicated as Charles Hamilton Houston Hall. His life's work is celebrated in the naming of other associations and institutions, including the Charles Houston Bar Association and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School which opened in the fall of 2005. There is also a professorship at Harvard Law named after him, The Charles Hamilton Houston Professor of Law.

The Washington Bar Association annually awards the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit to an individual who has advanced the cause of Houstonian jurisprudence.





## KENNETH R. HOWARD

...received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nevada at Reno in 1974 majoring in Business Administration and Finance. To obtain his law degree, Howard attended the Mc-

George School of Law in Sacramento, California where he received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1981. After passing the California State Bar exam he left Sacramento and returned to Reno to set up his legal practice.

Howard found legal work working as an independent and serving as a staff attorney for outside law firms. He then took a job as the Deputy District Attorney serving under Chief D.A. Mills Lane. Howard would later become the Chief Deputy himself in 1984.

In 1998, Howard was appointed to the bench. He was elected to return to the bench in the next three general elections. In each of the elections, he ran unopposed. While serving the Court, Howard initiated several innovative new policies regarding the court treatment of defendants having alcohol, drugs, and related criminal crimes pending against them. He created a special court to address these non-violent crimes with the court having a more human and moral compass in its' judicial hearings.

Judge Howard introduced court ordered programs to help younger Las Vegas citizens cope with life's laws and social norms as they grow in their lives. He established the popular "Kid's Court" program, which introduced elementary students to the courthouse through field trips so they could learn about the justice system, peer pressure and positive decision making. He had hopes that the program would bring an understanding of the court process, which might steer them away from becoming afoul of the law.

He currently serves as a Municipal Judge for the City of Reno, Nevada in Washoe County.





## PERRY WILBON HOWARD

...was born on June 14, 1877 in Ebenezer, Mississippi to Sallie and Perry Wilbon Howard. Both his parents were of mixed race and his father was a slave prior to gaining their freedom at the end of the Civil War. They were highly respected, hard working, and became farmland owners

once their freedom was given. They earned enough money to send all seven of their sons and to college. Howard had an older sister and he was the oldest son.

After completing his high school studies, Howard attended Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. He then enrolled into Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where he received his undergraduate degree majoring in Mathematics. He obtained his law degree from Illinois College of Law in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1905, Howard returned to Mississippi where he took and passed the bar. He joined the Mississippi Bar Association and began to practice law in Jackson. At the time, there were no more than a few dozen black lawyers practicing in the state.

Howard became involved in politics and joined the Republican Party. He began his fight against the disenfranchisement laws that were passed and implemented in the 1890s by white Democrats, which suppressed voter registration through poll taxes and literacy tests. For the Republican Party, in 1912, Howard served as a Delegate to the Republican National Convention. He would serve as a Delegate for every Republican Convention through 1960, forty-eight years. For the 1912 convention, he was chosen by Presidential candidate Theodore Roosevelt to second his nomination at the convention.

Not long after the 1912 Convention, Howard left Mississippi moving to Washington, D.C. looking for better opportunities. He accepted a partnership in Washington's top black law firm, Howard, Hayes and Davis, later renamed Cobb, Hayes and Howard). Over the next several years, the firm would grow in both clients and political power.

In 1924, Howard was elected as the Republican National Committeeman from Mississippi defeating white Mississippi contenders. He became the first black Committeeman in twenty-five years. That year, Howard was appointed by then President Warren G. Harding as United States Special Assistant to the Attorney General at the Department of Justice. He served in the same capacity for President Calvin Coolidge's administration. When President Herbert Hoover was elected in the 1928 election, Howard resigned from the post that he held for thirty-six years.

Howard worked and lived in Washington, D.C. while maintaining his office in Mississippi. As the Mississippi Republican National Committeeman, he still represented his Mississippi residents.

He kept his control of his Mississippi patronage appointments while in other southern states conservative whites began to take control of the Republican Party.

Howard's tenure was not without controversy. In 1928, he and several other black Republican members were indicted by a Mississippi grand jury on corruption charges related to his leadership and patronage of the Mississippi Republican Party and the sale of offices in Mississippi. The grand jury, made up of all white Democrats, as blacks were not allowed to serve on juries, brought two federal charges against Howard and his associates. The trial was conducted in a federal court in Jackson, the state capital. The trial attracted national coverage and was covered in national newspapers including the New York Times.

Prior to the trial, Howard was suspended from his Department of Justice position given to him by President Coolidge. President Hoover controlled the White House during the investigation of Howard and the other black Republicans, and many believed that Hoover pushed the investigation as a way to clean up corruption and garner more support from southern whites. Whites were moving from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party as a way to erode the black political influence.

Howard first trial was held in Jackson. During the proceedings on the illegal patronage charge, Howard's defense team provided proof that contrary to the allegations, he had given 90% of the patronage jobs to white Democrats and not his black Republican friends and associates. In the second trial, to be held in Meridian, Mississippi, the defense team was able to show in pretrial motions that there were no improprieties committed by the Howard or his Republican associates. The Department of Justice decided not to move forward on further charges.

At the conclusion of the trials, Howard and his associates were exonerated on both charges, both times by all-white juries. After the second trial was completed, even though he was found innocent of the charges, Howard resigned from his position with the Department. He did, however, remain in his position as head of the Mississippi Republican Party. He also kept his seat and membership on the Republican National Committee.

Howard returned to Washington, D.C. and remained an influential figure in the Republican Party. During the remainder of President Hoover's term, he did not give recognition to Howard as the head of the Mississippi Republican Party, instead recognizing Howard's white rival, Lamont Rowlands of the "Lily Whites" sector of the Mississippi Republican Party. Not deterred, Howard continued to have success in representing his clients in his successful Washington, D.C. law firm.

In 1952, in defiance of President Hoovers' shun, U.S. Senator Robert A. Taft selected Howard to lead his southern delegation to the Republican National Convention. Taft would lose the Party nomination to eventual winner and next U.S. President, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Howard returned again to Washington, D.C. to private practice law.

Howard remained a power player in the Republican Party and maintained his seat as the Republican National Committeeman. He would step down as Committeeman right before his death. Perry Wilbon Howard, II died on February 1, 1961. He was eighty-four years old.





## GEORGE HOWARD, JR.

...was born on May 13, 1924 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Sara Howard and George Howard. His mother was a schoolteacher in the Pine Bluff public school system where he received his early schooling in Pine Bluff's segregated schools. Before finishing

high school, Howard, as a teenager, enlisted to serve in the United States Navy. He served during World War II. Witnessing racism from both inside and outside of the military, Howard was inspired by the racism he experienced to become a lawyer. He left the military in 1946.

After his military service was over, Howard returned to high school to complete his studies. He married Vivian Smith before matriculating to Lincoln University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. At Lincoln, Howard embarked upon a fast past joint degree program that was offered by the school. After having earned sixty credits, a student could transfer to the University's Law School whereby upon completion of the program, the student would receive dual degrees, both an undergraduate degree and a law degree. He graduated with honors in the schools pre-law program. Once he learned that the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville was offering a similar program and was accepting applications from black students, he abandoned the program at Lincoln and returned to Arkansas.

He returned to his home state and enrolled into the University of Arkansas in 1950. He was the first African American to live on campus in student housing. Howard was also elected to be President of his dormitory, which made him the first African American to hold any type of official office or title at the University. Completing his studies in 1954, Howard was awarded both his Bachelor of Arts Degree and his Juris Doctorate Degree. With that, he became known as one of the "Six Pioneers", a name given to the first six African American students to attend the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Returning to Pine Bluff, he opened his own law practice to begin his legal career. Because of the many racial incidents that he had experienced in his early years and in the military, Howard was especially interested in politics and civil rights. He made a decision to run, although unsuccessfully, for a seat on the Pine Bluff City Council. Not achieving his goal of being able to make a change from inside the government, he turned his attention to doing so from the outside. He became the President of the State Council of Branches for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

As an attorney for the NAACP, Howard devoted his energies to issues germane to the Civil Rights Movement. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the *Brown v. Board of Edu-*

cation of Topeka, Kansas, Howard file similar suits in Arkansas aimed at ending school desegregation in the state. He was pivotal in ending the discriminatory practice in Sebastian County, Union County, and Crittenden County. His efforts also led to the end of discrimination in the states movie theaters and other public facilities.

In 1969, then Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller appointed Howard to a seat on the Arkansas State Claims Commission. He would serve on the Commission for eight years. In 1977, Governor David Pryor appointed him to the Arkansas Supreme Court. Two years later, Governor Bill Clinton appointed him to the Arkansas Court of Appeals.

In 1980, U.S. President Jimmy Carter picked Howard to become a Federal District Court Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. He would sit on that Court's bench until his death in 2007. With each appointment, Howard became the first African American to sit on either Court.

Known for his detailed preparation and the fairness in his rulings, Howard was thrust upon the national stage when he presided over the infamous Whitewater trials of the 1990s. In that case, former Governor Jim Guy Tucker, Jim McDougal and his wife Susan, all one-time business partners of then Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Clinton, were all caught in a scandal involving David Hale who had alleged that the Clinton's had pressured him into providing a \$300,000 loan to the McDougal's and their failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan.

Howard, as the presiding Judge ordered President Bill Clinton, who by that time had become President of the U.S., to give a deposition for the trial. Although Clinton had appointed Howard to the judicial seat he occupied, that had no bearing on Howard's decision to order Clinton to provide a video deposition. Neither of the Clinton's was prosecuted, as there was insufficient evidence to do so.

In 1994, Howard became a member of the 1994 class of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. That same year, two Arkansas U.S. Senators and one Arkansas U.S. House of Representative's member introduced legislation to rename the Pine Bluff Federal Building and Courthouse in Howard's honor. In addition, two portraits were commissioned to hang in the federal courthouses, one in Pine Bluff and one in Little Rock. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock's William H. Bowen School of Law created a student scholarship fund, The George Howard Junior Scholarship Fund, in his honor as well.

Howard was a member of many Bars, charities, and social organizations. He was a 33rd Degree Mason, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and a member of the New Town Missionary Baptist Church. After several years of failing health, while still performing his Judgeship duties, on April 21, 2007, Justice Howard died at Jefferson Regional Medical Center. After his death, he was posthumously inducted into his alma mater Lincoln University's Hall of Fame on October 10, 2008.



## RAYMOND HOWARD, JR.

...was born on March 13, 1935. He graduated from Vashon High School in St. Louis, Missouri at the age of sixteen years old. A gifted student, he was Editor-In-Chief of the student newspaper and sat in the first chair of his senior

high school's band as a clarinet player. He was also a star on the high school track team.

He matriculated to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin where he received his undergraduate degree. While at Wisconsin, Howard was a member of the Student Senate and the university's Debate Team. He joined the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and became their Polemarch, the highest position within the organization. After graduation, Howard spent time in the military and served his duties with the 82nd Airborne Division, as a paratrooper. He left the military at the rank of Lieutenant.

Howard returned to his hometown of St. Louis to earn his Doctorate of Jurisprudence degree from St. Louis University's School of Law. As he had done in undergraduate school, Howard jumped right into the mix of political and social activities on campus. He served on the Student Council and was the Secretary of Senior Class. He was the third African-American to graduate from the school.

Howard would pass the Missouri State Bar and begin to practice law in and around St. Louis. He would argue and settle cases in the Missouri courts for the next forty-four years. After a few years in private practice, Howard made a run in politics for a seat on the Missouri State House of Representatives.

Howard placed his name in the hat for a seat in the State House in the 1964 election. He ran a successful campaign and took a seat in the House. He would serve in the House until 1968.

In 1968, he ran for a seat in the Missouri State Senate. He was not only elected to the State Senate, he served for twelve years. He beat out the long time serving official, Michael Kinney, for the seat. He was the second African-American ever elected to a seat in the Senate and was the youngest ever to be elected. Howard was only thirty-three years old at the time. As a young State Senator, he chaired the Higher Education Committee. While in the Senate, he also authored several bills introduced to the Senate body.

He introduced Missouri's State Scholarship Law which aided students in need of financial assistance hoping to attend a Missouri state funded college or university. Missouri's Fair Housing Law, a law that made it easier for African Americans and other minorities obtain fair and equal housing in the state of Missouri, was introduced by Howard. He also authored Missouri's Equal Opportunity Employment Law, which focused on discrimination in Missouri's work places. Howard, unfortunately, would lose his Senate seat in the next election to J.B. Banks by a mere 417 votes.

Howard was a born again Christian that read his Bible regularly. He believed in the speaking of tongues and did so at will. A loyal and firm believer that Jesus was his Lord and Savior, religion played an important part in Howard having faith in whatever he believed in or chose to undertake.

Howard served on many associations and organizations. In alphabetical order, not as he may have served, he served as a member of the American Trial Lawyers and a Board Member of the Gateway National Bank, the Metropolitan YMCA, Mound City Bar Association, and the National Bar Association. For organizations having connections to St. Louis, he served on the Boards of the St. Louis Bar Association, St. Louis NAACP, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the St. Louis Urban League. Howard served as President to the St. Louis Congress of Racial Equality.

Howard has won many awards and was given many honors. He was given Distinguished Service Awards from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the St. Louis Bar Association, and St. Louis University. He has received the Outstanding Young Man Award from the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Outstanding Professional Achievement from the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. The Mound City Bar Association awarded him their Legends Award and his high school alma mater inducted him into their Hall of Fame.

An avid golfer, Howard was most proud of his short game. He believed that from ninety-five yards out, his wedge and pitching game gave him an unfair advantage, as that was the best part of his game. His par three and hole-in-one Championship trophies and certificates give validation to his claims.

Howard would eventually move his offices to Clayton, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis where he continued to practice law.



## CHARLES P. HOWARD, SR.

...was born on March 10, 1890 in Abbeville, South Carolina and attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta. In 1917, he graduated from the Fort Des Moines Army Officer Candidate

School. He served as a Second Lieutenant with the 92nd Division, 366th Infantry in France during World War I.

In 1922, Howard graduated from Drake University's law school in Des Moines, Iowa. He joined the Iowa Bar Association and became Chairman of the Iowa Negro Bar Association. In 1925, he helped found the National Negro Bar Association, later renamed the National Bar Association (NBA), that was organized to protest the American Bar Association's (ABA) refusal to admit black lawyers. The ABA later admitted African Americans, but Howard and other NBA founders saw the continuing need for an organization to represent the interests of minority attorneys.

As he practiced law in the 1920s and 1930s in Des Moines, Howard was a columnist for the *Iowa Bystander*, the statewide African American newspaper. He also served as legal counsel for the Polk County Insanity Commission. He was appointed City Prosecutor in 1932, by Des Moines Mayor Dwight Lewis. In 1939, Howard and his three sons founded *The Iowa Observer*, an African American neighborhood newspaper. *The Iowa Observer* expanded in the 1940s into several weekly publications distributed in Iowa, Indiana, and Wisconsin. In the 1950s, Howard headed the Howard News Syndicate, which served thirty-four newspapers in the United States and abroad.

Howard's private law practice was tarnished by complaints from clients of unethical practices or neglectful conduct. Howard's license to practice law was suspended for six months in 1940 by an Iowa District Court. Howard voluntarily surrendered his license on February 16, 1951 after more client complaints. He twice failed in attempts to obtain readmission to the Iowa bar. Even an admirers' request to have him posthumously readmitted to practice in Iowa courts in 1994 were denied by the Iowa Supreme Court.

Even with a shadow casting ethical issues, Howard distinguished himself in the 1940s as a trial lawyer and a champion of civil rights issues in Iowa. In 1947, he rep-

resented a light-skinned African American woman jailed by the Des Moines Police for being in the company of a black man after being mistaken as white. He was the lead attorney for Edna Griffin and other blacks in a discrimination suit against Katz Drug Store in Des Moines. That settlement effectively ended overt discrimination against African Americans in Iowa. In 1950, in an Iowa Supreme Court case, Howard represented, an African American man with claims against the Sioux City Police alleging they had beaten out of him a confession of raping a white female teenager.

On July 23, 1948, Howard delivered the Keynote Address to the national Progressive Party Convention which nominated Iowan Henry A. Wallace for President of the United States. The Progressive Party pursued an aggressive anti-discrimination campaign in the North and South of America. In March of 1948, Howard brought his friend, Paul Robeson to Iowa. The world famous actor, singer, and civil rights activist came to campaign for Wallace and other Progressive Party candidates.

Howard's connection with Robeson increasingly changed his internationalist outlook. He began to voice protests against increased government surveillance, investigations, and the legal trials of alleged Communist Party members, civil rights leaders, and peace activists. He worked with Robeson, W.E.B. DuBois, and publisher Charlotta Bass, in 1948, to establish a committee to help fight the Jim Crow segregations in the Panama Canal Zone.

In 1950, Howard was elected as a U.S. Delegate to the World Peace Conference in Warsaw, Poland. After the conference ended, he accepted Joseph Stalin's invitation to visit the Soviet Union. Unsurprisingly, Howard soon came under the surveillance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

After relinquishing his attorney's license in 1951, Howard left Des Moines for New York City. There, he took on work as a representative of African nations at the United Nations. He published essays on African independence movements and on the civil rights movement in the United States. Those articles appearing in *Freedomways: A Quarterly Review of the Freedom Movement* highlighted the United States' and the European nations' exploitation of newly independent African nations.

Howard died on January 25, 1969 in Baltimore, Maryland at age of seventy-nine.



## ARNETTE RHINEHART HUBBARD

...was born in Stephens, Arkansas. She attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where she received her Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Math and Chemistry. She always had a penchant for law, so she decided to pursue law school. She enrolled into John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois where she received her law degree in 1969. She took the Bar exam and passed on her first attempt.

After passing the Bar, Hubbard's first job in the legal field was as a staff attorney for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Three years later, she decided to open her own law firm. When Hubbard began practicing law, there were not many African American women asserting themselves into the field. In 1971, women accounted for less than three percent of all lawyers nationwide, according to the American Bar Association. Hubbard saw the opportunity for women and was there to fill the void. She was in position to become the first in many of the fields that opened their doors to women, especially African American women in the 1970s.

In 1981, Hubbard became the first woman to be elected as President of the National Bar Association, the largest association of African American lawyers and judges in the United States. In 1985, she became the Commissioner of the Chicago Cable Commission. In 1989, she was selected to the three-member team on the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners and in 1992 she was elected as the President of the Association of Election Commissioners of Illinois.

Hubbard was the first woman to be elected as President of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. She was also the first African American to serve as its' President. She also became the first African American woman to lead the Cook County Bar Association, the nation's oldest African American bar association in the United States. Hubbard also is credited with instigating the development of "Desert FAX", which gave military personnel extended voting opportunities while serving during an armed conflict.

In 1994, Hubbard was named as an official U.S. observer to South Africa's first Democratic elections in which Nelson Mandela became the country's first elected black President. The National Bar Association, sanctioned by the International Elections Committee as one of the Bar Association's chosen to observe the election process, selected Hubbard as a member of the team of observers. That experience would play a part

in Hubbard's pursuit of voting rights issues here in the United States.

In 1995, Hubbard was appointed by then President Bill Clinton to the U.S. Presidential Observer Delegation for the parliamentary and local elections in Haiti. As had happened to her in South Africa, happened to her in Haiti. Hubbard was overwhelmed with voters standing for hours patiently waiting to cast a vote. These experiences reinforced how important a single simple vote can be appreciated. Four years later, she would be appointed to a six-year term as a Judge on the Circuit Court.

Hubbard began her service on the bench of the First Municipal District but was re-assigned in 2001 by Cook County Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans to the Law Jury Section of the Law Division. She was elected to the seat in the upcoming election. While serving Cook County, Hubbard also served as Vice-Chair of the Illinois Commission on the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

Despite her many successes and the barriers that she has broken, one of the topics that Hubbard holds most dear to her heart is the subject of sexual harassment, especially in the workplace. Having been the victim of sexual harassment and discrimination in her long career, she easily lends an ear to the concerns of women, civil rights and equal participation in the benefits that society has to offer.

Hubbard has served on several Boards, associations, and organizations during her time in the judicial field. She has served on the Boards of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; The Chicago Network; the Election Authority Advisory Committee of the State Board of Elections of the State of Illinois and the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials, and Treasurers' Executive Committee; and the Southern Illinois University Alumni Association. She has also served on the Board of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

She has been a member of the Association of Election Commission Officials of Illinois; the Cook County Bar Association as its' President; the Election Authority Advisory Committee; and the Illinois Association of County Official's Executive Board. Hubbard gave time to the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Official's Executive Committee; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and the National Bar Association. He also served the State Board of Elections of the State of Illinois in their endeavors.

A trailblazer in the field of law, Hubbard has received many accolades for her many accomplishments. For her contributions to social justice, she has received the Clarence Darrow Award. For her contributions to community education, she has received the Obelisk Award, and for her dedicated service to the law and in representing other African American lawyers in the field of law, Hubbard was inducted into the National Bar Association's Scroll of Distinguished Women Lawyers. She was the first woman to be inducted into the Hall. The American Bar Association also awarded Hubbard their, "Margaret Brent Distinguished Achievement Award".





## JOYCE A. HUGHES

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree from in 1961 magna cum laude from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. She was certified as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Madrid in Madrid Spain before earning her Juris Doctorate cum laude from the University of

Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1965. While earning her law degree, Hughes served as a member of the Law Review and graduated as a member of the Order of the Coif.

To begin her law career, Hughes clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Earl R. Larson in Minneapolis for two years. In 1967, she became a staff attorney for the law firm of Howard, LeFevre, Lefler, Hamilton and Pearson where she worked for four years. Hughes then became a consultant for the Auerbach Corporation in the firms OEO Legal Services Evaluation Department in their Philadelphia, Pennsylvania office.

In 1970, Hughes was appointed by then President Richard Nixon to the State of Minnesota's Selective Service Appeal Board where she served for one year. The following year, then Minnesota Governor Wendell Anderson appointed her to the Minnesota Constitutional Study Commission where she again served for one year. That same year, Hughes became of Legal Counsel to the law firm of Peterson and Holtze back in Minneapolis. She also became an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota. With her hiring at the University, Hughes became the first African American female tenured track law professor at a major university in twenty years with only tenured African American professors having served a predominantly Black law school.

In 1975, the Illinois State Supreme Court appointed Hughes to the Illinois Committee on Rules of Evidence. She served for two years on the Committee. She was then appointed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Delegation to the Helsinki Accord in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. That same year, then Illinois Governor James R. Thompson appointed Hughes to his Council on Jobs and the Economy. She served on that Council for two years.

In 1980, Hughes became the Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank in Chicago serving in the capacity for four years. That same year, then Chicago Mayor Jane M. Byrne appointed Hughes to a two-years seat on the Chicago Board of Education. Two years later, she became a Senior Attorney to Continental Illinois National Bank in Chicago where she served for two years.

In 1983, then Chicago Mayor, Harold Washington, appointed Hughes to the Transition Committee on Educational

Policy, the Public Safety Committee, and the Administrative Policy Committee. A year later, she became the General Counsel for the Chicago Transit Authority where she served for four years. She then became Of Counsel to the law firm of Carney and Brothers based in Chicago.

During her legal career, Hughes has taught law at several universities in the United States during her legal career. She taught at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois as a Visiting Associate Professor Law for one year before becoming an Associate Professor for three years. In 1979, Hughes became a full Professor of Law at Northwestern. She continued her teaching as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of California's Hasting College of Law in San Francisco, California.

While teaching, Hughes has taught courses and seminars on banking law, civil procedures, and evidence gathering. She has also taught courses on the Fourteenth Amendment, immigration law, and refugees and asylum. In addition, Hughes has taught courses on real estate law and preventive land law.

Hughes is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association and the Cook County Bar Association. She is also a member of the Black Women Lawyers of Greater Chicago Association. In addition, Hughes has served as a member of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' Committee on Policy for Racial Justice.

An advocate of serving local communities, Hughes has given community to service by serving as the Director of the Girl Scouts in New York City, New York; as a Trustee to the National Urban League; as the President and Director of The Chicago Forum; and as a member of the Visiting Committee to the Administrative Services of Harvard University. Hughes has served as the Director of the First Plymouth National Bank in Minneapolis; as the Director of the Community Renewal Society in Chicago; and as the Director of Leadership Greater Chicago. In addition, Hughes has served as a Trustee of Carleton College in Minnesota, as a member of the Advisory Board to the Children and Family Justice Center in Chicago, as a member of the Visiting Committee to Bennett College in Greensboro College in North Carolina, and as the Director of the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities in Chicago.

Hughes has been given many awards and accolades for her exemplary legal services, far to many to list her. A few of her awards and recognitions include being presented with an Alumni Achievement Award from Carleton College, a Service Award from the Black Law Student's Association at the University of Minnesota Law School, being named the Woman of the Year from Chicago's Coalition for United Community Action, and being presented with a Distinguished Service Award from the Black Women Lawyer's Association of Greater Chicago. The Cook County Bar Association presented Hughes with its' Ida B. Platt Award and inducted her into its' Hall of Fame while the Association of American Law School's Minority Group's Section gave her its' Clyde Ferguson Award. In addition, Hughes received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Carleton College.





## SILAS HERBERT HUNT

...was born on March 1, 1922 in Ashdown, Arkansas, located in Little River County, to Jessie Gulley Moton and R.D. Hunt. The family moved to Texarkana, Arkansas where Hunt would attend Booker T. Washington High School. In high school, he was elected as the President of the Student Body Council and was a member of the schools de-

bate team. He graduated in 1941 as Salutatorian of his senior class.

He enrolled into college at Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He worked at the Pine Bluff Arsenal to pay his way through school. In 1948, Hunt was admitted to the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was the first African American student to be admitted to the school since Reconstruction. More importantly, Hunt was the first African American student to be admitted to any all-white Southern university's graduate or higher learning field of study in the history of the United States.

Hunt had to put his education on hold to serve in the U.S. Army after the U.S. entered World War II. He served in Europe for twenty-three months as a construction engineer before being severely wounded at Battle of the Bulge. Once healed, Hunt returned to AM&N to complete his education. He graduated from AM&N in 1947 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

In his first job as a professional, he stayed at the university to work in the Dean's office while he contemplating at which school and how he would obtain his law degree. At that time, there were several African American students around the country that were challenging different law schools segregated laws hoping to change the laws so that they could attend. One of Hunts AM&N classmates, Ada Sipuel, had challenged entry into the University of Oklahoma College of Law and similar challenges were being made in North Carolina.

Hunt's application to the University of Indiana School of Law had been accepted and he had made plans to attend but felt he needed to challenge the Arkansas statutes as Sipuel had done in her home state of Oklahoma. Although Sipuel had been unsuccessful, with the urging of another fellow classmate, Wiley Branton, and that of then AM&N President, Lawrence Davis, Hunt decided to submit an application to the University of Arkansas School of Law with the aim of breaking the color barrier and entering the University's Law School.

With pressure from the lawyers at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the national negative attention other universities across the U.S. were receiving for their stance on integration, the University of Arkansas made a groundbreaking decision and decided to open their doors and classrooms to black students. The U.S. Supreme Court had ruled in a 1938 decision, *Missouri ex. rel. Gaines v. Canada*, although it upheld the controversial doctrine of "separate but equal," that states must provide equal legal education to black students as they did to white students. The ruling meant that the University must either building

new law school facilities specifically for black students or must integrate the all-white facilities that the universities already had. Arkansas thought it wiser to integrate rather than to spend the necessary money to build.

On January 30, 1948, the University of Arkansas signed paperwork that officially made it the first white Southern university to admit qualified black graduate students since the Reconstruction Era. The university still refused to admit undergraduate students but eventually relented and allowed black students once they realized the costs associated with not complying with the federal rules. On February 2, 1948, Hunt accompanied by his friend Wiley Branton, his Pine Bluff attorney Harold W. Flowers, and AM&N newspaper photographer Geleve Grice, met with the Dean of the law school, Dr. Robert A. Leflar who accepted Hunts application. After review of Hunt's academic papers, he was admitted to the law school becoming the first African American to be admitted to the University of Arkansas Law School.

Although he was admitted, Hunt was far from welcome. His segregated classes were held in the basement of the law school away from the other white students. Although the classes were open to all students, only a few white students attended. Nonetheless, Hunt handled the pressure and focused on his studies determined to complete his studies.

Hunt destined success was cut short when he fell ill from tuberculosis. It is believed that he carried symptoms of the disease for many years from his days serving in the military and his war injuries. After one semester attending the University of Arkansas law school, he was hospitalized at the Veteran's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri where he subsequently died on April 22, 1949. He was twenty-seven years old. Learning of his death, his friends, associates, and those that fought alongside him to gain his and other African American students entry into the University of Arkansas's Law School, had sadness in their hearts, as a true pioneer had departed.

In honor of his feat of being the first African American to break the color barrier at the University, in 1993, the University named one of its' administrative buildings in Hunt's name. The Silas Hunt Hall houses the schools Admission's Office, The Registrar's Office, The Student's Accounts Office and the Financial Aid Office. The Silas Hunt Scholarship Program also operates from the building. The program is a four-year academic scholarship program that includes comprehensive academic support requiring recipients be involved in monthly meetings and peer-to-peer mentoring.

In April of 2006, the University commemorated Hunt's short but important life when they created the "Silas Hunt Distinguished Scholar Awards". The award is to be given annually to a deserving African American student to help further their studies in the field of law. The "Silas Hunt Legacy Award" was established as well, which recognizes significant achievements and contributions made by individuals to the community, the state, or the nation. The Arkansas State Legislature named February 2nd of each year, the date that Hunt first was admitted to the school as "The Silas Herbert Hunt Day".

That same year, Donnie Dutton, Dean at the Global Campus, was commissioned to produce a biographical film, "Silas Hunt Documentary", to showcases Hunt's life and achievements. In March of 2011, the Silas Hunt Memorial Room in the Arkansas Union was dedicated as a part of the University's plan to promote diversity. Hunt was also honored when University of Central Arkansas professor Bryan Massey Sr. dedicated a sculpture of Hunt on the University of Arkansas campus in 2012.





## STYLES LINTON HUTCHINS

...was born on November 21, 1852 in Lawrenceville, Georgia. His father was a wealthy artist and afforded Hutchins a good life. After completing high school, he enrolled into the Atlanta College, now Atlanta

Clark University in Atlanta, Georgia where he received his undergraduate degree. He was one of the first African American students to graduate from the school.

After graduating from Atlanta College, Hutchins took a job teaching at a local public school. In 1871, he became the Principal of Knox Institute in Athens, Georgia. After two years as Principal, Hutchins decided to return to school and obtain his law degree.

For his law degree, Hutchins chose the University of South Carolina Law School in Columbia, South Carolina. After receiving his law degree, Hutchins then passed the South Carolina bar. He was the first African American to be admitted to the South Carolina Bar Association.

Hutchins returned to Georgia and applied for admission to the Georgia bar but found opposition to his application. After fighting for six months with the state bar over his admission, he was finally admitted to the bar and became the first African American to be admitted to the Georgia State Bar Association. Shortly thereafter, Hutchins moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee to open his law offices. He also became the Editor of the popular black newspaper, *The Independent Age*.

In 1886, Hutchins was elected to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly, winning by only eight votes. He served in the Assembly for one term, two years. He was the second African American to serve in the state legislature after William C. Hodge. After Hutchins, there would not be another African American to serve in the General Assembly until 1964. After leaving the state legislature, Hutchins returned to his private law practice and became involved in the work of his church. He took on as a client the Revenue Department of the U.S. Treasury.

In 1901, Hutchins became an ordained a minister in the United Brethren in Christ religious denomination. He used his ministry as a platform to expose and denounce

racism in U.S. southern states. Hutchins became known throughout Georgia and Tennessee for his fiery preaching mixed with religious and political parables.

In 1906, Hutchins took part in one of the most famous cases involving lynching in U.S. history. He and his law partner, Noah W. Parden, were hired to appeal the rape conviction of Ed Johnson, a black man accused of the crime. Hutchins and Parden appealed the case to the State Supreme Court who issued a stay of execution. As the legal team celebrated their victory, a mob of white supremacists, upset with the stay, broke into the Hamilton County jail where Johnson was held and dragged him out of the jail. They cruelly beat him and then hung him from a city bridge.

Johnson's legal team immediately called on the federal government to bring charges against members of the mob and against the Hamilton County Sheriff Shipp for him not taking steps to protect Johnson and to prevent his lynching. A suit was indeed filed, *United States v. Shipp*, and in a precedent-setting ruling, the Supreme Court found Sheriff Shipp and those involved guilty and sentenced to jail. After serving a short sentence, Shipp returned to a hero's welcome while Hutchins and Parden were forced out of town to save their own lives. Hutchins moved to Peoria, Illinois before finally settling in Kewanee, Illinois.

In 1917, Hutchins opened a barbershop in Kewanee and put his legal practice on hold. He would return to practicing law in Peoria, Illinois but for a period of time, Hutchins ran his community barbershop, which was located on West Fifth Street in Kewanee, Illinois. In recognition of his courage and accomplishments, Hutchins's peers and fellow attorneys established the S.L. Hutchins Bar Association in Chattanooga Tennessee.

Styles Linton Hutchins died on September 7, 1950. He was ninety-seven years old.



## HERBERT JEFFERSON HUTTON

...was born on November 26, 1937 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Lincoln University in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania where he received an A.B. degree in 1959. He would remain

in the Philadelphia area to attend Temple University School of Law, where he received his J.D. degree in 1962.

Hutton began his law career after passing the Pennsylvania State Bar exam by taking a job with the Pennsylvania Housing and Home Finance Agency. He worked for the Agency for two years before entering the field of private practice joining the law firm of Norris, Schmidt, Green, Harris & Higginbotham. Four years later, in 1988, he returned to work for the City of Philadelphia in their Board of Revision of Taxes as a Hearing Officer.

President Ronald Reagan nominated Hutton to the vacated seat of Clarence C. Newcomer on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The United States Senate confirmed Hutton's seat on the District Court bench on August 11, 1988. He took his seat the following day. Hutton would achieve Senior Status on September 6, 2003 where he would remain until his death.

One of the most notorious cases that Hutton was involved in was the 2001 racketeering trial of an accused "mobster" and "organized crime gangster", Joseph Salvatore Merlino, alias, "Skinny Joey". Merlino, born in 1962, grew up in the inner city era where drugs ran high, corruption was both corporate and governmental, and the inner cities security was paid either bought or paid for. Philadelphia was a nail to the pillow, hardcore existence in life if one were to survive. Venturing into the streets for a livelihood, many times meant the difference between life and death.

At that time, if one were to venture into "street" business, one had to know that street business in the "City of Brotherly Love" was intended for members certain "mob" family's only, or a free pass was given to other "families" or their associated partners. Permission was given or negotiated by the most powerful crime families who had divided the city into parts, which was then run by the chosen family or partner.

In the Merlino case, Skinny Joe and seven others associated with his Philadelphia crime family, which was a sub-family to the more powerful Scarfo crime family, were charged with a variety of crimes associated with their busi-

ness ventures. Although the family had legitimate businesses, many of them were fronts for organized crime. Merlino, unlike most mobsters, did not shun the spotlight but enjoyed media and public scrutiny.

Hutton, in the middle of the case became ill and the case was assigned to another Judge to complete the case. Merlino and his associates were convicted of the charges against them, including federal charges known as RICO, or Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. The defendants were found guilty and sentenced to fourteen years in federal prison.

Hutton eventually returned to the bench once his health improved. He would go on to reach Senior Status in 2003 where he would remain until his death four years later. On April 8 2007, Herbert Jefferson Hutton died. He was sixty-nine years old.



## S HERRILYN IFILL

...was raised in Queens, New York. Born to Panamanian parents who had emigrated to the United States, she was reared in a African Methodist Episcopal church going household. Having ten siblings, Ifill's early child-

hood consisted of hand me down clothing and the smaller portions at the dinner table. When she was almost six years old, her mother died of cancer.

After the death of her mother, Ifill's father, who had only a high school education and worked as an electrician, was able to secure a better job at a Harlem, New York community development agency helping young people. As a community activist, her father made it mandatory that Ifill and her siblings become politically aware. From the Sunday morning political talk shows to both the Democratic and Republican national conventions, Ifill got her fill of politics. She was most impressed with two African American women that she saw on TV, Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan and New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. These two women would help to shape Ifill's political awareness and sharpen her abilities to fight for her just causes.

Ifill's early education came through the public school system in New York. After graduating high school, she attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She then went on to attain her law degree from New York University's School of Law.

In the early 1980s, Ifill spent a semester in Spain perfecting her Spanish. There she met her future husband, Ivo Knobloch, a white German merchant marine. Understanding that their interracial wedding was a rarity at the time, Ifill nonetheless, went about her life loving her husband as any wife would do. They soon has a daughter.

In her first job after completing law school, Ifill served as a fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union. She then became an Assistant Counsel at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund (LDF). At the LDF, Ifill focused her attention mainly to voting rights cases. She was assigned to cases in the southern states of the country, specifically Texas. During that time, her husband, Ivo, would play an important role in parenting while Ifill was away performing her job.

Ifill played a pivotal role in the landmark Voting Rights Act case of *Houston Lawyers' Association vs. Attorney General of Texas*, in which the Supreme Court held that judicial

elections are covered by the provisions of section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. After successfully winning the case in 1993, Ifill took a position with the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, Maryland. As a faculty member, she taught her students Civil Procedures and Constitutional Law.

There she took on one of her more notable cases for free, one that would last twenty-one years. She represented a group of black and white residents of Harford County, Maryland in their attempt to stop the building of a landfill near a historic African American church, the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church. The church had been established by freed slaves in the 19th century and the church grounds contained the burial remains of both black slaves and black Civil War veterans. Although it took many years, in 2010 the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled in her favor and not landfill was built.

In another case, Ifill fought for residents of Jersey Heights, a black neighborhood on Maryland's Eastern Shore that was targeted by the state government to build a highway adjacent to the community. Ifill argued that two other highways had been built near the neighborhood and the proposed new highway, if built, would be seen as racial discrimination and a flagrant disregard for communities of color. Although she received several hate filled letters, Ifill was shaken but not deterred in her efforts to protect the civil rights of her clients.

From her research in that case, Ifill and her team of lawyers were able to uncover lynchings of two black men that had occurred in that area in the 1930s. One of the lynchings occurred in Princess Anne County and the other in Salisbury. Ifill is not one to live in the past but pressed her clients to understand the past so they would know how they got to be where they are.

Ifill has authored a book, *"On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the 21st Century,"* where she speaks about her lifelong analysis of race and public life in America. Other writings of hers address the importance of diversity in the courtroom, specifically on the bench. Always in pursuit of civil rights for her community, Ifill served the Open Society Institute as Chair of their Board of U.S. Programs. The Institute supports civil rights and social justice organizations throughout the country and is one of the largest philanthropic organizations to show this type of support.

As head of the LDF, Ifill splits her time between the Baltimore and New York City offices. She oversees a staff of seventy-five with twenty-five of them being lawyers. Her responsibilities include case assignments, fundraising campaigns and hands-on involvement with the twenty-five cases the LDF annually takes on.





## RODERICK L. IRELAND

...was born on December 3, 1944 and is a native of Springfield, Massachusetts. After completing high school, he attended Lincoln University in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania graduating in 1966 with his B.A. degree. He received his J.D. in 1969

from Columbia Law School in New York City. He went on to Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he was awarded his LL.M. Degree in 1975. In 1998, he earned his PhD. from Northeastern University's Law, Policy, and Society Program in Boston, Massachusetts.

In his early career, Ireland became the first staff attorneys for the non-profit legal services organization, the Roxbury Defenders Committee. Established to provide legal assistance to Boston's lower income citizens, Ireland became an advocate for the well being of the city's impoverished needing legal representation. After serving the Committee for six years, Ireland was nominated to sit on the bench of the Boston Juvenile Court by then by Governor Michael Dukakis.

In 1990, the Governor appointed Ireland to the Massachusetts Court of Appeals. After serving for seven years, new Massachusetts William Weld appointed him as Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. With his appointment to the Court, Ireland became the states first African-American Associate Justice. He also became the Chief Justice of the Court in 2010, being nominated by Governor y Governor Deval Patrick, which garnered him the title of being the first African American Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court in its' three hundred year history. He resigned from the Court in 2014.

Chief Justice then took a position on the faculty of Northeastern University School of Law as well as the Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice. He is currently a Distinguished Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Northeastern University. He also serves the University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice as a Distinguished Professor. Ireland also taught at Boston University's Law School and at Harvard's Law School. For New York University's Law School, he was on their faculty from 2001 through 2014 serving on the school's Appellate Judges Seminar.

As a writer, Ireland has authored several published works including the Massachusetts Juvenile Law, a two vol-

ume discourse published by Thomson/Reuters in its' Massachusetts Practice Series. The first edition of his writings was published in 1993 and the second in 2006. His articles and opinions have been published in several law reviews as well.

Ireland has been called upon to speak at various events to share his perspectives on law and issues surrounding the law. In favor of same-sex marriage, Massachusetts was the first state in the United States to find for it's legalization and Ireland was one of the four Justices to vote for the passage of the landmark law making it constitutional for members of the same sex to marry. He delivered a lecture on the topic at New York University School of Law's Sixteenth Annual Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Lecture on State Courts and Social Justice. Entitled "*In Goodridge's Wake: Reflections on the Political, Public and Personal Repercussions of the Massachusetts Same-Sex Marriage Cases,*" Ireland's views on the subject are widely sought after.

Ireland has been honored with numerous awards, recognitions, and honorary degrees from colleges and university laws schools. The Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys awarded him their Judicial Excellence Award. The Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association awarded him their Celebration of Excellence Award while the Massachusetts Black Judges Conference gave him the same honor. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, the Judicial Excellence Award from the Boston Bar Association, the Thurgood Marshall Award for Lifetime Achievement from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the President's Award for Judicial Excellence from the Massachusetts Judge's Association.

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation bestowed upon Ireland their Great Friend of Justice Award. He received the Judicial Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Bar Association and Lawyers Weekly Newspaper. Boston College's Law School gave him their St. Thomas More Award and he received the Boston Covenant Peace Prize.

Ireland has devoted his life's interest to constitutional law, criminal law, and juvenile law. For the courts, he has always given efforts to diversify the judiciary at every level seeking training programs to help ensure his goals. He is the President of the Northeastern University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice's, The Justice George Lewis Ruffin Society, organized to help uplift minorities involved in the criminal justice system and legal profession as a whole.

Photo Not Available



## HARRY ISLAND

Little is known about the childhood of Harry Island. It is known that he was born in the year 1812. Island was a slave of the Upper Creeks of the Muscogee Creek Nation from the Alabama clan. The Muscogee Creek Nation was one of the "Five Civilized Tribes" that were relocated in the early 1830s from the southeastern regions of the United States to

Indian Territory, which is now the state of Oklahoma. The Creek Nation at the time controlled the majority of land covering the states of Georgia and Alabama.

After the American Indian Wars, native tribes were relocated from the eastern regions to the west. The U.S. took what is now the state of Oklahoma and made it "Indian Territory". In the infamous "Trail of Tears", the tribes were made to walk, some by boat, to their "new land" in Oklahoma.

It is a well known fact that Native American tribes had slaves, just as did some southern whites. During the relocation of the tribes, many of the slaves, and other blacks intermingled into the tribes and made the journey with the nations. Island was one of those black slaves. The only difference was that Island spoke several languages fluently, including English and the tongues and dialects of different native clans.

Island became one of seven Native American interpreters that played an important role in the treaty negotiations between the U.S. Government and the Muscogee Creek Nation. All of the interpreters, like Island were slaves belonging to several of the local Muscogee Creek Chiefs. They spoke several of the Native tribes languages and was fluent in the different dialects. Chief Yargee, leader of the Musogee Tribe, did not speak English and used the interpreters to translate negotiations with the U.S. Government and other tribal leaders and to ensure the tribal treaties that were signed were legal according to both Indian law and that of the U.S. Government.

Over the years, the interpreters, although slaves, began to receive a stipend for their work. Island able to buy his own freedom and that of his Family. Now a free man, Island could charge more for his abilities and did so. He was soon able to buy his own land, cattle and horses.

In Indian Territory (Oklahoma), the Muscogee Creek Nation was divided into to groups. There were the Upper Creeks and the Lower Creeks. Chief Yargee and the Upper Creeks had little interest in mixing with whites. However, the Lower Creeks of the tribe had intermarried with whites in Alabama before the relocation which put Chief Yargee at odds with the Lower Creeks.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the "5 Civilized Tribes", (Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Creek), were divided in their loyalties toward the Confederacy and the Union. Those that aligned the Union, which the Upper Creeks did and the Lower Creeks did not, during the ensuing battles lost everything and many lost their lives fighting for their freedoms. Island served as a interpreter and negotiator between the tribes.

During the Civil War, the U.S. Government was in need of Indian interpreters. Chief Yargee had several and Island was one. He hired him out to the U.S. Army. He became one of the mouth pieces between the government and the native nation leaders. Many times, Island was the main protector of the legal rights of the natives as he controlled the dialogue between the opposing parties.

After the war, Island became not only a translator of tribal and national policies, as they relate to Native American rights today, he be-

came a part of the negotiating team chosen to represent the Chief and the citizens of the Muscogee Creek Nation in the settlement treaties of the 1860s and 1870s. When the Civil War ended and the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the treaties that Island and his fellow interpreters had helped to negotiate between the government and the tribe took effect.

In the post Civil War negotiations with the government, the Lower Creeks, not having many black citizens in their tribe as they had over the years assimilated more toward a European lifestyle, wanted to exclude the Upper Creek blacks from the negotiations and all future benefits as tribal Muscogee Creek members. Chief Yargee, a believer of inclusion of the blacks, chose Island, Cow Tom, Sugar George, Silas Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Ketch Barnett, and John Meyers to represent him in the negotiations with Washington to protect black Indian rights as he spoke no English.

During the settlement process, the government convened a meeting at Ft. Smith in Arkansas whereby all "5 Civilized Tribes" were represented. Chief Yargee and the Upper Muscogee Creek clan were the only tribe to bring to the meeting black Indians in an official capacity. The Upper Creeks were the only tribe that wanted to include blacks in the settlement agreement. To ensure that blacks were included, Chief Yargee sent a contingent to Washington, D.C. to argue the case. He sent Island, Cow Tom and a few others to represent him and the Nation. Cow Tom would later become the Chief of the Nation.

In their presentation and arguments to the U.S. Government, it was argued that the black Indian should be included in the due benefits as many had served in the Union Army and had fought side by side with white soldiers. It was argued that the blacks should be included in due benefits under the tenets of the Emancipation Proclamation that made a Muscogee Creek slave, a citizen of the Tribe. To exclude the blacks from the restitution of lost property and loved ones' lives during the war would be unconstitutional.

Island and his fellow "interpreters", now acting as lawyers negotiating with the federal government, pointed out that in the fight for the territory and land in Indian Territory, one of the bloodies battles to occur was the "Battle of Honey Springs", also known as "the Affair at Elk Creek" was fought mainly by black soldiers.

It was pointed out that on July 17, 1863, the Union soldiers won an important victory in their efforts to gain control of Indian Territory. Fought near what is now Checotah, Oklahoma, this battle was the largest confrontation between Union and Confederate forces in the south. Island and his team pointed out that what was most ironic about that particular battle was that for the first time in such a large battle and with so many lives lost, on both sides of the fighting forces, the majority of the soldiers were black. No matter which side the government wanted to extend benefits, the black Indian was due his benefits. Island and his team were victorious. In the signed treaties, the black Indians were given the same benefits as any citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation. This given right would play a gigantic role in the creation of "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma during the oil boom of the early 1900s.

After the closing of the Civil War, in the final settlement with the U.S. Government, those that were "loyal to the Union", as the Confederacy had lost, for claims and benefits to be paid, according to the 1870 Loyal Creek Abstract, "it was ascertained that of the loyal Choctaws and Chickasaws who thus lost property there were 212; of the loyal Seminoles there were 340; of the loyal Creeks 1,523". Chief Yargee, Island and the other interpreters were right. The Creeks lost more fighting to end slavery than any other tribe. Thanks to Island and his team, who fought to ensure that the tribes included their black slaves in the signed benefits due, the black Indian was included.

Harry Island died on August 15, 1872 at the age of sixty. He was buried in Agency Cemetery, an African Creek cemetery near Muskogee, Oklahoma. Buried in the same cemetery are his fellow interpreters, Cow Tom, Sugar George and over 1000 others, long forgotten.





## ALPHONSO R. JACKSON

...was born on September 9, 1945 in Marshall, Texas. The youngest of twelve children, Jackson's mother worked as a midwife delivering babies, while his father worked as a foundry worker, janitor, and a landscaper. He graduated high school from the public schools in Marshall.

He attended Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri where he earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science. In his freshman year, Jackson participated in his first civil rights demonstration when he marched in the historical Selma to Montgomery, Alabama march led by national civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. The march would become known as "Bloody Sunday". From that march, Jackson knew that he wanted to do more for equal justice and civil rights. He remained at Truman State to earn a Master's degree in Education Administration in 1969. He then entered Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri to obtain his law degree.

To begin his professional career, Jackson took a job as an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Several years later, he took the job of the Director of Public Safety for the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Four years after that, in 1981, Jackson accepted the position as the Executive Director of the St. Louis Housing Authority. He remained at the Authority for three years.

In 1983, Jackson became a consultant to an accounting firm and became more involved in the local politics, both the Democratic and Republican scene. Wetting his feet, he ran unsuccessfully as a municipal revenue collector and worked on the campaign of Republican Jack Danforth for U.S. Senate. Jackson was noticed by political powerbrokers in Washington, D.C. and was appointed as Director of the U.S. Department of Public and Assisted Housing for Washington, D.C..

In 1989, after several discrimination lawsuits had been filed, Jackson became the President and Chief Executive Officer to the Housing Authority (DHA) of the City of Dallas. He became the Authority's first African American President and CEO. He was charged with fixing the problems within the Authority and to improve the living conditions of the city's poorest residents.

Jackson is credited with repairing run-down and unsafe public housing complexes and made arrangements to improve neighborhood conditions. He brought to a struggling west Dallas neighborhood its' first supermarket and found investments to fund a commercial development project to bring jobs and economic growth to troubled areas.

In 1995, after a U.S. District Court order to desegregate public housing units across the country, Dallas was ordered to integrate it's public housing. The order called for 3,200 low-income minority families to be placed in predominantly white neighborhoods. Under Jackson's leadership, the city constructed new public housing units for mixed use in predominately white areas of Dallas. The designed housing units consisting of townhouses and duplexes were not without a fight from the local homeowner associations. Despite their objections,

Jackson and the city of Dallas built the public housing to comply with the federal mandate.

Jackson left the DHA for private practice and became the Vice President of Corporate Resources for Central Southwest Power, now American Electric Power. Two years later, in 1998, Jackson became President of Austin based and \$13 billion utility company, American Electric Power-Texas (AEPT). His responsibilities included operations and public and community affairs at AEPT's two subsidiaries, Central Power and Light Company and West Texas Utilities Company. He would serve as President until 2001.

In 2001, with the election of Republican George W. Bush to the Presidency of the United States and having known and lived in the same neighborhood as Bush, Jackson was tapped by Bush for a federal job in the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). At HUD, Jackson was the second in command and the Chief Operating Officer. He answered only to his immediate HUD boss, Secretary Mel Martinez and the President.

On January 28, 2004, Jackson was nominated by President George W. Bush to replace Martinez as Secretary of HUD. Jackson would be approved by Congress and became the thirteenth Secretary of HUD. He would serve as Secretary for four years, resigning over alleged unethical conduct in the way HUD was awarding contracts to its' contractors, sub-contractors, and vendors. Under Jackson's leadership, for the first time in thirteen years, HUD was removed from the U.S. Government Accountability Office's high-risk list of government agencies. He also increased minority spending when it came to procurement of outside vendors.

In 2008, after leaving HUD, Jackson took a position at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia as a Distinguished University Professor. He also served as the university's Director of the Center for Public Policy and Leadership. As Director, Jackson was responsible for making the university's research relevant to real world problems. Hampton is the only historical black university to have such a research center. He served as Director for four years. In 2012, Jackson took the position as Vice-Chairman of Consumer & Community Banking in New York City with JP Morgan Chase.

As an expert on public housing and urban affairs, Jackson has served on numerous state and national commissions. He served, most notably, as Chairman of the General Services Commission of the State of Texas. He also served on the National Commission on America's Urban Families and the National Commission on Severely Distressed Public Housing.

Jackson has been recognized for his outstanding work and has received several awards including an Aspen Fellow, the American Family Life Assurance Company (AFLAC) Lifetime Achievement Award, the Jewish National Fund of New York's National Tree of Life Award, and the National Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award. The National Boys and Girls Clubs of America awarded Jackson their Chairman's Award and the Truman State University gave Jackson their Distinguished Alumni Award. He also received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jackson has received honorary degrees from Benedict College, Hampton University, Harris Stowe State University, Hiram College and Morehouse College. He received honorary degrees from North Carolina A&T State University, Paine College, and Tuskegee University. Jackson also received an honorary degree from Texas College and Texas Southern University.





## JUANITA ALEXANDRA JACKSON

...grew up in a community and family that had a mixture of wealthy southern black culture and an inner city Black Panther flow. Her mother, a debutante, was from a wealthy family

while her father was a militant Black Panther Party member. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama (UA) in Tuscaloosa in 1988. She received her law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas in 1997. While studying for her degrees, Jackson worked as a Coordinator in the Residential Life & Housing at UA all four years that she studied at the University. She held the same job at the University of Houston when she studied there.

In her first professional position as a practicing attorney, Jackson worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the Texas Attorney General's Office. She served in the Consumer Protection Division where she litigated cases centered on product fraud and other consumer related matters. After almost two years with the Attorney General's Office, Jackson decided to open her own firm.

In 2001, she stepped out on her own and formed The Jackson Law Group specializing in criminal law. Since then, she has worked in the legal profession handling a variety of cases, from housing issues to murder. In 2011, Durham was offered a position in the Harris County Public Defender's Office as an Assistant Public Defender. For the last six years, she has served Harris County citizens unable to pay a private practicing attorney.

As a Public Defender, Jackson has litigated over seventy criminal cases and has tried sixty-five of them. She has represented defendants in cases involving family law, juvenile law, and civil rights. She also handles cases having criminal allegations.

Jackson 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 Jackson 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.



## SHEILA JACKSON LEE

...was born Sheila Jackson on January 12, 1950 in Queens, New York. She graduated from Jamaica High School in Queens, New York. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972 from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut

majoring in Political Science. She attended the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia and obtained her Juris Doctorate degree in 1975. While in college, she joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Jackson Lee moved to Houston, Texas after marrying Dr. Elwyn C. Lee who took a job with the University of Houston (UH) in Houston, Texas. He currently serves as the Vice Chancellor at the UH System. He also serves as the Vice President of Student Affairs at the University. Arriving in Houston, Jackson Lee became involved with local politics and set out to serve the community's needs as an attorney. For decades she served Houston and Texas citizens as an advocate for human, social, and civic rights.

Jackson Lee serves as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 18th Congressional District in Texas. She is currently serving her eleventh term as Congresswoman and has become an influential force on Capital Hill in Washington and is dedicated to uplifting the Constitution while protecting the rights of her constituents. She has given a lifetime to protecting women, children and African Americans from injustice and unfair treatment.

Before becoming a Congresswoman, Jackson Lee served as a Houston Municipal Judge after being appointed to the position in 1986 by then Mayor of Houston Kathy Whitmire and she served for three years. She then was elected in the 1989 general election as an At-Large candidate to a seat on the Houston City Council. While serving on the Council, she was pivotal in the passing of a city safety ordinance that required parents to safeguard their weapons and to keep guns away from children. As a way to combat gang violence, Jackson Lee introduced legislation to expand the summer hours of the city's parks and recreation centers to keep the young off of Houston city streets.

In 1994, Jackson Lee challenged incumbent and four-term U.S. Congressman Craig Washington for his congressional seat in the Democratic primary. Some Houston residents had become disgruntled with Washington for his refusal to back several projects that could benefit Houston citizens. She easily defeated Washington gathering 63% of the casted votes. In the general election, she won 73% of the votes over her Republican opponent in the heavy Democratic district.

Arriving in Washington, it would not be long before Jackson Lee became involved in some of the most important issues facing Texas and the United States. She would take on some of the nation's most critical issues standing firm in her resolve to eradicate racism, unjust treatment of the civil rights of U.S. citizens, and econom-

ic fairness in government spending. During her lengthy tenure on Capital Hill, she has been appointed to many important committees and has engaged many of her peers to her causes.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee currently sits on three Congressional Committees. She serves as a senior member of the House Judiciary Homeland Security Committee, serves as a member of the important and crucial Budget Committee, and serves as the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigation Committee. She is also a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and serves as its' Whip.

Jackson Lee is known for her fiery stances and is unafraid when it comes to voicing her concerns or positions of current issues facing the nation. Over her long career, she has been labeled and has made the Washington Magazine's list as one of the "Best and the Worst" members of Congress. She was labeled as one of the best Congressional members for her steadfast determination and fight for protection of human rights and equal access to society's prosperity. She was labeled as one of the worst Congressional members by D.C. news publication, The Daily Caller, for having the highest staff turnover in Congress over the past decade. Jackson Lee has gone through eleven Chiefs of Staff in eleven years with a list of staff turnovers that is quite lengthy.

Despite those turnovers, Jackson Lee remains a force of reason for the issues and problems facing the country. On trade issues, she favored normalizing trade with China. For human rights, she has fought racism in Texas and has been in the forefront of racial incidents that have made national news. Internationally, she has backed sanctions against countries involved in human suffering including speaking out against Sudan and South African human rights violations. Jackson Lee has been actively involved in the immigration issues and is a supporter of increased border protection while at the same time calling for legalized citizenship for illegal immigrants already inside the United States but opposed a guest worker program introduced for temporary jobs for foreign nationals.

Jackson Lee has been critical of the Tea Party and an avid supporter of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act calling it constitutional under the Commerce Clause. She has introduced the Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act, which was designed to assess the effectiveness of the TWIC program. Jackson Lee even called for the U.S. National Weather Service to begin to name hurricanes after African Americans, as every name they have chosen were white names. She stated that all cultures should be represented in the name allotments. She also took a firm stance against the Confederate flag being flown over southern state capitals.

Jackson Lee has been instrumental in the construction of the Sentencing Reform Act, the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, and the RAISE Act. She was involved with the Fair Chance for Youth Act, Kalief's Law, and the American Rising Act. She has introduced several key House bills, including the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act, the Federal prison Bureau and Nonviolent Offender Relief Act, and the Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act. In addition, Jackson Lee is a supporter of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act.





## ELMER C. JACKSON, JR.

...was born October 22, 1912 in Kansas City, Kansas. He graduated in 1929 from Kansas City's Sumner High School. He enrolled into the University of Kansas where he received both

his undergraduate degree in 1933 and his law degree in 1935. After passing the Kansas State Bar, he began his professional career and opened his own law firm in his hometown.

Jackson would remain in private practice for the next seventeen years taking on a variety of cases that dealt with family law and civil rights. In 1952, he joined forces with a larger law firm, Stevens, Jackson, Davis and Haley. He would work with the firm for nine years.

In 1959, Jackson joined the National Bar Association. He became the President of the organization where he served for two years. In 1966, he served as the Secretary of Membership. He would serve in that capacity for nine years, until 1975.

In 1963, he took a job as the Project Manager and General Counsel with the Wyandotte County Legal Aid Society. At the Legal Aid, Jackson's responsibility was to administer legal services to the residents of Wyandotte County that could not afford to pay for their legal services. He would remain at the Legal Aid office for five years.

In 1970, Jackson was appointed by then Governor Robert Docking to the Kansas Board of Regents. Six years later, he became the Chairman of the Board where he served for two years. He became the first African American to become Chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents.

One of Jackson's more notable cases involved the 1975 case of four African American medical students from the University of Kansas that faced a lawsuit from a white administrator at the University. The four students had made a complaint against Dante G. Scarpelli, the Chairman of the University's Medical Center's Department of Pathology and Oncology. They claimed that Scarpelli was using techniques and strategies whose purposes were to remove the African American students from the medical school.

Scarpelli had brought suit against the four students claiming they had defamed his character when they filed a discriminatory complaint against him and the Medical School when they claimed in the complaint that Scarpelli had committed "willful and unlawful acts of discrimination toward black medical students in an attempt to systematically eliminate them from medical school". The trial ended in a hung jury and a second trial was set. In the second trial, Scarpelli had won a \$44,000 judgment against the four students from a Wyandotte County District Court jury.

Jackson came to the defense of the students in an appeal to the Kansas State Supreme Court. With the help of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the four students won a unanimous reversal in the case which gave vindication to the four students and gave other students, trade unions, and others a sense of hope for their civil rights struggles. The verdict also gave Jackson and the NAACP confidence in litigating similar cases that addressed civil rights issues. In their decision, the Court ruled that Dr. Scarpelli, as a public figure, did not meet the standards of proof that the students acted with malice when they made their claims rather than filing a complaint in good faith citing actual grievances and not reckless disregard to Scarpelli's character. Ironically, the four students went on to become successful doctors and are making great contributions to their respective communities.

Over his legal career, Jackson has been a member of several associations and organizations. He has been a member of the American Bar Foundation, the Kansas City, Kansas Bar Association, and the Wyandotte County Bar Association. For his alma mater, Jackson has served as a member of the University of Kansas Alumni and Endowment Association and the University of Kansas Endowment Association. He has served on the Boards of the Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce, the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and the Urban League.

Jackson was honored by the University of Kansas's Law School when they created a scholarship in his name to be given to deserving African American students interested in the field of law. The Law School also gave him their "Distinguished Alumni Citation". In 1991, Jackson was awarded the Fred Ellsworth Medallion for his service to the University.

Elmer C. Jackson, Jr. died March 19, 1999.



## MAYNARD HOLBROOK JACKSON, JR.

...was born on March 23, 1938 in Dallas, Texas to Irene Dobbs Jackson and Maynard H. Jackson Sr.. Growing up in a family having generations of education and civil rights as a dominate force, Jackson, Jr., had no options other

than success. He spent his first seven years in Dallas before the family relocated to Atlanta, Georgia.

The Jackson family placed a high value on education and political activism. His maternal grandfather, John Wesley Dobbs, was a civil rights leader who successfully helped to overturn the white primary in Georgia. Dobbs also lobbied for the hiring of black police officers in Atlanta and for street lights for the main retail street of the black community, Auburn Street. Jackson Jr.'s father died when he was fifteen and his grandfather Dobbs became the major influence in his life.

Maynard's mother Irene (Dobbs) Jackson was one of five daughters who all graduated from Spelman College. She earned a doctorate in France and later became a Professor, teaching French at Spelman College in Atlanta. She had four other sisters, all graduating from Spelman.

Jackson, Sr., after graduating high school, attended Morehouse College, a historically black college for men in Atlanta. He graduated in 1956 at the age of eighteen. Having being raised in the church and having a good voice, he sang in the Morehouse College Glee Club.

Jackson left Atlanta to attend Boston University's Law School in Boston, Massachusetts. He withdrew after a short time, joining the workforce selling encyclopedias. In 1964, he returned to graduate school, attending the North Carolina Central University Law School. There, he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He married Burnella "Bunnie" Hayes, in 1965 and had three Children, Elizabeth, Brooke, and Maynard III. After divorcing Bunnie, in 1977, Jackson married Valerie Richardson, having two more children, Valerie and Alexandra.

At the age of thirty, in 1968, Jackson made a run for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Herman Talmadge. Underfunded, he lost but gained prominence in Atlanta's black minority. The following year, he was elected as Vice Mayor. Atlanta modified its city charter and renamed the Vice Mayor position to President of the City Council.

He became Mayor in 1973, with sixty percent of the vote becoming Atlanta's first African-American Mayor at the age

of thirty-five. Supported by a rainbow coalition of black and white liberals, he vowed as Mayor to improve race relations in Atlanta and the surrounding areas. He began by leading the push for public-works projects for the city and ensuring affirmative action programs helped minority and women-owned businesses be a part of the economic advances. For his efforts, Jackson received the Samuel S. Beard Award for Greatest Public Service by an Individual Thirty-Five Years or Under, in 1974.

During his tenure, he worked to upgrade the then-William B. Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport's huge terminal (now Domestic Terminal). He opposed the construction of freeways through in-town neighborhoods, lobbied for federal funding to improve and expand the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), and was pivotal in securing the 1996 Summer Olympic Games he accepted the Olympic flag at the 1992 closing ceremonies in Barcelona, Spain.

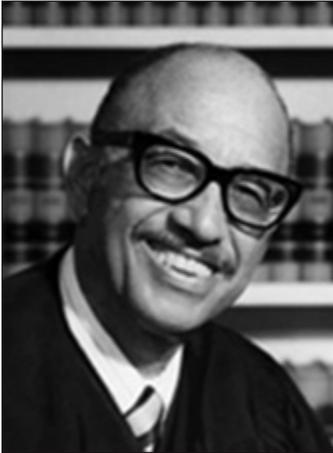
For the inner cities of Atlanta, he oversaw improvements for city parks and recreation departments. He repaired freeways in anticipation of Atlanta's future growth expected after the Olympic Games were over. He helped to calm public tensions caused by the serial killings of black children in the infamous Atlanta Child Murders case between 1979 and 1981.

Jackson drew criticism when, believing a change was needed to help solve Atlanta's growing crime problem, he attempted to fire the incumbent white police chief, John Inman. Needing to solve the black community's concerns of the police's racial insensitivity toward African Americans, he came under fire when whites opposed the firing. Racial tensions rose when he appointed a college friend and fellow activist, A. Reginald Eaves, as Public Safety Commissioner who lacked police experience. Despite the protest, Jackson kept Eaves as Commissioner. Eaves was later convicted of extortion in 1988 after selling his vote on two rezoning bills. He created more controversy by appointing an ex-convict as his personal secretary and by his quota promotions and hiring process in the police department. Many labeled the practice as "reverse discrimination".

After leaving the Mayor's office, Jackson continued to be active with the Democratic Party. He unsuccessfully sought the Democratic National Committee Chairmanship but was appointed as the National Development Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and also became the first Chairman of the DNC Voting Rights Institute. He founded the American Voters League, a non-profit and non-partisan effort to increase national voter participation, in 2002.

At the age of sixty-five, after suffering a heart attack at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C., Jackson died of cardiac arrest at a Arlington, Virginia hospital. His remains were returned to Atlanta where he was buried at the Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta.





## BERNARD SAMUEL JEFFERSON

...was born on June 29, 1910 in Coffeeville Mississippi to Eldora M. and Nelson E. Jefferson. The youngest of four children, the family lived in a rural all-white community and education was segregated. To ensure their children received a good education, Jefferson and his sibling were

home-schooled. When Jefferson was a child, his family moved Denver, Colorado to make a better life than the one they had in Mississippi. The family would eventually make another move, to Los Angeles (LA), California.

In L.A., Jefferson attended the city's public schools. He was a very gifted student and his brilliance was noticed when he began to perform as a debater and orator. He played trumpet in his high school's marching band and graduated from the school, Manual Arts High School as class Valedictorian in 1927.

He entered the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) where he applied his great oratory skills and joined the school's debate team. He continued his trumpet playing with the school's marching band and joined the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. For his academic achievements, Jefferson was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Scholastic Society. In 1931, Jefferson graduated from UCLA, sum cum laude, with an A.B. degree in Political Science. To obtain his law degree, Jefferson accepted a scholarship to Harvard University Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He completed his law studies and received his LL.B degree, cum laude, in 1934.

Jefferson took a job in Washington, D.C. to begin his legal career. He served for six years as a Professor of Law at Howard University School of Law. He then returned to Harvard to pursue graduate studies. He obtained a Doctor of Juridical Science degree in the field of Evidence in 1943.

After obtaining his graduate studies degree, Jefferson returned to Washington D.C. to work for the Office of Price Administration as an Assistant General Counsel. He would serve at the Administration until 1946. He then moved back to Los Angeles.

In L.A., Jefferson practiced law as a private attorney and over the next thirteen years, he would build a successful law practice. In 1959, he was appointed by then Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr. as a Judge on the Municipal Court. A year later, he was elevated to the Superior Court.

In 1967, Jefferson was selected as a member of the faculty of California College of Trail Judges. After serving on the faculty for seven years, he became Dean and served in that capacity for one year. In February of 1969, Jefferson conducted a seminar for the National College of the State Judiciary in Anchorage, Alaska on Evidence and Civil Trials for Alaska's District Court Judges.

In 1972, Jefferson conducted a similar seminar, Evidence for Judges of the District Court of the State of Minnesota. He conducted another seminar, Evidence for Hawaii's Judiciary in April of 1974. A year later, Jefferson was appointed to the Court of Appeals. He became the first African Americans appointed to the state Court.

Justice Jefferson, while sitting on the bench, became one of the country's foremost scholars on legal issues. He distinguished himself as an unparalleled judicial litigator whose brilliant mind adjudicated many important cases presented to the Court. While serving on the bench, Jefferson penned several articles and publications while he served on the bench. In 1972, he authored his legendary 957-page book, "California Evidence Benchbook" published by the Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) for the California of Judges. Jefferson wrote a 344-page supplement to his 957-page book in 1975. Three years later, he wrote a 644-page supplement to the first book.

A Second Edition of "California Evidence Benchbook" was published in 1982 as a two-volume book set containing 1900 pages. Jefferson would author other legal articles that were published in the Boston Law Review, the Columbia Law Review, and the Harvard Law Review.

In 1980, Justice Jefferson left his position as Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals. He accepted a teaching position as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of West Los Angeles School of Law in Culver City. He became the President of the University's Law School in 1982. In addition, he taught classes in Evidence and Criminal Procedure. While serving as President, Jefferson is credited with expanding the school's curriculum, which allowed the school to gain more students entering the field of law.

Justice Jefferson has been a member of many associations and organizations including the American Bar Association, the California State Bar, the California State Bar's Joint Advisory Committee on Continuing Education of the Bar, the Executive Board of the Conference of California Judges, the Langston Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the Subcommittee on Trail Practice.

Justice Jefferson has served his local community and others across the country during his professional career. He has served on the Board of Trustee's First A.M.E. Church of Los Angeles, the Board of Managers Wilshire Branch YMCA, and District Commissioner of Boy Scouts of America, Regional Board of Directors National Council of Christians and Jews. He also served the Pacific Southwest Area Council of YMCA, the National Council of YMCAs, the L.A. Regional Welfare Planning Council, the Los Angeles Community Chest, the Minority Employment Advisory Committee of the Department of Employment, and the Angel City #18 Prince Hall of Masons.

Justice Jefferson built an outstanding reputation that exemplified his many awards and honors. He has been recognized and received awards from the Conference of California Judges, the California Trial Lawyers Association, the California Center for Judicial Education and Research, the Criminal Courts Bar Association, the Langston Bar Association, the Lawyer's Club of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association, and UCLA. Jefferson has been given the "Distinguished Merit Award" by the Minority Bar Association, the "St. Thomas More Medal" from the Loyola Marymount University Law School, and the "Order of the Coif" from the University of Southern California Law School. The California Association of Black Lawyers also gave Jefferson their, "Bernard S. Jefferson Jurist Award".

Bernard Samuel Jefferson died on March 17, 2002. He was ninety-one years old.



## SILAS JEFFERSON

...is also known as Ho-tul-ko-micco (Wind Clan Chief) was born in 1835 at Taskigi Town (or Tuskegee) in the Old Creek Nation of Alabama to Betsey and Jeffery Manac (McNac). He was a member of the Upper Creeks of the Muscogee Creek Nation from the Alabama clan. The Muscogee Creek Nation was one of the "Five Civilized Tribes" that were relocated in the early 1830s during the infamous "Trail of Tears" that moved the Native Americans from their eastern lands of Georgia and Alabama to

modern day Oklahoma. The Creek Nation at the time controlled the majority of land covering the states of Georgia and Alabama. Jefferson's tribe and family were relocated in 1838.

It is a well known fact that Native American tribes had slaves, just as did some southern whites. During the relocation of the tribes, many of the slaves, and other blacks intermingled into the tribes and made the journey with the nations. Jefferson was one of those black slaves. The only difference was that Jefferson spoke several languages fluently, including English and the tongues and dialects of different native clans.

Jefferson became one of seven Native American interpreters that played an important role in the treaty negotiations between the U.S. Government and the Muscogee Creek Nation. All of the interpreters, like Jefferson were slaves belonging to several of the local Muscogee Creek Chiefs or Creek citizens. The interpreters spoke several of the Native tribes languages and were fluent in the different dialects. Chief Yargee, leader of the Musogee Tribe, did not speak English and used the interpreters to translate negotiations with the U.S. Government and other tribal leaders and to ensure the tribal treaties that were signed were legal according to both Indian law and that of the U.S. Government.

In Indian Territory (Oklahoma), the Muscogee Creek Nation was divided into to groups. There were the Upper Creeks and the Lower Creeks. Chief Yargee and the Upper Creeks had little interest in mixing with whites. However, the Lower Creeks of the tribe had intermarried with whites in Alabama before the relocation which put Chief Yargee at odds with the Lower Creeks. When the Civil War broke out, the two factions of the tribe were on opposing sides.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the "5 Civilized Tribes", (Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Creek), were divided in their loyalties toward the Confederacy and the Union. Those that aligned with the Union, which the Upper Creeks did and the Lower Creeks did not, during the ensuing battles lost everything and many lost their lives fighting for their freedoms. Jefferson served as a interpreter and negotiator between the tribes.

Jefferson and joined the First Indian Home Guard Regiment, Company I, during the Civil War. the Civil War, the U.S. Government was in need of Indian interpreters. Jefferson became one of the mouth pieces between the government and the native nation leaders. Many times, Jefferson was the main protector of the legal rights of the natives as he controlled the dialogue between the opposing parties.

After the war, Jefferson became not only a translator of tribal and national policies, as they relate to Native American rights today, he became a part of the negotiating team chosen to represent the Chief Yargee and the Muscogee Creek Nation in the settlement treaties of the 1860s and 1870s. During those times, Jefferson amassed power, money and political prestige. He served on the Muskogee Creek House of Warriors representing Taskigi Town.

When the Civil War ended and the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the treaties that Jefferson and his fellow interpreters had helped to negotiate between the government and the tribe took effect. In filing war claims, as a U.S. soldier, Jefferson filed one of the first claims as part of the Loyal Creeks Act of 1867. Enacted by the U.S. Congress to compensate Native American tribes for their losses during the Civil War, Jefferson, as did other natives in fleeing Oklahoma for Kansas, and in the Kansas massacre, had lost much. For his military duties, he and over 300 Freedman and 60 black soldiers of the Indian Home Guards received compensation.

For his black Indian heritage, Jefferson and other blacks faced being left out of the settlements concerning lost property as it related to the war. In the post

Civil War negotiations with the government, the Lower Creeks, not having many black citizens in their tribe as they had over the years assimilated more toward a European lifestyle, wanted to exclude the Upper Creek blacks from the negotiations and all future benefits as tribal Muscogee Creek members. Chief Yargee, a believer of inclusion of the blacks, chose Jefferson, Cow Tom, Harry Island, Silas Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Ketch Barnett, and John Meyers to represent him and the Muscogee Upper Creeks in the negotiations with Washington to protect black Indian rights as he spoke no English.

During the settlement process, the government convened a meeting at Ft. Smith in Arkansas whereby all "5 Civilized Tribes" were represented. Chief Yargee and the Upper Muscogee Creek clan were the only tribe to bring to the meeting black Indians in an official capacity. Of the five tribes represented at the negotiating table, the Upper Creeks were the only tribe that wanted to include blacks in the settlement agreement. To ensure that blacks were included, Chief Yargee sent a contingent to Washington, D.C. to argue the case before the government and Jefferson was a part of the team of "interpreters", lawyers at this point, representing and arguing a case.

In their presentation and arguments to the U.S. Government, it was argued that the black Indian should be included in the due benefits as many had served in the Union Army and had fought side by side with white soldiers. It was argued that the blacks should be included in due benefits under the tenets of the Emancipation Proclamation that made a Muscogee Creek slave, a citizen of the Tribe. To exclude the blacks from the restitution of lost property and loved ones' lives during the war would be unconstitutional.

Jefferson, a veteran of the war, and his fellow "interpreters", now acting as lawyers negotiating with the federal government, pointed out that in the fight for the territory and land in Indian Territory, one of the bloodies battles to occur was the "Battle of Honey Springs", also known as "the Affair at Elk Creek" was fought mainly by black soldiers on both sides of the fighting forces. Jefferson and his team were victorious. In the signed treaties, the black Indians were given the same benefits as any citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation. This given right would play a gigantic role in the creation of "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma during the oil boom of the early 1900s.

After the closing of the Civil War, in the final settlement with the U.S. Government, those that were "loyal to the Union", as the Confederacy had lost, for claims and benefits to be paid, according to the 1870 Loyal Creek Abstract, "it was ascertained that of the loyal Choctaws and Chickasaws who thus lost property there were 212; of the loyal Seminoles there were 340; of the loyal Creeks 1,523". Chief Yargee, Jefferson and the other interpreters were right. The Creeks lost more fighting to end slavery than any other tribe. Thanks to Jefferson and his team, who fought to ensure that the tribes included their black slaves in the signed benefits due, the black Indian was included.

Jefferson served as an advisor to Chief Locha Hacho in 1875. The Chief was impeached a year later and removed from office by the Creek Council. Four years later, Jefferson ran for Second Chief on the Loyal Party Ticket, named for the Creek citizens that sided with the Union Army during the Civil War. Running on the ticket with Creek Judge Isparhecher, the entire ticket was dropped from the election, when the Loyal Party's leading voice, Isparhecher, called for armed resistance Against the Creek Constitutional government and withdrew the Party from the race altogether. He and the Loyal Party moved to Nuyuka Town west of Okmulge to set up their own government.

The U.S. Government made plans to take tribal land and redistribute it in allotments. In the plan, it was learned that the black Creek citizens would be given land. Full bloods were angry that blacks would be included in the dispersment of land. Chief Checote, not a proponent of mixing native blood with that of blacks, suggested the blacks receive land away from the rest of the tribe while the Creek Supreme Judge Isparhecher, a full blood, was opposed altogether of blacks receiving land. The government's position was that the Indian Treaty of 1866, signed after the Civil War, black Indians, as citizens, were entitled to receive land.

The two opposing sides became so enraged that Judge Isparhecher called for some Creeks to cede from the Nation and to take up arms against the government. It was then that Jefferson decided to leave the Loyal Party. The tension between the two opposing fractions soon erupted into war. The Green Peach War of 1882, named because the peaches were in season, did not solve the issue. Federal troops were sent in to end the war.

During the skirmish that summer, Jefferson became one of the interpreters that helped to calm both sides in the fight and to ensure the blacks received their land allotments. In 1996, the black Indians received not forty, but 160 acres of land per child or adult. In 1906, the government gave the black Indians, another 40 acres. Jefferson was one of the attorneys involved in the transfer of the land to the blacks. Silas Jefferson died in 1913 near Beggs, Oklahoma.





## WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

...was born on July 22, 1963 in San Antonio, Texas. He is a direct descendant of a slave, Shedrick Willis, who was owned by a Waco, Texas judge before the Civil War. Willis, after the Civil War ended gained his freedom and became a community activist and entered state politics. He was elected

to the Waco, Texas City Council, where he served two terms. Ironically, years later, Jefferson would take a similar path and enter the world state legislature. The only difference would be, Jefferson would enter on the side of law and not politics.

He attended and graduated from John Jay High School in San Antonio, Texas. He attended undergraduate school at the James Madison College at Michigan State University where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Philosophy in 1985. In 1988, he received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

Jefferson began his professional career as a private practice attorney. In 1989, he joined the appellate section of Groce, Locke & Hebdon in San Antonio. In 1991, he founded an appellate law firm along with partners Sharon Callaway and Tom Crofts. It did not take long before Crofts, Callaway and Jefferson became one of the preeminent appellate law firms in Texas.

In 2001, then Governor Rick Perry appointed Jefferson and fellow African American Dale Wainwright as Justices of the Texas Supreme Court. In naming the two Judges to the Court, Jefferson and Wainwright became the first African Americans to be appointed to Texas's highest Court. In the following general election, Jefferson was elected to a full term on the Court garnering 56% of the votes casted. He did not complete his elected term as the Governor called on Jefferson to take on another role, that as Chief Justice of the Court.

During the same year, Jefferson was elected to the American Law Institute (ALI), which was established in 1923 to promote the clarification and simplification of common law in the United States and how to adapt the law to the changing social needs of the Nation. The organization is comprised of attorneys, judges, law professors and others involved in the legal industry. Ten years later, Jefferson would serve on the ALI Council. Overall, he would serve as Chief Justice through 2013.

In 2004, Jefferson assumed the appointment as Chief Justice to serve out the remaining term of retiring Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips who was retiring after serving seventeen years on the bench. Jefferson's appointment made him the first African American to serve as the Court's Chief. Completing the appointment, Jefferson ran for the Chief Justice position in the next general election. Like before, Jefferson won the November 2006 election and returned to his seat as Chief Justice.

Jefferson, as Chief Justice, led the Court's efforts bring access and funding to several justice programs. He assisted in the reforma-

tion of the juvenile justice system aimed at helping juveniles that enter the judicial arena. Jefferson also inaugurated an electronic filing system for Texas's courts, which expedited the filing process statewide.

While serving on the bench, Jefferson also served as President of the Conference of Chief Justices, which is an association that was founded in 1949 and made up of Chief Justices from all fifty states and U.S. territories. The purpose of the Conference is to give the highest judicial officers in the United States an opportunity to come together to discuss matters important to the improvement of the administration of justice, rules of procedure, and to make recommendations on how to implement suggested improvements on matters related to judicial prudence. Governed by a Board of Directors, the Conference operates similarly to how a non-profit organization operates.

In October 2013, Jefferson became a Partner in the law firm, Alexander Dubose Jefferson Townsend LLP. In May of 2014, he became the Treasurer of ALI. He also served as Adviser to the organization's Restatement Third of Torts, the law of consumer contracts. In addition, he chaired the organization's Advisory Group, which covers the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. In 2015, then Governor Greg Abbott appointed Jefferson to the Texas Historical Commission.

Jefferson successfully argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, both before he reached the age of thirty-five, an achievement that not many lawyers in the country have done. One such case, Board of Commissioners of Bryan County, Oklahoma v. Brown, Jefferson was successful in his arguments that the Oklahoma County was liable for the excessive force used by one of their officers in the arrest of the Plaintiff, as was its' County Sheriff for failure to adequately review the background of the arresting officer. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Brown's favor.

In another legendary case argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District changed the overall guidelines as they relate to sexual harassment in public schools. Citing existing rules under Title IX of the United States Education Amendments of 1972, Jefferson successfully pled the case. The outcome of the Court's ruling caused all schools and universities across the country to revamp their policies when it came to interaction between students and the schools faculty as well as student to student interaction in sports.

Justice Jefferson has served on many Boards and has advised many organizations and their affiliates. He has sat on the Board of Advisors of the Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Judicial Selection Initiative amongst many others. He is also a member of the Republican Party.

Justice Jefferson has been given many awards and accolades. He was the recipient of the Texas Exes' "Distinguished Alumnus Award". He received the Texas Center for Legal Ethics' "Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award"; the Texas Appleseed's "J. Chrys Dougherty Good Apple Award"; the Anti-Defamation League's "Austin Jurisprudence Award"; the Texas Center for Legal Ethics' "Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award" and the University of Texas' "Presidential Citation Award". An alumnus of San Antonio, Texas's Northside Independent School District, a local middle school was named in Jefferson's honor, the Wallace B. Jefferson Middle School. Jefferson has received many more honors, far to many to be listed here.





## Alice B. JENNINGS

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971 from Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing, Michigan where she majored in Social Work. She also studied for her Master's degree in Social Work at MSU as well. For her law degree, Jennings attended Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan completing her studies in 1978. She was admitted to the Michigan State Bar that same year.

While earning her law degree, Jennings worked for the Detroit Board of Education, worked as a teacher, and served as a social worker. After receiving her law degree, she accepted a legal apprenticeship with the Michigan law firm of Philo, Atkinson, Darling, Steinberg, Harper and Edwards. Several years later, Jennings became a partner in the firm.

Jennings, along with another partner in the firm, Carl R. Edwards, left Philo, Atkinson, Darling, Steinberg, Harper and Edwards to establish their own law firm, Edwards & Jennings, P.C. Several years later, Jennings was selected to serve as a member of an U.S. delegation made up of judges, attorneys, and academic scholars that traveled to the then Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China to work with the respective governments of each country to educate their appointed government officials, law professors, legal scholars and concerned citizens about the United States Constitution and the U.S. Bill of Rights. The "People to People" project between the countries was reciprocal and the U.S. representatives learned valuable lessons for the foreign law professors and legal foundations on matters of domestic and international law.

In the late 1970's, Jennings and her partner Edwards served as lead counsel in several affirmative action cases in the United States. Together, they became Co-Coordiators of the Michigan Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD), an organization created to combat those seeking to disallow race as a factor in minority participation in higher learning admissions. The Coalition was composed of elected officials, civil rights organizations, labor organizations, religious organizations, women rights organizations, priests, ministers, community activist, and sexual preference organizations.

NCOBD, under Jennings leadership, took an active role in fighting the Bakke Decision, as the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The organization was able to orchestrate an historic march on Washington, D.C., which took the fight to Capital Hill. Over 100,000 concerned citizens participated in the May 1978 march for support of affirmative action policies where Jennings served as one of the guest speakers.

Jennings served as legal counsel in the litigation to save the Detroit Receiving Hospital, the only municipally owned hospital in City of Detroit's that served medically uninsured Detroit citizens and the mentally ill. As in the Bakke case, a coalition was formed, the Coalition to Save Detroit Receiving Hospital, which again was

comprised of labor representatives, elected city officials, religious leaders and community activists. Detroit Receiving Hospital was a part of the medical complex of the Detroit Medical Center.

In 1980, Jennings was a part of another coalition, the Coalition to Save the Detroit Human Rights Ordinance, comprised of local business owners that challenged the City of Detroit's Human Rights Ordinance. The Coalition was able to force contractors doing business with the City of Detroit to hire more minorities and women to their companies. For their efforts, Jennings and Edwards were presented with the City's "Spirit of Detroit Award" and a given a "Testimonial Resolution" by the Detroit City Council for their pro bono defense of the City of Detroit' Human Rights Ordinance.

In the early 1990's, after then Detroit Mayor Coleman Young made an attempt to privatize city services, which would cause the loss of thousands of jobs for city workers, Jennings and Edwards were again called upon by elected officials, labor organizations, religious leaders and community activists to create another coalition. The two were asked to act as leaders of the movement. The team formed the Coalition to Stop Privatization and Save Our City, which is credited with the creation of a new City of Detroit Charter that would specifically prohibited privatization of City of Detroit government services, until specified criteria were met.

In 1996, Jennings became a founding member of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice. She served as lead counsel and pro bono attorney for Sugar Law Center in their Flint, Michigan toxic air incinerator case, which resulted in a thirty-year environmental justice, consent judgment. For her work on the case, the Flint chapter of the NAACP presented here with an honored award.

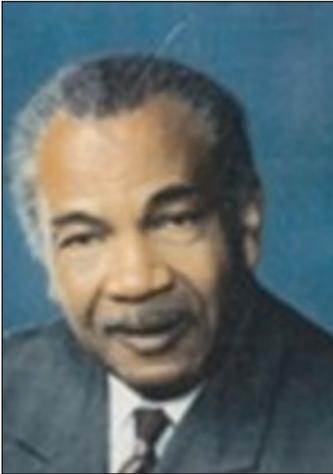
Jennings would go on to help in the creation of the Campaign for Corporate Justice at Detroit Edison Company, which filed a landmark class action suit centered on race and age discrimination. The case ended with Jennings team winning an unprecedented \$45,150,000 victory, the largest awarded under the states, "Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act", which gives rights and protects Michigan employees. At the same time, Jennings conducted litigation work for the National Organization of Women (NOW), the Rainbow/Push Coalition, famed actor and playwright Ozzie Davis, and his wife, Ruby Dee. She has represented the Boggs Center to Nurture Community Development and helped to establish the Rosa and Raymond Parks Endowment Trust.

Jennings has served as the Chairperson of the Civil Liberties Section of the Michigan State Bar Association. She became a founding member of the Black Women's Lawyers Association. She is also a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, the National Bar Association, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, and Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

Jennings has litigated many important cases during her legal career. She has litigated cases involving individual liability in a sexually hostile work environment and cases aimed at protecting Detroit residents against the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. The Water Department looked to make a massive water shut off to city apartment buildings and other residential homes.

Jennings has been honored by many legal organizations, including having received the "Trail Blazing Lawyer of the Year" and the "Harriett Tubman Award" from the Black Woman Lawyer's Association of Michigan.





## THEODORE R. JOHNS

...was born on December 29, 1927 in Silsbee, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore R. Johns, Sr.. He completed his high school studies at Waldo-Matthews High School in Silsbee before matriculating to Prairie

View University in Prairie View, Texas in 1947. After completing his undergraduate studies, Johns taught school in Jasper, Texas for one year.

He then travelled east to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University's School of Law. He received his LL.B. degree in 1951. He returned to Texas to take the state bar exam, which he passed.

After obtaining his law license, Johns had to take two years away from law to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in the Korean War. Upon his release from the military, he returned to Texas, settling in Beaumont, and opened his law firm. After one year in private practice, he joined forces with Elmo R. Willard, III, and the two of them formed the law firm of Johns & Willard.

Johns and his new partner, Willard began to take on cases that dealt with discrimination and civil rights issues. In 1954, the two took on the case of B.T. Fayson, et. al. vs. City of Beaumont. Johns brought suit against the City of Beaumont in an effort to desegregate its' recreational facilities, including the city's golf course, and its' public libraries. After a fight full of racial overtones, Johns was victorious in his efforts and the city opened its' public facilities to all citizens.

In 1955, Johns represented Versie Jackson and James A. Cormier and brought suit against Lamar State College in Orange, Texas. In Versie Jackson and James A. Cormier vs. Lamar State College, et. al., Johns sought to end discrimination at the school, as he had done with the City of Beaumont. This case brought more violence by white anti-desegregationist but Johns prevailed in the case.

Johns, representing elementary and secondary school children, would file cases to end school desegregation against the against South Park Independent School District. He did the same against the Brownsville Indepen-

dent School District. In each case, he was victorious and ended school segregation in both Texas School Districts.

For his dedicated service, Johns received numerous awards. Among them are the Jefferson County Bar Association's, "Blackstone Award"; the Texas Legislative Black Caucus's, "Outstanding Texan Award"; and the Texas Legislature's "Outstanding Service Award". In his honor, the City of Beaumont built a city library in his name. The library is located on Fannett Road in Beaumont. The Jefferson County Courthouse, in Johns and his partner, Elmo R. Willard, erected statues in their honor in May of 2008.

Theodore R. Johns, Sr. died on March 7, 2010. He was eighty-two years old.



## BERNETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON

...was born in June of 1943 in the Ascension Parish of Donaldsonville, Louisiana. She attended New Orleans, Louisiana public schools before accepting an academic scholarship into Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from Spelman in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in

Political Science. For her law degree, she attended the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University, where she received her Juris Doctorate degree in 1969. Spelman would award Johnson an Honorary Doctorate in Law degree in 2001.

After passing the Louisiana Bar exam, Johnson would enter private practice law where she would operate for fifteen years. She first took a position as the Managing Attorney of the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation (NOLAC), where she gave legal assistance to those that could not afford legal representation. She represented the poor, children, and the elderly in juvenile, state, and federal courts.

In 1981, Johnson joined the staff of the City Attorney's Office. She would later become a Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. She joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their Legal Defense & Educational Fund (LDF) as a community organizer. She gave time to fighting social injustice when she worked for the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

In 1984, she ran for a seat on the Civil District Court serving Orleans Parish and won. She would serve on the Court for ten years before being elected as the Court's Chief Judge in 1994. The Louisiana legislature, under a federal consent decree, increased their Justices from six to seven. Republican Justice Judge Jeffrey P. Victory of Shreveport, Louisiana felt that he should become the Chief Justice over Johnson although she had served on the Court for only four months over him. According to the directs of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, if a Supreme Court vacancy comes about prior to a general election, the next Chief Justice appointed is done so by the longevity of the Justices that are currently serving the Court.

Victory contended that although Johnson had been on the State Supreme Court a few months longer than he had, he felt that his service on a lower court, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals for four years, while Johnson had lost her bid for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals before she had been named to the Supreme Court gave him more tenure on the bench and thus he should become the Chief Justice. His fellow peers and the Louisiana Constitution did not agree. Johnson was named as Chief Justice and became the first African American to serve in her role.

Johnson was the first African American woman to serve as both a Justice and a Chief Justice to the State Supreme Court. Victory would retire from the Court a few years later. Justice Johnson won unopposed re-election to her seat in the upcoming general elections of 2000 and 2010. In 2017, Johnson was the only Democrat serving on the Louisi-

ana State Supreme Court. The Court consists of two Independents and four Republicans.

While serving on the bench, Chief Justice Johnson was an advocate of equality in legal representation and fairness in adjudicating the case. She has served the Court as Chair of the Louisiana Judicial Council and the Human Resources Committee and serves as a member of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board. She served the Court's Legal Services Task Force and the National Campaign on Best Practices in the area of Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. In an effort to improve legal profession in the state of Louisiana, she served as a member of the Committee on Bar Admissions. Chief Justice Johnson also served on the Court's Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee to help lawyers keep abreast of changing laws and their applications.

Chief Justice Johnson championed other successful legal initiatives. She implementing training and certification of Limited English Proficiency Interpreters in the Courts and put in place an electronic filing system for the Supreme Court. An advocate for civil rights and social justice, she ensured that minority participants involved in Court proceedings were sufficiently represented by their counsels and the opposing prosecutors did not infringe upon their rights.

For her dedication to a life of service, Chief Justice Johnson has been widely recognized for her many judiciary achievements. She was a recipient of the prestigious "Joan Dempsey Klein Award" presented to her by the National Association of Women Judges. Other notable recipients include U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor (1982), Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2003) and Sonia Sotomayor (2009).

Chief Justice Johnson was awarded by the "Spirit of Excellence Award" by the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. She also received an "Achievement Award" from the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers Association. The National Bar Association (NBA) inducted her into their Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law awarded her their "Distinguished Civil Rights Advocate Award".

Other awards and honors bestowed upon Chief Justice Johnson include receiving the first ever Ernest N. Morial Award presented by the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation; the NAACP Louisiana State Conference A.P. Tureaud Citizenship Award; the 2000 Women of Wonder Award by the National Council of Negro Women; the 2000 Medal of Honor presented by the Mayor of the City of New Orleans; the 2009 Distinguished Jurist Award presented by the Louisiana Bar Foundation; the 2012 Exceptional Leadership Award presented by the Louisiana Bar Association Committee on Diversity; the 2012 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Award; the 2012 National Urban League President's Award; and the 2013 Martin Luther King Unsung Hero Award presented by Louisiana State University (LSU). Chief Justice Johnson was also inducted into the LSU's Law Center's Hall of Fame. In addition, she was inducted into the LSU's Order of the Coif.

While serving on the bench, Chief Justice Johnson has given of her time to social and civic causes as well. She has been actively involved in the A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the American Inns of Court, the Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, the National Association of Women Judges, the New Orleans Chapter of Links, Inc., the Omicron Nu Zeta Chapter, the Women in Prison Project, and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She also is a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana Judicial Council, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the New Orleans Bar Association.



Photo Not Available



## CHARLES VERNON JOHNSON

...was born in Malvern, Arkansas. His family moved to Little Rock, Arkansas when he was six months old. His mother was a domestic worker while his father worked in a hospital boiler

room. He graduated from Dunbar High School before he enrolled into a local junior college. His high school advisor encouraged Johnson to take teacher-training classes in college as there were not many jobs for African Americans in the professional ranks, and teaching was one that African Americans could enter. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) was not given at his high school, so Johnson had to write in to have a test sent to his school to be administered.

In 1948, Johnson enlisted into the United States Army where he served for two years during the Korean War. After his tour was complete, he re-enlisted for another two years serving his time in Germany. When his second tour with the Army was complete, he returned to Arkansas to complete his education.

Back in Arkansas, Johnson enrolled into Arkansas A&M at Pine Bluff where he received his undergraduate degree. He then applied to law school at the University of Washington Law School and was accepted. He loaded his belongings in his car and headed to Seattle.

In 1954, Johnson enrolled into the University of Washington School of Law. He was one of a very few African American students enrolled in the law school when he began. When he graduated, Johnson was the only African American in his graduating class.

After graduation, it was difficult to find employment. His desire to work for the State Prosecuting Attorney's Office was foiled when they did not hire him. He was able to litigate several small cases to carry him through. In 1957, he was asked to revive the Seattle Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). With his ability to bring in new members and from the efforts he gave the Chapter, by 1959, he was selected to be the President. He was able to gain 1,000 members in six weeks for the Chapter. He would remain President for five years, until 1964.

While serving as President of the Seattle Chapter of the NAACP, Johnson also gave time to the Central Area Civil Rights Committee, a committee of civil rights leaders in the Seattle area. The Committee demonstrated and ran protest campaigns, which resulted in Seattle's 1968 Open Housing Ordinance that called for the desegregation of public housing in Seattle. The Chapter became involved in other issues surrounding Seattle's black community, including police relations with the black community, fair employment opportunities, and public accommodations.

After leaving the NAACP as President of the Seattle Chapter, Johnson worked for eight years for the Northwest Area Conference as their President. He would eventually be named to the National Board of Directors in New York for the NAACP. He would chair the organization's Legal Committee and serve as Vice-Chair of Branches whereby he set the national legal policy for the organization.

In 1969, Johnson was appointed as a Seattle Municipal Court Judge. He would sit on the Municipal Court bench for eleven years. In 1981, he was appointed by then Governor Dixie Lee Ray to the King County Superior Court. He would serve on the Superior Court for seventeen years. When Johnson came to the Court, there was a backlog of over 68,000 cases. Johnson was able to clear those cases from the dockets. He also implemented the Model Cities program initiated by U.S. President Lyndon Johnson to combat poverty and to foster new leadership in the African American communities.

The next issue that Johnson wanted to tackle on his legal calendar was to integrate the Seattle public school system. Johnson began to meet with other community and education leaders to develop a plan of action of how to integrate the schools and which organization should control the process. The plan that was adopted called for the boycotting of the school district. The organization was also able to attract white supporters, which gave them a well-needed base and cross over appeal, which brought in more supporters for their cause.

Charles Vernon Johnson died on February 6, 2013.



## GLENN T. JOHNSON

...was born on July 19, 1917 in Washington, Arkansas, to Reola Thompson Johnson and Floyd Johnson. He graduated from Langston High School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1941 from Wilber-

force University in Xenia, Ohio. He attended the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois where he earned both his J.D. degree in 1949 and his S.J.D. degree in 1950. Johnson would go on to receive additional legal training from the National College of State Trial Judges. In addition, Johnson also completed the Appellate Court Judge Seminar at New York University's Law School.

He served his military duties by enlisting into the United States Army. He served during World War II and would later serve in the Illinois National Guard. He also spent time in the U.S. Army Reserve.

In his first job in the legal field, Johnson worked as an Illinois Assistant Attorney General. He would stay with the Attorney General's Office for seven years. He then moved to the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago as a Senior Attorney.

In 1966, Johnson was elected as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Two years later, he was elected to the full Circuit Court where he would serve for five years. He then was appointed as a Justice on the Appellate Court of Illinois. He was the second African American to serve on the Appellate Court. He would remain on the bench of the Appellate Court until his retirement in 1994.

In one of his more notable cases, Justice Johnson upheld a \$6.6 million jury verdict that the lower Court had levied against the Chicago Park District. A Chicago Bears football sports fan had fallen from a ledge at Soldier Field Stadium in Chicago and had become paralyzed. Justice Johnson ruled that Chicago Park had failed in its' responsibilities to provide a safe environment for its fans and had failed to correct the dangerous conditions that led to the sports fans injuries.

Justice Glenn T. Johnson would give over thirty years to the Courts as a Judge. He served for twenty-one years

at the Appellate level. He built a reputation of mentoring young attorneys and to develop the clerks that worked for him propelling them to loftier positions in the future. During his tenure as a Judge, Justice Johnson trained over twenty-one clerks of which nineteen were African American, more than any other Illinois Appellate Court Justice.

Justice Johnson served on several bar associations and organizations. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Cook County Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association. He served as Past President of the Cook County Bar Association, Past Chairman of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, and Past Chairman of the Bench and Bar Section of the Illinois Bar Association.

He was a Board of Trustees Emeritus member of the John Marshall Law School and a Trustee Emeritus member of the Woodlawn A.M.E. Church. For twenty-four years, he served as a member of the Church's Judicial Council. Justice Johnson served as President of the Cook County Bar Association while actively being involved with the Illinois and National Bar Associations. He served as the Chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the Chair of the Bench and Bar Section of the Illinois Bar Association, and was a member of the World Judges Association.

To honor Justice Johnson for his contributions to the law and specifically to the John Marshall Law School, law school students that comprised the Black Law Students Association renamed their chapter in his honor, The Honorable Glenn T. Johnson Chapter of the Black Law Students Association of the John Marshall Law School. The National Bar Association awarded Justice Johnson their prestigious "Heman Sweatt Award".

Johnson died in his Chicago home on November 30, 2010. He was ninety-two years old



## EDWARD AUSTIN JOHNSON

...was born on November 23, 1869 in Raleigh, North Carolina to Eliza and Columbus Johnson. Edward had eleven brothers and sisters. He received his elementary school education from a local free "colored" woman, Miss Nancy Walton. Walton also taught

school to several wealthy families children.

Johnson graduated in 1879 from Washington High School for Negroes in Raleigh before entering Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. While studying for his undergraduate degree, Johnson taught school in rural Houston County, Georgia. He also ran a barbershop.

Johnson graduated with his undergraduate degree and took a job as a school principal in Atlanta's Washington High School. He served as Principal for several years, before returning to Raleigh to accept a similar principal job in a Raleigh public school in 1885. While serving as a principal, Johnson published the first textbook written by a black author when he penned, "A School History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1890". The book was the first book written by a black author that was approved by North Carolina State Board of Education to be used in North Carolina public schools. Johnson's textbook highlighted achievements made by African Americans and was published in four editions. The schools black schools in North Carolina and Virginia used the book as a tool to teach their students.

In 1886, Johnson became involved with the North Carolina Negro Teachers Association. The organization demanded for African Americans throughout the state separate but equal high schools and regular schools. At the same time, Johnson also was elected as a Raleigh Alderman, where he served for two years. In addition, he was named as clerk to the federal District Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Johnson then decided to obtain his law degree.

In 1888, Johnson went back to school to obtain his law degree. He received it in 1891 from the Shaw University School of Law in Charlotte, North Carolina. Johnson was the first graduate of the new Shaw law school. He set up offices in Raleigh and began to practice law while he taught at the university as well. He would become Dean of the university upon the departure of the school's first Dean, John S. Leary.

Johnson became more involved in politics and was named as Chair of the 4th Congressional District for the Republican Party. For the 1892 Republican National Convention, he served as a Delegate. He would serve as a Delegate in the 1896 and 1900 Republican National Conventions. For President Theodore

Roosevelt's inaugural parade, Johnson served as an Honorary Brigadier General.

In 1894, Johnson married the great-granddaughter of the Rev. Richard Allen, Lena Allen Kennedy. Allen is the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. They had one daughter, Adelaide.

In 1899, Johnson became an Assistant to the U.S. Attorney for Eastern North Carolina. He became active in politics and the Republican Party. After serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for some time, Johnson served for one term on the Raleigh City Board of Alderman.

Also in 1899, Johnson published his second textbook, "History of the Negro Soldiers in the Spanish American War and Other Items of Interest". Five years later, his utopian novel, "Light Ahead for the Negro", described a 2006 future where there was no discrimination against blacks. In 1928, Johnson published his last book, "Adam vs Ape-Man in Ethiopia".

In 1900, co-founded with Booker T. Washington, the National Negro Business League, an organization dedicated to promoting the commercial and financial development of the Negro. By that time, Johnson was one of the largest property owners in Raleigh. Despite his financial success, Johnson still was a victim of racial discrimination. Tired of the segregated South, he decided to move north.

In 1907, Johnson moved from North Carolina to New York City, New York. He was admitted to the New York State bar and became active in the politics of Harlem and the local Republican Party there. In 1917, he ran and was elected to the New York state legislature. As the first African American member ever elected the New York State Assembly, he represented the 19th Assembly District. He served for only one term.

In 1920, Johnson turned sixty years old and was declared legally blind. Although he lost his sight, he did not stop speaking about political issues or writing his ideals and opinions. His desire for equal participation by blacks in mainstream American life was still a driving force in his actions.

In 1928, Johnson made a run for the U.S. Congress representing the 21st District of New York. Although he garnered the greatest number of votes from the Republican Party in his district, he lost the race to winner Royal H. Weller. Despite the loss, Johnson continued his involvement in politics supporting issues of race and country.

Although blind, Johnson published another book and his last, "Adam vs. Ape-Man in Ethiopia", eight years after losing his eyesight. His wealth afforded him a lifestyle that provided the assistance he needed to live. To assist others that have no eyesight, in his will, he left a portion of two-thirds of his wealth, \$75,000, to the Raleigh School for the Negro Blind. He also gave to the Congregational Church, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and established a Shaw University scholarship.

Edward Austin Johnson died on July 25th, 1944. He was seventy-five years old.



## HARRY E. JOHNSON

...was born on September 29, 1954 in St. Louis, Missouri and attended Christian Brothers College High School. In 1982, he completed post Baccalaureate work in Public Administration at St. Louis University in

St. Louis, Missouri and his Bachelor of Arts from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1986, he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law. At Texas Southern, he was a member of the Thurgood Marshall Student Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta President, and Senior Class President.

In 2002, Johnson became the President and CEO of the Washington, D.C. Based Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.. The Foundation was created and given the enormous task by The President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to erect a memorial to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Johnson was selected to take this historical feat.

Needing \$127 million needed to complete the memorial, the Foundation raised more than \$119 million saving \$8 million by choosing Chinese master sculptor Lei Yixin and having the monument created in China. Under Johnson's leadership, three Boards were created to begin the process, an Executive Leadership Cabinet, Governing Board and Honorary Board. To achieve the goal of erecting the memorial, Johnson amassed the support from all living U.S. Presidents, Congress, members of the corporate and nonprofit communities, many celebrities, and entertainers. The Memorial was dedicated on August 28, 2011 with great fanfare, celebrations and national pride. with President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, members of the President's Cabinet, Congressional members and many international dignitaries were in attendance.

Prior to accepting the monumental task of erecting the Memorial, Johnson served as the 31st National President of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity from 2001 to 2004. With his selection, he became the youngest person ever elected to the position of National President in forty years

of the fraternities existence. He was elected with the highest vote margin of any President in twenty years.

While President, Johnson oversaw over seven hundred Alpha Phi Alpha chapters located throughout the United States and abroad. He increased the number of chapters in good standing and was given credit for enhancing the organization's national image of the fraternity members, its' business leaders and its' political officials. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for their communities.

Johnson is the President of Creative Concourse Concessions, LLC, an airport concessionaire business that partners with vendors and other entities to provide services in retail operations, food and beverage dispensaries, and duty free shopping. He has also owned and operated a Domino's pizza franchise in Houston, Texas.

During his professional career, Johnson has served as City Attorney for Kendelton, Texas and has taught at Texas Southern University in the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and School of Public Affairs. He has dedicated much his time to aid community groups with their issues, such as voter registration, blood donations and HIV/AIDS awareness and care. He is involved with the Boy Scouts of America and the Big Brothers organization. He also serves on the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Foundation Board, he March of Dimes Board, and The National Urban Board.

Johnson was named as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" by Ebony Magazine's in 2004. Johnson is married to Karen Gorrell Johnson and have three children, Jennifer, Harry, Jr. and Nicholas. He calls his home, Houston, Texas.

He has national affiliations with:

- National Board Member of Big Brothers Big Sisters
- National Member of March of Dimes Volunteer Corps
- State Bar of Texas
- American Bar Association
- National Bar Association
- NAACP, Missouri City Branch
- National Volunteer, Boy Scouts of America
- Texas Trial Lawyers Association
- Houston Trial Lawyers Association
- One Hundred Black Men
- Board Member of the Sam Houston Boy Scouts of America



## JACK BRUCE JOHNSON

...was born on April 3, 1949 on Johns Island, which is located near Charleston, South Carolina. He was the fifth of ten children. His mother worked as a maid and his father worked the fields as a vegetable farmer.

Johnson attended segregated schools in his elementary and high school years. He then entered Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970. While in college, Johnson joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. After completing his undergraduate studies, Baker enlisted into the United States Army where he served for four years.

After completing his military duties, Johnson accepted a job in the accounting department of a life insurance company in New York City, New York. He then left New York moving to Washington, D.C. where he enrolled into Howard University's School of Law and obtained his law degree in 1975. After passing the bar, he accepted a job with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) where he would spend the next nine years. While working at the IRS, Johnson was elevated to become the Chief Counsel.

In 1984, Johnson became an Associate Professor of Tax Law at North Carolina Central University School of Law located in Durham, North Carolina. He would remain as an Associate Professor for three years. He then entered the realm of politics when he became the campaign Treasurer for former law school friend, Alexander Williams, Jr., who was vying for the State's Attorney's Office of Prince George's County. Johnson ran the day-to-day operations for Williams's campaign.

Williams was victorious in his pursuit of the office defeating twenty-four year incumbent Arthur "Bud" Marshall. He became the first African American to be elected to a countywide office in Prince George's County. As a reward for his work on the campaign, Williams hired Johnson as a Deputy State's Attorney. In his role in the State's Attorneys Office, Johnson was responsible for the day-to-day management of the office, which had a \$5 million budget.

In 1994, Williams was appointed by then President Bill Clinton to a federal judgeship. Johnson entered his name to fulfill the term left open by Williams' departure. He was successful in replacing Williams as the State's Attorney winning twice as many votes as the runner-up.

As the top prosecutor in the County, Johnson aggressively made a push to bring a halt to the police brutality that ran rampant in the County's Police Department. He fired several Deputy State's Attorneys for their refusal to prosecute bad police officers and took on the police union for their failure to fire officers that were rogue. His position on improving the relationship

between community residents and the police brought anger and distrust from many in the police department and even several County Judges who felt that Johnson was grandstanding to make his points and questioned his grasp of criminal law. Nonetheless, Johnson continued his attempts to clean up policing in the County.

In 2002, Johnson made a run for the top position in Prince George's County as the County Executive. He won the election and took the seat running the business of the County. He was re-elected as County Executive in the 2006 election.

During his tenure as County Executive, Johnson came under fire for his excessive travel expenses. He was attacked for traveling in business and first class during his trips and staying at the most expensive hotels during his stays. His response to the attacks was that the residents of the County did not expect him to travel in economy class.

In 2010, Johnson again came under fire when investigations began against him and four other County Council members by the Office of the Maryland State Prosecutors Office. The five County employees had allegedly solicited bribes and favors while negotiating a one-million-dollar annual lease for a County agency. As the investigation increased, Johnson, along with his wife Leslie found themselves under arrest by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on political corruption charges.

The Johnson's were ultimately charged with witness tampering and destruction of evidence when Johnson was heard over a wiretap of his home instructing his wife to flush a \$100,000 check from a developer and co-conspirators down the toilet. He was overheard on the tapes telling his wife to hide another \$79,600 in cash in her bra as FBI agents were knocking on the front door of the family home attempting to execute a search warrant. Both Johnson and his wife were charged with corruption and faced up to twenty years in prison for their crimes.

Although charged, Johnson remained in his office until his term ended while serving home detention with electronic monitoring. His wife Leslie had been elected to a seat on the County's Council but was removed upon her and Johnson's convictions of their charges during trial. Johnson was indicted and pled guilty of soliciting more than \$200,000 in bribes from County developers dating back to before he was County Executive. His wife pled guilty to her charges as well.

On December 6, 2011, Johnson was fined \$100,000 and was sentenced to seven years and three months in the Butner federal prison located in Butner, North Carolina. He was later transferred to the Cumberland Federal Correctional Institution located in Cumberland, Maryland. In December of 2016, Johnson was released from federal custody and placed in a halfway house near Baltimore, Maryland.

Leslie Johnson was sentenced to one year and a day for her crimes. She served out her sentence at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp in Alderson, West Virginia. She was released ten months after entering the prison camp for good behavior. The Johnson's maintained their home in Mitchellville, Maryland and together they had three children.



## JAMES COODY JOHNSON

...was born on July 27, 1864 at Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma to Elizabeth Davis Johnson and James Coody Johnson. His father was a black Creek lawyer, politician, and entrepreneur. He was a leading voice for the inclusion of African Americans in the economic and political arenas before and after Oklahoma statehood. Johnson was born at Ft.

Gibson as his mother fled there as a refugee during the Civil War.

He attended the Presbyterian Mission north of Wewoka, Oklahoma. He received a sponsorship to attend Lincoln University in Chester, Pennsylvania from the Seminole Nation graduating in 1884. He returned to Oklahoma after receiving his undergraduate degree.

Back in Oklahoma, Johnson was hired as a cowboy with a local cattle company. He remained a cowboy for the next year and a half working throughout Arizona, Mexico and Texas. His father became ill back in Oklahoma and died. Learning of his father's death, Johnson returned to Oklahoma.

Johnson spoke both English and several Native languages. He secured a job with the Federal District Court for Western Arkansas and Judge Isaac Parker, who had jurisdiction over the Indian Territory. While working for Judge Parker, Johnson was admitted to practice in the federal courts.

Johnson held dual citizenship in both the Creek and the Seminole nations and spoke both languages fluently. He became an official interpreter for the Seminole nation and advisor to Seminole Chief Halputta Micco. He was one of a few Freedman that was granted this type of privilege.

In the mid 1890s, the U.S. Government, in preparation for making the Indian Territory a state, implemented a commission, lead by Senator Henry Dawes of Massachusetts. The government passed legislation, in making the territory a state, that the land would be allotted out through a registration process. Senator Dawes, Chairman of his namesake committee, wanted to omit the black native citizens from the land allotments.

The Creek nation was split on the idea of blacks receiving land. The U.S. Government had made plans to take tribal land and redistribute it in allotments. In the plan, it was learned that the black Creek citizens would be given land. Full bloods were angry that blacks would be included in the dispersment of land. Chief Checote, not a proponent of mixing native blood with that of blacks, suggested the blacks receive land away from the rest of the tribe while the Creek Supreme Judge Isparhecher, a full blood, was opposed altogether of blacks receiving land. The government's position was that the Indian Treaty of 1866, signed after the Civil War, gave black Indians, as citizens, the rights and entitlements to receive land.

Because of his bi-lingual abilities, Johnson was of one of a few interpreters that was hired to help bring the fighting sides together. By being the voice between government officials and tribal leaders, Johnson soon became a leading figure in Creek politics. He ran was elected to the House of Warriors of the Muscogee Creek Confederacy. From his elected position, Johnson became an active advocate in the protecting

the full citizenship rights for the black Indians after Oklahoma became a state.

Johnson played a leading roll in the fight to ensure blacks were included in the land allotments the government was giving out before Oklahoma became a state. He was an opponent of Jim Crow laws that were being instituted. He fought to ensure the civil rights of black people were protected and to ensure blacks were included in the benefits of land based upon the Treaty of 1866. During this time, Johnson served as President of the Negro Protection League.

To ensure blacks were included in the dividends of land, Johnson was part of a delegation to Washington, D.C. to argue the case to President Roosevelt of inclusion for blacks in the Indian Roll count. Johnson was victorious in his arguments as blacks were ultimately included in the land allotments. Blacks would get their land.

In the transition from Indian Territory to becoming the state of Oklahoma, the land was divided up between the tribes and their citizens. In the final allotment settlement, for the Creek citizens, including the blacks, each child and adult living, when registered received 160 acres of land. In the second land allotment, each child and adult received another 40 acres. Although the tribes received land, they lost much of their cultural ways when Oklahoma was ruled by Indian law and not U.S. Government law.

As an entrepreneur, Johnson was a success there as well. He owned the Black Panther Hotel in Wewoka and founded the Black Panther Oil and Gas Company. He later built another hotel and his own law office building. In 1985, the National Register of Historic Places placed the Johnson Building located at 124 North Wewoka, Wewoka, Oklahoma on its' list (NR 85001744).

Johnson's legacy was tarnished when he, along with several other attorneys, black and white, were served with disbarment. Claims against them were brought charging they had taken unfair economic advantages of an uneducated orphan girl after she reached the age of maturity in her legal matters related to her finances. The woman in question was a Creek Nation freedwoman and was soon to inherit a considerable estate. In the middle of the proceedings against Johnson, the freedwoman mysteriously died and the investigation could not continue. The complaint against Johnson and the others were dropped.

In 1915, Johnson became the President of the Negro State Fair Association. As President, he oversaw Oklahoma's first Negro Independent State Fair held in Muskogee. In 1920, he staged his best fair at Wewoka with Wiley Post was the main attraction. Post was the first man to fly solo around the world. Held on Johnson's expansive ranch, the State Fair was so popular and looked forward to that the state school superintendent, R. H. Wilson, closed every Oklahoma African American school for two days so students could attend. Johnson also served two terms as Grand Master of the Colored Masons of Oklahoma.

On February 27 1927, Johnson died in Wewoka. In his will, he dedicated enough land having it used to build a school for "Negro boys and girls", the Johnson Grove School. He donated this land for the school because at that time, black children were not allowed to attend school inside the city limits. The school was closed when the laws changed. The students were transferred to Wewoka's Douglas High School. At Johnson's request, he was interred in the same cemetery, north of Wewoka, as is his mother, father, and daughter.



## JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

...was born on June 17, 1871 in Jacksonville, Florida to Helen Louise Dillet, a native of Nassau, Bahamas, and James Johnson. He was an American author, educator, lawyer, diplomat, songwriter, and civil rights activist. Johnson

lead the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) beginning work there in 1917. Three years later, in 1920, he became the organization's first African American to be chosen as Executive Secretary. He essentially was the organization's operating officer. He served in that position through 1930.

Johnson established his reputation as a writer, and was known during the Harlem Renaissance for his poems, novels, and anthologies collecting both poems and spirituals of black culture.

Johnson and his brother, Rosamond, were first educated by their mother, a musician and a public school teacher, before they attended Edwin M. Stanton School. At the age of sixteen, Johnson began his collegiate career enrolling in Clark Atlanta University, a historically black college, graduating in 1894. Leaving the university, Johnson knew he was expected to devote himself to helping black people advance.

After the ending of slavery in America, joining the Great Migration out of the South, Johnson and his brother moved to New York City. There they collaborated on songwriting and achieved some success on Broadway before James decided his calling lay elsewhere. Over the next forty years, Johnson would serve the public in many capacities, working in education, the diplomatic corps, and the civil rights arena. Molded by the classical education for which Atlanta University was best known, Johnson regarded his academic training as a tool to be used to help black people strive.

In 1904, he became involved in Theodore Roosevelt's successful presidential campaign. After winning the election, President, Roosevelt appointed Johnson as United States Consul at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela where he served from 1906 to 1908, and to Nicaragua from 1909 to 1913.

In 1910, while working as a songwriter, Johnson met and married Grace Nail. A well-educated and cultured

New Yorker, Grace Nail Johnson collaborated with her husband on a screenwriting project. In 1934, he became the first African-American Professor to be hired at New York University. He later was a Professor of Creative Literature and Writing at Fisk University.

When he returned from Nicaragua to New York, Johnson became involved in the Harlem Renaissance, a time of an explosion of African American art and writing. He began writing his own poetry, compiling and publishing anthologies of spirituals and his poetry. He became a leading voice in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

Johnson became involved in civil rights activism, actively involved in the campaign to pass federal legislation against lynching, as none of southern states prosecuted anyone accused for any of the lynchings. Having joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as a Field Secretary in 1917, he rose through the ranks to become one of the most successful officials in the organization.

In 1915, he traveled to Haiti to investigate conditions following the United State's occupation after the murder of Haitian President Vilbrun Guillaume Sam. Johnson, five years later in 1920, wrote a report about "the economic corruption, the forced labor, racial segregation, press censorship, and the violence introduced to Haiti by the U.S. occupation. The report caused many African Americans to flood the State Department and Republican Party officials with letters calling for an end to the abuses and to remove U.S. troops. The U.S. did not end its occupation until 1934.

In 1920, Johnson was appointed as the first black Executive Secretary of the NAACP. He helped to increase the membership and extended the organization's reach by establishing new chapters in America's south. During this time, the NAACP was conducting legal challenges to the southern states' disfranchisement of African Americans, which had long been established reaching back to the turn of the century by such legal devices as poll tax, literacy tests, grandfather clauses and white primaries were used to disenfranchise blacks. Helping the disenfranchised was his life's work,

Johnson died in 1938 while on vacation in Wiscasset, Maine. The car his wife was driving was hit by a train. His Harlem funeral was attended by more than two thousand people. His ashes are interred at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y.



## JEH CHARLES JOHNSON

...was born on September 11, 1957 in Wappingers Falls, New York to Norma Edlin Johnson and Jeh Vincent Johnson. His mother worked for Planned Parenthood while his father was an architect. Jeh, pronounced "Jay", was given the name in honor of a Liberia, African tribal chief that reportedly saved Johnson's

grandfather's life while on a 1930 trade mission for the League of Nations in Liberia

Johnson received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. His law degree was obtained from Columbia Law School in New York City, New York. In 1984, he joined the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP as an associate attorney. Johnson would eventually make partner with the firm.

In 1989, Johnson was named as Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York where he prosecuted public corruption cases. In 1992, Johnson returned to the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. In 1994, he married dentist Susan Maureen DiMarco whom he had known since childhood.

In 1998, then President Bill Clinton appointed Johnson to serve as General Counsel to the Department of the Air Force. Once confirmed, Johnson became the senior legal official in the Air Force. He also served as the Governor of the Pacific Ocean located Wake Island. While serving as Governor, his tenure coincided with the 1999 NATO Operation Allied Force and his efforts during the events awarded him the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.

In 2001, Johnson returned to Paul, Weiss in New York. At the firm, he handled large commercial cases as a trial lawyer. On September 11, 2001, Johnson's birthday, the attack on the World Trade Towers in New York City happened. Not a day for celebrating, Johnson walked the streets of New York offering help to anyone that needed it.

During that time, Johnson served as Chairman of the New York City Bar Association's Judiciary Committee who has the responsibility of rating and approving all local, state, and federal judges in New York City. In 2004, Johnson was elected as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He also served as Special Counsel to the 2004 presidential campaign of John Kerry.

In 2007, Johnson was nominated to become the Chief Judge of New York by the New York State Commission on Judicial Nomination. Unfortunately, former Governor Eliot Spitzer reappointed incumbent Judith Kaye to the position. Johnson returned again to private practice. He also became involved with the presidential campaign of Barack Obama as foreign policy advisor and Obama's national finance committee.

In 2009, Johnson was appointed as the General Counsel of the Department of Defense by then President Barack Obama. Johnson played an important role and was the legal architect of the U.S. military's counterterrorism policies. He was involved in the reform

of military commissions and testified before Congress on several occasions in support of the Military Commissions Act of 2009. He was appointed by the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, as co-chair, along with Army General Carter Ham, of a group tasked with studying the impact of the President's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The report sent to the President laid the foundation to repeal the policy and opened the doors to gays and lesbians being able to serve openly in the U.S. military.

In 2010, Johnson participated in the public dialogue over the classified Pentagon documents, the Afghan War Diary, released by WikiLeaks. In a letter to Timothy J. Matusheski, the lawyer representing WikiLeaks, Johnson indicated that the government would not participate in dialogue with WikiLeaks concerning the documents. WikiLeaks is an association involved in whistle-blowing as it relates to government information leaks.

Johnson created controversy in 2011 when he had made statements indicating the civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. would have supported wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Johnson believed that American soldiers were Good Samaritans, which paralleled what King exposed. He suggested that the soldiers were fighting for peace, which King protested for. Johnson's opponents and many in the civil rights movement were appalled at Johnson's remarks stating that King was against the Vietnam War and would be opposed to any war. Johnson's team quickly put out a statement that his comments were taken out of context.

In 2012, Johnson intervened again when he wrote a letter to a former Navy SEAL who penned a book "No Easy Day, a memoir by a Navy Seal". The SEAL had participated in the military mission that killed U.S. foe Osama bin Laden. Johnson warned the author of the book that the U.S. government has a signed Non-Disclosure Agreement with him that forbade him from disclosing certain classified information.

In 2013, President Obama appointed Johnson as the fourth United States Secretary of Homeland Security. Johnson's top priority was to fill the many vacancies and senior level positions in the Department. With the large influx of immigrants crossing America's southern border, Johnson worked with the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate the needs of the immigrants. For the unaccompanied children and adults with children, he worked with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officers to determine who gets asylum versus deportation. He established three family residential centers to house the immigrants which some compared to the Japanese internment camps the U.S. employed during World War II. A U.S. District Court Judge in California ordered Johnson to comply with a 1997 court order concerning the detention of children.

For the West Africa crisis of the Ebola disease, Johnson implemented policies, procedures, and protocols to identify incoming U.S. travelers that may have been exposed to the disease for screening. Rather than limiting travel visas, Johnson felt screening was a better option so not to influence other countries in policies related to the disease. Leaving Homeland, Johnson returned as a partner in the New York firm he had worked at before accepting his government jobs. He was the first African American to be elected as partner.

In 2017, Johnson was chosen as the designated survivor to the Inauguration of President-Elect Donald Trump.



## JUSTIN MORRIS JOHNSON

...was born on August 19, 1933 in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania to Irene and Oliver Johnson. He was raised in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as the second of three children. He graduated high school from Shady Side Academy and received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in 1954 from the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois in Liberal Arts and earned a Bond Medal. After completing his undergraduate studies, Johnson enlisted into the United States Air Force and served for three years as an Aircraft Commander from 1956 to 1959. He would remain active in the Air Force and eventually reach the rank of Major.

Johnson was discharged from the Air Force and returned to Chicago to continue his studies at the University of Chicago's Law School where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1961. He received further legal education at the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia where he studied Trends in the Law & Jurisprudence at the Graduate School for Appellate Judges in 1983.

Upon completing his law degree studies and passing the bar, Johnson joined the law firm of Johnson, Johnson & Johnson as one of the partners. The firm, founded by his father and Senior Partner, Oliver Livingston Johnson, already had as a partner his brother, Livingston Johnson who would later become a Judge to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County in 1973. Justin Johnson was the third Johnson to earn a law degree and the last Johnson on the company's letterhead. He too would later become a Judge serving on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

After spending fifteen years as a partner in Johnson, Johnson & Johnson, Justin became an Assistant Solicitor and Assistant Secretary to the Pittsburgh and Mt. Oliver Boards of Education. He worked in that capacity until becoming a partner in the law firm of Berkman Ruslander Pohl Lieber & Engel. The law firm would later merged with another law firm creating the law firm of Buchanan Ingersoll, LLC.

In 1980, Johnson was appointed to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Judge Johnson was the second African American to serve as a Judge on the Superior Court in twenty-seven years. He would sit on the bench for the next twenty-seven years retiring in 2007. While serving the Court, Judge Johnson served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University School of Law.

In 2011, Justice Johnson would become a member of the Board of the Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts (IOLTA). The IOLTA oversees the deposit accounts of attorneys clients held in banks and receives the interest accumulated and other fiduciary funds held in escrow. The Board then distributes those funds to nonprofit organizations that provide free legal services to Pennsylvania residents that are unable to afford an attorney. Justice Johnson sat on the Board for two years. During that time, he also served as a Commissioner to the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission. The Commission receives and adjudicates complaints from County residents that have claims of discrimination based upon gender orientation, marital status, nationality, physical disabilities, and race.

Judge Johnson served as the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Examination and has served on the Board of Trustees for Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital. He has sat on the Boards of Princeton Theological Seminary, the Southside Hospital, and the United Way of Allegheny County. Judge Johnson is also a lifetime Trustee of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University.

For his dedicated service to the judiciary, Judge Johnson has been awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Citizen's Award; the Homer S. Brown Service Award; the Pittsburgh Young Adult Club's Award of Merit; and the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association's Presidents Award. He has also been given the Top Hat Award for Distinguished Judicial Services. In addition, Judge Johnson was given the Man of the Year Award from the Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

Judge Johnson is married to his wife, Florence, and is the father of three children. The family lives in Pittsburgh.



## LEROY REGINALD JOHNSON

...was born on July 28, 1928 in Atlanta, Georgia to Elizabeth Heard and Leroy Johnson. He graduated in 1945 from Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta. He matriculated to Morehouse College in Atlanta where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949. He

would attend Atlanta University, later renamed Clark Atlanta University, where he would earn his Master's degree in 1951.

After obtaining his Master's degree, Johnson took a job as a Social Sciences teacher in the Atlanta public school system. He would teach for four years before deciding to pursue his law degree. He then enrolled into the law school of North Carolina Central University. He left the school with his law degree in 1957.

He accepted a job with Georgia's Fulton County in their Solicitor General's Office, now called the District Attorney's Office. At the DA's office, he served as a criminal investor. He remained with the office for five years.

In 1960, a group of Atlanta university students were conducting protests and sit-ins around the city in an attempt to end segregation in public facilities, restaurants and hotels. In one demonstration, the students, including future civil rights leaders, Jessie Hill, Whitney Young, and Julian Bond were among the students were at the forefront of the demonstration. The group had orchestrated a massive sit-in at the lunch counter at local Rich's Department Store. Johnson, along with other community leaders, came to their defense and became advisors to the group of protestors.

In 1962, Johnson ran and was elected to serve in the Georgia State Senate. He was the first African American State Senator to be elected to the state legislature since the Reconstruction Era. He was also the first African American to be elected to any public office in the Southeastern part of the United States. In his first Senate session, Johnson sat alongside freshman State Senator and future U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

As a new State Senator, Johnson represented the 38th District in Fulton County Georgia. The District was created after the Georgia State Legislature eliminated the county-unit system, which changed the vote demographics. Historically, Georgia operated a county-unit system, which allocated seats to the General Assembly. That system was replaced with a "one man, one vote" system implemented by court order. The new restructured District encompassed a predominately all-black section of the inner city of Atlanta.

In taking his seat in the Assembly, Johnson received some of the same discrimination that he faced in Atlanta. At the Senate cafeteria, he found it to be segregated and cafeteria workers first refused to serve him but did so reluctantly after orders were made for them to do so. Despite his treatment, Johnson would persevere and go on to become the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the most powerful committee in the Assembly.

In 1966, student activists Julian Bond had been elected to the State Senate representing the District encompassing Atlanta. Bond had

supported fellow activist John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), who had denounced the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and supported those refusing to be drafted for the war. White members of the Georgia Assembly chastised Bond and refused to allow him to be sworn in to his seat in the House of Representatives.

The House established a hastily created committee to vote on Bond's admission to his seat. Johnson testified on behalf of Bond. The House Committee voted to deny Bond his seat. Johnson and other civil rights advocates filed suit. The U.S. Supreme Court later ruled that Bond must be seated in the Georgia House of Representatives. A huge victory for freedom of speech advocates and one for the right to protest activists, as the white legislators never forgot Bond's college days of protests and sit-ins end discrimination in public places.

In 1970, Johnson was pivotal in helping World Heavyweight Champion boxing great Muhammad Ali when he returned to boxing after his career was halted due to his protesting of the Vietnam War and his refusal to enter the U.S. military. His license to box had been taken away as punishment for not entering the military. Johnson helped stage his comeback after Ali's four-year hiatus from the ring.

When Ali was given back his license to return to boxing, Johnson was instrumental in producing Ali's first comeback fight. A boxing match was promoted at Atlanta's Municipal Auditorium between Ali and white boxer Jerry Quarry. Not having fought in four years, the fight drew national and international attention as everyone wanted to know if the new Ali was the same as the old Ali. Quarry, having disrespected Ali and his stance against the Vietnam War paid a hefty price for his disrespect. The fight was stopped in the fourth round after Quarry was left battered and bloody. Unable to answer the bell, Ali won the fight and was on his way to regaining his Heavyweight Championship belt.

Johnson would go on to play an important role in Atlanta's civil rights movement. He focused his attention to the needs of the residents of the city and worked diligently worked on their behalf. In 1973, he ran for the job as Mayor of Atlanta. He was endorsed by The Atlanta Constitution, the local city newspaper, but lost the election to Atlanta's first African American Mayor, Maynard Jackson.

Johnson would lose his Senate seat in the 1974 election. He entered private practice where he continued his fight for equal justice for African Americans. Then U.S. President Richard Nixon had secretly instructed the Internal Revenue Service to audit tax returns of many civil rights leaders and other African American politicians. Johnson himself was targeted. He was acquitted of the charges in a federal trial held in Atlanta, as were most of the others.

Johnson, after twelve years, left the State Senate and accepted a position as the Executive Director of the Atlanta-Fulton County Recreation Authority. He stepped down from that position in 1987 after the Atlanta Ethics Board cited him for an appearance of impropriety resulting from his handling of the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium's parking lot revenue. Johnson's son had managed the Stadium and irregularities were discovered. Although Johnson was cleared of any wrongdoing, he was criticized of his oversight of the affairs and as a result, he left the Authority.

Johnson then entered the area of real estate law. He would become an advisor to the Development Authority of Fulton County, assisting them on their bond issues. He would remain in private practice.

In gratitude for his twelve years serving in the State Senate, a portrait of Johnson was commissioned and hung in the State Capitol. The Senate also passed a resolution that renamed a portion of Fulton Industrial Boulevard as Leroy Johnson-Fulton Industrial Boulevard. 



## M. TIA JOHNSON

...attended Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She received her first legal education from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia. She attended Temple University in Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania where she received her Juris Doctorate degree. She continued her legal education back at the University of Virginia where she received her LL.M degree. She received a second LL.M. degree from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. She also obtained a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Johnson was nine years old when she decided that she wanted to become a lawyer. The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the ensuing riots, left a lasting impression on her and after then President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in 1968, as a child she made a conscious decision to understand the laws of the act. She wanted to know the "rules" and concluded that someone had to know the rules in order to help African Americans not be taken advantage of.

During her college years at Temple, Johnson was able to see strong black women fight for the civil rights and work to change the lives of African Americans. She was able to witness the works of women such as C. Delores Tucker, a Philadelphia civil rights activists and Juanita Kidd Stout, the first African American woman to be elected to a judgeship in the U.S. and first to serve on the Supreme Court of any state. Johnson's interest in civil right grew tremendously, so much so, that her J.D. thesis in advanced constitutional law focused on the tenets 1866 Civil Rights Act.

Johnson's career in the military began when she was a freshman at Hampton. Unable to take certain class, she enrolled into the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC). Liking the class and excelling in it, her sophomore year, she received a ROTC scholarship. Johnson completed the ROTC program and was commissioned in 1980 as a Second Lieutenant. She entered active duty in January of 1984.

In 2002, Johnson was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army's JAG Corps. She became the first African-American woman to be promoted to such a high rank in the 227-year history of the JAG Corps. She served the Corps well and before her departure from the Corps, she served as

the Senior Military Assistant to the General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Johnson served as a U.S. Army Judge Advocate (JAG) where she specialized in international and national security law. In her JAG role, she has served within the Department of Defense as a legal advisor in the U.S., Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy, and Korea. She has also taught law at the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) school in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In 1987, Johnson was selected to participate in a comparative law study in Central and South America to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The organization People-to-People wanted to send a delegation of women attorneys to emerging Democratic countries in the region as part of the study. With her selection to the team of women attorneys, Johnson was exposed to the rules and regulations of international law in the military. From that selective trip, Johnson decided to further her legal understanding of international law and its' application to national security law.

In 2000, Johnson taught at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School, where she occupied the Waldemar A. Solf Chair of International and Operational Law. As Chair, he held the "national security law" portfolio and taught national security. She also taught international and intelligence law as well as the law of war. After the attack on the New York World Trade Centers, Johnson developed a class course on homeland defense and was a contributor to the Domestic Operations Deskbook.

Johnson has been involve with the American Bar Association (ABA) and served on the Standing Committee on Law and National Security. She also served on the Advisory Committee. She is a Senior Fellow at the University of Virginia's Center for National Security Law. For Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., she served as the National Security Law Crisis Simulation.

Johnson has received many military awards during her career. The American Bar Association recognized her for her dedicated service and the National Bar Association inducted her into their Military Law Section's Hall of Fame. She now serves as a civilian Senior Advisor to the Director of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the Washington, D.C. offices of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As Senior Advisor, she is responsible for implementing key aspects of the President of the United States' immigration reform initiatives. She also serves as the liaison between DHS, ICE, and other administrative officials charged with the President's immigration initiatives. In the absence of an incumbent Director of DHA, Johnson would serve as the Acting Chief of Staff. She would oversee the complex and sensitive issues surrounding the strategic plans and policies undertaken by the agency.



Photo Not Available



## THOMAS P. JOHNSON

...was a slave in 1859 and was brought to Arkansas by his master from either from Kentucky or North Carolina when he was approximately thirty-eight years old. During the outbreak of the Civil

War, he served in the Union Army with the 54th United States Colored Infantry from Pulaski County, Arkansas. Although he had been a slave, Johnson was a very smart and educated man as his master had taught him to read and write. He also learned much about the law.

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Johnson became involved in the local politics in Arkansas. He began to fight for the civil rights of African Americans and was outspoken in that regard. He became a minister, and by 1868, his reputation was such that he was elected as one of eight African American members to the 1868 Arkansas Constitutional Convention, representing Pulaski County, Arkansas, which included Little Rock.

At the Convention, Johnson was active in the legislative proceedings. He spoke seven times on the Convention floor and served on two committees. He was involved in the debates to continue the Freedman's Bureau and argued for reconstruction and the need to end universal suffrage. He, along with other African American Delegates called for economic fairness for blacks recently freed from slavery.

After the Convention ended, Johnson continued his fight for equal justice and civil rights throughout Arkansas. In 1870, he was admitted to practice and argue cases before the Arkansas Supreme Court. He was then elected as Justice of the Peace serving Little Rock. By that time, Johnson owned over \$2,000 in property and real estate with \$500 in personal wealth. At that time, that was a fair amount of money.

Johnson would serve as a Justice of the Peace in Little Rock for twelve years. He continued to practice law while serving as minister to both Baptist and Methodist congregations for the remainder of his life. In 1901, Johnson became the President of the Wonder State Bar Association, a legal organization serving the needs of African American Attorneys.

During his legal career, Johnson did represent many clients in court. On one of the few occasions he did, he was cited for contempt of court and sentenced to three days in jail by a Judge. A second Judge vacated the sentence citing errors in the contempt citation and Johnson was released the same day.

Johnson was married to his wife Charlotte and together they couple had three children, Willie, Carrie, and Elias. He died on December 6, 1905 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was approximately eighty-four years old.



## CHARLES S. JOHNSON, III

Johnson graduated from Bard College located in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York with an undergraduate degree. He then attended the Boston College Law School in Boston, Massachusetts where he obtained his law degree. While at Boston University, he served as a member of the school's Law Review.

After graduating from law school, Johnson returned to Georgia and entered the law profession in private practice as an antitrust attorney. He served at the University of Georgia Law School as an Adjunct Professor of Antitrust Law. His extensive knowledge of antitrust laws would prove a valuable asset to many of the clients that would call upon him to help them with their antitrust legal issues.

Johnson's lengthy private practice has helped developed policies for several small companies, large corporations, municipalities, and private and public higher learning institutions. He helped to create the city zoo in Atlanta, Zoo Atlanta. He was pivotal in establishing the Countywide Library System for Fulton County Georgia and Georgia's first tax allocation districts.

Johnson was an advisor to Atlanta's Morehouse College in their attempts to secure the "Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Collection", a collection of King's papers, personal items and gifts presented to him during his lifetime. He served as Legal Counsel to Georgia citizens in regulating the authority given to Georgia's Commissioner of Insurance. Johnson represented citizens in their fight to ease the taxing power of Georgia's school districts.

The Georgia Department of Community Health faced Johnson in a case involving health regulations and he was instrumental in enforcing the federal Clean Air Act as it related to environmental issues in the state of Georgia. His vigorous litigation skills helped to enforce rules related to the Fair Housing Act for Georgia residents. For school desegregation, Johnson ensured that the state of Georgia consider the quality of education students received when funding and fashioning remedies to bring fairness to every Georgia students, especially African American students.

In 1986, Johnson ran unsuccessfully as a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives for Georgia's Fifth Congressional District. He then took to the lecture circuit. Johnson has been called upon to lecture on public policy issues to many political and social entities. He has delivered messages to the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, the Georgia Real Property Law Institute, the Institute for City and County Attorneys, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He has litigated cases on issues surrounding civil RICO and qui tam, commercial disputes, education policy litigation, em-

inent domain litigation, employment litigation, and health policy litigation. He also represents his client in matters of securities litigation, tax litigation, and zoning litigation.

Johnson has litigated large-scale cases in the courts including defending a multinational auto manufacturer against numerous antitrust claims. Other groundbreaking cases Johnson has been involved in include defending a student loan guaranty agency against claims that they had received inferior education at the school they attended. He defended a Fortune 100 telecommunications carrier whose major corporate client sought to end a long-term contract set-aside for minority participation. He took on cases involving unfair business practices, cases involving hospitals and Medicaid programs, and cases involving pharmaceuticals and software development. When it came to antitrust law, as an attorney, Johnson's name was at the top of the list.

Johnson has written articles and opinions on several law topics for local, state and national publications. He has penned topics for the Georgia County Government Magazine, the Municipal Desk Reference for the Georgia Municipal Association, and the Real Estate Finance Journal. He continues to write and lecture to many civic, governmental and social organizations on the topics of antitrust law.

Johnson has served on many, many Boards during his illustrious career. He has been a Board member of the American Bar Association, where he served on several of their committees, including the Antitrust Section Committee and the Committee on Insurance, Energy and Transportation. He was a Board member of the Atlanta Bar Association, the Gate City Bar Association where he served as President, and Techwood Park, Inc. of Atlanta. Johnson also served on the Boards of the National Bar Association as a Vice President, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc., and the Georgia State Bar.

Johnson has been a member of many legal associations and organizations while serving as an attorney. He has given of his time and energy to the Atlanta Exchange, the Atlanta Judicial Commission, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, the Atlanta Region Open Housing Coalition, the Atlanta Urban League, the Georgia State Board of Bar Examiners, and Leadership Atlanta. He would serve as Chairman or President to many of these organizations. Johnson is licensed to practice law before all courts in the state of Georgia. He also has privilege with the U.S. Tax Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals, including the Fourth, Fifth, and Eleventh Circuits. He also can present cases to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C..

For his years of dedicated service, Johnson has been honored and given many awards by associations, organizations, private institutions, and corporate clients. He has been named a Georgia Super Lawyer and one of the Top Ten Outstanding People in Atlanta. The King Center, named after Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., awarded Johnson their Peace and Justice Award.

Charles S. Johnson, III is still a practicing attorney in Atlanta. He is currently an Equity Partner at the international law firm of Holland & Knight, LLP.





## ALBERTA ODELL JONES

...was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. She graduated from Louisville High School at the top of her class before attending the Louisville Municipal College for Negroes. The college was later merged

with the University of Louisville (UL) and Jones graduated from the UL with her undergraduate degree ranked third in her senior class and as one of the few African Americans that attended the law school.

She began her legal studies at the UL's Law School but after one year transferred to the Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. where she obtained her law degree, this time graduating fourth in her class. She passed the bar exam that same year and opened up her own law practice. In passing the Kentucky State Bar exam, Jones became one of the first African American women to pass the Kentucky bar following only Sally J. Seals White.

Jones began her career focusing on civil rights litigations and became an activist for African American causes. Her activism would increase and she became involved with many of the organized causes sponsored by various African American civil rights groups. She even participated in the March on Washington organized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963. Jones also participated in other civil rights local marches in Louisville. Her activism and legal acumen paid off when she was selected to represent young Olympic boxer, Cassius Clay. At the age of twenty-two Clay would become the WBA, WBC and World Heavyweight Champion and would change his name to Muhammad Ali, the greatest heavyweight of all time.

Jones became involved with the voters rights issues and founded the Independent Voters Association. In order to teach African Americans about the voting process, she rented several voting machines and taught classes so they could learn to use the technology and not be afraid to cast their votes for the candidate of their choice. She then joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Louisville Urban League.

In 1965, Jones was appointed as a Prosecutor to Jefferson County, Kentucky. She became the first female and the first African American woman to serve in the County Prosecutor's Office. Her time at the Prosecutor's Office would be short as Jones was found murdered in August of that year, her body being discovered in the Ohio River. Her death was at first attributed to drowning but after the autopsy was completed it was discovered that she had forced blunt trauma to her head.

Further investigation found that Jones had been abducted by three to four men, beat her until she was unconscious and then threw her into the river, thus causing her drowning. No one was ever charged in her death. Many suspected that because of her stance on fighting the wrongs perpetrated by whites against African Americans during the Jim Crow Era and her representing Ali in his stance against American tyranny, Jones was targeted for elimination.

Jones was a single woman and lived with her mother and a sister at the time of her death. She was working on several prosecutorial cases at the time of her disappearance. Although fingerprints were found in her car that matched those of a seventeen-year old white boy, prosecutors stated that was not sufficient evidence to look further into the case and the case was closed as a drowning by accident.

During her short legal career, Jones was a tireless attorney that fought for the freedoms of others. She was an advocate for equal rights and fair employment practices. The Louisville African American community lost one of its' brightest stars with the death of Jones. Her remarkable young life garnered her the privilege of representing a young Muhammad Ali. With Jones' life being taken at a young age, we may never know how she, like Ali did, could have changed the world. She was only thirty-four years old.



## BEN FRANKLIN JONES

...was born on November 28, 1919. After graduating high school, Jones enrolled into LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York where he received his undergraduate degree. Jones joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. while studying at the college. Upon completion of his studies, he enlisted into the United States

Army and reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. He served during World War II.

Returning from the war, Jones enrolled into Lincoln University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri where he earned his law degree. While at Lincoln, Jones and other classmates discovered that a popular faculty law member, although having earned a law degree had never passed any state bar exam, yet he was teaching them the rules of law applicable to any state where they desired to practice. Jones and his fellow law students argued that they were receiving a sub-standard law education and pressured the Dean of the law school to rectify the issue. With continued pressure, the Dean declined to renew the law professor's contract until the bar exam was taken and passed. The professor obliged the Dean and the students and took the state bar exam to pass the bar.

Not one to shy away from controversy, in the 1948 fall semester, students returned to campus to find the Dean of the law school absent for several weeks. Jones learned that the Dean was away campaigning for a candidate running for Vice President of the United States with whom the Dean had ties. Jones mobilized his fellow students to bring attention to the Deans unauthorized absence to the schools Board of Trustees. The Board made demand that the Dean return to campus and assume his delegated duties.

In 1949, Jones passed the Tennessee State bar and was given his license to practice in the state. He received notice of his passing of the exam several months after taking the exam and months after white law students had been notified and they had been recognized publicly and were given an induction ceremony. At the time, the Memphis Bar Association did not allow African American lawyers to become members.

Although the American Bar Association allowed African American members in their ranks, they did not, however, allow them to attend social functions or stay in the same hotels where their conventions were held. Despite these setbacks, Jones was persistent in his goal of practicing law. His stubbornness and determined push to litigate law paid off when he was invited to join the law offices of one of his college mentors, A.A. Latting in his Memphis offices.

Joining Jones in Latting's law firm was H.T. Lockard and Benjamin Hooks. Together, the three young lawyers took on cases involving criminal defense, divorce, personal injury, real estate, and probate. Jones and his fellow officemates did not have any white clients although larger white law firms called upon them to assist them with their controversial cases, especially their cases that involved black defendants, plaintiffs or key witnesses.

Jones took the lead on many of the local civil rights cases that were happening in Memphis. As a legal strategist, he led prepara-

tions in criminal defense cases for students arrested in civil rights demonstrations. He represented students arrested for lunch counter sit-ins at the downtown Memphis Walgreens and other residents of Memphis that took part in the fight for civil rights and equal justice. Jones even helped clients in their income tax issues.

Although Jones and his fellow attorneys were taught to be prepared immaculately in their case preparations, word came from their white legal associates that black attorneys were ill prepared in the litigations of their cases. It was said that black attorneys were slovenly and their work unkempt. These reports concerned Jones and his group of lawyers, as they were attorneys that had earned high respect in both the black community and the white community as well.

To address this issue, Jones, H.T. Lockard, Benjamin Hooks, S.A. Wilbun, and James Estes met at the offices of Lockard to make a plan of action to assist other African American attorneys as a whole and improve the overall image of African American attorneys. From that initial meeting to address the improvement and excellence of African American attorneys, the Memphis Chapter of the National Bar Association would be born. The five attorneys in attendance at that meeting would become known as "The First Five", i.e., the first five member of the Memphis Chapter of the National Bar Association.

From that 1960 meeting, the five attorneys made a pledge to never validate the stereotypes that their white counterparts were attempting to portray in reference to African American attorneys. They vowed to properly counter the insulation that black attorneys were inferior to white attorneys in any fashion. They began by challenging each other to be flawless in their appearances and in their work products. They drew up professional standards that they would abide by from their personal appearances to ensuring that their legal briefs had no smudges, fingerprints, or illegible typed print.

The group agreed to meet once a month to discuss professional developments and self-improvement. It was not long before other Memphis attorneys that believed in the ideals the group was imposing joined the once a month meetings. After several years consulting and giving constructive criticism of each other, in 1966, the group officially created a charter and the Memphis Chapter of the National Bar Association was formed and the charter was submitted to the National Bar Association in Washington, D.C.. With the Memphis chapter forming, Jones turned his attention back to the many civil rights cases that arose as the civil rights movement was in full swing.

As the Memphis charter was being finalized, Jones suffered a sudden heart attack and died. He was only forty-seven years old. Soon after his death, one of the attorneys that had joined the group, Johnny Johnson, spearheaded the official completion of the Memphis Charter of the National Bar Association. With a unanimous vote, the Memphis chapter was named in honor of Ben F. Jones.

Jones was a man of class, a man of integrity, and a man well prepared. Always impeccably dressed, he strove to show a class of African Americans that many thought they could never achieve. A fearless and committed attorney, Jones made great strides in the self-improvement, the professional excellence, and the diligent workmanship of every attorney that he worked along side, while professing an uncompromising pledge to overcome any obstacle that they may face.



## E LAINE RUTH JONES

...was born on March 2, 1944 in Norfolk, Virginia. Her mother was school teacher while her father was a Pullman Porter. He was also a member of the nation's first black trade union. She was the only child of the couple.

Growing up in the Jim Crow South, at an early age she learned the reality of racism. She was raised in a segregated town but understood politics and civil injustices from the conversations her family would have at the dinner table. She was given the confidence and convictions that though the world was unjust, it could accommodate her boldest ambitions. Inheriting a love of problem solving and to challenge society's pigeon-holed perceptions of her value, she once told a magazine that, "*I have always known that the struggle for equality would be my life. I've always known that.*"

After completing her college requirements from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1965, Jones received her degree in Political Science. She took a job teaching English in the U.S. Peace Corps from 1965 to 1967 serving in Turkey. Once her two-year Peace Corps contract was over, she returned to the United States and enrolled into the University of Virginia's School of Law. She was the first African-American woman to attend and became the first African-American woman to graduate.

In 1970, Jones graduated from law school and took a position with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund (LDF). Her desire to fight for equal rights and justice for people of color, women and the poor, the LDF position was a perfect fit. Her first focus was the defense of African American women on death row in America's South where many of her trials were picketed by the Ku Klux Klan.

After two years with the LDF, Jones became Counsel of a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Furman v. Georgia*, which abolished the death penalty in thirty-seven states across the U.S. She also argued employment discrimination cases. She took on class action cases against some of the country's largest Employers. A few of those important cases were *Patterson v. American Tobacco Co.*, *Stallworth v. Monsanto*, and *Swint v. Pullman Standard*.

In 1975, Jones was appointed as Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Before she departed her position two years later, she was deeply involved in the United States Coast Guard allowing women to join. Rejoining the LDF's Washington, D.C. office as a Legislative Advocate, she used her negotiating skills and her fervent passion to be the voice for those who have been shut out of the economic, political, and social mainstream.

Jones helped to reshape the federal judiciary allowing more people of color to be involved in the Process. She advocated for more Judges to be committed to equal rights. She played a key role in the passage of the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982, the Fair Housing Act of 1988, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991. In 1992, Jones and the LDF served as a liaison between the Los Angeles Police and the black communities following the Rodney King beating.

Having served the LDF for sixteen years, in 1993, Jones was appointed as President and Director-Counsel of the LDF, first woman to be named to the position. In that role, although the organization's focus was on its' core work in education, voting rights, economic access and criminal justice, she expanded LDF's case loads into areas surrounding environmental justice and health care. She supervised a staff of almost one hundred employees and oversaw a docket of more than three hundred cases.

As President and Director-Counsel, the LDF successfully defended the affirmative action case of *Gratz v. Bollinger*, a United States Supreme Court case regarding the University of Michigan's undergraduate affirmative action admissions policy. She oversaw the successful clemency case on behalf of Kemba Smith, a young woman incarcerated and sentenced to an excessively harsh and severe federal mandatory minimum Sentence. She also assisted in the landmark case against the Shoney's restaurant chain. Brought on by the restaurants African American employees who claimed racial discrimination in the hiring and promotion of black workers at Shoney's. A \$105 million settlement was reached which was largest ever in a case of that kind, at the time.

Her work was acknowledged in 2000 by President Bill Clinton when he presented her with the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award in recognition of her activism. After thirty-four years of service to the LDF, in 2003, she stepped down from her position.



## JOLANDA JONES

...was born on November 6, 1965 in Houston, Texas and graduated magna cum laude from Alief Elsik High School. She was a star athlete as well on both the track and basketball teams. She made the All-American High School Track Team

and even won the Texas State 5A Team Championship as an individual. She was the only person to have achieved that feat.

Tragedy struck the Jones family when her father committed suicide while she was in the room. As she grew into her teenage years, her mother had four more children and Jones became a primary care taker while her mother worked. There were times when there was no running water and the electricity was intermittent. During colder months, at times there was no heat and the family used candles as the only source of warmth. With that, the family's rental home caught fire and burnt down.

Left homeless, the family stayed with other family members and was supported by caring neighbors. Hurt and hardships were not over for the Jones family. Soon two of her uncles committed suicide, an aunt was murdered, and several family members were sent to prison for various crimes. The entire family fell into welfare. Despite the living conditions, Jones' mother would always push her to be the best she could be and gave her a sense of pride that she would be successful. She was taught to help others, even if you needed help yourself.

Jones went on to graduate high school with honors. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Houston in Houston, Texas in 1995, again magna cum laude, with a degree in Political Science. While obtaining her undergraduate degree, Jones continued her track career joining the schools track team. She was a U.S. Track and Field Heptathlon Champion and won three unprecedented NCAA heptathlon championships.

Jones was the NCAA Southwestern Conference runner-up for the Female Athlete of the Decade for the 80s and was a two-time Academic All-American. She was also a NCAA Top Six Award winner. For her academic achievements, several University school administrators nominated Jones for a NCAA Postgraduate Rhodes Scholarship. The scholarship allowed her to further her studies more easily.

Jones obtained her law degree a few years later from the University of Houston's Law School. While in law school, Jones served as a member of several campus and community Board of Directors, including the University of Houston's Student Body Government. She combined her academic regimen with her athletic schedule while trying to give time to a love relationship.

Unfortunately, that relationship turned abuse and due to the abuse, Jones had to retire from track and field. She would not run competitively for seven years. During that time, she focused her attention to her law career and was determined to become a success. She took on a part time job as a corporate lawyer and began to build her practice.

After seven years away from the track, Jones began to train once again. Within three months of beginning her training, she qualified for the 1996 US Olympic Trials. As you was preparing for the trials, just two weeks before the trails were to be held, tragedy once a gain struck. Her nineteen-year old brother was murdered. Death had followed her family throughout her life. Her training suffered and so did she during the trials.

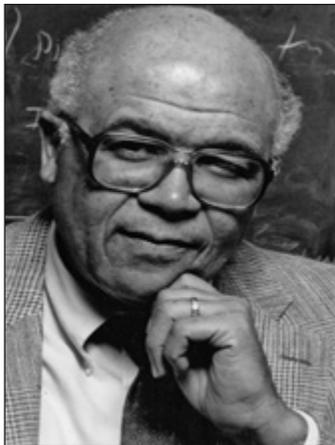
After three events in the Heptathlon Championship, Jones was in sixth place and extremely dehydrated. She was forced to withdraw from the trials, as the burden of her brother's death and having on a few months to prepare was just too much. Despite her withdrawal, for her determined efforts and her resolve to continue after suffering a devastating loss, the University of Houston Athletic and Alumni Center inducted Jones into its' Cougar Hall of Fame. Jones was also inducted into the GTE (Verizon) Academic All-America Hall of Fame and into the Texas Black Hall of Fame.

Jones 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 Jones 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.

Jones continued to build her law firm where she specialized in Family Law, Juvenile Law, and Criminal Justice. As a successful lawyer, and having the background she had growing up, with tragedy and all, she gave considerable time to community based projects aimed at helping young people, especially teens and young adults, handle life's unexpected situations. In 2000, Jones suffered another loss when her niece died of SIDS. In her honor, a 501 c(3) foundation was formed, the U'jana Conley Foundation for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and Jones serves as a Board of Director's member. She also sits on the Board of the Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority for the City of Houston. Jolanda Jones currently resides in Houston, Texas and lives with her son, Jiovanni.





## JAMES E. JONES, JR.

...was born on June 4, 1924 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri where he graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude. He then entered the University of Illinois where

he received his M.A. degree in 1951 majoring in Industrial Relations. He received his law degree in 1956 from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

In his first legal position while and after passing the bar exam, Jones served as an Industrial Relations Analyst for the U.S. Wage Stabilization Board. He then joined the U.S. Department of Labor as a Legislative Lawyer. Jones left the Wage Stabilization Board to become Counsel for Labor Relations at the Department.

Jones would next serve as the Director of the Office of Labor Management Policy Development before accepting the position as Associate Solicitor for the Office of the Solicitor of Labor in its' Division of Labor Relations and Civil Rights. He would leave the Division to accept a position teaching.

In 1969, Jones accepted a position as Professor of Law and Industrial Relations at the University of Wisconsin. While teaching, he also wrote extensive articles and opinions on issues surrounding labor laws, equal protection under the law, and affirmative action and their effects. His love of teaching would inspire many of his students to pursue the field of law involving labor.

While teaching, Jones would serve on many Boards and give of his time to community issues involving labor. In 1970, he served as a member of the United Auto Workers Board of Public Review. In 1971, Jones became the Director of the Industrial Relations Research Institute at the University of Wisconsin. He would serve in this capacity for two years. Jones was then appointed by then Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey to the state's Manpower Planning Council, where he would serve for five years.

In 1972, Jones began a three-year term as a member of the University Senate. He served on the Athletic Board as well, leaving in 1989. He was named to the Madison, Wisconsin Police and Fire Commission by then Mayor Paul Soglin and served on the Commission for four years. In 1994, he served again on the Commission, this time for only one year.

In 1974, he became an Associate of the Institute for Research on Poverty. He also served as the Director of the Center for Equal Employment and Affirmative Action of the Industrial

Relations Research Institute. He would serve at the Institute for nineteen years through 1993.

In 1973, Jones created the William H. Hastie Teaching Fellowship program at the University's Law School. In 1983, he became a John Bascom Professor serving as Professor through 1991. He then became a Nathan P. Feinsinger Professor of Labor Law.

In 1984, Jones was named to the Wisconsin Task Force on Comparable Worth. He would remain with the Task Force for two years. Jones was named to a national post in 1978, when U.S. President Jimmy Carter appointed Jones to the Federal Service Impasses Panel. He would serve on the panel for four years.

At the end of the spring semester in 1993, Jones retired from full-time teaching. He accepted Professor Emeritus status and for the next four years taught labor law and labor arbitration on a part-time basis. When not teaching, he spent his time researching, writing, and lecturing on equal employment issues and policies.

Jones has served as member of the Labor Law Group and has chaired the Editorial Policy Committee. While chairing the Committee, he also served as the Chief Executive Officer and the Editor-in-Chief of their publications. As Editor, the Labor Law Group published six books with labor law as the topic. In 1995, Jones, along with co-editor and University of Wisconsin Professor H. Hill, wrote the book, "Race in America", which was named as an "Outstanding Book", by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in North America.

Professor Jones has been the recipient of many awards, both as a teacher, lecturer, and as a private citizen interested in protecting their labor laws. The University of Wisconsin named him as a "Hilldale Award" winner for outstanding service as a professor in the Social Science Division. The Wisconsin Law Alumni Association gave him their "Distinguished Service Award" and the Society of American Law Teachers awarded Jones their "Teacher of the Year" award.

The University of Illinois Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations named Jones as a "Distinguished Alumnus" and the National Bar Association inducted him into their Hall of Fame. He is also listed amongst Who's Who Among Black Americans; Who's Who in America; Who's Who in American Law; and Who's Who in the Midwest. He is a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators as well as the Industrial Relations Research Association. He has also served as a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the National Bar Association.

James E. Jones, Jr., after a lengthy illness, died peacefully on November 21, 2014. He was ninety years old.





## NATHANIEL R. JONES

...was born on May 12, 1926 in Youngstown, Ohio to Lillian Brown Jones and Nathaniel Bacon Jones. He graduated from Westside High School. While in high school, Jones was mentored by J. Maynard Dickerson, an African American publisher of the activist publication, *Buckeye Review*.

For the publication, Jones wrote a sports column, "Sports Shorts".

At nineteen years old, Jones was drafted into the military. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and was assigned to a base in Dayton, Ohio. While in the Army Air Corps, Jones was Dickerson introduced him to National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) activist Mylie Williamson, James H. McGhee, and F. Leon Higginbotham. After leaving the military, he met Walter White, the NAACP Executive Secretary. His association with these notable civil rights activists made a tremendous impression on Jones and paved the way for his future legal activities.

After returning from the war, Jones continued his education by enrolling into Ohio's Youngstown State University. He received his A.B. degree in 1951. He remained at Youngstown State where he obtained his LL.B. degree in 1956. The following year, he was admitted to the Ohio State Bar. While earning his degrees, Jones became a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

After passing the bar, Jones entered private practice where he would litigate cases for four years. In 1960, he accepted the position as the Executive Director of the Fair Employment Practices Commission. Two years later, he was appointed as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio serving Cleveland, Ohio. He was the first African American appointed to the office.

In 1967, Jones was appointed by then President Lyndon B. Johnson as Assistant General Counsel to the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder. The Commission would later be referred to as the Kerner Commission. After his appointment ended, Jones returned to private practice. He joined the law firm of Goldberg & Jones in Youngstown.

In 1969, Roy Wilkins, the Executive Director of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) called upon Jones to serve as General Counsel to the NAACP. At the following years NAACP Youngstown Annual Banquet, Jones gave the keynote address. In his remarks, he told the over 600 dignitaries attending that the work was far from done. He told them that African Americans live in the basement of America's great society and that African Americans must continue to strive for what they were seeking. Jones would direct the legal affairs of the NAACP for the next nine years.

In assisting the NAACP to end northern segregation, Jones argued several historic cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He argued cases aimed at affirmative action and cases intended to end discrimination in the U.S. military. He also coordinated successfully the defense of the NAACP's case of the legendary Mississippi Boycott case where he argued First Amendment rights.

On May 17, 1979, Jones was nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by then President Jimmy Carter. Jones would go on to serve on the Court of Appeals for twenty-three years until his retirement in 2002. While serving on the Court of Appeals, Jones taught or was guest speaker at several law schools, including Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His stance on civil rights garnered him speaking engagements around the world. In 1993, he was asked to be a member of the U.S. team that travelled to South Africa to observe the country's first democratic election. Jones played an important role in South Africa abolishing their system of Apartheid when he assisted the drafters of the new Constitution of South Africa. While observing, Jones conferred with South African civil rights activists, Nelson Mandela, who had recently been released from prison after serving twenty-seven years for his protests of civil rights. Jones assisting Mandela in assuring that the new laws written in the Constitution protected the rights of the blacks in South Africa, then and in the future. Mandela would become South Africa's first black President.

On May 6, 2003, as a gesture to Jones' long and lengthy career to public service, the second federal courthouse in Youngstown was named in his honor, the Nathaniel R. Jones Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. He would receive, years later, the NAACP's highest award, the Spingarn Medal. His memoirs, "Answering The Call: An Autobiography of the Modern Struggle to End Racial Discrimination in America"; was published by The New Press in May of 2016.

Jones received numerous other awards and accolades. He was the recipient of the American Bar Association's, "Young Lawyers Division Annual Fellows Award"; the American Lawyer's, "Lifetime Achievement Award"; the Children's Defense Fund's, "Changing the Odds Award"; the Federal Bar Association's, "Pillar of Justice Award"; Just The Beginning Foundation's, "Trailblazer Award"; the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.'s, "Laurel Wreath Award"; the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center's, "International Freedom Conductor". He also received the Ohio State Bar Association's "Ohio Bar Medal Award"; the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, "Award of Excellence"; and the Washington Bar Association's, "Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit".

Jones was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. In 2014, the Nathaniel R. Jones American Inn of Court was chartered in Youngstown, Ohio. He has been awarded nineteen honorary degrees and has been named a "Great Living Cincinnati".

Nathaniel R. Jones currently serves as Senior Counsel at Blank Rome LLP based in Cincinnati, Ohio. His focus at the firm centers on alternative dispute resolution, appellate litigation, commercial and general litigation, and employment for both benefits and labor. For his corporate clients, Jones advises executives on diversity issues, advises corporate retailers on racial profiling, and represents employees and corporations in corporate employment disputes.

Jones has served the needs of both civic and community organizations as his way of giving back. He has served the Advisory Board of Soteni International, the Advisory Board of the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights, the KnowledgeWorks Foundation, the Marvin Lewis Community Fund, and the Metropolitan Club. He has been a co-chair and Board member of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Jones has also been a member of the Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc. Diversity Advisory Board.





## PAUL KF. JONES

...was born in 1909 in Kentucky. At the age of eleven, his family moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he attended Pittsburgh's public schools. After completing his undergraduate studies, he at-

tended Pittsburgh's Duquesne Law School where he received his law degree.

Jones served his military duties serving in World War II before turning his attention to his law profession. He served in several positions during the next several decades, including serving as a Water Assessor for the city of Pittsburgh. He also worked for Allegheny County's Treasurer's Office as well as serving as a Solicitor to the City Controller of Pittsburgh.

In his first public service position, in 1950, Jones won an At-Large seat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing Allegheny County. While serving in the State House, he served as the Chair of the Urban Renewal Committee. The Urban Renewal Committee played a pivotal role in the redevelopment of the lower Hill District of Pittsburgh and central to the African American community. Jones served in the House for four years.

In 1954, with the departure of Pittsburgh City Council member William Davis who was elected as the County Sheriff, the City Council seat was left vacant. The Mayor of the city held the responsibility of appointing a new member to fill the seat with the Council's approval. Mayor David Lawrence chose Jones endorsed Jones with all other Democrats on the City Council following suit. Jones easily was elected as a member of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's City Council becoming the first African American to sit on the Council.

Before and after being elected to the City Council, Jones received praise from his fellow attorneys, Council members, and the public at large. The Pittsburgh Courier, the local African American newspaper, ran articles applauding Jones' selection to the Council and printed transcripts of politicians voicing their approval of Jones, never mentioning his color but speaking on his valiant efforts toward the progress of the city of Pittsburgh.

Councilman Jones would be elected to a full term in the 1955 general election and again in the 1959 election. What is unique about Jones run in on the City Council is that during that time, candidates were elected by a city-wide vote as opposed to the modern vote by District. In essence, the majority of city voters liked the politics of Jones and showed so at the polls.

Jones served as an active member to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also served as a member of the Urban League and the American Legion. In addition, as a veteran, Jones was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Councilman Jones died while serving in office in July of 1960. His sudden death sent shockwaves through the African American community and through the entire city of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Courier printed on its' cover with broad and glaring headlines the death of Jones, "Councilman Paul F. Jones Dies!" He was only fifty-two years old.

Before his death, Jones was leading the charge to change city zoning that would allow for the first African American funeral home to be established in the city. At his funeral, he was eulogized at great length for his futuristic views for the city and his inspiring aspirations for the city's residents. He was praised for his efforts to rid the city of slumlords, to create recreational centers for impoverished neighborhood children, and for his drive for urban renewal to make the city surroundings comfortable for all.



## RANDY K. JONES

...was born in Richlands, North Carolina and is the youngest of eleven children. Growing up in a large family, Jones learned the value of sharing early on. He learned how to get along with others even when in disagreements with the others as the tides would turn when they would need to get along with him to

reach a common goal that was once uncommon. He learned the value of compromise while maintaining his own humility and strength in his own position and resolve.

He grew up in the church with a strong family foundation of protection to his loved one and his community. Growing up during the turbulent 1960s, he witnessed racial disparity and North Carolina poverty although his family was rich in tradition and values. As he became older, he knew the situations that African Americans faced wasn't right and vowed to do something about it. He began making a change but studying and learning all he could.

After graduating from Richlands High School as the first African-American to Student Body President, Jones enrolled into the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (UNC). He was the first in his family to do so. Although life was better on campus, he still witnessed the mistreatment and injustices of African American students on campus and elsewhere. His passion to address the injustices grew even more. He led long night debates with fellow students and roommates about the issues that the world faced, particularly African Americans.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Jones received his Political Science degree in 1979. He remained at the university and earned his law degree from the law school in 1982. He then enlisted into the United States Navy where he served in the Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps stationed in San Diego, California. Once his assignment was complete, Jones remained in the Reserves and reached the rank of Commander.

While serving in the military, Jones defended and prosecuted over two hundred felons in jury trials. He gave expert legal advice to senior U.S. Navy Officers involving issues surrounding enlisted personnel and private citizens that became involved in a legal matter with Navy personnel. He also counseled other Navy executives in military, domestic, and international legal matters.

Leaving the military, Jones took a job with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in the U.S. Attorney General's Office in San Diego. In his role as a federal prosecutor, he held responsibility to investigate and prosecute cases involving complex criminal conspiracies, fraud schemes, financial crimes, immigration violations, and violent crimes. He directed numerous federal investigations and litigated more than fifty trials in U.S. federal courts. He oversaw cases associated with bankruptcy fraud, Hobbs Act extortion cases, mail and wire fraud, securities fraud, trademark violations, and tax fraud.

In 1997, Jones was elected as the President of the National Bar Association (NBA). He was one of the youngest attorneys ever elected to

lead the national organization. As President, he successfully lobbied the White House on behalf of two hundred and two African-American World War II sailors who had been wrongly jailed for mutiny. He orchestrated the first delegation of judges and lawyers to the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

In 1998, Jones was the recipient of the his alma mater, North Carolina University's General Alumni Association's Distinguished Young Alumni Award. For the association, he served as Second Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. In sitting on the Board, he was able to convince other alumni to become involved with the school even though some of them still had displeasure with their treatment while attending the school.

After severing as U.S. Attorney for so many years, Jones joined the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. in the San Diego offices. His expert experience in orchestrating federal grand jury proceedings has been instrumental to the firm's military, corporate and private clients for more than thirty-five years. His knowledge of sensitive and high profile internal investigations has been an invaluable asset to his clients that face criminal and complex civil matters in state and federal courts. Clients having high stakes commercial and business disputes, government and corporate clients facing investigations, and professionals having healthcare fraud allegations, and white-collar managers needing defense of alleged wrongdoing, have all called upon Jones for his guided assistance in their legal matters.

His ability to take over cases to complicated for other law firms has garnered him great respect from the most praised legal minds. Jones, as a seasoned trial attorney, implements crisis management plans that greatly lower the costs associated with litigation and avoids negative publicity and costly business disruptions. In many cases, he has been able to end government investigations before they reach the trial stages.

Jones is a member of several legal bar associations and is authorized to try cases before several different courts. His is a member of the California Bar and the North Carolina Bar. He is also a member of the bars associated with the United States Court of Appeal for the Armed Forces, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, United States District Court for the Central District of California, United States District Court for the Northern District of California, United States District Court for the Southern District of California, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Jones is also a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar.

His awards are vast. He has been recognized by the California Lawyer as one of its' "Top 20 Lawyers of the Year", the California Law Business Journal as one of its' "Top 25 Lawyers Under 40", the Ebony Magazine as one of its' "100 Most Influential Leaders", the San Diego County Bar Association's "Public Lawyer of the Year", the San Diego Magazine as one of its' "San Diego's Top Lawyers", and the Union Bank/KPBS recognized Jones as a Local Hero Recipient. The UNC General Alumni Association awarded Jones a Distinguished Service Medal and the UNC General Alumni Association awarded him its' Distinguished Young Alumni Award. Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina gave Jones a Honorary Doctor of Laws and he is listed in Who's Who in American Law.

Jones has served local and national communities and continues to give back in order to help others less fortunate. He donates his time and money to better improve the lives of crime victims, those caught in the web of gangs, and young aspiring law students hoping, as he once did, to make a difference in their communities and society. Jones is married to his wife Traci and has a son, Randy, Jr. and a daughter, Arrington.





## SCIPIO AFRICANUS JONES

...was born on August 3, 1863 in Tulip, Arkansas. Jones' mother, Jemmina Jones, was a fifteen year old slave when he was born. His father was "unknown". Jemmina was bound to a Dr. Adolphus and Carolyn Jones. She was assigned to their

daughter, Thresa, as a companion when the girls were young. They soon became best friends and grew up together. Thresa, a year younger than Jemmina, was nine years old when her parents died. She and her slave, Jemmina, were forced to move to the house of her uncle, Dr. Sanford Reamey. From this forced arrangement, Scipio Africanus Jones was born with an "unknown" father.

Jones attended the black schools near his hometown, Tulip in Dallas County, Arkansas. During his early growing years, while he was enrolled in school, he chopped cotton in order to support himself. In 1883, at the age of twenty, he moved to Little Rock, and took preparatory courses at Philander Smith College. In 1885, earned a Bachelor's Degree from North Little Rock's Shorter College, a historically black college.

Jones began his professional career as a school teacher in Big Rock District Two from 1885 until 1887. He rented living conditions from James Lawson, a prominent white man and member of a "pioneer" family of Little Rock. Jones also befriended three prominent Black business owners, Ed Wood Sr., owner of the largest Black-owned plantation in the state and the only African American on the local commodities trading floor; John Bush, a powerful Black merchant and lumber yard owner; and Chester Keatts. Through these three men, Jones was initiated into the Prince Hall Freemasonry, a secret fraternal society of prominent African Americans who pooled resources for the ideals of liberty, equality and peace.

When Jones passed the Arkansas Bar in 1889, Arkansas had no law school for African-American students to attend. To further his knowledge of the law, he offered to work for free as a janitor at the law offices of U.S. District Judge Henry C. Caldwell, Judge T.B. Martin, and Atty. S.A. Kilgore. They accepted. In his spare time, he read as many law books as he could. This led to him becoming an apprentice, reading law under Circuit Judge Robert J. Lea. Reading law in an established law firm was a common way to study law and prepare for the bar.

The following year, he was admitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court. In 1901, Jones argued two important civil rights cases before the Arkansas Supreme Court. In both cases, Jones objected to the all-white jury. In one case the Court overturned a lower court's conviction. In the second case the court ruled that there was no discrimination in jury selection. Despite the mixed outcome Jones quickly emerged as the leading black attorney in Arkansas.

In 1905, Jones won a court case that exposed the unfairness of the convict labor system. Convicts were being paid fifty cents per day and charged for each day they could not work. Time was added to their sentences to cover days lost from work. As a result of Jones' victory, the convicts stipends were increased to seventy-five cents a day, regardless of whether they worked or not.

Jones was an active member of the Arkansas Republican Party and was an elected Delegate to the National Republican Conventions of 1908 and 1912. He opposed Arkansas's Jim Crow laws and successfully argued cases before the United States Supreme Court between 1913 and 1925. Known for his pro bono work for poor African American defendants, Jones became the lead attorney in Arkansas for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their cases. In 1915, he was elected to be a Special Judge for the Little Rock Municipal Court to preside over a court case that involved a black defendant.

Jones is most famous for the successful appeals of the Elaine 12. This case involved twelve black men who were sentenced to death for their participation in the Elaine, Arkansas race riot of 1919. Despite his efforts, the twelve defendants were tried, convicted, and sentenced to death by an all-white jury. The deliberations of the trial were short while outside, an angry mob of whites cried out for lynching the defendants if the jury did not sentence them to death.

Despite the vile attacks and death threats, Jones sat on the case through an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and is credited as the author of the brief. There is no doubt, that because of Jones' tenacity, the Court in *Moore v. Dempsey* (1923) set aside the convictions, freeing all of the defendants and granting new trials to the Elaine 12 defendants.

In 1924, Jones became one of the first black attorneys to hold a judgeship in Arkansas. He was elected to become Chancellor in the Pulaski County Court. Despite his growing success, Jones kept his focus on civil rights and criminal defense advocacy. Six months prior to his election as Chancellor, he was involved in a murder case and won a stay of execution.

Judge Scipio Africanus Jones died on March 2, 1943 in Little Rock, Arkansas.



## STARLET MARIE JONES

...was born on March 24, 1962 in Badin, North Carolina. Her mother worked an office job as a human services administrator. She was raised by her stepfather who was a municipal security chief. The family relocated to Trenton, New Jersey where Jones graduated from Notre

Dame High School in nearby Lawrenceville.

For her undergraduate degree, Jones attended American University in Washington, D.C. where she earned her B.A. degree in Administration of Justice. At American she joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority's Lambda Zeta chapter. She went on, in 1986, to earn her J.D. degree from the University of Houston's Law Center in Houston, Texas. A year later, Jones took and passed the New York state bar.

Jones took a job with New York's Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn as a prosecutor. In 1992, she was promoted to Senior Assistant District Attorney. A year earlier, she had taken part in a commentary team of lawyers aired by Court TV. The 1991 rape case of William Kennedy Smith, a member of President John F. Kennedy's bloodline, was national news and Jones was hired to provide legal perspectives.

From those TV appearances, Jones would spend the next several years appearing on many talk shows lending her legal and sometimes political views to the viewing public. She appeared as a correspondent on many TV local and national networks across the country, including NBC Nightly News and NBC's Today Show.

In 1994, network TV launched for Jones her own TV show. Her "Jones & Jury" show mirrored the formats of several top arbitration based reality court shows being aired on TV at the time. Jones' show varied in that it sometimes took on more of a talk show format than that of a courtroom. The show lasted only one season. Despite its' cancellation, Jones became the first African American lawyer to serve as a TV arbitrator in a televised court series.

Jones then accepted a position with the TV news and gossip show, Inside Edition as their Chief Legal Analyst. For the infamous 1994 O.J. Simpson murder trial, she led the American Journal's legal news coverage. During the civil trial, she was the only reporter to be given an interview by Simpson.

In 1997, she became one of the original four co-hosts of the daytime TV show, "The View". Her nine year stint with the show came with much controversy and ridicule. A large woman, her obesity was made fun of. She became the jokes of many because of her size.

In seeking solutions, Jones' diagnosis called for her to lose weight. She began a weight loss program. Over the next three years, Jones would lose an astonishing 160 pounds (73 kilograms). Controversy came when Jones, after claiming for several years that she had lost all of her weight through exercise and diet had actually had undergone gastric bypass surgery. Some were even more exasperated with Jones, after learning that others had lied to the public on her behalf, including Barbara Walters told Oprah Winfrey. Some of the viewing audience turned against Jones.

Despite the outcry, Jones continued with her legal commentary work. She became a red-carpet host for the E! television network where she interviewed arriving celebrities at awards shows and other high profile events. After one year, she left to become a host on several cable produced shows such as HGTV's "House Hunters in New York City". The show scored the largest household ratings in the cable channel's history.

With Jones' contract with ABC expiring in July of 2004, the network discovered that she, for months, had been endorsing and pushing products and services on the air for vendors that she was using for her upcoming 2004 wedding to Al Reynolds in exchange for free services. The producers of the show immediately called for Jones to leave the show, "on her own terms", by finishing out the remaining fews shows remaining to be taped for that season and make an on air announcement that she was leaving.

All agreed upon the date when Jones would make the announcement. To their surprise, she made the announcement on live TV two days earlier with no mention of her contract not being renewed. Blindsided, Barbara Walters and the network powers removed Jones immediately from the show. For the remaining shows, the network ran reruns and aired only reruns in which Jones did not appear.

In 2007, Jones returned to Court TV who had changed their name to truTV. There she served as the Executive Editor of daytime programming. She also hosted her own live weekday talk show. Her show focused on pop culture, entertainment, crime and civil justice.

Six months later, it was announced that the plug had been pulled on the Star Jones show and all episodes were canceled. It was also announced that Jones was leaving truTV altogether due to changes in program selections. With her final airing of the Star Jones show, on February 1, 2008, Jones signed off the air, took her three-year contract buyout of \$24 million and left truTV.

During her career, Jones has hosted numerous cable shows, including Larry King Live and the Michael Eric Dyson radio show. She has appeared on the The Bad Girls Club Season 2 reunion on the Oxygen Network. She has been seen on several TV shows including Law & Order: Special Victims Unit where she appeared twice. For TV talk show host, Dr. Phil, she has served as his legal analyst. She did the same for The Insider TV show.

Other TV appearances include her 2009 celebrity appearance on the TV game show, "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?". For her selected charity, The East Harlem School at Exodus House, a New York City middle school created underprivileged kids. She won the school \$25,000. For the fourth season of the TV reality show, "The Celebrity Apprentice", she placed fifth amongst the contestants.

Jones has penned several books, including "You Have to Stand for Something, or You'll Fall for Anything"; "Shine: A Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Journey to Finding Love"; and *Satan's Sisters*. She has served as the President of the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW). For the organization, she has been actively involved in their Foundation's philanthropic endeavors. As a national volunteer for the American Heart Association, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and Dress For Success and Girls, Inc., Jones gives her time, efforts and money to worthy causes that help her selected and member organizations succeed in their desired goals.

Jones became the President of Professional Diversity Network (NASDAQ: IPDN). They soon appointed her as a member of its' Board of Directors. She became the youngest in a small group of African-American women leading a major public company in the United States.





## **T**IERRA DANIELLE JONES

...graduated from Mineral County High School in Hawthorne, Nevada in 1999. In high school, she was a member of the Honor Society and served as the Society's vice President. She mentored younger students helping

them with their studies to help them achieve academic success.

After her high school graduation, Jones enrolled into the University of Nevada at Reno where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2003 majoring in Counseling and Educational Psychology. While studying for her undergraduate degree, she was a member of the Criminal Justice Honor Society and the Student Orientation Staff. As a Counseling major, Jones worked with students that had addiction problems associated with alcohol, pharmaceutical or leisure drugs.

Jones obtained her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas attending the William S. Boyd School of Law where she completed her studies in 2006. While earning her law degree, she worked as an intern for the Federal Public Defender's Office to the District of Nevada. For her exemplary work at the Public Defender's Office, she was promoted as a paid part-time law clerk in the Post-Conviction Habeas Corpus Petitions Department. She also served as the Vice President of the Public Relations Division of the University's Black Law Student Association. In addition, Jones participated in the Legal Education Assistance for Prisoners Program and served as the Chair of the Student Only Auction Committee for the Public Interest Law Student Association.

After passing the Nevada State Bar exam in 2006, Jones accepted a job with Nevada's Nye County District Attorney's Office. After a period of time with the office, she moved to Nevada's Clark County Public Defender's Office. She then accepted her current position in Nevada's Clark County District Attorney's Office where she serves as a Deputy District Attorney. For the Office, she prosecutes criminal cases that involved charges ranging from misdemeanors to felonies. In her young career, Jones has already handled thirty-two jury trials with several of them involving serious and violent offenses. Jones

has been certified to try cases before the Pahrump Justice Court, the Las Vegas Justice Court, and the Fifth Judicial District Court of Clark County. She also has privileges to argue cases before the Eighth Judicial District Court.

On April 27, 2017, Jones was appointed by Governor Brian Sandoval as a Judge on the Eighth Judicial District Court in Nevada's Tenth Department. With her appointment, she became the first African American woman to be appointed as a Judge to the Eighth Judicial District Court. The seat on the Court's bench became available with the retirement of Judge Jessie Walsh.

Judge Jones is a member of the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association (NBA). For the NBA, she has served as the local chapter's Secretary, Vice President, and has chaired its' Mentoring Committee. She is a member of the Clark County Prosecutor's Association, Leadership Las Vegas, Emerge Nevada, and the Junior League of Las Vegas.



## **B**ARBARA CHARLENE JORDAN

...was born in Houston, Texas's Fifth Ward to Arlyne Patten Jordan and Benjamin Jordan. Barbara's early childhood had church at the center of their lives. Her father was a Baptist preacher and her mother was a teacher in the church. The youngest

of three girls, she had two siblings, Rosemary Jordan McGowan and Bennie Jordan Creswell.

Jordan attended Roberson Elementary School and graduated from Phillis Wheatley High School with honors in 1952. She credits a speech by Edith S. Sampson she heard in high school that inspired her to become a lawyer. In her matriculation to college, Jordan set that as her goal, becoming a lawyer.

Because of the segregated South, she attended Texas Southern University, majoring in Political Science and History rather than the larger and more prominent University of Texas at Austin. Despite the exclusion, Jordan became a national champion debater. She and her TSU debate team defeated Yale and Brown opponents and tied Harvard University in debates. In 1956, she graduated magna cum laude and pledged to the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. For her law degree, she attended Boston University's School of Law in Boston Massachusetts, graduating in 1959.

Jordan took a job teaching Political Science at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama for a year. She returned to Houston to take the bar exam. Passing it, she started her private law practice. Two years later, in 1962, she campaigned unsuccessfully for the Texas House of Representatives. She tried again in 1964 and again lost. In 1965, she supported the renewal of the Voting Rights Act and the expansion that extended protection to Hispanics in Texas.

In 1966, she won a seat in the Texas Senate, becoming the first African American and the first black woman State Senator since 1883 to serve. She was re-elected to a full term in 1968, serving until 1972. She became the first African-American female to serve as President Pro Tem of the State Senate and acted as Governor of Texas for one day on June 10, 1972. No other African American woman has served as Governor of a state (excluding lieutenant governors) since. During her time in the Texas Legislature, Jordan sponsored or cosponsored over seventy state bills.

She was elected to Congress in 1972 becoming the first woman to represent Texas in the House. Receiving support

from then President Lyndon B. Johnson, she secured a position on the House Judiciary Committee. While there, she passionately supported the impeachment process of President Richard Nixon. In 1975, she was appointed to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

In 1976, Jordan, became instead the first African-American woman to deliver a Keynote Address at a Democratic National Convention. Although she was not a candidate running for office, Jordan did receive one delegate vote for President at the Convention. She supported the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, legislation requiring banks to lend and make services available to under served poor and minority communities.

In 1979, Jordan retired from politics and became an Adjunct Professor teaching Ethics, ironically at the university that she could not attend as a collegiate Freshman, The University of Texas at Austin. Taking a position at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, Jordan completed "full circle" a life journey like no other. Not stopping her political involvement, she was asked to be the Keynote Speaker at the Democratic National Convention in 1992.

In 1994, Jordan became Chair of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, an advocate for increased restriction on Immigration. She increased penalties on employers that violated U.S. immigration regulations. She tightened border security and opposed amnesty for illegal immigrants citing the harm done to US citizens in jobs and employment from cheaper illegal alien workers. She was for a clear process for the deportation of legal immigrants.

In 1973, Jordan began to suffer from multiple sclerosis. She also suffered from leukemia. After being cared for by her thirty year partner, Nancy Earl, an educational psychologist, in 1988, Jordan nearly drowned in her backyard swimming pool while performing physical therapy. Earl discovered her floating in the pool, pulled her from the water and revived her. At the age of fifty-nine, Jordan died on January 17, 1996, in Austin, Texas due to complications from pneumonia.

During Jordan's tenure as a Congresswoman, she sponsored or cosponsored over three hundred bills or resolutions, some of which are laws today. President Clinton, in 1994, awarded Jordan the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The NAACP later presented her with the Springarn Medal. She was honored and given over twenty honorary degrees from institutions across the country, including Harvard and Princeton. She was elected to the Texas and National Women's Halls of Fame.



## EMMA COLEMAN JORDAN

...received her undergraduate degree from San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California and obtained her law degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law where she

graduated first in her class. She is widely known for her work in the field of economic justice in legal theory. She is also an expert in the civil rights law and laws surrounding financial services.

She currently teaches law courses at Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C. specializing in Banking and Finance and Commercial Law. Her courses on Commercial Law: Payments and Secured Transactions; Contemporary Issues in Economic Justice; and Federal Regulation of Banking: Modern Financial Institutions and Change, are centered on economic justice and the impact of asymmetric legal representation in the foreclosure crisis.

Prior to teaching at Georgetown, Jordan began teaching as a teaching Fellow at Stanford University Law School in Stanford, California. She also taught for twelve years at the University of California at Davis for twelve years. She has served as an expert in the financial services field and has served as the Chair of the Financial Institutions Committee of the California State Bar. In serving on the committee, Jordan was a member of the team that drafted the statute to regulate bank check holding practices. She also served as the Co-Counsel in class action suits that challenged bank's stop-payment fee charges.

In 1980, Jordan served as a White House Fellow for one year where she served as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. During the U.S. Congressional hearings on the confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' hearings, she served as legal counsel to Oklahoma Professor Anita Hill. In 1984, Jordan served as the past President of both the Association of American Law Schools and the Society of American Law Teachers. That year, she was elected as a member in the American Law Institute.

Jordan has served as a regular commentator on the subject of economic justice issues and the financial service industry on national broadcast shows such as

CSPAN, PBS News Hour, NPR, Diane Rehm, and the Bill Moyer Show. Her opinions have been published in the American Banker, the Huffington Post, the New York Times, and the Washington Post. Jordan assisted in the organization of the Financial Institutions and Consumer Financial Services section of the Association of American Law Schools.

Jordan has written several textbooks on financial and economic topics. She recently released the second edition of her textbook, "Economic Justice: Race, Gender, Identity and Economics", which is one of many articles and books she has written on the subject. Other published works of hers include, "The Short End of The Stick: The Role of Race in Law, Markets and Social Structures" (2009); "Beyond Rational Choice: Alternative Perspectives on Economics" (2006); "A Woman's Place is in the Marketplace: Gender and Economics" (2006); "When Markets Fail: Race and Economics" (2006); and "Cultural Economics: Markets and Culture" (2006).

For her contributions to the legal financial profession, Jordan has been awarded the Clyde Ferguson Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Teaching and Service. She has been called upon to speak at national meetings and seminars on topics related to financial law and has made presentations to several financial associations and institutions, including presenting to the Annual Meeting of the Council of Institutional Investors and the New York University School of Law's Derrick Bell Lecture series.



## VERNON EULION JORDAN, JR.

...was born on August 15, 1935 in Georgia, to Mary Belle, and Vernon E. Jordan, Sr. Raised in the segregated South, Vernon and his brother Windsor felt their share of racial injustices but did not let that interfere with their ultimate

goals. Despite the segregated treatment of blacks during that time, Vernon became an honor graduate of David Tobias Howard High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Rejected for summer intern desk jobs because of his race, he earned money to pay his way to college by working as a chauffeur to former Atlanta Mayor Robert Maddox, a banker at the time.

Earning enough, Jordan attended and graduated from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, in 1957 as the only black student in a class of four hundred. He earned his law degree at Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1960 and became a member of the Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities

Returning to Atlanta, Jordan joined the law offices of civil rights activist Donald L. Hollowell. The firm sued the University of Georgia for racial discrimination in their admission policies. In 1961, the suits ruling ended with a Federal Court order demanding the admission of African Americans, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton E. Holmes. Personally escorted by Jordan, Hunter walked her way past a group of angry white protesters on their way to the university's Admissions Office

Jordan left private law practice in the early 1960s, becoming directly involved in activism, serving as the Georgia Field Director for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He left the NAACP in 1964 to become the Director of the Southern Regional Council's Voter Education Project which helped significantly increase the number of black voters in the deep South.

In 1970, he became Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund and in 1971, he became President of the National Urban League leaving in 1981. Resigning, he took a position as Legal Counsel with the Dallas law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in their Washington, D.C. office.

Jordan's life almost came to an end on May 29, 1980. While outside of a Marriott Inn Hotel in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Jordan was shot and seriously wounded. Joseph Paul

Franklin, charged but acquitted in 1982 of the attempted murder, later admitted to the shooting. In a 1996 unrelated murder case, Franklin, again charged, but this time convicted of murder. Jordan's shooting was covered nationally by the U.S. media. President Jimmy Carter paid Jordan a visit while he was recovering. That visit became the first news story covered by the newly launched cable network, CNN.

By 1992, Jordan, had become a friend and political adviser to Bill Clinton. He served on the presidential transition team after Clinton was elected President and was a golfing companion as well. In essence, he had become the "go-to-guy". Dubbed the "Consoler in Chief", Jordan became the conduit to the high and mighty. He was the "go-between" and sometimes the bearer of bad news. He is the one that told Mike Espy, then Secretary of Agriculture that "he had to go".

Jordan helped Warren Christopher win his Secretary of State position and that of Gen. Colin L. Powell for his Cabinet job. He is also known for the controversial help given to Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern involved in the Bill Clinton White House Sex Scandal, after she left the White House. Attempting to collect legal fees, on October 1, 2003, a United States Court of Appeals rejected Jordan's claim for reimbursement for fees related to assisting Clinton in his scandals involving Lewinsky and another woman, Paula Jones. Jordan asked a for reimbursement \$302,719, but the government paid only \$1,215 to him.

Since January 2000, Jordan has been Senior Managing Director with Lazard Freres & Co. LLC, an investment banking firm. He sits as on the Boards of multiple corporations, including American Express, J.C. Penney Corporation, Asbury Automotive Group, the Dow Jones & Company, Revlon, Sara Lee, Corning, Xerox, and RJR Nabisco. One of his closest friends was Charles Peter McColough, the late Xerox tycoon. McColough persuaded Jordan to join the Board of Trustees at Xerox and served as Jordan's mentor and friend until his death. Having power friends has been one of Jordan's greatest assets.

In 2004, Jordan elected President of the Economic Club of Washington. In 2006, he served as a member of the Iraq Study Group, formed to make recommendations on U.S. policies regarding Iraq.

Jordan first married Shirley Yarbrough, who died in 1985. They have one daughter, Vickee Jordan Adams. In 1986, he remarried, marrying Ann Dibble Jordan.



## ARTHENIA L. JOYNER

...was born on February 3, 1943 in Lakeland, Florida. She attended Florida A&M University (FAMU) in Tallahassee where she received her undergraduate degree in 1964 majoring in Political Science. To obtain her law degree, she remained at Florida A&M and received her Juris Doctor degree in 1968.

While attending FAMU, Joyner was active in civil rights issues and was arrested twice for her involvement in student protests of a segregated movie theater. After passing the Florida State Bar exam, Joyner's first job in the legal profession was as an Assistant to Joe Lang Kershaw, a Florida State Representative. In accepting the assistance position, Joyner became the first African American woman to practice law in both Polk and Hillsborough Counties. She would leave Representative Long's office to form her own law firm, Stewart, Joyner and Jordan-Holmes.

In 1984, Joyner, after joining the National Bar Association, served as the organization's President. As President, she took an active role in addressing issues surround civil rights. She was again arrested for her protest activities, this time for protesting the system of Apartheid in South Africa outside the Washington, D.C. South African Embassy. In her protests, she campaigned for the release of Nelson Mandela, a South African civil rights activists that had been in prison for twenty-seven years for his protest of Apartheid. Mandela would not be released until February of 1990.

In 1985, Joyner was appointed by then President Bill Clinton as a representative to the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing, China. Several years later, she was appointed by then Florida Governor Lawton Chiles to a seat on the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority. She was the first African American woman to serve as a member of the Authority. While serving, Joyner was crucial in the development of the Airport Minority Advisory Council and in the diversity hiring of African Americans and other minorities to the Aviation Authority.

In 2000, Joyner ran for a seat in the Florida House of Representatives representing the 59th District, which encompasses the cities of Brandon and Tampa. Running on a platform of reducing crime, improved health care, childcare support issues, and for the creation of well paying jobs, she handily won the House seat tallying 71% of the casted votes. She was re-elected in the 2002 general election with another landslide vote winning 89% of the vote. In the 2004 election, she ran unopposed.

In 2006, Les Miller, the Florida State Senator who represented the district that Joyner represented in the House made a run for the U.S. Congress. Joyner ran for his seat in the Florida Senate. She broadened her scope to include a larger base of Floridians to serve, which included Apollo Beach, Bradenton, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, St. Petersburg, and Tampa Counties.

During the campaign, Joyner's office was vandalized and racial slogans were scribbled on the door. Joyner, without hesitation,

called the act of vandalism a disgrace and stated there was no place for it in the twenty-first century. She used the incident to call further national attention to the plight of civil rights. In the primary election, Joyner out distanced her Democratic rival, winning the Senate seat garnering 79% of the vote. In the general election, Joyner's only opponent was a write-in candidate. She won the general election winning nearly 100% of the votes. With the win, she took her seat in the Florida Senate. In the 2010 general election, she was re-elected, again unopposed.

While serving in the Senate, Joyner co-authored legislation making it easier to prosecute identity theft without the need to prove stolen information was used fraudulently. She opposed the State of Florida's legislation that expedited death row inmate's execution. Her coined phrase, "Is swift just, fair justice", became a rallying cry for opponents of the death penalty, as many innocent men had been executed that were found innocent later.

In 2012, Florida redrew its' legislative districts. Joyner's 19th District remained almost the same with a few other areas added to the territory she represented. She ran unopposed in both the primary and the general election. She resumed her seat in the Senate but that would be her last Senate election as she had reached her term limits as a Florida State Senator. Serving her last term, Joyner was elected by her peers as the Floor Leader serving at the pleasure of her fellow Senate Democrats. As the Senate Minority Leader, she became the first African American woman to serve in that capacity.

After leaving the Florida State Senate, Joyner served as the National Vice President of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL/Women). She also served as the Florida State Director for Women in Government. For the Florida Senate on the Criminal Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures, she served on their Committee as well.

Joyner has served her Florida constituents well, as was validated by her many re-elections by those that voted for her. She practiced law for forty-seven years in Florida, longer than any other African American woman in the state of Florida history. Her leadership in the areas of civil rights, human rights, civil justice reform, health policies, and consumer protection has been exceptional. Always having the people that she served as her focal point, Joyner's legislative feats have resulted in furthering the African American agenda or they have served to defeat legislation aimed at harming her constituents.

Joyner has served several organizations in leadership roles. She has given her services to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as their National Legal Advisor; the Florida Legislative Black Caucus as their Chair; The Links, Inc. as their National Parliamentarian, the National Bar Association as President, and National Black Caucus of State Legislators as a member of their Executive Committee. Joyner served at the pleasure of U.S. President Bill Clinton as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Population Conference in Cairo, Egypt and was a member of Women in Government and the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL. In addition, Joyner served as a member of the Management Advisory Council of the Federal Aviation Authority.

Joyner has been given many prestigious awards and recognitions during her professional career and they are still amassing. Her passion for truth, justice and equal rights has been woven into those that she has mentored and touched. Arthenia L. Joyner is a Florida icon, loved and cherished by her constituents, peers, and residents of Florida's 19th District.





## KEVIN JUDD

...earned his law degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School in 1992. After passing the bar, he accepted a job with the law firm of Washington, D.C.'s Bell & Adams as an associate attorney. He focused his legal attention to the financial

problems of his clients and guided them through the bankruptcy and arbitration process. He remained with the firm for two years.

In 1994, Judd established the Law Firm of Kevin D. Judd, his own law firm. Understanding that unfortunate situations do arise at any time during a person's life, he set up practice to help those that needed to go through the process and had little knowledge of what may be available to them. He advised his clients on the paperwork, filing schedules and compliance issues. He worked to calm the anxiety many had when facing bankruptcy. He also suggested relief options that helped many maintain a sense of pride when they may have thought all was lost.

In 1996, Judd was named as a Board Member of the National Bar Association. He has served the organization for the past twenty-one years. In 2002, Judd became the President of the Federal Bar Association's District of Columbia chapter. In 2008, Judd was named as President of the Howard University Law Alumni Association.

In 2016, Judd became the President of the National Bar Association (NBA). The NBA is the oldest and largest national legal association of predominately African American lawyers and judges in the United States. It has over 45,000 judges, lawyers, law clerks, and law students in its' membership. He has previously served as the Vice President of the law association. He also served the organization as a Board Member At-Large.

As President, Judd focused on the financial stability of the association and sought to find better ways to serve the needs of the membership while remaining loyal to the needs of the community. His desire to build a consensus within the membership and to create professional development initiatives is what led him to seek the office of President of the NBA. Judd, having served in leadership positions for several other law association's understood the needs of his member judges, lawyers, and law students and worked to make the NBA a better organization than when he took the helm.

As a bankruptcy attorney, Judd takes his time to understand his client's financial dilemmas and brings options including the

preconceived stigma surrounding bankruptcy. He works with clients to rebuild credit and life after filing. He assists clients in foreclosures as well.

Judd takes special care for African American clients, as they most often have looked at bankruptcy in a manner far different than their white counterparts. Many look at the idea of bankruptcy as a sign of moral defeat when in actuality, it is but one aspect of one's personal perils that happens to many. Whether caused by divorce, health conditions, family medical emergencies or business failures, Judd works to ease the pain and mental anguish of going through the process.

His expertise in individual, corporate or sole proprietor bankruptcy is vast and works to steer clear of any of the pitfalls that may surround the process. He works to ensure that family's and businesses maintain as much of their sanity and property by knowing the laws and how they are applied to the courts. Whether Chapter 7 or Chapter 13, Judd is well versed in both and applies applicable laws to find the best remedy to address the case.

Judd sits on several Boards and has chaired the Bankruptcy Law Section for the National Bar Association. He is licensed in both Bankruptcy Law and Commercial Law. He is a member of many bar associations including the National Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, and the New York Bar. Judd can present to Bankruptcy Courts, including the U.S. Bankruptcy Court District of Columbia, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Eastern District of New York, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Maryland, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Northern District of New York, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Southern District of New York, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Western District of New York.

Judd can present to the U.S. District Court Central District of California, the U.S. District Court District of Maryland, and the U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York. He is authorized to present to the U.S. District Court Northern District of New York and the U.S. District Court Southern District of New York. In addition, Judd can present to the U.S. District Court Western District of New York.

Judd is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers Arbitrator; the National Bar Association, Bankruptcy Law Section; the Washington Bar Association; the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys; the Maryland State Bar Association Consumer Bankruptcy Section; and the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland. He is also a member of the American Bar Association; the Federal Bar Association, D.C. Chapter; and National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. In addition, Judd is a member of the Sigma Delta Tau Legal Fraternity, Inc. and served as the fraternity's Chief Justice.



## A MALYA LYLE KEARSE

...was born on June 11, 1937 in born in Vauxhall, New Jersey to Myra Lyle Smith Kearse and Robert Freeman. He mother was a medical doctor and her father worked as a postmaster. She graduated high

school from Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey. She then attended Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts where she graduated in 1959 majoring in Philosophy.

To obtain her law degree, Kearse attended the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor. She was the only African American law student in her graduating class. While earning her law degree, Kearse served as the Editor of the Law Review. She graduated in 1962 cum laude.

After completing her law studies, Kearse accepted a job in private practice in the New York City, New York law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed. She would rise in the law firm to become a partner. While working at the law firm, Kearse also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at New York's New York University Law School.

In 1979, Kearse was appointed by then President Jimmy Carter to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She became the second African American to serve on the Court following Thurgood Marshall. Years later, Judge Kearse would be considered by then President Bill Clinton for the position of United States Attorney General, however, he would instead appoint U.S. Attorney Janet Reno. Judge Kearse would remain on the Court of Appeals for twenty-three years reaching senior status in 2002.

Judge Kearse was elected to a Fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers. She was the first woman to become a Fellow at the College. She was also a member of the University of Michigan Law School Committee of Visitors. She served on the Committee for eight years.

Judge Kearse was a world-class bridge player. She won the World Women Pairs Championship in 1986 while playing with her longtime partner Jacqui Mitchell. With her victory, she won the title of World Bridge Federation World Life Master.

Her honors on the bridge table include being inducted into the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) Hall of Fame, being awarded the Blackwood Award, and receiving the Charles H. Goren Award. She won a World Women's Pair Championship and six North American Bridge Championships. She also won a United States Bridge Championship.



## SAMPSON WESLEY KEEBLE

...was born in 1833 in Rutherford County, Tennessee to Nancy Polly Keeble and Sampson W.. Born into slavery, his family was owned by Walter Keeble who instructed his heirs that upon his death or when the law allowed, that the servants, the

term he used instead of slave, were to be set free. Keeble's last will and testimony called for the freed slaves to be educated and cared for as well.

Upon the death of Walter "Blackhead" Keeble, Sampson was eleven years old. His ownership was transferred to Walter Keeble's son, attorney Horace Pinkney Keeble. When Sampson turned eighteen, he began working at the Rutherford Telegraph in Murfreesboro, Tennessee as a "roller boy". Three years later, he became a press operator for the Rutherford Telegraph and the Murfreesboro News. With the breakout of the Civil War, Keeble joined the Confederate ranks during most of the war, as an aide to his master, Horace Keeble.

After the war, Keeble moved to Nashville, Tennessee where he found work as a barber and a custodian in a law office where his interest in law took foothold. Attorneys in the law office supported Keeble in his desire to become a lawyer. He followed their cases and learned the protocol and procedures of law, while he cleaned the offices.

At the end of the Civil War, Tennessee became the third state in the Union to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, which granted citizenship status to African Americans. The state lessened the restrictions on political endeavors for African Americans and Keeble became involved in the politics. It was not long before he became heavily involved in the political and social concerns of the black citizens of Nashville.

In 1866, Keeble participated in the second State Colored Men's Convention held in Nashville. The central theme during the convention was to lobby state legislatures to approve the right to vote for African Americans. The right to vote was approved by the Tennessee General Assembly in March of 1867. The Assembly vote also allowed blacks to hold political office. During that time, General U. S. Grant made a run for the office of the President of the United States. Keeble campaigned for Grant and was pivotal in the turnout of the heavy black vote. Grant was successful.

By the 1880s, Keeble had become a successful lawyer. The training Keeble received while working as a custodian at the law offices proved invaluable when he applied to take the Tennessee Bar exam. At that time, to become a lawyer did not include a written test. Instead, one went before a group of legal professionals who assessed and recommended approval from a sitting Judge. Keeble easily was approved.

As for his successful business enterprises, Keeble owned the Rock City Barber Shop, a well-known local hangout in Nashville. He even advertised the barbershop in the city directories. As one of the few African American lawyers in Nashville, Keeble's barbershop became a place to get a haircut, a shave, and legal advice.

Keeble became a leader in the Nashville community. He took on the concerns of the black community and fought in the courts and in the society at large for the rights of those that sought equal rights. He was appointed as a member of the Advisory Board to the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company Bank and as the Director of the Colored Agricultural and Mechanical Association. He then joined the Davidson County Republican Party, where he was nominated as Davidson County's representative to the Tennessee House of Representatives.

By 1870, Keeble had become financially successful. He owned a boarding house, The Harding House, valued at \$4,000, which was a considerable amount of money at the time. He became one of the wealthiest men in Nashville, black or white. His considerable wealth afforded him and his family luxury items not often acquired by blacks as slavery had ended only a few years prior.

In 1871, Keeble became the Director of the Tennessee Colored Agricultural and Mechanical Association. The Association is responsible for the construction of the Colored Fairgrounds Amphitheater erected for the annual state fair. Keeble became the Treasurer of the Association soon thereafter.

In 1872, Keeble took his seat in the state legislature becoming the first African American to serve in the General Assembly. He would serve on the House Military Affairs Committee and the Immigration Committee. During the three years he served in the Assembly, Keeble introduced three progressive bills. The first bill called for the amending of the Nashville charter that prohibited African Americans from operating businesses in downtown Nashville. The second bill introduced by Keeble called for the protection of "Negro" laborers and their wages, and the third bill called for the state funding of the Tennessee Manual Labor University, a freedman college established by the Disciples of Christ Church and the only school established by African Americans in Tennessee. Also in 1872, Keeble became a Board member of the newly incorporated Freedman's National Life Insurance Association. The Association began with shares of \$100 each and amassed over \$100,000 by its opening.

In 1877, Keeble was elected a magistrate in the Davidson County Court. He served on the Court for five years. He made an attempt to regain his seat in the General Assembly in 1878 but was defeated by the Greenback Party candidate.

Keeble remained active in local politics, served on a grand jury in 1881 and eventually turned to teaching. For his service to his community and to the citizens of the state of Tennessee, a historical marker was erected outside the House Chamber in the Tennessee State Capitol. A bust of him was placed in the hallway to the Chamber as well.

Sampson Wesley Keeble died on June 19, 1887. He was fifty-four years old.



## DAMON JEROME KEITH

...was born on July 4, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan to Annie L. (Williams) Keith and Perry A. Keith. He graduated from Northwestern High School in 1939. After graduation, he enrolled into West Virginia State

College in Institute, West Virginia where he received his undergraduate B.A degree in 1943. In 1949, he earned his J.D. degree from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. and was awarded his L.L.M. Degree in 1956 from Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan.

After serving in the military and completing his legal degrees, Keith became an attorney in the law offices of the Friend of the Court in Detroit. He served the Court until 1956. He then served on the Wayne County Michigan Board of Supervisors before moving to the Detroit Housing Commission serving from 1958 to 1963. He left the Commission to go into private practice. It was then that he became involved politically with the Democratic Party and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In 1964, following the Detroit Race Riots, one of many that sprung out as a result of civil rights issues, Keith was elected as Co-Chair of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson nominated him to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He would rise to become the Chief Judge of the District Court. After ten years serving the District Court, Keith was then nominated by President Jimmy Carter to a seat on the Sixth Circuit Court.

During his tenure, Keith has ruled on some of the most important cases to be heard by the District and Circuit Courts. In the 1971 case of the United States v. Sinclair, a case involving U.S. Attorney General John N. Mitchell's authorization of illegal wiretapping without obtaining the proper search warrants, Keith ruled that Mitchell must provide transcripts of the illegal wiretaps that had been conducted. Mitchell appealed Keith's ruling, however, the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit upheld the his ruling. Appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which also upheld the ruling, the case became known as "The Keith

Case" as it played an important part in the decision made by President Carter to sign the landmark Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

In the 2002 case of *Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft*, Keith ruled that absolute closure of deportation hearings in "special interest" cases, known as the Creppy Directive, was unconstitutional. The hearings had been closed under the direction of then U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft who instructed Chief Immigration Judge Michael Creppy to have all immigration judges close to the media and the public any hearings associated with the September 11, 2001 bombings of the World Trade Center in New York as they related to immigration statuses. Ashcroft had placed a tag of "national security" on the hearings which would prohibit the public and media from attendance.

The plaintiffs in the case, the Detroit Free Press, Inc.; The Herald Company, Inc, dba, the Ann Arbor News; the Detroit News, Inc.; Congressman John Conyers, Jr.; and Metro Times, Inc., had sued for access. The ACLU of Michigan also joined the case representing Rabih Haddad, a native of Lebanon that resided of Ann Arbor, Michigan since 1988. Haddad had been targeted by the federal government for deportation proceedings. Having come to the U.S. on a six-month tourist visa, on December 14, 2001, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service arrested Haddad for remaining in the U.S. after his visa had expired.

The Plaintiffs attorney's argued that the secluded hearings were a violation of the First Amendment Rights of the defendants and that the hearings should be open to the media and the public. The prosecution countered citing several past cases in which the government held closed hearings in order to preserve national security and plead that the case before the court fell under those guidelines. Keith and the Court ruled that the Haddad case did not fall under the Creppy Directive and did not label the case as a "special interest" case and the hearings must be made open to the media and the public.

For his service to the legal profession, Keith was honored by the American Bar Association when they awarded him their Thurgood Marshall Award. He was honored by the National Anti-Defamation League after receiving their Distinguished Public Service Award. Keith has been awarded the Edward J. Devitt Award for Distinguished Service to Justice and the Spingarn Medal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Keith is was married to Rachel Boone who died in January of 2007. Together they had three daughters.





## CHARLES LIONEL KELLAR

...was born on June 11, 1909 in Saint Joseph, Barbados to Irene W. Smith. When his mother was twelve years old, she was assigned to work on a plantation. When she was almost sixteen, she gave birth to Kellar. He did not have contact or a relationship with his father who was reported to be the wealthiest black man in Barbados. His father did not acknowledge him

as his son and would not speak to him when Kellar approached him but instead would walk away or get on his big white horse and ride off. His father's refusal of accepting Kellar was not based on race but on class. In Barbados at that time, it was not unusual for rich landowners, black or white, to take advantage of their workers, especially pretty young girls.

When Kellar's mother gave birth to another child, his grandmother moved away from the plantation, taking Kellar and his mother to the larger city of Bridgetown. There she met a man from Trinidad who eventually became his stepfather. It was not long afterwards that the family left Barbados and moved to the United States.

The family chose Brooklyn, New York as a place to settle. His mother worked in a cannery and his stepfather was a home caretaker for wealthy homeowners. Within four years, they had earned and saved enough money to buy a home. Twelve years later, in 1934, Kellar received his U.S. citizenship.

In school, Kellar was a very good student. He won a scholarship to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, but was unable to attend as his family home caught fire and destroyed all their belongings. He instead enrolled into the local City College of New York.

After graduating from college, Kellar worked as a Probation Officer. On his job, he was able to see the discrimination of the courts when it came to cases involving blacks as to the courts treatments of whites. Also, there were not many African American lawyers to represent them. It was then that he decided to become a lawyer to help those that looked like him. He enrolled into St. John's University School of Law in Jamaica Queens, New York where he would earn his law degree.

After passing the New York State Bar exam, he opened his own law firm. He was able to hire five other attorneys and they began to take on civil rights cases, which was one of the most important issues facing New York's black community. New York's unwritten law at the time was that one could not sue the police, as they were a part of the state. Kellar challenged that premise and showed that you could. He then took on the New York City Police Department.

For an attorney, fighting civil rights is not a lucrative endeavor. To subsidize his law practice, Kellar became involved in real estate. As certain sections of New York City changed due to white flight, many of the nicer and luxurious homes were left behind. Kellar saw this opportunity and began to purchase those empty homes. He became so successful that at one time, he and his staff of lawyers owned over fifty homes that the rented out. They earned over \$1 million a year in subleases.

Kellar's law firm was successful as well and he caught the attention of civil rights lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Kellar joined forces with the NAACP. It was not long before he became the President of the Brooklyn chapter.

Marshall was leading the NAACP's Bar Representation Program and asked Kellar to join his program. The program was designed to send law-

yers to states across the country and to establish residency there in order to integrate areas where there was no African American legal representation. Marshall asked Kellar to move to Nevada. He sold his house and moved to Nevada carrying with him the \$285,000 certified check from the equity he had in his home. The year was 1959.

Arriving in Las Vegas, Kellar went to a local bank to open an account. The bank manager called the police, as they felt no black man could ever have that much money and must be a felon. When the police arrived, rather than lose his temper, Kellar laughed at the situation, so much so, that the police themselves were embarrassed so they did not arrest him. The bank eventually honored the check and Kellar set up his house and office and began to look for cases to represent.

In 1959, Nevada had no black attorneys practicing in the state. Kellar immediately filed to take the Nevada State Bar exam. He was not permitted to take the exam as blacks were not allowed into the state bar association. Kellar then filed a discrimination lawsuit against the state. The Nevada Supreme Court intervened and ordered the state of Nevada to allow Kellar to take the state Bar.

In 1960, Kellar booked a hotel room in Reno and traveled there to take the exam. Arriving at the hotel, he was denied a room because of his color. Unable to find other hotels that he could reserve, he slept at the airport for two nights and waited until the test day. After the test, the results were posted but not Kellar's. He had scored so high that the state test examiners thought he had cheated and refused to award him a license. He immediately went on the attack.

For the next four years, Kellar sat for the exam and each time his results were denied. Knowing he had passed the exam, Kellar went on a local radio show to protest Nevada's refusal to allow an African American into the bar. Although he was not admitted, news spread nationwide that blacks could take the bar in Nevada. Two Washington, D.C. students completing their law studies at Howard University were hand picked to go to Nevada to take the test, as they would surely pass.

In the legal battle process, Kellar's house was shot at and his office was firebombed. Not deterred, Kellar pressed on with his lawsuit to be admitted to the bar. It wasn't until 1965 that Kellar received his bar license and immediately set out to lay foundations to fight for civil rights in the Silver State.

With that victory, Kellar began to target other institutions and establishments that denied full access to African Americans in the state. The first case filed in Nevada dealt with providing equal education in the Nevada public schools. At that time, Nevada's Clark County public schools had an unwritten policy of not admitting black students. Kellar filed suit against the County alleging discrimination in their public education. In his arguments, he cited the widespread discrimination in housing in Nevada, which contributed to the state's segregated schools. He won the lawsuit and several west Las Vegas schools integrated their sixth-grade schools where African American students could enroll.

Kellar would go on to file many other lawsuits aimed at ending segregation in Nevada. He took on cases involving the employment of blacks, housing, and access to public facilities. He took on a case against an insurance company refusing to insure blacks. He even sued a loan company that refused to allow him to purchase a condo at Tropicana Villas, a high-income living complex. He won cases that overturned death convictions and argued other cases before the Nevada Supreme Court, none of which he lost.

A feisty lawyer, Kellar's courtroom demeanor was not mild but any standards. He was sanctioned by several judges for his "no-backing-down" approach and even once punched an opposing attorney in open court for disrespecting him. Kellar's legacy in Nevada is one built on securing the rights of African Americans and to fight to keep the achievements they have gained.

Charles Lionel Kellar died on June 25, 2002. He was ninety-three years old.



Photo Not Available



## **H**AROLD LILLARD KENNEDY, JR.

was born on October 8, 1926, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina to Willie Hall Kennedy and Harold Lillard Kennedy, Sr.. Kennedy, Jr.'s grandfather, Francis Marion Kennedy, Sr., served as

the third President of Winston-Salem State University, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Kennedy graduated from graduated from Atkins High School in 1942 before matriculating to Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia where he received his undergraduate degree in 1948.

Kennedy then enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1951 with his law degree. He then moved to New York City where he worked for three years. Leaving New York, he returned to his native North Carolina.

In 1955, he opened his law firm and began to build his practice. As did many African American attorneys during that time, Kennedy took on civil rights cases involving discrimination and unequal treatment of African Americans by the white established status quo in an effort to balance the opportunities given to whites as it related to housing, employment, and equal access to public facilities. Over the years, he would build a successful law practice, which would eventually grow into the firm of Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy and Kennedy, L.L.P.. The firm would be comprised of his wife, Annie Brown Kennedy, his twin sons Harold L. Kennedy III and Harvey L. Kennedy.

Twenty-two years later, Kennedy would be elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives where he served with honor and distinction. He would serve in the 1977 Session of the General Assembly where he made an impact by sitting on several committees and subcommittees. He sat on the Appropriations Committee and the subcommittees on Corrections, Courts and Judicial Districts, Education, Higher Education, Judiciary I, and Professional Law Enforcement Personnel and Practice.

Kennedy has served on several legal bar associations. He is a member of Forsyth County Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the North Carolina Bar As-

sociation. He is also a member of the Winston-Salem Bar Association and the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers. He was a supporter of the Democratic National Party (DNC) and served as a precinct member. He also served the DNC as a precinct chair where he participated for more than forty-years in local, state, and national political campaigns.

Kennedy was also involved in the affairs of his local community. He served the community by serving as President of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association and as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Redevelopment Commission of Winston-Salem. He served as a Board member to the Arts Council, the Boy Scouts of America, the Experiment in Self-Reliance, Inc., the NAACP, the Victory Credit Union as President, and the YMCA.

Kennedy was involved as a member of the Hospice of Winston-Salem, the People for the American Way, and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He also served the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the Society for the Study of African-American History, and the Twin City Kiwanis Club. As an Episcopalian, he was a founding member of St. Anne's Episcopal Church, and served as a Junior Warden and a Lay Reader.

Harold Lillard Kennedy, Jr. died on January 15, 2005. He was seventy-eight years old.



## KIM M. KEENAN

...was born in Buffalo, New York. She earned her undergraduate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He obtained her law degree from the

University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After receiving her law degree, Keenan worked as a clerk for Judge John Garrett Penn in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. She then entered private practice, where over the next eighteen years she would work for two nationally recognized law firms. She then joined the faculty of the George Washington Law School in Washington, D.C. as an Adjunct Professor where she taught pre-trial advocacy and trial advocacy.

Prior to being elected to serve as President of the National Bar Association (NBA) in 2004, Keenan served as past President of the 100,000 member District of Columbia Bar. The NBA is the oldest and largest national legal association of predominately African American lawyers and judges in the United States and has over 45,000 judges, lawyers, law clerks, and law students in its' membership. She also served as General Counsel and Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the world. She also served as a private practicing attorney.

In 2007, Keenan joined the faculty of the National Trial College for the University of Virginia School of Law. That year, she also became a lecturer and for the Charles Hamilton Houston Law Preparatory Course at Georgetown University Law Center where she speaks on civil procedure. She has served as a lecturer to the university for ten years. She served on the faculty of the George Washington University Law Center as a Senior Adjunct Professor. In addition, she also served the University of the District of Columbia as a Trustee.

Keenan is a regular lecturer to several organizations and is called upon to speak at national conventions and seminars throughout the country. She has been a guest speaker to the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, now the American Association for Justice, the Maryland State Bar Conference of Bar Presidents, and the National

Urban League. She has also spoken before members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Her expertise was showcased on the first season of the television show "Power of Attorney" on Fox TV and she has served as a commentator for Fox News. Keenan has been a guest speaker on "Dayside", another Fox TV legal program and has appeared on cable giant CNN's Sunday Morning Legal Show, "Attorney-At-Law." She has also made appearances on C-SPAN, Court TV, and TV One's "News One Now".

In 2014, Keenan was named as the President and CEO of Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC). In succeeding co-founder and CEO of twenty-eight years, David Honig, she became the first African American and African American to lead the Council. The MMTC is a national nonprofit organization that promotes and preserves equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications and broadband industries.

As President and CEO of MMTC, Keenan addressed the need for improvement of diversity in Silicon Valley, bridge the gap in education and health disparities between minorities and mainstream media through technology, and to maintain the openness of the Internet as a vehicle for emergency medical or health related needs. She also worked to expand MMTC's mentoring and training programs for lawyers and entrepreneurs, young and old.

Keenan has received numerous awards and recognition from several organizations during her professional career. She has been honored by the American Bar Association, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the National Association of Women Lawyers, and the NAACP. Washingtonian Magazine named her as a Top Lawyer and she is listed on the Lawyers of Color Power List of top attorney's in the United States.

Keenan currently operates and serves as the principal the Keenan Firm in Washington, D.C. where she focuses on complex medical malpractice litigation. She serves her alma mater as a member of the University of Virginia Law Alumni Council. She also gives time in preparation for her many speaking engagements.



## KRISTIN POLLARD KIEL

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Professional Writing and a minor degree in Spanish from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. She furthered her Spanish learning by completing the Intensive Spanish Language Program at the Cole-

gio Adventista de Sagunto in Valencia, Spain. While she was earning her undergraduate degree, Kiel served as a volunteer at the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville.

Kiel obtained her law degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. After passing the bar exam, she took a job as a law clerk for the Lovette Entertainment Group. After spending a year at Lovette, Kiel accepted a position with the Kettering Health Network as a law clerk in the firm's Corporate Integrity & Ethics Department.

At Kettering, Kiel produced subject matter related to federal laws and regulatory compliance concerns that has significance to healthcare programs for individuals eligible for benefits under the Medicare program and similar federal programs. She analyzed, identified, and presented business opportunities for the company and assessed the risk value taking into consideration government regulations as they pertained to Medicare. Kiel was involved in the renewals and expansions of provider networks where she provided sound legal advice and language to the proposals.

Kiel aided in the review of operational processes and advised individual business units on necessary changes needed to bring their operations into compliance with the applicable regulations they may be in violation of or may become in violation with emphasis on CMS set rules. Kiel is credited with writing the Network Compliance Manual utilized by company management and distributed to company employees.

In 2008, Kiel became the In-House Legal Services Clerk for the Adventist Health System (AHS). Her responsibilities included providing written and oral legal counsel to Adventist's Executive Management teams and other company leaders regarding their operating system including legal issues surrounding STARK, EMTALA, Anti-Kickback Statutes, Fraud & Abuse claims, labor and employment laws and HIPAA regulations. She formulated and communicated the conclusions of the federal governments' regulatory agencies and disseminated those conclusions to AHS shareholders. She performed depositions and alternative dispute resolution hearings, drafted physician lease contracts, and provided recommendations on critical issues affecting the health care system to senior management.

In 2009, Kiel became an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Georgia Department of Labor in its Appeals Tribunal. She prepared prehearing and status conferences serving in the capacity of an Administrative Judge. She served as an advisor pointing out issues of burden of proof, maintaining decorum, and explored settlement options. Kiel also managed the case-loads according to the importance, quality production of needed documents and timely preparation to carry out the directives of the case.

Later on in 2009, Kiel became a Managing Partner with the firm Pollard Law Group, LLC. The firm offered litigation services to individuals, businesses, religious, and non-profit organizations in settlement agreements of their legal issues through mediation. Kiel represented clients before the Georgia Department of Labor and offered pro bono services to Georgia low-income residents.

Kiel currently works as an Assistant Public Defender in the Houston Judicial Court's Public Defender's Office. She specializes in complex criminal litigation where she represents clients in administrative hearings, pretrial hearings and on appeals. She strives to educate her clients on the legal process giving a thorough understanding of the overall proceedings. She is able to secure expert witnesses and other legal factual processes that may be needed to litigate a case.

Kiel currently works for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at its Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) located in Huntsville, Alabama. At NASA, she provides a variety of legal services and advice to NASA officials and administrators representing a broad range of subjects and topics that she gives her expertise to. She is keen on the Federal Tort Claims Act and the Space Act. She is proficient in labor relations laws and negotiations, a proponent of alternate dispute resolution, equal employment opportunity issues, and personnel security.

Kiel acts as legal counsel to NASA in its administrative hearings, its pretrial hearings, its trials, and those on appeal. She advises NASA's Chief Counsel on requested issues and brings a proactive solution to the production process. She identifies possible legal and business problems and moves quickly to solve the potential issue before it affects the agency in any manner.

For NASA, Kiel drafts Space Act agreements, contracts agreements, cooperative agreements, and other binding legal documents that NASA may need in order to conduct its business. She produces work specifications, terms and conditions for project specific procurements, and ensures compliance with federal regulatory directives. In performing her job, Kiel was selected by MSFC leadership to participate the inaugural NASA Leadership Program. The class consisted of only thirty-eight participants from across all of NASA's space centers. MSFC officials again recognized Kiel and presented her with its MSFC Innovation Team Award.





## KWAME MALIK KILPATRICK

...was born on June 8, 1970 in Detroit, Michigan to Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick and Bernard Kilpatrick. When he was eleven years old, his parents divorced. His mother was a career politician and represented the City of Detroit in the

Michigan State House from 1979 to 1996 and served in the United States House of Representatives representing Michigan's 13th Congressional District from 1996 to 2010. His father was a semi-professional basketball player turned politician.

He graduated from Detroit's Cass Technical High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida in 1992. While at A&M, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was the Captain of the University's football team. Kilpatrick received his Juris Doctor degree from the Detroit College of Law, now the Michigan State University College of Law.

In 1996, Kilpatrick was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives replacing his mother who was headed to the U.S. Congress. His campaign staff was built from past high school classmates including Derrick Miller and legislative aide, Christine Beatty. There became issues surrounding Kilpatrick's campaign budgets where he claimed had a budget of only \$10,000 due to the fact that he did not receive endorsements from trade unions, congressional districts, or the Democratic Party establishment.

While serving in the Michigan House, Kilpatrick was elected as the Minority Floor Leader for the Michigan Democratic party where he served for the next two years. In 2001, he was elected as the House Minority Leader becoming the first African American to hold that position. He then decided to make a run for the Mayor of Detroit.

He hired Berg/Muirhead Associates for his campaign management and marketing firm charged with handling public relations upon his election. He was elected in the 2001 general election and became the youngest Mayor to ever run the City of Detroit. He was only thirty-one years old.

Things did not begin well for Kilpatrick. He proposed closing the century-old Belle Isle Zoo and Belle Isle Aquarium due to the overhead cost of maintaining the facilities. The City Council, not liking the idea, overrode his funding veto and gave the zoo its' annual \$700,000 budget. Later he had the authority taken away as administrator of the Detroit Water Department budget and operations when serious questions about water department contracts were asked. The Mayor of the city has held that authority for thirty years, but it was taken away from Kilpatrick by Judge Feikens and placed in stewardship with another overseer.

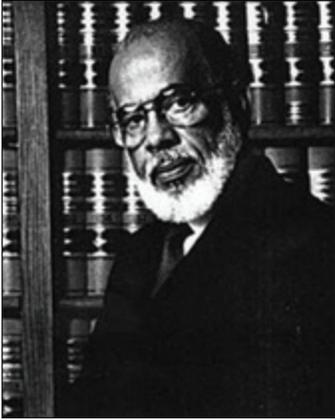
Kilpatrick would again come under scrutiny as Mayor when he received allegations of bribery and kickbacks. An investigation was begun and it was revealed that Kilpatrick had used city funds to pay for lease payments for family cars, had spent thousand of dollars on personal spa massages and personal health items, had spent city funds on personal entertainment extravagant dining, and had purchased expensive alcohol and wine, all paid for with city funds. In May of 2005, the Detroit Free Press published a report that showed for the first thirty-three months of Kilpatrick's term, he had charged over \$210,000 on his city-issued credit card for travel, meals, and entertainment. He reimbursed the city a very small amount of the overcharges.

After further investigations, Kilpatrick vehemently denied that he held wild parties at Manoogian Mansion, the official residence of the Mayor. In January of 2006, Kilpatrick came under fire for three controversial contracts awarded or was in the process of being awarded that were being done so by by-passing the Special Administrator's authority, the Water Board Directors and members of the City Council. One particular contract awarded \$131 million for a radio system for the city's police and fire departments. Another contract was a no-bid public relations contract given to a close personal aide. Politics in Detroit looked so bad to American that Time magazine named Kilpatrick as one of the worst mayors in America.

In July 2006, while traveling in Houston, Texas, Kilpatrick was hospitalized and diagnosed with diverticulitis, a digestive disorder. Returning to Detroit, he again faced criticism as his filings of city audits was fourteen months late and city planners and administrators were calling for its' release. Kilpatrick needed \$2.4 million more city dollars to pay for the audit taking blame for the delay on him being forced to lay off city accountants due to budget cuts. Because of the delay in submitting the city's annual audit, the Michigan State Treasury withheld \$35 million of its' monthly revenue sharing to the City of Detroit. The city could not obtain release of those funds until compliance of the audit was completed. Kilpatrick was also prohibited from selling city bonds without the approval.

The City of Detroit was going through a very tough time. The automobile industry was suffering, which meant less jobs and less income for needing Detroit citizens. Because of Kilpatrick's public and political woes, many organizations pulled their conferences, meetings, and seminars away from Detroit. The National Conference of Black Mayors moved its' meeting from Detroit to New Orleans, Louisiana due to Kilpatrick's legal problems.

In 2008, Kilpatrick was forced to resign as Mayor in and was sentenced to spend four months in jail for perjury and obstruction of justice. Two years later, he was sentenced to 18 months and 5 years in state prison for violating his parole. In 2013, everything stopped for Kilpatrick. On March 11, 2013, he was convicted and sentenced on twenty-four felony counts, including mail fraud, wire fraud, and racketeering and given twenty-eight years in federal prison where he currently resides.



## CHEYENE "C.B." BOWERS KING

...was born on October 12, 1923 in Albany, Georgia to Margaret Slater and Clennon W. "Daddy" King. Both his father and his mother were graduates of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. His father was a prominent civil rights attorney in southwest Georgia.

Having all male siblings, Chevene was the third of seven sons.

Education was a driving force for King as his father made that a priority for all of his children. The elder King had been a "buggy boy" for the Tuskegee's famed President, Booker T. Washington so the path to higher education was paved early on for the King boys. The entire family became involved in the civil rights movement and the push for educating blacks.

C.B. King, as did all of the blacks at that time, attended segregated schools in Georgia. After graduating high school, King attended Tuskegee Institute, where his father worked. Spending only a short time in school, he was drafted by the military and joined the U.S. Navy. After completion of his military duties, he enrolled into Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated in 1949.

Not able to attend Georgia's whites-only law schools, King enrolled at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. There he met Carol Roumain with whom he had five children. He received his law degree from Case Western in 1951.

With law degree in hand, he returned to Georgia and opened his law office. There were only a few African American lawyers in the entire state and King was the only black lawyer in southern Georgia that would take on civil and criminal cases of which there were many. Although King took on civil cases, his appearances in the Georgia courts were many times uncivil. He faced many hostile court clerks, prosecutors and judges.

Despite the hostility, inside and outside the courtroom, King stood his ground in the representation of his clients. He was once addressed in court as "C.B." instead of "Mr. King," the respectful courtroom manner in which an attorney was to be addressed. His response was epic as he countered by referring to Albany Police Chief Pritchett by his first name, Laurie, a big "no-no" for blacks at that time.

In his practice, King won many reversals from higher courts as many of his clients were often found guilty and sentenced before all-white juries. One major case that was not won on appeal was that of his brother Preston, who, in 1961, was sentenced for draft evasion. Preston eventually left the U.S. settling in Europe to escape a prison sentence for not reporting to the draft as ordered.

King was a master of the English language. His courtroom delivery often surprised his adversaries and at times pushed them to anger. Many times, his words confused his opposing attorneys as they were not sure of what he was saying. Despite confusing the

prosecutors, King had a photographic memory which put his opponents at a disadvantage. He could recite in a case the appropriate law in detail pertaining to the charges. To the dismay of many judges and courts, recesses had to be called so that the clerks could validate the accuracies of his statements.

During the 1960s, King began to take on even more civil rights cases due to the growing civil rights campaigns of southern blacks and their northern supporters. Their protests brought a new set of complexities in dealing with the southern Jim Crow laws. King took the lead in their defenses representing them at every turn. He played a crucial part in the defense of the Albany Movement, a desegregation coalition formed on November 17, 1961, in Albany, Georgia, by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

He also represented the Americus Four. First began as a protest against the segregated Martin Theater in Americus, Georgia, a small town in Sumter County located about thirty miles north of Albany, the organization soon began to orchestrate civil rights marches aimed at achieving racial equality. Four marchers were arrested and King came to their rescue.

King represented most of those arrested or charged with civil disobedience crimes in southern Georgia. In defending their protests, he represented the likes of Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Martin Luther King Jr., William G. Anderson, leader of the Albany Movement, and Andrew Young, also of the SCLC, at the time. King himself, like many, many others, was injured in the protests and marches. He once even represented an injured white demonstrator who aligned himself and stood with the Protesters. Put into a cell with other white prisoners, King's client was beaten badly suffering a broken jaw.

Fighting literacy test requirements for voters and to integrate public schools, public accommodations, the jury system, and city employees hiring. He played a lead role in the Jury Selection and Service Act. of 1968.

In 1964, King ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives. His attempt made him the first black since Reconstruction to run for Congress from Georgia. In 1969, he became the first African American candidate for Governor. He lost that election as well.

During his career, King believed in mentoring legal interns. He influenced many students he mentored from some of the countries most recognized universities, including the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, Howard, the University of Massachusetts, and Yale. Many of these students went on to become leading civil and environmental rights advocates, highly respected attorneys, judges, and members of Congress.

For his life long legal work in Georgia, the C.B. King U.S. Courthouse was named in his honor. The the state of Georgia legislature recognized his contributions and presented him with the first Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award. After a lengthy illness, in 1988, Chevene Bowers King died.





## PATRICIA A. KING

...was born in Norfolk, Virginia to Grayce and Addison King. She was raised in public housing in the Roberts Park section of the city. Her mother worked for the Norfolk Journal and Guide, the city's African American newspaper

and her father also worked for the paper in the marketing department. He later worked for the Pittsburgh Courier in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, another African American community newspaper.

King was a very intelligent child and was skipped twice in junior high school. Because of her parents work at the newspaper, she was given her own weekly column in the North Journal. An avid reader, by the time King was graduating high school, through reading newspapers and other books, she was well rounded on the world outside of Norfolk.

After graduating from Booker T. Washington High school as her class Valedictorian, King left home, at the age of seventeen, to attend Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts where she received her undergraduate degree. Although she struggled in her first year at Wheaton, she was able to pull herself together and graduated from the school with her undergraduate degree. King went on to obtain her law degree from Harvard University's School of Law in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1969.

After graduating from law school, King would serve in several federal government positions. She first served as a Special Assistant to the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). King then served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW). In 1973, King joined the faculty of Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University School of Law. While serving on the faculty of Georgetown, she served on several government and national advisory groups that studied issues surrounding biomedical concerns ranging from genetic research to human subjects experimentation.

King has conducted extensive academic research on ethics in law, medicine, and public policy. She has focused much of her attention to biomedical science. With increased advances in genetic research, King serves as a pioneer and leading expert on subjects related to bioethics and law. She has written many articles and pub-

lished works on the topic, including being the co-author of "Cases and Materials on Law, Science and Medicine".

In 1975, King became a member of the Harvard Law School's Alumni Advisory Group and served for six years. In 1980, she joined the Department of Justice (DOJ) and served as a Deputy Assistant Attorney in DOJ's Attorney General's Office working in the Civil Division. She worked in the Attorney General's Office for one year.

In 2005, King was elected to as a member of the Harvard Corporation, the highest governing body at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She became the first African American woman to serve as a member of the Corporation replacing the first African American man to serve, Conrad K. Harper. Harper stepped down from the Corporation after his displeasure with the University President Lawrence H. Summers' comments concerning women and minorities.

King was chosen for the position after an extensive four-month search for Harper's replacement. King was selected for several reasons, not withstanding her academic qualifications, but also due to the fact that she is an African American and she is a woman. The Corporation's seven members have historically been male and white. Also having in her favor is the fact that King was not coming from corporate America. She follows the first and only other woman to serve on the on the Corporation, Nannerl O. Keohane, a past President of Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts and Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. King stepped down from her post on the Harvard Corporation in December of 2012.

King as served as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management's School of Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She is a member of the American Law Institute, the Institute of Medicine, and serves as a Fellow of the Hastings Center. King has served on the HEW's Advisory Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, has served on the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research, has served on the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, and served the Ethics, Legal and Social Issues Working Group of the Human Genome Project. King has also served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for her alma mater, Wheaton College and served on the Board of Directors to the Golden West Financial Corporation, a \$120 billion asset management firm based in Mesa, Arizona.

King is married to Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist Roger Wilkins, who serves as a Professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia.





## VIVIAN R. KING

...was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She is a graduate of the University of Houston (UH) in Houston, Texas, the second in her family to earn a college degree. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from the UH in 1980. She then began to look for a job rather than go straight on to law school.

King was hired for a Fortune 500 banking and accounting firm. She performed very well at her job but after working for nine years as an internal auditing and systems analysis, King retired from her Fortune 500 and decided to return to college and obtain her law degree. At the age of thirty, she entered the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston and three years later, in 1992, she received her law degree graduating cum laude.

After graduation and passing the Texas State Bar exam, King became only the second African American female Board Certified attorney practicing Criminal Law in the state of Texas. She joined the Harris County Prosecutor's Office in Houston as an Assistant State Prosecutor. She worked in the offices for three years leaving in 1995.

King left the Harris County Prosecutor's Office and entered private practice. She would remain in private practice for the next twenty-two years as the principal in her own law firm, The Vivian King Law Group. She specializes in criminal defense cases.

King is Vivian is passionate about the Houston community's safety and gives of her time to community service to make Houston a better place to live. She brought hard work and fair ethics to the Harris County District Attorney's office. In her judiciary duties, she was fair in her assessments of crimes and treated each case on the facts of the matter. She understood the human element to the crimes and worked to improve the lives of those she defended. She is fluent in Spanish and worked with her Hispanic and Latino community residents to help them with their legal woes.

King 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 King 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.

King has been given many awards and honors during her many years in the legal profession. The Texas Monthly Magazine named her as a "Super Lawyer" and the Harris County Criminal Defense Lawyers' Association named her as its' "Lawyer of the Year". King was also given a Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association's Percy Foremen Award, the first time the award had been bestowed upon a women. King shared the award with two other Texas female attorneys. In addition, King was named as one of its' "Winning Women Trial Lawyers" by the Texas Lawyer Magazine and the Harris County Council of Organizations gave King its' Eagle Award.



## JOHN B. KING, JR.

...was born in 1975 in Flatlands, Brooklyn, New York to Adalinda and John B. King, Sr.. His mother was a school guidance counselor and his father was a public school administrator and had become Brooklyn's first African American principal. King, Sr. also served as New York City's Executive Deputy Superintendent of Schools.

When King, Jr. was eight years old, his mother died. His father died when he was twelve and King, Jr. went to live with his half brother who was twenty-four years old at the time. He attended Phillips Andover Academy in Andover, Massachusetts but was expelled in his junior year, as King could not abide by the Academy's rules although he was an exceptional student. He then went to live with an uncle in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. After completing high school in New Jersey, he was accepted to enroll into Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

King enrolled into Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City where he earned a Master's degree in Education. He then taught school for three years and founded the Roxbury Preparatory Charter School. For the next five years, he served as the Co-Director developing the schools curriculum and student rules including a no talking in between class rule. The charter school students received the highest state exam scores and out performed students of all urban middle schools in Massachusetts.

King left the school to become the Managing Director for an urban public charter school, Uncommon Schools. The school operates many of the highest performing urban public schools in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. Under King's leadership, the Uncommon School won the Eli and Edythe Broad Prize as a top charter school network.

King then enrolled into Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut where he received his Juris Doctorate degree. He also received a Doctor of Education in Educational Administrative Practices from Columbia University in New York. As a Truman Scholar, King in 1995 received the James Madison Memorial Fellowship to teach American History, Government, and Social Studies.

King continued to teach for several years finding ways to improve the educational experience for students. In 2005, King served on the Board of New Leaders for New Schools. He remained on the Board for four years before becoming a Fellow to the Aspen Institute-New Schools Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education.

In 2011, King was appointed as the New York State Education Commissioner and as President of the University of the State of New York (USNY). USNY is comprised of more than 7,000 elementary and secondary schools; 270 colleges and universities; 900 museums; 7,000 libraries; 3,000 repositories; and 436 proprietary schools. King also oversaw 52 professions with approximately 240,000 certified educators, 850,000 licensees, and program services for children and adults having disabilities. That year, King was

appointed to the U.S. Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission by then United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

King pursued educational reform and was a leader in implementing New York's Common Core standards. The state's educator site, EngageNY, has had over 100 million users throughout the U.S. who want to learn more about the Common Core curriculum. King launched USNY's Race to the Top funding program which networked teams throughout the state of New York to provide training and support for the implantation of the Common Core and EngageNY resources. New York became on the first states in the U.S. to measure exams to determine if students are meeting the standards of Common Core.

King, in partnership with Governor Cuomo, the state legislature and the teachers union, implemented new teacher evaluations, which incorporated student learning as a measurement on the teachers teaching success. King created the Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (STLE) grants program, which focuses on recruiting, developing, and retaining effective teachers and school administrators. King worked to strengthen teacher and principal preparation while raising the bar on their certifications. He also launched a more comprehensive and rigorous approach to authorizing charter schools and made existing schools more accountable to student learning.

King came under fire when the state of New York adopted the Common Core Standards for its' schools. The state teacher's union called for his resignation. To ease the disruption, King conducted a listening tour in Poughkeepsie but after he could not speak being drowned out by the crowd, he cancelled the other tours.

In 2015, King was appointed as the Acting Deputy Secretary of Education where he oversaw the management policies and the program functions of the education in the U.S.. The following year, after Duncan resigned, President Obama appointed King to succeed Duncan. King became the first African American to serve as Secretary. The President signed the "Every Student Succeeds Act, the modified successor of the "No Child Left Behind Act". King was charged with carrying out the provisions of the President's program.

In an effort to increase student diversity, King established a \$12 million grant competition aimed at socioeconomic and racial integration. The funds would be awarded to 20 school districts that implemented policies to increase student diversity and boost integration. He addressed discipline in public schools and instituted policies that allowed prisoners to apply for Pell grants to continue their education, which for twenty-two years had a Congressional ban against the practice.

King has had as one of his top priorities preparing teachers to lead. He has been an advocate to allow Title II funds to be allocated to the development of teachers. He has especially been a supporter of teachers of color. He has been a proponent of students not just going to college, but completing the course study and graduating. He has worked on programs to assist students in completing college and to help them with their student debts.

In February of 2017, The Education Trust named King as their President and Chief Executive Officer.



## RONALD "RON" KIRK

...was born on June 27, 1954 in Austin, Texas. He was the youngest of four children. He grew up in a politically active family living in a predominately black neighborhood. His father knew almost every-

one and knew home addresses, as he worked as a postal worker. He was engaged in the affairs of the community.

Kirk graduated from John H. Reagan High School and served as Student Council President in his senior year. He enrolled into hometown Austin College for his undergraduate studies where he studied as a double major student receiving degrees in Political Science and Sociology. For his law degree, he attended the University of Texas School of Law, also located in Austin, where he obtained it in 1979.

After passing the bar, Kirk entered private practice law. In 1981, he joined the office of then Texas U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen. He worked for Bentsen for two years before moving to Dallas to work as a lobbyist to the state legislature. He then took a job with the City of Dallas before returning to private practice.

In 1994, Kirk landed a job with then Texas Governor Ann Richards serving as her Secretary of State of Texas. He was the first African American to serve as Secretary. After one year, he made a run for the job of Mayor of Dallas, Texas and was victorious.

In 1995, Kirk was elected as Mayor of Dallas. With sixty-two percent of the vote, he became the first African American to be elected as Mayor of Dallas. As Mayor, Kirk began to build cohesion between the Dallas City Council and the Dallas School Board. He put forth a proposal, "Dallas Plan", which gave a twenty-five year vision of the development of the city. The plan included the Trinity River Project, a \$246 million that redeveloped the city's flood plains of the Trinity River into public parks, thruways, and highways. Kirk was also able to construct and celebrate the 2002 opening of the American Airlines Center. In 1999, Kirk won re-election as Mayor in a landslide victory winning seventy-four percent of the vote.

In 2000, Kirk ran for a seat in the United States Senate. Unfortunately, he lost the race to Republican John Cornyn. Kirk then accepted a position as partner in the law firm of Vincon & Elkins in Houston, Texas. At the same time, he lobbied for Energy Future Holdings, an electric utility company, where he became one of their highest paid consultants. He also lobbied for Merrill Lynch, a wealth management company.

In 2001, Kirk resigned as Mayor to make a run for a Senate seat in the Texas State Legislature. Although he garnered for-

ty-three percent of the vote, he lost his bid for the seat. He then joined the Dallas law firm of Gardere Wynne Sewell.

In 2004, Kirk sought the Chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee but was not named as Chairman. He moved to Houston, Texas to accept a partnership in the Vincon and Elkins.

In 2009, then President Barack Obama nominated Kirk to serve as the United States Trade Representative. Kirk supported the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which drew criticism for his advocates. He came under fire for having tax related issues as they related to deductions of charitable giving and entertainment expenses. Despite those findings, on March 18, 2009, Kirk was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as to the position of United States Trade Representative where he served for four years before stepping down.

Kirk was the first African American ever named as U.S. Trade Representative. Along with being named the U.S. Trade Representative, the position came with the title of Ambassador and therefore Kirk served as a member of the President's cabinet. In his role, Kirk focused on the developmental and enforcement of intellectual property laws in the U.S. and abroad. His trade policy oversight included the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). Kirk is credited as being the U.S. Agent responsible for convincing South Korea to accept and adopt the ACTA guidelines. In South Korea, because of the ACTA enforcement, tens of thousands of illegal trade websites were removed due to copyright infringement. Kirk was pivotal in the making of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) treaties.

Kirk challenged the Chinese on the protection of and the leaking out of American businesses intellectual property and trademarked product information to Chinese businesses making them more competitive in the marketplace and giving them a greater advantage. He also was critical of the China's censorship of the Internet, which doesn't allow American companies to market their products to Chinese consumers.

In 2012, Kirk's critics claimed he was being non-transparent and lacked public participation in his treaty negotiations as the related to the TPP process. A group of thirty legal scholars and law professors publicly called upon Kirk to "dial back" his approach and release negotiating documents for scrutiny by the public. The group made claims that public-interest stakeholders were being completely excluded in the negotiations.

In response, Kirk took a position that he must have some confidentiality and discretion in the negotiating process and that he was being as open and transparent as possible. He pointed out that those involved in the TPP treaties were willing to place issues on the table that they otherwise would not and some of those issues needed to be kept confidential. He dismissed his critics as mere tension in a negotiating process. Kirk left the position as the U.S. Trade Representative on January 22, 2013.



## VANUE B. LACOUR

...was born on September 10, 1915 in Cane River, Louisiana. He grew up eighty miles north in Shreveport. He graduated in 1933 from Central Colored High School in Shreveport, Louisiana as Valedictorian of his

senior class. He matriculated to Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana where earned his undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, in 1938. To obtain his law degree, he attended Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C., where graduated in 1941 as Salutatorian of his class.

Lacour left Washington after law school for Kansas City, Missouri where he began his legal career as a private practice attorney. After building his practice for six years, a fellow Howard University law student, Louis Berry, convinced Lacour to leave Missouri and return to Louisiana to become one of the first faculty members of a new law school to be established at Southern University in Baton Rouge. Lacour welcomed the idea and left Missouri.

As Dean, the Southern University School of Law graduated its' first class of law students in 1950. Prior to that, the Jim Crow laws enacted in the 1880s did not have sufficient schools for black students seeking to enter the field of law could attend. Therefore, there were a mere handful of African-American lawyers available to represent the black citizens of Louisiana. Berry, with the help of Lacour and several other law professors that were recruited to become a part of the first wave of professors to teach at the new law school, would change that. The law school's mission was to train black lawyers for the purposes of fighting racial injustice and social discrimination. Lacour would remain with the new school for the next twenty-four years.

Over those twenty-four years, Lacour and his fellow law professors have produced some of the greatest legal minds to represent the law or sit on a bench of a Court to adjudicate law. A few of the great legal minds that have gotten their law degrees from Southern University's School of Law include Earl Amadee, Murphy Bell, Richard Millspaugh, James Sharp, Jesse Stone, Thomas Todd, and Leroy White. Of course, we did not forget Justice Revis Ortique.

Shortly after accepting the position at Southern, Lacour formed a private practice law firm with former student Jessie N. Stone in Shreveport. They took on cases involving civ-

il rights and voter registration. In one of the more notable cases that Lacour litigated was the "Byrd v. Brice" case. The case centered on voter registration where Lacour and his team challenged the identification clause of Section 37 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, citing its' unconstitutionality. In successfully arguing the case, Lacour, along with fellow attorneys Louis Berry and Edward Jackson, they became the first three African American attorneys to ever appear in a criminal trial in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. In the case, the Court ruled that the identification clause of the Louisiana statute that denied Blacks the right to vote was unconstitutional. The Court ordered the election registrar to cease the practice.

In his most notable case, Lacour helped change way Louisiana law viewed acknowledgement of illegitimate children. In "Weber v. Aetna Insurance Company", a case ultimately heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, he presented arguments that showed that illegitimate children were entitled to the same care as dependent children when it came to awarding workers' compensation benefits. In his successful plea, he convinced the Court that illegitimate children had the same right of equal protection and voting otherwise would deny them that protection.

In his leisure time, Lacour had a love for ham radio. Having always had a love for the outdoors, he gave his support to the Boy Scouts of America. For his service to the organization and the education giving to many young men when it came to radio communications, the Boy Scouts of America would award him their Beaver Award. As a love for ham radio, Lacour was a member of the OMIK Amateur Radio Association.

Lacour was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the National Bar Association. He was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame in 1988.

Lacour helped to pave the road for many aspiring lawyers that represent and service today's legal needs. Through his teachings and administrative skills, across the United States there are many prosperous lawyers producing valued legal services, with a firm understanding of the law and its' applications. His teachings have given groundwork to not only successful attorneys but to Congressmen, Senators, and Judges.

Vanue B. Lacour died on January 7, 2011. He was ninety-five years old.



**JEWEL  
STRADFORD  
LAFONTANT  
MANKARIOUS**

...was born on April 28, 1922 in Chicago, Illinois to Aida Arabella and C. Francis Stradford, one of the founders of the National Bar Association. She graduated from Englewood High School, in

Chicago and, in 1943, received her A.B. degree in Political Science from Oberlin College, and in 1946, her J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

In 1936, Jewel Lafontant became the first black woman to earn a law degree from the University of Chicago. She had a phenomenal legal and political career. Under President Dwight Eisenhower, she became the first black woman to serve as Assistant U.S. Attorney. During the Nixon administration, she became the first black female Deputy Solicitor General in the Justice Department, presenting cases before the Supreme Court. President Nixon also considered her as a possible nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. In President George H.W. Bush's administration, she worked in the State Department as Ambassador at Large and U.S.

Coordinator for Refugee Affairs. Jewel traveled extensively during this time all over the world. She made a yearly recommendation to President Bush about the number of refugees that should be admitted to the United States.

Stradford married John W. Rogers, Sr., a former member of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, on December 7, 1946. They had one child, John W. Rogers, Jr., who became an investment executive. The couple divorced in 1961. She remarried Haitian-American attorney H. Ernest Lafontant in 1961, and they remained married until his death in October of 1976. In 1989, she married Naguib Soby Mankarious and remained with him until her death in 1997.

In 1947, Lafontant was admitted to the Illinois State Bar and became a trial lawyer for the Legal Aid Bureau of Chicago, now Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services. In 1949, she opened in Chicago her law firm with her first husband, John W. Rogers, Sr. and began to build their business. She worked thoroughly and diligently on her craft. In 1955, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed her as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois where she served until 1958.

In July of 1960, she became a Delegate-At-Large to the Republican National Convention. For President Nixon's nomination to be the Republican candidate for President during the 1960 Presidential election, she gave the Seconding Speech.

In 1961, back in Chicago, she opened the doors to a new law firm with her father and second husband Stradford, fittingly named Lafontant and Lafontant. In 1963, she argued a case before the Supreme Court of the United States. Her case, Beatrice Lynumn v. The State of Illinois set the precedent for the landmark case, Miranda v. The State of Arizona case in 1966. Some say she was the first black woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court while others give that distinction to Lucy Terry Prince. Either way, she argued her case, and did so well.

In 1962 and 1970, she ran unsuccessfully in the Illinois judicial elections. Despite the first loss, Nixon, in 1969, again gave Lafontant an appointment to serve. This time as Vice Chairman of the U.S. Advisory Commission on International, Educational and Cultural Affairs. In 1972, he called upon her for an appointment, now as a Representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations. In 1973, Nixon appointed Jewel to be the first-ever female Deputy Solicitor General. In 1975, she left the Nixon administration to return to private practice in Chicago.

During her professional career, Lafontant-MANKarious sat on more than twenty non-profit and corporate boards, including those of the Jewel Companies, Inc., Continental Bank, Mobil Corporation, Revlon, Inc., Ariel Capital Management, the Illinois Humane Society, Howard University, Oberlin College, and Pan American Airlines. She served as Secretary of the National Bar Association from 1956 to 1964, and was active in the Cook County Bar Association, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Economic Club of Chicago, and the Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She was admitted to the D.C. Court of Appeals in 1985.

Jewel Stradford Lafontant-Mankarious died of breast cancer at her home in Chicago on May 31, 1997 at the age of seventy-five.



## GARY L. LANCASTER

...was born on August 14, 1949 in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education in 1971 from Slippery Rock State College in Slippery Rock, Pennsyl-

vania. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1974 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In 1974, Lancaster served as Regional Counsel to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission where he served for four years. He then became an Assistant District Attorney in Pennsylvania's Allegheny County. After leaving the District Attorney's Office, Lancaster entered private practice in Pittsburgh. In private practice, he focused his attention on civil and criminal cases.

In 1987, Lancaster became a United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He held that position until he was nominated as a District Judge by then President Bill Clinton in 1993. Lancaster was appointed to the judgeship after Judge Timothy K. Lewis vacated his seat after being elevated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The following day after the United States Senate confirmed his nomination on November 20, 1993, Lancaster received his commission.

While serving on the bench, Judge Lancaster served on the committee held responsible for drafting the Third Circuit's Model Civil Jury Instruction. He was then appointed by Chief Justice, William H. Rehnquist to serve on the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Judicial Resources. Judge Lancaster also was responsible for the oversight of the \$75 million renovation to the historic federal courthouse in downtown Pittsburgh. He was also appointed by the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge, Anthony J. Scirica to serve on a committee established to draft standard civil jury instructions for the federal Appeals Court.

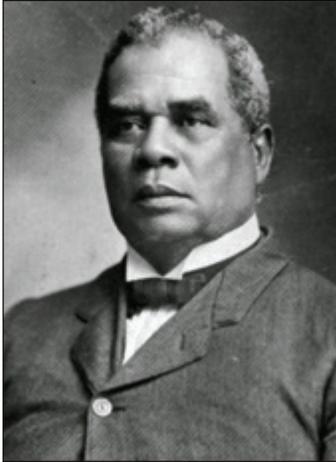
In 2009, Judge Lancaster was selected to serve as Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania where he succeeded Donetta W. Ambrose. He was the first African American

to serve on the Court's bench. While serving on the Western District Court, Judge Lancaster was instrumental in the Patent Pilot Program, which was a national initiative created to enhance the expertise of federal Judges in patent litigation cases. The United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania was one of the few judicial districts that had a local patent rules program and would remain one of the few for the next several years.

In 2011, Judge Lancaster was selected to serve as Third Circuit District Judge's representative to attend the Judicial Conference of the United States. He served as the representative for three years. He was not able to complete the task due to his death in 2013.

Judge Lancaster served on the Community Advisory Board of the Directors of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He gave of his time to other civic, religious and charitable groups as well. His care for people was evident and in non-dictatorial style of adjudication was more collaborative than confrontational.

Judge Lancaster died suddenly on April 24, 2013 at his home in Pittsburgh from hypertensive heart disease. He was sixty-four years old.



## PIERRE CALISTE LANDRY

...was born on April 19, 1841 into slavery on the plantation of Dr. Francois Marie Prevost near Donaldsonville, in the Ascension Parish of Louisiana to Marcelite Prevost and Rosemond Landry. He was given the name Carlisle. His mother was a cook for her master and his father

was a white laborer on the plantation. The Prevost plantation, at the time, had one of the largest slave populations in the South. For the first thirteen years of his life, Landry worked as did the other slave children on one of the largest plantations devoted to sugar production in the United States.

In 1854, the Prevost estate was sold and despite the fact that the owner's wanted to free some of their slaves, Landry was sold to the wealthy Marius St. Colombe Bringier for \$1,665. Bringier son, Louis Amedée Bringier, would later inherit the plantation. The Bringier family owned 35,000 acres of land spread across several plantations in Louisiana. They were all a part of the inherited Hermitage Plantation, however, Landry was assigned to the Houmas Plantation which lie between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Landry's early education came at the hands of two local ministers, W.D. Goodman and A.L. Atkinson, who tutored him and other young slave children. He also attended the plantation's primary and technical slave school, Houmas. Landry soon earned enough trust that he lived in the mansion with his master where he was taught the trade of confectioner and cook. He also took care of the plantation's yard.

On the plantation, Landry was allowed, along with the head butler, to operate a plantation store on the property. In 1862, he was released from his yard duties and assigned to the plantation's head white carpenter and machinist as an apprentice. He remained in the care of the carpenter/machinist until the end of the Civil War in 1865.

After the war, in 1866, Landry changed his name from Carlisle to Pierre and moved to the third-largest black community in the state, Donaldsonville. With their new freedom, many slaves moved to black towns and communities from rural areas finding safety in numbers as well as to establish their own businesses from the crafts they had learned and performed on the plantations they had left. Landry did so as well and soon established a name for himself in the community for his concerns and his business acumen.

Within one year of arriving in Donaldsonville, Landry had established two day schools and a night school for black children. He build a house for his family becoming the first freed slave to own a house in Louisiana. He was the first to purchase a piano, buying one for his home. As he had done back on the Houmas plantation, he opened a small store in the community.

Landry married Amanda Grigsby with whom he would have twelve children. On January 1, 1867, mainly due to his unselfishness and his community awareness, the Donaldsonville black community unanimously elected him as the overseer of all matters related to the town. In 1868, his popularity paid off as he was elected as Mayor of Donaldsonville where he served for one year. Landry became the first black freed slave in the United States to be elected to any office. He also became the first black in the United States to be elected a Mayor of any community.

A religious man, he also founded the St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church where he became the Minister of the church. He also became the Superintendent of the public schools, the tax collector, Postmaster, President of the police jury, a Parish School Board member, Justice of the Peace, and eventually the Judge. Influential in community politics, he joined the Republican Party and established a black faction to represent the black communities at-large. In 1872, he ran for the Louisiana House of Representatives and won an overwhelming victory. As a House member, he introduced a bill to establish New Orleans University, the third school in Louisiana designed as a private black college in the state. The school would later merge in 1935 with Straight College of New Orleans for form Dillard University.

In 1874, Landry was elected to the Louisiana State Senate representing the 8th Senatorial District of Louisiana where he served until 1880. As a Senator, he played a pivotal role in the Reconstruction legislature passing laws that for the first time established public education. He helped establish funding operations for the education system as well as public welfare reforms aimed at helping those in need. For his efforts, when President Ulysses S. Grant paid a visit to Louisiana, Landry was one of two blacks that dined with the President to discuss matters pertinent to Louisiana and the Donaldsonville black community.

While a state Senator, Landry served as the Editor of the Monthly Record, a Christian newspaper. In 1879, he represented the Ascension Parish as an elected delegate at the state Constitutional Convention. Upon leaving the state Senate, Landry returned to private practice and his attention to education and his position as a member of the Board of Trustees at New Orleans University.

In 1881, as Minister of his congregation, Landry was elected as Presiding Elder of the Baton Rouge District of the AME denomination. In 1885, moving to Shreveport, he became Presiding Elder of the Shreveport District. He became the Pastor of the St Paul Methodist Episcopal Church in Shreveport in 1889. Always representing his church at the annual conferences of the denomination, in 1891, Landry was elected to the highest position in the church, Presiding Elder of the South New Orleans District.

Landry's wife, Amanda, became ill and died. He continued to teach his children the value of education as a means to economic success. He remarried to Florence Simpkins, and together they had two children. Together, they continued to teach the value of education and a commitment to the church. He would continue to work as a lawyer caring for his people and the community until his death on December 22, 1921.

Photo Not Available



## GEORGE MOTLEY LANE

...was born February 11, 1866 in Virginia. Once his high school studies were complete, he enrolled into the Wayland Seminary in Washington, D.C.. He then entered Washington's Howard University where he obtained his law degree and was admitted to the Maryland bar. He was one of the first African Americans to pass the Maryland State Bar exam.

After passing the bar, Lane moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he opened his law practice. He soon married Mattie Genevieve Nelson and together they had five children. It was not long before Lane's legal practice grew as there were very few African American lawyers practicing.

Lane became a community leader and his practice grew as he took on more cases. He became involved with the local politics in Baltimore as more and more Baltimore citizens called on him for help. He became a founder in the Lexington Savings Bank and was one of its' largest depositors. By 1897, the bank was having financial issues and was on its' decline.

Lane joined the Republican Party but soon became disgruntled with the leadership and focus of the political machine. He and a group of other concerned activist broke off to form their own political movement, the Committee of 100. They casted their own members for elected office and Lane chose to run for the Mayor of Baltimore. Although they received some support, on the eve of the election, the group's candidates did not appear on the ballot. It had been disqualified due to faulty petitions.

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Despite the loss, Lane remained in politics. He was asked to speak to a large gathering of Republicans, as he had rejoined their ranks, at the Samaritan Temple in Baltimore. He spoke of his dissatisfaction with the current leadership and showcased a new crop of black Republicans that were joining the Party that were well educated, and harbored aspirations for a better state for blacks. He called upon the members to speak to the Republican leadership notifying them that times had changed and a new beginning was on the horizon.

Lane's words were taken in by the listeners who called for a second meeting, which was held at Asbury Hall held in April of that year. In preparation for the state convention, a call was made to condemn discrimination within the legal counsels of the Party. At the convention, the members of the Party were at odds with how to address

Lane's proposals. Some of the attendees proposed leaving the Party to join the Democratic Party as the Republican Party had changed from the Party of the years before. The arguments on both sides became heated and a riot amongst the convention attendees almost ensued.

The Democratic Party, aware of the discontent, looked for ways to bring those dissatisfied with the new Republican agenda to their side. The Democrats seeing an opportunity to increase their ranks welcomed those that wished to join the organization. Lane, dissatisfied with the Republican Party but not yet ready to join the Democrats, decided to run for elected office on a "colored independent ticket".

In a compromise, the Republican Party revised their stance and made promises that they would support three black candidates for office, Walker W. Lewis, Whitfield Winsey, and Hawkins. Despite the promises, before the next Republican Convention, the white majority of the Party voted down the candidates. The issued statements indicating that the more powerful black Republicans were not in agreement and the Party supported white Republicans for office.

Protests were launched during the next several months. By October, the Party Committee had revised the ticket to include black candidates and endorsed Lane as the candidate for Mayor. A few weeks later, the ticket was abandoned with allegations that more than half of the signatures submitted to the Nominating Committee were invalid. The group was given one day to come up with the needed signatures to remain on the ballot, which was impossible and Lane and his fellow candidates were shut out of the election.

Lane did not contest the Committee's findings on the illegal signatures but stating that he had nothing to do with the irregularities and was not culpable. Had he won the election for Mayor of Baltimore, he would have become the first black Mayor of the city. It would be seventy years before another African American's name would appear on a Baltimore ballot for elected office. In 1967, Arthur Sherwood made a run for the Mayor of Baltimore as a Republican. He won the primary election but lost in the general election to Thomas J. D'Allesandro, III.

Lane dropped out of the public and political arena after the debacle and went into obscurity. The ordeal created marital problems with his wife and they separated. He would live his remaining years in Baltimore lodging temporarily at various locations.

George Motley Lane died on June 26, 1912 of tuberculosis. He was forty-five years old.



## JOHN MERCER LANGSTON

...was born in 1829 in Louisa County, Virginia to Lucy Jane Langston, a mixed African and Native American free woman and white planter, Ralph Quarles. John was the youngest of four siblings. He, his sister and two brothers were born free as Quarles had freed his mother and her children from slavery.

Before Quarles and Lucy died in 1833, Quarles arranged for a friend, William Gooch, to be come the guardian of his children. At four years old, Langston was moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, a free state. There, with the inheritance left by his white father, Langston's education was preserved. Although Quarles ensured a future for his mixed children, John and his brothers assumed the surname of their mother, Langston.

In 1835, Langston's older brothers, Gideon and Charles became the first African-American students to be admitted to the preparatory school of Ohio's Oberlin College. Oberlin was the first college in the United States to admit black and white students to study together. At the age of fourteen, John would follow them to Oberlin. He would earn, in 1849, his Bachelor's degree. Three years later, he would receive a Master's degree in Theology.

Because of his mixed race, Langston was denied admittance to law schools in Ohio and New York. As was the custom for black law students, Langston became an Apprentice for Republican attorney Philemon Bliss. Langston took and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1854.

Langston met Caroline Matilda Wall, a student at Oberlin and married her in 1854. Wall too was of mixed race and had a well to do white father who freed her from slavery and sent her to the free state of Ohio. Together they had five children.

In 1855, Langston became the first black elected official in the state of Ohio when he was elected town Clerk of Brownhelm Township. At his brother's prodding, he became involved in the abolitionist movement. As part of the Underground Railroad, he helped runaway slaves to escape to the North. He and his brother Charles took a lead in the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society. John became the President and Charles acted as Executive Secretary. The Society operated out of Cleveland. Catching the attention of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who encouraged him to speak out more about anti-slavery issues.

In 1863, the United States Colored Troops was approved by the U.S. government. Langston was hired to recruit blacks to join the Union Army. In that role, he convinced hundreds to join the Massachusetts Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth divisions of the Army, officially the country's first African American military unit. He also enlisted 800 men creating the first black regiment in Ohio. From that effort, Langston began his fight for those black servicemen to have the right to vote and take their rightful and equal place in society.

At the end of the Civil War, Langston accepted the position as Inspector General for the Freedmen's Bureau. The Bureau's task was to help freed slaves in labor contracts and related issues. It established schools for freedmen's children and operated a bank for their financial assistance.

At the 1864 black National Convention, Langston chaired a committee calling for racial equality, unity and self-help. From that committee, the National Equal Rights League was founded. Langston served as President for four years. A precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the League worked to establish local and state offices across the U.S. By the close of the war, thanks largely to Langston's efforts, the National Equal Rights League was a national organization.

In 1868, Langston was selected by Howard University in Washington, D.C. to assist in the establishment of a law school, the first black law school in the country. Langston became its Dean. In 1872, he became Acting President of the school while he served as Vice President. He was not selected for the permanent position as President.

For the Civil Rights Act of 1875 enacted by the 43rd Congress, Langston played a part in its' creation assisting Massachusetts Republican Senator Charles Sumner in the drafting of the bill. The bill, passed by Congress, was signed into law on March 1, 1875 by then President Ulysses S. Grant. For his efforts, Langston was appointed by Grant to become a member of the Board of Health of the District of Columbia.

In 1877, Langston was appointed by President Rutherford Hayes as U.S. Minister to Haiti. He later became the Chargé d'Affaires for the Dominican Republic. When his assignment was completed in 1885, he returned to Virginia, accepting a position as the first President of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, a black college in Petersburg. The school would later change its name to Virginia State University.

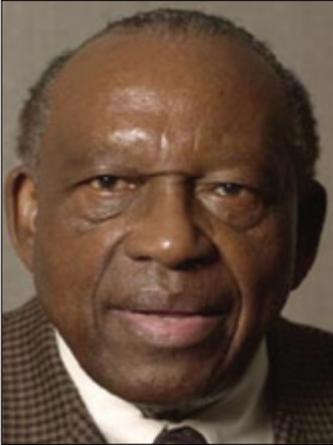
Langston, at the urging of both black and white Republicans entered Politics. He ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Not supported by the biracial political party holder, the Readjuster Party, Langston was not successful in his attempt.

Contesting his loss claiming voter fraud and political intimidation, after eighteen months of Congressional hearings, Langston took his seat in the U.S. Congress being declared the winner. He served the six months remaining on the term but on the next election, he was not elected back to the seat in Congress. Nonetheless, Langston was the first black elected to Congress from Virginia. No other black person would be elected to Congress from Virginia until 1972 after civil rights legislation was passed allowing equal voting rights for blacks and all citizens.

Langston, in 1890, became a member of the Board of Trustees of the newly formed St. Paul Normal and Industrial School. Founded on September 24, 1888, by James Solomon Russell, a Protestant Episcopal Church ordained Deacon, the Lawrenceville, Virginia school was funded by the Virginia General Assembly as a black college to train students for agricultural and industrial related jobs.

In 1891, Langston moved to Washington, D.C. where he practiced law until his death in 1897. He died from malaria induced acute indigestion at his home on the morning of November 15, 1897. He was buried at Harmony Cemetery in Maryland but later moved to Woodlawn Cemetery in Washington, D.C..

In his honor, Oberlin College created The John Mercer Langston House in Oberlin, Ohio, which has since been designated as a National Historic Landmark. In Oklahoma, the state named a town, Langston, Oklahoma and the historically black university in his honor, Langston University. The District of Columbia named an elementary school in his honor in 1902 that served black students until its' closing in 1993. It was then turned into a homeless shelter.



## CHARLES DOUGLAS LANGFORD

...was born on Dec. 9, 1922 in Montgomery, Alabama. Not much is known about Charles Douglas Langford's early life. What is known is that he was one of the pioneer legal minds during the civil rights struggles

during the dismantling of the Jim Crow laws of the Deep South and especially in the state of Alabama.

Langford enrolled into Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee Alabama spending two years before being drafted in the U.S. Army during World War II. During the European Theater Operation, he served overseas as a truck driver. In 1946, he received an honorable discharge.

Upon returning from his military duties, Langford continued his college education at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1948, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. He later earned his law degree from The Catholic University in Washington, D.C..

Returning to Alabama after graduation, he was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1953 and opened his law office on Monroe Street in Montgomery. He began to represent local African-Americans in civil rights cases. Langford joined renowned civil rights attorneys, Fred Gray and Solomon Seay, Jr. in their law firm. Together, the three of them began to represent Alabama citizens either wrongly convicted or to protect their civil rights. It did not take long before their first landmark case appeared.

Langford, along with Gray and Seay, Jr., defended Claudette Colvin, the first person arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery city bus to a white rider. Nine months later, he would represent Rosa Parks for the same offense. This time working with Martin Luther King, Jr. and E.D. Nixon, President of the Montgomery Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the case became national Headline news and the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955. On Nov. 13, 1956, ruling in another Montgomery case, *Browder v. Gayle*, the United States Supreme Court affirmed a District Court's ruling outlawing segregation on the city buses.

In 1964, Langford was part of the team that represented Arlam Carr in a lawsuit against Montgomery's Board of Education that led to the desegregation of the city's public schools. Carr's mother had attempted to enroll Carr into Lanier High School in Montgomery and met resistance. Carr's case was combined with the 1964 class action suit *Lee v. the Macon County Board of Education*. That pivotal civil rights case 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. Langford 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 Langford and his team became the blueprint for school desegregation throughout the United States.

Another important case handled by Langford and his team 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 Reverend Solomon Seay, Sr., the father of his partner, Solomon Seay, Jr.. The others were Ralph Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth and Joseph Lowery, all civil rights activist. Langford, Gray and Seay Jr. represented the four Ministers.

Sullivan originally won the case in an Alabama court but *The New York Times* Appealed. They 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.

In 1993, representing a group of black Alabama state legislators, Langford assisted in ending the flying of a Confederate battle flag from the dome of the State Capitol in Montgomery. Langford, as a Democrat, entered politics and was elected to the Alabama State Senate representing Montgomery's 26th Senate District. He served for five terms before retiring in 2002.

Langford had a long career in the Alabama legislature always having civil rights at the forefront of his elected duties. Charles Douglas Langford died on February 11, 2007 at his home in Montgomery in his sleep. He was eighty-four years young.



## ALLIE B. LATIMER

...was born in 1929 in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. When she was young, her family relocated to Alabama. Her mother was a schoolteacher and her father worked as a day laborer in construction.

After graduating from Alabama State Lab High School, she enrolled into Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina. After one year, she transferred to Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia where she completed her studies to earn her Bachelor's of Science Degree. While earning her degree, Latimer performed in drama and theater and danced on the dance team.

Completing high school, Latimer enrolled into Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, in Hampton, Virginia, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. Before pursuing her law degree, she took a two-year hiatus to give time as a volunteer the American Friends Service Committee for two years. The Quaker International Volunteer Service program focused on mental health conditions in U.S. juvenile centers, jails, prisons, and any other institution where one may be confined.

While giving time to the American Friends Service Committee, Latimer Worked at a women's prison in New Jersey. She took on the fight of desegregating the New Jersey State Hospital at Vineland and travelled on a peace-rebuilding mission to France as part of a women's group. Whenever or wherever she saw a need to help women's rights, Latimer would give of her time.

To continue her education, Latimer enrolled into Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. where she received her Juris Doctor degree in 1953. She would earn a Master of Legal Letters degree from The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law. A believing Christian, Latimer would earn both a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Howard University.

In 1968, Latimer founded and built the Federally Employed Women (FEW). The organizations purpose was to protect the rights of women in the federal and public workforces. She fought against gender discrimination in federal and public sector jobs. The FEW over the years, has helped countless women in the federal workforce improve both their standings in their given fields and their protection while

performing those jobs. Her lobbied work ensured improved conditions for women in performing their jobs. Most importantly, she ensured improved restroom facilities for women, integrated.

Beginning as a grassroots organization, FEW would grow to have more than two hundred chapters nationwide. Not only did the FEW efforts help women in their work places, their efforts helped every employee receive better working conditions. For the community, Latimer fought to integrate a suburban community outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1969, Latimer became an Ordained Elder in the Northeastern Presbyterian Church, a Washington, D.C. church. As an Elder, her outreach spanned to more than fifty countries around the world. She travelled often, speaking at conferences and seminars in these countries on behalf of the Church.

Latimer took a job with the federal government with the General Services Administration (GSA) as an Assistant General Counsel. After one year, she left moving to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as its' General Counsel. She returned to the GSA in 1977 as the General Counsel. She became the first woman and first African American woman to serve in the capacity of General Counsel of any major U.S. agency. In her role at the GSA, she was tasked with bringing the federal government into compliance with the rules and regulations set by the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Latimer was able to give women more opportunities for administrative and managerial jobs and brought in new and innovative programs designed to ensure an open door policy to women and their rights. She remained General Counsel for ten years. She left that position in 1987 to become Special Counsel for Ethics and Civil Rights at the GSA.



## CAESER COOLERIDGE LATIMER, SR.

... was born on January 27, 1926 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Maria L. Latimer and Major S. Latimer, Sr.. He graduated from Tulsa's Booker T. Washington High School in 1944. He enlisted into the United States Marines where he

fought in World War II. His unit took part in the U.S. take-over of Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

Having been raised in the food industry, he immediately took notice of the unequal eating facilities and subpar food given to the African American soldiers as to what the white soldiers were given. He took note of when fighting in muddy foxholes, the white soldiers were given rations of beans and other sustainable packaged food while his unit ate rations of beets and radishes.

Latimer grew up in the food business. His father owned a famous barbecue restaurant, Latimer's Barbecue, which brought customers from miles away. As a child, the young Latimer, a proficient clarinet player, to make extra income provided tutored classes to aspiring young musicians. Of course that was after his schoolwork was complete and his chores at the restaurant. World famous Latimer's Barbeque still operates from its' North Tulsa location, more than sixty years later.

Leaving the military, Latimer returned to Tulsa where he looked into colleges and universities to attend. He wanted to enroll into the University of Oklahoma but learned that although the school did accept G.I. Bills to cover tuition, they did not accept G.I. Bills designated for blacks. Without fight and not discouraged, he moved on to another choice, Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Latimer obtained his undergraduate degree from the University as well as his law degree, doing so in 1954.

While in college, the Latimer family suffered a tragic loss. His father and sister, Julia, were killed in an automobile accident. Because of limited medical care available to blacks at that time and the hospital that accepted blacks during an emergency was miles away, by the time his father and sister arrived at the hospital, a choice had to be made as to who received care first, he or his daughter. The hospital staff could only work on of them at a time.

Latimer's father insisted that they care for his daughter first. Unfortunately, by the time the hospital staff was able to

attend to him, he died from his injuries. Latimer left Wilberforce to return home to help care for his sister and mother and run the family barbecue business. Fortunately, his mother knew his heart wasn't into running a barbecue restaurant and insisted that he return to school. He did so.

He finished his undergraduate studies at Wilberforce and immediately entered law school at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. To pay his tuition, thanks to his exceptional musical talent, he played clarinet in the "Indiana Marching Hundred", the school's marching band. After obtaining his law degree, he returned to Oklahoma and opened his own law practice. Of course, he took care of the legal affairs of his family barbecue business, after all, it is "World Famous".

Latimer begin his legal career as a City of Tulsa Investigator for the city's District Attorney's Office. He later became a Prosecuting Attorney and an Assistant District Attorney, the first African American to do so. Although he took some disdain from the black community for prosecuting other African Americans, his position was that it was better for him to work from the inside to ensure that the prosecution was done so fairly. Years later, Latimer traded hats. He gave up his job as a prosecutor, left the District Attorney's Office and entered private practice to represent people rather than prosecute them.

Latimer would spend many more years in private practice. He represented a large amount of people, many who could not afford to feed themselves, let alone, pay an attorney to represent them on charges from fines for not cutting grass to being arrested for being drunk in public. It did not matter the problem, people knew that there were two things that Caesar Cooleridge Latimer, Sr. could do for you. He could represent you in the court of law and he could feed you some good barbecue at Latimer's Barbeque.

Caesar Cooleridge Latimer, Sr. died on August 29, 2016. He was ninety-years old.



## AUGUST ARVIS LATTING

...was born on January 30, 1905, in Helena), Arkansas. He attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1926. To obtain in law degree,

he attended the Northwestern University School of Law in Evanston and Chicago, Illinois where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1932. During his college years, Latting joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. A year later, Latting was admitted to the to the Arkansas State Bar and was given the privilege to argue cases before the Arkansas State Supreme Court.

After passing the state bar, Latting left Arkansas moving to Memphis, Tennessee where he opened his own private practice law firm. He became one of the few African American lawyers practicing in Memphis at that time. He was admitted to the Memphis Bar Association and the Shelby County Bar Association in 1935. He was the first African American to be admitted to the Shelby Bar.

In beginning his law career, Latting specialized in Probate Law. He also handled cases involving civil and criminal law. As he took on more cases, his reputation and respect earned increased rapidly.

During his legal career, Latting taught Political Science at local Memphis LaMoyne College. He also taught Political Science and Economics at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. In addition, he served as Dean of Jackson State's Political Science Department.

Latting was later appointed to the City of Memphis's Civil Service Board. He was also served as an Associate Government Appeal Agent and was elected as a County Judge. In addition, he became a member of the American Bar Association.

In 1943, Latting married Pine Bluff, Arkansas native Marietta Ish. Together, they had three children, Arivs, Carol, and Jean. Known as the "Dean of black lawyers", Latting was mentor to many young African American lawyers and touched the lives of others entering the field of law for the first time. He was a kind and caring attorney who unselfishly gave of his time and money to help further the goals and lives of others.

Latting was honored by one of the past Governors of Tennessee when he was awarded a Commission of Colored Aide de Camp for his patriotism. He was also awarded a Congressional Certificate of Merit for his work with the Selective Service System. Augustus Arvis Latting died on October 21, 1975. He was sixty-nine years old.



## BELFORD VANCE LAWSON, JR.

...was born on July 9, 1901 in Roanoke, Virginia. His mother was a schoolteacher and his father worked for the railroad. After graduating high school, Lawson began his higher education by enrolling into Ferris Institute, now Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan.

He later transferred to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan to complete his undergraduate degree.

While at Michigan, Lawson played varsity football as a fullback and was the second African American to play for the team. He was the only black player on the team of legendary Michigan football Coach Fielding H. Yost. During his time at Michigan, he was a member of the Varsity Debate Team and won several awards as an orator. He joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and graduated from the College of Literature, Science, and Arts in 1924.

After completing his degree at Michigan, Lawson was hired as Coach and Athletic Director at Jackson College, now known as Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. He coached the team for four years being outscored while Coach 54 to 0. While coaching at the school, Lawson served as Professor of Social Science and as the Director of the Teacher's Professional Department. He then became a Coach at Atlanta, Georgia's Morris Brown College and taught Economics.

Lawson was accepted to attend Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut after receiving an endorsement from then Morris Brown President John Lewis. Lewis would later become a Congressman in the United States House of Representative. Lawson instead received his Juris Doctorate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law in 1932.

A year later, Lawson founded, along with John A. Davis Sr. and M. Franklin Thorne, the New Negro Alliance (NNA). The Alliance was as a means of opposing white-owned businesses located in black neighborhoods that would not hire black employees. Lawson would conduct the radical campaign, "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work". He organized pickets and called for a boycott of white businesses in the black community.

In response, white businesses obtained a court order injunction to halt the picketing. Lawson called on legendary attorney Thurgood Marshall to counter the white establishment's injunction. The case of the New Negro Alliance v.

Sanitary Grocery Company was eventually argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1938, the Supreme Court ruled that the boycott was constitutional. The landmark decision became a catalyst for anti-discrimination cases against discriminatory hiring practices litigated across the country. Don't Buy Where You Can't Work campaigns began to spring up throughout the nation. By 1940, the NNA was able to generate over 5,000 jobs for African Americans, jobs they held in their own neighborhoods.

During the two years that the NNA's trial lingered in the Courts, Lawson, as a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, convinced the organization to finance the case of Donald Murray who was looking to integrate the University of Maryland's Law School. He engaged Marshall to become involved in the litigation of that case. Marshall brought in other lawyers from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP including Special Counsel Charles Houston to take on the case. That historical case eventually reached the Maryland Court of Appeals before Murray was admitted to the law school.

In 1950, Lawson became a member of the legal team that litigated the successful case of Henderson v. Southern Railway Company, which challenged the United State's Interstate Commerce Commission's segregated railroad practices. The case's results abolished the practice. The railroad company opened all of its' passenger cars to all interstate travellers although they and other railroad companies kept their "intra state" segregated policies, which was abolished several years later.

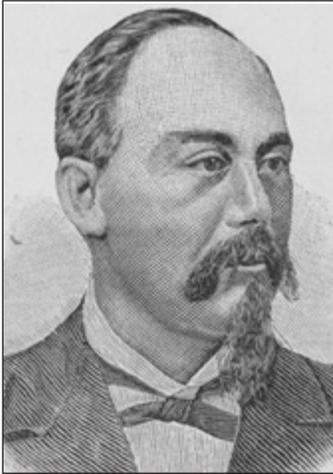
For his dedicated work to the organization and to the concerns of the African American communities, Laws was elected as the 16th General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The fraternity today sponsors an annual Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Contest where college oratorical students demonstrate their skills in open contests. Winners compete in state and regional competition with the winner making an oral presentation at the fraternity's national convention. Topics chosen in the competition are topics central to the goals of the fraternity.

During his professional legal career, Lawson made eight appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court making oral arguments. He was the first African-American man to win a case before the Court. The oratorical skills he learned years before while a member of the University of Michigan's Debate Team were pivotal in his legal successes.

In 1973, Lawson was elected President of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). He was the organization's first African-American President. He also served as a member of the organization's National Council.

Belford Vance Lawson Jr. died on February 23, 1985 in Washington, D.C. succumbing to Alzheimer's disease and cancer. He was eighty-three years old.





## **J**OHN SINCLAIR LEARY, SR.

...was born on August 17, 1845 in Fayetteville, North Carolina to Julia Memriel Leary and Matthew Leary. He attended public school in Fayetteville into his teens where he learned the trade of harness-maker

and saddler. His father owned a well-known leather shop and Leary grew up learning about leather since birth. He worked at his father's leather shop for several years before continuing his educational pursuits.

Having being reared in a well to do family due to his father's very successful business, Leary was surrounded by the top echelon of African American society. His father would invite to his home community activists, the clergy, other businessmen, and at times, a few politicians where they discussed the current social and community issues, economic advancement for African Americans and care for the overall community.

For his efforts in his community's affairs, in 1868, Leary was elected to the State Legislature representing North Carolina's Cumberland County. He served in the State House for two one-year terms during the Reconstruction Era. While in the legislature, Leary advocated and voted for minority protections and against fraudulent bonds that were taking advantage of those that bought bonds for financial security but not savvy enough to not be scammed.

In 1871, Leary entered into Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. where he would earn his law degree. After completing his requirements in 1873, he left D.C., returning to North Carolina where he took the North Carolina Bar exam and passed. In passing, Leary became only the second African-American lawyer to be admitted to the bar in North Carolina. He was the first to open an office and practice law in Charlotte.

Leary had remained active in politics after leaving the state legislature and in 1876 he was elected as a Fayetteville Alderman. He served for eleven years in the legislature and served as a Delegate to every Republican State Convention from 1876 to 1894. For the Republican National Convention, Leary served as an Alternate Delegate

to the 1880 Republican National Convention and served as a Delegate to the 1884 National Convention.

In 1881, Leary was appointed as a U.S. Deputy Collector for the Fourth District of North Carolina at the U.S. Internal Revenue Department. He worked as a Deputy Collector for four years until the election of then U.S. President Grover Cleveland. With the change of political parties, Leary was out of a job and entered private practice where he found himself practicing for a number of years.

The following year, Leary became prominently involved as a member of the Statewide Convention of Colored People headquartered in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He then served as the President of the labor organization, North Carolina Industrial Association. He joined the Odd Fellows and served as its' Honorary Commissioner from North Carolina at the 1884 World's Fair held in New Orleans, Louisiana. A religious man, Leary also became a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

In 1890, Leary entered North Carolina's Republican electoral race to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Fayetteville. He was unsuccessful in his bid losing the election to Benjamin F. Grady. After losing the race, he was asked to become the Dean of the newly created law school at Shaw University in Charlotte. Leary accepted the offer and became the first Dean to ever serve at the University and was instrumental in initiating the University's first student curriculum. Leary also served on the local School Board.

In 1892, Leary moved his offices to Charlotte and was admitted to practice law in Mecklenburg County by the state bar. He was the first African American to be admitted to practice law in Mecklenburg County. Leary would practice from his Charlotte office the remainder of his life.

Leary was married twice during his life. He first married Alice B. Thomas of Raleigh, North Carolina. The couple had two children that unfortunately died when they were young. After her death in October of 1880, Leary married Nannie E. Latham in July of 1886.

John Sinclair Leary, Sr. died on December 9, 1904. He was fifty-nine years old.



## DEBRA LOUISE LEE

...was born August 8, 1955 in Fort Jackson, South Carolina to Delma L. and Richard M. Lee. Her family later moved to Greensboro, North Carolina where she was raised and graduated from Greensboro's James B. Dudley High School. Lee

received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island in Political Science having an emphasis in Asian politics.

Lee then entered Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government where she earned a Master's degree in Public Policy. She remained at Harvard to obtain a law degree from the University's law school in 1980. At Harvard, she served as a member of the Board of Student Advisers.

In her first legal professional job, Lee served as a law clerk to Judge Barrington Parker, a judge to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. After serving for one year as clerk to Judge Parker, she entered private practice taking a job with the Washington, D.C. based law firm of Steptoe & Johnson. After five years there, she became the Vice President of Black Entertainment Television's (BET) Legal Affairs Department and General Counsel. As Vice President, Lee played a pivotal role in the building of BET's headquarters building in Washington, D.C.. She is also credited with BET going public in 1991, the first African American owned company to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Lee also served as BET's Corporate Secretary and later served as President and Publisher of BET's publishing division. The publishing division owns Heart & Soul magazine and Emerge BET Weekend. Lee was named as the President and Chief Operating Officer of BET Holdings, Inc. after network founder, Robert L. Johnson, stepped down.

Lee was later named as the President and Chief Executive Officer of BET. Under Lee's direction, BET would grow by adding new cable networks, including BET Gospel, BET Hip Hop, BET Jazz, and BET International, which broadcast jazz to Africa and Europe. Lee added an event production department; added BET Sound Stage, a themed restaurant in Largo, Maryland; and added a clothing line for men; and a financial services division. The company then added movie production, documentaries, news and public affairs broadcasting, and late night talk shows. She also created a separate entertainment network, CENTRIC, that broadcast reality shows, movies, and gave a platform to up and coming new artists.

Lee used BET's popularity to bring awareness to the needs of the African American communities throughout the United States. She established the annual BET Walk of Fame, which raised funds to aid the United Negro College Fund, and led the "Black Lives Saves" initiative, which gave financial assistance to educational programs throughout the country. For the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Lee began the Rap-It-Up campaign to help curb the spread of the deadly disease.

Lee and BET were not without criticism and some drama. A BET fired Corporate Executive sued the network for \$21 million after alleging that both Lee and founder Johnson had used corporate funds for personal use, had evaded paying taxes, and were employing illegal accounting practices. Lee then received negative spotlight views when it was revealed that she and Johnson had a personal relationship, which played a part in Johnson and his wife, Sheila, divorcing. Lee and BET received further negative press after some members of the African American community criticized the network for its' lengthy broadcasting of rap and hip hop music and not enough educational material. Her critics wanted BET to address more positive issues that the African American communities faced and not show as many videos that influenced young viewers to the entertainment industry as opposed to more educational endeavors.

Despite negative press and community backlash, BET continued to grow its' viewer base. Lee introduced the national awards program, The BET Awards, which airs annually recognizing important African Americans in many industries affecting the African American communities, past and present. Under Lee's leadership, BET would grow into a very profitable company and in 2000 the company was sold to Viacom, a multinational media conglomerate having interests in cinema and cable television, for a staggering \$3 billion.

Lee has served on the Board of Directors of the Marriott Corporation and Revlon. She has also served on the Boards of the Washington Gas Light Company's WGL Holdings and for Genuity, a subsidiary of Monsanto. In addition, Lee has served on the Board of Twitter, the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, Eastman Kodak Company, and Girls, Inc.

Lee has been given countless awards and honors during her career. She is a member of the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame, has been named a Woman of Vision Award by Washington, D.C.'s Women in Film & Video, and has received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Brown University. Turner Broadcasting System presented Lee with its' Tower of Power Trumpet Award, the National Association of Minorities in Communications gave her a Quasar Award, and the National Cable and Telecommunications Association presented Lee with its' Idell Kaitz Vanguard Award.



Photo Not Available



## JOHN KENNETH LEE

..was born on November 1, 1923 in Charlotte, North Carolina to Sara Bell Lowdner Lee and Henry Franklin Lee. Lee was the thirteenth of fourteen children, whose father served as a minister in the Church of God denomination, and his family had meager means and survived

off of the mere \$11 a month that his father earned.

Not being able to afford to live in Charlotte, Lee's family moved eighty miles east to the small town of Hamlet. Lee would graduate from a small school having four grades, no library, and was held at a small Hamlet Baptist church. Although small, Lee's thinking was not. He graduated from Capital Highway High School as Valedictorian of his class in 1941.

Without difficulty, he was accepted into North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College (NCA&T), located in Greensboro. Lee realized that his father's sacrifice of moving the family from Charlotte to the poorer life in Hamlet, was so that he could save up the thirty-three dollars needed to pay his first semester tuition. Arriving on campus, Lee was astonished, as he had never lived in a place that had electricity or running water. He was even more amazed when he first visited the schools chemistry and electrical engineering laboratories. He had never been in a lab and the instruments he saw, he had only seen in books.

Lee's undergraduate studies, six weeks from graduation, were interrupted when he was drafted into the military. He joined the U.S. Navy and served in World War II. He married his wife, Nancy Young, while serving in the Navy as a Second Mate Electrician on the USS Dade. The racism he experienced in the Navy was no different than that he had experienced in North Carolina, so he was able to serve his time and receive his discharge in 1946. He returned to NCA&T where he received his B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering.

Although the local newspapers were full of ads with job openings for electrical engineers, Lee was unable to find work. After much searching, he was finally able to land a job in North Carolina and refused offers elsewhere. An opportunity came about with alma mater, NCA&T, and he joined the faculty of the school's engineering department. Not liking the segregated system imposed during that time in the South, or the racial mistreatment that came along with it, Lee knew that the only way to make a change was by changing the laws that allowed segregation to exist. He decided to go to law school.

In 1949, Lee enrolled into North Carolina College before joining a lawsuit brought against the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Lee was asked to join the suit to force the integration of the University's Law School as the plaintiffs in the case had already graduated from law school elsewhere and the twenty-five blue-star team of NAACP lawyers needed a plaintiff to move forward. Lee agreed to join the case. Thurgood Marshall

and his expert team of lawyers from the NAACP then argued before the U.S. Supreme Court Lee's case. The Court ruled against the NAACP, however, with mounting national pressure from media covert and social outcries, the UNC School of Law opened it's admissions to African American students.

In June of 1950, Lee and Harvey E. Beech, with a contingent of law enforcement officers escorting them, they entered the halls of the UNC School of Law. Although admitted, the two faced racism at every turn. They were given the worst seats available away from the regular student body until Lee and Beech protested. All other students were referred to as Ms. or Mr., however, in Lee's case, the professor would merely make a grunt and point at him when needing to speak with him.

After passing the North Carolina State Bar exam, Lee became an Assistant Legal Counsel for the NAACP, as many African American attorneys were fearful of the job. He immediately took on cases that had all-white juries where the evidence was stacked high against black defendants. He faced hostile prosecutors and witnesses and at times had spectators in the gallery with shotguns in full view of the jury, judge and the Sheriff. He defended black men accused of "reckless eyeballing" white women and others that were guilty of their crimes but did not deserve the harsh penalties imposed, including the death penalty.

Lee would go on to serve as legal counsel to over seventeen hundred civil rights and disobedience cases. He even once litigated a case against the local leader of the Klu Klux Klan accused of vandalism against who after losing the case had so much respect for Lee that in full view of everyone, he shook Lee's hand and told the crowd that no one was to touch Lee or his family and if anything did happen for Lee to come to him and he would solve any problems. Lee would also bring lawsuits ranging from the integration of North Carolina's Gillespie Park elementary and secondary public schools to defending students in their historic demonstrations and sit-ins to end segregation at all-white Greensboro eating establishments.

His dedicated work soon reward him as he became the first African American member of the North Carolina Banking Commission. Through his efforts, the state issued a \$2.2 billion tax-exempt bond that financed more than 55,000 new homes for low-to-moderate-income families. For his service, Lee was the first African American to be inducted into the Greensboro Business Leaders Hall of Fame.

In addition to running his successful law practice, Lee was also a businessman. He was involved in rental and commercial property, the development shopping centers, nursing home facilities, and helped to create the state's first federally chartered savings and loan association. Lee was able to provide loans and mortgages to African Americans to purchase more expensive homes as most white banks had a limit of \$13,000 that could be lent to blacks.

Lee opened a theater in Salisbury, North Carolina and built a radio and electronics trade school in Winston-Salem. For senior citizens, he built a fitness center in honor of his mother. For the business minded, he built an office complex near the NCA&T that bears his sons name and that of the owner of the Dudley Products Company, Joe Louis Dudley, Sr..

Extremely loved and high honored, UNC icon John Kenneth Lee, not only broke barriers but built a legacy of civil rights and economic advancement not only for himself but for everyone that needed his assistance.





## JOSEPH E. LEE

...was born in 1849 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduating high school, he attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he received both his undergraduate degree in Ministry and his degree

in law. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from Howard's Law School in 1873.

He left Washington moving to Jacksonville, Florida. He was admitted to the Florida State Bar the same year making him the first African-American attorney to open offices in Jacksonville. He was one of only a few African American lawyers in the state.

In 1875, Lee ran for and won a seat in the Florida House of Representatives. He served in the House for four years. He ran for and won a seat to the Florida State Senate in 1881. He served in the Senate for one term. During his term, Lee was nominated to the Florida Constitutional Convention as a Republican Delegate.

In 1888, Lee was elected as a Judge to the Jacksonville Municipal Court. He was the first African-American to be named as a Judge to the Court. While serving the Court, Lee also served as Dean of the law school to Edward Waters College, a black institution established in 1866 to educate freed slaves. For the next thirty years, Lee would serve as a Trustee of the college.

In 1890, Lee was appointed as Customs Collector for the Port of St. Johns. He would remain at the Port for only four years. He would, however, return to the job in 1897 where he would stay for an additional four years.

In 1898, Lee worked as a Collector of Internal Revenue. He became one of the highest paid Collectors for the Department. He stayed with the Internal Revenue office for five years.

For over four decades, Lee served as a public servant to residents of Jacksonville and the citizens of Florida. In return, Florida adopted him as one of its' own. He worked diligently throughout his professional career for those he represented. Joseph H. Lee was one of the most influential African-American Floridians during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He was a

leader in religious sectors and academic circles in Jacksonville. He was well respected on the local, county, and state levels by his peers and associates. The Joseph E. Lee Republican Club still operates in Jacksonville today.

Joseph E. Lee died March 25, 1920. He was seventy-one years old. Learning of his death, famed civil rights activists and educators James Weldon Johnson and A. Phillip Randolph gave tribute to Lee.



## L ENA S. KING LEE

...was born in Sumter County, Alabama. Her father, Samuel Sylvester King, was a coal miner. An activist, he fought for better conditions for miners, both black and white. At night, he worked as a chauffeur and butler to support his family. The family moved often be-

tween Alabama, Illinois and Pennsylvania, depending upon which coal mine was hiring and which one was not. Nonetheless, Lee's father made and saved enough money to be able to send her and her brother away to private boarding school owned by the black church.

By the time Lee graduated from high school, the family lived in Tarentum, Pennsylvania where she graduated third in her class in 1925. Her grades won her a scholarship to Cheyney Training School for Teachers, now Cheyney University of Pennsylvania in Cheyney, Pennsylvania. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Lee took a teaching job in Annapolis, Maryland. She moved to nearby Baltimore, where she also taught sixth grade in Baltimore's public schools while she continued her education.

She enrolled into Baltimore's Morgan State University where, in 1939, she earned her Bachelor's degree. To earn her law degree and due to the fact that the University of Maryland in nearby College Park did not allow blacks to attend its' graduate school, Lee travelled on weekends to New York City by train to attend New York University. She would receive her Master's degree in 1947. She then enrolled into the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, which was not connected to the University of Maryland at College Park, and received her law degree in 1951. At forty years of age, she became the third African-American woman to graduate from the school, after Juanita Jackson Mitchell and Elaine Carsley Davis.

In 1952, Lee was admitted to the Baltimore and Maryland bars. As she entered the legal world, she kept her teaching jobs in Annapolis and Baltimore. In fact, since receiving her Master's degree in 1947, she served as the Principal of Henry H. Garnet Elementary School. She would serve as Principal for the next seventeen years through 1964.

In 1966, mainly due to her devoted work in the Baltimore schools, Lee, at the age of sixty, was drafted to take a seat to the House of Delegates in the Maryland General Assembly. She represented the 4th District. The 4th District would later become the 38th, 39th, and the 44th Districts.

She became the first African American woman to be elected to the Maryland General Assembly. She would serve as a Delegate for fifteen years.

In 1970, Lee founded the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus. Her intent was to gather together the black legislators, many whom thought had "made it in life", to stress the need to huddle to legislate as a group. Known as "The Fearless One," Lee would ferret out bad bills and fight fearlessly to stop them before they hit the floor of the Assembly, and if they did, she'd fight even harder to kill them. She could smell out a snake bill and end it, many times in committee meetings.

In her legislative duties, Lee helped Morgan State receive their university status and helped save Baltimore's Orchard Street Church, a safe house on the historic Underground Railroad, from being torn down. She fought successfully for the construction of a new Provident Hospital, now Liberty Medical Center. The creation of no-fault divorce in Maryland, is credited in part to Lee's lobbying. In representing herself and her District, to Lee, it was never about the celebrity of being a Member of the General Assembly, it was about the service you brought and gave.

In 1982, Lee left her seat and handed the torch to a young brilliant and resolute leader, Elijah E. Cummings. She lobbied, campaigned, and raised money in an effort to get him elected. Although she wanted a woman to take her seat, she saw everything she wanted in woman in Cummings except the gender. She endorsed him and it would then be his duty to carry on in service to Maryland's 44th District. She left behind to him surpass a life devoted to public service as an educator and as a legislator. Cummings would go on to become a United States Congressman.

Leaving the legislator wasn't the end of Lee. She continued to fight for equal rights in education and more funding for the public schools. She pushed for higher pay for her teachers and advocated for their rights, especially when it came to the longer hours necessary to do their jobs and the lack of supplies and educational tools. She developed new curriculums intended to create higher standards in learning. Lee was intent upon making a contribution to her community and the country when it came to children and young adult learning.

Lee was a member of the American Federation of Teachers. Her life and her dedicated service has been recognized by the Federation and by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education when the presented her with a Presidential Citation. She is an inductee into the National Bar Association's prestigious Hall of Fame and the Hall of Fame in the Maryland Women's Bar Association

Lena K. Lee died in her sleep peacefully on her 100th birthday in the home she had lived in since 1940.

Photo Not Available



## MICHAEL WARING LEE

...was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland to Francis Lee and Thomas M. Lee Sr.. His mother was a school-teacher, a social worker, and a college librarian. His father worked as a photographer.

Lee graduated in 1968 from Northwestern High School. While in high school, he was active in student government affairs and would later found the Northwestern High School Alumni Association. After completing his high school studies, Lee attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota where he earned his undergraduate degree. He received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

While in law school, he worked to improve the Student Bar Association parliamentary procedures. He organized student caravans to travel to out-of-state moot court competitions and later served as the Chairman of the Moot Court Board. Lee also played a key role in resolving any issues that may spring up within the Black Law Students Association.

After graduating from law school, Lee served as a clerk for Chief Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman of the Baltimore Circuit Court. He would later take a job as an Assistant to the Baltimore City Solicitor. Le then became a staff attorney for the law firm of Mitchell, Mitchell and Mitchell.

In 1993, at the age of thirty, then Governor Harry R. Hughes appointed Judge Lee to fill a vacancy on the three member Baltimore City Orphans' Court. A year later, he became the Chief Judge upon the retirement of Chief Judge C. Warren Colgan, which made Judge Lee the first African American to be appointed as a Chief Judge of any Maryland Court in the history of all courts in the state of Maryland. Ironically, Judge Lee is the great-nephew of Everett J. Waring, the first African American attorney to be admitted to the Maryland State Bar, doing so in 1885.

The Orphans' Court is responsible for rendering decisions on legal disputes involving wills, estates and the guardianship of minors. While serving on the Orphans' Court, Judge Lee worked to make the Court respectable, fought to improve its' functionality, and to give it digni-

ty and respect. He worked faithfully to protect the rights of children and to ensure that their parent's estates were transferred with order.

In 1988, Judge Lee became an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland Law School teaching Appellate Advocacy. In his teaching, he was able to establish a rapport with the students hoping to give them a top-notch education in appellate law. He understood that the students were the future of the law profession and he worked diligently to give them the opportunity to learn and to take what they learned and apply it to their practice of the law. Although he was tougher than other Professors at the Law School, and many of the students did complain about the extra work demanded of Judge Lee, he gave them reinforcement and confidence that they could do what was asked of them and let them know that he cared deeply about them and their success.

Judge Lee suffered from seizures but never was one to allow his sickness to used as a deterrent to what he wanted to achieve for both his students at the law school and the children that he fought to protect while serving on the Orphan's Court bench. While teaching, he became more and more frail going from walking with crutches to being mobilized in a wheel chair, his energy never wained.

Judge Michael Waring Lee died on October 1, 1995 from complications of colon surgery at St. Joseph Medical Center in Baltimore. He was forty-two years old.



## TERRY HART LEE

...was the first African American graduate from the Wake Forest Law School. While at Wake Forest, she founded the Black American Law Students Association (BLSA). She also served as its' first President.

Lee began the BLSA in 1968 hoping to promote the aspirations and goals of black law students at the school. She wanted to bring about a change in the legal community that fostered an open dialogue about the issues facing African American lawyers and the African American community. The Wake Forest BLSA is affiliated with the Regional and National BLSA organizations.

Each year, the BLSA sponsors an annual scholarship banquet to raise money to help fund merit-based scholarships that are given to a selected BLSA student member in each law class. Eligible students must be current dues-paying members in their first, second or third year at the law school and in good standing with the guidelines of the student handbook. They must have completed all of their community service hours and the required pro bono service specified.

Lee first began her career taking a job with the General Services Administration (GSA) as an attorney-advisor and a litigator. At the GSA, Lee litigated complex cases centered on procurement policies and equal employment opportunity issues. She also litigated tort claims filed by the GSA in the U.S. District Court.

In the mid-1970s, Lee joined the Neighborhood Legal Services where she handled contract appeals, congressional inquiries and Freedom of Information Act matters. She served as a Legal Advisor to the U.S. Army Material Development and Readiness Command. She served as a longtime senior member of the General Counsel's Office and the U.S. Department of Commerce. While serving at the Department, she became the recognized expert in matters related federal acquisitions law.

Lee would serve at the U.S. Department of Commerce for seventeen years. During her stay, she has litigated cases before the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals; the Federal Bar Association; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; the U.S. Court of Federal Claims; and the U.S. General Accounting Office.

In July of 2011, Lee retired from her legal career after thirty-five years of distinguished service. She volunteered her services to issues surrounding violence against women, the plight of refugees for war torn or famine induced flight, and the vulnerability of the country's and the world population. She lobbied on gun control and the environment of grave concern to her. Lee worked to ensure that the judiciary was and remained independent of total government control. She also strove to be inclusive and created cross-cultural learning exchanges to bridge the gap between people of other cultures that had similar lifestyles.

Lee enjoyed calmness and practice yoga regularly and was an avid reader. She died on December 23, 2013.

Photo Not Available



## DA LEGGETT

...was born in a small town in Alabama where her mother was a schoolteacher and her father worked in a sawmill. She grew up in a time of extreme racial discord, segregated eating facilities, and paid poll tax in order to vote. In order to visit the local courthouse,

African Americans had to enter through a separate entrance for blacks only.

As a child that loved to read, Leggett could not use the all-white city library. To circumvent that, she read whatever books, newspapers, and magazines she could find. It was in one of those magazines, African American publication *Ebony*, that she read an article about then African American attorney Thurgood Marshall arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court the legendary "Brown v. Board of Education". Once she understood who Marshall was, she decided to become a lawyer.

Leggett graduated from a segregated high school before entering Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. She dropped out of Tuskegee after one and a half years and became married. She would have three children before divorcing and deciding to return to school. Because she had been married and had children, she was not able to receive financial aid but despite that, Leggett found a way to pay for her tuition and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of South Florida in Tampa, which was the first integrated school she had ever attended.

Leggett wanting to attend law school applied to several law schools and accepted a fellowship to Gonzaga Law School in Spokane, Washington. She moved with her three children to Spokane and attended both summer school and regular scheduled law school classes and completed her law degree studies in two and a half years to receive her Juris Doctor. While in law school, Leggett participated in two of the schools moot courts and won a regional championship and placed third in another national contest. She was able to pay for her and her children's living expenses by working in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Spokane.

After graduating from law school, Leggett clerked for then Chief Justice William Williams of the Washington Supreme Court. She passed the Idaho State Bar and became the first African American woman to be admitted to the state bar. She then joined the law firm of Lane Powell where she served as an associate attorney in the firm's civil litigation department. She focused her attention to defense of insurance claims and matters related to construction law.

After serving at Lane Powell for two years, Leggett accepted a job in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and worked in a new law

firm owned by a Gonzaga classmate for two years. Most African American attorneys would have concerns about opening a law firm in a state, which had a low population of African Americans and very few attorneys. She litigated cases in Idaho courts that had juries made up of white supremacist and others mildly against an African American representing them in open court.

After spending two more years representing an assortment of clients, Leggett caught the attention of the then Idaho Governor who appointed her to the Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole. She was the first African American female attorney to be appointed to such a role by the Governor. Her responsibilities included making decisions and finding consensus among her fellow Commission members about parole guidelines and who should be pardoned.

In 1992, then Governor Cecil Andrus appointed Leggett as a Trial Court Judge in Lewiston, Idaho, a small ranching and mill town having a population of approximately 30,000 residents. She became the first African American woman appointed to a state bench in the history of Idaho and served in the Second District. As a Judge, she was easy to like and was respected by both lawyers and litigants that came before her bench. She was not one to play legal games with but rather enjoyed the intellectual banter in the presentation of trials.

Although Judge Leggett was liked by many of the litigants and attorneys that came before the Court, there were twice as many that did not approve of her status. As a highly visible African American woman serving the community, she received threats on her life, particularly when she may have ruled against a family or friend of a defendant. When away from the Court, Judge Leggett found it difficult to co-exist in everyday life as she was constantly approached with some that gave her thanks for her role while others lambasted her at every opportunity.

Judge Leggett drew praise and criticism when she presided over the murder case of a former well known Deputy Sheriff who had killed two people alleged to have drugged and abused his teenage daughter. The case was later written about in Don Davis' book, "A Father's Rage", where Judge Leggett was applauded for being tough on the Deputy Sheriff. Although she could understand a father's rage and reaction to discovering the abuse of his daughter, she could not fathom a man of the law becoming a vigilante and taking the law into his own hands.

In 1998, Judge Leggett decided to leave the isolation of Idaho, resigned her post, and moved to Seattle, Washington to spend more time with one of her daughter's and her grandchildren. She opened a business venture that was not successful and continued to spend her time with her family. She taught her grandchildren the independence that she had been taught and pushed them to find a way to achieve what they wanted to achieve. Judge Leggett was a believer that one should never count on another to do something for them and that it was better to do it yourself.



**SIAH  
"IKE"  
LEGGETT**

was born on July 25, 1944 in Deweyville, Texas. His family moved to Alexandria, Louisiana where he was reared with his twelve siblings. He was a graduate and star football player of the Peabody Magnet High School in Alexandria. He then entered Southern

University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to earn his undergraduate degree. To support his tuition, Leggett worked as a groundskeeper in a work study program and graduated from Southern in 1967.

While in undergraduate school, Leggett was a leader in campus student civil rights organizations and had the privilege to twice meet Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Leggett served as a Commander in the Southern University Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) and during his senior year was elected as the President of his class. He also joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity while at Southern.

After graduating, Leggett enlisted into the United States Army and served as a Captain during the Vietnam War. He first served in combat with a Military Advisory Unit that supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. He then served as a Public Affairs Officer with the 7th Support Battalion/199th Light Infantry Brigade. In being discharged from the Army, Leggett was awarded the Bronze Star for Service.

Returning from the war, Leggett enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he earned his Master of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees in 1974. He graduated first in his law class. He then obtained a Master of Laws degree from Washington, D.C.'s George Washington University.

In his first professional legal job, Leggett served as a Professor of Law at Howard. He would teach at the school for the next thirty years. He did however take off for one year, in 1977, to serve as a White House Fellow under then President Jimmy Carter.

In 1979, Leggett was appointed as a member of the Montgomery County, Maryland's Human Relations Committee where he served for eight years. He was later named Chair of the Committee. He was then elected as an At-Large member the Montgomery County Council, the first African-American to serve. He is also the only African American to ever be elected to a Montgomery County, Maryland office At-Large. He was re-elected to the Council in the next three elections and served for three one-year terms as the President of the Council. While

sitting on the Council, Leggett served as the Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee and was pivotal in the passage of a County living wage law and a public smoking ban.

In 1992, Leggett came under fire when a County Council aide brought accusations of sexual harassment against him. The widely publicized case drew national attention with the allegations being dismissed but the damage was done to his reputation and he decided against running for his seat on the Council during the 2002 general election. Despite the negative publicity, Leggett's name was on the short list to run for Lieutenant Governor on the Democratic ticket for Kathleen Kennedy Townsend in the 2002 gubernatorial race. Unfortunately, she chose Admiral Charles R. Larson instead with some believing his sexual harassment scandal was too damaging for her to take the chance of adding Leggett as her running mate. Kennedy ultimately lost the race to Republican Robert Ehrlich who chose African American Michael S. Steele as his running mate, making Steele the first African American to be elected to a Maryland statewide election instead of Leggett. In consolation, Leggett was elected as the Chairman of the Maryland Democratic Party.

In 2004, Leggett left the Chairmanship of the Maryland Democratic Party to prepare to run for the position of County Executive of Montgomery County. The then serving County Executive, Doug Duncan had made the decision to run for Governor so Leggett set in motion a campaign to replace him. Leggett was victorious in his bid for the County Executive seat despite being outspent by his primary opponent Steve Silverman winning 61.3 percent of the votes. In the general election, Leggett easily outdistanced his Republican opponent Chuck Floyd and independent opponent Robin Ficker winning 68 percent of the casted votes. He won 239 of the 241 voting precincts.

While serving as the County Executive, Leggett proposed a statewide gas tax increase to help cover funding difficulties in the Transportation Department and administered new policies and a hiring site for day laborers with the city of Gaithersburg. He operated the County under a balanced budget and made improvements to roads, including an interconnecting highway cutting across the county to shorten traveling time for residents that lived on one side of the county but worked on the other side, which shortened traveling time.

In 2015, Leggett was elected as the President of the Maryland Association of Counties. In his role as President, he drew some criticism when he vetoed a bill that would gradually raise the minimum wage for workers in the County to \$15 per hour by the year 2020. Despite the veto, he was again re-elected as the County Executive in the past election and currently still serves.



## GEORGE N. LEIGHTON

... was born on October 22, 1912 in New Bedford, Massachusetts to Anna Silva Garcia and Antonio Neves Leitao. His parents had immigrated to the United States from Cape Verde, a group of island located off the coast of the countries of Mauritania and Senegal in West Africa. In America, Leighton's schoolteachers had difficulty pronouncing his last

name, Leitao. The closest they could muster was Leighton of which, Leighton's parents agreed, and Leitao became Leighton.

As poor immigrants, Leighton's parents did not have money to afford him the opportunity to attend school. Not dissuaded, he learned to read and studied on his own. His self-studies paid off when he won an essay contest sponsored by the Cape Verdean Memorial Scholarship Fund. The contest had a \$200 college scholarship as the winning prize. With his winnings and with no high school diploma, Leighton travelled to Washington, D.C., talked his way in and paid for his conditional and unclassified admittance to Howard University.

Leighton made Dean's List that first semester. He was rewarded for his studies by being admitted to Howard University's undergraduate class as a registered student. He would make the Honor Roll the next four years. To earn extra income, Leighton took a job working on an oil tanker during the day while at night he took classes at Howard to earn his undergraduate History degree. He would graduate from Howard with his law degree, magna cum laude.

In between earning his undergraduate and law degrees, Leighton took time away from his studies to fulfill his military duties. Between 1940 and 1945, he served in the ROTC's segregated 93rd Infantry Division as a Second Lieutenant. Upon his discharge from the military, Leighton had reached the rank of Captain of Infantry.

After his discharge, Leighton enrolled into Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he obtained his L.L.B. degree in 1946. Deciding in which state to take the Bar exam, he chose Massachusetts and Illinois. After taking and passing the Massachusetts State Bar exam, Leighton moved to Chicago where he took and passed the Illinois State Bar. He decided to make Chicago his home.

In 1947, Leighton began his law practice and soon became involved in Chicago's local political and social scenes where he built relationships and sought out those with similar and common causes. Within a few years, Leighton was involved in controversy. He was arrested for inciting a riot that lasted several days in Cicero, Illinois when he represented an African American bus driver on an integration case. To Leighton's defense came future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Leighton was acquitted of the charges.

Leighton then became the President of the Third Ward Regular Democratic Organization (TWRDO), serving for five years. While serving as President of the TWRDO, in 1949, Leighton also took a job as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Illinois. He would stay in the Attorney General's Office for three years.

In 1951, Leighton would cofound his own law firm in Chicago, which became one of the largest African American law firms in the

United States. He was then elected President of the Chicago Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He also served as legal counsel to the Donald Howard family in the infamous 1953 Chicago Trumbull Park Riot Case. A few years later, he was elected a Cook County Circuit Court Judge. In thirteen years, Leighton had grown from a fledgling independent attorney to Circuit Court Judge.

In 1956, Leighton was elected as a Judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. He served on the bench for five years. In 1969, he was appointed as Judge to the First District Appellate Court of Illinois becoming the first African American to hold this position in the State of Illinois.

In 1964, he began teaching at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. He also served as President and General Counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) while teaching. His legal work for the NAACP in fighting for the civil rights of African Americans covered areas of employment discrimination, employment and human rights violations, school desegregation, and voting rights.

In 1969, his dedicated work on the bench garnered him an appointment on the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Illinois First District. Six years later, U.S. President Gerald Ford appointed Leighton to serve on the U.S. District Court. On February 2, 1976, he was confirmed to the post. Leighton would retire from the U.S. District Court at the age of seventy-five. He continued practicing law, serving as Legal Counsel to famed Chicago law firm, Earl L. Neal & Associates.

In 1975, Leighton was nominated by then U.S. President Gerald Ford to a seat on the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Illinois. In 2005, the United States Postal Service renamed the New Bedford, Massachusetts's local post office, "The Honorable Judge George N. Leighton Post Office Building", in his honor. In 2012, the Cook County Criminal Courthouse in Chicago had its name changed as a tribute to Leighton.

While serving on the bench Leighton presided over many important and high-profile cases but none more so than the case of four members of a Puerto Rican state independence group who were on trial for plotting to bomb two Chicago military training centers. During the trial, Leighton had several supporters of the Puerto Rican independence group removed from the court after they intimidated witnesses by using hand signs to send messages of death threats. There were even threats of violence against him, but the case moved forward.

Leighton has served in leadership roles in judicial associations, governmental focus groups, adjudication associations, local, state and federal bar associations, and local community and civic Boards. He has served the Advisory Committee of the Illinois Division; the American Civil Liberties Union; the Character and Fitness Committee for the First Appellate District of Illinois; the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce; the Committee for the Adoption of an Open Occupancy Statute; the Drafting Sub-Committee of the Citizens Committee for the Adoption of the Fair Employment Practice Act; the Grant Hospital; the Illinois Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; the Independent Voters of Illinois; the Legal Redress Committee of the Chicago NAACP; and the Legislative Committee Chairman. Leighton also assisted the Public Review Board of the United Auto Workers, the Mayor's Citizens Committee on City Revenue and Expenditures, and the United Church of Christ.

Leighton is a tournament qualified chess player having picked up the game during his collegiate years when he worked on oil tankers. In retirement and at age one hundred and four, he still played. His mind was still bright, still sharp, and still calculating.





## **G**EOGE "MICKEY" THOMAS LELAND

...was born on November 27, 1944 in Lubbock, Texas to Alice and George Thomas Leland, II. The family, when Leland was very young, moved to Houston, Texas's Fifth Ward, a predominantly African American and Hispanic neighborhood. He attended

Wheatley High School where he placed within the top ten percent of his class Rankings. Graduating, in 1964, he matriculated to Texas Southern University in his hometown, Houston.

Leland graduated from Texas Southern in 1970 earning a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy. He accepted a position at his alma mater as an Instructor of Clinical Pharmacy serving for one year. He turned his attention to the people health care. He set up an outreach campaign for low-income neighborhoods going door-to-door informing the public about medical care options and performing preliminary screenings. He then began to look at the political scene in Texas.

Texas, in 1972, changed laws and allowed seats in the State House of Representatives and State Senate to be elected as single-member districts. Five minority candidates, labeled the "People's Five", ran for district seats. Leland, and two others, Craig Washington and Benny Reyes, were victorious. He was re-elected in 1974 and in 1976, representing the 88th District in the Texas House.

While in Austin, he was a staunch advocate for hunger and public healthcare for the poor. His advocacy was key to passage of legislation that provided low-income citizens with affordable generic drugs. He also supported healthcare access through the creation of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO's) and was recognized as an advocate for children and the elderly healthcare issues.

Leland served on the Texas State Labor Committee, State Affairs Committee, Human Resources Committee, Legislative Council, and the Subcommittee on Occupational and Industrial Safety. From his seat on these committees, he fought vigorously to ensure his constituents healthcare rights were accessible and protected.

Elected Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Prison Reform, he took on the care of prison inmates. He became the first African American to serve on the Senate-House Conference Committee as a member of the House Appropriations Committee. For the Houston area civil rights movement, he emerged as a passionate and vocal leader. He brought other black national civil rights leaders to Houston to help in his purpose.

After serving in the Texas State Legislature for six years, in November of 1978, Leland was elected to the United States House of Representatives representing Texas' 18th District. He

easily won re-election in 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986 and again in 1988, serving until he died. In Washington, his leadership abilities allowed him serve as Freshman Majority Whip and twice as At-Large Majority Whip.

Concerned about the hungry and homeless, in 1984, Leland with the help of U.S. Rep. Ben Gilman (R-NY), established the House Select Committee on Hunger, of which Leland served as its' first Chairman. The Committee's mandate was to study the problems surrounding hunger and malnutrition." Exerting his personal moral leadership, his committee, to ensure access to fresh food for at-risk women, children and infants, he made legislative initiatives that created the National Commission on Infant Mortality. Leland helped create the first comprehensive programs that provided services for the homeless.

Notwithstanding the hunger issues in the U.S., Leland lent his hand in eradicating hunger around the world. In sub-Saharan, Leland lead a bipartisan Congressional delegation to evaluate food and health conditions and to determine what relief requirements were needed. To help solve the problem, he brought entertainers, religious leaders and any willing volunteers together asking for support for the Africa Famine Relief and Recovery Act of 1985. A successful campaign it was, raising over \$800 million in food and humanitarian relief supplies, saving thousands of lives.

While in Congress, Leland served on other committees. He was a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Subcommittees on Telecommunications and Finance, Health and the Environment, and Energy and Power. He was Chair of the Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services, a member of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, and a member the Subcommittee on Compensation and Employment. Leland received an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, Texas Southern University during the administration of then President Leonard O. Spearman.

A promoter of responsible children's television/cable programming and broadcasting, Leland through congressional hearings aroused the nation's conscience by highlighting the violence portrayed in what children watched on television. He advocated Affirmative Action in broadcast employment, in front of and behind the camera, and most importantly, and ownership. He fought to correct the ethnic stereotypes and unfairly portrayed images of the rich diversity that makes up the American people. Leland fought for minority participation in industries from healthcare to investment banking. He fought for inclusion for all.

Leland served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) from 1985 to 1986 during the 99th Congress. He also a member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 1976 to 1985 serving as Chairman of the its' Black Caucus. He also served on the DNC's Executive Committee.

Leland died on August 7, 1989 in a plane crash in Gambela, Ethiopia. While on a mission to Fugnido, Ethiopia fifteen people, including Leland, died in the crash. To commemorate his death, many initiatives and buildings have been named in honor of him, including The International Terminal (Terminal D) at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas.





## NEKIMI VALDEZ LEVY-POUNDS

...was born on June 27, 1976 in Jackson, Mississippi. She was the eldest of five children. When she was eight years old, the family moved to South Central Los Angeles, California. A gifted student, when she turned fourteen, she received an invitation to attend the prestigious board

school, Brooks School located in North Andover, Massachusetts.

After completing her studies at the Brooks School, she returned to Los Angeles to enroll into the University of Southern California where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She then attended the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign, Illinois and earned her Juris Doctorate degree. After passing the California bar, Levy-Pounds began her legal career working in Los Angeles until deciding in 2003 to relocate to Minnesota.

Once settled in Minnesota, Levy-Pounds took a job as an Associate Professor of Law teaching at the University of St. Thomas (UST) in Minneapolis. While teaching, she conducted research that focused her attention on the War on Drugs, unjust incarceration, mandatory sentencing, and sentencing guidelines. She paid particular attention to sentencing that affected women, children of color, and young black men.

In 2006, Levy-Pounds founded the Community Justice Project (CJP). In a partnership with UST's School of Law and the Saint Paul chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the project was funded. The CJP was created to allow law students who had interest in working with underserved communities gain experience through academic writing, holding public forums, and interacting with local governments and community leaders.

Brotherhood Inc., a self-help organization dedicated to helping young African American men leave or stay away from gang activity and the pipeline to prison was founded by Levy-Pounds. She chaired the Minnesota State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. She also gave legal counsel to Everybody In, a nonprofit organization having the goal of closing race-based employment gaps in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul and suburban areas.

Levy-Pounds has penned several articles and has been published in the Twin Cities Daily Planet and the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper. She has also appeared in the MinnPost, a local nonprofit online newspaper. She takes her testimony to the pulpit and served as a visiting preacher at Minneapolis's First Covenant Church.

In 2014, Levy-Pounds took part in anti-police brutality protests in Ferguson, Missouri after the killing of African American Michael Brown by white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. She participated in a protest of police brutality held at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota and sponsored by the national civil rights organization, Black Lives Matter. Levy-Pounds and ten other pro-

testers were charged by the City of Bloomington with disorderly conduct and trespassing, which carried a penalty and fine up to \$8,000 and called for a prison sentence of up to two years.

Levy-Pounds, who could be characterized as a defender and protector of the law and the community, labeled the charges as simple prosecutorial overreach and pointed out that the entire process was a misuse of taxpayers' dollars. The City of Bloomington, wanted \$40,000 in restitution from the marchers and protestors for the cost of maintaining peace during the protests, including overtime pay for police officers. The Police Department's administrators later withdrew their request for restitution and the charges filed by the City of Bloomington against the protestors, were dismissed by a Hennepin County Judge.

In 2015, Levy-Pounds decided to run for the position as President of the Minneapolis chapter of the NAACP. She ran unopposed on the ballot but was criticized by past President Jerry McAfee who questioned her time she spent focusing on issues of police brutality rather than focusing on crimes committed by African Americans against other African Americans. Nonetheless, Levy-Pounds became the President of the Minneapolis chapter. As President, Levy-Pounds hoped to attract more youth to become involved with the NAACP. She used her Presidency to bring attention to the racial disparities in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area, labeling them as some of the worst in the nation.

Levy-Pounds became a part of another city protest when in November of 2015, Minneapolis police officers shot and killed African American Jamar Clark. The black community upset with the shooting, protested and created a human blockade of the city's Interstate 94, a major thoroughfare through the city. Over forty protestors were arrested and Levy-Pounds was one of the first arrested as she was in the front of the line of the protestors. After her release, she continued with other protests during the following days. Savvy in her social media networking, Levy-Pounds was able to bring national attention to the police killings in Minnesota, which brought support from several national civil rights attorneys.

In 2016, Levy-Pounds resigned from her teaching job at UST to give more time to her endeavors related to economic inequities and racial justice. She also did not seek a second term as the President of the Minneapolis chapter of the NAACP. She vowed that she would be even more visible in her crusade to better the lives of the community that she served.

Levy-Pounds then announced her intention to run for Mayor of Minneapolis in the November 2017 general election. She made her announcement on the steps of Minneapolis's 4th Precinct police station, the site of eighteen-day protests held a year before after the police killing of Jamar Clark. She will face incumbent Mayor Betsy Hodges. Levy-Pounds will have support from some of the city residents while others feel her positions are too divisive.

Levy-Pounds has been honored and given several accolades including being named one of the "50 Under 50" by Lawyers of Color. The Minnesota Lawyer's named her as an "Attorney of the Year" and the Hennepin County Bar Association gave Levy-Pounds its' "Diversity Award". Levy-Pounds is married and has five children. Two of them are adopted. She lives within the city of Minneapolis, living on the north side.





## DAVID B. LEWIS

...was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He received his undergraduate degree with honors in 1980 from the University of Oklahoma where he studied Business Administration. In 1983,

earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the same university's College of Law.

He began his legal career in private practice in Lawton, Oklahoma where he served his clients' needs for three years. In 1987, he took a position with Comanche County Oklahoma as an Assistant District Attorney. He served in that capacity for four years. From 1991 to 1999, Lewis served as a Special District Judge of Comanche, Cotton, Jefferson, and Stephens Counties by then Governor Frank Keating. In 2002, he became the Chief Judge of the Comanche County Courthouse.

In 2005, Governor Brad Henry appointed him to the Court of Criminal Appeals. He became the first African American to be appointed to the Court. He would later become, in 2013, the Presiding Judge of the Court. With his appointment, Lewis became the first African American to serve as Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Throughout his professional career, Judge Lewis has shown the highest regard for legal proceedings. His opinions and rulings have been more conservative than liberal. While not as conservative as some of his colleagues on the Court, Lewis' political stance is still more conservative than the remaining members on the Court.

Lewis has been honored many times over and has received many prestigious awards. He served the Oklahoma Judicial Conference as a past President. He is an Oklahoma Bar Association fellow and is a selected member of the Henry Toll Fellowship Program of the Council of State Governments. He was also the Reach Out and Read Oklahoma past Chairman.

Other public honors and awards bestowed upon Lewis include serving on the Boards of the Black Achievers Program, Goodwill Industries of Lawton, Lawton Chamber of Commerce, the Oklahoma Access to Justice Commission, the Oklahoma Bar Association's National Mock

Trial Task Force, and the Oklahoma Bar Association's Professionalism Committee.

Lewis was a member of the Lawton Kiwanis Club and served on the Board of the Christian Family Counseling Center. In addition, he mentored young adults in the Lawton public school system. For his dedicated service on the bench, Lewis was re-elected to the bench where he will serve this term through the year 2018.



## WILLIAM HENRY LEWIS

...was born on November 28, 1868 in Berkley, Virginia. His father was a respected minister and education was important to him. At the age of fifteen, Lewis applied and was accepted into the Virginia

Normal and Collegiate Institute, now Virginia State University.

At the urging of Virginia Normal's President, John Mercer Langston, Lewis transferred to Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts to complete his studies. Lewis made the trip north and worked as a waiter to help pay his tuition. He also played football on the school's football team of three years. In the 1890 season, Lewis was voted as team captain. He also served as the class Orator after winning several school oratory and debate contests. For his graduation, in attendance was the famed W.E.B. DuBois who had come to congratulate him on his achievement.

Leaving Amherst, Lewis enrolled into Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For two years, he played on the Harvard football team as a center. In both years, he was named to the College Football All-American Teams. He was the first African American to be honored by the association. At the last game of Lewis' football career at Harvard, he was unable to play. In respect to his play at Harvard, the team voted him as Acting Captain of the team making him the first African American to be named a captain of the Harvard football team.

After completing law school in 1898, Harvard hired Lewis as one of their football coaches. He would spend six years on Harvard's field. The team during his tenure posted a winning record of 114-15-5. While coaching, Lewis wrote one of the first books on football tactics, "A Primer of College Football", published by Harper & Brothers. In his detailed book, he looked at the fundamentals of the sport from blocking, passing, catching, kicking, making holes, the breaking through of tackles and defensive tackling. For safety, he highlighted ways to avoid injuries. Lewis, for his knowledge of the game has been compared to legendary football mind, Walter Camp. Lewis would be inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

In 1899, Lewis entered the world of politics by successfully running for election to the Cambridge Common Council. He served for three years before being elected to the Massachusetts State Legislature. There would be a decade before another African American would be elected to the Council.

While at studying at Harvard, Lewis had become friends of Harvard alumni and President Theodore Roosevelt. Lewis had even been a guest at Roosevelt's Oyster Bay, New York estate. In

1903, at the request of Roosevelt to then President William Taft, Lewis was appointed as the United States Attorney for Boston, Massachusetts. He became the first African American to be an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

In 1910, Lewis was named by then President William Howard Taft as one of the five United States Assistant Attorney Generals. The post comes with a handsome salary with access to White House functions. There was extreme dissatisfaction to Lewis being named to the post by southern legislators and those of his own party who felt that although Lewis could pass for white, the position was to high a position for a black.

After several months of infighting, in June of 1911, Congress confirmed Lewis as an Assistant Attorney General. Lewis became the first African American to be appointed to the position. He also became the highest-ranking African American in any position working for the federal government. A year later, Lewis became the first African American to be admitted to the American Bar Association (ABA).

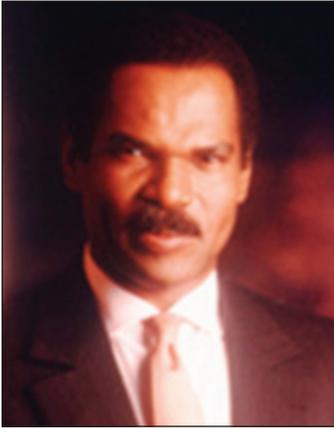
In becoming a member of the ABA, Lewis fought extreme opposition to his membership. Once it was discovered that Lewis was a Negro and not white, the membership quickly put pressure on Lewis to resign his membership but Lewis refused. Instead, he called for more blacks to become involved in the organization. He became an advocate for African Americans in the legal profession. In his fight over his removal from the ABA, Lewis published an article calling on black lawyers to represent the black defendants that filled the dockets of the Courts that were being exploited, swindled and misused by the legal system.

In 1913, Lewis entered private practice law in Massachusetts. He quickly earned a reputation as an outstanding trial lawyer and had argued cases before the United States Supreme Court. He represented clients facing racial discrimination and others charged with bootlegging and corruption. He was also active in Republican politics.

Outspoken on issues of race and discrimination, Lewis once sued a Cambridge white barber for \$5,000 who refused to shave him. His suit and his lobbying were integral to the passage of a Massachusetts law that prohibits racial discrimination in public places of accommodation. Lewis fought discrimination whenever he saw racial abuse or injustice.

In 1919, in the New York Herald a call for a National Conference was published. Lewis was one of the signatories to the action of calling an end to the lawless lynching in America's Deep South. After Lewis' call for the conference, there was a spike in the racial attacks against blacks across the country. The northern and mid-western cities where blacks had migrated were full of European immigrants that were competing for the same livelihoods. During the next several years, bad race relations and the lynching of blacks rose. The summer of 1919 was labeled "Red Summer".

William Henry Lewis died on January 1, 1949 of heart failure. He was eighty years old.



## REGINALD F. LEWIS

...was born on December 7, 1942 in Baltimore, Maryland. He grew up on the east side of the city in a neighborhood where he was influenced by his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and the neighbors that surrounded him. He was taught early on to be the best he could be at whatever he was doing. He credits his

grand parents with instilling in him a sense of hard work and wise savings.

By the time Lewis reached the age of ten, he had already parlayed his savings for a newspaper route. For two years, he sold newspapers for the local Afro American newspaper. Following his grandmothers advice on saving, for every \$20 he earned, he only spent \$2, saving \$18 for future use. He sold the paper route later at a profit.

Lewis also received good childhood training from his grandfather. Working as a headwaiter and maitre d' at a private country club, he drilled into the young Lewis that he must know his job in detail and then do the very best job possible. It was while working at the country club that Lewis found his love for fine food, fine culture, and the French language. Stressing the value of education, his family pushed Lewis at every turn with the goal of preparing him for success.

Lewis attended Baltimore's Dunbar High School. When he was a wise sixteen years old, he and one of his friends, Rober Mack Bell, joined a group of Morgan State University students in a sit-in of a lunch counter at one of Baltimore's segregated white restaurants in protest of Maryland's "No Trespassing" law. They were promptly arrested, charged with trespassing, and fined \$10 each.

The students were tried and convicted in the Maryland court. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their Legal Defense Fund (LDF) hired prominent lawyers, Thurgood Marshall and Juanita Jackson Mitchell to appeal the case. Losing the appeal, the LDF hired attorneys Constance Baker Motley and Jack Greenberg to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court vacated the case back to Maryland's Supreme Court who, because of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, withdrew the students convictions. At sixteen years old, Lewis, Bell and the Morgan State students were involved in ending segregated public facilities in the state.

Graduating from Dunbar, Lewis enrolled into Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia on a football scholarship. A gifted athlete in high school, he unfortunately suffered a career ending injury which ended his play of football. He turned his attention to his studies and work. He found a job as a photographer's sales assistant. As he did with his paper route, he was a success. He secured so much business that the owner offered him a partnership. He politely declined as he knew that to accept the partnership would mean he would have to lessen his studying. Knowing what he wanted to do ultimately, he wisely chose his studies over ownership. Lewis left Virginia State University on the Deans List.

During the summer of 1965, Lewis won an opportunity to attend a program at Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, Harvard was seeking a select number of black students interested in legal studies

to participate in the summer program. Lewis did so well that the university extended an invitation for him to attend the law school in the fall. That became the first time in the 148-year history of the school, that Harvard had admitted anyone before they actually applied. At the time of his graduation in 1968, with honors, Lewis was well prepared for the legal field he wanted to explore, that of securities law and mergers and acquisitions.

Entering the legal world, Lewis accepted a position at one of the most prestigious law firms in New York City; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Two years later he left to begin his own practice. He and a few other colleagues opened the first African American law firm on New York's Wall Street. Lewis soon attracted several major corporate giants, including Equitable Life Insurance and General Foods. He represented the Wilmington Ten, a case involving ten African Americans charged with arson, and was counsel to the New York-based Commission for Racial Justice.

In 1983, Lewis left law to create the a venture capital firm, TLC Group L.P. With the help of private financier, Norton Simon and one of the largest brokerage firms on Wall Street. In his very first venture under the TLC Group, L.P., Lewis successfully purchased the number two sewing pattern company, McCall Pattern Company. Leveraging the buyout for 22.5 million dollars, Lewis instantly became the largest African American business in the U.S.

McCall, although profitable, was struggling. Lewis streamlined the operations and within one year, he brought the company the best yearly profit in its' 113-year history. For years after purchasing McCall, Lewis sold the company for \$65 million. He had made a 90 to 1 return on his investor's investment. Always keeping is grandmother's advice of saving his money, Lewis walked away with over 80% of the profits.

Not done, Lewis saw a larger deal. Learning of a possible sale, he successfully negotiated the purchase of the international division of Beatrice Foods which owned 64 companies in 31 countries. Pay a whopping \$985 million, the deal became the largest offshore leveraged buyout by an American company ever. Rebranding the company as TLC Beatrice International, Inc., Lewis took over as Chairman and CEO.

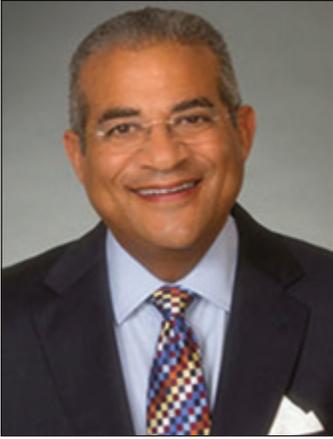
It wasn't long before, again following his grandmother's advice to work hard and save his money, at its' peak, the company had an annual revenue of over \$2.2 billion. Listed on *Fortune's* 500 top companies in the U.S. at number 512, the company was doing well. It was listed first for African American owned business on the *Black Enterprise's* List of Top 100 black owned companies. With the company doing well and his foundation, The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, awarding millions of dollars in grants to various non-profit programs, colleges, universities and other social organizations, Lewis was a man amongst men.

Continually giving of his time, energy and money, those that respected and loved Lewis returned the favor. He has been honored in so many ways and given so many awards, far more than can be listed here. In his honor, Harvard University named their ts International Law Center the Reginald F. Lewis International Law Center. That building became the first major facility at Harvard named in honor of an African-American.

In his honor, knowing his love of art and culture, the Maryland State Legislature, along with a \$5 million grant from Lewis' Foundation, he Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture opened in Baltimore in 2005. The magnificent 82,000 square-foot facility sits ear Baltimore's Inner Harbor with a grand view of Lewis' beloved Baltimore.

Reginald F. Lewis, after a short illness died on January 1993, at age the young age of fifty.





## WILLIAM P. LIGHTFOOT

...was born on January 3, 1950. He is Washington, D.C. Injury Attorney known for his effectiveness and the large judgments he has won for his clients. Managing Partner at the law

firm of William P. Lightfoot, Koonz, McKenney, Johnson, DePaolis & Lightfoot, L.L.P., William spends his professional and political time helping to improve communities. Wanting to make the metropolitan area safer for everyone, Lightfoot has successfully helped clients and constituents, in their cases which ultimately have made large scale changes in the lives of the citizens of Washington, D.C..

Haven been elected to public office, Mr. Lightfoot served for eight years as an At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia, chairing the Committee on the Judiciary. While a Council Member, he continued to practice personal injury law. He has practiced law in Washington, D.C. for more than thirty years. He made notable success in burn victim cases, specifically children disfigured by scalding water.

In Addition to Lightfoot securing large compensation awards for burn victims, his cases led to reforms in the hot water Industry. He was successful in persuading utility companies, hot water heater manufacturers, and landlords to lower set temperatures on water heaters. He is credited with the notification and warnings to consumers about the risk of burn injuries from scalding water. From his efforts, he received a U.S. Patent for developing a label on an air conditioners. He graciously gave the use of the patent to the public.

Mr. Lightfoot's cases have been influential in preventing childhood injuries. His cases have been cited by The National Safe Kids Campaign, a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, as being pivotal to changes in manufacturing processes and children protective laws. Other cases have led to changes in the construction industry and in hospital operations.

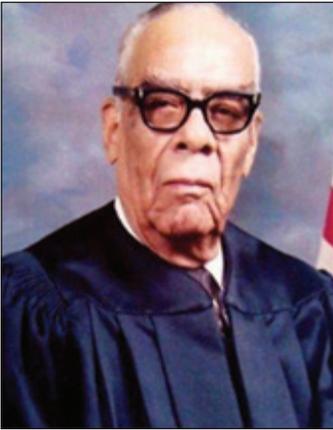
Some case findings and rulings have made changes in the procedures utility companies use to detect energized

electrical lines. Some case findings have reformed how doctor's offices keep its' medical records while other cases have protected workers, as they are now required to wear safety harnesses on elevated work platforms.

Mr. Lightfoot was honored by being awarded the Attorney of the Year "Good Scout" Award from the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, In 2008, in recognition for his work making the community a much better place to live. The recognition of his contributions and professionalism extends beyond his client base but throughout the professional world. For many years, the Washingtonian Magazine has regularly selected Mr. Lightfoot as one of the best lawyers in the District of Columbia. His opinions are often quoted on matters of law and politics throughout the media.

Mr. Lightfoot graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. before attending Washington University's School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. He is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. The National Board of Trial Advocacy certifies him in the field of civil trial advocacy, and he is a Diplomat of the National College of Advocacy. He has the highest rating as an attorney from Martindale Hubbell, an information services company to the legal profession[, founded in 1868. The company publishes the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, which provides background information on United States lawyers and law firms.

Mr. Lightfoot has been married to Cynthia for thirty-five years and they have two children, Ariana and B.J.



## ROBERT EMMITT LILLARD

...was born on March 23, 1907 in Nashville, Tennessee to Virginia (Allen) Lillard and John W. Lillard. From an early age, Robert knew he wanted to become a lawyer. Growing up in the south gave him plenty of reasons to do so.

Lillard attended local Nashville public schools before graduating high school from Immaculate Mother's Academy. He attended Beggins Commercial College, still wanting to become a lawyer. Once he completed his undergraduate studies, he set his sights on law school.

In 1932, he enrolled into the law school, Kent College of Law, a Nashville law school began by Z. Alexander Looby and several other black Nashville leaders. At the time, there were no black laws schools in Tennessee for black students wanting to become lawyers to attend. While working his way through college as a garage attendant, he married Hallie C. Moore. Together, they had three children. He graduated from Kent Law school in 1935.

Completing law school, Lillard took and passed the Tennessee bar exam. Although he had successfully been admitted to the bar, he continued to work at the city garage. In 1937, the Nashville Fire Engine Company No. 11 appointed him as a fireman. For fourteen years, he drove a fire truck, even though he had a law degree. In 1950, he left the fire department due to injuring himself and being given a disability pension. He then turned to his law degree.

As he entered the world of practicing law on a full time basis, Lillard became heavily involved with local politics. He focused his attention on issues that impacted the black communities in the Nashville area. He began an organization to help blacks in their voting rights. The 15th Ward Colored Voters and Civic Club was created in 1932. His purpose was to have the local politicians pay for black voter's poll tax of \$2 which many in the fifteenth ward could not afford. For the next several years, Lillard worked diligently for the concerns of his beloved Nashville residents.

In the 1951 election for Councilman, Lillard entered the race for the third district seat. A predominantly black district, the incumbent Councilman, Charles Castleman was white. The Democratic party and current Mayor Thomas Cummings supported Castleman. In order to persuade Lillard to drop out of the race, several white politicians tried to bribe him offering jobs and money if he exited the race. Lillard responded by emphatically stating that he could not be bought out or frightened out. They needed to beat him in the general election.

To split the black vote, some were persuaded by white politicians, Daniel West, a local Negro entered the race. West's entrance created a run-off election between Castleman and Lillard. Lillard was victorious over Castleman in the run-off Election. With his win, he, along with Z. Alexander Looby became the first blacks elected to Nashville's city council since 1911.

For twenty years Lillard on Nashville's City Council. During his time there, he never missed a regular Council meeting. While on the Council, he served on several committees as Chairman. He chaired the Public Election Committee, the Special Water Sewer Rate Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and the Special Beer, Wine, and Whiskey Committee. He was a leading voice in the transformation of making Cameron Junior High School a second high school for black students.

Lillard helped pass an ordinance to desegregate the Parthenon in Centennial Park. The Parthenon is a full-scale replica of the original Parthenon in Athens, Greece. Nashville's Parthenon was built for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897.

He opposed the state of Tennessee's plan to consolidate the city and county governments stating that a metropolitan form of government would weaken the black vote. In 1967, while a member of the City Council, Lillard took the position of Vice Mayor Pro Tem. He became the first black to serve in that capacity for the City of Nashville. He later ran He made unsuccessfully for the permanent job of Vice Mayor and Councilman-At-Large.

While a Councilman, Lillard's law practice continued to grow. His political activism grew as well. As an attorney, in 1955, he was admitted to argue cases before the Federal District Court. Two years later, he was admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals and the Sixth Circuit Court. In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court gave him court privileges.

In 1960, Lillard founded the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Leagues. For President John F. Kennedy's presidential election, he campaigned vigorously for Kennedy's Victory. He later was offered the job as Nashville's Assistant U. S. Attorney. He, however, turned that position down. He did accept an appointment to the Tennessee State Board of Pardons and Paroles by Governor Frank Goad Clement in 1964 and again in 1967 by newly elected Governor Buford Ellington. Governor Ray Blanton, in 1978, appointed Lillard as Judge of the First Circuit Court, Tenth Judicial District. Five months later, Lillard left the bench, retiring at the age of seventy-one.

For the next thirteen years, Lillard remained active in the community and with his church family. He died on November 6, 1991. His remains were interred in Nashville's Greenwood Cemetery, the second cemetery opened in Nashville where African Americans could be buried.



## CHARISSE LITTLE

...is a native of Houston, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut in 1973 cum laude. She enrolled into Temple University's Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 1976 making

the Dean's Honor List. In 1982, she would obtain her LL.M. degree from the Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. Little would go on to be awarded a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, from Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania in 2005.

Little began her legal career as a trial attorney working for the United States Department of Justice in its' Civil Rights Division. She then became a United States Assistant Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania before accepting the job of General Counsel to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. She also served as the City Solicitor of the City of Philadelphia.

In 1992, Little became a partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP. She served as Chair of the firm's litigation department. She was also a member of the firm's Employment and Labor Law Group and advised the firm's clients on anti-discrimination issues and diversity. She remained with the firm for thirteen years, departing in 2005.

In 1994, Little became a Trustee of Friends Select School, a Pre-K through 12 academic institution based on Quaker foundations. She served as President of the Board from 2003 to 2006. Little remained with the school for eight years.

In 2005, Lillie joined Comcast Corporation, a leader in the nation's providers of communication services and entertainment products as Vice President of Human Resources. Comcast, at that time, had over 24 million cable customers, 14 million high-speed Internet customers, and 5 million digital voice customers use Comcast's services. The company owns broadcasting networks including E!, Entertainment Television, G4, PBS KIDS Sprout, Style Network, The Golf Channel, TV One, VERSUS, and ten Comcast SportsNet networks. Comcast also operates Comcast Interactive Media, which manages the company's Internet business, including Comcast.net. Comcast owns the majority of the stock of Comcast-Spectacor, owners of the National Basketball League's Philadelphia 76ers and the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers. In addition, Comcast-Spectacor owns two large multipurpose event arenas in Philadelphia.

In 2011, Little was promoted to Vice President of Community Investment and Executive Vice President of the Comcast Foundation. She reported directly to Executive Vice President David L. Cohen. In her new role, Little assumed overall leadership of the community investment programs for Comcast including Comcast's Foundation and its' charitable giving initiatives.

The Comcast Foundation was created in June of 1999 by the Comcast Corporation and serves as the companies primary source of its' support of community related charity. Aimed at supporting programs that create positive and sustainable endeavors for local communities throughout the country. Some of the charities that Comcast supported under Little leadership include Big Brothers Big Sisters, City Year, the National Council of La Raza, the National Urban League, and the United Way.

Little and Comcast Foundation President Joe Waz played a prominent role in Comcast's drive to build a national reputation of giving back to the communities in which they serve. That year, Comcast charitable giving exceeded \$180 million in grants to over 500 non-profit organizations. \$13.5 million in cash was given to more than 1,500 other organizations for their immediate needs. In addition, the Foundation provided another \$154 million of in-kind contributions in the form of televised public service announcements.

After twelve years serving as Comcast's Vice President of Community Investment and Executive Vice President of the Comcast Foundation, in January 2017, Little left Comcast. Although retired, Little was far from done helping local communities across the country. Highly respected and admired, she continued working as an advocate for assisting non-profit organizations in Philadelphia. She continued working to strengthen community partnerships and remained a leader in developing digital literacy for the youth of Philadelphia and those around the nation.

Little has been honored by many and has been given accolades across the country for her work at Comcast. Her service to the nation's communities cannot be measured. For her dedicated service, in 2012, Little was honored by Philadelphia's Temple University Law Alumni Association when they bestowed upon her their Diversity Leadership Award. She was recognized as one of the most influential and powerful African American woman in the cable industry by the magazine CableFAX. The magazine recognized Little for five consecutively years, 2011-2015. In 2016, Multichannel News named a Little as the "Woman to Watch".

She has been the recipient of Liberty Award from the Greater Philadelphia chapter of Women in Cable Telecommunications, the Philadelphia Magazine Trailblazer Award, and Operation Understanding Outstanding Service Award. Little also was awarded the Paragon Award from the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Multi-Ethnicity in Communications.

Little has served as the President of the Board of Juvenile Law Center. She is a member of the Board to the American Arbitration Association, the Forum of Executive Women, the Franklin Institute, Howard University, and the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. She also serves the Boards of the PECO Energy Company, Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, the PNC Regional Advisory Board, and the United Way. Little also served as Chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity and as Chair of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.





## WALTER R. LITTLE

...was born in 1943 and raised in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest of twelve children that was raised by their single mother in public housing after father died when he was young. After

graduating from Central Catholic High School, Little joined the United States Army to fulfill his military duties where he spent four years.

After being discharged from the military, Little returned home to Pittsburgh and enrolled into the Community College of Allegheny County and earned an Associate's degree in 1968. He then entered the University of Pittsburgh and received his undergraduate degree in 1970. He remained at the University's Law School to receive his law degree doing so in 1973.

To begin his professional legal career, Little served as a clerk for Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge I. Martin Wekselman. He then clerked for Judge Livingston Johnson before becoming a County Public Defender. He then became a staff attorney for the Neighborhood Legal Services and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Affairs.

Little then became a Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He served as a Deputy Attorney for three years. He then became a trial attorney in the Allegheny County District Attorneys Office where he remained for another three years. Little was then appointed by then Mayor Richard Caliguiri as a District Magistrate of the City of Pittsburgh in 1979 where he stayed for six years.

In 1985, Little was elected as a Judge to the Common Pleas Court. As a Common Pleas Judge, Judge Little continued his tough stance of adjudicating cases in the criminal court. He employed a style that embodied legal intelligence with a flair of street sense. He kept up to date on new changes in the laws and ensured attorney's and litigates were abreast of those changes. A willing teacher, Judge Little was incredibly kind to those that showed respect to the court and tough on those that did not.

In 1999, Judge Little came under public controversy after his arrest on charges of solicitation for sex of an undercover Pittsburgh city police officer. He denied the allegations and began his defense of the charges. He was eventually cleared of the charges when a Judge from another jurisdiction acquitted him. Although the negative publicity

took its' toll on Judge Little, in the next general election he was re-elected to this seat on the bench, narrowly.

Judge Little presided over a large amount of cases and was a hard working, no nonsense jurist. He was once attacked while sitting on the bench after a defendant became upset with the Judge. During the attack, Judge Little was bitten on the face. Although traumatized, he refused to leave the bench and continued with his caseload that day.

Judge Little also was at odds at times with local police officers, defending attorneys, and at times state prosecutors. Some could not handle his demanding style of adjudicating the law while others understood his deportment and operated in a manner that was in alignment with the wishes of Judge Little. He developed a reputation of tossing out a criminal case if the evidence was not exact. Although he created some enemies, he stood his ground and adjudicated the law in ways that he thought was right despite the opinion of others.

Judge Little's health began to fail as he reached senior status. He continued to preside on the bench, even doing so in a wheelchair as his health worsened. Judge Little resigned from the bench on January 31, 2006. Even in senior status, he continued to work from his office until his death, which occurred in his office.

Judge Little was a devout Catholic and attended the St. Benedict the Moor Church in the Hill District of the city. He was one of several prominent African American leaders that attended the church. The group of leaders would sit at the back of the church and became known as, "the back row guys", as times they would have to leave church for some incident or emergency and did not want to disrupt the church services.

Judge Little served as a long time member to the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also served as a member of the Guardians of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc.. In addition, he served as a Board member of the Sickle Cell Society, Inc..

Judge Little was married to his wife, Elizabeth for many years and the couple had two daughters, Karen and Lisa. He loved to relax by listening to jazz music and giving of his time to his church. After battling prostate cancer, Judge Little died on June 5, 2006 at his desk in his office. Sadly, his brother Anderson Little, an executive producer and host of a public affairs program, "The Anderson Little Report", on local radio WDUQ-FM, died a few hours prior. A third brother, Lee Allen Little had died a few months before in March. The Little family held a funeral for both brothers at the St. Benedict the Moor Church.



## H OSEA T. LOCKARD

...was born on June 24, 1920 in Ripley, Tennessee to Lucille and Emmitt Lockard. He was raised on a farm in Henning, Tennessee along with his three brothers, Albert, Jr.; Emmitt; and Lorenza; and his sister

Lydia. He attended public schools fifty miles away in Memphis, Tennessee, as Ripley did not have any public schools that blacks could attend.

After graduating from high school, Lockard served in the United States Army to fulfill his military duties. He served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. While serving, Lockard was shipped to posts in Italy, France, Germany, and in in North Africa. Completing his military duties, Lockard began his studies at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France before returning to Memphis to enroll into LeMoyne-Owen College where he earned his undergraduate degree.

For his law degree, Lockard applied to Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee. Lockard was denied admission to the law school based upon his race. He then enrolled into Lincoln University's School of Law in in St. Louis, Missouri where he received his law degree in 1950.

Lockard, after obtaining his law degree, returned to Memphis and was admitted to the Tennessee State Bar. He then began to practice law in the state for several years. He became involved with the civil rights issues of Memphis and joined in with the efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In 1955, Lockard became the President of the NAACP's Memphis branch. He served as President for three years. For the Memphis branch, Lockard served on its' Legal Committee.

The Committee took on cases that dealt with desegregation and civil rights of Memphis residents. Lockard took on the case of desegregating the Memphis Street Railway Company, desegregating the University of Memphis, and desegregating public buildings and restaurants. For his work on desegregating Memphis institutions, Lockard was elected to a seat on the Shelby County Commission.

As he became more successful in trying his cases, he was noticed by then Governor Buford Ellington who appointed him to the Governor's cabinet. He was named as an Administrative Assistant to the Governor becoming the first African American member of a Tennessee Governor's cabinet. He served as the Governor's assistant from 1967 to 1971. Lockard also acted as an advisor to then President Lyndon Johnson on matters related to civil rights issues and problems throughout the nation related to race relations.

In 1975, Lockard was elected as a Judge on the Shelby County Criminal Court. He became the first African American to serve on the Court. He would serve on the Court for the next nineteen years. He became active in the local legal community and urged young African American attorneys to "not take their rights and privileges for granted" and to give appreciation to the African American attorneys that paved the way for them to practice their crafts.

In 1994, Judge Lockard suffered a stroke in 1994, which curbed his political and legal activities. He was cared for by his wife of forty-nine years, Ida Walker Lockard. Judge Lockard died on December 12, 2011.



## O LIVER LOFTON

...was born on April 24, 1934 in Neptune, New Jersey to Minnie Lofton (nee Johnson) and Quillie Lofton. Oliver was the youngest of eight children and graduated from the Neptune Township Public Schools before entering

Cheyney University in Cheyney, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Cheyney, summa cum laude, while achieving the highest grade point average in the history of the school.

Lofton then enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he received a Master's Degree in Psychology in 1958. To obtain his law degree, Lofton remained at into Howard University enrolling into the School of Law where he earned his law degree magna cum laude. While in law school at Howard, Lofton served as the Editor of the Law Journal, served as President of the Student Bar Association, and served as a Research Assistant to the law faculty. As a Research Assistant, Lofton participated in the research and the crafted strategies of several civil rights cases that were argued before the United States Supreme Court by legendary Thurgood Marshall and other respected and notable attorneys.

Lofton began his legal career serving as a Special Assistant to then U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy aiding him in the nation's civil rights issues. He then accepted the position as the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. While serving in the office, Lofton successfully prosecuted the infamous espionage case of U.S. v. Butenko. The case involved the indictment of John William Butenko and Igor a. Ivanov on three counts of conspiracy to delivery U.S. secrets to a foreign government. The men were found guilty of the federal charges and Butenko was sentenced to thirty years in a federal prison while Ivanov received twenty years. The case would set the precedent for what would become the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). For his work on the case, Lofton received a commendation from then Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach.

After leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office, Lofton joined the Essex County Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant Prosecutor. After working for a period of time in the Prosecutor's Office, Lofton focused his attention on public service and issues surrounding civil rights. With civil disorder and racial tensions high, there were several cases that Lofton could choose to litigate.

Civil disorder and protest demonstrations were prominent during this time and Lofton volunteered his services to the African American protestors that were arrested for various crimes associated with the civil rights movement. There were protests

aimed a fair, equal, and affordable housing; police brutality; corrupt city government officials; and racial discrimination in the courts. In one case, Lofton represented a taxi driver John Smith who was arrested and rumored killed in custody. Lofton took on the case pro bono.

For his selfless work on behalf of his clients, Lofton, along with U.S. District Judge Dickinson Debevoise, Rutgers professor Annamay Sheppard, and several others, founded the Newark Legal Services Project (NLSP), a free legal services and the first in the nation to represent the poor without compensation. Lofton became the first Administrator to the project. As Administrator, he served as a liaison between then New Jersey Governor Richard Hughes' Office and the various community based organizations in attempts to calm civil rights concerns of the communities and to assist those being arrested for public disorder.

For his dedicated service to the communities of New Jersey, then New Jersey Governor Richard J. Hughes appointed Lofton to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Civil Disorders. Serving on the Commission, Lofton was instrumental in drafting the landmark historical document, "The Final Action Report" submitted to the Governor. The document was used by the Governor to draft new legislation related to civil rights and equal justice under New Jersey law.

Lofton became a close friend, confidant, and advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during King's protest movement for civil rights. Dr. King even performed the wedding ceremony between Lofton and his wife. Lofton continued his pursuit of equal justice and mentored young up and coming attorneys on how to perform best at their jobs as legal representatives to their clients. He served the public needs while engaging in his own private practice cases. Lofton made history, along with New Jersey State Prosecutor Raymond A. Brown, when the argued a case against each other in a New Jersey court. It was the first time in U.S. history that an African American prosecutor argued a case against an African American defense attorney.

Lofton, always-impeccably dressed, operated with a sense of justice and fair play in his legal profession. His keen intellect, both in court and out, and his wit and humor, was pivotal to his success as an attorney. He used these gifted traits to disarm his opponents and bring confidence to those he represented.

For his efforts toward community service, Lofton was the co-founder of the 100 Black Men of New Jersey. He served as the organizations President. He also co-founded the organization of 100 Black Men of America. For the national organization, he served as the organization's Executive Vice-President.

Lofton has received numerous awards and citations during his professional career. The Essex County Bar Association presented him with their, "Professional Achievement Award" and the Essex County Government named him as an "Outstanding citizens of Essex County". Oliver Lofton died on November 22, 2015. He was eighty-one years old.



## BENJAMIN LOGAN

...was born in Dayton, Ohio. His father was a businessman and entrepreneur and at a early age Logan learned the value of hard and dedicated work. At the age of ten, he already had a job as a paperboy for the

Dayton Daily News. His work ethics paid off quickly as he was named Honorable Paperboy of the Year three years in a row when he was 11, 12, and 13 years old.

Logan attended Chaminade High School where he graduated in 1961. He then attended the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio for two years before transferring to the Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio Northern with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting and History in 1968. For his law degree, Logan remained at Ohio Northern enrolling into the law school where he obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1972. Twenty years later, in 1992, the university, years later, would bestow upon Logan, Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law.

In 1972, Logan relocated to Grand Rapids, Michigan where he passed and was admitted to the Michigan Bar. He immediately became involved with local civic and community groups. He became involved with the Urban League and became a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In his first legal job, Logan began working in the City of Grand Rapids with the Legal Aid Society of Kent County. He worked for the Legal Aid Society for two years. He then entered the general arena of private practice.

In 1974, Logan opened his own law firm, Logan and Beason, with a partner. For the next fourteen years, the firm would serve clients in their law issues. Logan developed a following that gave him high marks for how he practiced law. For his efforts, Logan was appointed as a Michigan Civil Rights Referee. He was also named as an American Arbitrator of the Arbitration Association.

In 1987, Logan served on the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Race and Ethnic Bias in the Court. He would serve on the Task Force for two years. During that time, Logan served as a Class Instructor at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Grand Valley State University in Allendale Charter Township, Michigan.

In 1988, Logan was elected to the 61st District Court. He would serve on the Court for a six years term. He became

the first African American to serve as a Judge on the District Court. As a write-in candidate, he was the first write-in candidate to be elected in the history of the Kent County District Court.

Logan was involved in several successful political campaigns. He gave of his time and supported mayoral campaigns, city commission campaigns, county commission campaigns, and school board campaigns. He was involved with judicial candidates who sought office over the years. For the United Negro College Fund of West Michigan, Logan served as its' Chair.

In 1994, while serving his tenure as Judge, Logan served as the chair to the National Bar Association's Judicial Council and chaired the American Bar Association's Judicial Division Task Force on Minorities in the Judiciary. On the bench, in 2002, Logan was named Chief Judge of the 61st District Court. He served as Chief Judge for six years. He also served as a member to the American Bar Association's Minorities in the Profession, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the American Judges Association, and the Michigan District Judges Association.

Over his professional career, Logan would become involved with many associations and organizations including the Gerald R. Ford Boy Scouts Council, the Lion's Club, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, the Press Club, the YMCA, the YWCA, and the University Club.

Logan has been admitted argue cases before the Michigan Bar, the United States District Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, both Western and Eastern Divisions, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the American Bar, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Grand Rapids Bar, the Federal Bar, and the District of Columbia Bar. Logan has served as the President of the Floyd Skinner Bar Association.

Logan is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He has served as the organizations Vice Polemarch, Vice President, Secretary, and is a Board Member. For the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, he served as Sire Archon for the Central Region and sits on their National Board. He has served as a legal advisor and member of the Elks Lodge of Grand Rapids 1029. Logan became a 33 degreed Prince Hall Mason on May 21, 1990.

Logan has received many awards including receiving the NAACP Grand Rapids Chapter's Appreciation Achievement Award for his commitment to equality and justice for Michigan residents. In 1992, Logan was recognized in Congress for his many achievements when the Senate of the United States entered a salutation to Logan that was listed in the 1992 Congressional Record.





## ZEPHANIAH ALEXANDER LOOBY

...was born on April 8, 1899 in Antigua, an island in the West Indies to Grace Elizabeth Joseph Looby and John Alexander Looby. His his mother died when he was five years old while giving birth to a sibling. His father died when he turned fifteen.

As an orphan, in 1914, he moved to the United States. Arriving in the U.S., he worked at any job he could find while all the time reading to educate himself.

Looby began his undergraduate collegiate career by attending Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. In 1922, he graduated with a bachelor's degree. IN 1925, he on earned a law degree from Columbia University in New York City, and later, in 1926, earned his doctorate in jurisprudence from New York University.

With his degree in hand, Looby accepted a position at Fisk University, a historically black college in Nashville, Tennessee, as an Assistant Professor. He took and passed the Tennessee bar exam in July of 1928 and opened his own law practice. Four years later, in 1932, he helped found the Kent College of Law in Nashville, an African-American night school which admitted both men and women. He taught law for the next eight years.

In 1940, Looby made an entrance into politics. Although he lost, he ran for the Nashville City Council. He returned to teaching but eleven years later, in 1951, the Nashville city charter was changed which led to an increased number of blacks registering to vote statewide. Looby ran again for a Council seat and was elected. He was one of the first two African Americans to serve on the Council since 1911.

During his years practicing law, Looby was involved in many civil rights cases. In 1946, he played a role in the defense of several black men charged in the Columbia, Tennessee race riot. The riot began after a physical confrontation between a black veteran and a white man. The white man was injured and rumors circulated that a group of unhappy whites planned to lynch the black man and his mother. African-American veterans and other men in order to defend their community, took up arms. Confusion ensued, the police became involved and a racial disturbance erupted. Police and black veterans and other community residents exchanged gunfire wounding four policemen with buckshot.

The Tennessee State Guard and Highway Patrol were called in to quell the rioting. Having no real plan to control the disturbance, the police entered the black community and commenced to looting black businesses themselves. Hundreds of blacks were arrested. Many were held and questioned without any legal representation. In the pursuing days, the Highway Patrol killed two black men and wounded a third, claiming they were killed in a botched escape attempt.

Looby, Maurice Weaver, a white attorney from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Thurgood Marshall of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) represented those charged with criminal offenses. Twenty-five blacks were charged in the shootings. Looby and the defense team won acquittals for twenty-four of the twenty-five men Charged. For the one man found guilty, his charges were reduced.

In 1954, after segregation of public schools was ruled unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Looby filed a lawsuit in Nashville on behalf of A.Z. Kelley. Kelly's son had been denied admission to a white school. That lawsuit began the school desegregation movement in Nashville.

During the height of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, Looby came to the rescue of students arrested in the Nashville sit-ins protesting segregated restaurants and other public facilities. Because of his legal representation of the students, Looby's house was nearly destroyed by a dynamite bomb. So powerful, the bomb blew out 140 windows at Meharry Medical College nearby. Several students were injured as well.

Despite the bombings and racial hatred, over 2500 students from Fisk University and other protesters marched silently to city hall to confront then Mayor Ben West. They continued their protests for several more months. In May of that year, the lunch counters and other public areas in Nashville were desegregated. Subsequently, 91 students charged "for conspiracy to disrupt trade and commerce," were exonerated.

In his honor, in 1976, Nashville's city government named a new library and community center in Looby's honor. To honor him, the James C. Napier Lawyers Association, in 1978, changed its name to the Napier-Looby Bar Association. He was posthumously awarded membership, in 1982, to the Nashville Bar Association which had previously rejected him In the 1950s on racial grounds.

After a prolonged illness, Looby died on March 24, 1972 at Hubbard Hospital in Nashville. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, ironically a cemetery opened in 1888 as the second cemetery in Nashville designated for for African Americans.





## SAMUEL R. LOWERY

...was born on December 9, 1830 near Nashville, Tennessee to Ruth and Peter Lowery. His mother was a member of the Cherokee Native American Tribe and his father was an American slave. When he was eight years old, his mother died.

Lowery's father worked as a janitor at Franklin College in Tennessee, a short-lived Restoration school founded by Tolbert Fanning. As a young boy, Lowery worked alongside his father at the school. While working, he was able to study under Tolbert Fanning and by the time Lowery was sixteen years old, he was qualified to teach school and did so for four years.

When Lowery was nineteen years old, his father had saved enough money to purchase the family's freedom from their slave master. His father then joined the Church of the Disciples and served as the church's first black preacher. Lowery converted to the church principles and began preaching himself.

In 1856, during the U.S. presidential campaign, the issue of slavery was a political topic talked about by the candidates for President. The debate became contentious and a riot ensued. Poor southern whites and newly arriving immigrants, upset with the growing wealth of several black families, rioted and took their resentment out on the black community, particularly the blacks with having property, education and substance.

The whites destroyed black property and physically attacked prominent members of the black community. The only free black school was ordered shuttered and over two dozen blacks were arrested and jailed during the skirmish. The Lowery's, and other prominent blacks, fearing for their safety, fled to the North.

In 1857, Lowery moved to Cincinnati, Ohio to spread his ministry there. He became the Pastor of the Harrison Street Christian Church in Cincinnati. A year later, he married and moved to Chatham, Ontario in west Canada where he continued his preaching and organizing churches. After three years, he returned to the United States. His father gave him a farm near West Lancaster, Ohio and Lowery settled there.

In 1863, with the issuance and signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lowery travelled to Nashville, Tennessee to spread his gospel to the black soldiers and the freed slaves living in the area. Lowery joined the military and applied for the Chaplain of the 40th United States Colored Troop regiment but was denied the position by Colonel R. K. Crawford, the man in charge of placements. Lowery instead was given a commission as Chaplain to the 9th United States Heavy Artillery U.S. Colored Troops. Lowery also taught the soldiers in the 2nd U.S. Colored Light Artillery U.S. Colored Troops, Battery A.

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Lowery moved his family from his Ohio home to Rutherford County, Tennessee where he continued to spread the word of God. With his father, in 1867, Lowery founded the Tennessee Manual Labor University in Ebenezer,

Tennessee. The school taught agriculture, mechanical arts, and Christian ethics to freed slaves. It was at this school that Lowery began his pursuit of becoming a lawyer.

After five years of operations, the school began to struggle. There were alleged financial improprieties based on a 1872 fundraising campaign that Lowery and Daneil Wadkins, a teacher at the school, conducted in northern states. There was the constant threat of the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists that were not happy with the school educating blacks fearing their education would affect their white superiority. In the end, Lowery and Wadkins were expelled from the church over the alleged misappropriations of funds. Without funds and the ability to raise more funds through their fundraising efforts, in 1874, the school closed. Lowery then moved to Nashville, the place where he was born.

In Nashville, Lowery took the state bar exam, passed and began to practice law in Nashville. Not long thereafter, Lowery moved to Huntsville, Alabama. He was then recommended for admission to the bar association of the Supreme Court by Belva Ann Lockwood, the first woman admitted to the Association. After being accepted, Lowery became the fifth African American attorney to be admitted to the bar association. He would become the first African American to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court as well.

Lowery, by this time, had a ten-year old daughter, Annie, who was a gifted child. After visiting an exhibition by Lewis Theobald on silkworms, she became infatuated with them and convinced her father to purchase silkworm eggs, which he happily did. Annie began to raise silkworms and soon the small project developed into a business. Unfortunately, Annie died a few years later. Lowery decided to continue with the business of raising silkworms.

He met with other silkworm growers and several major silkworm manufacturers across the country to further the business. By 1875, the business was growing at such a rate that Lowery founded the Lowery Industrial Academy to train others about the industry and the Birmingham Silk Culture Company to distribute silkworms. He later founded the S.R. and R.M. Lowery Industrial Silk Culture and Manufacturing Company. He hired local black workers believing they were ideal workers for the industry, as he compared raising silkworms to picking cotton.

In 1879, Lowery became the Editor of the National Freeman in Huntsville. A year later, he established a small cooperative community, Loweryvale, in Jefferson County, Alabama. While establishing other business ventures, Lowery continued to market his silkworm operations and advocating its' use. He travelled the country to educate the population on silk. He attended exhibitions in Louisville, Kentucky; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Omaha, Nebraska where he won awards for his grade of silk. He travelled to Washington, D.C. in an attempt to get federal funding and governmental backing for the industry.

In 1900, Lowery became involved with the National Negro Business League founded by Booker T. Washington as a means to further his outreach for his silk manufacturing operations. Lowery travelled to Boston, Massachusetts to attend meetings held by Washington and supported the organization in their financial needs. Unfortunately, Lowery died that year, however, his silk farming business would continue for several more years.

Photo Not Available



## JANE CLEO MARSHALL LUCAS

... was born in 1920 in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. on a full scholarship where she earned her undergraduate degree graduating in

1941. She obtained a Master of Arts degree in Political Science in 1942 from the University of Michigan's Rackham School of Graduate Studies in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In the fall semester of 1942, Lucas graduated from the Michigan School of Law with her law degree as the first African American woman to graduate from the law school. She took and passed the Michigan bar exam that year as well.

In her first professional job Lucas took a job was in the law office of Arthur Davis Shores, the only African American attorney practicing in Alabama at that time. Due to racial bias, she was not able to take the Alabama State Bar exam and decided to leave Alabama moving to Fairmont Height, Maryland. She took the Maryland State Bar exam and became the first African American woman to pass the Maryland State Bar in 1946.

After passing the Maryland State Bar, Lucas joined the faculty of Howard University's Law School. She was the first full-time African American woman to become a member of the University's law faculty. She served as a Professor of Law for four years before leaving the school in 1950. Lucas and her husband left Washington, D.C. to move to Staten Island, New York. In New York, Lucas accepted a position working for the Labor Department's Women's Division. She later left the Women's Division to work for the Civil Rights Commission before moving to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission back in Washington, D.C..

Lucas would be honored as the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Michigan's Law School by the law school when it created the Jane Cleo Marshall Lucas Committee for Jurisprudence and Activism Award to be presented to deserving women. The first woman honored by the Committee was Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals where she spoke on the need for more diversity in the judicial system.





## JOHN GRAY LUCAS

...was born on March 11, 1864 in Marshall, Texas. His mother Betty was a single mom and moved her family away from Marshall to Pine Bluff, Arkansas when he was young. Lucas attended public schools in Pine Bluff before entering the

Branch Normal College of Arkansas Industrial University, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. After only a few months before graduating from the school, he left the University to work in the merchandising industry to support himself. It would be two years before he returned to school to complete his undergraduate studies to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1884.

Lucas then moved to Boston, Massachusetts to attend Boston University's School of Law where he earned his law degree in 1887. He was the only African American law student from a class of fifty-two. He was one of only seven students that graduated with honors.

After graduating from law school, Lucas chose to return to Pine Bluff where he felt the life was better for African Americans than that they lived in Boston. While in law school, in 1886, he was interviewed by the Boston Daily Globe newspaper and asked about the living conditions of blacks in Arkansas. He happily told the newspaper reporter that in Pine Bluff, three of the eight City Councilmen were African American, the County Coroner was African American, and the County Circuit Clerk was African American. Nearly half of the local police force was African American and most of the local Justices of the Peace were African American.

Lucas went on to tell the reporter that in Pine Bluff, African Americans could serve on juries and that an African American owned Pine Bluff's principal streetcar system. In addition, there was no distinction of race in Arkansas public transportation system, which was not the case in Boston. He left the reporter with the question of why more blacks did not leave Boston to move to Pine Bluff, which gave them a better opportunity to better themselves in a professional manner.

Back in Pine Bluff, Lucas passed the Arkansas State Bar exam with a perfect score and began to practice law. He took a job as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney serving

Pine Bluff and Jefferson Counties. He was then appointed as the Commissioner for the U.S. Circuit Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas by then Judge H.C. Caldwell. He was also elected to the Republican State and County Central Committees as well as the Republican Eleventh Judicial District Central Committee.

In 1890, Lucas was elected to the Arkansas General Assembly as a State Representative serving Jefferson County. He was one of only twelve African American state legislatures during a time when there was a wave of new racism spreading across Arkansas. As a new member of the General Assembly, Lucas made an immediate impact when he gave an eloquent address to Assembly members asking them to oppose a proposed segregationist "Separate Coach" bill that would mandate racial segregation on Arkansas's railroads. Despite his plea, the measure easily passed due to the white Democratic majority rule in the Assembly.

A fluent debater, Lucas did win the support of some white Democrats for his fired speech. Both the Arkansas Gazette and the Arkansas Democrat, the state's two most important Democratic newspapers, gave praise to him for his brilliant representation of the African American cause. Although he personally was given accolades for his passionate call for justice, the Arkansas General Assembly adopted several measures that effectively disfranchised the majority of African American voters and virtually removed all African Americans from all public state offices during the next four years.

In 1893, Lucas relocated to Chicago, Illinois and established a law practice there. Having great success in Arkansas, his office occupied a spacious suite in downtown Chicago's loop. He would build a lucrative practice gaining a reputation as an extremely talented criminal attorney. He argued cases before the United States Supreme Court on four different occasions.

In 1934, Lucas was appointed by then President Franklin D. Roosevelt as an Assistant U.S. Attorney of Cook County. He would hold that position for the remainder of his life. As the Republican Party began to change with more supremacist whites becoming members, Lucas and other African Americans switched parties joining the Democrats.

Lucas then served as the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the city of Chicago. He also became the first African American Assistant Recorder of Deeds in Cook County. Over the next several years, Lucas' law practice and his business acumen made him a millionaire.

John Gray Lucas died on October 27, 1944. He was eighty years old.





## CHOKWE LUMUMBA

...was born as Edwin Finley Taliaferro on August 2, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan to Priscilla and Lucien Taliaferro. He was the second of eight children and attended local Catholic schools graduating from St. Theresa High School. In high school, Lumumba served as the President of the Student Council and was the Captain

of the school's football team.

As a young man growing up in Detroit, Taliaferro was witness to both police brutality and community activism. His mother collected money for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee by standing on street corners soliciting funds. He himself became involved in activism when he, while a student at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, took part, the day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, in occupying a university building to protest King's assassination and for the lack of African Americans on the faculty of the University.

After high school, Taliaferro entered Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan graduating in 1969 majoring in Political Science. While at Kalamazoo, he formed the Black United Front, a movement that advocated for more African American studies in Mid-western higher educational institutions. That year, Taliaferro changed his name to Chokwe Lumumba. He took the name Chokwe from the Chokwe people of Central Africa that historically had resisted slavery. The name Lumumba was taken from the assassinated leader of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba.

In 1971, Lumumba was elected as the Second Vice President of the Republic of New Africa, (RNA) which was a newly formed African American nationalist organization. The organization moved the capital of the provisional government to a farm in Hinds County, Mississippi and Lumumba moved as well. The RNA claimed the site as territory to build a new country having black majority rule.

After arriving in Mississippi, Lumumba was appointed as the President of the RNA and served as the Minister of Justice succeeding William E. Miller Jr.. After establishing the farm, Lumumba returned to Detroit to obtain his law degree from Wayne State University Law School graduating in 1975 cum laude. While at Wayne State, he created the Malcolm X Center and worked alongside other African American attorneys in the Detroit Public Defenders Office.

In 1978, Lumumba formed his own law firm in Detroit and soon was representing sixteen inmates charged with rioting and murder at a prison in Pontiac, Illinois. He was successful in his defense of the charged inmates. In another case, Lumumba represented Cynthia Boston, better known as Fulani Sunni Ali, a member of a revolutionary group that had been charged in a Brink's robbery case and held on a \$500,000 bond. He was initially barred from representing Ali due to his association with the NRA. There came national protests for his barring from legal groups, which allowed Lumumba to be appointed as Ali's legal counsel.

Lumumba worked on the case of Geronimo Pratt, a decorated military veteran and member of the Black Panther Party who served twenty-seven years in prison for the alleged kidnapping and murder of schoolteacher, Caroline Olsen. Pratt would eventually be released from prison and his sentence was vacated after it was discovered that the prosecutor in the case had withheld evidence that would have affected Pratt's verdict. During that time, there were more and more African American activists being imprisoned due to mandatory sentencing guidelines of which Lumumba fought to overturn.

In September of 1987, Lumumba was invited to give an address at a conference held at the Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The conference was sponsored by the National Conference of Black Lawyers, as the co-founder of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, Lumumba led a discussion on the constitutional neglect and the needs of the enslaved. A year later, he found himself back in Jackson, Mississippi but was not granted the right to practice law in Mississippi until three years later.

As a lawyer, Lumumba became a public defender with the City of Jackson representing indigent citizens. Several years later, he sued the municipality wanting his contract as a public defender voided. He lost an important case against a local police officer and found himself reprimanded publicly by the Mississippi Bar Association for his representation in the case. He was found in contempt of court by the judge and although he appealed the contempt order, the Mississippi Supreme Court upheld the order and Lumumba was forced to spend three days in the county jail. His also lost his license to practice law in Mississippi for six months.

In 2009, with the help of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Lumumba was elected to a seat on the Jackson City Council representing Ward Two. While sitting on the City Council, he served as the Chairman of the New African Peoples Organization and co-sponsored a rally held in Washington D.C. with the theme of, "Occupy the Justice Department". The following year, he gave an address in Atlanta, Georgia to the New Black Panther Party in civil and community activism. He then helped the Mississippi Public Broadcasting agency in its' anti-school dropout campaign aimed at young students.

In 2013, Lumumba mad a run for Mayor of Jackson as a Democrat. He forced a primary runoff against Jonathan Lee with incumbent Harvey Johnson, Jr. being omitted from the race. In the runoff, Lumumba defeated Lee winning by over three thousand votes, including winning more votes in white wards than his opponent. He was sworn in as the Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi on July 1, 2013. The following day, Lumumba drew criticism when he questioned the significance of Christopher Columbus as the discoverer of the United States.

Lumumba served as Mayor for only a short period of time. On February 25, 2014, at the age of 66, he died unexpectedly and complaining of a cold. It was reported that he died from a heart attack but many believed he was killed and the circumstances surrounding his death were questioned as the coroner refused to perform an autopsy. Three years later, in the 2017 general election, Lumumba's son, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, also a lawyer and a partner in his father's law firm, would win the mayoral election and take the seat his father once occupied, although for only several months.





## CHOKWE ANTAR LUMUMBA

...is the son of community activist Nubia Lumumba and Chokwe Lumumba, a former Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 2005 from Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. While at

Tuskegee, Lumumba served as the President the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society and as President of the Tuskegee Political Science Association. He also represented the institution as a member of Tuskegee's national Bio-Ethics Debate Team and was honored as the 2005 Gwendolyn M. Patton Student Scholar Activist. Lumumba obtained his law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University majoring in Sports and Entertainment Law.

After completing his law degree requirements, in 2008, Lumumba returned to Jackson, Mississippi and began his legal career working as a Junior Associate at his father's law firm, Lumumba, Freelon, & Associates. Within a year, he was promoted to managing attorney and held responsibilities of the firm's daily operations. In addition, Lumumba handled his own challenging caseload.

Lumumba litigated several criminal and civil cases and represented various sports and entertainment clients for the law firm. He performed numerous pro bono cases and became a member of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, an organization began by his father. He would eventually become the managing partner of Lumumba & Associates, his own law firm that was dedicated to the needs of the community.

Lumumba would become a founding member of the Mississippi Human Rights Collective and was a co-organizer of the "Stand Up to Take It Down" rally held at the state capitol in Jackson to support the removal of the Confederate battle emblem from the Mississippi state flag. Lumumba was also the co-author of "The People's Platform" and served as the media representative of the Coalition for Economic Justice.

In 2017, Lumumba was elected as the Mayor of Jackson at the age of thirty-four. The young Lumumba won the seat as Mayor winning 94% of the casted votes and takes his seat on July 3, 2017. His father had served as the May-

or only a few years before dying unexpectedly under questionable circumstances.

The elder Lumumba died less than a year after being elected as the Mayor of Jackson. On February 25, 2014, at the age of 66, he died unexpectedly and complaining of a cold. It was reported that he died from a heart attack but many believed he was killed and the circumstances surrounding his death were questioned as the coroner refused to perform an autopsy.

Many questioned the untimeliness of the elder Lumumba's death, including Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan and the National Conference of Black Lawyers who offered to pay for an independent autopsy. Despite their offer, Mississippi Hinds County coroner, Sharon Grisham-Stewart, refused to conduct an autopsy insisting that the elder Lumumba had died of a heart attack, a natural cause. Not satisfied, then County Supervisor, Kenny Stokes, made newspaper and broadcast news headlines when he himself asked, "Who killed the Mayor".

The younger Lumumba, during his run to take over his father's seat as the Mayor did not comment publicly on the rumors, instead choosing to focus on continuing his father's legacy. He ran a mayoral campaign making it clear that he was not running on his father's name but on his own credentials and he was committed to the needs of the people and the city of Jackson.

Lumumba was selected to serve on a Board created to look into the challenges of the Farish Street Development project. He also was selected to represent and protect the election of the first black sheriff in Hinds County. Lumumba is a member of Free Christian Ministries and serves the ministry in a leadership position and is married to Ebony Lumumba. Together, they have one daughter, Alake' Maryama.



## JOHN ROY LYNCH

...was born into slavery on September 10, 1847 on the Tacony Plantation located near Vidalia, Concordia Parish, Louisiana to Catherine White and Patrick Lynch. His mother was of mixed race and his father was an Irish immigrant and the overseer on the plantation. At that

time, any child born of a mixed race woman was considered a slave. Although officially a slave, Catherin and Patrick lived together in a common law marriage. Together they had four children, all boys.

Lynch's father had made arrangements to purchase the freedom of his mother and his brothers but before the transaction was completed, the owner of the Tacony Plantation sold it and Patrick lost his job as an overseer. Without the income, Patrick could was not able to pay the \$1,000 necessary bond required by the Louisiana State Legislature and the Emancipation Court for the freedom of his wife and children. The number of manumissions was restricted as well and Patrick was not able to obtain the freedom for his family. Heart broken and without money, Patrick died two years later. John Roy was only two years old.

Before his death, Patrick made arrangement with a friend, William G. Deal who worked on the plantation, to take title of his family as a way of protecting them. Unfortunately, Deal sold the family to Alfred Vidal Davis, a farmer from Natchez, Mississippi. The family was moved to Natchez. Learning of the agreement Patrick had made with Deal, new owner Davis allowed the family to stay together although he did hire out Lynch's mother to help her save money to buy her freedom. She was able to save enough to do so, however, by 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was passed and the entire family obtained their freedom. Lynch, by that time, was sixteen years old.

With his new freedom, Lynch was able to find work as a photographer's helper. A gifted and crafty learner, it was not long before he was running the entire photographic operations. He even oversaw the financial records of the company. While working at the photo shop, Lynch took night classes taught by Northern ex-abolitionist.

Not liking the Northern teachers teaching blacks any type of education, they were soon run out of Mississippi by white supremacist. Lynch studied by reading newspapers and books. He even eavesdropped at a nearby school, hiding by an open window, to further his education.

By 1867, at the age of twenty, Lynch had become active in the Republican Party and attended the state convention. He listened and learned as politicians argued over a new Constitution.

Taking what he understood from the convention he applied to his local community.

In 1869, Lynch was appointed by then Military Governor Adelbert Ames as the Natchez Justice of the Peace. That same year, he was elected, as a Republican, to the Mississippi State Legislature at the age of twenty-two. He was re-elected again the following year. In 1872, Lynch was elected as the Speaker of the House. He became the first African American to serve as Speaker of any House of Representative in the United States.

In 1872, Lynch was elected to the U.S. Congress representing Mississippi's 6th District. He was the youngest member to serve at that time. He would be the only African American elected to represent Mississippi for a century to come.

In 1877 at the conclusion of Reconstruction and federal troops withdrew from the South as a whole, Lynch began to publish four books. His writings centered on the political atmosphere in the Deep South during and after Reconstruction. His best writing, "The Facts of Reconstruction" wasn't published until 1913. In the book, he took the opposing viewpoints of white historian and conservative Dunning School, who chose to ignore the many contributions and achievements of African Americans during the Reconstruction Era. Lynch instead highlighted those achievements despite the suffrage they endured during that time.

In 1880, he was re-elected again to serve but not without a fight. It was discovered that more than 5,000 votes had been credited to his opponent and other ballots had been discarded claiming smudged or inaccurate filings. Lynch took his case before the Committee on Elections who awarded him his seat in the House.

In 1884, Lynch was nominated by future President Theodore Roosevelt as the Temporary Chairman of the 1884 Republican National Convention held in Chicago, Illinois. He was the first African American to lead a national convention. He remained a member of the National Committee for five years.

In 1889, Lynch was named as an Auditor of the Treasury to the Department of Navy. He served in that capacity for four years. He then returned to Mississippi where he took and passed the state bar. The following year, he returned to Washington, D.C. and opened his own law firm.

In 1898, the Spanish American war broke out and Lynch joined the fray by enlisting into the United States Army. Entering the Army, he was commissioned as a Captain before being promoted to Major. Then President William McKinley promoted him as the Paymaster over the troops serving in the United States, Cuba, and the Philippines. He served in the war for almost a decade.

After leaving the military in 1911, Lynch moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resumed his legal career and became involved in real estate. He married for the second time to Cora Williams, after having divorced his first wife, Ella Sommerville, with whom he had one daughter. Williams and Lynch would remain in Chicago until his death.

John Roy Lynch died on November 2, 1939. He was ninety-two years old.



## LORETTA ELIZABETH LYNCH

...was born on May 21, 1959, in Greensboro, North Carolina to Lorraine Harris Lynch and Lorenzo Lynch. Her mother was a librarian and her father a Baptist preacher.

Being raised in a household directly involved in the Civil Rights Movement, she spent hours in the Durham, North Carolina courthouse watching court proceedings with her father.

From those court proceedings, Lynch learned about the atrocities of the racist Jim Crow laws of the time. She witnessed unfair prosecutions and her interest in the law was compounded by stories of her grandfather, a sharecropper and pastor in the 1930s, who helped people escape southern discrimination and move to the northern United States.

After completing her high school studies, Lynch was accepted to Harvard College in 1981 earning a Bachelor of Arts in English and American Literature. She elected to continue her education at Harvard earning her Juris Doctor at the Harvard Law School in 1984. She became a member of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a chartering member of the Xi Tau chapter.

After passing the bar, Lynch's first legal job was with the law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel in New York City as a Litigation Associate. In 1990, she joined the U.S. Attorney's Office's Eastern District as a drug and violent-crime prosecutor. She served as Chief of the Long Island office from 1994 to 1998 handling several political corruption cases involving the government of Brookhaven, New York. She was the Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District Brooklyn office from 1998 to 1999.

President Bill Clinton, in 1999, nominated her to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. While there, Lynch oversaw the successful prosecutions of several New York City police officers in the Abner Louima abuse case. Lynch left the U.S. Attorney's office in 2001, becoming a partner at Hogan & Hartson (later Hogan Lovells), a multinational law firm co-headquartered in London and Washington, D.C.. During that time, Lynch also served on the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

In January of 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Lynch to serve once again as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. While there, Lynch has seen her fair share of high profile prosecution cases. She has overseen the prosecutions of Republican Congressman Michael Grimm and Democratic politicians Pedro Espada Jr. and William Boyland, Jr.. She investigated Citigroup over mortgage securities sold by the bank which resulted in a \$7 billion settlement by Citigroup. She was also involved in Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited's (HSBC) \$1.2 billion settlement over violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.

Lynch, while US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York has also supervised the investigation into senior FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) officials and their operations. Culminating in a 47-count indictment, fourteen senior FIFA officials and other sports marketing executives were brought to task. As gratitude for the work she performed in the FIFA case, Lynch, at a sold-out Highline Ballroom in New York City, was presented with the 3rd Annual "Golden Blazer" award given by soccer Roger Bennett and Michael Davies. The "Golden Blazer" is awarded annually to a person who has dedicated themselves to advancing the sport of soccer in the United States of America. All award recipients are voted on at a conclave of past winners.

In July of 2014, Lynch met with the family of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man who had died after being held in a choke hold by a New York City police officer. A choke hold is a police arresting procedure prohibited by federal guidelines. She wanted to discuss with the family any federal prosecution procedures possible that might hold the officers accountable.

In November of 2014, President Barack Obama nominated Lynch to succeed Eric Holder as the United States Attorney General. Confirmed by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 26, 2015, she was approved by the overall Senate on April 23 with a 56-43 vote to become the first African-American woman to hold the Office. She was the second African-American to hold the office after Holder, the first. She was the second woman to hold the office with Janet Reno being the first. Although ultimately confirmed, Lynch's nomination process was one of the longest in the history of the United States, taking 166 days to complete.

Lynch is happily married to Stephen Hargrove and has two stepchildren from Hargrove's previous marriage.





## JUDSON WHITLOCKE LYONS

...was born on August 15, 1860 in Burke County, Georgia. As a young boy, during the Reconstruction period, he worked on a farm, and along with another friend, they taught

themselves how to read. They used borrowed textbooks and would quiz each other while performing their chores.

Lyons' studies and hard work paid off as he earned enough money and had enough aptitude to enroll into the Augusta Institute in Augusta, Georgia. After graduating high school, Lyons entered the Atlanta Baptist College in Stockbridge, Georgia where he received his undergraduate degree in 1879. To pay his way through college, he taught at a night school teaching African-American women who wanted to pursue a higher education.

A year later, at the age of twenty, Lyons was selected to serve as a member of the Republican National Convention. He was the youngest to serve as a Delegate to the Convention at that time. He then moved north to Washington, D.C. to enter the Howard University School of Law where in 1884, he earned his law degree.

While earning his law degree at Howard, Lyons worked for the United States Internal Revenue Service. After completing his course studies at Howard, he returned to Georgia, took and passed the Georgia State Bar exam. In passing the bar exam, Lyons became the first African American attorney to pass the Georgia state bar.

Lyons became involved with the politics of Georgia. Aware of the civil strife and the racial discord and the fight for white supremacy, he became an outspoken critic of issues involving civil rights. He was a gifted orator and spoke often about the ills facing black Americans. He joined the Georgia Republican Party and soon ascended to become the Party's leader. He attended the Republican state and national conventions and served as a member of the Republican National Committee.

In 1898, Lyons was appointed by then United States President William McKinley as the Register of the Treasury. He was the second African-American to be named as Register, the first being Blanche Kelso Bruce. As the Register of the Treasury, Lyons became one of the highest-ranking African-Americans to serve in the United States government at that time, as it was his signature that

appeared authenticating U.S. currency, bonds, and treasury notes. He served at the Treasury until 1906.

Leaving the Treasury, Lyons left Washington, D.C. returning to Augusta, Georgia where he became the President of Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. Founded by Lucy Craft Laney, the high school served African American students at a time when there were not many schools for African Americans to attend. The chartered school held classes beginning in Kindergarten through Junior College.

Judson Whitlocke Lyons died on June 22, 1924. He was sixty-four years old.



## LUTIE LYTLE

...was born in Murfreesboro, Tennessee to two former slaves, John R. and Mary Ann "Mollie" (Chesebro) Lytle in 1882 during the U.S. Reconstruction Era. As a result of the mass migration of African-Americans from the "South", the Lytle family

moved to Topeka, Kansas.

Lytie's father worked several jobs before opening his own barber shop with the help of his son, Charles Clayton Lytle. Both became active in local politics as members of the Populist Party. John Lytle once ran for the position of Topeka City Jailor. Charles Lytle became a Chief of Detective with the Topeka Police, a Field Deputy in the Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office, and a Deputy Sheriff of Shawnee County, Kansas. Charles also owned a drug store in Topeka.

Lutie Lytle graduated from Topeka High School being described as an "apt pupil." Her father, John who was actively involved in politics wanted "something good" for Lutie. When the Populist Party swept into power in Kansas in 1891, John used his influence and got sixteen-year-old Lutie appointed as the Assistant Enrolling Clerk for the Kansas Populist controlled legislature.

While working in the legislature, Lytle wrote articles for the local African-American newspaper and worked as a compositor in the newspaper's printing plant. She read countless newspaper articles and came to realize the fact that for blacks, they were victims of legal ignorance. She vowed to study and work to correct this imbalance.

From her saved earnings, Lytle moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee to teach school. She then enrolled into Central Tennessee College in Nashville, Tennessee and in 1897 graduated as Valedictorian. Along with her Certificate of Graduation, she was given a Diploma that allowed her to practice law before any court in the state of Tennessee including the Criminal Court of Nashville.

In September of 1897, Lytle returned to Topeka. Opening a law practice there made her the first African American woman admitted to practice law in the state of Kansas. In 1898, she relocated back to Tennessee to become a faculty member of Central Tennessee College's law school's Faculty. This position made Lytle the first woman in the

United States to be a part of any law school faculty. She taught for one session, the spring of 1899.

For the next two years, Lytle traveled across the country delivering lectures on "Marriage and Divorce" ultimately landing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she met and married Alfred Cohan, a successful lawyer from New York. Now Lutie Lytle-Cowan, she moved to New York, passed the state bar exam and joined her husband's practice.

Lytie-Cowan became active in cultural and civic events in her Brooklyn, NY Neighborhood. She became the President of the Women's Civic Alliance and led protests against attacks on "the womanhood of the city." She gave talks to church congregations, women's groups, including the National Association of Colored Women, and participated in programs designed to help the plight of black women in America.

One of her most remembered stances was against the Editor of a small "colored" newspaper that had written an editorial that stated that, "the colored women of New York City were mainly responsible for the immoral conditions of the city." Lytle-Cowan, by now, the President of the Women's Civic Alliance led a protest against that attack on the womanhood of women in the city. The Editor made an attempt to defend himself and his writings but Lytle-Cowan was not satisfied. She instead pointed out that while there was truth that some women conducted "houses of ill repute", it was also true that those establishments were open and maintained at the behest and patronage of men. She declared that when women stood on street corners for men and it was done at the pleasure of men, noting that some of the men were of "moral character and conduct". Her suggestion was for the men of the city to set a higher standard for themselves to go by and not spend their time dragging women down, which would improve the conditions.

Lytie went on to become the first black woman to become a member of the National Bar Association, a professional organization for African American attorneys. She and her husband were the first married couple to participate as attorneys in the organization as well. Her husband died suddenly on September 1913. Lytle took over his practice and continued as a sole proprietor practicing law.

In 1916, upon her second marriage to the Reverend Stephen Alexander McNeill, a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Lytle gave up practicing law. After his death in 1934, not much is known about Lutie Lytle's life. She returned to Brooklyn, NY, served on a few political committees including the "Brooklyn Day" committee. It is not known exactly when she died, but it is thought to be in 1950.





**JULIA  
PERRY  
COOPER  
MACK**

...was born on July 17, 1920 in Fayetteville, North Carolina to Emily McCoy Perry and Dallas Leary Perry, Jr.. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in math-

ematics from Hampton, University in Hampton, Virginia in 1940. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Mack moved to Washington, D.C.. She taught school in Baltimore, Maryland, a short forty-five minute drive from Washington.

While teaching, Mack studied for her law degree at Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. where she received her law degree magna com laude in 1951. She took a job in private practice for several years before becoming a trial attorney for the Justice Department in 1954. At the Justice Department, she litigated over three hundred criminal cases.

In 1968, Mack took a position with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as General Counsel. She served as General Counsel for five years. She was then promoted to Deputy General Counsel in 1973. She served as the Deputy General Counsel for two years.

While operating her law firm, Mack served in several capacities at her alma mater, Howard University' School of Law. She taught classes, served as the Secretary for the Deans of the law school. She also served as the law school's law clerk.

In 1975, Mack was appointed as a Justice to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals by then President Gerald R. Ford. As Washington, D.C. is not officially a state but a District, Congress established the Court under the federal "District of Columbia Self-Government Act". With her appointment, Judge Mack became the first African American woman to serve on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Her appointment to the Court made her the first African American woman to be appointed to any Court of Appeals in the United States as well. She would serve on the bench for the next fourteen years. She eventually became a Senior Judge until she took full retirement in 2001.

Judge Mack was the recipient of several awards given her for her distinguished service to the legal profession. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission gave tribute to Judge Mack, as did the Federal Bar Association. The Howard University Law School named an award in her honor, "The Ollie May Cooper Award".

Judge Mack was married twice. She first married Jerry Cooper. Unfortunately, that marriage ended in divorce. She later married Clifford J. Mack who preceded her in death in 1971. Judge Mack was a member of the St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Washington.

Judge Julia Perry Cooper Mack died on January 17, 2014. She was ninety-three years old.



## WILEY W. MANUEL

...was born on August 28, 1927 in Oakland California to Gradella and Curtis Manuel. His mother was a servant and his father was a railroad dining car waiter for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. The

family had relocated from New Orleans, Louisiana to Oakland when Manuel was a child.

Manuel attended elementary school, junior high and high school in Oakland and Berkeley. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of California at Berkeley. Once his undergraduate studies were completed, he enrolled into Hastings College of Law in San Francisco graduating in 1953. While at Hastings, Manuel was the Editor in Chief of the Hastings Law Journal. His first two years at the school, he was the number one student in his class and in his senior year, he was number two. Manuel was also a member of the Thurston Honor Society and the Order of Coif.

In his first legal job after leaving Hastings, Manuel became a Student Legal Assistant of then Attorney General, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Sr., in his San Francisco office. In 1953, at the young age of twenty-six, Manuel passed the California state bar exam was appointed as a Deputy Attorney General the same year. The appointment came due to his exceptional grades, his placement in his graduating class and thanks to a state wide program that sought the top law students for hiring of coveted positions in the California legal field.

As Deputy Attorney General, Manuel was charged with reviewing and editing opinions prior to their being presented to the Attorney General for final approval. It was not long before he was recognized by other Attorney Generals for his keen sense of writing and his accuracy to the merits of a case. After six years of diligent editorial scrutiny, in 1959, Manuel was promoted to a coveted senior legal deputy grade IV position, and the head of the administrative law section.

In May of 1970, Manuel received another promotion by then Attorney General Thomas Lynch. He was given the position of Assistant Attorney General. In this role as an executive managing lawyer, he took on the more mun-

dane tasks of administrative matters including balancing budgets, disciplinary and managerial actions of deputies, and the hiring of public administrative law section employees state wide. Manuel was equal to the tasks and again was recognized by his superiors for his outstanding contributions to executing the laws of the State. He was named as the Chief Assistant Attorney General.

As the Chief, he would lead the civil division and become the head of the San Francisco office. In his duties, Manuel was responsible for the oversight of over 175 attorneys throughout the state. He instilled in each of the lawyers under him a sense of pride in their workmanship demanding their highest level of craftsmanship in their responsibilities and the editing of their briefs.

In 1976, after twenty-three years serving in the State Attorney General's Office, now Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed him to the Superior Court bench in Alameda County. With his appointment, Manuel became the first African American to serve on the California Supreme Court. As a member of the seven member court, Manuel generally took a middle-of-the-road approach to his decisions often being the deciding vote between the conservative and liberal judges opinions.

As a Supreme Court Justice, Manuel was deeply concerned about the problems he saw in black defendants. During his tenure in the Attorney General's office, he did not have much dealings with criminal law as he handled mostly administrative duties. As a Justice, he now saw first hand the perils of many of the black defendants in the briefs that came before the court. He gave assurance to all that came before the court that fairness was in play.

Manuel, during his lengthy career in law served many organizations in their quest for equal and civil justice. He supported the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Boy Scouts organization. He served as the President of the Charles Houston Bar Association, the California Association of Black Lawyers, and the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. He was active in his social fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi and served as Grand Knight of the Berkeley Council of the Knights of Columbus. For the St. Pascal's Roman Catholic Church in Oakland in served as a lector.

Wiley W. Manuel, having had colon surgery previously, was readmitted to the Providence Hospital in Oakland where he died at the age of fifty-three.



## THURGOOD MARSHALL

...was born on July 2, 1908, in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the second child born to Norma Arica Williams, an elementary school teacher, and William Canfield Marshall, a

country club steward and waiter. Thurgood's parents placed the importance on education first, while encouraging Thurgood and his brother to think and to learn. As a punishment, whenever Thurgood would get into trouble at school, he was made to memorize sections of the U.S. Constitution. This punishment served him well later on in his decades long legal career.

Collegiately, he attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, working several jobs to pay his tuition. After being suspended briefly in his second year, Thurgood became a bit more serious about his studies. He completed his Bachelor's degree program in 1930 and enrolled in the law school of Howard University, Washington, D.C., graduating in 1933. While at Howard, he was influenced by Charles Houston (1895-1950) and other legal scholars who developed and perfected methods for winning civil rights lawsuits.

Marshall passed the Maryland bar exam and began practicing law in his office in Baltimore, Maryland serving as Counsel for the Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1935, he successfully attacked segregation and discrimination in education by participating in the desegregation of the University of Maryland Law School, a school which denied his admission because of his race. Successfully desegregating the law school, Marshall completed his degree. He subsequently was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the fourth, fifth, and eighth circuits, and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

In 1939, Marshall became Director of the NAACP's Legal Defense and Education Fund. He won twenty-nine of the thirty-two civil rights cases that he brought before the Supreme Court, earning him the title of "America's Outstanding Civil Rights Lawyer." During his trials, he and his aides were under constant death threats as they dealt with some of the lower courts in some southern states.

Marshall worked on some of some of America's landmark cases including *Smith v. Allwright* (1944), which gave African Americans the right to vote in Democratic primary elections; *Morgan v. Virginia* (1946), which outlawed the state's policy of segregation as it applied to bus transportation between different states; *Sweatt v. Painter* (1950), requiring the admission of an African American student to the University of Texas Law School; and most famously, *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which outlawed segregation in public schools.

In 1951, the NAACP sent Marshall to Japan and Korea to investigate complaints that African American soldiers convicted by U.S. Army and courts-martialed had not received fair trials. His appeal arguments led to reduced sentences for twenty-two of the forty soldiers.

In September of 1961, President John F. Kennedy nominated Marshall for Judge of the Second Court of Appeals. Marshall was confirmed by the Senate that year. Three years later Marshall accepted an appointment from President Lyndon Johnson as Solicitor General. From that position, Marshall successfully defended the United States in a number of important cases concerning industry. Through the Solicitor General office, he defended civil rights actions on behalf of all American people rather than that as a Counsel strictly for African Americans.

In 1967, Marshall was nominated by President Johnson as Associate Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court. The nomination was strongly opposed by several southern Senators on the Judiciary Committee, but Marshall was confirmed by a vote of sixty-nine to eleven. He took his seat on October 2, 1967, becoming the first African American justice to sit on the Supreme Court of the United States.

While on the bench, Marshall remained a strong believer in individual rights and never wavered in his devotion to end discrimination. He voted to uphold a woman's right to abortion and his opinions covered areas surrounding the environment, the right of appeal of persons convicted of drug charges, failure to report for and submit to service in the U.S. armed forces, and the rights of Native Americans.

Marshall's numerous honors including more than twenty honorary degrees, the University of Maryland Law School was named in his honor, as were various elementary and secondary schools around the country. He received the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, the Negro Newspaper Publisher Association's Russwurm Medal, and the Living Makers of Negro History Award of the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority. His name is inscribed on the honor roll of the Schomburg History Collection of New York for the Advancement of Race Relations.

Thurgood Marshall died on January 24, 1993 at the age of eighty-four in Bethesda, Maryland.





## JOHN ROBERT MARKS, III

...was born on July 25, 1947. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee in 1969. He remained at Florida State to obtain his law degree earning it

in 1972. Marks was one of the first African American students to integrate the university. While at the university, Marks became a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Before beginning his law profession, Marks served in the military serving in the Air Force. By the end of the four years he spent in the military, 1972-1976, he had been promoted to a JAG officer (Judge Advocate General). Completing his military service, Marks returned to Tallahassee.

After receiving his law degree and passing the Florida State Bar exam, Marks began to practice law. Over the next several years, he would take on local clients servicing minor and major cases. He became involved with local politics and supported several candidates in their elections to public office.

In 1979, then Governor Bob Graham appointed Marks to the Florida Public Service Commission as an Administrative Law Judge. He served on the Commission for eight years. While serving, he was instrumental in implementing the Federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA).

In 2003, Scott Maddox was serving as the Mayor of Tallahassee. He was then elected Chairman of the Florida Democratic Party. Marks was asked to fill in as Mayor for Maddox until a special election for Mayor could be held. Marks decided to enter the race to succeed Maddox. Out of the three candidates running for Mayor, Marks placed first winning forty-three percent of the votes.

Since no candidate received more than fifty percent of the votes, a runoff was held between Marks and second place winner, Republican John Paul Bailey was held. Marks won the runoff winning the votes two to one. In receiving over sixty-seven percent of the votes, Marks became the new Mayor of Tallahassee, Florida.

Marks would go on to serve as Mayor for eleven years. Elected to three consecutive terms, he served as Mayor longer than any other Mayor of Tallahassee had

ever served. He was the fifth African American to serve as a Mayor in the United States. In 2014, Marks decided not to enter his name for re-election.

As Mayor, Marks worked to make Tallahassee a better place to live for the city's residents than his predecessor. He took on environmental issues and championed green efforts. Under Marks, Tallahassee was the first U.S. city to develop a smart grid system to support electric, gas and water utilities. He tackled the issues of the city's homeless and worked to create new jobs for those seeking employment.

Marks did have naysayers that were dissatisfied with some of his actions as Mayor. In his last term, he came under fire when it was learned that a deferred compensation plan existed for Marks from a nonprofit Atlanta Internet company that the Mayor was negotiating with to provide a \$1.6 million city project to bring high speed Internet service to Tallahassee's under served. That project never materialized, which Marks believes was a disservice to the lower income children of Tallahassee.

His last term was tainted with spats of disagreements with critics over ethics complaints, which drew a Federal Bureau of Investigation review. After an investigation of the accusations, Marks was exonerated. Although cleared of any wrong doing, the city government approved an amendment to the city charter that made extensive changes to the rules on ethics that the city implemented as a guideline for future operations.

Overall, Marks left a legacy with the residents of Tallahassee that include improvements to the city and their lives. He is credited with the re-development of Cascades Park, Tallahassee's version of New York City's Central Park. The Market Square and Midtown areas have grown to become booming residential and business centers and the Gaines Street corridor was transformed.

After leaving the Mayor's Office, Marks became a partner in his own law firm, Marks & Marks with his son, John R. Marks, IV. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at Florida State University's College of Law where he taught Utility Regulatory Law classes. He is also a faculty member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Marks serves as General Counsel at FBMC Benefits Management, Inc., a company that manages customized employee benefit packages for private, public, and corporate clients. He has also served as the Vice Chairman of Fringe Benefits Management Company and as Managing Partner at Yoss LLP.



## HAROLD M. MARSH, SR.

...was born in Richmond, Virginia. He attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia where he obtained both his undergraduate degree. For his law degree, he remained at the University of Virginia where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree.

Before obtaining his law degree, Marsh enlisted into the United States Marine Corps to fulfill his military duties. After completing his stint in the Marines, Marsh returned to Richmond taking a job in teaching at Virginia State University in nearby Petersburg. He then joined his brother's law firm of Hill, Tucker & Marsh.

At Hill, Tucker & Marsh located in his hometown of Richmond, Marsh became the Managing Partner of the firm. While serving as Managing Partner, he also served as a Substitute Judge for the local Municipal Court. The law, as a leading Richmond law firm, took on some of the most important cases affecting Richmond and Virginia as it relates to African American concerns.

As Managing Partner, along with his brother Henry, Oliver W. Hill Sr., and Samuel W. Tucker, the firm took on cases involving civil rights, school segregation, equal employment, and to promote single-member voting for the districts represented in the Virginia General Assembly. In *Quarles v. Philip Morris*, the first U.S. legal case involving racial discrimination in employment, Marsh and his partners took on tobacco giant Philip Morris, located in Richmond. The case would set precedent that prohibited the system of department seniority hiring and required the tobacco giant and other employers to set equal pay requirements.

In the 1981 case of *Gravelly v. Robb*, the law group forced the adoption of single-member districts by the Virginia General Assembly. The enacted law made voter representation more specific to a district. It also allowed more minority candidates to have an opportunity to be elected from the districts in which they resided.

In 1970, the voting power in Richmond underwent a tremendous and dramatic shift, after Curtis Holt, Sr., a local civil rights activists filed a lawsuit to halt city elections. The city had annexed twenty-three square miles of Chesterfield County, which Holt felt had diluted Richmond's black voters' power. Holt was able to win a stay on the City Council elections by the federal courts. The matter was resolved in 1976, when the City changed its' election process from an at-large seating arrangement to a ward based system implemented in all nine Richmond voting districts. Holt's determination resulted in the city electing for the first time a majority African American City Council. The Council had nine members and five of them became African American.

Marsh took personal interest in the well being of the children of Richmond. He gave generously to the young people of the city and worked to improve their lives. He took personal interest in the Richmond high school that his children attended, particularly the school's track and cross-country teams. Referred to as "Team Dad" and "Mr. T.J.", the members of the team came to rely on Marsh for support and guidance and he gladly delivered.

As a mentor to the young people of the school and those of the city, Marsh was tireless in his pursuit of giving confidence and direction to the young. He established the Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute, which teaches high school student leaders about racial diversity and inclusion for all.

For his church, Hood Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Marsh was a dedicated and gracious member. He served the church as a Trustee and served on many of the church's committees. He gave time to the church's Kitchen Committee, many times leaving his office to serve during a set function and then returning to his office after hours to complete his legal work.

In his work, both professionally and personally, Marsh chose an understated approach, leaving the fanfare for others choosing. He preferred to be in the background, without publicity or self-aggrandizement, letting his work product or his service to those he represented speak for itself. As a community benefactor, if and when asked for his time or service, without hesitation or delay, he would take on the task. Marsh's community service activities were aimed at helping those less fortunate and to give them hope for the future.

In 1997, all of Marsh's good works came to an end. Marsh was shot and killed while sitting in his car by a disgruntled home renter upset with one of Henry's clients, the homeowner. While stopped at a traffic light on the corner of Hull Street and Cowardin Avenue, the shooter recognizing Marsh, approached his car, pulled out a gun, and fired. It was later discovered that the shooter had fallen behind in his rent and was upset at the homeowner and thought that Marsh had played a role in his upcoming eviction. Ironically, he had just left the Chesterfield Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court where he was representing and assisting a client having family issues. He had just helped a client when another client's associate decided to murder him. Marsh's killer was ultimately sentenced to fifty-three years in prison.

Well respected and loved by Richmond residents and his legal peers, Marsh was recognized by the Virginia state legislature with the reading of a state joint House resolution on the floor of the Virginia General Assembly. With that, the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepared the resolution to be given to the family and placed in the archives of the Assembly.

In Marsh's honor and that of his brother, Henry, the City of Richmond appropriated \$23 million to renovate the Manchester Courthouse. As a gesture to Marsh and his brother, Henry, the courthouse was named in their honor, "Henry L. Marsh, III, and Harold M. Marsh, Sr., Manchester Courthouse". The city also named streets in honor of the two beloved Richmond brothers.

Harold M. Marsh Sr. was murdered on July 23, 1997.



## HENRY LEANDER MARSH, III

...was born December 10, 1933. His mother died when he was five years old. Unable to care for all of his children, Marsh's father split the family apart with Marsh being sent to live with an aunt and uncle in rural Virginia. He attended a racially segregated school, Moonfield School, a one-room school that taught grades one through seven. The school had

one teacher and seventy-eight students. When Marsh was eleven, his father was able to gather the family back together.

Marsh was enrolled into the fifth grade at George Mason Elementary School in Richmond, Virginia. To show his resolve, Marsh's father went back to school himself in order to show his children the importance of an education. Marsh graduated high school with honors from the Maggie L. Walker High School. He served as his senior class President, the President of the student chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and as the Editor of the school newspaper.

To obtain his undergraduate degree, Marsh enrolled into Richmond's Virginia Union University where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1956. While at Virginia Union, Marsh opposed Virginia's Massive Resistance efforts to keep Virginia's schools segregated. In his efforts, he testified before the Virginia State General Assembly arguing for desegregation. Impressed with his demeanor, civil rights attorney Oliver W. Hill Sr. urged Marsh to look into a law career. He took Oliver up on the challenge.

For his law degree, Marsh enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School. He graduated from Howard in 1958 after completing his studies to obtain his LL.B. degree. He then joined the United States Army.

Returning from the Army, Marsh, in 1961, joined forces with civil rights attorney, Samuel W. Tucker to form the law firm of Tucker & Marsh. They soon were joined by Oliver Hill, Sr., the attorney that had urged Marsh to obtain a law degree. The firm changed its' name to Hill, Tucker & Marsh.

The three attorneys then began to take on cases involving civil rights, school segregation, equal employment, and to promote single-member voting for the districts represented in the Virginia General Assembly. In *Quarles v. Philip Morris*, the first U.S. legal case involving racial discrimination in employment, Marsh took on tobacco giant Philip Morris, located in Richmond. The case would set precedent that prohibited the system of department seniority hiring and required the tobacco giant and other employers to set equal pay requirements.

In his 1981 case of *Gravelly v. Robb*, Marsh forced the adoption of single-member districts by the Virginia General Assembly. The enacted law made voter representation more specific to a district. It also allowed more minority candidates to have an opportunity to be elected from the districts in which they resided.

Several years later, Marsh decided to make a run for a seat on the Richmond City Council. In 1966, he was elected to the Council. Four years later, his fellow Council members elected him as Vice Mayor of Richmond. He would serve on the Council until 1991 when he was elected to the Virginia State Senate.

In 1970, the voting power in Richmond underwent a tremendous and dramatic shift, after Curtis Holt, Sr., a local civil rights activists filed a lawsuit to halt city elections. The city had annexed twenty-three square miles of Chesterfield County, which Holt felt had diluted Richmond's black voters' power. Holt was able to win a stay on the City Council elections by the federal courts. The matter was resolved in 1976, when the City changed its' election process from an at-large seating arrangement to a ward based system implemented in all nine Richmond voting districts. Holt's determination resulted in the city electing for the first time a majority African American City Council. The Council had nine members and five of them became African American.

Marsh was then elected as the Mayor, the first African American elected Mayor of Richmond. He would serve as Mayor until 1972. Richmond would go on to elect seven more African American Mayors in the future.

After serving as Mayor, in 1977, Marsh was elected to the Richmond City Council as a Democrat. He served on the City Council for fourteen years leaving in 1991. He then ran for a seat in the Virginia State Senate.

As a State Senator, Marsh hosted the 1981 conference, "The National Conference on the Black Agenda in the 80s", in Richmond. The conference drew over 1,500 attendees. The purpose of the conference was to focus on the concerns and needs of the African American communities throughout the United States.

In 1991, Marsh was elected to the State Senate. He would serve in the State Senate for twenty-three years winning re-election ten times before resigning in 2014. He represented the 16th District, which consisted of parts of the city of Richmond, the city of Petersburg, Chesterfield County, Dinwiddie County, and Prince George's County.

In the Senate, Marsh Chaired the Courts of Justice Committee. He also served on the Local Government Committee, the Finance Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Transportation Committee. He opposed the increased growth of charter schools arguing that they undermined public education and fought to control the lax gun control laws that made it easy to obtain firearms in the state.

Marsh left the Senate in 2014 after being appointed to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. He was given the appointment by then Governor Terry McAuliffe. He served as a Commissioner on the Board.

In addition to his legislative duties, Marsh co-founded the Richmond Renaissance and the Metropolitan Economic Development Council. He served as President of the National Black Caucus of Elected Official and was a member of the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities.

Always concerned about the education of Richmond's public schools, he formed the Support Committee for Excellence in the Public Schools. He also established the New Millennium Leadership Institute and the Unity Day Celebration Committee. In addition, Marsh served as Chairman of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission for Virginia and hosts Richmond's Annual Juneteenth Celebration, a day of remembrance when the state of Texas finally agreed to give their slaves their freedom and the U.S. Constitution amendments were signed making slavery illegal.

In his honor, and the honor of his slain brother, Harold, the city of Richmond named the Manchester Courthouse in their honor. The city allocated \$23 million for new renovations to the Courthouse as well. Also, city streets were given the names of the Marsh brothers. Harold Marsh, a prominent Richmond attorney had been gunned down while stopped for a traffic light by a disgruntled city resident in 1997.



## LESRA MARTIN

...was born in 1963 in Bushwick, New York to Alma and Earl Martin. Suffering an injury, Earl was unable to work and the family was forced to move from the comforts of Queens to the streets and drama of Bed-

ford-Stuyvesant and Bushwick, two of the most violent sections of New York City. Thing got worse when his parents introduced alcohol to the equation. Dysfunctional and in poverty, the family became homeless.

Martin was the second eldest son of eight children. By the time Martin reached the age of ten, he was already working, bagging groceries at the local market and sweeping floors a local bar. In order for his family to make it, everyone worked, including him. He attended school regularly but he was quasi-illiterate. Martin would be sixteen years old before he got a good grasp of his educational possibilities.

Realizing his potential, a group of Canadian entrepreneurs offered to finance his education but he would have to study in Canada. He accepted their offer and graduated high school in Ontario in 1983. He received a B.A. degree, with Honours, in Anthropology from the University of Toronto.

For a very short time, Martin studied in the doctoral program at the University of Toronto majoring in Sociology. Not liking the rigorous nature of the program, he withdrew. He then made application to several of the top law programs in Canada for admission. He chose to earn his degree from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia in 1997.

Martin's most notable legal case was that of former boxer, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. After reading Carter's autobiography, *The Sixteenth Round*, Martin became intrigued with the case. He would ultimately work on the Carter case longer and harder than any other case he ever had.

In 1980, Martin wrote a letter to Carter, imprisoned in a Trenton, New Jersey prison in connection with a 1966 triple-homicide that had occurred at a local bar in Paterson, New Jersey. Carter agreed to meet to discuss his case. After meeting and speaking with Carter, Martin believed Carter did not commit the murders. He was able to

get a group of Toronto sympathizers to join his cause of getting a new trial for Carter and to get him released from prison.

Carter won a retrial in 1982 but was again convicted. An appeal was filed. He lost the appeal as well. Not defeated and still believing in Carter's innocence, Martin and his group of Canadian sympathizers continued their legal battle in the courts to have Carter released.

In February of 1983, the Martin and his team filed for proceedings that resulted in Carter being released. They were finally able to present to the courts enough evidence to free Carter. In 1985, after serving twenty-two years in prison for murders that he did not commit, Carter was released. After his release, Martin and Carter would remain friends until Carter's death in 2014.

Years later, Hurricane Carter's story would be told in a motion picture movie starring famed actor Denzel Washington, *"The Hurricane"*. The movie does not give adequate justice to the reality and tragedy of the imprisonment of Hurricane Carter. A book would also be written, *"Lazarus and the Hurricane"*, that highlights Martin's and Carter's journey together.

With the release of the Carter film, in an attempt to spread the story of what happened to Carter, Martin appeared on several national TV talk shows, including CNN, Larry King Live, and The Oprah Winfrey Show. As a tribute to his dedicated pursuit of freeing Hurricane Carter, as well as his other legal successes, the National Film Board produced, *"The Journey of Lesra Martin"*, which depicts Martin's life.

The documentary was screened at film festivals throughout Canada and the rest of the world. It was shown at the Hollywood Black Film Festival, the Black Film Festival in San Francisco, California; the Urban Literary Film Festival in Greensboro, North Carolina; and the 24th International Durban Film Festival in Durban, South Africa.

Martin was once invited to speak before the General Assembly delegates of the United Nations. He spoke about illiteracy and poverty and their devastating effects on the communities. He gave a passionate speech of the inadequacies surrounding these two societal ills. Martin was well received by the General Assembly delegates. He repeated those words to world leaders at a meeting at Cambridge University, Cambridge, England.

He has appeared in print in several publications, including *Reader's Digest Magazine*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. He was awarded the Ohio YMCA Black Achievers Partner in Excellence Award as well.



Photo Not Available



## MARTIN ARMSTRONG MARTIN

..was born on July 24, 1910 in Danville, Virginia to Hattie Inge and Romey Orlando Martin. After graduating high school, he entered the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio to obtain his undergraduate degree. He then enrolled

into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law where he earned his law degree. At Howard, he would meet his future law partners Oliver Hill and Spottswood Robinson.

In 1938, Martin was admitted to the Virginia bar. He opened a law firm in Danville and began his general law practice. He represented black teachers in their lawsuits against the local school district seeking equal pay and served as legal counsel to the Danville Savings Bank. The bank was the oldest black owned financial bank in the state. Martin, in his pursuit of equal rights, became the head of the local office for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In 1941, Martin rose to national prominence when he took on the appellate case of Odell Waller. Waller, a twenty-five black man was found guilty of the killing of his white landlord, Wheldon Davis. Waller claimed self-defense but was found guilty by an all white jury and was sentenced to die. During that time in Virginia, in order to sit on a jury, one had to pay a poll tax, which effectively omitted blacks from participating in jury trials.

There became a national outcry to spare Waller's life organized by a socialist labor rights organization. Both then President Franklin Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt joined in on the appeal. The President even spoke to Virginia Governor Colgate Darden on Waller's behalf. Nonetheless, Waller was executed on July 2, 1942.

In 1942, Martin married Maria Estelle Wright. They bore no children and were divorced after five years of marriage. He would later marry Ruth Martin who died in 1978.

In 1943, Martin was named as a trial attorney to the United States Department of Justice. He was the first African American to serve as a trial attorney. After one year, dissatisfied with litigating cases involving immigrants, Martin resigned from the department.

Martin then joined forces with fellow law school classmates and attorneys Oliver Hill and Spottswood Robinson

to form a new law firm, the Richmond law firm of Hill, Martin and Robinson. Together, they took on civil rights cases handed to them by the NAACP to litigate in Virginia. Martin served as the firm's criminal specialist.

In 1950, Martin and his fellow attorneys took on the case of the Martinsville Seven on appeal. In the case, Ruby Stroud Floyd accuses thirteen black men of raping her as she travelled through a poor black neighborhood. Of the thirteen men named in the case, only seven of them were tried for the rape charge. The judge in the case, Judge Kennon C. Whittle agreed to try each of the accusers separately. Martin argued that there was consensual sex and the confessions made were forced from the Sheriff. All seven of the young men, ages 18 to 20 except for one 37 year old man were found guilty and sentenced for execution. Martin and his team were able to get a stay of execution from then Governor William M. Tuck as well as a writ of error from the Virginia Supreme Court.

The appeal case was tried personally by then Virginia State Attorney General J. Lindsay Almond, Jr.. In preparing for the appeal case, Almond vetoed all black jurors selecting instead an all white, all male jury to hear the case. In his presentation to the Appellate Court, Almond asked the Court to admit and accept the confessions of the accusers, uphold the convictions and to permit the executions to be carried out. The Court ruled in Almonds favor. Martin immediately filed a petition for review and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) became involved.

Governor John S. Battle issued another reprieve for Waller's execution and the case headed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Over the next year, all involved awaited the Courts ruling. The U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling denying certiorari, i.e., requesting a record of the case for review. Martin appealed again and once more the Court denied hearing the case. All further actions that Martin made to save the lives of the seven men became futile. All seven of the accusers were executed.

Martin would go on to represent other civil rights cases including cases involving desegregating public schools and the states position on "Massive Resistance" ruled unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court sided with Martin and called an end to the harassment of attorneys working for the NAACP, which was a part of the Massive Resistance campaign. Martin would continue his work on civil rights issues and to fight for equal justice for black Virginians and African Americans across the country.

On April 27, 1963, Martin suffered a massive heart attack and died at his Richmond home. He was fifty-three years old.



## WILLIAM "BILLY" MARTIN

...was born on October 29, 1949 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as one of eight children. He grew up in Sewickley, a borough of four-thousand located on the Ohio River twelve miles from Pittsburgh. Martin's father,

Felton, migrated from Augusta, Georgia and worked the steel mills. Martin's mother, Isabelle, was from Lynchburg, Virginia stayed at home to raise the family, occasionally working for the "upper crust" families in the area. Martin credits his parents with instilling in him a sense of hard work and punctuality.

Martin attended Quaker Valley High School Which Was ranked as one of the best schools in the country. He lettered in football, baseball, basketball and track. He aspired to earn an M.B.A. degree and become a marketing executive. To help pay his way, he got a job at a local country club, saved his money and enrolled into Howard University in Washington D.C., returning home during semester breaks to work in the mills to pay his tuition.

During his junior year of college, Martin married Toni, a home town girl and an accounting major. A year later, their first child, Nikki, was born. After graduation, the family moved top Cincinnati, Ohio when Martin landed a scholarship. After receiving his B.A. degree from Howard University in 1973, in 1976, he accepted a scholarship to study law at the University of Cincinnati, where he earned his J.D..

For the next fifteen years, Martin worked in various governmental positions. From 1976 to 1978, he served as Assistant City Prosecutor for the City of Cincinnati. From 1978 to 1980, he was Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Ohio. From 1980 to 1984, he served as Special Attorney in the Organized Crime Strike Force in San Francisco. From 1984 to 1988, he was the Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and from 1988 to 1990, the Executive Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Martin began private practice in 1990, as a partner with Eckert Seamans in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They represented all three major Pittsburgh sports franchises. It was

there that Martin first began defending famous athletes and that he met his mentor, the late Johnny Cochran.

In 1993, Martin represented National Basketball Association star, Allen Iverson, before moving to the firm of William R. Martin & Associates in Washington, D.C., a year later. From 1997 to 2000, Martin worked as a partner in the litigation department of Manatt Phelps & Phillips. In 1998, he defended Monica Lewinsky and her mother, Marcia Lewis, during President Clinton's impeachment proceedings. For Lewinsky, he was able to block a second grand jury appearance and obtain an offer of blanket immunity.

In 2000, Martin moved to the firm of Dyer Ellis & Joseph, which merged with Blank Rome in 2003. While there, Martin took on even more high profile cases, such as, defending Chandra Levy's parents in her 2002 disappearance and murder Case. He also defended former NBA player Jayson Williams in a 2004 first-degree manslaughter trial of which he was acquitted, and defended former Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell in a 2004 racketeering, bribery and wire fraud case. Campbell was convicted of three counts of tax fraud, but acquitted on racketeering and bribery charges.

From 2007 to 2009, Martin led the "white-collar" criminal defense group at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan. In 2007, he defended National Football League's Atlanta Falcon quarterback, Michael Vick in his dog fighting charges, and in 2008, he represented Senator Larry Craig in efforts to overturn his disorderly conduct conviction. In addition to his celebrity clients, Martin also defended many Fortune 500 companies. In May 2009, Martin joined Howrey LLP in their Washington, D.C. office, where he became head of their White Collar Criminal Defense Practice.

In 2010, Martin represented Maryland's Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson in his bribery and corruption case. Johnson was convicted and sentenced to eight-sever months in prison.

In 2012, he decided to start his own firm. Martin, ranked fourth in *"The Washingtonian's"* list of *"Top Lawyers"* and selected as one of the *National Law Journal's*, *"50 Most Influential Minority Attorneys,"* is also the recipient of the *Distinguished Alumni Award* from both Howard University and University of Cincinnati College of Law.

In addition to being one of the most prominent attorneys in the U.S. in 2016, he is an Emmy Award winning American journalist having correspondent duties with ABC News and National Public Radio. In addition, he is a member of the Board of the American Arbitration Association.



Photo Not Available



## LOUIS ANDRÉ MARTINET

...was born on December 28, 1849 in St. Martinville, Louisiana to Marie Louise Benoit and Hipolite Martinet. His mother was a freed slave and his father was a Belgian carpenter. By

the age of twenty-three, he had become a Louisiana State Representative from St. Martin Parish serving from 1872 to 1875. After serving in the state legislature, Martinet took and passed the Louisiana Bar.

Although he had already passed the state bar, in 1876 Martinet graduated from Straight University Law School, now Dillard University in New Orleans. He was a member of the first graduating class of the school's law school. With both his law degree in hand and having passed the state bar, Martinet set out to apply his legal craft.

In 1877, Martinet was a member of the Orleans Parish School Board. Two years later, then Governor Samuel Douglas McEnery appointed him to the Board of Trustees at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He sat on the Board for eight years.

In 1882, Martinet was appointed as Clerk in Collector of Customs Office. A year later, he became the Deputy Surveyor for Port of New Orleans. In 1885, he assumed the position of Carrier in U.S. Post Office. Throughout each post, Martinet made political connections and support from his advocates.

In 1888, Martinet began to offer notary services. He would offer that service throughout his legal career. He was politically active involved in issues surrounding civil rights at the end of America's Reconstruction period. From this political stance, Martinet began publishing a weekly daily newspaper.

*The Crusader*, launched in 1889, was created to chronicle the civil rights struggles that were occurring in the U.S. at the time. In 1891, he and several other community activist founded the Comité des Citoyens, better known as the Citizens' Committee. The Committee was comprised of New Orleans' most upper elite of blacks. They formulated a strategy to challenge racial segregation through the U.S. courts.

In the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, in which the Court ruled constitutional the "separate but equal" Louisiana state legislation, Martinet was a the forefront of the legal challenge. Although they lost the Supreme Court decision, the *Plessy* case became the spearhead for the overturn of that ruling years later. The orchestrated arrest of *Plessy* by Martinet and his team, laid the foundation for the dismantling of the 1890 Louisiana Separate Car Act.

In 1882, he met and married Leona Miller. A native of New Orleans, Leona was a professor at Southern University. Together they had two children. They divorced years later.

For the years that followed, Martinet crafted his journalistic, political and legal businesses acumen. *The Crusader* was doing well and his notary business did well as well. With client donations and his trade business, Martinet was able to devote his time and money to the struggles of the black communities.

By 1894, Martinet and his fellow civil rights advocates were still organizing. They collectively and politically worked to protect the rights of the black citizens of New Orleans and the surrounding areas. Although the exact date is not known, during this time, Martinet would earn a degree in Medicine from Flint Medical College in New Orleans.

Metinet received an offer, in 1894, from President Rutherford B. Hayes, whereby the President would pay Martinet an annual stipend of \$1,200 for three years if he would leave the country to live in Paris, France. Although, Martinet direly needed the money, he declined Hayes offer, choosing to stay in America, publish his newspaper and continue his fight for his civil rights and those of others.

Metinet's achievements and dedicated legal fight for the rights of others was recognized when, on May 13, 1957, the New Orleans Times Picayune Newspaper announced the establishment of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. The organization comprises African-American legal professionals formed to focus on the issues surrounding African Americans and the law.



## **D**EBORA MATLOCK

...received her and her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Political Science from Chicago, Illinois's Loyola University. She obtained her law degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois with

campuses also located in Chicago. After earning her law degree, Matlock took and passed state bar.

Matlock began her professional career as a staff attorney at the Allstate Insurance Company. She then accepted a job with Microsoft as a Licensing Account Executive. After serving for a period of time as an Account Executive at Microsoft, she became the Director of Contracts and Strategic Alliances at Motorola.

Matlock then moved to FMC Corporation with headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the Corporate Contracts Manager. At FMC, she oversaw the company's food and beverage contracts, its' agricultural solutions negotiations, and other business related issues. She assisted Honeywell in negotiating its' avionics and defense contracts with the federal government.

Matlock served as the Director of Contracts for Rockwell Automation having headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At Rockwell, she created the company's contracts department. She reorganized the systems being utilized and created online systems and databases to manage software services contracts, which made it easier to procure the products and services needed by the company to conduct their every day business. Her worldwide systematic approach to review contracts and to negotiate, approve, and award contracts was adopted by the company for its' international buyers.

In 2006, Matlock took a job with the State of Illinois as the General Counsel to the Department of Central Management Services. She then moved to the Department of Children and Family Services. She left Central Management to accept the position as the Deputy Director, Procurement, Contracts and Strategic Sourcing.

Matlock is an expert in contracts and transactions involve procurement and vendor payments. Her knowledge of strategic business alliances and counseling manage-

ment teams responsible for product and services acquisitions has given her an invaluable position with the State of Illinois and in her private practice legal advice given to her clients. Matlock currently serves as the Director of Purchasing for the University of Illinois at Chicago.

She serves the National Bar Association's philanthropic arm by sitting on its' Executive Board of the National Bar Institute. She has served as the organization's Vice President of the Board of Governors and has Chaired its' Corporate Law Section. Matlock has also served as the Chair of the Women Lawyers Division.

She has served on the Board of Directors of the National Able Network and is a member of the Science and Technology Section to the American Bar Association. She also served as a convener of seminars and panelist to various companies and organization speaking on corporate law, technology licensing, and business transactions.



## GREGORY ELLIS MATHIS

...was born on April 5, 1960 in Detroit, Michigan to Alice Lee Mathis and Charles Mathis. His mother worked a housekeeper and nurse's aid. His parents had divorced before he was born so he was raised by his mother, a devoted Seventh-day Adventist.

When he reached his teenage years, Mathis rejected his mother's more strict lifestyle and became influenced with street gangs. He soon joined one, the Errol Flynn's, a notorious Detroit street gang. With his gang activity increasing, he knew he was headed down a deadly path. After being arrested numerous times and being kicked out of multiple high schools, there seemed no future for Mathis.

While in jail serving time for another one of his gang related crimes, his mother paid him a visit. She shared with him a fact that instantly changed his life. She told him she had been diagnosed with colon cancer and knew she would die and wanted more for him than being in jail. Her visit and illness changed his perspective on life and what he was doing with his own. Offered probation if he passed the high school equivalent G.E.D. exam in six months, Mathis went to class and changed his life.

While working at a local McDonald's fast food restaurant as a part of his probation, he studied to pass the G.E.D. After he completed his high school requirements, a family friend reached out to help him enroll in Eastern Michigan University (EMU). Located in Ypsilanti, Michigan, Mathis graduated from the university with a B.S. degree in Public Administration. While at EMU, he became actively involved with the Democratic Party, where he organized demonstrations protesting South African Apartheid policies. In 1987, he finished his studies at the University of Detroit Mercy. While attaining his degrees, Mathis became a member of the fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha.

Mathis began his legal career taking a position as an unpaid intern. He ultimately worked his way from that intern position to becoming an Assistant to City Council member, Clyde Cleveland. While interning, he was admitted to the University of Detroit's School of Law.

After completing law school, Mathis was not allowed to practice law. Because of his criminal teenage past as a gang member, he could not obtain his Michigan state bar license. Unable to practice law, Mathis turned his attention to politics.

He accepted the head position of Jessie Jackson's 1988 Presidential campaign for the state of Michigan. He later ran the successful mayoral campaign of Mayor Coleman Young, the first African-American Mayor of Detroit. For his efforts, Coleman appointed Mathis to run Detroit's east side city hall.

In 1995, Mathis ran and was elected as a District Court Judge for Michigan's 36th District. As a gesture of gratitude to those that had voted for him, he gave away up to \$92 to the first 92 drivers in free gasoline from a local Detroit Mobil gas station. This was his way of giving thanks to those that voted to elect him despite his criminal past. In being elected, he became the youngest person, at thirty-five years old, to ever hold the post. During his tenure at the Court, of all judges serving in the 36th District, Mathis was rated in the top five.

In 1995, Mathis was given an opportunity to take his style of adjudication to the TV airwaves as host judge of his own reality court TV show. On September 29, 1999, the first episode of the Judge Mathis show aired. Known for his sense of humor in hearing his arbitration cases, Mathis many times shares with the litigants and viewers his personal triumphs from street gang member to becoming a judge and how they too can overcome societal setbacks to achieve their desired goals.

Mathis' courtroom style on the show soon won him great viewer support. As his TV and national entertainment prominence grew, he was sought out to speak on current issues involving black youth and societal ills. His TV show would go on to win a PRISM Commendation which is presented to entertainers who are actively involved in addressing drug abuse issues and seek remedies for their concerns. While running his very successful court TV show, Mathis remained active in local and national politics.

Years later, Detroit elected Kwame Kilpatrick as its Mayor. After being indicted for perjury, conspiracy, obstruction of justice and misconduct in office charges, Mathis called for the resignation of Kilpatrick. He spoke out against allegations that he had co-founded the establishment of a legal defense fund on Kilpatrick's behalf. Mathis, although asked by Kilpatrick to be a part of his defense team, declined and made his position public by demanding Kilpatrick step down. In March of 2013, Kilpatrick was convicted on twenty-four federal felony counts and sentenced to twenty-eight years in federal prison.

Mathis despite his enormous TV success continues to be involved in urban politics and issues surrounding the black communities across America, including those in his beloved Detroit. A published author, *"Of Being a Judge to Criminals and Such"*, Mathis desires to empower young black girls and boys is unquestionable. He also wrote a novel called *"Street Judge"*. His focus on the well being of those that have come before his bench was recognized when President Barack Obama invited Mathis to be a part of the President's White House Initiative to give power to boys and men of color.

Judge Mathis has been married to his wife, Linda Reese since they first met as college students at Eastern Michigan University in 1985. They have four children together. As a role model to many young black adults, Mathis stands as a testimony to hard work, being a good family man, husband and father, with values that are protective of himself, his family and the communities he cares about.





## CASSANDRA MAXWELL

...grew up in a privileged household and her family was known in social circles. She was one of six children born to John Moreau Maxwell, an Orangeburg, South Carolina merchant that owned a local grocery

store that was popular in both the black and white community. As a child, she was keenly aware of what her social status brought her but looked more toward how to help others overcome the economic and social limitations that African Americans faced in Orangeburg.

She began her undergraduate degree at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia before attending Orangeburg's Claflin University. Maxwell earned her law degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law. After passing the South Carolina State Bar exam, she became the first African American woman to be admitted to practice law in the state of South Carolina.

Although there was a call for more African American lawyers to enter the profession, Maxwell chose to accept a faculty position with the Law School at South Carolina State University. She would remain with the law school for the next ten years teaching courses in credit transactions, contracts, pleadings and moot court training.

Her father became ill so Maxwell had to give time assisting her brother in maintaining the family grocery store business. In 1951, she left Orangeburg and moved to Atlanta, Georgia where her new husband, Dr. James Hope Birnie, worked as a Biology Professor at Morehouse College. Maxwell set up shop and found plenty of clients to service. The city was buzzing with discrimination in housing cases, domestic violence cases, and unfair employment practices.

Maxwell joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was able to assist Thurgood Marshall in several cases. After nine years in Atlanta, Maxwell moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She joined the Pennsylvania Bar and set up practice in Philadelphia. She became an advocate for social causes and community affairs and gave unwavering service to local organizations, including the Fair Housing and Jobs for Youth, the Children's United

Fund, the League of Women Voters, the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Urban League, and the Communities Advisory Board of Housing and Urban Development.

Maxwell served as a Philadelphia Fellowship Commissioner for the Women's Division. She was active in the Republican Party and was appointed by then President Nixon as a member of the Interim Board of Directors of the Student Loan Marketing Association. Maxwell later won the nomination in the Republican primary as a candidate for a judgeship in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas but was unsuccessful.

Cassandra Maxwell died in Philadelphia in 1974.



## M WILLIAM E. McANULTY, JR.

...was born on October 9, 1947. He graduated from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. He received his undergraduate degree from Indiana University in Bloomington and obtained his Juris Doc-

torate degree from the University of Louisville School of Law in Louisville, Kentucky.

McAnulty began his judicial career in 1975 when he accepted a seat on the Louisville Juvenile Court. Two years later he ran for a seat as a Jefferson County District Court Judge. He won that election. In 1980, then Governor John Y. Brown, Jr. tapped McAnulty as the State Justice Secretary. With this appointment, McAnulty became the first African American to hold a cabinet level position in the state of Kentucky. Realizing that the post would cause him to spend far too much time away from his family, McAnulty resigned from the appointment. Governor Brown subsequently re-appointed McAnulty to his former position on the District Court.

In 1983, McAnulty ran and was elected to the Circuit Court. While sitting on the Court, he became the presiding Judge of one of the most highly profiled cases of his career when he had to rule on the 1986 Trinity murder cases. In those cases, two high school students were kidnapped, shot, and killed on their way to a high school football game. The highly emotional case ended in a guilty verdict for the killers. Being found guilty of the charges of kidnapping, robbery, sodomy and murder, the death penalty was recommended as punishment. McAnulty, despite his moral opposition of the death penalty sentenced one of the killers, the shooter, to death. The other received a life sentence in prison.

In 1990, moved from the bench to private practice. He joined the law firm of Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald. In 1993, McAnulty had a change of heart about serving in the Circuit Court. He was re-elected back to the Court, this time as its' Chief Justice. He also served in the Jefferson County District Court. In 1997, he was given the "Henry V. Pennington Outstanding Judge of the Year" by the Kentucky Trial Attorneys Association.

In 1998, McAnulty was appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals. Representing the Fourth Appellate District, he would write over 750 opinions.

In 2006, then Governor Ernie Fletcher picked McAnulty to fill a seat on the Kentucky Supreme Court. In the upcoming November 2006 general election and after being recognized by his peers for his outstanding public, community, and judicial leadership, McAnulty received a "Highly Qualified" rating from them in a Louisville Bar Association poll. That was the highest ranking amongst the three Supreme Court candidates running for the seat. McAnulty won the election and the full eight-year term and remained on the Court.

A long time supporter of the Legal Aid Society of Louisville, McAnulty, in the organization's November 2007 dedication ceremony to open their new offices, was one of the spokespersons on hand to celebrate the organization's milestone. Having become the Chair of the Board of Louisville's Metro United Way, McAnulty used his position with the United Way to help the Legal Aid Society establish their HIV/AIDS legal advocate program.

McAnulty, in June of 2007, was diagnosed with lung cancer. Blaming the illness on his forty-year smoking habit, the cancer had spread to his brain. Not one to blame anyone for his own decisions, before going into surgery to remove a lesion on the base of his brain, he jokingly asked the neurosurgeon if, "will this make me a UK fan or affect my political outlook"? Being assured that the surgery would do neither, McAnulty enter the operating room and the surgery was performed.

During his tenure on in the Court's, McAnulty has been given numerous awards and accolades. He has received the Henry Pennington Outstanding Judge of the Year, the Leadership Louisville Thomas Simons Award, the Louisville Bar Association Judge of the Year, and the Metro United Way Allen Society Leadership Award. He has served many local, state, and national organizations including as Chairman of Learning Matters, Inc. and Chairman of Metro United Way. He served as President of Bridgehaven, Inc. and President of the Renaissance Development Corporation.

Unfortunately for McAnulty, he later fell and broke his collarbone. Unable to carry his day-to-day duties on the Court, he stepped down from the bench that August. With his health continuing to dwindle, William E. McAnulty, Jr. died in his Louisville home on August 23, 2007. He was fifty-nine years old. In his honor, a bust of him was commissioned and unveiled in the rotunda of the State Capitol in Frankfort.





## VERONICA S. McBETH

...was born in San Diego, California although she was reared in Los Angeles, California. She attended schools in the Los Angeles area before enrolling into California State University, Los Angeles where she obtained

her undergraduate degree in 1972. To earn her law degree, she entered the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), which she received in 1975.

To begin her legal career, McBETH accepted a job in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. For the office, she served as a trial deputy. After working for a year for the City Attorney's Office, McBETH moved to other municipal offices for Los Angeles city government before landing the job as an assistant supervising attorney in Van Nuys. She then became the leader of the city's domestic violence program.

In 1981, McBETH was named by then Governor Jerry Brown as a Judge to the Los Angeles Municipal Court. While serving on the bench, she chaired the Court's Courts and the Public Committee. She initiated the First Impressions Project, a project created to provide elementary school children with an opportunity to tour the courts and to get a glimpse of the court system and the activities that occur in the courts. The program was designed with the hopes of making a positive impression on the school children that may make them better citizens.

For the Municipal Court, McBETH chaired the Judicial Council's Special Task Force on Court/Community Outreach where in 1998, she was awarded the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence from the National Center for State Courts. The then serving Chief Justice presented the award to her at the Supreme Court. In 1998, McBETH was appointed as the Municipal Court's Presiding Judge.

In 1987, the national spotlight shed its light on McBETH when she ruled in the case of Beverly Hills neurosurgeon and landlord Milton Avol, sentencing him to thirty days of house arrest for the run down conditions of the apartment buildings that he owned. Not wanting to be labeled a slum lord, Avol appealed his case to the Appellate Court claiming the sentence was too harsh and unauthorized. The Appellate Court ruled that the adjudicated sentence was fair and fell within the discretion of the lower court. That case brought new legislation specifically aimed at other slum lord owners

and similar sentences were later handed out by the Municipal Court.

McBETH would also chair the National Conference on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts. For her service as chair, she was presented with the Community County Service Award. The award is given annually by the Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law.

In 1988, McBETH became the Chairwoman of the county-wide Municipal Court Judges Association. For the association, she was involved in the court's administrative duties and oversaw the Court's community outreach. She also handled the association's legal bar activities and responsibilities.

In 1996, McBETH served as a Supervising Judge for the Municipal Court's Criminal Division. In that role, she oversaw the civil side of the Court's legal matters. She served as the Supervising Judge for one year.

During that time, there was a push for unification between the California courts. McBETH became a leading supporter of the unification cause. She led a successful merger vote, supported by the Municipal Court Judges but opposed by her Superior Court colleagues. After three attempts to get the measure passed, the Superior Court Judges relented and the unification measure was implemented. During that time, for her persistence in leading the Court, the John Langston Bar Association named her as the "Bernard F. Jefferson Judge of the Year."

In 2000, as a result of unification that McBETH assisted in bringing forth, she was appointed as a Judge to the California Superior Court. As a Judge on the Superior Court, McBETH instituted procedures to assist in the enforcement of court orders issued for homeowners to make repairs and improvements on substandard housing. She also called for improvements to the Superior Court facilities. McBETH retired from the Court in 2004.

In retirement, Judge McBETH gave time to the Assigned Judges Program. The program is designed to assign retired judges temporary jurisdictional power to hear cases in the event the courts have a backlog of cases or a Judge is not able to perform their duties for varied reasons. She also gave time to the Black Women Lawyers Association of California, serving as President. She also served as the Vice President of California Women Lawyers.



## EDWIN P. McCABE

...was born on October 10, 1850 in Troy, New York. When he was a child, his family moved to Fall River, Massachusetts for a period of time before relocating to Newport, Rhode Island. The family would finally

settle in Bangor, Maine.

While in school, his father died and was forced to stop his studies to work to help support the family. As he got older, he left Maine and moved to New York City, New York where he found work on New York's Wall Street. After working in New York, in 1872, McCabe relocated to Chicago, Illinois where he obtained a job as a clerk for Potter Palmer, a prominent businessman credited with the development of Chicago's State Street. It was in Chicago that McCabe earned his law degree. He was then was appointed as a clerk in the Cook County, Illinois office of the U.S. Treasury Department.

In 1878, McCabe left Chicago for Nicodemus, Kansas. He worked as a private practicing attorney for two years before being appointed as a County Clerk in Graham County. In the following election, he was elected to a full term. Following serving as a County Clerk, McCabe, at the age of thirty-two, was elected as a Kansas State Auditor. He became the first African American to hold the office, was also the highest ranking black since Reconstruction, and was elected to two terms.

After failing to win a third election as State Auditor, McCabe moved to Washington, D.C. and lobbied then President Benjamin Harrison to become the Governor of the new territory of Oklahoma. Although he was not appointed as Governor, nonetheless, McCabe moved to the new territory hoping to establish a majority-black state that would be free of white domination. Arriving in Oklahoma, he would found, along with two others, the city of Langston hoping to attract other blacks to follow him and his hopes of independent governance. McCabe and his partners acquired a 320-acre tract of land and made plans to create the black settlement. Not long after establishing the town, McCabe was appointed as the first Treasurer of Logan County, Oklahoma.

The town of Langston was named after an African American Virginia Congressman John Mercer Langston who had pledged support of a black college if the town was built. In 1897, the Colored Agricultural and Normal School was opened, which was later renamed Langston University. The city then began to draw black settlers moving to Oklahoma's Indian Territory looking for a better life free of the segregated southern states. McCabe encouraged the immigration of blacks hoping to bring in enough blacks to outnumber whites, which would create a majority rule for blacks.

McCabe then began to lobby for Oklahoma to become an all-black state. He predicted that within several years, Oklahoma would produce state legislators and even would produce U.S. Senators. Local and national newspapers began to publish articles showcasing McCabe's ideals and blacks began to migrate from other states to Oklahoma. Between 1900 and 1907 when Oklahoma finally became a state, the black population in Oklahoma doubled. Blacks began to own large farms and other small towns sprung up which were controlled by blacks.

Despite the growth in black population, black majority rule in Oklahoma was not realized in Langston, nearby Tulsa soon became the hub for black wealth. More farmers were opting to leave their farms moving to Tulsa to open more urban businesses and became a part of Tulsa's Black Wall Street. Although McCabe was not successful in his attempts for creating a black majority rule town, he is credited with giving African Americans a platform to call for equal rights and to address the racial inequalities that persisted in American culture.

Edwin P. McCabe would eventually return to Chicago where he died on March 12, 1920. He was sixty-nine years old. He was interned in Topeka, Kansas.



## WILLIAM ANDREW McCLAIN

...was born on January 11, 1913 in Sanford, North Carolina to Blanche Leslie and Frank McClain. He graduated with honors from Springfield High School in 1930 before entering local Springfield Wittenberg University where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1934. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1937 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He would go on to obtain two LL.D. degrees. The first was earned in 1963 Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio and his second LL.D. degree was earned at the University of Cincinnati, in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1971.

In 1943, McClain enlisted into the United States Army. Having his law degree in hand allowed him to serve as a Judge Advocate in the General's Branch. He would leave the Army after having received an Army Commendation Award for distinguished service.

After leaving the Army, McClain returned to Cincinnati where he opened his own law firm. He passed the Ohio State Bar exam becoming the first African American member of the Cincinnati Bar Association. In 1947, he also became the first African American member of the Cincinnati Lawyers Club

In 1963, he accepted the job as the City Solicitor for the City of Cincinnati. He was one of the most well known Solicitors and was the first African American to serve at such a high level in the municipality and the first City Solicitor of any major city in the United States. He served as City Solicitor for nine years.

McClain then entered private practice and joined law firm of Keating, Muething & Klekamp in 1972. A year later he began his own law firm. He partnered with fellow attorney Theodore M. Berry with whom he would remain partners with for the next twenty years.

In 1975, while serving as lecturer to law schools, both locally and nationally, McClain was elected as a Judge in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. He was the first African American to be named a Judge of the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court. He served on the Court for one year. He then became a Judge on the Municipal Court of Hamilton County where he served for four years through 1980.

In 1980, Judge McClain joined the law firm of Manley Burke. He would remain with the firm for more than 20 years. That same year, McClain became the Director of Legal Services for the Village of Lincoln Heights. He served as Director twice, first from 1980 to 1987 and again from 1994 to 2003. In 2003, he left Manley Burke.

In 1994, as a gesture to McClain's dedication to the law, the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati established the William A. McClain Scholarship. The scholarship was designed to award a Cincinnati minority resident the opportunity to further the legal pursuits at any accredited law school in the United States. The student had to be qualified and have demonstrated community leadership

and have shown a dedication to the local community. The law firm of Keating, Muething & Klekamp were the donors of the scholarship funds.

Judge McClain participated in the affairs of his alma mater Wittenberg University. He served on Board of Directors and as President the Wittenberg Alumni Association. For his alma mater, the University of Michigan Law School, he was a member of the Committee of Visitors. For the students of the law schools, he mentored them, hoping to make an impression that would give them confidence and a sense of integrity when applying the rules of law.

McClain was a fraternal member of the Scottish Rite Masonry. He would become a 33rd degree Mason and the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio. He was pivotal in the expansion of the fraternal order and founded the Progressive Black Masonry Movement within the Masons and the Order of Eastern Star, a fraternal organization opened to both men and women.

He was also a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He rose through the ranks of the organization to become the National President (Grand Sire Archon) of the Alpha Delta Boule. In his role as President, McClain worked to bring together black businesses and professionals having a common bond that had obtained a college degree and had distinguished themselves in their given professions and civic affairs. McClain also served as a Trustee to the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.

McClain has been awarded many highly coveted awards during his career. He was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Mallory Center for Community Development awarded him its' History Maker Award. He received the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce's Great Living Cincinnati Award and his crowning moment came when his alma mater, Wittenberg University established "The William A. McClain Culture House" in his honor. For his over fifty years of legal service, McClain received the John L. Muething Lifetime Achievement in Law.

McClain served as a member of numerous legal organizations. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Bar Association. He is also a member of the National Bar Association, and the Ohio State Bar Association. He is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a member of the American Judicature Society, the Cincinnati Bar Foundation, and the Lawyers Club of Cincinnati.

McClain has served as a member of several fraternal organizations including the Alpha Delta Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. For the fraternity, he served as Grand Sire Archon. McClain was a 33 degree Mason and a Shriner. For the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he was a lifetime member. He also served his church, the Allen Temple A.M.E. Church.

After retiring from practicing law, McClain lived happily serving his local community, engaging in lively political and legal debates, and attending Boulé meetings. He continued to mentor young up and coming attorneys, trying to make a difference in their lives and to give them direction in the professional pursuits. Most importantly, McClain enjoyed the fact that he reached a milestone that very few attain, that of being a centenarian.

William McClain died on February 4, 2014. He was one hundred and one years old.





## WADE HAMPTON McCREE, JR.

...was born on July 3, 1920 in Des Moines, Iowa to Lucretia Harper McCree and Wade Hampton McCree, Sr.. His father, a Fisk University graduate was the first African-American pharmacist

and pharmacy owner in the state of Iowa. He also became the first African-American Narcotics Inspector for the Food and Drug Administration.

Although born in Iowa, due to McCree Sr.'s federal employment, the family lived in Honolulu, Hawaii, Chicago, Illinois, and eventually in Boston, Massachusetts where McCree, Jr. grew up and attended the prestigious Boston Latin School. Upon graduation, he followed in his father's footsteps and worked his way through Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. While at Fisk, he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa society and graduated in 1941, Summa Cum Laude.

After graduation, McCree completed his military duties serving in the United States Army for four years reaching the rank of Captain. While in the Army, he fought in three of the Italian battles of World War II representing the segregated yet historic Buffalo Soldier's units. Returning from the Army, he entered Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He graduated in 1948, twelfth in his class.

McCree and his wife, Does then moved to Detroit, Michigan, her hometown where they raised three children. Despite impressive academic credentials and a recommendation from the Dean of Harvard Law School, he could not gain rightful employment with any of the prestigious law firms in Detroit. To begin practicing law, McCree, from 1948 to 1952, joined Bledsoe & Taylor, a legendary black law firm. In 1953, he was appointed to the Michigan Workman's Compensation Commission by then Governor G. Mennen Williams. Thus began his long career in public service.

Two years later, McCree was appointed to the Circuit Court for Wayne County, Michigan, becoming the first African-American to serve on that Court. He held that seat from 1954 to 1961 before being nominated by President John F. Kennedy to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, another first for an

African-American. Serving in the capacity for five years, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated him to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on August 16, 1966. He served until 1977.

It was from the federal bench that McCree began to express his views on race, justice, and injustice. Once a lawyer argued before McCree that he could not rule on a case involving a black and a white litigant impartially. McCree gave a classic reply when he said: *"the ultimate of arrogance is achieved when a white person thinks another white person can make a judgment without being influenced by race, and a black person cannot."* Aware of history and race, McCree did not dwell on it and taught his children and others this tenet. He did, however, teach them that if race became a factor, fight for your rights.

Once, an all-girls school in Detroit refused admission to his eldest daughter because she was black. His answer was to found the interracial Friends School in 1965. He took that a step further founding of the statewide Higher Education Opportunity Committee, a program that provides college scholarships for promising middle school students.

Upon his election, President Jimmy Carter appointed McCree as the United States Solicitor General. In this role, he served as the head appellate lawyer for the U.S. government and before the U.S. Supreme Court, he represented administration in cases personally arguing twenty-five cases before the Court. Two of the major cases argued were the Richard Nixon presidential tapes case and the Regents of the University of California v. Bakke affirmative action case. In that case, McCree argued that "race could be one factor in deciding whether an applicant was admitted to medical school". He said at the time that he was "in favor of special admissions programs, but people who can outgrow them should not become dependent on them." McCree served as Solicitor General for four years.

Accepting a position as Professor of Law at the University of Michigan's Lewis M. Simes School of Law, McCree would teach there. While there, he also consulted on several legal cases and served as Special Master for U.S. Supreme Court for certain cases.

At the age of sixty-seven, McCree died at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan of bone cancer and a heart ailment. The memorial service was attended by many dignitaries including former President Jimmy Carter who called McCree, "a true American hero". He was interred at Woodlawn Cemetery in his beloved Detroit.



## GABRIELLE KIRK McDONALD

...was born April 12, 1942 in Saint Paul, Minnesota to Frances Retta English and James G. Kirk, Jr.. Her parents were of mixed race, her mother was white and Swedish while her father was black and Negro. Many thought she was white due to her light complexion. Her parents divorced when she was two years old. Her

mother then moved to East Harlem, New York and then to Riverdale, New York.

After suffering from racial discrimination in housing in New York, the family moved to Teaneck, New Jersey where McDonald would graduate from high school. For her high school she played field hockey and served as President of the girls' leadership club. There were only two African American students in her class.

McDonald entered Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts for two years before transferring to Hunter College back in New York where she received her undergraduate degree in 1961. She then entered Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law where she obtained her law degree. As a freshman, she worked as a Research Assistant, which won her a scholarship from the Ford Foundation. She served as the Secretary of the Student Bar Association and the Notes Editor of the Howard Law Journal. She graduated first in her class, cum laude.

Leaving Howard, McDonald accepted a position as staff attorney with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF) in its' New York offices. At the LDF, she was sent to Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi to assist the local residents in their legal fight for civil rights, equal rights, voting rights and school desegregation. She also played a role in the first discrimination cases filed that violated Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

In 1969, McDonald moved to Houston, Texas with her husband, attorney Mark T. McDonald where they opened a law firm. Together, they took on cases against large corporations and trade unions for their discrimination practices. She represented 400 black workers in a case against a multinational company and its' union that owed the workers \$1.2 million in past wages. Her and her husband would build one of the most successful law firms in the state and argue many cases in the federal courts of Texas.

In 1970, McDonald opened the Legal Aid Clinic to assist those that could not afford a lawyer. For her love for teaching, she taught Trusts at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston. She also taught classes on Employment Discrimination Law, Evidence, and Federal Civil Procedure. McDonald also taught at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas and served as a law lecturer at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas.

In 1979, then President Jimmy Carter appointed McDonald to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. She became the first African American to sit on a federal bench in Texas. Although her legal background came from litigating civil rights cases, she was fair in her rulings as the law had not color but enforceable by anyone of color. In a case involving a Vietnamese shrimp and the Ku Klux Klan, the

Klan wanted her removed because of her civil rights past and argued that she would not be fair. McDonald refused to recuse herself stating that if her blackness would cause alarm in this case, then every litigant in her case docket could call for her recusal. The case went to trial.

In 1988, McDonald resigned from the bench and joined the law firm of Matthews & Branscomb in San Antonio. That year, she returned to teaching, choosing St. Mary's University School of Law to teach. She taught classes on Civil Procedure and Race, Racism & American Law. After five years at the university, she returned to Houston to teach again at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law teaching classes on the Federal Courts and Legal Methods. She also ran a seminar on the jurisprudence of Associate Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

In 1992, McDonald became associated with the law firm of Walker & Satterhwaite. She then joined the firm of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.. She served as Special Counsel to the Chairman on Human Rights.

The following year, the United Nations created an international war crimes tribunal, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) based in The Hague in the Netherlands. McDonald was chosen as one of the first eleven Judges elected to serve on the tribunal. She became the President of the ICTY in 1997. McDonald was the second African American to serve as President, the first woman, and first African American woman to occupy the Presidency. She was the first American to be selected and served as President for two years.

McDonald was then elected as the Presiding Judge in Trial Chamber II. As Presiding Judge, in the first case the Tribunal heard, the case of Dusko Tadic, she delivered the Tribunal's decision in the case. Tadic was the first person tried for international war crimes trial since the Nuremberg Trials and the International Military Tribunal in the Far East. The case was the first to involve a claim of sexual violence. Tadic was found guilty of international war crimes and sentenced to prison.

In 1997, McDonald was re-elected to the ICTY and then elected as the President of the Tribunal by her fellow Judges. As President, she increased the number of Judges and trial chambers as more international cases were brought before the Tribunal and more defendants were being held in detention. She implemented new pre-trial procedures to shorten the trial lengths of cases and established an outreach program to explain the Tribunals processes to the people of Yugoslavia or any other country that fell under the jurisdictional reach of the Tribunal.

McDonald would preside over the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). In that role, she made several visits to Arusha, Tanzania, the seat of the Rwanda Tribunal, to conduct the business of the Tribunal. In her last act before leaving the ICTR and the ICTY, McDonald presided over the case of Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza who was accused of conspiracy to commit genocide and persecution of the Rwandan people.

In 2001, McDonald was called upon once again to serve on a Tribunal. This time it was the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal also based in The Hague. She served as one of three Americans selected.

McDonald has received far too many worldwide awards, commendations, recognitions, and awards to list here. Her opinions and writings are far too extensive to be listed here and her organizational memberships are far too vast to be named. What can be said is that Judge Gabrielle Anne Kirk McDonald is indeed, one of a kind having reached the pinnacle of legal jurisprudence, one that would make Thurgood Marshall himself applaud.



## CLEVELAND McDOWELL

...was born on August 6, 1941 in Drew, Mississippi to Mr. and Mrs. Fudge McDowell. He attended public schools in Drew, a small town located between Memphis, Tennessee and Jackson, Mississippi. In high school, the gifted McDowell served as the President of his class, was the Captain of

the debate team, and a multi sport athlete.

McDowell attended Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi where he graduated with honors in 1963. At Jackson State, while completing his undergraduate requirements, he began his graduate studies while working as a Student Assistant for civil rights activist, Medgar Evers.

Completing undergraduate, McDowell, with the help of a Federal Court Order and U.S. Army troops, he enrolled into the University of Mississippi in June of 1963. With his enrollment into the James O. Eastland School of Law, he became the first African-American student to attend a white graduate school in Mississippi. Not long after enrolling into the university, Evers would be assassinated.

Fearing for his life, he and his roommate, James Meredith, the first black to be admitted to the University of Mississippi, applied for a permit to carry a gun for protection. Denied, McDowell ordered one from a mail order catalog. Although many of the white students carried guns, he was caught with the gun on campus and expelled. He needed to leave the university to complete his law degree elsewhere.

For his law degree, McDowell enrolled into Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law located in Houston, Texas. There, he became the Student Bar Association's President. He was awarded several merit awards for his academic achievements at Texas Southern. Completing his law degree, he returned to Mississippi where he took a job with the Mississippi State Conference. He then joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in their Chicago, Illinois' offices. With the NAACP, McDowell served on the National Youth Work Committee (NYWC). His responsibilities with the NYWC centered on voter registration, community development, fundraising and youth employment.

He later took a consulting position with the Cook County Department of Public Aid, also in Chicago. He then returned to Mississippi where he became the Personnel Director Program Analyst for Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. in Clarksdale. He left in 1969 to become the Executive Director of the Mississippi Head Start Training Coordinating Council where he served for four years.

In 1973, he became the Head Start Coordinator for the State of Mississippi which was run by the Governor's Office of Human Resources and OEO. A year later he was appointed as Associate Director of the Mississippi Bar Legal Services Program. In 1975, McDowell decided to return to his hometown of Drew where he opened his own law practice.

For the next ten years, McDowell would serve in several key Mississippi positions. He became a member of the Mississippi State Bar Association, the Magnolia Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He served the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Clarks-

dale as their Managing Attorney; was a member of the Mississippi State Penitentiary Board of Directors; and was elected as a Judge in Tunica County in 1978.

McDowell was admitted to argue cases in the Northern and Southern United States District Courts, the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. For his social memberships, he was a member of the IAlpha Phi Alpha fraternity joining through the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter. He was the worshipful master of his Masonic Grand Lodge and a 32nd Degree member of the Knights Templars Royal Arch. He was also a member of the Shriner Masonic unit. For his church, the Greater Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Drew, he was the Senior Pastor. He served as Sunflower County Mississippi's Democratic Party Chairman. He gave his time as a public defender for the county and was a Board Member, Alderman and Vice Mayor of Drew.

McDowell's career and life came to an end on March 13, 1997. His naked body was discovered in his home leaning against an upstairs bathroom wall by his youngest sister. Having been shot and killed, questions began to arise as to who had done the shooting.

McDowell had for over forty years researched to find answers to some of the most violent civil rights murders including those of Medgar Evers and Emmitt Till, a black Chicago youth murdered, his beaten body tossed into the local Tallahatchie River. McDowell had recently put pressure on local prosecutors to reopen unsolved murder cases surrounding civil rights protest. Within several hours of Drew's shooting, Sunflower County Circuit Judge Gray Evans placed a gag order on the upcoming investigation of the murder and sealed McDowell's home.

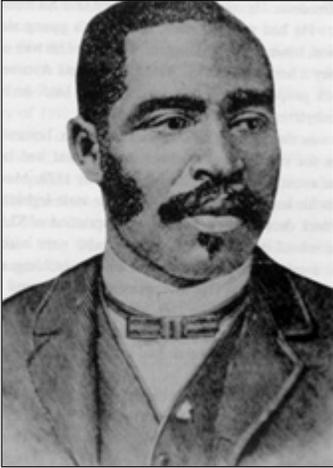
In his campaign for civil rights, McDowell had discovered and was uncovering a Mississippi legislative approved spy agency that was keeping tabs on civil rights activists. The clandestine operation led by former FBI, CIA and military intelligence agents had gathered mounds of information on black civil rights activists. He was pressuring the federal government to release these findings to the general public. One year after his death, those findings were released although many pages and documents were missing. They are still missing to this day.

Questions also arose as to why McDowell did not defend himself as he had strategically placed guns and ammunition throughout his home to protect himself against such an intrusion. His family members questioned why papers on his coffee table were neatly placed and why the dishes in the kitchen sink had been washed. Everyone knew that, although he was a great lawyer, housekeeping and neatness were not McDowell's forte. Papers were always lying around and there were always dirty dishes in the sink. To all that knew McDowell, those two glaring aspects did not add up.

One of Drew's clients, nineteen-year-old Juarez Webb of Indianola, a Delta black man was arrested for the murder. For his confession, charges of first degree murder were reduced to manslaughter. Webb claimed he had shot McDowell after McDowell tried to molest him. Rumors began to float around about McDowell being gay that some say was true while others dispel the accusations. Webb later proclaimed his innocence but was found guilty of the murder and sentenced to maximum security prison.

Six months later, Drew's law office was torched destroying many of the boxes of research he had compiled related to Mississippi murders. The papers had been placed in Drew's law office as the family wanted to make the office a museum. After the trial and conviction of Webb, most of the Mississippi residents refused to discuss the matter for both fear and out of respect for McDowell.





## SAMUEL ALLEN McELWEE

...was born a slave in 1857 in Madison County, Tennessee to Georgianna McElwee and Robert McElwee. In 1866, after the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed, his family moved to Haywood County,

Tennessee. He began his formal education by attending a Freedmen's Bureau School that was taught by his former slave master's children.

After completing his high school studies, McElwee enrolled into Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio for one year. He then returned south where he began to teach school. After three years teaching, he decided to return to school to obtain his undergraduate degree.

In preparation to return to school, McElwee studied German, Latin, and mathematics with a Vanderbilt University student. The Vanderbilt student then made a recommendation, which won McElwee a Peabody Scholarship to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He received his undergraduate degree from Fisk in 1883. While studying at Fisk, McElwee was elected to as a representative of Haywood County to the Tennessee General Assembly at the age of twenty-six.

To obtain his law degree, McElwee enrolled into Central Tennessee College's Law School in Knoxville, Tennessee. He received his law degree in 1886. While attending school and serving in the state legislature, McElwee opened a grocery store in Haywood County and began his own "reading" law firm. At that time, blacks could not obtain a "full" legal job but rather read the law for other established lawyers.

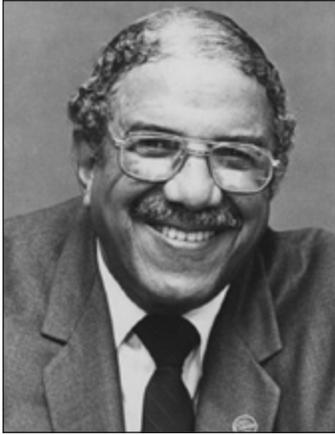
In 1884, McElwee was elected as head of the Tennessee Republican Convention and served as a Delegate to the National Convention held in Chicago. A year later, he was elected to a second term in the Tennessee state legislature. He was then nominated by former U.S. Senator Roderick R. Butler to become the Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was the first African American to be nominated as the Speaker of the House. Unfortunately, he received only thirty-two of the ninety-three votes cast.

In 1887, McElwee was elected to a third term to the House of Representatives. He became the first African

American to be elected to three terms to the Tennessee state legislature. With his re-election, McElwee became the most influential Republic party leader in Haywood County, Tennessee during the Reconstruction Era. During his tenure in the state legislature, McElwee fought against the established Jim Crow and contract labor laws. He also fought for better educational opportunities for the blacks recently freed from slavery.

McElwee ran for a fourth term, however, he lost the election due to voter fraud. The Jim Crow laws were in full effect and voter intimidation ran strong. Shortly thereafter, due to the increase in violence against blacks, McElwee had to flee Haywood County for fear of losing his life. With guarded escorts, McElwee and his family left Haywood County and moved to Nashville.

In Nashville, McElwee established a law firm and began a local newspaper. After several years in Nashville, McElwee moved again, this time to Chicago, Illinois where he would remain for the remainder of his life. In Chicago, McElwee began his last law firm. On October 21, 1914, Samuel Allen McElwee died. He was fifty-seven years old.



**J**AMES  
"JIM"  
HOWELL  
McGEE

...was was born November 8, 1918, in Berryburg, West Virginia to Spanish and Perrie (Dalton) McGee. He was the oldest child in the family and grew up in Steubenville, Ohio, located about one hundred and twenty miles northwest of Berryburg. He received his undergraduate degree in 1937 from Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio. After obtaining his undergraduate degree, he enlisted into the United States Army. Completing his military duties, he returned to Ohio and enrolled into the Ohio State University School of Law in Columbus where he earned his law degree in 1948.

After receiving passing the Ohio State Bar exam, McGee moved to Dayton, Ohio where he began his legal career. He became involved with local politics and community affairs of the city. He joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and accepted civil rights cases referred to him by the organization.

In 1966, McGee became an assistant to U.S. Congressman Rodney M. Love. As an assistant, McGee worked on the federal governments community program, War on Poverty. A year later, he accepted a job with the city of Dayton as a City Commissioner.

In 1970, the current Mayor of Dayton, Dave Hall, had to step down due to illness. McGee was appointed to take his place and serve out the remaining three years of his term. In taking the reins of Dayton's city government, McGee became the first African American to serve as Mayor of the city.

In 1973, McGee was elected to a full term on his own accord. He would be re-elected as Mayor in the 1977 general election. McGee served as the longest serving Mayor in the city's history, serving for eleven years until 1981.

McGee was a member of the Prince Hall Freemasons and became a member of the Ancient Square Lodge No. 40 of Dayton. He also was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. For his political alignment, McGee was a member of the Democratic Party.

As a gesture for the appreciation that the city of Dayton had for McGee, the city government renamed Western Avenue, a major boulevard in Dayton, as the James H. McGee Boulevard. The James H. McGee Boulevard runs from McCall Avenue to Little Richmond Road.

McGee was a member of several organizations. He served as a member of the National Bar Association and the National League of Cities. He was also a member of Sister Cities International.

James H. McGee died on March 4, 2006 at Covenant House Nursing Home in Trotwood, Ohio, a suburb of Dayton. He was eighty-seven years old. He was interred in the Woodland Cemetery in Dayton.



## FREDRICK L. McGHEE

...was born on October 28, 1861 in Aberdeen, Mississippi, to Abraham McGhee and Sarah Walker, who were enslaved. His father was from Blount County, Tennessee and had

learned how to read and write without formally training. He later became a Baptist preacher. He taught his three children, Mathew, Barclay and Fredrick, how to read and write. The family was freed from slavery in 1864 when General William T. Sherman's army marched through the northeastern part of the state during the Civil War.

After the war, the McGhee family made their way to Knoxville, Tennessee, where Fredrick first attended a United Presbyterian Church freemen's school, from which he graduated in 1877.

Fredrick moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1879, and began work as a porter while studying for his law degree. After completing his law degree in 1885, McGhee made his way into the upper echelons of black Chicago society. Four years later, he needed a change.

Relocated to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1889, McGhee became the first African American lawyer in Minnesota. The more he became settled in Minnesota, the more disenchanted with the Republican Party he became. He began to feel that although most African Americans voted Republican in the late 19th century, the party did little to return the favor. Two years later, he converted from Protestantism to Catholicism, attracted by St. Paul Archbishop John Ireland's progressive policies towards race.

Working as a criminal defense lawyer in St. Paul, McGhee became increasingly involved in civil rights activism. He became involved in several of the Negro Catholic Congresses pushing for a more aggressive civil rights agenda. He gave a St. Paul campaign speech in 1896 for Democratic Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan. In the speech, he pointed out various problems in the Republicans' treatment of African Americans. Within two years, he had formed a civil rights organization called *The American Law Enforcement League*, whose main goal was to speak out against lynching.

McGhee's continued his social and civil rights agenda with the National Afro-American Council (NAAC) as

a representative from Minnesota. This Council was even more vocal, protested lynchings and calling for federal support to suppress them in the South. In support of NAAC, McGhee met W.E.B. DuBois and Ida B Wells-Barnett at an August 1900 NAAC meeting where he joined them to speak on the subject.

At another NAAC meeting two years later, he heard Booker T. Washington address the organization. He came away convinced that the Tuskegee educator and his followers were intent on dominating the organization so that it would not pose a threat to his political strategy. Although he initially sided with Booker T. Washington, McGhee later aligned himself with DuBois when Washington and DuBois clashed on tactics and philosophy in the struggle for racial equality.

In 1905, convinced that Washington had completely taken over the NAAC, McGhee, along with DuBois and William Monroe Trotter, and others, broke off and founded the Niagara Movement which would stand in opposition to Washington. In 1907, the Niagara Movement pushed for the defeat of Republicans Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. McGhee's influence and prominent position as a black Democrat were not enough to upend the election. The Niagara Movement faded out by 1909 and McGhee turned his attention to its' successor organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In one of his last major activities, in 1911, McGhee helped establish an NAACP branch in St. Paul, Minnesota. Frederick McGhee died in 1912 at the age of fifty-one in St. Paul, a victim of a blood clot which had migrated to his lung from a bruised or sprained right leg.



## YVETTE MCGEE BROWN

...was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio to a single teenaged mother. With the help of her grandmother, she was taught the importance of a good education at an early age. She would

become the first in her family to graduate college and to earn several degrees.

McGee Brown received her undergraduate degree in Journalism and Public Relations from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio in 1982. She obtained her Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law in Columbus, Ohio in 1985. Brown would later be awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Ohio Dominican University and from Mount Carmel College of Nursing, both located in Columbus.

In 1992, McGee Brown was elected as a Judge to the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. She became the first African-American woman to be elected to the Court and served on the bench for nine years. Judge McGee Brown became the lead Juvenile Court Judge and is credited with creating the Family Drug Court and the SMART Program, a program aimed at improving truancy and educational neglect intervention. She served on the Court of Common Pleas for nine years.

In 2002, Judge McGee Brown founded the non-profit Center for Child and Family Advocacy located in the Nationwide Children's Hospital. The organization is dedicated to the treatment and prevention of child abuse and domestic violence. She has served as the President of the non-profit organization since its inception. Judge McGee Brown has served on the Board of Directors to the Ohio University and The Ohio State University Medical Center. She has also served on the Board of Directors to the Columbus Academy. In addition, she has served the Community Shelter Board as a member of its Board of Directors, as well as serving on the Boards of M/I Homes, Inc. and the Fifth Third Bank of Central Ohio.

On January 19, 2010, then Governor Ted Strickland announced his candidacy for a second term as Ohio's elected Governor and named McGee Brown as his run-

ning mate to take the position held in the Governor's first term by Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher, who was making a run for the U.S. Senate. The Governor was not successful in his bid losing to eventual winner, John Kasich. Had Governor Strickland been re-elected, McGee Brown would have become the fourth female Lieutenant Governor and the second African American Lieutenant Governor in Ohio history.

On December 10, 2010, then Ohio Governor Ted Strickland appointed Judge Brown to the Ohio Supreme Court. With the elevation of then Associate Justice Maureen O'Connor to become the Chief Justice, Judge McGee Brown to her seat effective January 1, 2011. Judge Brown served the remainder of Judge O'Connor's term but was defeated in her bid for a full-time term in the next election losing to Sharon L. Kennedy. Judge McGee Brown's term ended on December 31, 2012.

In 2013, Judge McGee Brown joined the Business and Tort Litigation practice of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue. She operates from the firm's Columbus office litigating business and tort cases. In 2015, she became the Partner-in-Charge of Diversity, Inclusion & Advancement of the entire firm.

Judge McGee Brown has received many honors and awards from Ohio legislators, legal associations, and other institutions during her tenure. She has been inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame and the Central Ohio Business Hall of Fame. She has been awarded a Public Service Award from Ohio University, the Medal of Merit Alumni Award from Ohio University, and the Distinguished Service Award from The Ohio State University. The Ohio State University Alumni Association presented Judge McGee Brown with its' William Oxley Thompson Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement Award and the local Columbus Chapter of the National YWCA gave her a Woman of Achievement Award. In addition, she has received the Champion of Children Award.



## WARNER T. McGUINN

...was born on November of 1859 in Goochland County, near Richmond, Virginia to Fannie and Jared McGuinn. Warner began his formal education attending the public schools in Richmond. His family later

moved to Baltimore where he continued his education.

After graduating from high school, McGuinn enrolled into Lincoln University in Lincoln City, Pennsylvania where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1884. He then entered Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. where he began his law studies. After one year at Howard, he transferred to Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut where he obtained his law degree in 1887. At Yale, McGuinn served as the President of the Law Club and was a prized orator. He also became friends with Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as famed writer Mark Twain who helped to finance McGuinn's legal studies.

In 1891, after receiving his law degree, McGuinn took and passed the Connecticut bar exam and began to practice law in the area. He moved to Kansas City, Kansas for a short period before relocating to his hometown of Baltimore. He was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1892. He married Virginian Anna L. Wallace and had one daughter, Alma. McGuinn then purchased a home at 1911 Division Street in Baltimore.

To begin practicing law in Maryland, McGuinn joined in a partnership with Harry S. Cummings. He later partnered with E. Everett Lane, the son of attorney George M. Lane. Several years later, McGuinn was appointed as Secretary the Board of Liquor License Commissioners. He was the first African American to serve on the Liquor Commission.

In 1910, McGuinn, along with fellow attorney W. Ashibe Hawkins served as Legal Counsel in the celebrated Baltimore segregation case surrounding the city segregated ordinances passed by the City Council. He took on cases involving women's suffrage and presented oral arguments to a gathering of concerned listeners at Baltimore's Bethel A.M.E. Church during the Inauguration of

the Baltimore Historical and Literary Association. He also lobbied for voting rights.

In 1917, McGuinn was appointed to the Colored War Camp Commission Service's Board of Managers. Three years later, he was elected to the City Council. After being elected to the Council, McGuinn served as a Delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago. Several years later, he sought a position in the office of Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia but was not successful in his bid.

As McGuinn grew older, he became disheartened with the crop of new attorneys that were servicing the legal field. He pushed for entry exams to be changed to include character requirements as well as knowledge of the law. He felt the a lawyer's word had deteriorated to the point where a handshake was no longer a moral agreement and a man's word was beginning to be worth no more than a grain of salt.

Warner T. McGuinn died on July 10, 1937 at the home of his daughter in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was seventy-seven years old.



**FLOYD  
BIXLER  
McKISSICK, SR.**

...was born on March 9, 1922 in Asheville, North Carolina to agnolia Thompson McKissick and Ernest Boyce. At the age of twelve, he received a membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His involvement with civil rights

was cemented when, at thirteen, as a Boy Scout, while helping to direct traffic during a roller-skating tournament in his hometown of Asheville, a white police officer pushed him to the ground. That incident began his political involvement with North Carolina politics. He became even more involved in civil rights when, before he had graduated high school, he participated in a protest of the city when they refused to allow actor and civil rights advocate Paul Robeson to speak in the city auditorium.

Completing high school in 1939, McKissick enrolled into Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Drafted by the U.S. Army, he left Morehouse to serve his duty as a soldier. He served in "The European Theater", being honorably discharged as a Sergeant. Completing his military responsibilities, he returned to Morehouse where he received his degree in 1948.

McKissick continued his efforts to end the Jim Crow laws that were rampant in the South at the time. He became involved with freedom rides that addressed racial segregation in interstate transportation. At Morehouse, he became the President of the Progressive Party for the school.

McKissick graduated from Morehouse in 1948. He applied for law school at the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Law but was denied admission as the school did not admit blacks. He instead had to attend the only North Carolina school that admitted blacks, the North Carolina College (NCC) School of Law, now North Carolina Central University (NCCU). McKissick, with the help of the NAACP filed suit against the University of North Carolina.

With the legal assistance of Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP, the United States Court of Appeals in 1951 ruled that the university must admit McKissick and three other students to be admitted into the university's law school. Although he was taking classes at NCC, he enrolled into the University of North Carolina law school to take summer classes. He became the first African American to attend the university's law school.

After completing his law studies and passing the North Carolina Bar exam, McKissick opened his law firm in Durham. He, of course, took on civil rights cases. In 1955, he was involved with the case that admitted the first black undergraduates to UNC-Chapel Hill. In 1957, he was successful in defending twenty high school students in their sit-in protest of the Durham's Royal Ice Cream Parlor. In 1959, he represented families in the integration of the city of Durham's public schools.

In that desegregation case, the lead plaintiffs were his daughter, Joycelyn, and his wife, Evelyn. McKissick became heavily involved in voter registrations and helped in the campaign for the 1948 Presidential election of past U.S. Vice President Henry Wallace. McKissick, in 1957, became the co-head of the The Durham Committee on Negro Affairs' Economic Committee. He and his fellow committee members organized boycotts, including the boycott of the Royal Ice Cream Parlor by twenty high school NAACP members.

McKissick's most recognized litigation involved the desegregation of North Carolina's Tobacco Workers International. The local union was a member of the national AFL-CIO organization. McKissick fought for the black workers to be admitted to the union without losing their senior ranks. He also litigated for the skilled black workers to be paid on the same scale as other skilled white workers.

In the 1960s', McKissick represented lunch counter protestors in the sit-ins of Woolworth's Department Stores. He, along with members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) were the lead attorneys in the negotiations for Woolworth's to open their stores and lunch counters to black citizens. He traveled throughout the state organizing students in their non-violent protests. He represented both the NAACP and CORE but left the NAACP altogether to become the National Chair of CORE's 1963 Convention. In 1966, he became the head of CORE.

After becoming the head of CORE, McKissick joined in with other civil rights organizations in supporting James Meredith in his challenge to America to correct its' system of poverty, racial segregation, and white supremacy in a march from Memphis, Tennessee to Jackson, Mississippi. Along with McKissick, were Martin Luther King, Jr. and Stokely Carmichael.

Leaving CORE, McKissick launched the largest project of his career. He unveiled his plan to build on 500 acres of farmland in Warren County, North Carolina a town he called Soul City. Intended for all races, Soul City had as it's purpose to provide opportunities for blacks to prosper. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development gave him a \$14 million bond issue guarantee and he received from the First Pennsylvania Bank \$500,000 toward the venture.

In addition, private donors gave almost \$1 million and the state of North Carolina provided \$1.7 million. Soul City was projected to provide 24,000 jobs and have 44,000 inhabitants by the year 2004. McKissick built a state-of-the art water system, a massive steel-and-glass factory named Soultech I, and a health care clinic. Unfortunately, the project ran into difficulties. In 1980, McKissick and his Soul City Corporation turned the operation over to the federal government. In the transfer agreement, McKissick was able to keep 88 acres of land, the project's 60,000-square-foot headquarter's building, and a mobile home park. In exchange, the Department of Housing & Urban Development off McKissick's loan of \$10 million and \$175,000 in other debts. McKissick agreed to drop a lawsuit filed to halt the government's proposed shut down of the project.

For his life's work, in 1990, then Republican Governor James G. Martin appointed McKissick as a state District Court Judge in the Ninth Judicial District in North Carolina. He also became Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Soul City. Ironically, he died on Sunday, April 28, 1991 as a result of lung cancer. He was sixty-nine years old.





## **G**EOERGE W.F. McMECHEN

...was born on October 29, 1871 in Wheeling, West Virginia to Mildred and George McMechen. After completing high school, he enrolled into the first class at the new Morgan College in Baltimore, Maryland where he completed his undergraduate studies in 1895. The school had previously been the Centenary Biblical Institute. After earning his undergraduate degree, McMechen attended Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. He received his law degree from Yale in 1899.

After obtaining his law degree, McMechen moved to Evansville, Indiana where he began his law career. There he met Anna Lee Mason of Sparta, Illinois. The two were married the following year. After practicing law for four years in Indiana, McMechen and his wife moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he was admitted to the state bar.

He joined partnerships with W. Ashbie Hawkins, a partnership that would last for the next thirty-seven years until the death of Hawkins. The two became successful in their law firm within two years. Hawkins decided to move from the home he had occupied when he arrived in Baltimore, 1429 North Mount Street, to a better home at 1834 McCulloh, when he ran into opposition by disgruntled white residents. He took the case to court and argued his rights before the City Council and the Maryland Court of Appeals. He eventually won the right to live in the neighborhood. He and his family were the first blacks to move into the all-white neighborhood.

Many of his white neighbors felt that their property values would decrease as a result of McMechen and his family moving into the neighborhood. McMechen's response to these allegations was that if he could afford to pay a higher price to leave in the neighborhood, he could surely afford the upkeep. He went on to fight the city ordinances that prohibited blacks from moving into Baltimore neighborhoods that had majority white residents. The segregation laws that McMechen fought were eventually removed from the city codes.

In 1915, McMechen ran for a seat on the City Council representing the 14th Ward. Unfortunately, he lost the election but did receive great recognition for his efforts.

Several years later, he was anointed as the Grand Exalted Ruler of Elks of the World. He later became a Trustee of Baltimore's Morgan College. He remained a Trustee for eighteen years.

In 1944, McMechen was elected to the Baltimore Board of School Commissioners. He would serve on the Board for six years. He was the only black serving on the Board. McMechen was soon appointed by then Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro III to the Baltimore Charter Revision Committee's Advisory Committee.

In 1955, McMechen retired. George W. F. McMechen died on February 22, 1961. He was ninety years old. For his service to Morgan College, now Morgan State University, the University named its Economics building after him. The Baltimore School System also named a school in his honor.



## THEODORE McMILLAN

...was born on January 28, 1919 in St. Louis, Missouri to Joycie Ann McDuffy and Theodore McMillian. He was the eldest of ten children and received his undergraduate degree from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri in 1941.

For his law degree, he attended St. Louis University School of Law and received his law degree in 1949. McMillian was one of the first black students at the law school and graduated first in his class.

Before entering private practice law, McMillian enlisted into the United States Army Signal Corps in 1942. He served in the Corps for four years. In leaving the military, McMillian reached the rank of Lieutenant.

After completing his military duties, McMillian returned to St. Louis to begin his legal practice. In 1949, he passed the bar and co-founded the law firm of Lynch and McMillian. After five years in practice, he accepted a position with the City of St. Louis. He became the first African-American Assistant Prosecutor for the city working in the office of the Honorable Edward L. Dowd.

In 1956, McMillian was named by then Governor Phil M. Donnelly as a Circuit Judge for St. Louis City Municipal Court. He served on the Court for six years. He then was called upon by the Governor to serve as a Judge.

In 1972, then Governor Warren E. Hearnes appointed McMillian to the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District of Missouri. He became the first African-American to serve on the Court. He was re-elected to the post in the 1974 election.

In 1978, then President Jimmy Carter appointed McMillian to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He was the first African American to serve on the Eighth Circuit. He served as an active Judge on the Court for twenty-five years. In July of 2003, he attained senior status. Judge McMillian continued to serve on the bench until his death.

Before and after retiring, Judge McMillian taught law as an Associate Professor or guest lecturer at several schools including the National College of Juvenile Justice at the University of Nevada, the National College of State Judiciary, and the National College of State Trial Judges at the University of Nevada at Reno. He also taught at the St. Louis University Law School and the University of Missouri at St. Louis. In addition, he gave lessons at Webster College in St. Louis.

McMillian served on several associations and organizations. He served as the Chair of the Board for the Human

Development Corporation. He served as a Board member to the American Judicature Society, the Blue Cross Hospital Association, the local CAP agency, and the Herbert Hoover's Boys Club of St. Louis. He gave time to the Minority Economic Development Agency, the National Jesuit Honor Society, and the St. Louis University's President's Council. He also assisted the St. Louis Urban League.

Judge McMillian was an active member of the Lawyers Association of the City of St. Louis, the Missouri Bar Association, the Mound City Bar Association, and the National Bar Association. He was a Board member of the Advisory Council of the Danforth Foundation, the American Judicature Society, the Board of Trustees of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the John Jay Steering Committee of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Missouri Council of Law Enforcement Administration. He was also a member of the Missouri Social Welfare Association, the National Advisory Board, the National Council of Crime and Delinquency, the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges as past President, the President's Council of St. Louis University, the St. Louis Minority Economic Development Agency as Chairperson, the St. Louis Junior College District Board of Trustees, and as past President of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. He was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Sigma Nu.

Judge McMillian served the Human Development Corporation, the local anti-poverty agency, as the first Board Chairman from 1965 to 1977. He sat on the Board of Catholic Charities of the City of St. Louis and was a member of the Executive Committee of the St. Louis Crime Commission. Judge McMillian, for the Herber Hoover Boys and Girls Club of St. Louis, served as its' founder and President.

Judge McMillian has been given countless awards and recognition. He has been awarded the Alumni Merit Award from St. Louis University and the Award of Honor in the Jurist Division from the St. Louis Lawyers Association. He has received Doctor of Humanities awards from Lincoln University of Jefferson City, the University of Missouri at St. Louis, and the Washington University in St. Louis.

The St. Louis University and Harris-Stowe State College both awarded Judge McMillian a Doctor of Laws degree and the American Judicature Society gave him their Herber Harley Award. He was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis awarded him their Founders Award. In addition, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis awarded Judge McMillian their Distinguished Lawyer Award and the American Board of Trial Advocates named him an Honorary Dipolomate. He also was awarded the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association.

Judge Theodore McMillian died on January 18, 2006 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He was eighty-seven years old.



## SHARON McPHAIL

... born on November 6, 1948 in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Natalie and Robson McPhail. Both of her parents jazz entertainers. Her mother earned a living as a jazz vocalist and her father performed as a jazz musician. When she was fifteen years old

and the oldest of seven children, her father died and her mother became ill and entered the hospital. Left to raise her siblings, her desire to attend college began to fade. Thanks to her great grades and study habits, she won several scholarships and with the help of student loans and federal grants, she was able to go.

After graduating high school, she entered Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and English in 1972. She obtained her law degree also from the University's School of Law. She passed the Michigan State Bar in 1976.

McPhail began her legal career as a staff attorney at the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. At Ford, she was involved with the company's regulatory matters. She also assisted the company in its' Federal Trade Commission administrative proceedings.

During her four years at Ford, McPhail became aware of the disparity in promotions between African American lawyers and their white counterparts. She realized that she would have to work half of her legal career before obtaining the type of promotion that she looked forward to. With that, she left the company.

She joined the law firm of Feikens, Stevens, Hurley & P.C. for a short period of time before accepting a job, in 1982, as an Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of Michigan. After a year at the U.S. Attorney's Office, she joined as an associate attorney the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman based in Detroit, Michigan. She remained at the firm for two years.

In 1985, McPhail became a member of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners. She would serve on the Board for five years. That same year, she was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Federal Bar Association. She joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was named to the organization's Chair of the Operation Fair Share Committee of the NAACP's Detroit branch.

McPhail then moved to the law firm of Bushnell, Gage, Doctoroff & Reizen, Southfield, Michigan, again as an associate attorney. She did not stay long with that law firm before becoming a principal attorney, in 1986, to the Wayne County Corporation Counsel in Detroit, Michigan. A year later, she joined the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in its' Detroit office as Chief

of Screening for the District Courts. She later was named the Division Chief.

While serving in the Prosecutor's Office, McPhail became heavily involved with the Victim Services Department. She developed better services for those who were victims of crimes, including services for advocates for children and children that were victims of child abuse. She especially was concerned with the care of children involved in the court process and worked to ensure that they did not become intimidated as they went through the legal process. The Department under her leadership increases for a few employees to twenty-six.

In 1988, McPhail was appointed as the Vice-Chair of State Officers Compensation Commission. There, she focused on fair and equal compensation for employees of the state. That year, she also served as Legal Counsel to the Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services.

In 1991, McPhail was elected as the President of the National Bar Association. She was the fourth woman to lead the association. She would later serve as the President of the Wolverine Bar Association, an affiliate of the National Bar Association. She was the first African American female to serve as the association's President. She also served the Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its' Vice President.

In 1993, McPhail entered the race for Mayor of the City of Detroit. In a field of twenty-three, she finished second in a primary election. In the general election, she lost to candidate Dennis Archer who collected 56% of the vote to her 43%. She made another attempt for the Mayor's job in 2005 but came in third in the primary race.

In 2002, McPhail was elected to the Detroit City Council. She was the first female attorney to be elected to City Council. She served on the Council for four years. During that time, McPhail served as General Counsel for a group that sought to recapture the right to vote for the School Board in the City of Detroit.

In 2003, McPhail ran for a seat on the Detroit City Council. In her third political race, she came out victorious. She would serve for one term.

In 2016, McPhail was fined \$144,314 by the Michigan Department of Education. She was listed as a Superintendent of Brighthouse High School, a charter school, without having the required state certifications or working toward obtaining the required certifications. The school Principal of record, Ecehille Jordan also lacked the necessary credentials. The fine represents part of the salaries paid to McPhail and Jordan.

For her service to the legal community, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. awarded McPhail its' National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award. The National Black Law Students Association award her its' Cora T. Walker Award and the Renaissance Chapter of the Links, Inc. awarded her their Women of Excellence Award. The NAACP presented McPhail with an Unsung Heroine Award, the March of Dimes awarded her their Humanitarian of the Year award, Ebony Magazine named her as one of its' 100 Most Influential Black Americans, and the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts presented McPhail with a key to the city. 



## BEVERLY MCQUEARY SMITH

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Jersey City State College in Jersey City, New Jersey. She earned a Master of Arts degree from Rutgers—The State University of New Jersey, in New Brunswick, New

Jersey. For her law degree, she attended the New York University School of Law in New York City, New York. Smith obtained a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

McQueary Smith began her legal career working for the federal government. She first worked as a legal staff attorney for then New York U.S. Senator Jacob K. Javits. She then served as a clerk for a federal District Court Judge, worked for the Federal Trade Commission as a Program Advisor for Mail Order Rule Enforcement, and served as an Attorney-Advisor in the Office of the Solicitor of the United States Department of the Interior. At the Department, she drafted federal regulations that dealt with surface coal mining on Indian lands.

In 1988, McQueary Smith joined the faculty of Touro College and University System on their New York campus. She taught American law, appellate advocacy, consumer law, contracts, and environmental law. She also taught land use planning, legislation, professional responsibility, race, torts, and zoning. That same year, McQueary Smith was named as the Co-Chair of the Law Professors Division of the National Bar Association (NBA). She served as Co-Chair for three years before becoming the Director of Region II of the NBA.

On July 31, McQueary Smith was sworn in as the President of the NBA. The NBA is the oldest and largest national legal association of predominately African American lawyers and judges in the United States and has over 18,000 judges, lawyers, law clerks, and law students in its' membership. The organization has international chapters in Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, England, Ghana, Senegal, and South Africa.

McQueary Smith has served on several Boards. She has served on the Board of the Consumers Union, the publishers of Consumers Reports and the Jersey City Medical Center. She also served on the Board of the Mi-

nority Environmental Lawyers Association and the Board of the Southern Africa Environment Project.

McQueary Smith served on the Governors of NBA, the New York County Lawyers, and the New York County Lawyers Association. She also served on the Board of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO). During that same year of 1988, McQueary Smith chaired the Southern Africa Environmental Project and the National Campaign on Black Health.

In 2000, McQueary Smith was elected to the Executive Council of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. That same year, she became the Secretary and Treasurer of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO). She also served the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Environmental Justice as a member of its' Advisory Group. In addition, McQueary Smith served on the Enforcement Committee of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Group of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (NEJAC).

In 2003, McQueary Smith became a member of the New York State Bar Association's House of Delegates. In January 2006, McQueary Smith became Secretary to the Women in Legal Education Section of the Association of American Law Schools. Two years later, she became the Chair of the Section. That same year, she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Touro Law School Chapter of the National Black Law Students' Association.

In 2007, McQueary Smith was awarded a Trailblazer Award from the Northeast People of Color Legal Scholars Conference. In 2010, McQueary Smith was named as President of the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc.. That same year, the International President of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. appointed her to the Internal Leadership Training for External Service Committee.

McQueary Smith is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.. She is also a member of The Links, Inc. and the American Law Institute. She has served as a Commissioner of the New York State Ethics Commission for the Unified Courts System. McQueary Smith is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, the New Jersey Bar, the Texas Bar, and the West Virginia Bar.



## PAMELA J. MEANES

...was raised in East Saint Louis, Illinois. She graduated from the public school system of the city. After graduating high school, she attended Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and Education.

Meanes went on to attend Clark Atlanta University, in Atlanta, Georgia where she received a Masters of Arts in African/African American Studies. While at Clark and in her senior year, the campus witnessed civil unrest after the infamous Rodney King beating and acquittal of the Los Angeles police officers accused in the beating. Meanes, who was the President of the graduate school student body, was called upon to help quell the uprising. In doing so, she was able to negotiate with then Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and the city prosecutor to not charge offending students with criminal charges. From those successful negotiations and the resulting peace on campus, Meanes decided that her calling was public legal representation.

With a new found goal of attaining a law degree, Meanes set for herself a new career path. Leaving Atlanta after graduation, Meanes enrolled into the University of Iowa's Law School in Iowa City where she received her Juris Doctorate degree. She would later be given an honorary Doctorate in Divinity from the New Freedom Bible College in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

In her first professional legal job, in 1996 Meanes accepted a position with the law firm of Thompson Coburn in St. Louis, Missouri. At Thompson, she would learn how to balance the rigors of working the case loads for a major law firm, taking the helm and leadership role of a national bar association, and maintaining an active and healthy family life. Meanes would go on to become the firm's first African-American Associate to be named a partner.

In her role as a partner for the firm, Meanes has represented many community based clients as well as corporate and municipalities. She has represented Furniture Brands International, Metro/Bi-State Development Agency, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, and the Monsanto Company. For MetroLink in Illinois, Meanes was pivotal in their successful land acquisition to extend their services to the citizens of St. Louis.

While serving in her duties as partner, Meanes gave her time serving the on various legal bar associations. In 2006, she served as the President of the Mound City Bar Association, a local Missouri affiliate of the National Bar Association (NBA). In 2007, she served as the Regional Director of Region VIII of the NBA. In 2008, she served as Co-Chair of the American Bar

Association's (ABA) Section of Litigation Legal Service Delivery Committee. In 2011, she became the NBA's Vice President.

On July 31, 2014, Meanes was elected as the 72nd President of the National Bar Association. Before becoming the President and after her term ended, she was actively involved in the internal workings of the NBA. Over the years, Meanes has dedicated her time to serving the NBA as a Vice President, Chair of the Baltimore Respect Yourself Committee, Chair of the Finance and Fundraising Committee, Deputy General Counsel, Editor-In-Chief of the NBA Magazine, Region VIII Regional Director, Co-Chair of 2009-2010 Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Co-Chair of the St. Louis Respect Yourself Committee, Judicial Selections Committee member, and Nominations Committee member. Meanes has also served the Women Lawyers Division as its' First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Board Member.

In addition to these roles, Meanes has been a member of other committees, including the Commercial Law Section, Law and Religion Section, Minority Partners in Majority Firms Division, and the National Bar Institute. She also has served as a Board member of the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund, Inc.; the Legal Services of Eastern Missouri; and MERS Goodwill.

Meanes has been is the recipient of various awards during her legal career including The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis' Award of Merit, the Outstanding Attorney Award from St. Louis University Black Law Student Association, the Outstanding Achievement in Public Service Award from Washington University of St. Louis's Black Law Student Association, and the St. Louis Business Journal's "40 under 40".

She was recognized as an "Up and Coming Lawyer" in Missouri Lawyer's Weekly. She was selected by the St. Louis Business Journal as a Most Influential Minority Business Leader while the local YWCA gave her its' Leader of Distinction Award. Sister to Sister Magazine awarded her their highest award and the Missouri Lawyer's Weekly awarded her their Litigation Practitioner Award.

For her efforts, the NBA awarded her several of their achievement awards including the 2007 Affiliate Chapter of the Year Award, the 2010 NBA Young Lawyers' Hon. A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award, the 2010 and 2011 Region of the Year Award, the 2010 and 2011 Presidential Award, the 2011 and 2012 WLD Chair's Award, the 2012 NBA Special Presidential Award, and the 013 Outstanding Officer's Award. Meanes is married to Reverend Doctor William M. Meanes, Sr.. Together, they have seven children.

Photo Not Available



## THORNTON J. MEACHAM, JR.

...was born on March 10, 1917 in Terrell, Arkansas to Lila Celesta and Dr. Thornton J. Meacham. The family moved to Jackson, Tennessee where he attended public school. He attended Lane College in Jackson

where he received his undergraduate degree. A gifted and studious student, although he chose Fordham University in New York City, New York to obtain his law degree from, he was accepted to the law schools of Columbia University in New York City, New York University in New York City, and Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Meacham graduated from Fordham, as its' first graduate and second African American to attend, in 1942.

When Meacham applied to take the bar exam in New York, the New York City Bar Association refused to admit him to the bar because due his race. A strong-willed man, Meacham fought against the association for membership. He prevailed and in 1943, he was admitted to the New York City Bar Association.

Meacham quickly made a name for himself in the Harlem community. He set out to break barriers in New York's legal profession as no other African American before him had done. He would raise the bar for African American attorneys and become and advocate for their admission to the state bar. He became Harlem, New York's greatest legal advocate to walk the halls of New York courts and courts throughout the United States. He is solely responsible for African American lawyers being admitted to the New York Bar Association.

Meacham during his lengthy career would break many barriers becoming the first in many legal realms. He was the first African American attorney to open law offices in Harlem. He was the first African American to be hired to the Office of Price Stabilization on Broadway in New York. He was the first African American to try both criminal and civil cases in the Bronx and Queens County Courts and the first African American to argue a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Meacham was also the first African American attorney to be featured on the cover of The New York Law Journal.

Meacham, a principled and passionate attorney early on took on civil rights cases and cases involving discrim-

ination. With his success, he was soon called upon to try cases in other states. Meacham won cases not only in New York, but he won cases in New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida.

With his legal popularity increasing and his victories stacking up, many high profile people began to call upon him for his services. He represented Congressman Adam C. Powell; New York State Assemblywoman Bessie Buchanan, the first African American woman to sit in the New York state legislature; New York State Assemblyman Hulan Jack, Assemblyman William T. Andrews; Judge Harold Stevens; and even represented fellow attorney John Briggs.

In the entertainment realm, Meacham represented actress Dorothy Dandridge and musicians Louis Armstrong and Mile Davis. He also took on cases brought to him by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Meacham even represented the banking industry when he accepted Carver National Bank as a client.

Meacham would then join forces with Judge Thomas Dickens to form a partnership. In his efforts to assist other attorneys grow their businesses and to establish a consortium of African American lawyers, he and several other elite attorneys founded the Harlem Lawyers Association. The association would later merge with the Metropolitan Black Bar Association. Meacham was active with the National Bar Association and was recognized many times for the bar for his accomplishments and leadership.

In 1994, the National Bar Association awarded Meacham their Wiley A. Branton Issues Award. He was also inducted into the bars' Hall of Fame, which honors attorneys that have served in the profession for over forty years and have made significant contributions to the causes of legal justice. His fraternity, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., has also recognized Meacham as one of their accomplished members.

Meacham's extraordinary accomplishments to the legal profession and to fellow attorneys have left him a legacy that few can duplicate. His exemplary service to the field of law and to the communities he served across several states are a testament to his dedication and love for law. His energy, discipline, humor, and wisdom carried him to heights many have not achieved. The admiration shown him by his peers, advisories and community leaders give witness to his accomplishments and to the respect he had for him.

Thornton J. Meacham, Jr. died on October 4, 2009. He was ninety-two years old.

Photo Not Available



## LOUIS ROTHSCHILD MEHLINGER

...was born on December 20, 1882 in Union Point, Louisiana to Catherine Hayes and Ferdinand Mehlinger. His mother was a Mississippi slave and his father was a white German Jew who had emigrated from Wachenheim, Bavaria to New Orleans and became a postmaster and merchant. When young Lewis was old enough, he

was sent to Jackson, Mississippi to attend nearby Tougaloo College, a historically black college, which at the time, was a vocational learning school. He graduated with a degree in Industrial Education.

While studying at the school, famed educator Booker T. Washington made a visit to the school and Mehlinger was assigned to be a caretaker of him during his stay. He shined Washington's shoes and accompanied him during his tour of the school and the local community. That experience left a lasting impression on Mehlinger, which caused him to study even more diligently.

After graduation, Mehlinger took a job as a carpenter for a short time in Florida before relocating to Washington, D.C. where he took a job as a clerk in the U.S. Treasury Department. He found housing in the same house as historian Carter Woodson and assisted Woodson as the Secretary of the historian's Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.

He enrolled into Washington's Howard University School of Dentistry taking night classes, however, the dental school closed before Mehlinger could obtain his dental degree. Having studied shorthand, typing, bookkeeping at the vocational school, he was qualified to move from his job as a clerk at the Treasury to that of a stenographer. He then enrolled into Howard University's Law School, again taking night courses.

His studies were interrupted when he was called to active duty in the military. He was thirty-six years old when he entered the military. He trained in a black officer's training school and served with the 300th Infantry Division in the St. Die Sector of the Argonne Forest in France. He left the military as a Captain.

After completing his service, Mehlinger returned to Howard and graduated from the law school magna cum laude in 1921 at the age of forty. Now having a law degree, he left the Treasury Department moving to the Justice Department (DOJ) as a law clerk. He soon became an Assistant Attorney and was given cases to argue before the Court of Claims. He then became a Senior Attorney with the Department.

Mehlinger was sent to south to try cases, many times to the ire of white attorneys upset that the DOJ had sent a black attorney. Once a case was tried, he would immediately leave town for fear of Ku Klux Klan reprisals. His fears became reality after his brother was murdered and his father, although white, was run out of town.

Not deterred, in 1925, Mehlinger, Charles Hamilton Houston, and five other attorneys founded the Washington Bar Association, a black lawyer's group. Years later, they would found the Robert H.

Terrell Law School, a night school for African American law students. Mehlinger also joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and for W.E.B. DuBois, the editor of the NAACP's Journal, he testified before Congress in a case involving desegregating railroad passenger cars after the wartime nationalization of the industry.

In his fight for equal justice, Mehlinger refused to join the National Negro Congress (NNC). He instead joined forces with National Lawyers Guild (NLG), as it had received clearance from the U.S. Attorney General's Office and was not on the List of Subversive Organizations as was the NNC. For the NLG, he served on the Guild's Civil Rights Committee but attended less than three meetings.

In 1941, during World War I, Mehlinger offered his services to the Secretary of War and wanted to re-enlist, however, the Secretary felt he was more valuable as a civilian attorney rather than an enlisted man, especially due to his age. In that, the new presidential administration kept him on at the DOJ.

The following year, Mehlinger applied for membership in the Federal Bar Association signing the application as a Negro. The National Council of the association did not review his application until two years later. They then took nine months in review. He applied a second time in 1944, this time indicating that he was of Jewish heritage.

Mehlinger received a recommendation of admittance but after review of the information they had on Mehlinger, his application was referred back to the Admissions Committee stating that the application did not meet the standards of policy of the organization. In essence, Mehlinger was still a Negro according to the paperwork submitted in the two applications. The Admissions Committee was instructed to investigate. After speaking with Mehlinger and hearing that his father was indeed white and his use of the word Creole in the application was sufficient and he was admitted to the Federal Bar Association in 1945, three years after his first application.

In 1948, Mehlinger was called before the DOJ's Loyalty Review Board on a show cause order due to his association with the Southern Negro Youth Congress, which had been under surveillance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He had been listed as a sponsor to the group's national meeting. He had agreed to become a sponsor after seeing the name of DuBois, a man whom he greatly respected and thought was one of the most intelligent men he had ever met.

Not knowing the group was considered subversive until called before the Review Board, Mehlinger told the Board that he naturally had sympathy for the group as he was born in the south and had felt firsthand the effects and indignities of Jim Crowism but his loyalty lay with the DOJ. Many witnesses, both black and white, came to Mehlinger's defense. In the end, he kept his position at the DOJ but his file was kept open until his retirement. After serving as an attorney with the Justice Department for twenty years, Mehlinger retired in 1953.

In retirement, he became active in his church where he served as a Deacon. He gave community time to the American Legion, the Elks, and his college fraternity. He continued to practice law privately and at the age of one hundred, he still had several clients on the dockets of the courts.

Louis Rothschild Mehlinger died of a heart attack at the Washington, D.C. Hospital Center at the age of one hundred and five years old.





## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS MERCER

...was born on March 27, 1924 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Tarvell Linda Mercer and Castor Mercer, Jr. His named was changed to Christopher Columbus Mercer, Jr. soon after his birth. His mother owned

a dry-cleaning business and his father worked for the St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt) Railroad as a mechanic.

After graduating from Merrill High School in Pine Bluff in 1942, Mercer entered the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal College (AM&N), now known as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. While studying for his Bachelor of Arts degree, Mercer taught high school at Corbin High School, which was located on the AM&N campus. He taught eighth-grade algebra, American government, civics, geometry, and mathematics.

Mercer received his undergraduate degree from AM&N in 1946. He then became the Principal Conway County Training School in Menifee, Arkansas. He served as Principal for five years.

To earn his law degree, Mercer attended the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville where he obtained his law degree. Mercer was the third student to enroll into the law school. While earning his law degree, Mercer again taught high school, this time at Carver High School in Marked Tree, Poinsett County, Arkansas. He taught biology, chemistry, and mathematics. He also taught a business class for returning veterans. In addition, Mercer served as the high school basketball coach.

While obtaining his law degree, Mercer had to suspend his studies on several occasions to take a job in order to earn money to pay for his law degree. He graduated with his law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1955. He was one of the first six students to integrate the law school, which became known as the "Six Pioneers". Although he received his law degree in 1955, Mercer took and passed the bar exam a year earlier, in 1954 having the highest score amongst all students who took the exam that year. Ironically, Mercer received his law license on May 17, 1954, the exact same date that the United States Supreme Court ruled in the legendary federal case of "Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas".

After being admitted to the Arkansas bar, Mercer partnered with fellow University of Arkansas Law School stu-

dent, Wiley Austin Branton, for one year before becoming involved with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) working on civil rights cases. He married Inez Le May and together they had seven children. They would later divorce. Mercer then remarried, this time to Pamela James. They would have two children.

In 1957, Mercer became the Field Secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In that role, he served as an advisor to civil rights activists, Daisy Bates during her desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Once the nine students were admitted to the high school, during the first semester, Mercer served as a driver for them, driving them to and from school. That year, he joined the Arkansas Council on Human Rights and served as the Executive Director of the Council.

In 1959, Mercer partnered with E.V. Trimble to form a law firm. The two operated together for two years. He then partnered with Delector Tiller, again operating together for two years.

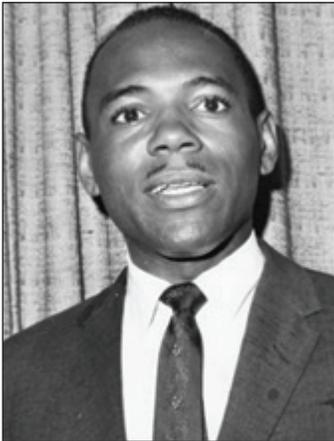
In January 1967, Mercer was appointed as the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Little Rock, Arkansas. He became the first African American to hold his position in Arkansas and any other southern state. He served as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for four years. He then returned to private practice.

Mercer would litigate cases in Arkansas for the next forty years. During that time, he represented nearly every church denomination established in the United States. He served as the General Counsel for Shorter College in North Little Rock, Arkansas and the General Counsel for the international Connectional A.M.E. Church. He also served as a Special Judge to several courts in Arkansas' Pulaski County.

In 2004, Mercer celebrated his achievement of practicing law for over fifty years in Arkansas, serving his community and clients in their legal needs. He was a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Little Rock, a member of the 20th Century Knights Social Club, and a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Mercer has received numerous awards including the Silas Hunt Legacy Award. The award recognizes an African American attorney that has exemplified excellence in the legal profession and for their achievements and contributions to the legal community. He also received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, both citations coming from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Christopher Columbus Mercer, Jr. died on November 20, 2012. He was eighty-seven years old.



## JAMES HOWARD MEREDITH

...was born on June 25, 1933 in Kosciusko, Mississippi to Roxie Smith Meredith and Moses Meredith. James and his nine siblings attended segregated schools in his early years. Under the Jim Crow laws of the time, whites and blacks attended separate schools.

Graduating high school in 1951, Meredith enlisted into the military joining the U.S. Air Force. He served in the military for nine years. Leaving the Air Force, he returned to Mississippi to enroll into Jackson State University located in Jackson.

Meredith chose Jackson State University to attend as that was the designated state school for blacks to attend. Inspired by President Kennedy and prior to attending Jackson State, in 1961, he applied to attend the University of Mississippi (UM). Knowing that the UM did not accept blacks, Meredith applied anyway. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 had passed legislation in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregated public schools was unconstitutional. Despite that ruling, the state of Mississippi defied that ruling and refused to admit blacks.

Denied twice, Meredith continued his fight for admission. In his pursuit, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their Legal Defense Fund (LDF) came to his defense. Medgar Evers, who headed the state chapter of the organization, became his advisor. The LDF filed a lawsuit against the University of Mississippi in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, citing because of Meredith's race, he had been rejected.

Evers and the LDF, after not receiving the outcome they sought in the suit, appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The court ruled that Meredith had to right to attend the university. Not satisfied with the Court of Appeals ruling, the state of Mississippi appealed that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. The court ruled in Meredith's favor and upheld the Court of Appeals ruling.

An injunction was then entered by the District Court compelling members of the Board of Trustees and other officials at the University to admit Meredith. Then Democratic Governor Ross Barnett refused to admit Meredith instead quickly introducing legislation that forbid admission to the university of anyone "who has a crime of moral turpitude against him" or who has been convicted of a felony and not pardoned. Meredith had convicted of "false voter registration" in Jackson County Mississippi.

Officials at the university decided to admit Meredith, however, Governor Barnett still refused to allow him stating that no school in Mississippi would be integrated during his tenure. The Court of Appeals, with all judges present, placed Governor Barnett in in civil contempt. The Court ordered him arrested and fined him \$10,000 for each day that Meredith was not admitted. Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Paul Johnson was also found in contempt and ordered to pay \$5,000 for every day that the university refuses to admit Meredith.

At an impasse, U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy phoned Governor Barnett in an attempt to convince him to relent in his stance against Meredith's admittance. Barnett continued his refusal. The Mississippi State Highway Patrol who had been patrolling the campus as many angry white supremacist and pro segregationist had gathered was withdrawn. Without their presence, the feuding sides began to fight and a riot erupted.

Kennedy ordered the Mississippi National Guard and federal troops to the campus to quell the rioting. In the violence, white rioters burned cars and threw rocks at the federal marshals. They destroyed property belonging to the university. During the violent riot, two men were killed by gunfire.

After the U.S Marshals gained control of the campus, on October 1, 1962, Barnett relented and agreed to admit Meredith. On October 3, 1962, Kennedy sent 500 U.S. Marshals to the Mississippi campus to protect Meredith as he registered in the school. With his admission, he became the first African-American student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. The U.S. Marshals did not leave the campus until the end of the semester when Meredith finished his classes that year.

Achieving this historic feat in the face of extreme bigotry and hatred, Meredith, despite constant harassment and racist attacks, graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in Political Science on August 18, 1963. He then left the U.S. to continue his education at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. Two years later, he returned to the U.S. and enrolled into Columbia University's law school in New York City. In 1968, he earned his law degree.

Continuing to fight racial injustices, in 1966, Meredith organized a march from Memphis, Tennessee to Jackson, Mississippi. His 220 mile March Against Fear was intended to bring light to racial oppression in Mississippi. He wanted to show the importance of blacks registering to vote since the 1965 Voting Rights Act had been passed and to help them overcome their fears of racial hatred. Governor Paul Johnson, the Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi at the time Governor Barnett opposed Meredith's enrollment in the University agreed to give Meredith and the marchers State Highway Police protection.

In his march, Meredith had asked that only men participate in the event of trouble. He was right. On the second day of the march, he was shot and wounded by James Norvell, a white man who plead guilty of the shooting. Hearing of the shooting, many organizations from around the country went to Mississippi to complete Meredith's march. After recovering from his gunshot wound, Meredith rejoined the marchers. By the time he returned to the march, over 15,000 people had joined the march. Also, over 4,000 voters were registered.

Meredith entered politics in 1967, when he ran on the Republican ticket for the Harlem, New York Congressional seat. Facing the incumbent Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., he eventually withdrew from the race. After the loss, Meredith returned to Mississippi where he again ran for political office, this time for the U.S. Senate in 1972. That run also ended in defeat.

Meredith would later become an advisor to North Carolina U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, an white segregationist. For accepting this role, Meredith received much criticism for working with for a man who had been opposed to integration. Meredith responded by stating that he had applied to several Senator and House of Representative members but only Helms offered him a job.

Forty years later, in 2002, the University of Mississippi honored Meredith with a year long celebration of his historic feat. Meredith, although he participated in the events, was not elated by the events. Meredith, years earlier, had achieved his main goal of integrating the university of which he called "an assault on white supremacy." His son, Joseph would later graduate at the top of his class from the school's graduate business school with a Doctoral degree.

Meredith continues to be involved in educational and civil rights Issues. His nonprofit organization, the Meredith Institute, serves as his vehicle in his efforts to protect the rights of African Americans. He has penned several books, including his 2010 publication, *Will Wadsworth's Train to Nowhere*. In 2012, he authored his memoir, *A Mission from God*. Meredith continues to speak around the country about his experiences during the desegregation of the University of Mississippi.





**HENRY  
MCKINLEY  
"MICKEY"  
MICHAUX, JR.**

...was born September 4, 1930. He graduated from the preparatory Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina. The school was founded in

1902 by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown and named after Alice Freeman Palmer, the former President of Wellesley College and Dr. Brown benefactor. The school was created for upper class black children.

After graduating from high school, Michaux enrolled into North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina where he received his Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1952. While earning his undergraduate degree, Michaux became a member of the Lampodas Club of Omega Psi Phi fraternity. In 1949, he served as Treasurer for the organization. He is also a member of the Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

Michaux remained at NCCU where he obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1964. He went on to further his education at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, receiving degrees in Biochemistry and Physiology. He would gain additional training back at NCCU when he took courses in Economics and Business Administration.

In 1952, Michaux enlisted into the United States Army Medical Corps and served for two years. He then served in the United States Army Reserve for six years leaving in 1960. He returned to North Carolina to begin his legal career.

In 1955, Michaux became the Vice President of Union Insurance and Realty Company in Durham. He continued to practice law for several years before joining the District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney. He became the first African American in any southern state since Reconstruction to serve as an Assistant District Attorney. He remained with the District Attorney's Office for five years.

In 1973, Michaux was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly. He represented North Carolina's 31st District, which includes county of Durham. He served in the Assembly for four years.

In 1977, Michaux was appointed by then President Jimmy Carter to lead the office in the Middle District of North Carolina. He was again the first African American to lead a southern legal office since Reconstruction. He remained at that post for five years.

In 1982, Michaux ran for a seat in the United States Congress. Losing his bid for a Congressional seat, he ran for his old seat in the North Carolina House. In 1983, Michaux was elected again to the North Carolina General Assembly representing the 31st District. He would serve in his seat for the next thirty-four years, and counting.

In 1992, Michaux ran and lost the Democratic primary in the newly established 12th Congressional District to fellow Democrat Mel Watt. As a member of the state legislature, he introduced a bill that would lower the amount of votes needed to avoid a run-off election. In his congressional race, he did not gather over fifty percent of the votes and had to enter a run-off campaign, which he won. His bill to lower the threshold of votes from fifty to forty percent was instituted and is still in effect today. Had that law been in effect when Mercer ran for Congress, he would have become the first African American from North Carolina elected to serve in the United States Congress since he did receive the most votes in the Congressional race, but not the required fifty percent. He lost that race in a run-off.

In 2007, Michaux was selected to serve as the Senior Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He also served as the Chairman of the House Select Committee on Street Gang Prevention. In 2014, Michaux became the longest serving member of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Representative Michaux is married to June Michaux and together they have two children, Jocelyn and Cicero. He is currently a practicing attorney for the law firm of Michaux and Michaux Practicing Attorneys located in Durham. The firm was established in 1970 and has litigated cases for forty-seven years.

For his alma mater, North Carolina Central University, Michaux has served as the National President of the NCCU Alumni Association on three different occasions. He also serves the school as a member of its' Board of Trustees. In addition, Michaux serves on the Board of Directors of the NCCU Foundation, Inc..

Michaux has been honored by man associations and organizations during his lengthy career in the North Carolina General Assembly and his contributions to varied organizations has been vast. He has been recognized by his alma mater, North Carolina Central University, which renamed its' School of Education in his honor. He was also inducted into the school's Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.

Michaux holds memberships in the National Bar Association and the North Carolina Bar Association. He also is a member of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers. In addition, North Carolina Central University awarded Michaux an Honorary Doctor of Laws from as well.





## STEPHAN P. MICKLE

...was born in New York City, New York. After completing high school, he enrolled into the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree

in 1965 majoring in Political Science. He was the first African American student to graduate from the university.

In 1966, Mickle received a Master of Education degree from the university. He remained at the university to study for his law degree, which he received from the Fredric G. Levin College of Law in 1970. He was the second African American to graduate from the law school, the first being W. George Allen.

After leaving law school, Mickle took and passed the Florida State Bar exam. He then moved to Washington, D.C. where he took a job with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in their Office of Legal Services. He also established law offices in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

In 1971, he returned to Gainesville to become an Adjunct Professor at the University of Florida College of Law. He remains in that post today. He also established a private practice law firm in Alachua County, the first African American to practice in the Gainesville. Mickle also served as an Adjunct Professor at Florida State University and taught high school in Titusville for one year.

In 1974, Mickle served as a Special Assistant Public Defender for the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court. Five years later, he became a Judge on the Alachua County Court. As the first African American to be named a Judge in Alachua County, he served the Court for five years. He then was named as a Circuit Judge in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, the first African American Judge to serve in the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

In 1993, Judge Mickle was again nominated to a seat on the bench. This time he was appointed as a Circuit Judge to Florida's First District Court of Appeals. He again became a first, the first African American to serve on the Court of Appeals. He served on the Court of Appeals for five years.

In 1998, then President Bill Clinton nominated Mickle as a United States District Judge of the United States

District Court for the Northern District of Florida. He was the first African American to sit on the Northern District Court. His nomination was confirmed on May 22, 1998. In 2009, he was elected as Chief Judge and served as Chief Judge for two years. In 2011, Mickle assumed senior status.

In 1999, Mickle received the University of Florida's Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was the first African American man to ever receive the honor. The University also honored Judge Mickle with a tree dedication held on the schools campus. The university's Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations also gave Judge Mickle recognition for his years of service to the Florida bench.



## VICKI MILES- LAGRANGE

...was born in 1953 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Mary Lou Miles and Charles C. Miles. Both of her parents were educators having taught in the Oklahoma City public school for many years. Oklahoma, like many southern regions, had segregated schools and education was a premium. Vicki was fortunate as her parents ensured that she receive the tools necessary to succeed.

In Miles-LaGrange' tenth grade of high school, she was selected to represent her Catholic school, Bishop McGuinness High School at the American Legion Auxiliary's 1970 Oklahoma Girls' State. The event is sponsored by the Auxiliary which runs a mock government in order for high school students to learn how the government process works. Elected by popular vote as Governor of the event by the 416 girls participating in the mock trials, Miles, because of her race, was not permitted to represent Oklahoma at the national 1970 Girls' Nation event in Washington, D.C.. From this disappointing prohibition, Miles was able to accept this injustice without allowing it to deter her Ambitions. Instead it gave her the passion and grace to continue her journey toward excellence, something she had learned early on from her parents.

Miles-LaGrange left the U.S. to attend the University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana, West Africa. From that university, in 1973, she received her certificate of graduation. She returned to the states and enrolled into Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She graduated cum laude from Vasser in 1974. She went on to attend Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. graduating in 1977 with her J.D. degree. While at Howard, she became Editor of *The Howard Law Journal*.

In her first job as an attorney, Miles-LaGrange clerked for Woodrow Seals of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. She would remain his clerk for two Years. From 1979 to 1980, she was a Graduate fellow in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.. She left Justice to take a position as a Special Assistant to the African Development Group (ADC) in Washington, D.C.. While working at ADC, Miles-LaGrange was also a Lecturer in the Women's Studies Program at the University of Maryland, College Park.

From 1982 to 1983, she became a Trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Enforcement Operations. Leaving the Justice Department for the second time, Miles-LaGrange returned to Oklahoma to serve as Assistant District Attorney for Oklahoma County. She remained in this position for three years focusing mostly on sex crimes.

In 1986, Miles-LaGrange tried her hand at private practice. While practicing, she decided, a year later, to run for elected office. She put her hat in the ring and was elected as a state Senator at the age of 33. She would serve as Senator until 1993. With her seat in

the Senate, she became the first African-American woman elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in the history of the state. Taking a Senate seat along with her was Maxine Horner, another African American woman elected during the same time as Miles-LaGrange.

In 1993, Bill Clinton assumed the Presidency of the United States. He quickly appointed Miles-LaGrange as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. She would serve for one year when President Clinton called on her again. This time she was nominated to a seat on the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. Two weeks later, she was confirmed by the United States Senate. In 2008, she was appointed Chief Judge. She held the position until 2015.

Controversy found its' way to Judge Miles-LaGrange's chambers with her preliminary ruling of the Oklahoma's Constitution which prohibited the state's courts from either "considering or using" international law or Islamic Sharia law in their Opinions. Considerable attention was drawn to her which prompted a state legislator to ask Congress to impeach her.

Having traveled the world to give mission to her rule of law, Miles-LaGrange, has involved herself in both national and international civil and human rights. Her humanitarian works have been recognized around the world. She has been awarded inductions into several Hall of Fames. In 1999, she was inducted into the African-American Hall of Fame. In 2003, the Women's Hall of Fame gave her the honor. The Child Advocate honored her with a Hall of Fame induction in 2003, and in 2008, the Mid-America Education awarded her the same honor.

Other awards and honors given to Chief Judge Miles-LaGrange include the 1992 National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Distinguished Alumni Award; a 1995 Oklahoma City University School of Law Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree; the 1999 University Women's Project Kate Barnard Award (Oklahoma's First Commission of Charities and Corrections); the 2002 American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession Meritorious Service Award for Leadership in ABA Judicial Clerkship Program; the 2002 Ebony Tribune "Keeper of the Dream" Award; the 2006 County Historical Society Pathmaker Award; and the Bangladesh Society of Oklahoma Appreciation Award in 2008.

For her international works, Miles-LaGrange has worked with courts, judges and students in Africa, Asia, and South America. She has spoken to students in Korean colleges about American black history and has hosted Russian and Rwandan judges, along with other foreign judiciaries, inviting them to Oklahoma. She even hosted the Supreme Court of Ghana. She was also a part of a invited delegation to the official closing of the Gacaca Courts in Kigali, Rwanda by the Attorney General of Rwanda.

Miles-LaGrange is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and formerly served as the Regional Director for the Midwestern Region. She is also a member of The Links, Incorporated. This exclusive non-profit organization combines friendship and community service to help their communities thrive.

As a writer, Miles-LaGrange co-authored the book, *A Passion for Equality – The Life of Jimmy Stewart*, which became a 2000 Oklahoma Book Award Finalist. In 2003, Miles-LaGrange was inducted in the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.





## THOMAS EZEKIEL MILLER

...was born on June 17, 1849 in Ferrebeeville, South Carolina. His mother was the daughter of Judge Thomas Heyward, Jr., who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. She was a “mulatto”,

a name given to a person of mixed race of black and white. Miller’s father was a wealthy white man. Miller’s parents were forced to place him up for adoption. Richard and Mary Ferrebee Miller, former slaves, adopted him and took him with them on their move to Charleston, South Carolina.

As a child, Miller attended the free colored schools for children in Charleston. As a teenager and after the Civil War ended, he moved to Hudson, New York. Although he could pass for white, Miller chose to identify himself as black. After graduating high school, Miller enrolled into historically black college, Lincoln University located in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1872. Wanting to help slaves earn their freedom, he decided to return to South Carolina.

Back in South Carolina, he took a job as a Beaufort County School Commissioner. To work toward his law degree, he enrolled into South Carolina College, now the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Miller was fortunate to have earned his law degree in 1875 and to have passed the bar the same year because a year later, in 1876, the Republican party lost control of the South Carolina legislature. The party had allowed blacks to attend the law school. With Democrats winning control of the state legislature, they passed legislation forbidding blacks from the school and forced the black students out of the school.

With his law degree in hand, Miller, in his attempt to help blacks, decided to enter politics. In 1874, he became a member of the South Carolina Assembly. Six years later, he was elected to the State Senate. He also won the nomination to run for Lieutenant Governor. Because of anti-black violence, the Republican party chose not to place their nominated Miller in the election. Miller, despite the surrounding violence remained in politics.

In 1884, Miller was appointed as the state Chairman of the Republican Party. Four years later, he was elected

by South Carolina’s predominately black Second Congressional District to the U.S. House of Representatives. Serving only one year, Miller became the seventh black from South Carolina to be elected to the House during and after the U.S. Reconstruction era.

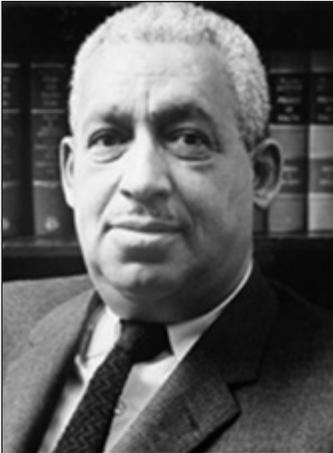
The Democratic South Carolina state legislature introduced bills to disenfranchise the black vote. Georgia Senator Alfred H. Colquitt, in support of the southern states’ wishes to oust all blacks from having any legislative powers, called on Congress to pass legislation that would require blacks, in order to vote, to be able to read and write. Blacks would also need to own property having a value of at least \$300.

Miller, in an attempt to counter Colquitt’s claim that blacks had not done much to show their aptitude to govern, delivered a passionate speech before Congress arguing that blacks elected to state and national offices were largely responsible for current laws related to finance, penal laws and confinement, and most importantly, the public school system in effect. He stated that it was because of racism that South Carolina and the country’s economic disparity and downturn existed.

Losing the fight and election, Miller, in 1891, returned to practicing private law. No black would be elected to Congress from South Carolina until 1972. In 1894, he was again elected to the South Carolina Assembly where he served for two years. In the state legislature, he continued his fight against the literacy laws associated with voter registration. For his diligent fight for the rights of blacks, Miller was named as President of South Carolina’s newly founded black college, the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural, and Mechanical College of South Carolina in Orangeburg. The college later was renamed South Carolina State College.

As President, Miller used his position to advocate for black teachers to become employed in the state black public schools. He would remain as President of the college for the next fifteen years. He was forced out in 1911 by then Governor Coleman L. Blease. Miller had opposed Blease’s election as Governor.

Miller decided to retire from both education and politics. For the next twelve years, he lived in the Charleston area where he gave his time to various community causes. For his life’s work for black civil rights, Miller’s doctrine was simple. He did not love the white less, but felt that blacks needed him more. He moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for a short time, but returned to his native South Carolina where he died on April 8, 1938.



## WILLIAM ROBERT MING, JR.

...was born on May 7, 1911 in Chicago, Illinois to Annie and William Ming Sr. After completing high school, he enrolled into the University of Chicago where he received his undergraduate degree. He earned

a Ph.B degree from the university in 1931 and his Juris Doctorate degree from the university in 1933. He was the first African American member of the schools Law Review and graduated Order of the Coif. He then took and passed the bar exam.

After being admitted to the bar, Ming joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He assisted the organization in a case whereby an African American soldier had been denied admission to the U.S. Army Air Corps. Ming and the NAACP were not successful in their representation of the black soldier. Rather than admit the black soldier, the government decided to create a separate fighting unit for African Americans. The unit would become known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Ming then enlisted into the United States Army. He served in the Army's Judge Advocates General Corp. In completing his military duties, Ming had risen to the rank of Captain.

Returning from the Army, Ming returned to Chicago to resume his legal career. He became a part of the litigation team that argued the legendary case by the NAACP, "Board v. Board of Education". Ming would work on other important civil rights cases for the NAACP as well.

Leading up to the historic "Board v. Board of Education" case, Ming was a part of the team that litigated the Shelley v. Kraemer case, which declared unconstitutional the state enforcement of racial covenants that restricted African Americans in housing opportunities. Ming played a part in the case of Sweatt v. Painter in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the separate but equal doctrine in a University of Texas's School of Law suit concerning education. In the McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents case, Ming gave input to that case which dealt with discrimination in admissions to graduate schools. Each of these cases played a role in the final historical education case of "Board v. Board of Education".

Other cases that Ming was pivotal in litigating included the NAACP v. Alabama, where the state of Alabama sued to gain access to the NAACP's membership list, which the courts ruled unconstitutional. In Sipuel v. Board of Regents, the courts also ruled unconstitutional the exclusion of qualified African American students to all-white law schools. In Ward v. Texas, Ming and his group of lawyers argued successfully for the courts to rule unconstitutional forced confessions in murder trials.

Ming would be a part of the litigating team in the case of [8] Missouri ex rel Gaines v. Canada, the states providing in state education to white students must provide the same for black students. In Virginia State Bar v. S.W. Tucker, Ming and the NAACP successfully represented Samuel Wilbert Tucker when the Virginia State Bar attempted to disbar him. That suit was dismissed. In 1960, Ming helped to represent Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a Montgomery, Alabama in a trial heard in front of an all-white jury where King was charged with perjury in an alleged tax evasion case. Ming obtained an acquittal for King.

Ming served in a variety of leadership roles during his legal career. He served as Legal Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union and as President of the National Veterans Organization. He served as a member of the Chicago branch of the NAACP and as a member of the Illinois State Conference of the NAACP. He also served as a member of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP.

Ming taught law at the University of Chicago Law School where he became the first full-time African American to teach at the law school. He taught law there six years. He also taught at Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School.

In 1970, Ming was charged with tax evasion and prosecuted. Despite paying the back taxes owed, he was sentenced to sixteen month in prison. Several friends and colleagues urged the authorities to grant him parole and his release from prison to no avail. After suffering a stroke, the authorities paroled Ming and he was sent to a Veteran's Research Hospital in Chicago. On June 30, 1973, William Robert Ming, Jr. died in that VA hospital in Chicago. He was sixty-two years old.

In Ming's memory, in April of 1974, the NAACP National Board of Directors created the William Robert Ming Advocacy Award. The award is to be awarded annually to a attorney "who exemplifies the spirit of financial and personal sacrifice that Mr. Ming displayed in his legal work for the NAACP".



## FRED G. MINNIS, SR.

...was born in 1912. He was a graduate of the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. and supported his alma mater throughout his legal career. Minnis desired to become an attorney aiming to fight for equal job opportunities

for African Americans and to provide equal access to the judicial system for African Americans. After graduating from Howard, he returned to Pinellas County to begin his legal career.

In 1956, Minnis opened his law practice in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was the first African American attorney to serve full-time in Pinellas County. During his illustrious career, he became to be known throughout Pinellas County as "The Godfather" of African American lawyers.

As Minnis built his law firm, he traveled across the United States visiting law schools where African American students were graduating seeking out the best African American lawyers to hire. His law firm produced many of the early Florida African American attorneys that served as clerks and became respected attorneys in their own right. He gave opportunities to some of the brightest minds that took on Florida cases surrounding civil rights and other African American needed legal services. Two of his most noted clerks were African American attorneys Frank Peterman, Sr. and James B. Sanderlin. Sanderlin would go on to become the first African American Judge to preside in Pinellas County.

In serving Pinellas County for decades, Minnis represented countless numbers of city and county residents, many for free, in their legal woes. Doing the 1950s and 1960s, he represented the Citizens Cooperative Committee, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its' Youth Council in many of their Florida legal actions. As an advocate for promoting and uplifting African American youth, Minnis supported disadvantaged youth in their efforts to become productive citizens and was especially protective of young minority lawyers and mentored them in their professional growth.

In 2000, to honor him, the Fred G. Minnis, Sr. Bar Association was founded. It became the only African American voluntary bar association serving Pinellas County African American lawyers and their business and personal needs. Today it remains the only predominately African-American voluntary bar association in the County. The association promotes and supports minority lawyers in their educational, social, personal, and professional business careers. The association also awards higher learning scholarships to deserving youth and mentors high school students with the hopes that they will enter the legal profession. In addition, the association assists current law school students in their curricular needs and provides free legal services to association member's respective communities.

To show gratitude for its' alumnus, Howard University School of Law presented Minnis with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his endless support of the law school and the work he performed on behalf of the African American community of St. Petersburg.



## ARTHUR WERGS MITCHELL

...was born on December 22, 1883 near Lafayette, Alabama to Ammar Patterson and Taylor Mitchell. In 1897, at the age of fourteen, he entered Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. While studying at Tuskegee, he worked as a laborer and

served as an office boy to Booker T. Washington.

After graduating from Tuskegee, Mitchell taught school in rural Alabama and Georgia. He founded the Armstrong Agricultural School in West Butler, Alabama hoping to implement the theories and teachings he learned from Washington while at Tuskegee. He served as President of the school for ten years before enrolling into Columbia University in New York City, New York.

An advanced student, he quickly qualified to take the bar exam. He moved to Washington, D.C. and was admitted to the bar. He practiced law for a period in Washington, D.C. before moving to Chicago, Illinois in 1929.

In Chicago he practiced law and became involved in the real estate business. He married Eula Mae King, who would die in 1910. He would later marry Annie Harris, who would die in 1947. He would marry his third wife, Clara Smith Mann, a year later.

Mitchell joined the Republican Party although he would later switch to the Democratic Party. He would later join the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. In the fraternity, he served as its' 6th International President for six years.

In 1934, Mitchell ran for Congress representing a predominantly African American district, which included Chicago's South Side against Harry Baker. He lost the primary race by a mere 1,000 votes. Baker unfortunately died before the general election and Mitchell was selected to take his place. He ran against Oscar De Priest, a Chicago businessman and civil rights advocate. Mitchell beat De Priest by a very slim margin to win a seat in Congress, becoming the first African American from the Democratic Party to be elected to the U.S. Congress. In the next three elections, Mitchell would narrowly, but win re-election to Congress.

Taking his seat in the 74th Congress, Mitchell campaigned for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's concerns of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked while providing jobs for every race. He also supported the President's New Deal legislation. In Congress, Mitchell was assigned to the Post Office and Post Roads Committee. He sat on the Committee for eight years and served those eight years as the only African American member of Congress.

In 1936, Mitchell was chosen by Roosevelt to give his seconding speech for his re-nomination to the Presidency at the Democratic National Convention and served as the Western Director of Minority Affairs for the President's re-election campaign. He promoted the President's Works Projects Administration (WPA), later renamed the Public Works Administration (PWA), as a vehicle for African

American prosperity. He pushed the administration's Federal Art Project and the Federal Writers' Project as beneficial programs that brought opportunities to black communities while touting the increase in workforce jobs created by these programs, all in an attempt to get Roosevelt re-elected.

Mitchell used his Congressional position to draw more attention to racial discrimination inside and outside of the government. He challenged the labor unions to break contracts that excluded blacks from employment and supported Congressional legislation that outlawed the poll tax and literacy test in order to cast an electoral vote. During World War II, Mitchell was critical of the treatment of African American soldiers and introduced bills aimed at ending racial discrimination in the military. He called for the ending of photographic submissions with applications for federal employment citing that the photographic requirement was a means of racial profiling and offered that fingerprinting as a more suitable process.

As the only African American serving in Congress, Mitchell was under constant scrutiny by both the black community and his white counterparts. Some in the black community accused him of not doing enough while the white community cried that he overserved the black community. Mitchell submitted a Congressional anti-lynching bill that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other civil rights groups felt was too lenient. The House ultimately passed a bill that carried heavier punishments than the bill introduced by Mitchell.

In 1937, while traveling south on the Illinois Central and Rock Island Railroads, Mitchell was forced to move into a segregated train car as it passed into Arkansas. Mitchell filed a complaint against the railroad with the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) for racial discrimination. The ICC and federal government dismissed his complaint.

Mitchell then filed a plea to the U.S Supreme Court, *Mitchell v. United States*. The Court ruled unanimously in Mitchell's favor citing a violation of the Interstate Commerce Act, which the ICC was, by law, deemed to enforce. His case opened the door for African American passengers the right to the same travel accommodations as whites. Although the federal Court made the ruling concerning interstate train travel, the intrastate train travel laws stayed in place. It would be fourteen years before the U.S. Supreme Court would rule on intrastate travel making that law unconstitutional.

In the 1942 Congressional election, Mitchell decided not to run for re-election. He retired from Congress, left Chicago and moved to Petersburg, Virginia. He bought twelve acres of land and became a farmer. He remained in politics although behind the scenes. He helped to organize the Southern Regional Council and spent time lecturing and supporting local Petersburg organizations.

Arthur Wergs Mitchell died on his farm in Petersburg, Virginia on May 9, 1968. He was eighty-four years old.



## DAVID B. MITCHELL

...was born in the Bronx borough of New York City, New York. He attended high school at the Peddie School in Highstown, New Jersey. He attended Fisk University in Nashville,

Tennessee in Nashville, Tennessee where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967. For his law degree, he enrolled into Columbia University in New York City, New York. He completed the requirements for his law degree in 1970. He was admitted to the Maryland Bar the same year.

To begin his professional legal career, Mitchell accepted a job with the Baltimore law firm of Brown, Allen & Josey. He worked at the firm for two years. In 1970, he became an Assistant State's Attorney in the State Attorney's Office of Baltimore City for three years before moving to the Office of the Public Defender where he stayed for four years serving as a trial attorney in the Juvenile Division.

In 1973, Mitchell returned to private practice joining the firm of Mitchell, Gibson & Lee, later Mitchell & Lee, PA. He would remain with the firm for the next eleven years. He served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law teaching a course on legal writing.

In 1984, Mitchell worked for The David and Lucile Packard Foundation on their Editorial Advisory Board for the Center for the Future of Children. He served on the Advisory Board for five years. Mitchell then was appointed to Maryland's Eighth Judicial Circuit Court for Baltimore City as an Associate Judge. He was re-elected to the bench in 1986 where he would remain until his retirement in 2001.

While sitting on the bench of the Circuit Court, Judge Mitchell served as an Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division and as Judge-in-Charge of Baltimore's Juvenile Division. In his oversight of the Court's children's system, he was able to enlist volunteer advocates to help children that came before the Court, assisting them while in the Court system and after they left it.

Leaving the Circuit Court, Judge Mitchell became the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges based in Reno, Nevada. Judge Mitchell was selected for the position after having served the Council since 1985 as a general member and for seven years as a member of the Board of Directors. As Executive Director, Judge Mitchell was charged with the oversight of the 110 staff members that work for the Council.

The Council's purpose is to focus on national policies centering on issues involving children such as child abuse, family violence, foster care, and juvenile delinquency. Judge Mitchell, in accepting the new role, wanted to change laws associated with children who commit violent crimes. He pushed for the law to treat and prosecute the most violent children as adults, as Maryland and several other states do.

Judge Mitchell has served as a member of many legal, fraternal, professional, and social organizations. He has served as a member of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, as a Commissioner to the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland, and the Character Committee of the Court of Appeals. Judge Mitchell is a member of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, the Maryland State Bar Association as a member of the Board of Governors, and the Monumental City Bar Association. He has been asked to serve on many more committees and with each request, he has answered their calls.

Judge Mitchell has been the recipient of many awards, citation and distinguished recognitions by many associations and organizations during his professional career, which are far to many to list here. What can be said, is that during his lengthy career serving the needs of the Maryland Juvenile Courts and those of the nation, Judge Mitchell has served the bench with dignity, class and determined resolve to protect children that needed protection and to adequately adjudicate those needing the firm hand of the Court.



## JUANITA JACKSON MITCHELL

...was born on January 2, 1913 in Hot Springs, Arkansas to Lillie May (Carroll) Jackson and Keiffer Jackson. Mitchell, her two sister and one brother grew up moving frequently across the U.S. southern belt from place to place. Their father's business

was showing feature films in church basements from town to town. Church basements many times were the only large facility capable of holding a large group of black people. In addition, blacks could not frequent the movie theater. Mitchell would often recite poetry whenever her father needed to change the movie reel.

When Mitchell was in her teens, the family moved to Baltimore, Maryland. She attended Frederick Douglass High School, graduating with honors in 1927. She submitted applications to both Morgan State College (MSU), a predominately black college located in Baltimore, and the University of Maryland in College Park (UM), a predominately white university. She was accepted into predominately black MSU but denied admission to UM because of her race.

After attending MSU for two years, Mitchell transferred to the University of Pennsylvania (UP). While earning her degree, Mitchell worked for the U.S. Bureau of Negro Work and the Methodist church. She traveled around the country speaking and teaching courses in race relations. She received her Bachelor's degree in Education in 1931. Seemingly, as a graduation present to herself, Mitchell founded the Baltimore City-Wide Young People's Forum, designed to bring inner city Baltimore youth together to discuss their issues they faced in the Jim Crow Era.

In 1935, Mitchell earned her Master's degree in Sociology from UP as well. She took a job as Special Assistant to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Executive Secretary, Walter F. White. She served as the NAACP's National Youth Director from 1935 to 1938. As Director, she focused on the Youth and College Division, creating organizing campaigns for young black civil rights protesters to employ in their fight for their civil rights. From Mitchell's efforts, the NAACP Youth Movement was born in 1935.

For her law degree, she returned to the state of Maryland. She enrolled into the now integrated University of Maryland's Law School. Three years later, in 1947, Mitchell became the first black woman to receive a law degree from the university. The same university that had denied her admission several years before.

Mitchell, Jackson then, met and married Clarence Mitchell, an up and coming attorney working for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). With law degree in hand, she joined the NAACP staff of their Legal Defense Team (LDF) in their Baltimore offices. She soon worked her way to the national

offices in New York City. The two of them worked together for the NAACP on some of the most important civil rights cases in American history.

At the NAACP, Mitchell was tasked with increasing the voter registration for black voters in Baltimore and for the organization in general. In one of her campaigns, she and her organizers, marched on Annapolis, the capital of Maryland, to voice their protests and a get out the vote rally. Her "Register and Vote" campaign was a huge success. By years end, Mitchell and her team had registered over 11,000 new voters. Her 1958, "Register to Vote" campaign brought in over 20,000 more registered voters.

Mitchell, and the rest of the LDF team of attorneys, turned their focus to the desegregation of public schools and public accommodations. She litigated many cases related to integrating public facilities and schools. Working alongside Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, her husband Clarence, and many other learned attorneys, Mitchell counseled and litigated many of the civil rights cases that are U.S. landmarks.

Suits were filed against the Baltimore City school board to integrate all public schools in the city. From Mitchell's and the LDF's efforts, Baltimore became the first southern city to have their schools desegregate. In 1950, she and Thurgood Marshall filed suit which ultimately led to the 1955 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that desegregated state parks and pools in Maryland

While Mitchell was busy litigating civil rights suits, her husband Clarence had become the Chief lobbyist in Congress for the NAACP and its' agenda. Clarence had become a go-to-guy on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. while Juanita litigated toward a common outcome, civil rights legislation. As Mitchell performed her LDF tasks, she also gave time to the campaign to elect her brother-in-law Parren J. Mitchell in his 1970 Congressional victory as Representative from the State of Maryland.

For her years of service to the NAACP and the LDF, with presidential respect, Mitchell has been appointed to several presidential committees. She served on President John F. Kennedy's, White House Conference on "Women and Civil Rights". She also served on President Johnson's, White House Conference "To Fulfill These Rights".

In gratitude for her years of public service to Marylanders, Mitchell was inducted, in 1987, into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. For their appreciation, the NAACP recognized her years of accomplished and successful works by creating their "Juanita Jackson Mitchell Award for Legal Activism". The award was created as a gesture and to her as an African American woman having great feats in the legal field.

Mitchell was a devoted member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She was a standing member of the Black American Professional Women's Club and the National Association of Negro Business. She was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

Juanita Jackson Mitchell died on July 7, 1992 in Baltimore, Maryland of heart failure. She was seventy-nine years old.



## JAMES DOUGLAS MONTGOMERY

...was born on February 17, 1932 in Louise, Mississippi to Mildred and James Montgomery. He attended the Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago, Illinois graduating in 1949. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign at

Urbana in Political Science before enrolling into the university's law school where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1956.

After graduating from law school, Montgomery took a job at the law firm of Rogers, Stayhorn and Harth in Chicago. After working for the firm for two years, he became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois serving as a prosecutor. He then entered private practice.

Montgomery practiced law with several law firms before founding his own firm, James D. Montgomery and Associates, Ltd.. He focused his attention on the civil rights issues of Chicago's disenfranchised black community. His client list soon included members of the Black Panthers and the Blackstone Rangers, both civil right activists groups.

In the 1960s, civil rights protests were at an all time high, especially in the inner cities of the country and Chicago was a hot bed. For the Black Panthers, Montgomery represented the family of its' leaders, Chicago's Fred Hampton and Rockford, Illinois leader Mark Clark, who were assassinated by Chicago police in a house raid. The Chicago Police ruled the killings as justifiable. Montgomery brought suit against the city and after an eighteen month trial and an appeal, the Chicago police settled the case paying \$1.8 million in damages to the two murdered civil rights activists' family.

During the turbulent 1960s, Montgomery would file several lawsuits that challenged school segregation in Chicago. He also challenged the disparity in compensation paid between Chicago's African American Full Time Basis substitute teachers and that paid to their white counterparts. He would also try hundreds of civil rights cases, challenging the charges brought against the litigants.

In 1983, Montgomery was named by then Mayor Harold Washington as the Corporation Counsel to the City of Chicago. In being named, he became the first and only African American as Corporation Counsel. As Corporation Counsel, Montgomery supervised over 190 lawyers and staff members and oversaw the trial dockets that were before the city's legal representatives. That year, he was invited to become a Fellow to the prestigious International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

In 2000, Montgomery became the Managing Partner in the law firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens, Smith and Montgomery. One of his legal partners was famed attorney Johnnie L. Cochran, who years later would represent the infamous football

player, O.J. Simpson in a 1994 double murder trial. That same year, Montgomery and Cochran represented a client obtaining a \$9.8 million damages settlement against an automobile manufacturer for defective designs of its' car roof structures after his client was injured in an accident. Montgomery and Cochran would become known as the "Dynamic Duo" due to the amount and type of cases that they took on.

In 2001, Montgomery won an \$18 million victory against the City of Chicago for the family of LaTanya Haggerty, who had been killed by a police officer two years prior. The settlement paid at that time by the city was one of the highest settlements ever paid by the Illinois state government. Montgomery won another settlement for \$16 million in the case of Rashidi Wheeler, a Northwestern University football player who died during an unauthorized football practice. In a 2006 verdict, Montgomery won a staggering \$23.5 million for a client in an auto negligence case and another \$6.75 million in a malicious-prosecution case.

While serving his clients with their legal issues, Montgomery was a frequent lecturer to law schools and scholars across the country. He was called upon to speak to many professional law groups teaching trial and litigation techniques. He ran skills workshops for advocacy students at several university law schools and workshops for law firms and legal organizations. DePaul University in Chicago has called upon him to speak to their law students to show successful applicable techniques, as has the University of Chicago.

Montgomery has given advice on these techniques to the Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers has called upon Montgomery to showcase his legal teaching talents as well. For the University of Chicago Law School, he taught an Intensive Trial Practice Course for its' Intensive Trial Practice Workshop.

Montgomery has served on several advisory groups and committees during his career. For the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, he served as an advisor to its' Civil Justice Expense and Delay Advisory Groups. For the state and federal courts, he served on their Judicial Evaluation Committees. Montgomery also served as a trustee to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Montgomery, during his career, has been honored and given many accolades and awards. In giving honor to him, the Illinois Academy of Lawyers inducted him as a Laureate in the Academy. To receive the prestigious award, a Laureate must "personify the greatness of the legal profession and help to establish and maintain its' highest principles through a pervasive record of service to the law, the profession and to the public". Montgomery fit that description and the award was well deserved. He also was awarded the Earl Burrus Dickerson Award, the Edward H. Wright Award, and the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame Award.

Montgomery is married to Pauline Montgomery and together they have six adult children, Linda, James, Michelle, Lisa, Jewel and Jilian. Their three oldest children are attorneys and are members of the Illinois State Bar.



## CECIL BASSETT MOORE

...was born on April 2, 1915 in West Virginia. He was raised in a middle class family. After graduating from high school, he enrolled into Bluefield College in Bluefield, Virginia where he earned his undergraduate degree.

Following his graduation from college, he chose to enlist into the United States Marine Corps and served overseas during World War II. Completing his tour of duty in the Marines and reaching the rank of Sergeant, Moore moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he enrolled into Temple University. He attended night school and paid his tuition by working as a liquor wholesaler.

In 1963, Moore became the President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In assuming the leadership role of the local chapter of the NAACP, he focused on the civil rights issues that plagued Philadelphia residents in their pursuit of equal rights afforded to other city residents not provided to the African American community. He fought for Philadelphia's poorest citizens, specifically the city's north side. During Moore's tenure as President of the NAACP, the chapter's membership expanded from 7,000 to over 50,000 participants.

As President of the NAACP, Moore organized picket lines to protest injustices within the municipal government of Philadelphia. He gathered supporters to picket city construction sites in the black community that had no black workers, he picketed the Trailways Bus Terminal, as Trailways had no black workers, and he picketed the headquarters of the local trade union that oversaw the hiring of workers in many of the city's specialty trade jobs. Although Moore's pickets did not initially bring major results, his protests did increase the number of African American workers in the city's employment rolls.

In the 1964 riot that engulfed the city, Moore is credited with assisting the city come to grips with issues surrounding the Columbia Avenue riot while he helped to restore order. In quelling the vandalism and violence, he spoke to the rioters and city officials to bring an end to the destruction calling upon the city to address the causes of the rioting, which included fair employment, in and outside of the trade unions, economic advancement for the black community including African American businesses, school integration, and political empowerment.

In 1965, Moore was pivotal in the fight to integrate Girard College, an independent college preparatory boarding school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He organized a picketing campaign

at the college to fight for desegregation of the school. Young African American students wanting to attend the college and other civil rights leaders supported Moore in his campaign. His direct attack on the school subsequently ended racial segregation at Girard College, and black students were admitted to attend.

Moore took an aggressive approach to his fight for civil rights and equal representation under the law. Many felt his tactics were too confrontational and he alienated many city leaders, black and white, with his style and methods. Some members of the NAACP even disliked his tactics who preferred a behind closed doors approach to solving the city's issues while Moore conducted a more direct form of action that he had learned while serving in the military. His position on his style of leadership was that if the black community wanted equal rights, it was necessary to use whatever weapons available in their democratic arsenals and he was not taking orders from anyone.

Moore called into question other civil rights leader's methods of non-violence and even discouraged civil rights activists Martin Luther King, Jr. from visiting Philadelphia as he felt his approach to fighting civil rights was too weak. He instead, sided with Malcolm X who took a more in your face approach to the civil rights movement. Despite his questionable confrontational style, Moore developed a following that was loyal to his ideals.

Members of the NAACP, unhappy with Moore's tactics, split into three separate sub-branches. Moore remained steadfast his position and continued his fight, his way. He ran independent political campaigns outside of the traditional middle-class networks, taking his platform to the poorest sections of the city where he maintained great support.

In 1975, Moore ran for a seat on the Philadelphia City Council representing the 5th District. He was victorious in his campaign. He served on the Council for four years. In the 1979 election, Moore ran for re-election against fellow attorney John Street. Unfortunately, Moore fell ill and suddenly died before the primary election. Street went on to win the seat held by Moore.

Cecil Bassett Moore died on February 13, 1979 from cardiac arrest. He was sixty-three years old. As a gesture to the community upset with John Street's initial challenge of Moore, Street sponsored a bill in the City Council to rename Columbia Avenue in Moore's honor, Cecil B. Moore Avenue. Philadelphia's local SEPTA transit system dedicated a station to him, the Cecil B. Moore Train Station on the north side of Philadelphia, the side of the city that he fought so hard to empower. The station is located at 17 North Broad Street.

To show their appreciation for his fight to integrate schools, students gathered enough signatures to force the city to rename the Columbia Avenue Branch neighborhood library, the Cecil B. Moore Branch, which is free to the public. The Library then established the "Changing Lives" campaign in honor of Moore's lifetime of care for the residents of North Philadelphia.



## CORNELL LEVERETTE MOORE

...was born on September 18, 1939 in Tignall, Georgia to Luetta T. and Jesse L. Moore. He graduated from William James High School in 1957 before entering Virginia Union University

in Richmond, Virginia where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961. He then attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law where he obtained his law degree in 1964. While studying for his law degree, Moore worked for the United States Department of Treasury as a staff attorney.

Leaving Howard, Moore accepted a job with Crocker National Bank as a Trust Administrator. He next became the Regional Counsel to the U.S. Treasury Department's Comptroller of Currency. After serving for several years as Regional Counsel, in 1968, he took the job as Assistant Vice President and Legal Officer at Minneapolis, Minnesota based Northwestern National Bank. He worked at the bank for two years.

In 1970, Moore moved to the Shelter Mortgage Company, serving as its' Executive Vice President and Director. After three years, he became the Director of the Shelard National Bank where he stayed for five years. He then accepted the position as President of the Hennepin County Bar Foundation for three years.

Moore left the Bar Foundation to become the President and CEO of Lease More Equipment. He would serve in that capacity for nine years. He then became the Director of Golden Valley Bank, serving for the next twenty-four years. During that time, Moore served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel to Miller & Schroeder Financial Inc.. That year, he became part owner of the Minnesota Twins, the city's professional baseball team. In 1995, Moore joined the law firm of Dorsey and Whitney, LLP.. The firm represented energy and natural resource companies.

As a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the first African American Greek organization organized in the United States, in 2004, Moore was elected Grand Sire Archon of the Grand Boulé.

Moore has served on several organizational and university Boards. He sat on the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America, Dunwoody College of Technology, Howard University, Johnson C. Smith University, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, and the Twin Cities Diversity in Practice. He also sat on the Boards of Virginia Union University and the William Mitchell College of Law.

Moore has received many awards and has been given much recognition for his achievements in the financial world. One prestigious award bestowed upon him was the Legacy Award from the Pan African Community Endowment. He also received the Whitney M. Young Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America and the Child of America Award. In addition, Moore received the Kappa Alpha Psi Distinguished Citizen Award.

Cornell Leverette Moore is married to Wenda Weekes Moore and together they have three children, Lynne, Jonathan, and Meredith.



## RODNEY G. MOORE

...graduated from the Silver Creek High School in Santa Clara, California where he was a star athlete earning letters in football and track and field. He attended the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. In undergrad,

he served as the President of the Black Student Union.

In 1985, he obtained his law degree from the University of Santa Clara School of Law, in Santa Clara, California. While studying at the University, he served as the Associate Editor of the Computer and High Technology Law Journal. He also served as the Treasurer of the Student Bar Association.

After leaving the University of Santa Clara, Moore began his professional legal career as a practicing attorney. His first major legal position was achieved in 1997 when he became General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer for the East Side Union High School District in the San Francisco, California bay area. He oversaw the legal matters of the school districts over four thousand employees and provided counsel to the East Side Consortium, a coalition of seven school districts having over 14,000 employees.

In 2000, Moore became the General Counsel to the Atlanta, Georgia Public Schools. There he serves as Chief Legal Officer to over 8,000 employees. His responsibilities included labor negotiations, contract approvals, employment contracts, media legal compliances, and advised the Executive and other appointed or elected officials in business and legal matters.

In 2005, Moore became a staff attorney for the law firm of Greenberg Taurig. There he served as a member of the firm's Labor & Employment and Litigation & Education divisions. He developed National Education laws and advised the firm's local and national School Board Executives on risk management and compliance issues. He also negotiated any entertainment licensing agreements and defended clients in collective actions needed under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

In 2008, Moore was elected as President of the National Bar Association (NBA). The NBA is the oldest and largest national legal association of predominately African American lawyers and judges in the United States and has over 45,000 judges, lawyers, law clerks, and law students in its' membership. In accepting the leadership of the organization, Moore became the first and only Georgia lawyer to be elected and serve as a NBA President.

In 2009, Moore became a partner in the law firm of Baker Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC.. He was and equity shareholder and served as a member of the Business Litigation and Labor & Employment division. He handled the

firms collective bargaining agreements, contract disputes, Title VII compliance issues, and advised clients on strategic partnerships. He left the firm after three years.

In 2013, Moore stepped out on his own forming the law firm of Moore Sparks LLC. After a year of operations, he accepted a partnership with Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP. As a partner, he advised the firm's clients on risk management matters, ethics and compliance issues, arbitration and commercial disputes.

Moore then accepted a position in Tennessee with the Shelby County Schools as its' General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer. He currently serves as the legal mind for the largest school district in the state and twenty-second largest in the country. He serves on the Senior Management Team and manages the oversight for the school district's administrative legal affairs. Moore handles all litigation for in-house staff and outside legal firms that may be needed to litigate an issue that may come before the district's legal team.

As General Counsel, he oversaw the litigation of a lawsuit filed by the School Board against the state of Tennessee. The School Board made claim that the state was not equitably and adequately funding public education for all students as was required through the federal government's Basic Education Plan. As were most school districts in the country, Tennessee schools faced funding challenges and the Tennessee School Board felt the state, even though it planned to increase funding, were not allocating the necessary funds needed to operate fashionable for the Atlanta schools. Many school districts in the state had the same funding concerns but none had taken the state to court. Moore was brought in to litigate on behalf of the school district.

Moore has served as President of the Santa Clara County Black Lawyers Association, President of the California Association of Black Lawyers, and President of the National Bar Association. He is licensed to practice before the California Bar and the Georgia Bar. He has been approved to argue cases in the 9th and 11th U.S. Circuit of Appeals Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Moore is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Board of Visitors and Alumni Board for Santa Clara University School of Law, and the National School Board Association's Council of School Attorneys. He also is a member of the Atlanta chapter of the 100 Black Men of America, the San Jose Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and serves as a Trustee for the Santa Clara County Bar Association.

For his service to the school districts that he has served on behalf of the students, parents, teachers and school administrators, Moore has been honored of many occasions. He has been listed as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America and the National Journal named him as one of its', "50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America". He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Silicon Valley chapter and the "Loran Miller Statewide California Attorney of the Year" award. The Santa Clara University Alumni Association also awarded Moore with a Special Achievement Award.





## HOWARD MOORE, JR.

...was born on February 28, 1932 in Atlanta, Georgia to Bessie Sims Moore and Howard Moore, Sr.. Growing up in Atlanta as a child, he delivered newspapers and his route included famous Auburn Avenue. As the

heartbeat of the Atlanta's black community, Moore was able to encounter many of Atlanta's more prominent residents, including some of the established lawyers in the city. These encounters left a lasting impression on the young Moore and would establish a drive within him that would prove to be beneficial to him in years to come.

When he was young, he mother left Atlanta to take a job in an Ohio steel plant. Moore was left behind to live with an aunt. He graduated high school from David T. Howard School before enrolling into Atlanta's Morehouse College where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1954.

Completing undergraduate school, Moore enlisted into the United States Army where he served until 1956. After completing his military duties, Moore moved to Ohio to be near his mother. He worked in Cleveland for a short period before enrolling into the Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts where he obtained his LL.B. degree in 1960.

In his first professional job, Moore worked as a clerk for United States District Court Judge Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr.. In 1961, he was admitted to the Massachusetts State Bar. He then returned to Atlanta and joined the African American law firm of Hollowell and Ward. He later joined the firm of Moore, Alexander and Rindskopf.

At that time, there were less than ten lawyers practicing law in Atlanta, which caused Moore to work long hours in preparation for his cases. He became friends with attorney Vernon Jordan and the two often travelled together litigating cases. As the civil rights movement began to grow, civil rights organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) began to put pressure on local, state, and federal governments to face needed changes as it related to the civil rights of African Americans, Moore and the other black attorneys in Atlanta were called upon for the

legal expertise to litigate civil rights cases going before the Atlanta and national courts.

Moore took on cases involving anti-discrimination laws, discrimination in the workplace, human rights violations, and voting rights laws. With the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Moore became even more involved in the civil rights movement as more and more cases needed attention as many southern whites simply disregarded the new laws. In working with the NAACP and its' Legal Defense and Educational Fund, more was instrumental in several of the organization's more notable cases. He was involved in the Georgia v. Peacock and the Georgia v. Rachel cases. Argued before the United States Supreme Court, these federal civil action cases were pivotal in the counterattack against unconstitutional practices of Jim Crow laws that prevented African Americans from exercising their constitutional rights.

In a case involving civil rights activist Julian Bond, who had been denied an elected seat in the Georgia House of Representatives in 1966, Moore acted as legal counsel to Bond in his successful challenge to the opposition he faced upon winning the election and being denied his seat in the state legislature. Moore was able to secure Bond's seat after filing suit against the Georgia state government.

In 1970, as a member of the NAACP team, Moore successfully challenged Georgia county governments on their anti-black grand jury selections. In the case of Turner v. Fouche, Moore and his team of gifted lawyers again were successful in changing the dynamics and process of how grand juries and hearing juries were selected, which gave way to African Americans being involved more readily in sitting on juries as peers of litigating defendants. In 1971, Moore moved to Berkeley, California to defend civil rights activists Angela Davis. He represented her during her trials for six years.

In a 1986 case, Moore was cited by a court and fined \$5,000 for criminal contempt. After asking questions of a witness during the case of, United States v. Albert Turner, et al, that the court deemed inappropriate, Moore was sanctioned and fined by the Court. The National Bar Association filed an "amicus curiae brief" in protest citing the contempt charge was a violation of Moore's lawyer's rights. Moore was subsequently resolved of the contempt charge. If convicted of the charge, the effects could have been detrimental to African American lawyers across the country.

Moore remained in California and continued trying civil rights cases in the Bay area. He formed another law firm, Moore and Moore in Oakland where he is loved by many of the city's residents. Howard Moore, Jr. is married to Jane Bond Moore and together they have three grown children.





## CLAUDIA CLEMENTINE HOUSE SHROPSHIRE MORCOM

... was born on June 7, 1932 in Detroit, Michigan to Lillian Stuart House and Walker House. She graduated from Detroit's Northern High School where was involved with sev-

eral school activities, including dance, skiing, drama, and the school's cheerleading team. At the age of fifteen, she became the first African American teen to swim a mile in an annual all girls swim meet.

Morcom obtained her law degree from Detroit's Wayne State University. She was able to pay for her law studies by winning the 1953 annual Shriner's Beauty and Talent Show. She graduated from Wayne State in 1956 as one of the few African American women in the legal field.

Morcom began her legal career working with the Detroit Housing Commission as a public housing aid. She also worked as a Public Defender in Detroit's Recorder's Court. She later joined Goodman, Crockett, Eden, Robb and Philo, the state's first integrated law firm. At the law firm, Morcom handled cases involving probate, family law, personal injury, and criminal law.

She was actively involved in supporting human rights and became the Southern Regional Director for the National Lawyers Guild Program. During the summer of 1963, she participated in the "Freedom Summer" in Jackson, Mississippi, which was a civil rights movement organized by the Guild and other civil rights organizations that challenged Mississippi's segregated policies and other civil rights abuses. That summer, massive protests were held in opposition to the Jim Crow laws that were being practiced. She was one of only two African American women to work for the Guild in Mississippi that summer. For her work, she was featured on the cover of the Jet magazine, an African American publication.

In 1965, Morcom returned to Detroit to become the founding Director and Program Administrator of the Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services. She then initiated a Detroit ballot initiative that called for an end to the Vietnam War. In her law practice, she worked to serve clients that were underprivileged and underserved.

In 1972, Morcom served as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Michigan's Worker's Compensation Court. She remained with the Court for ten years. She then was appointed to the Wayne County Circuit Court where she served until retiring in 1998. She was the first African American woman to serve on the Court.

Judge Morcom, while sitting on the bench, continued her work for human rights and anti-war engagements. She co-chaired the Michigan Committee to Free Angela Davis, a civil rights activist and leader of the Communist Party USA. After

Davis was acquitted of federal conspiracy charges involving a 1970 armed take over of a Marian County, California courtroom in which four people were killed, Judge Morcom founded and served as the Executive Board Member of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. She served as a member for twenty years.

Judge Morcom also served on the Boards of the International People's Tribunal of Conscience in Support of the Vietnamese Victims of Agent Orange, the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, National Conference on Human Rights, and the New Nicaragua Constitution. She also represented the Non-Governmental Organization of the Association of America Jurists at the United Nations International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. Judge Morcom used her position as a sitting Judge to speak out for human rights for all people around the world.

She served as a Delegate to the 2001 World Conference on Eliminating Racism and Xenophobia in South Africa and was the spokesperson for the International Association of Democratic Lawyers on a trip made to Cairo, Egypt; Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Israel; and Ramallah, Palestine. She also made reports to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, voicing her opinions on U.S. human rights violations. In addition, Judge Morcom participated in the Convention against Torture violations after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.

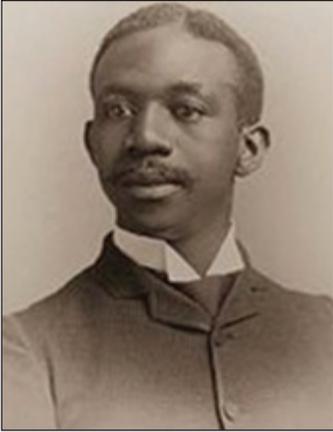
A lover of the arts, Judge Morcom gave time to community Boards, including Alternatives for Girls, the Music Hall for the Performing Arts, Metropolitan Detroit YMCA, and the YWCA. She supported Kids in Need of Direction, the Merrill Palmer Institute for Child and Family Counseling, and served as the President of the Millender Fund. Judge Morcom was the President former President of Wayne State University Alumni Association, the founding Board member of the Organization of Black Alumni, and served as a Delegate on the China Study Tour for the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

A gifted singer and avid jazz lover, Judge Morcom, for over twenty years was a featured jazz vocalist with the Mike Wahls Trio. She served as a Saturday morning host on a local radio show where she shared her vast knowledge of jazz and served on the Board of Trustees to the Detroit Jazz Festival. For her support and contributions of jazz music, the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation presented Judge Morcom with a Robert E. McCabe Guardian Award for preserving the legacy of jazz music.

For her lifetime of work in the legal profession, Judge Morcom was given the Detroit Urban League Distinguished Warrior Award, the Michigan State Bar Association Champion of Justice Award, the Wayne State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Award, and the Maurice Sugar Voice for Justice Award. She also received the Damon Keith Humanitarian Award, the Center for Constitutional Rights Award, the American Civil Liberties Award, and the Wayne State University Outstanding Alumni Award. In addition, Judge Morcom was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

Judge Claudia Clementine House Shropshire Morcom died on August 19, 2014. She was eighty-two years old.





## CLEMENT G. MORGAN

...was born into slavery in January 9, 1859 in Stafford County, Virginia. He received his freedom with the signing of 1963 Emancipation Proclamation. His parents moved to Washington, D.C. to find better opportunities where Morgan would

graduate from the M Street High School. While in high school, he took training to become a barber.

After completing his high school studies, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he took a job as a teacher in an all-black school. After four years, he left St. Louis and moved to Boston, Massachusetts to further his education. He enrolled into the Boston Latin School where he studied for two years to prepare to attend college. At the school, as a gifted student, Morgan earned a Franklin Medal and for his reading capabilities, he won a Lawrence Prize.

In his last year at the school, Morgan served as the Adjutant of the school's battalion squad. He graduated in 1886 with honors. He then enrolled into Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts at the age of twenty-seven. To pay his tuition, Morgan's high school training as a barber came in handy.

He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard in 1890 and remained at the university attending its' law school where he obtained his LL.B. degree in 1893. He was the first African American to earn degrees from the undergraduate school and the law school. In his senior year, Morgan won the honor of delivering the class oratory speech of the six students nominated. He was the first African American to be selected to deliver an oratory speech. Morgan had previously been named the winner of a Boylston Prize for oratory and in receiving the honor to deliver the oratory speech he beat out fellow student W.E.B. DuBois who had earned the second top nomination. The following year, DuBois received dual degrees from the university when he earned his Ph.D.

After leaving Harvard, Morgan passed the Suffolk bar exam and opened an office in Boston. Morgan became active in the Republican Party and in 1894 and was elected in Cambridge's predominantly white Ward 2 to the Cambridge Common Council. He served on the Council for two years and then was elected to the Cambridge Board of Aldermen. He became the first African American to become an Alderman in Cambridge and in New England.

In 1897, Morgan married Gertrude Wright in her hometown of Springfield, Illinois. The newlyweds settled in Boston's Inman Square neighborhood at 265 Prospect Street and had not

children. They were members of the exclusive clubs of the city including the famed Omar Khayyan Circle Club, which was a black literary and intellectual group.

In 1902, Morgan and fellow attorney Butler R. Wilson represented Monroe Rogers, a black factory worker due to be extradited back to North Carolina accused of the capital crime of arson. Morgan argued before the court that Rogers had not committed arson but had simply shut off a water valve at the request of his girlfriend who worked for the homeowner. The homeowner subsequently claimed that Rogers did so in order to burn down the house, which there would be no water to extinguish the flames. Morgan argued that if Rogers were to be returned to North Carolina, he would be hung. Rogers was not extradited to North Carolina.

In 1903, Morgan successfully represented in Sheffield, Massachusetts, two black parents who refused to send their children to a segregated black school created for the town's thirty-three black children. Morgan argued before the court that the substandard conditions of the school were not adequate to teach any child, let alone the gifted children of his clients. The court sided with Morgan and the school was shut down.

In 1905, Morgan joined forces with classmate DuBois in the Niagara Movement, which was a civil rights organization founded by DuBois. Morgan served as the head of the Massachusetts. The Niagara Movement was opposed to Booker T. Washington's compromise approach to higher education for blacks during that time. Washington took a more accommodating approach to education, which granted whites an acknowledged higher position than blacks in exchange for more agricultural and labor related jobs for blacks.

Morgan and DuBois, as one of the original twenty-nine members of the Movement took a position of higher education as the answer to improved employment for blacks. The Niagara Movement was a precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Once the NAACP was founded, Morgan organized and was a founding member of the Boston chapter of the organization and became its' first leader.

In 1915, Morgan was involved with the protest and attempt to ban the showing of the infamous movie film, "The Birth of a Nation". The film glorified the Ku Klux Klan and vilified blacks. When the Mayor of Boston refused to ban the showing of the film in Boston, Morgan and his fellow Niagara Movement activists called for the Mayor to resign. Morgan's group found an ally in the Catholic Church and in 1921 the film was finally banned.

Clement G. Morgan died on June 1, 1929. He was seventy years old. Long after his death, on February 11, 1991, the city of Cambridge dedicated a city park in Morgan's honor. They city erected a plaque and a mural that stands today.



## ERNEST NATHAN "DUTCH" MORIAL

...was born on October 9, 1929 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Leonie and Walter Morial. His mother worked as a tailor and his father was a cigar manufacturer. The family's bloodline consisted of a mixture of black

freed slaves and white French European. Morial was the youngest of six children and grew up speaking French, a common language of newly established African Americans in New Orleans during that time. As a religious family, the family practiced the Roman Catholics religion.

Morial attended both parochial and public schools before enrolling into New Orleans's Xavier University where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1951. To obtain his law degree, he attended Louisiana State University School of Law (LSU) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana completing his studies in 1954. He was the first African American graduate of the university's law school.

After law school, Morial enlisted into the United States Army Intelligence Corps. He spent two years in the Corps before returning to New Orleans. After passing the state bar, he began taking on cases having civil rights issues involving discrimination and racial inequality. He soon was litigating cases centered on segregation in hotels, rooming houses, restaurants, city transportation, and public recreation.

In 1955, Morial was appointed as an Assistant Attorney General in the United States Attorney General's Office in Louisiana. He served in the office of six years. As an Assistant Attorney General, Morial began to look at city corruption and prosecuted those that he discovered were operating illegally.

In 1962, Morial became the President of the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served as President for three years. He became a member of the Democratic National Committee.

In 1965, Morial was appointed as an Assistant Attorney General to the United States Attorney Generals Office. He became the first African American to serve in that capacity. He served in the Attorney Generals Office for two years.

In 1967, Morial was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives as a Democrat. He was the first African American to serve in the state legislature since Reconstruction. While serving in the House, Morial sponsored a bill to end Louisiana's death penalty and another that would grant the right to vote to eighteen year olds.

In 1969, Morial made a run, unsuccessfully, to a seat on the New Orleans City Council. The following year, he was appoint-

ed to the bench of the Louisiana State Juvenile Court. He again became a first, the first African American to sit on the Juvenile Court.

In 1972, Morial was elected as a Judge to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. He became the highest-ranking African American in the Louisiana state government. He served on the bench for five years.

In 1977, Morial was elected as Mayor of New Orleans defeating Joseph V. DiRosa. He won 51.5% of the casted votes. As he had done several times before, Morial became the first African American to serve as Mayor of New Orleans. In 1982, he was re-elected to a second term. That year, he was elected as the President of the United States Conference of Mayors and served as President for four years.

When Morial assumed the highest job in the city of New Orleans, the city was rated as the third-poorest major American city in the country. During his tenure, he was able to improve the city's economic state. He cut unneeded bureaucratic city jobs, balanced the city budget by eliminating a \$40-million deficit the city faced that he inherited, and secured federal funds that ignited economic development in the city. In that, a \$102 million, 7,500 acre industrial district was developed that spurred over \$1 billion in private investment that sparked a boom of development in downtown New Orleans.

After serving his time limit two terms, Morial introduced legislation to remove that law for the city charter but his attempt was defeated by referendum. He then returned to private practice and became a partner in the law firm of Brook, Morial, and Cassibry. As a private citizen, he continued his political activism.

In 1988, Morial became a member of the Democratic National Committee. As a member of the Committee, he was requested to serve as Senior Advisor to Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, the Democratic National Committee Presidential candidate. Dukakis was not successful in his bid to become the President of the United States.

The following year, New Orleans received an unusually bitter cold weather blast. Morial, after leaving the home of a friend, suffered an asthma attack due to the cold weather, which triggered a cardiopulmonary collapse. Unfortunately, Mayor Morial was unable to survive his ailment and died on December 24, 1989.

Survived by his wife Sybil and his five children, Morial was honored with a funeral attended by thousands of New Orleanians, as well as national and international dignitaries. The legacy left behind by Morial would continue when five years later, his son, Marc Morial, would become the Mayor of New Orleans. In his death, Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial made another first. It was the first time in the history of New Orleans that an African American father and son duo has served as Mayor of the city.



## MARC HAYDEL MORIAL

...was born on January 3, 1958 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Sybil Haydel Morial and Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial. His mother was a teacher and university administration. His father was a former Mayor of New Orleans, the first African American

to sit in the seat. He is the second of five children and grew up in the Seventh Ward of the city.

He graduated from Jesuit High School in 1976. He matriculated to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980 in Economics. While in undergraduate school, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. For his Juris Doctorate degree, Morial attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and completed his studies in 1983.

After passing the Louisiana State Bar, Morial entered private practice. After practicing for a few years, he was appointed to the Board to the Louisiana American Civil Liberties Union. He served on the Board for two years.

In 1990, Morial ran, although unsuccessful, for a seat in the United States Congress. He lost his bid for Congress placing second in the race, which forced a runoff against eventual winner Bill Jefferson. Two years later, Morial made a run for the Louisiana State Senate this time winning a seat in the state legislature. He stayed in the Senate for two years.

In 1994, Morial ran for the top job in New Orleans, that of Mayor. Successful in his bid, he took the job that his father "Dutch" Morial held five years previously. In winning the election to become Mayor, the Morials became the first African American father and son team to be named Mayor of New Orleans. Ironically, the candidate that Morial defeated to become Mayor, Mitch Landreau, a son of another former New Orleans Mayor, would become Mayor in 2010. Landreau and his father would become the second father and son team to serve in the office of the Mayor.

As Mayor, Morial went about his campaign theme of cleaning up the New Orleans City Hall using "a shovel, not a broom". There was citywide corruption in the city's police department. One of Morial's first appointments as Mayor was that of Richard Pennington as New Orleans Police Superintendent.

Pennington, along with investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, immediately began investigations into the police department. The investigations resulted in several police officers being charged with corruption and other city officials were removed from their jobs for various improprieties.

Under Morial, the city of New Orleans revamped itself, both in image and in economic growth. The city's tourism and travel industry, one of its' main sources of revenue, grew expeditiously, with fourteen new hotels being built in downtown New Orleans. The growth of the tourism was largely due to the reduction in crime as a result of Morial and Pennington's lowering of the city's crime rate. The city's violent crimes rate reduced itself by 60%, which made

the city a bit more safe and those that visited the city feel a bit more secure.

With the crime rate being reduced, more Louisiana and other outside investors poured money into the city, particularly in New Orleans's older and historic neighborhoods. With revamped development in the downtown area, more people moved back into the city. Morial secured city bonds that repaired and improved the city's streets, he provided funds to improve the Canal Street streetcar line, and he expanded the city's Convention Center, which brought more conventions, conference, and special events to the city.

For the city's minority communities, Morial worked to ensure fairness in the city's contracting policies. He opened the doors for minority contractors to participate and invited them to bid on possible contracts with assurances that their chances of being awarded contracts were greatly improved. For the city's police department, he instituted city residency rules for police officers and other city workers that had not been previously enforced.

For sports fans, Morial was able to secure the return to the city of a National Basketball Association professional basketball team when he negotiated with the owners of the Charlotte Hornets to move from Charlotte to New Orleans. For the 2011 National Football League, after the September 11, 2001 attack on New York's World Trade Center, Morial was able to negotiate with organizers of a large automobile trade show scheduled to be held in New Orleans a week after the deadly attack to move their convention so that the Super Bowl could still be held in New Orleans, which was scheduled to be played during the week the attack happened. His ability to satisfy both entities, Morial saved millions of dollars that may have gone to another city, if the Super Bowl needed to be moved elsewhere.

During Morial's tenure, his approval rating amongst city voters remained at nearly 70% citywide and nearly 100% in the African American and minority communities. In the 1998 election, Morial easily won another term as Mayor receiving 79% of the casted votes. His closest opponent, Kathleen Cresson received 20% of the casted votes.

As did his father, Morial attempted to change the City Charter in order to run for a third term. 61% of the voters rejected the proposed amendment. Morial left the Mayor's office at the end of his second term and returned to private practice.

In 2001, Morial was elected as President of the United States Conference of Mayors. In 2003, he was selected to become the President and CEO of the National Urban League, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the country. That year, he also served as a member of the Debt Reduction Task Force at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

In 2012, then President Barack Obama appointed Morial to the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability. He served on the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. He also served as a Board Member of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey and the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky. In addition, Morial has served the Leadership 18 and the Black Leadership Forum.

Marc Haydel Morial married to Michelle Miller, a CBS news correspondent. Together they have two children, Mason and Margeaux.





## EDWARD H. MORRIS

...was born into slavery in 1858 in Flemingsburg, Kentucky to Elizabeth Hopkins and Hezekiah Morris. His father was able to purchase his freedom as a mattress maker. His father died when he was two years old. His mother, after the end of the Civil War, moved the family north to New Richmond, Ohio.

Morris's family moved to Chicago, Illinois where he attended high school. After Morris completed high school, he attended St. Patrick's College in Chicago, Illinois. After studying law, he was admitted to the Illinois Bar on June 12, 1879 after passing the exam before the Appellate Court. He was the fifth black to be admitted to the bar.

During the next several years, Morris would become one of the most successful Black attorneys in Chicago. He not only represented many black Chicago residents, his client list include many whites as well. His legal practice became successful and he invested his earnings into real estate acquiring a vast amount of property.

In 1881, Morris was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar where he began to practice and became successful there as well. Four years later, he was admitted to argue cases before the United States Supreme Court. He then became legal counsel to the town of South Chicago.

In 1891, Mr. Morris, as a Republican, was elected to the Illinois General Assembly representing the Third Senatorial District. While in the state legislature, Morris represented Cook County, Illinois and was in charge of their taxes. In that role, he introduced the School Teacher's Pension Bill, which became a state law. He also introduced legislation that legalized slave marriages for the purpose of inheritance.

In 1895, Morris was appointed as an Assistant Attorney for Cook County. His success was widely noticed, so much so that he became known as "The Dean of Colored Lawyers". He assisted young black lawyers in their cases and gave support to up and coming law students, including Fredrick L. McGhee who would become a successful attorney in his own right. The two later became partners.

Years later, in 1917, Morris, along with attorney Clarence Darrow defended Oscar DePriest, Chicago's first black Alderman. DePriest was indicted, accused of graft and was forced to resign his seat on the City Council. Two years later, he attempted to regain his seat on the Council but was unsuccessful.

Morris success as an attorney in Chicago is legendary. He and McGhee would win countless lawsuits and would litigate cases throughout the state, in Wisconsin, and in Washington, D.C. before the Supreme Court. Morris, as a great lawyer had a brother attorney, William R. Morris, who became a successful attorney in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Edward H. Morris died in 1943. He was eighty-five years old.

Photo Not Available



## WILLIAM R. MORRIS

...was born into slavery on February 22, 1859 in Flemingsburg, Kentucky to Elizabeth Hopkins and Hezekiah Morris. His father was able to purchase his freedom as a mattress maker. His father died when he was two years old. His mother, after the

end of the Civil War, moved the family north to New Richmond, Ohio.

Morris began his formal education in public schools in New Richmond but was able to attend a private school later after winning a scholarship to a Catholic school at Chicago, Illinois. After graduating from high school, Morris enrolled into Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated with his undergraduate degree in 1884 with honors. While at Fisk, Morris was known for his debating and oratory skills.

Morris, after graduation, remained at Fisk to study for his law degree. He took a position as a teacher at Fisk teaching Language, Mathematics, and Science and was the only African American faculty member for four years. He remained in that position for five years, obtained his law degree, was admitted to the Tennessee bar, and left Fisk moving to Chicago, Illinois to pursue his law profession.

Morris was admitted to the bar in Illinois. After a period of time in Illinois, he made his way to Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was admitted to the Minnesota State Bar and set up a law practice. He became the first African American lawyer to litigate cases in Hennepin County. He soon became a successful lawyer in the city handling several important cases. In one of his more notable cases, he represented Thomas Lyons in a murder case, which attracted widespread attention.

In 1885, Morris represented southern blacks in their fight for equal justice under the law. At a meeting held by the American Missionary Association at Madison, Wisconsin, he presented an address entitled, "The Negro at Present", which spoke on the conditions of blacks in the United States at that time. The next year, he assisted black teachers in Tennessee attempt equal rights as teachers.

In 1891, Morris was elected president of the Minnesota State League of Negroes. As a member of the Republican Party, he was well informed on the government's role in the conditions of blacks across the country and questioned government officials about their roles. A few years later, Morris would mar-

ry his wife, Anna M. La Force on July 14, 1896. They had two children, Richard Edward and Elizabeth Zellouise.

In 1895, after attending the Harvard University's School of Law in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Morris graduated with his law degree. He returned to Minnesota to set up his private practice. He would practice law for several years before making an application to become a member of the American Bar Association.

In 1911, Morris, along with fellow African American lawyers, William Henry Lewis and Butler Roland Wilson, were admitted to the American Bar Association (ABA). Learning that three black attorneys had been admitted to the all-white bar, Southern attorneys protested their admission based on their race. They wanted the three attorneys expelled for not disclosing that they were black. The Executive Committee, the committee that nominates members, had their own qualifications questioned for admitting Morris, Butler and Wilson. Soon other ABA members across the country joined in with opposition to their admission.

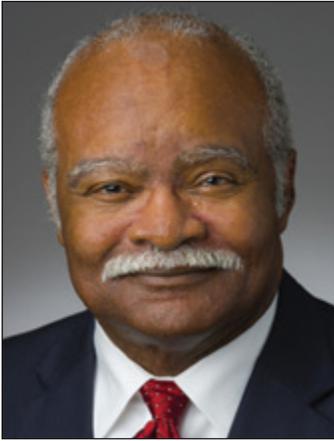
In 1912, at an annual convention, Morris and the others were asked to resign to avoid embarrassment. Morris complied from pressure from the DOJ but the others did not. Then U.S. Attorney General, George Wickersham, wrote a letter to the ABA and expressed his displeasure with the attempts to have the men removed from the organization citing the constitution gives them the right be members of the bar. He himself threatened to resign over the issue.

The ABA ultimately issued a resolution at the convention that required black applicants to identify themselves as black when they submitted their applications to the Executive Council. The resolution passed, which gave the Council the power to veto any application they deemed necessary to keep the ABA all white. After much debate and legal ramifications, the three black attorneys were admitted to the ABA as members. After the three were admitted, only one black attorney was admitted to the ABA, T. Gillis Nutter, until 1943.

Morris was a member of the Colored Masonic Order and was a honorary 33rd Degree Mason for his service to the Order. Morris had previously served as Grand Master and Grand Secretary. He was also a Most Venerable Patriarch of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.

For the Knights of Pythias, he served as a Grand Chancellor and Deputy Supreme Chancellor. For the state of Minnesota, he served as a Brigadier General and was a member of the Charter Commission. Morris was also a member of the Plymouth Congregational Church of Minneapolis.

In 1889, after suffering from nervous exertion, Morris committed suicide. He was seventy-one years old.



## HERMAN MORRIS, JR.

was born on January 16, 1951 in Memphis, Tennessee. He attended the public school system in Memphis where he graduated from high school. He attended Rhodes College, now

Southwestern University at Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee in 1973. As a Rhodes Scholar, Morris obtained his law degree in 1977 from the Vanderbilt University School of Law in Nashville, Tennessee.

Morris, after being admitted to the Tennessee State Bar, entered private practice in Memphis. Over the next twelve years, he practiced law working for several different law firms in the Memphis area. He handled a variety of cases for the different firms he worked for.

Morris served for a time as a City Attorney for the City of Memphis before becoming the general counsel for the Memphis Light, Gas & Water Company in 1989. He was the first in-house legal counsel the company ever hired. As legal counsel, Green oversaw the company's daily legal issues of city, state and federal energy regulations. He oversaw the company's legal issues surrounding employee and staff operations and contracts associated with procurement and expenditures.

In 1997, Morris was promoted as the Memphis Light, Gas & Water's President and CEO after serving for twelve years as the company's legal counsel. As President and CEO, he is in charge of the company's 2,700 employees and oversees a \$1.4 million annual budget. He is responsible to the citizens of Memphis's utility programs and is entrusted to ensure the community has affordable energy and water.

In his role as head of the utility company, Morris initiated programs to support the local communities that he served including teaming with the Boy Scouts of America to create the Inner-City Legal Explorer Post. The program's purpose is to allow inner city youth the opportunity to gain knowledge of the law, which might inspire them to pursue a legal career. The program was met with great success.

Morris served as the Director to the Perrigo Company, a global leader in the pharmaceutical industry. The com-

pany specializes in over-the counter consumer goods. As Director, he has served as a member and Chairman of the company's Nominations and Governance Committee, Audit Committee, and Compensation Committee.

Morris has been involved in many community and professional associations and organizations during his over forty-year career. He has served as member of the American Public Power Association, Memphis & Shelby County Library Foundation, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Special Contribution Fund. He also has been a member of the National Petroleum Council and the Tennessee Supreme Court Board of Professional Responsibility. In addition, Morris served on Rhodes' College Board of Trustees.

He served as the Director of the University of Tennessee Medical Group and as Director of the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association. For the Bank of America, he served on its' Advisory Board and served as Campaign Chairman of the United Way of the Mid-South. He served as past President of the Memphis and is actively involved with the operations of the Boy Scouts of America.

Morris still serves as a private practicing attorney specializing in corporate and employment law, energy policies and procedures, mediation, and public policy. He also continues to give back to the local and national communities that he is involved with. Morris and his wife Brenda continue to live in Memphis.





**JAMES  
BRAD  
MORRIS, SR.**

...was born on October 15, 1890 in Covington, Georgia, a small town east of Atlanta to William and Salemma Morris, both of whom had been born into slavery. At a very young age, the

family moved to Atlanta. Unfortunately, shortly after the move, his father left, leaving behind Morris, his mother and two brothers, Bill and Clyde.

In his early teens, Morris witnessed his friend be lynched and set afire by the Ku Klux Klan, when a white woman falsely accused him of raping her. The Klan threatened to do the same to him. His mother quickly sent him to Baltimore, Maryland to live with her sister and brother-in-law. He completed high school there and in 1912 graduated from Hampton Institute and the Howard University School of Law in 1915.

Morris began working his way west on the railroads after graduation after hearing a speech by then Senator William E. Borah's highlighting the opportunities for black attorneys there. George H. Woodson, a Virginia native, 25th Infantry Veteran, and Des Moines attorney, extended an invite for Morris to join him in his practice. Morris accepted in 1916.

Morris enlisted in the U.S. Army a year later. Assigned to the black officers' Fort Des Moines Officer Training Camp, he earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant. After training African American enlisted men at Camp Dodge, he married Georgine Crowe, his Howard University sweetheart, and shortly thereafter, in 1918, was shipped to France with the Third Battalion, 92nd Division, 366th Infantry.

During the skirmish at Metz, France, he suffered a bad leg wound, which delayed his return to the United States until July 1919. By that time he returned, his son had been born five months earlier. Both George Woodson and S. Joe Brown welcomed Morris back with open arms to their law firm.

Three years later, Morris seized the opportunity to purchase *The Iowa Bystander*, an Iowa newspaper targeted toward the African-American community. In 1937, due to financial constraints of the Great Depression, Mor-

ris sold the paper. Fortunately, a year later, with the support of Des Moines Register Editor Harvey Ingham, it was back in his hands. They launched a successful drive to revive it and they did. In 1940, Morris co-founded the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the first national black media organization. He operated the newspaper until selling it in 1972.

For over fifty years, Morris was one of the leading African Americans in Iowa. From the state capital, his voice reached deep into black communities across the state. He spread weekly news about national, state, and local happenings. He lauded African American achievements and voiced protests, all while linking large and small events together and making a record of all of them.

Morris also built a successful legal practice. In 1925, he was one of the co-founders of the National Bar Association in Des Moines. The organization was formed as a result of the American Bar Association excluded blacks.

Morris's success in journalism and law came from his ambition and activism. He presided over the Des Moines chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and was instrumental in establishing the State Conference in 1940. He was active in his church's affairs, attending Corinthian Baptist, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal, and St. Paul's Episcopal. He contributed to his political party, the Iowa Republican Party, by co-chairing and serving as Delegate to the National Convention in 1964. James Brad Morris, Sr., died on December 30, 1977.



## ROBERT MORRIS, SR.

...was born on June 8, 1823 in Salem, Massachusetts and was admitted to the State of Massachusetts bar in 1847. It is believed that he was the first black male lawyer to file a lawsuit in the United States. It is

known, however, that he was the first black lawyer to win a lawsuit in the U.S.

Morris, in his early years, received some of his formal education at Master Dodge's School in Salem. He later became a student of Ellis Gray Loring, a well known lawyer and a true abolitionist at the time. Opposed to slavery, as was Loring, along with William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Philips, Morris worked to oppose the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

On February 15, 1851, Morris, with the help of Lewis Hayden, managed to remove an arrested fugitive slave, Shadrack Minkins, from the court house. Shadrach was fugitive slave from Norfolk, Virginia, who in 1850 escaped, leaving Virginia and making his way to Boston, Massachusetts. While working as a waiter at a restaurant, he was captured and held under the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. Morris, along with help from others, assisted Shadrack in leaving the United States and going to Canada. Everyone involved was arrested but all were acquitted of all charges.

In the early 1850s, Morris was appointed a Justice of the Peace and began to practice law before the U.S. District Courts. He served as a Magistrate in Courts in Boston and Chelsea, Massachusetts. These positions were not of high judicial status but they did give him experience and earned him the distinction of being the first African American to have performed law with any judicial power.

When the Civil War began, Morris heard President Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers but he objected to any enlistment of African Americans unless they were to receive fair and equal treatment including officer's positions. He gave his help in the recruitment of soldiers for the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, the first officially sanctioned African American unit in the U.S. Army. He spoke out continuously against discrimination against the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and other black soldiers.

History shows that Morris and Macon Bolling Allen opened first black law office in the United States in Boston, Massachusetts while other say there is no direct knowledge that Allen and Morris ever met. There are historians that state that there was no partnership between the two, yet others maintain that they worked together during that time.

Morris was very active in black and abolitionist causes. He filed and tried the first U.S. civil rights challenge against segregated public Schools. In the 1848 case of *Roberts v. Boston*. Morris and Charles Sumner plead the case, which was the first legal challenge to the "separate but equal" practice of segregation in the United States. Unfortunately for Morris and his team, in 1850, The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled against them. The U.S. Supreme Court later cited *Roberts v. Boston* case in support of the *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling of 1896. That ruling codified the "separate but equal" standards. "Separate but equal" was ultimately overturned by the high court in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.

Other notable cases the Morris carried included the case of Anthony Burns, another fugitive slave who was captured and tried under the same Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. That trial also was held in Boston. Although unsuccessful, Morris and Richard Henry Dana, Jr. acted as Burns' attorneys. The ruling made against Burns caused the government to place Boston under martial law. Protests and demonstrations occurred and attacks toward U.S. Marshals guarding the courthouse. After the trial, Burns was transported by ship back to Virginia. He was ransomed from slavery, having his freedom purchased by Boston sympathizers. Burns later attended Oberlin College and after graduation, he became a Baptist preacher, moving to Upper Canada for a post.

Morris, Thomas Dalton, and William Cooper Nell also argued the importance of integration in Boston schools. Morris stated during one of his arguments that, "It is very hard to retain self-respect if we see ourselves set apart and avoided as a degraded race by others... Do not say to our children that however well-behaved their very presence is in a public school, is contamination to your children." The three said that black and Latin schools were not provide the same level of education as the white schools in Boston.

Morris was later commissioned as a Magistrate of Essex County, Massachusetts by the Governor, making him the second black lawyer to hold a judicial post. He unsuccessfully ran for Mayor of Chelsea, Massachusetts in 1866. He died on December 12, 1882.



## EVERETT FREDERIC MORROW

...was born on April 9, 1909 in Hackensack, New Jersey to Mary Ann Hayes and John Eugene Morrow. His mother worked as a maid and farm worker and his father worked as a library custodian. His father later became an ordained Methodist minister.

Morrow graduated from Hackensack High School in 1925. He was a member of his high school debate team for three years and was the President of his senior class. He attended Bowdoin College where he received his undergraduate degree in 1926, stopping before re-enrolling in 1930. He was forced to withdraw in his senior year to help his family financially although he did well academically. While a student at Bowdoin, he was one of only two African American students at the college.

He took a job working as a bank messenger on Wall Street and another as a social worker. In 1935, he found work as a business manager for the National Urban League's Opportunity Magazine. Two years later, he accepted the position of Field Secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He traveled nationally conducting fundraising and membership campaigns.

In 1942, Morrow joined the United States Army. Within a month of him enlisting, he was promoted to Sergeant. Within a year, he graduated from Officers Candidate School. He left the military soon thereafter at the rank of Major of Artillery.

Leaving the military, through the G.I. Bill, Morrow was able to return to school to complete his law degree. He then enrolled into the Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey. There he obtained his law degree in 1948.

After completing law school, Morrow worked as a clerk in Englewood, New Jersey. With the breakout of the Korean War, he returned to active duty in the military. After a year serving, he returned to civilian life. He took a job with Columbia Broadcasting Company (CBS) as a writer in their Public Affairs Department.

In 1952, Morrow was hired by then General Dwight Eisenhower as a personal adviser and administrative assistant to his Presidential campaign. With Eisenhower's victory, he was rewarded for his work by being appointed as Advisor of Business Affairs in the Department of Commerce. He held that post until 1955.

In July of the following year, Morrow became an aide to President Eisenhower. He was the first African American Presidential aide in history. He was then appointed as an Administrative Officer for Special Projects. He served on the President's staff for six years.

During his time in the White House, Morrow was the only African American serving the President. At the time there racial tensions across the country were increasing and he himself faced difficult and professional struggles in Washington as a black man. Public segregation in schools was being protested, witnessed by the Supreme Court's 1954 landmark ruling in the *Brown v. the Board of Education* case. Public transportation was being protested for its' segregated policies, witnessed by the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and in Little Rock, Arkansas, federal troops were needed to enforce the 1954 Supreme Court ruling to integrate public schools in the Little Rock Crisis of 1957. Each of these landmark and historical events, Morrow witnessed first hand as the only African American serving in the White House.

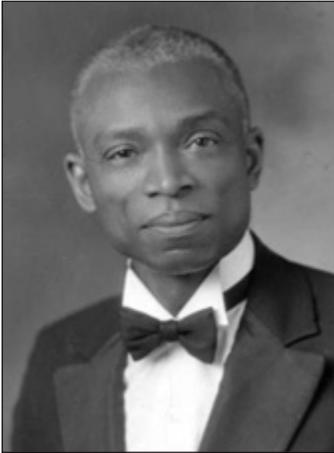
Much of Morrow's racial struggles centered on the fact that there were many other African American's that were qualified to hold high level positions in the federal government and other public or private industries that were excluded due to their skin color. He found that there were staff members in the White House that were opposed to the positive gains that his fellow African Americans were fighting for in the streets, yet he served in the White House. Nonetheless, his mere existence in the White House was a symbol of progress for blacks across the country to many.

Morrow wrote a book about his time spent in the federal government entitled, "Black Man in the White House. In the book, he speaks of how some White House staff was more concerned with their own personal growth than that of others. He tells of how he, while serving as an aide to the most powerful man in the country, the President of the United States, many times was thought by visiting dignitaries and other White House visitors to be the coat boy or a driver.

Morrow goes on to elaborate in the book about the turbulent racial tensions the country faced inside and outside of the White House during his stay. In 1973, he wrote his autobiography, *Way Down South Up North*. In 1980, Morrow would write his last autobiography, *Forty Years a Guinea Pig: A Black Man's View from the Top*.

Leaving the White House, Morrow accepted a position as Vice President of the African-American Institute in New York, a privately funded education and cultural organization. He then took a position for three years with The Bank of America. Leaving the bank, he became the first African American to be named as Vice President of the bank's International Subsidiary Division, where he focused on business development and foreign loans. In 1975, Morrow retired from the bank as their Senior Vice President to accept a position with the Education Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey in an executive position.

Everett Frederick Morrow died on July 20, 1994 at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, New York. He was eighty-four years old. For his service to the country and to President Eisenhower's tenure, Bowdoin College awarded Morrow an honorary LL.D. degree. Morrow was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.



## J OHN MORTON-FINNEY

...was born on June 25, 1889 in Uniontown, Kentucky. His mother was a free slave and his father was not. He and his six siblings were taught the value of education at an early age. His mother died when he was four-

teen years old and his father sent his children to live with their grandfather to be raised in Missouri on the grandfather's farm.

After completing high school, he served in the United States Army and was a member of the 24th Infantry Regiment, which was given the name as "The Buffalo Soldiers". Morton-Finney fought twice in the unit, first in the Philippines and again during World War I and reached the rank of Sergeant.

After his first tour of duty, Morton-Finney earned his undergraduate degree from Lincoln College in Jefferson City, Missouri. He then took a job as a teacher in a small one-room schoolhouse in Missouri. After the breakout of World War I, he re-enlisted and fought in France as a member of the American Expeditionary Forces. After his duties in France were complete, he returned to the United States and Lincoln College to pursue his law degree.

Back in Missouri, Finney-Morton took college classes in History, French and Math. He heard that a new teacher from Cornell University was teaching French and he enrolled in the class as he spoke some French, learning it while serving in France. Morton-Finney took the class taught by Pauline Ray, the Lincoln College French teacher, and the two fell in love and were married in 1922. Together they moved to Indianapolis, Indiana where he took a teaching job.

He first taught at Indianapolis Junior High Public Schools #17 and #27 and later became a Principal. He was then hired as the first teacher at the newly established all-Black Crispus Attucks High School. He served as the head of the Foreign Language Department where he taught French, German, Greek, Latin, and Spanish.

While serving as a teacher at the high school, Morton-Finney his law degree at the age of twenty-two. He would go on to practice law until the age of one hundred and six, a legal career of over eighty-five years. He holds the record serving as the longest practicing attorney in the United States out distancing Rush Limbaugh, Sr., the father of

radio host and conservative political pundit Rush Limbaugh, who practiced law actively for seventy-five years.

During World War II, Finney-Morton directed the U.S. Government's rationing program. He oversaw the disbursement of butter, gasoline, meat, rubber and sugar, which was strictly controlled. Much of these consumer goods were in short demand and Finney-Morton worked to ensure everyone got their fair share of the disbursements.

While working to assist the community where he lived, Finney-Morton continued his educational studies at Indiana University in nearby Bloomington, Indiana. In 1935, he earned his law degree. During his record setting career, Morton-Finney would earn five law degrees and six other degrees in various fields of study. He would hold degrees in Law, History, Mathematics, and Sociology. He would be given countless honorary degrees for his highly regarded education and knowledge. He earned his last degree at the age of seventy-five from Butler University in Indianapolis.

John Morton-Finney died January 28, 1998. He was one hundred and nine years old. He was given a full honor military memorial service and was laid to rest at the Crown Hill Cemetery. In his honor, the Indianapolis Public Schools Board renamed the Center for Educational Services as the Dr. John Morton-Finney Center for Educational Services. Indiana University, in Finney-Morton's honor, named a student residential dormitory on its' Purdue, Indiana after him. Even then President George H. W. Bush held a dinner in his honor to give credence to the life of Finney-Morton and his lengthy legal and teaching career.

Indianapolis' Martin University awarded Finney-Morton an honorary Doctorate degree. The University, founded in 1987, is the only higher education institution in the state that specializes in serving adults. The school's student population is 98% African American. For his military service and as a Buffalo Soldier, Indiana Congresswoman Julia Carson on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives gave tribute to Finney-Morton.



## CAROL ELIZABETH MOSELEY- BRAUN

...was born on August 16, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois to Edna and Joseph Moseley. Her mother was a medical technician in a hospital and her father was Chicago police officer. Raised Catholic, Moseley Braun grew up in a segregated middle-class neighborhood on

the south side of Chicago. When she was in her teens and after her parents divorced, she went to live with her grandmother. Although Catholic, she attended public and parochial schools.

Moseley Braun attended Ruggles Elementary School and Parker High School (now the site of Paul Robeson High School) in Chicago. She began her college studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, dropping out after four months. She picked up her studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago majoring in Political Science graduating in 1969. In 1972, she earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

She began her legal career as a Prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office in Chicago in 1973. As an Assistant United States Attorney, she worked on the civil and appellate law cases. Before leaving that position, she won the Attorney General's Special Achievement Award for her outstanding work related to housing, health policy, and environmental law. She left in 1977 to pursue elected offices.

In 1978, she ran and won a seat in the Illinois House of Representatives. She quickly rose through the ranks to become the Assistant Majority Leader being recognized for her liberal social causes and her proposed a moratorium on the Illinois death penalty. In a landmark reapportionment case, *Crosby vs State Board of Elections*, she sued her own party and the State of Illinois successfully on behalf of African-American and Hispanic citizens.

Leaving the state legislature, Moseley Braun was elected as Cook County, Illinois, Recorder of Deeds, holding that position for four years. In 1991, she challenged the incumbent Democratic Senator defeating him to become the first woman and first African-American woman to be elected to the United States Senate. During her entire time, she was the sole African American in the Senate. She was also the first woman to serve on the Senate Finance Committee. She served for only one term.

While in the Senate, although she had a reputation as a liberal, Moseley Braun held moderate political views on economic issues. She voted in favor of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act, and supported the Common Sense Product Liability and Legal Reform Act of 1995. On other matters, she was more

conservative voting against the welfare reform laws passed in 1996, and voted opposite to her party's interests by voting for the Freedom to Farm Act and the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

She voted in favor of a Balanced Budget Amendment to the United States Constitution and voted in favor to place a nuclear spent fuel storage facility in Nevada, which was strongly opposed by many Democrats. She was a pro-choice advocate and voted against the ban on partial-birth abortions and the restrictions on abortion funding on military bases. She voted against the death penalty and in favor of more gun control measures. She voted against the Communications Decency Act and against the Defense of Marriage Act.

On social issues, Moseley Braun was much more Liberal. She once convinced the Senate Judiciary Committee to not renew a design patent for the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Senate was poised to pass a resolution on the patent which contained the image of the Confederate flag. For nearly a century, the patent had been renewed. This time Moseley Braun took a stand threatening to filibuster the legislation, stating she would speak *"until this room freezes over."* To further her claim not to renew, she made a plea to her colleagues about the symbolism of the Confederate flag, stating that, *"It has no place in our modern times, place in this body, place in our society."* The Senate ultimately declined to renew UDC's patent application.

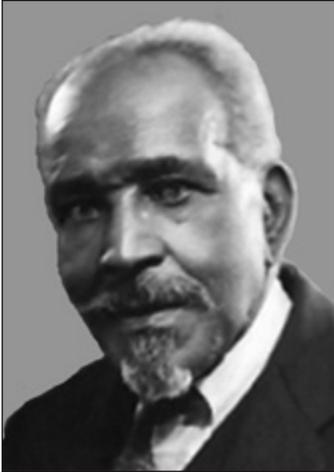
In 1993, Moseley Braun was investigated by the Federal Election Commission concerning \$249,000 in unaccounted-for campaign funds. Finding nothing but small bookkeeping errors, no action against Moseley Braun was taken. In 1996, she again found herself under a cloud of suspicion after taking private trip to Nigeria notified nor registered her trip with the State Department. Nigeria was under U.S. sanctions due to human rights violations. Her former fiancé had served on her campaign staff and was a lobbyist for the Nigerian government at the same time, a violation of U.S. immigration laws. She had paid him a salary of \$15,000 a month during the campaign.

Despite the controversy and opposition to her nomination, on October 8, 1999, President Clinton nominated Moseley Braun to be the United States Ambassador to New Zealand. The Senate confirmed her nomination on November 10, 1999, in a 96-2 vote and she served through the end of Clinton's presidency. She then ran for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in February 2003 eventually dropping out after several primaries finishing third.

Deciding to run for Mayor of Chicago in the 2011 elections, Moseley Braun showed a strong campaign having endorsements from two African-American candidates who had dropped out of the race. Unfortunately for her, she finished fourth in the field of six, receiving only nine percent of the vote.

Moseley Braun currently runs a private law firm, Carol Moseley Braun LLC in Chicago. She has also has launched Ambassador Organics, a line of organic food products. Unfortunately she ran into financial problems and her home was foreclosed on. She was able to sell the house before actions were taken. As a gesture to her dedication, she was given an honorary member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.





## A ARON ALBERT MOSELL, II

...was born November 3, 1863 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada to Eliza Bowers and Aaron Albert Mossell I. His parents had left Maryland in the 1850s moving to Canada to escape the racial discord and

discrimination that was occurring in the United States. He was the youngest of six children. At the time his parents decided to return to the United States, they only had three children. Mossell's other three siblings were born in upstate New York where he ran a successful brick manufacturing business that provided bricks for homes and schools. He built brick church that he belonged to and a hotel that he owned.

After completing high school, Mosell enrolled into Lincoln University in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, one of the only higher education institutions that blacks could attend in the country. He completed his studies graduating in 1885. He obtained his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1888. Mossell was the first African American to graduate from the University.

He entered private practice working from offices in Philadelphia's Witherspoon Building that he shared with two other African American attorneys, one being John Adams Sparks, a fellow graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School who would later become an Assistant City Solicitor in charge of Tax Sales of Real Estate. After working in private practice for a short time, Mossell obtained a job as a Solicitor at the Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital. His brother Nathan happened to be the founder and Medical Director of the hospital.

In 1917, race riots were erupting all across the United States. After the aftermath of Philadelphia's rioting, Mosell represented many of those arrested and jailed for participating in the uprising. As a Christian young man, he wanted to assist those in need both legally and spiritually. For his spiritual path, Mossell served as Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church's Sunday School Superintendent.

In 1890, Mossell married Mary Louisa Tanner. Her father, Bishop Benjamin Tucker Tanner conducted the marriage ceremony. Together they had three children. In

moving together to set up their home, they shared a home with famed artist Henry Osawa Tanner. The couple would eventually separate before getting a divorce in 1889.

After the divorce, Mosell left his family and the United States, moving to Cardiff, Wales where he spent the remainder of his life. His youngest daughter, Sadie, would later become the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and the first African American woman to earn a law degree from the university. She was also the first African American woman to be admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar. She and her husband, Raymond Pace Alexander, would become two of the most prominent lawyers and civil rights activists in Philadelphia and the United States.

Aaron Albert Mossell II died on February 1, 1951 in Cardiff, Wales. He was eighty-seven years old.

Photo Not Available



## H. CARL MOULTRIE, I

...was born on April 3, 1915 in Tampa, Florida to Anne and Reverend William Edward Moultrie. He was raised in Charleston, South Carolina and graduated high school from Avery Insti-

tute. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lincoln University in Chester, Pennsylvania in 1935. In 1937, Moultrie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sacred Theology from the Lincoln Theological Seminary. He then attended New York University in New York City, New York where he received a Master of Arts degree.

He began his professional career when he took a job as a columnist for the Wilmington Journal newspaper in Wilmington, North Carolina. He then became the Executive Director of the Wilmington Community Boy's Club. Before becoming National Executive Secretary of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1949, Moultrie served as a Probation Truant Officer.

Moultrie, for his Omega Psi Phi fraternity desired to establish a national office to serve the fraternities growing needs. He felt the organization needed a full time Executive Secretary and support staff to address the needs of its' members and to better service the future of the fraternity. Moultrie, referred to as "Mr. Omega", was not only able to establish a national office for the fraternity, he became its' first National Executive Secretary.

To obtain his Juris Doctorate degree, Moultrie enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University School of Law at the age of forty-one years old. After completing his studies, he joined the prestigious law firm of Cobb, Howard, Hays and Windsor. The firm was also located in Washington, D.C..

In 1972, Moultrie was appointed as a Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by then President Richard M. Nixon. In 1978, he was named as Chief Judge of the Court. He became the first African American Chief Judge of the D.C. Court.

As Chief Judge, Judge Moultrie is credited with bringing reforms to the D.C. Court. He added the procedure of having a Presiding Judge oversee each operating division of the Court. He added arbitration and mediation facilities that made it less expensive for litigants to resolve

conflicts. The Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division is credited with saving both the Court time in its proceedings and made it easier for those involved with the Court to maneuver through the process.

Judge Moultrie developed new sentencing guidelines for Judges and gave the Court primary responsibility for the enforcement of child support orders for struggling single parents. He also introduced mandatory videotaping of confessions as evidence to the prosecution of alleged criminals. In addition, Judge Moultrie introduced the idea of a one-trial and one-day service for jurors to be tested and adopted for the Court.

Judge Moultrie was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and served as a past President of the Washington, D.C. branch. He also served on the civil rights organization's Legal Redress Committee. He served as past Chairman of the Civil Rights Division for the Washington Bar Association and as a member of the Steering Committee of Citizens of Public Welfare Crisis. In addition, Judge Moultrie served as a member of the Washington OIC Board of Directors.

Judge Moultrie has been given many honors and awards for his dedicated service to legal jurisprudence including a ; a Distinguished Service Award, 7th District, Biloxi, Mississippi; a Distinguished and Outstanding Service Award, Raleigh, North Carolina; Urban League Service Award, Washington, District of Columbia; a Meritorious Service Award, Los Angeles, California; a Meritorious Service Award, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama; and a Senior Citizen of the Year Award, District of Columbia Federation of Civic Association. Judge Moultrie also received an Outstanding Service Award, Freedom Fun Committee from the NAACP and a Resourcefulness and Civic Leadership Award also from the NAACP. From his fraternity, he was awarded the Civil Right and Dedication Award, the Meritorious Service Award from the Nu Omega Chapter in Detroit, Michigan, and the Sigma Omega Award of Excellence from the Chicago Illinois chapter. In his honor and for recognition of the leadership he gave to the D.C. Court, the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia named the courthouse in which he judged for so many years as The H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse. The courthouse is located at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C..

Judge H. Carl Moultrie was married to the former Sara-Ellyn and together they had one son, H. Carl Moultrie, II. He died on April 9, 1986. He was seventy years old.



## HARRIETT M. MURPHY

...was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She attended public schools in Atlanta before enrolling into Atlanta's Spelman College where she received her undergraduate degree. She then entered her hometown Clark-Atlanta University where she earned a Master's degree.

Growing up in Atlanta and then to receive her formative education in the city, Murphy was surrounded by some of the most gifted African American civil rights activists and leaders that the country had to offer. From Martin Luther King, Jr. to Julian Bond to current U.S. House of Representative John Lewis, she was able to witness some of the greatest to ever fight for equal rights. She was able to witness first hand the struggles of those with and education and those without formal schooling, sacrifice not only their lives but the lives of so many others who fought for the right to equal and fair education under the law.

While earning her Master's degree, Murphy taught school in Georgia for several years. Once her Master's studies were completed, she decided to move to Prairie View, Texas to teach at Prairie View University. She ran into Dr. King at the airport who offered her a job with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She graciously said no and made her way to Texas.

Arriving at Prairie View University, she met her future husband, a doctor living in Longview, Texas. She got married and moved to Longview where she joined forces with local political leaders on a voter registration campaign. Several years later, her husband passed and Murphy decided to return to school to obtain her law degree.

For her law degree, Murphy chose the University of Texas Law School in Austin, Texas. In 1966, she moved from Longview to Austin to begin her studies, her and her white Cadillac. At the law school, she was the only African American woman in her class. There was only one other African American in the entire law school who graduated the year of her arrival.

Although she did not face as much overt racism as she saw and faced growing up in Georgia, she did see subtle signs of it. The teaching professors did not show her any discriminatory actions nor did the single her out for any particular embarrassment. She was not, however, invited to participate in any of the schools study groups that were important to preparation for the exams she had to take.

While earning her law degree at the university, she did receive some discouragement from a few African American naysayers who did not believe that she could graduate from the school. Not that they did not want her to succeed, but they had seen others make the attempt and were unable to complete the task. They had seen others take the state bar exam only to fail it. Murphy was not deterred as she had witnessed civil rights activists in Atlanta fight for her to have the opportunity and she was determined to succeed.

She proved them wrong on both endeavors. She graduated from the law school and she passed the Texas State Bar exam.

During and after her graduation from the University of Texas Law School, Murphy was an activist and advocate for African American rights. Her protests for equal justice were not only aimed at current issues facing African Americans but she fought to ensure those that came before her were recognized as well. During one protest held at the university, she held a sign that read, "Put the black man in the history books". She also protested at the university's football games, as there were no African American football players on the team.

On one occasion, then U.S. Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall, later U.S. Supreme Court Thurgood Marshall, was scheduled to visit Texas to meet with future President Lyndon B. Johnson. Hearing of the scheduled meeting, Murphy wrote to Marshall asking him to pay a visit to the school to make a speech. Marshall replied that he would not have time for speech but did invite her to lunch. In the meeting, she told him of her displeasure, after twenty years of the passing of federal governments ending segregation, she was the only African American student at the law school. Something needed to be done.

After receiving her law degree and passing the Texas State Bar, Murphy entered private practice. After working as a private practice attorney for eight years, she accepted a job as head of the Government Department at Huston-Tillotson College in Austin. She taught at the school for five years.

In 1973, Murphy was appointed as a Judge on the City of Austin Municipal Court. With her appointment, she became the first African American woman to be appointed as a Judge in the state of Texas. She would sit on the Austin Municipal Court bench for twenty years.

Judge Murphy became a founding member of the Austin Black Lawyers Association, the Travis County Women Lawyers Association, and the Austin Urban League. She has served on the Mayor's Task Force for the Homeless and the Task Force for Travis County Public Defenders. For two years, she served on the United States' State Department Council on African Affairs. There she participated in a fact-finding Commission to South Africa. She also served on the Black Alumni Steering Committee of the Texas Executives and the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College. Judge Murphy was a charter member the Austin Urban League, the Black Lawyers Association, and the Travis County Women Lawyers Association.

Judge Murphy has been awarded countless awards and congratulatory recognitions, far to many to list here. Amongst the many awards that she has been given during her lengthy career, one of the more coveted awards given to her, was given by the Austin branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People when the organization awarded her their very first Thurgood Marshall Legal Society Award presented at the University of Texas Law School and handed to her by students of the school. For her dedicated service, the National Bar Association also inducted Judge Murphy into their storied Hall of Fame.

Judge Murphy also received the inaugural Austin Black Lawyers Association's Legacy Award. She has been awarded the Raymond Pace Alexander Award and the Gertrude E. Rush Award. Judge Murphy has also received the Yellow Rose of Texas Award and the International Hospitality Council of Austin Award.





**W**ILLIAM  
"BILLY"  
MURPHY, JR.

...was born in Baltimore, Maryland's Cherry Hill neighborhood to William H. Murphy Sr., and Madeline Wheeler Murphy. William, Sr., was one of the first African-American Judges to serve on Baltimore's District Court and Madeline was a staunch activist for human and civil rights. Taking after his mother, from the beginning of his career, Murphy was especially active as an advocate in civil-rights-related cases.

In 1965, he completed his B.S. degree in electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Following his father's footsteps and choosing law, Murphy, Jr. enrolled into law school at the University of Maryland, where he earned his J.D. in 1969. While there, he was a member of the University of Maryland's Law Review.

He has practiced law for forty-two years, which encompassed three years as a Judge on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the highest level Maryland trial court. Judge Murphy has tried numerous high-profile criminal, civil cases, and class action cases including some of the most celebrated criminal and civil cases in the state of Maryland's history.

From the beginning of his career, Murphy was especially concerned about the civil rights of People. In his first successful case, he defended the First Amendment rights of a Black Panther Party newspaper thought to be to controversial to some people's likings. That first trial gave Murphy a particular public prominence as a criminal defense lawyer and helped to draw public attention to the history of injustice toward African-Americans in Baltimore.

In 1980, Murphy was elected to Baltimore's Circuit Court, Maryland's highest trial court, where he served as a Judge for two and a half years. In 1983, he resigned to challenge incumbent Mayor William Donald Schaefer in the primary election. Though unsuccessful, in his campaign, he spoke of the "other Baltimore" which had been neglected by those that were focused on improving the city's public image, leaving the "other Baltimore" without the investments or resources that could help solve the city's long-term problems.

After the defeat, Murphy returned to practicing law. In 1986, he partnered with longtime collaborator Richard Falcon and founded Murphy, Falcon & Murphy, a law firm in which he continues to serve as a Senior Partner. The practice focused on civil litigations.

In 1994, *The Baltimore Sun* described Murphy as having "a reputation for pushing client advocacy to its legal limits". Murphy's response was that his role was to help prevent the rules from being bent against unpopular people. In 2015, he served as attorney for the family of Freddie Gray, the man who died in police custody spurring the Baltimore riots of the spring of 2015. Murphy had long been critical of the way in which law-enforcement practiced policing in African-American neighborhoods. Before the Gray incident, back in 1999, Murphy denounced a "zero tolerance" as an approach to bad policing and advocated for police officers to carry "audiotape recorders" as a means of improving courtesy and making officers "less inclined to commit perjury."

Murphy's ties to the State Attorney Marilyn Mosby, who filed the charges against the officers involved in the Gray case, became a source of controversy with the defense attorneys alleging in a motion to dismiss the case, that those ties constituted a conflict of interest on her part. Murphy had donated to Mosby's election campaign, had served as one of fourteen members of her transition team, and had represented her in an Attorney Grievance Commission proceeding, which the State's Attorney's office thought was without merit. The Fraternal Order of Police, the union that represents Baltimore police officers, also called for Mosby to recuse herself from the case.

In response, the prosecution asserted that none of the reasons alleged constituted a legal basis for charges to be dismissed as they were not. The prosecution also pointed out that Murphy's \$4,000 contribution to Mosby's campaign amounted to only 1.3 percent of her overall campaign funds and was in par to a \$3,250 donation by the Fraternal Order of Police to her campaign. Throughout the controversy, Murphy defended Mosby and asserted that there would be no conflict of interest.

Murphy's workload has earned him numerous honors, including recognition as the "Top Attorney in Maryland" by Baltimore Magazine Super Lawyers for both 2009 and 2010 and garnered a listing among the American Trial Lawyers Association's "100 Top Trial Lawyers in the U.S." in 2011. In 2004, the University of Baltimore presented him with its inaugural Charles Hamilton Houston Award for Lifetime Achievement in Litigation.



Photo Not Available



## WILLIAM H. MURPHY, SR.

...was born was born on April 20, 1917 in Baltimore, Maryland to Grace Hughes Murphy and George B. Murphy Sr.. His mother's family owned a successful catering company and his father was a high

school Principal. He also served as the Treasurer to the Afro-American Newspaper founded by his grandfather, John H. Murhpy, Sr..

Murphy graduated from Baltimore's Frederick Douglass High School in 1935. He attended Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio where he received his undergraduate degree in Economics in 1939. He also studied classical music at the college. He returned to Maryland to earn his law degree enrolling into the University of Maryland School of Law located in his hometown of Baltimore.

Before completing his legal studies, he was drafted into the United States Army. He served in an Army intelligence unit stationed in North Africa. By the time he left the Army, he had reached the rank of Second Lieutenant. He completed his tour of duty and returned to Baltimore to continue earning is law degree at the University of Maryland. He was the third African American student to attend the law school and was awarded his law degree in 1946. In 1947, Murphy was admitted to the Maryland bar.

After receiving his law degree from Maryland, he co-founded the law firm of Brown, Allen, Watts, Murphy & Russell. He opened offices in his Cherry Hill neighborhood before moving the law firm to downtown Baltimore. When he opened his downtown offices, his firm became the first African American law firm to occupy space in downtown Baltimore. The firm was located in the One Charles Center building. As one of the few African American law firms in the city and the only one downtown having close proximity to the courthouse, the law firm grew quite rapidly.

In of his earliest cases, the young Murphy represented his brother George B. Murphy Jr.. His brother was called before the U.S. House of Representatives' Un-American Activities Committee. George was a labor organizer and a

friend of activists and professional singer Paul Robeson at a time when the country sought out anyone thought had Communist or radical ideas. Murphy was able to quell any governmental attacks aimed at his brother, George.

In 1970, Murphy, along with former Baltimore City State's Attorney Milton B. Allen, took on the challenge of bringing changes to the city's courthouse which was dominated by attorneys, white clerks, and white Judges. He ran for a seat on the Baltimore Municipal Court, now the District Court. He placed his name on an all black ticket. Allen ran for the City State's Attorney's office. A third African American, Paul L. Chester, ran for Court Clerk. All three won their respective slots.

Judge Murphy was a man that did not mince words and spoke his mind. A loyal man to his friends and associates, he took it upon himself to help and mentor young attorneys. He had a recall memory and was able to state facts and figures even if they were from an old case or thirty years old. His humor was contagious and wanted to share it with everyone, especially is children.

Judge Murphy was especially interested in the success of black businesses and their financial success. He studied the stock markets and called upon white brokerage firms to hire African American brokers long before desegregation forced entry into the industry or it became fashionable. Murphy believed in the economic advancement of the black community and aspired to make a difference and he did.

In 1982, Judge Murphy retired from the bench. He then heard cases as a Special Assignment Judge filling in when the Court's docket became overloaded or another Judge was unable to sit on the bench. For twelve years, Judge Murphy tried cases for the Baltimore Municipal Court, protecting the law and those that came before him.

During his time on the bench, Judge Murphy served as Chairman of the Board of the old Provident Hospital and the Monumental City Bar Association. He did the same for the Ideal Savings and Loan Association. He was member of the National Judicial Conference of the National Bar Association and his church, the Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church. He was also a member of the Elks and his fraternity, the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

William H. Murphy Sr. died on May 22, 2003. He was eighty-five years old.



## ANNA PAULINE "PAULI" MURRAY

was born on November 20, 1910 in Baltimore, Maryland to Agnes and William Murray. Her mother died when Anna was four years old from a cerebral hemorrhage. Her father, a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C. was a teacher. He later contracted typhoid fever and was confined to Crownsville State Hospital in Crownsville, Maryland. Unfortunately, he was murdered

by a guard while confined in 1923. She was thirteen years old and an orphan.

She was sent to Durham, North Carolina to live with an aunt and her grandparents. Her aunt was an elementary school teacher and gave Murray a solid foundation for education. She graduated from Hillside High School in 1926 with a "Certificate of Distinction", their version of an Honor Roll.

After graduating high school, Murray enrolled into Hunter College in New York City. She paid her tuition by working various jobs. Unfortunately, after the Wall Street Crash of 1929, Murray was forced to abandon her studies. She took a job as a teacher working for the Works Projects Administration (WPA), a national program began by then President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his "New Deal" campaign created to put American workers back to work. She also taught for New York City's Remedial Reading Project.

To earn more income, she published articles and poems in various magazines. She wrote a novel, "Angel of the Desert", that was published in the Carolina Times, a black newspaper in Durham, North Carolina. The newspaper was later purchased by North Carolina Central University. She then became involved in the civil rights movement.

In 1938, Murray attempted to enroll in the all-white University of North Carolina. She received national attention when the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) came to her aid in her attempt. Unfortunately, her efforts were to no avail. It would be thirteen years before the university would admit its' first black student, admitting Floyd McKissick in 1951.

While making her attempt to enter N.C. State University and from her time working with the WPA, Murray developed a life-long friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of President Roosevelt. She became a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), a consortium of religious nonviolent organizations. To help end segregation on public transportation in the South, Murray, in March of 1940, was arrested for refusing to sit at the back of a bus in Virginia. From that arrest, she became even more determined to fight for civil rights, hers and others.

To better equip herself, in 1941, Murray enrolled into Howard University's School of Law wanting to become a civil rights lawyer. While in law school, Murray joined forces with James Farmer, George Houser, and Bayard Rustin, to form the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Influenced by the teachings of Henry David Thoreau and Mahatma Gandhi, they felt that advocating nonviolent civil disobedience was a way of obtaining civil rights in America for blacks.

Heavily involved in civil rights issues, in 1943, Murray published two important essays, "Negroes Are Fed Up" and another about the Harlem, New York race riot of 1935. She also wrote her famous poem on race

relations, "Dark Testament" that same year. Silvermine Press of Norwalk, Connecticut published the poem in a collection of her work in 1970.

After completing her law studies at Howard University in 1944, Murray wanting to continue her law education, chose Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts as the school to attend. She was awarded the prestigious Rosenwald Fellowship, however, Harvard Law School declined to accept her because of her gender. To complete her education, she enrolled into the University of California's Boalt School of Law where she earned her law degree. Her master's thesis was entitled, "The Right to Equal Opportunity in Employment". Some say that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission established on March 6, 1961 by President John F. Kennedy was a result of her works.

Moving to New York City, Murray continued her support for the growing civil rights movement. In 1951, she wrote the book, "States' Laws on Race and Color". The book became "The Bible" for civil rights lawyers of that time. Murray continued to write about the struggles with racial prejudice penning in 1956, "Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family", a biography of her grandparents and growing up in Durham.

Murray wanting to explore her African cultural roots, in 1960 traveled to Ghana, Africa. Upon her return, President John F. Kennedy appointed her to the Committee on Civil and Political Rights. Working closely with the likes of Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and Martin Luther King, she became critical of the dominating leadership of the men in the civil rights organizations. Murray was the first to criticize the sexism of the civil rights movement. In her speech "The Negro Woman and the Quest for Equality", she took a hard stance against sexism, even in the black community.

In the 1963 civil rights "March on Washington", she became exasperated with the fact that there were no women giving major speeches or a part of the delegation of leaders invited to the White House. She pointed out in a 1963 letter written to Randolph that she had: "been increasingly perturbed over the blatant disparity between the major role which Negro women have played and are playing in the crucial grass-roots levels of our struggle and the minor role of leadership they have been assigned in the national policy-making decisions." She was heard and the men took notice. It was Murray that coined the term "Jane Crow," which depicted Murray's belief that Jim Crow laws also impacted African-American women in a negative way. She co-authored the landmark article "Jane Crow and the Law: Sex Discrimination and Title VII"

In her 1971 brief of *Reed v. Reed*, a U.S. Supreme Court opinion that ruled that administrators of estates could not be named in a way that discriminated between sexes, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg named Murray an honorary co-author. President John F. Kennedy then appointed Murray to his Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. She wrote a memo for him entitled, "A Proposal to Reexamine the Applicability of the Fourteenth Amendment to State Laws and Practices Which Discriminate on the Basis of Sex Per Se", which argued that sex discrimination and racial discrimination were forbidden according to the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

To culminate her career, Murray became the first African American female Episcopal priest in August of 1963. As a priest, she continued her lifelong struggle for racial equality. Suffering from cancer, Murray died in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on July 1, 1985. Posthumously, her autobiography, "Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage" was published in 1987 as a re-release entitled, "Pauli Murray: The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest and Poet". Author Anne Firor Scott wrote a book about Murray, "Pauli Murray & Caroline Ware: Forty Years of Letters in Black and White" and author Anthony Pinn published his book, "Pauli Murray: Selected Sermons and Writings" in her honor.





**D**ONALD  
GAINES  
MURRAY, SR.

...was born on May 24, 1914 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the first African American to be admitted to the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, Maryland since 1890. In order to

gain entry to the law school, he had to sue the University for admission. He was successful in his litigation and was admitted.

Murray had obtained his undergraduate degree in 1934 from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts before making application to the University of Maryland Law School. On January 24, 1935, Murray applied for admission to the University Law School but his application was rejected by the Admission's Office because of his race. He appealed to the University's Board of Regents but his appeal was also rejected. He then filed a lawsuit in a third attempt to be admitted to the law school.

In his first attempt for admission, his application was denied by then University President Raymond A. Pearson who sent Murray a letter stating that the Maryland state law that had designated the Princess Anne Academy as the higher learning institution for Negroes. The President instructed Murray that according to the Maryland law, Morgan College in Baltimore was designated as a school that awarded partial scholarships to Negroes or he had the option of attending school outside of the state.

Murray replied to President Pearson's letter indicating that as a citizen of Maryland, he was qualified to become a student at Maryland's Law School and that there existed no other school in the state that offers a law degree. He stated in his reply to the President that his refusal to admit him was unconstitutional and unjust. Murray appealed to the President to accept his application and enclosed a money order to cover the cost of his tuition. Pearson sent a second letter to Murray again denying his application suggesting that he look into nearby Washington, D.C.'s Howard University's Law School that admitted Negroes to gain his law degree. Pearson returned Murray's money order stating that Howard's tuition was less than what he would have to pay at the University of Maryland's Law School.

Murray, with the assistance of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, which was headquartered in Baltimore, then filed a petition against the University. Although Murray was not a member of the fraternity, the organization hired attorney African American attorney Belford Lawson, Jr. to litigate the case. As the case progressed, by the time the case was ready to be heard by the Maryland Court, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) had become involved. The organization's Legal Defense and Educational Fund attorneys Thurgood Marshall, William I. Gosnell and Charles H. Houston were hired as Murray's legal counsel.

The three legendary and esteemed lawyers brought suit, *Murray v. Pearson*, against University President Pearson and nine other University personnel. In the trial, Marshall, as lead attorney, argued that, "since the State of Maryland had not provided a comparable law school for blacks that Murray should be allowed to attend the white university". He was able to show the Court that the University's organization's policy of racial segregation was unconstitutional and Murray should be admitted.

The Maryland Court ruled in favor of Murray's petition and issued a writ of mandamus, which ordered the University President to admit Murray to the Law School. The University appealed the ruling to the Maryland Court of Appeals, which upheld the lower Court's decision. Murray was then admitted to the law school. Unfortunately, by that time he was not able to pay his tuition. Again, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity came to Murray's rescue. They paid for his tuition and his books for his entire stay at the law school.

After completing his law studies and receiving his law degree from the University, Murray co-founded the law firm of Douglass, Perkins and Murray in Baltimore. He immediately took on a case aimed at integrating the University of Maryland's graduate schools. The University, rather than litigate another case before the Maryland Courts, opened its' undergraduate school to students of color.

Murray became a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Baltimore Urban League. Ironically, he did join a fraternity but not the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity that had come to his rescue. He instead joined the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

Donald Gaines Murray, Sr. died on April 7, 1986. He was seventy-one years old.

Photo Not Available



## JOHN MYERS

...was born in the early 1800s. His father, A.G. Myers, was a white man. His mother, Harriett Cosmay was an African Creek Freedwoman and a member of the Muscogee Creek Tribe of

Georgia, Alabama, and Oklahoma. During the late 1700s and the early 1800s, the United States instituted the Indian Removal Act, which relocated Native American Tribes from the Southeastern parts of the country to Indian Territory in Oklahoma.

Many escaped slaves and others that had purchased their freedom made their way to Indian Territory. Most Native American Tribes owned slaves, as did their white counterparts and so did the Muscogee Creek Tribe. Once in Oklahoma, many blacks and other outsiders were adopted into the Tribe and were treated as equals. Some even married Creek Tribal members while others were welcomed into leadership roles. Myers was one of those chosen to assist in leading the Tribe.

Myers was a slave of Muscogee Creek Chief Isparhecher and served as one of the Chief's personal interpreters. During the Indian Wars and through the Civil War, Myers assisted in the interpretations of many of the treaties that were signed between the United States Government and the Muscogee Creek Tribe. The Creeks and their loyal black members sided with Union soldiers.

In 1861, there became a split within the Creek Nation as the Southern members (Lower Creeks) in Oklahoma and Alabama sided with the Confederacy while the Northern Creeks (Upper Creeks) believed in freedom for all and sided with the North. In their differences, the Upper Creeks wanted to succeed from the Tribe to form a separate Nation. Fighting erupted and the Lower Creeks forced some of Chief Isparhecher's Upper Creek faction, along with their free and adopted slaves to flee to Kansas and Comanche territory.

By 1863, many though the Civil War was ending and negotiations began to settle northern and southern differences. Isparhecher and his group of freed slaves having joined forces with the Union soldiers to fight against the Lower Creeks and the Confederate Army returned to

Oklahoma with the escort of Union soldiers. Believing the war was over, the federal government called members of the Tribes together to formulate Indian Councils charging them with governing the Tribes tribal lands and to oversee their sovereign citizens. Myers was one of the black Creek interpreters to translate the agreements between the English speaking negotiators and the Creek Chief Isparhecher.

At that time, there were no lawyers in the legal sense and qualifications practicing law in the country. Myers and his fellow interpreters became the legal representatives for the Tribe. They negotiated for the Chief and advised him during his negotiations with the federal government.

Myers, as did the other interpreters, spoke several Indian languages and assisted the Chief in finalizing the 1963 and the 1965 Creek Treaty between the tribe and the federal government. At the final signing of the Treaty gathering of all of the Chiefs of the Five Civilized Tribes, a name given to the tribes that signed the final treaty at Ft. Smith, Arkansas in 1965. Present were Chiefs representing the Cherokee Tribe, the Choctaw Tribe, the Chickasaw Tribe, the Seminole Tribe, and the Creek Tribe. The Muscogee Creek Tribe was the only Tribe that had black representative present in a leadership and an official role. Myers, Sugar George, and Cow Tom lead the Chief's delegation to the historic signing that officially ended the Civil War.

After the Civil War ended, Myers became a member of the Creek Lighthorseman, the Creek's police force. He served as a Lighthorseman for eight years. He married Hagar Lewis, a Creek Freedwoman, as was his mother. Together, they had four children.



## JAMES MADISON NABRIT, JR.

...was born on September 7, 1900 in Atlanta, Georgia to Gertrude Augusta West and James Nabrit, Sr.. His father was a baker and a Baptist minister. He graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1923. In 1927, he

received his Doctorate in Law from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. He then moved to Houston, Texas to begin his legal career.

In Houston, Nabrit, Jr. opened his own private practice. Over the next six years, he would build a very successful practice. While practicing law, he also taught law classes in Arkansas and Louisiana.

In 1936, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he became a member of Howard University's law school Faculty. There he established the first civil rights course for a U.S. law school. As a faculty member, Nabrit taught his students while at the same time working on several significant civil rights cases.

One such case was the 1939 case, *Lane v. Wilson*. In this United States Supreme Court case, the State of Oklahoma had instituted a twelve hour window for citizens to register that wanted to vote in the general elections. Nabrit represented Lane, an African American banned from voting under Oklahoma's Rules and had brought suit against the state seeking \$5,000 in damages. The Supreme Court ruled that Oklahoma's twelve hour registration period of discriminatory to blacks in nature and intolerable to the Fifteenth Amendment.

In one of his most important cases, Nabrit, Jr., along with George E.C. Hayes, represented a group of parents that were fed up with the overcrowding of one of Washington, D.C.'s public schools designated for black students. In 1952, Nabrit, Jr. and his team sued the D.C. Board of Education, *Bolling v. Sharpe*, which became one of the four cases that was the foundation for the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case. Losing in the District of Columbia Federal District Court, they were later successful in their attempts, in 1954, when the higher court ruled that segregated schools were unconstitutional.

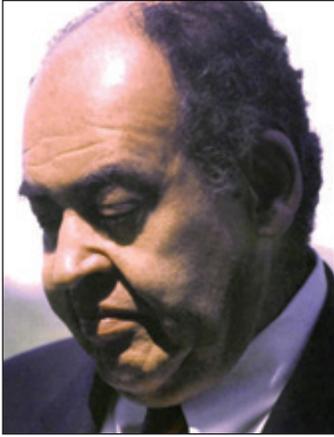
In 1953, Nabrit, Jr. interceded in the *Terry v. Adams* case. Arguing successfully, the case centered on the rights

of African Americans to vote in Texas primary elections. During these times, Nabrit, Jr. was able to team with some of the most prominent African American legal minds pursuing the rights of blacks to be a just part of the American Society. He became colleagues with noted lawyers such as Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall, and of course, George E. C. Hayes.

In 1958, Nabrit, Jr., with the coaxing of his good friend and colleague, George E.C. Hayes became the Vice Dean of the Howard University's Law School. Hayes had been appointed Dean of the law School. Two years later, Nabrit, Jr., would become the President of the university, serving from 1960 to 1965.

President Lyndon B. Johnson, in 1966, appointed Nabrit, Jr. as U.S. Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations. He was the first African American to ever hold this position. After serving for one year, he returned to Howard's Law School. Arriving, he found a campus ripe with student protests. Eighteen students and five faculty members had been expelled from the university for their disruptive protests. Students and some alumni were not happy with how Nabrit, Jr. handled their concerns so the demonstrations increased. Amidst the turmoil, the American Association of University Professors professed their displeasures with the situation and Nabrit, Jr., in 1969, resigned as President of Howard University School of Law.

Nabrit became ill from an infection and was under home care at his northwest Washington, D.C. Residence. Rushed to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, on December 27, 1997, James Madison Nabrit Jr. died at the age of ninety-seven years old in Washington, D.C., a city that he had taught in and called home for sixty-one years.



## JAMES MADISON NABRIT, III

...was born on June 11, 1932 in Houston. His family relocated to Washington, D.C. where he attended all Black public segregated schools through the tenth grade. Leaving

Washington's Dunbar High School, he transferred to the Mount Hermon School, located in Mount Hermon, Massachusetts. Nabrit matriculated to Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, completing his studies in 1952. For his law school studies, he enrolled into Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut graduating in 1955.

Nabrit's father was the President of Howard University in Washington, D.C. from 1960 to 1969 and again from 1965 to 1967. His father also served as United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Nabrit's grandfather was also a lawyer.

After obtaining his law degree, Nabrit accepted a position with the Washington, D.C. based law firm of Reeves, Robinson & Duncan. After practicing privately for a period of time, he was called to military duty. After serving two years, he was released honorably.

A position was available at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund's (LDF) in New York City offices. Working for the LDF was more in line with Nabrit's desired focus. Having grown up with the President of Howard University as your father, he was constantly surrounded by civil rights issues and the best attorneys that were litigators them seeking equal justice. His father worked hand in hand with Thurgood Marshall on the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. That decision ended segregation in education in the United States.

In LDFs' small New York offices, Nabrit joined Elwood Chisholm, Constance Baker Motley, Jack Greenberg, and Thurgood Marshall, who together began to focus on ending school segregation in the U.S.. It wasn't long, before Nabrit was named LDF's Deputy Director Counsel. He held that position until he retired in 1989. In retirement, he served as Board member and Corporate Secretary.

Working to end segregation in public schools in the 1960s Deep South was life threatening. Nabrit and his colleagues took on education cases from four states, combining them into one case that became the ultimate *Brown v. Board of Education* case. There were many nights, while traveling in the South, where someone would have to watch, with gun in hand, while the others slept.

During Nabrits' time at the LDF, the organization became the defender and torch bearer for the majority of the cases that involved civil rights. Nabrit represented students arrested during the Civil Rights Movement sit-ins at white lunch counters. He and his team performed many pro bono cases.

In 1961, Nabrit wrote briefs for several cases related to lunch counter sit-ins in Louisiana. Peaceful protesters were being arrested by police. The LDF took on three cases related to the sit-ins, *Garner v. Louisiana*, *Hoston v. Louisiana* and *Briscoe v. Louisiana*. He won the cases. The wins ultimately were the foundation for the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

For the planned 1963 civil rights Selma to Montgomery, Alabama right to vote march, Martin Luther King, Jr's camp had received a court injunction to halt the march. Overnight, Nabrit and other members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference wrote a detailed report to the sitting judge, outlining each step of the march. In a 1973 Denver case involving school segregation, Nabrit again before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Nabrit and Gordon G. Greiner*.

Nabrit and the LDF gave much time and effort towards the unfair death sentences given to both Black and white death row inmates. He is credited with saving five defendants from execution. A brilliant strategist, a noted legal author and an advocate for civil rights, Nabrit argued twelve cases before the U.S. Supreme Court winning nine.

On March 22, 2013, James Madison Nabrit, III died at the age of eighty in Bethesda, Maryland.



## JAMES CARROLL NAPIER

... was born on June 9, 1845 in Davidson County, Tennessee near Nashville to Jane Elizabeth Napier (née Watkins) and William Carroll Napier. Both his parents were slaves. His father, white master Dr. Elias

Napier had impregnated one of his slaves, Judy, and Dr. Napier granted the family their freedom in 1848.

When Napier was old enough to attend school, he was sent to a private school for free blacks in Nashville, Tennessee to begin his education. The school was forced to close by angry whites in 1856 so Napier moved his family, including Judy, William and their children to Ohio. There, Napier completed his high school studies and enrolled into Wilberforce College in Wilberforce, Ohio. He later transferred to Oberlin College, in Oberlin, Ohio. Oberlin was the first higher learning institution established in the United States that accepted black, female and white students.

In 1867, Napier left Oberlin without graduating. He returned to Tennessee and landed a job as the Commissioner of Refugees and Abandoned Lands in Davidson County. After serving as the Commissioner for one year, he moved to Washington, D.C. to accept a job as a State Department Clerk. Napier became the first African American to serve as a clerk in the State Department.

To complete his education, Napier enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University. He would complete his undergraduate studies and then enroll into the University's Law School where he received his degree in 1871. He then married his fiancé, Nettie Langston, the daughter of John Mercer Langston, the first Dean of the Howard University Law School.

Napier and his new bride left Washington, moving to Nashville. In Nashville, the two soon became a part of the city's more influential African American residents. Napier became involved in the city's politics and was elected to serve on the Nashville City Council. He then became the President of the Council, the first African American to serve as Council President.

As President of the Council, Napier was instrumental in the hiring of more African American teachers for

black public schools. He organized the Black Fire-engine Company to ensure African Americans employment in the city's fire department. He joined the Republican Party and was then appointed to the Tennessee Republican Executive Committee. He remained on the Committee for thirty-five years.

In 1911, then President William Taft appointed Napier as the Register of the Treasury in Washington, D.C.. He served as Register for two years before resigning in protest over a Department of Treasury order that required separate restrooms for black and white employees. He returned once again to Nashville.

Back in Nashville, Napier entered private practice. In 1904, he founded the One Cent Savings Bank, later renamed the Citizen's Savings Bank and Trust Company, which still is in operation today. As he helped Nashville residents with their financial needs and for his assistance in business matters in the city, he was selected to lead, as President, the National Negro Business League. He also was instrumental in organizing the "Negro Streetcar Strike" that year.

In 1958, the Nashville Christian Leadership Council was formed and Napier became a member of the organization. The Council would become a pivotal part of dismantling racial segregation in the city. He then became the President of the Nashville Negro Board of Trade, now the Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce.

As he continued to serve Nashville citizens, Napier assisted in the founding of the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College, now Tennessee State University. He also served on the Board of Directors to Nashville's Fisk University, and his alma mater, Howard University. In addition, Napier became the first African American to sit on the Board of the Nashville Housing Authority. For his fraternity, the Sigma Pi Phi, along with Josiah T. Settle, Napier established the Memphis chapter of the fraternity.

James Carroll Napier died on April 21, 1940. He was ninety-four years old. In death, Napier was given an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Fisk University and The Historical Commission of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County erected a historical marker to honor his lifelong accomplishments.



## EARL LANGDON NEAL

...was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 16, 1928. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1949 and his law degree from the University

of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1952. He began his legal career working in the law offices of his father, Earl James Neal. The older Neal served as an Associate Judge in Cook County, Illinois.

After obtaining his law degree, Neal enlisted into the United States Army to fulfill his military duties. Returning from the Army in 1955, he joined his father's Chicago law firm. In one of the first cases assigned to the younger Neal, he and his father had to make the almost three hour commute between Chicago and Lincoln, Illinois, the place of the trial, as no hotels in Lincoln allowed blacks to stay in their hotels.

In 1960, Neal was appointed by then Mayor Richard J. Daley as Special Assistant Corporation Counsel to the City of Chicago. He also served as trial lawyer for the Land Acquisition Division and the Land Clearance Committee. In his new positions, Neal worked closely with the Bureau of Engineering to begin searching for land and to establish processes to grow the city's public facilities and orchestrate its' growth. In his role as Assistant Corporation Counsel, he is credited with the acquisition of land to build the Dan Ryan Expressway, the Deep Tunnel Project and the redevelopment of the Near South Sides. The land where the University of Illinois-Chicago campus now sits was acquired under the leadership of Neal.

Neal, as Special Assistant Corporation Counsel acquired the land that hosts Comiskey Park, now U.S. Cellular Field and the land where the United Center sits. He is credited with helping both the Midway Airport and the O'Hare International Airport expand their land territory and due largely to the cities land acquisitions, the Central Loop business district was developed. Chicago's Soldier Field, Stroger Hospital, and the McCormick Place Convention Center all owe their current existence to Neal and his performance as Special Assistant Corporation Counsel.

In 1962, Neal's father was appointed to a Judgeship and he took over as principal to his father's law firm. He ran his father's firm for six years before breaking off in 1968 to form his own firm, Earl L. Neal and Associates. His firm handled trial cases for the City of Chicago and other city and public agencies.

In 1980, he Illinois elected to the Democratic National Committee. Two years later, he was named as President of the Chicago Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation by then Mayor Jane Byrne. He was later named as a member of the Chicago Housing Authority Board. Several years later, Neal would be named to the task force assigned to restructure the city's minority set-aside construction programs.

In 1975, Neal was named as President of the University of Illinois's Board of Trustees. He became the first African American to be named as President of the Trustee Board not only at the University of Illinois but of any other Trustee Board in the United States. He would serve on the Board for twelve years. Sitting on the Board, Neal was pivotal in increasing minority medical school recruitment and improved health services to Chicago's communities.

In 1995, then Mayor Richard M. Daley named Neal as the Chair of the Chicago/Gary Regional Airport Authority. As Chair, Neal lead efforts to grow aviation transport at and through Chicago's airports. He brought economic growth to the city' airports, it's employees, and the city contractors and vendors that serviced the airports. Neal also worked to ensure that the job quotas set for the Chicago Police Department was achieved.

A learned and skilled writer, Neal authored several articles published for the Illinois Institute of Continuing Education and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He was a wonderful communicator, and his leadership skills were administered without becoming visibly angry or showing a scowl to those that he disagreed with. Neal gave input to every Chicago Mayor for over fifty-years.

Neal has been awarded many honors and citations during his legal career including the Defender of Justice Award, the Justice John Paul Stevens Award, and the Robert S. Abbott Memorial Award. In return, Neal has serviced his community serving as a member of the Chicago Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. For the Teachers Academy for Mathematics and Science, he served as Co-Chairman.

Earl Langdon Neal died of cancer on February 13, 2005. He was seventy-seven years old.





## A DRIENNE NELSON

...was born in Kansas City, Missouri although she was raised in Arkansas by her single mother. When Nelson was an infant, her father was killed in an accident caused by a drunk driver. Her mother supported the family as a schoolteacher. Pushed

by her mother to excel, Nelson and her brother early on knew that higher education would be a part of their futures.

In high school, Nelson was a member of the Arkansas Governor's gifted and talented program and the federal government's Close Up program. She achieved the highest grade point average of her 1985 high school graduating class and as the top senior achiever she was pegged to be the class Valedictorian. Unfortunately, she received her first full blast of racism, when school administrators gave the title to the first-runner up, a white student. Her mother hired a local attorney who sued the school over its' decision to bypass her daughter.

The outcome and settlement in the case was that the Principal of the high school resigned and Nelson was given her rightful title of Valedictorian. Although she took her stand at the high school podium and delivered her speech, the episode left a mark and scar on her heart and psyche. The positive of the situation is that, Nelson was the first African American student to become Valedictorian since integration. Another positive is that she gained more determination to succeed despite any obstacle that she may face. That lesson would play a big part in her overall success years later as a practicing attorney.

After graduating from high school, Nelson enrolled into the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She earned her undergraduate degree in English and Criminal Justice, graduating summa cum laude. To obtain her law degree, she attended the University of Texas at Austin.

In 1993, Nelson completed her law degree requirements, left Texas moving to Portland, Oregon where her mother had relocated. She obtained her first legal job as a contract and compliance analyst with the Standard Insurance Company. After two years working with Standard, she went to work at Portland's Metro Public Defender's Office.

She left the Public Defender's Office after two and a half years to join the private practice law firm of Bennett, Hartman, Morris & Kaplan. There she handled cases that dealt with family and labor law. After several years, Nelson then took a job as the Senior Attorney in Student Legal and Mediation Services at Portland State University.

In 2006, Nelson was appointed by then Oregon Governor Kulongoski to fill the vacancy left by departing Judge Sidney Galton on Multnomah County Circuit Bench. She

became the second African American woman to serve as a Judge in the state of Oregon. In sitting on the bench, the majority of her cases involved criminal trials, both misdemeanors and felony cases. As a Judge, she was cognizant of the fact that some jurors saw their civic jury duty as an honor while others saw it as a burden. She understood that both selected jurors had biased feelings of why they were chosen as jurors and the duty they had to protect the truth and decide innocence or guilt accordingly.

Nelson has served for six terms being elected to a statewide seat in the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates. She has also served as a member of the ABA's Commission on Disability Rights, served as a member of the ABA's Law Practice Management Magazine Board, and served on its' Gavel Awards Standing Committee. In addition, Nelson has served as the Chair of Lewis and Clark College's Roosevelt Robinson Scholarship Committee operating at the Northwestern School of Law and has served as the President of the Oregon Law Foundation's Board of Directors for the Oregon State Bar Association.

Nelson has served as the President of the Queen's Bench, which is the Portland chapter of the Oregon Women Lawyers Association (OWLs). She became the first African American woman to lead the association. She has served as the former President of the Multnomah Bar Foundation and also sat on the Multnomah Bar Association Court Liaison Committee. She has been a member of the Convocation on Equality Steering Committee and has served on the Oregon State Bar's Affirmative Action Committee. Nelson has also served as a member of the Owen M. Panner Inn of Court, the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association, and the Oregon chapter of the National Bar Association.

Nelson has been honored for her service to the legal community by organizations including the Greater Oregon Chapter March of Dimes, The Northwestern School of Law, and Lewis and Clark College. The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives presented Nelson with its' Equal Justice for All Award and the Oregon State Bar presented her with its' President's Public Service Award. She was named by the Northwest Women's Journal as one of the 100 Most Powerful Women in Oregon and the OWLs gave Nelson its' Judge Mercedes Deiz Award. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presented her with their "Woman of Excellence Award" for her leadership and service to the African American community.

Nelson is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and has served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Committee. She served the Advisory Board of the African American Mental Health Commission and was a former member of the Multnomah County Policy Panel on Early Childhood Trauma. She has given of her time to the Black United Fund of Oregon, the Columbia-Willamette YWCA, and the Rosemary Anderson/ POIC Board of Directors.

Photo Not Available



## GEORGE B. NESBITT

...was born in 1912 in Champaign, Illinois. He was the second oldest of five brothers. His mother worked as a cook while his father worked as a janitor. The family lived by meager means,

as the Great Depression affected many citizens throughout the country.

After graduating from high school in Champaign, Nesbitt enrolled into the University of Illinois in Champaign. He would earn undergraduate degree from the University in 1938. He remained at the school to study for his law degree, attending the University's Law School.

While a student at the University, he filed several lawsuits against the school in efforts to integrate the University's student facilities. It was at the University that he began his advocacy of civil rights for the poor, minorities and common working class people. A very controversial student, Nesbitt brought several suits against the University to force the University to make school more accommodating to the needs of the African American students.

In one such suit filed by Nesbitt, he is credited with forcing school administrators to integrate common school areas where students gathered including the area they met for snacks and coffee. By the time of his graduation, the Dean of the Law School was hesitant to award Nesbitt his degree due to the various lawsuits that he had brought against the University. In fact, the Dean vowed to never award Nesbitt his degree. A group of five local clergy came to the defense of Nesbitt, and after some persuasion, the Dean of the Law School relented and awarded Nesbitt his law degree.

The religious leaders that stood up for Nesbitt are credited with instilling in him a greater sense of community involvement and giving assistance to those that stood up for the rights of others, as he had done back at the University of Illinois for other students. He invested of himself in that regard to the community he chose to service. For the disenfranchised, Nesbitt felt a responsibility to help in any way he could, as others had paved the way for him and had helped him to obtain his law degree.

Nesbitt served in the military during World War II. He was stationed in Texas where he witnessed the disparity and unfair treatment of black soldiers as opposed the treatment given to white soldiers. He wrote letters to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) about his concerns with hopes that the organization would address the issues and file suit against the military as he had done against the University of Illinois for their mistreatment and unfair treatment of their African American students.

After being discharged from the military at the rank of Captain, Nesbitt took a job as a Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in President John Kennedy's Administration. In his role in the administration, Nesbitt worked to make public housing more accessible to African Americans and other minorities. He focused on improved housing facilities in neighborhoods that blacks and other minorities had been excluded from renting in or owning due to the color or minority status.

Nesbitt continued his education by enrolling into Washington' D.C's Howard University where he received a Master's degree in Public Administration. He was able to use his added educational skills to better serve those in need of public housing throughout the United States. His care and concerns for better living conditions of the poor of all races gave way to better federal housing communities to be built across the country.

George B. Nesbitt died of pneumonia on March 15, 2002 while being transported from his home to an Evanston, Illinois hospital. He was ninety years old.



## THEODORE R. NEWMAN, JR.

...was born on July 5, 1934 in Birmingham, Alabama. He spent some time being raised in Tuskegee, Alabama before the family relocated to Mount Hermon, Massachusetts where he at-

tended high school graduating in 1951. After graduating, he enrolled into Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1955 in Philosophy. He obtained his law degree in Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence from Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1958.

He then enlisted into the United States Air Force to fulfill his military duties. He was stationed in France where he served as a Judge Advocate for three years. Returning to the states, Newman took a job working for the law firm of Houston, Bryant & Gardner in Washington, D.C. as an Associate Attorney.

After spending time in Houston, Bryant & Gardner's office, Newman joined the law firm of Pratt, Bowers & Newman, also located in Washington, D.C. where he spent eight years. He then accepted a job with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in its' Civil Rights Division. He left the DOJ when he was appointed to the D.C. Superior Court.

In 1970, Newman was named as an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The D. C. Court handles general trial cases for Washington, D.C. where Newman served on the bench for six years. In 1976, then President Gerald R. Ford appointed as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. He served as Chief Judge for three years.

Newman became a member of the Board of Trustees to his alma mater, Brown University in 1979. The following year, for his service to the University, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree while still serving the Court of Appeals. Judge Newman was named a Court of Appeals Associate Judge and remained an Associate until 1991 when he retired. He then assumed senior status.

Judge Newman has served as a Fellow to the American Bar Foundation of the American Bar Association and as President of the National Center for State Courts. He also Chairman of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association (NBA). For his dedicated service and outstanding service to the bar association, NBA award-

ed Newman its' highest honor, the C. Francis Stradford Award. The Board of the Judicial Council bestowed upon Newman their highest award, the William H. Hastie Award.

Newman has served as an Adjunct Professor at Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School and the Georgetown Law Center. He has been called upon to give lectures at Harvard Law School as well. In addition, he has lectured in the U.S. Virgin Islands and several countries in Africa.



## **O** **DAS** **NICHOLSON**

...was born on March 25, 1924 in Pickens, Mississippi to Temple Johnson Nicholson and George Nicholson. She was the seventh child of the couple. When she was thirteen years old, the family moved to Chicago, Illinois.

Nicholson graduated from high schools in Chicago's John Marshall High School before entering Wilson Junior College, now Kennedy-King College. She then enrolled into Chicago's DePaul University where she received her Bachelor of Philosophy degree. She remained at DePaul and obtained her J.D. degree from the school's law school. She became the first African American woman to graduate from the DePaul University School of Law.

After passing the Illinois State Bar exam, Nicholson began her private practice career in Chicago. As an attorney, she represented several large clients including serving as legal counsel to the Supreme Life Insurance Company. She also served as Chief Legal Officer for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) serving Chicago and Kansas City. Nicholson litigated cases in the courts of Chicago for many years before being elected as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge.

Once elected to the bench, she became the first African American woman to be assigned to the Law Division. She also was the first woman assigned to the Motions Section. In addition, Judge Nicholson was the first African American woman to be given her own calendar.

In 1970, Judge Nicholson served as a Delegate to the Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention. She was elected to serve as the Secretary of the Convention by the attending delegates. Several years later, in 1977, she served as a Fellow in the National Endowment for Humanities' "Law & Justice in American Society" at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In 1980, the Supreme Court of Illinois appointed Judge Nicholson as a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 1982, in the general election, she won a full term to the Circuit Court. She served as a Judge on the Court for fourteen years. In 1994, Judge Nicholson retired from the bench.

During her time on the bench, Judge Nicholson served as President of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. She was the first African American woman to be named as the association's President. She was also the first woman assigned an individual calendar.

In 2000, Nicholson became a chartering member of the Phi Kappa Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She was also a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association of Women Judges, and the Illinois State Bar Association. She was also a member of the Cook County Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois serving as a past President. She served on the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association and the Board of Directors of the Chicago Bar Foundation.

Judge Odas Nicholson died March 10, 2012 of Alzheimer's disease. She was eighty-eight years old.



## ROBERT NELSON CORNELIUS NIX, JR.

...was born on July 13, 1928 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Ethel Lannier Nix and Robert N. C. Nix Sr.. An only child, Nix, Jr. grew up surrounded by the law and lawyers. His father was

Pennsylvania's first black Congressman serving twenty-two years in Washington. His grandfather, Nelson Cornelius Nix, was born into slavery but rose to become a minister and a Dean of South Carolina State College at Orangeburg.

Nix, Jr. graduated with highest honors from Central High School in Philadelphia. He matriculated to Villanova University, also in Philadelphia, where he majored in Philosophy. He became valedictorian. He graduated, in 1952, at the top of his class as Valedictorian with an A.B. degree.

After graduation, Nix served in the U.S. from 1953 to 1955. After his military duties were complete, he returned to Philadelphia and enrolled into the University of Pennsylvania where in 1955, he earned his J.D. degree. He then attended Temple University's graduate school, also in Philadelphia, where he studied Business Administration and Economics.

With degrees in hand, Nix entered the workforce. He took the job of Pennsylvania's Deputy Attorney General for two years before joining his father's law firm, Nix, Rhodes and Nix. As a partner, he became a civil rights advocate.

For the next several years with the firm, he represented a community citizens' group, United Neighbors. They advocated city improvements in their community in west Philadelphia. In that role, the Mayor asked him to sit on an advisory committee for civil rights. He focused his attention on racial discrimination in the city government's hiring practices, and attacked slumlords in their housing and rentals to blacks in the city.

In 1966, Nix, in a political case ripe with racial overtones, defended Philadelphia Magistrate Earl Lane. Accused of charging people accused of crimes \$2 to \$20 fees for signed copies of their police charges, Lane, a former Pullman porter and Democratic committeeman, felt he had been unfairly singled out for prosecution on those charges. The process for obtaining the reports were supposed to be free or, if bail was set, the report cost a dollar. Nix took on the case arguing for a change of venue and stating that other magistrates faced with similar crimes were not brought to tri-

al. Although nineteen other magistrates had committed the same "crime", none had not been charged. Unfortunately, Lane was convicted and sentenced to 11 to 23 months in prison.

A year later, Nix was elected a Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge. In 1971, he was appointed by then Governor Milton Shapp as Associate Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He became the first African American elected to statewide office in Pennsylvania history. He went on, in 1984, to become Chief Justice, replacing former Chief Justice Henry X. O'Brien. He subsequently served as the President of the National Conference of Chief Justices from 1991 to 1992.

Taking on the role of protector of individual rights, Nix fought to bring more liberties to the citizens of Pennsylvania and those granted by the U.S. Constitution, especially in the areas of searches, seizures and sovereign immunity. He especially was concerned with state prosecutors using their power to exclude African Americans from selected juries in trial cases. Although considered a liberal, he stood for upholding Pennsylvania's death penalty statute.

In 1966, a scandal involving Justice Nix was unveiled. It was discovered that Nix was receiving a payroll from his father's congressional payroll as a Congressional Assistant, while working as an attorney in private practice. He was also collecting money monthly from Congress for rent of offices to his father out of Nix's office. Nix and his father stopped that practice soon afterwards.

After serving on the State Supreme Court for over thirty years, Nix, two years prior to his mandatory retirement, announced his retirement from the bench. In his retirement speech, he stated his plans of doing things that he had put on hold, including traveling and writing. Justice Nix's official biography was published in 2010. While on the State Supreme Court, Nix was honored with twelve Honorary Doctorate degrees and sat on the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court and the Boards of several universities. He was also inducted as a Commander Knight in the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II.

In retirement, Nix became involved in many community projects. He served on several school and college committees, served as a member of the electoral college, and became a member of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. After suffering from Alzheimer's disease for a period of time, Nix died on August 23, 2003, in his hometown of Philadelphia. Hearing of his death, then Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell said of Nix that "*during the course of his entire career as lawyer and judge, Chief Justice Nix dedicated his considerable intellect and energy to breaking down barriers that have no place standing in any system of Democracy.*"





**R**OBERT  
NELSON  
CORNELIUS  
NIX, SR.

...was born on August 9, 1905 in Orangeburg, South Carolina to Sylvia Benjamin and Nelson Cornelius Nix. His father was the Dean of South Carolina State

College. Growing up in the segregated south, Nix Sr., was somewhat cushioned from the impact of southern life due to his father's status as an educator and that he attended high school in New York City.

Graduating from Townsend Harris High School in New York City, Nix matriculated to Lincoln University in Chester County, Pennsylvania where he received his degree in 1921. Three years later, he received a law degree from University of Pennsylvania located in Philadelphia. He began practicing law the following year.

He soon became involved in Democratic politics and in 1932, he was elected as a Committeeman from Philadelphia's Forty-fourth Ward. While a Committeeman, he held various positions for the next eight years in a private law firm. He became a Special Deputy Attorney General in the Pennsylvania State Department of Revenue and also with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 1956, Nix became a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Two years later, he defeated two opponents in a special election to fill the vacancy of then U.S. House of Representative Earl Chudoff who had resigned his Fourth Congressional District seat to become a Philadelphia judge. Nix sworn on May 20, 1958 becoming the first African American to represent the state of Pennsylvania in the House of Representatives.

While in the House, Nix served on several important committees. He served on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. He became Chairman of the Committee of the Post Office and Civil Service in 1977. On these committees, he played an integral part in protecting the rights of Veterans after they had completed their service duties.

As a member of the House, Nix sponsored bills aimed at keeping the Philadelphia Navy Yard open and the establishment of a "Senior Service Corps". The purpose of

the Senior Service Corps was to gain employment for veterans that were over sixty years of age. His desire was to assist senior vets who may have fallen on hard times.

Nix supported and worked to ensure several landmark civil rights legislations of the 1960s including the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. He became the Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy in 1975 and took the lead on the investigations of the use of funds by defense contractors. Looking into payments to foreign consultants, agents, governmental officials and political parties, Nix and his committee worked to ensure irregularities ceased.

From the committee findings, Nix introduced an amendment to Congress, the Foreign Military Sales Act, which required the Defense Department to provide to Congress the identities of agents who negotiated arms deals and sales transactions for American military arms manufacturers. The Act also called for providing the amount of fees received by agent. This landmark Act helped the government better track those dealings.

In his 1978 bid to win a nomination for an eleventh term he House, Nix lost to William H. Gray III. Despite losing his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, Nix remained a leader in Philadelphia's Thirty-Second Ward until his death in Philadelphia on June 22, 1987. In his honor, the City of Philadelphia and the federal government named a federal building after him. The Robert N. C. Nix, Sr. Federal Building and Post Office is located at the southwest corner of Ninth and Market Streets in downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Congressman Nix's son, Robert N.C. Nix Jr., later became the first African American to be elected to a Pennsylvania statewide office when he was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Robert Nelson Cornelius Nix, Sr. die on June 22, 1987.



## THEOPHILUS R. NIX, SR.

...was born on July 21, 1925 in Chicago, Illinois to Ida Nix and he Andrew Nix Sr.. His mother was a seamstress and his father was a preacher. The family left Chicago relocating to

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

After graduating high school, Nix attended Lincoln University located in Oxford, Pennsylvania. He completed his studies in 1951 with a degree in Political Science. He matriculated to Howard University's Law School in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1954.

While at Howard, Nix became involved with the civil rights movement. He and other Howard students assisted civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall and his team of lawyers on the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. That landmark case ended segregation in education in the United States.

After completing his education at Howard, Nix joined the Army to complete his military Duties. He served during World War II. In the Army, he was a member of Army bands playing the saxophone. He was also the bands' drum major.

Once Nix completed his military service, he returned to Delaware to take the state bar exam. Passing on the his first attempt, he was admitted to the bar on Nov. 27, 1956. He became the second black admitted to the state bar in twenty-nine years. He was the second black to practice law in the state of Delaware behind Louis Redding who was admitted and opened his practiced in 1927. In addition to Delaware's Bar, Nix was admitted to both Massachusetts and Michigan bars.

After founding his practice, Nix focused his legal career on protecting the rights of minorities, helping disenfranchised residents, the disabled, and the ensuring the legal rights of criminal defendants in Delaware's court system. He had a great desire to improve the conditions for minorities in Delaware. He later became the first African-American criminal prosecutor for the Municipal Court in Wilmington.

During Nix's thirty-six year career practicing law, he handled many landmark civil rights Cases. Once such

case was *Belvedere Fire Company v. New Castle County*. The lawsuit, filed in 1958, was done so to ensure that the only African American fire company involved in the fire industry received an equal share of county funds as white fire companies did. He handled small business cases, individual civil and criminal cases and represented entertainers in their contract negotiations. Two of his celebrity clients were jazz musician Thelonious Monk and legendary singer Sarah Vaughan.

Nix, in 1960, filed the lawsuit, *Echols v. Superior Court*, which addressed job discrimination in employee hiring by the Superior Court itself. He then filed suit against the Wilmington police Department. That lawsuit mandated changes in the hiring practices of the police department to guard against racial discrimination in any form. Nix used the law and lawsuits to promote social change.

Because of his dedication to civil service in law, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Nix to serve on the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. The 500,000-member denomination, United African Methodist Episcopal Church selected him as their General Counsel. In 1969, he also led a successful effort to obtain funding for an affordable housing project. He gave his time on many pro bono cases helping grassroots community organizations on behalf of poor families in Wilmington.

In 2003, Nix was awarded from Wilmington Friends School their Alumni of the Year Award. At the awards ceremony, Joe Biden, Delaware U.S. Senator and later Vice President of the United States said of Nix, "*When you think about justice in Delaware, you think of Theo Nix.*" After receiving the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Diversity in the Legal Community Award, Nix said of himself and his legal service to the community at large that law, "*...has taken me to the courtroom, the street, the projects, the classroom, and the church,*" and indeed it did.

Nix and his wife of fifty-seven years, Dr. Lulu Mae Nix, had four children, Theophilus Jr., Sheldon, Denise, and Crystal. Nix died on September 11, 2008. A scholarship fund was established in his honor, the Theophilus R. Nix Sr. Scholarship Fund to assist the Wilmington Friends School in their endeavors. The scholarship fund was created to benefit low-income African American children in their education pursuits by attending the Wilmington Friends School.



## THOMAS GILLIS NUTTER

...was born on June 15, 1876 in Princess Anne, Maryland to Emma (Henry) Nutter and William Nutter. He attended Maryland's segregated public schools where he graduated from high school. He attended Washington, D.C.'s How-

ard University where he received his undergraduate degree. He remained at Howard where he obtained his law degree from the University's Law School.

After receiving his law degree, in 1905, Nutter moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey where he began practicing law. He became the city's first African American lawyer. He tried numerous criminal cases and other varied cases in the New Jersey courts.

After his father died, he returned to Maryland to care for his mother. He accepted the job as Principal to the Fairmont School. He served the school as its' Principal for two years. He turned his attention to law, however, Maryland did not allow blacks to be admitted to its bar, so Nutter moved at Marion County, Indiana where he was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1901.

Nutter then moved to Charleston, West Virginia and opened a law office there. He relocated his mother to Charleston and over the next several years built a reputable legal practice in the city. He became involved with the Mutual Savings and Loan Company of Charleston, which at the time was the only African American owned bank in the state of West Virginia.

Nutter next took a position as an Assistant Land Clerk with the West Virginia State Auditor's Office. He worked at the office for six years. During that time, Nutter successfully introduced a bill to the West Virginia state legislature, which as passed that amended the state's tax laws.

In 1913, Nutter was elected as the national leader of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World. He also served as the Orders "Grand Exalted Ruler" for one year. During that year, he created and reinstated more local lodges than any other Ruler had done in the past thirteen years.

Nutter joined the Republican Party and began to support the proposed agenda of the Party. In 1918, he ran in the primary election for a seat in the West Virginia State House of Representatives. With support from then Governor George W. Atkinson, he easily won the election in a district that had less than a ten percent black population. He was re-elected to a second term in the 1920 general election. During his tenure in the state legislature, he was the only black serving or elected in the state. This trend would continue well into the 1960s.

In 1920, Nutter married Sarah Meriwether Nutter, a fellow student he met while at Howard. While at Howard, she was a founding member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first sorority organized in the United States by and for African American women. She became a schoolteacher after the two were married.

While in the state legislature, Nutter served on the House Judiciary Committee. He pushed for construction of state institutions to assist African Americans including the building of an Industrial School for Colored Boys and an Industrial Home for Colored Girls. He also called for the creation of an insane asylum for Coloreds.

In 1926, Nutter was appointed as Polemarch to the Middle Eastern Province of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. At that time, the Middle Eastern Province encompassed the chapters of the Cincinnati Alumni, the Cleveland Alumni, the Delta, the Pittsburgh Alumni, the Tau, and the Zeta chapters. For his service to the fraternity, the organization bestowed upon Nutter their highest award, the Laurel Wreath Award.

By 1929, Nutter had joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He became involved with the organizations fight for civil and equal rights. Nutter played a part in the desegregation of West Virginia's public libraries. That year, he was admitted to the American Bar Association. During the same year, he represented a client in a \$12 million land deal, one of the largest monetary cases of his career.

In 1947, Nutter successfully sued the city of Montgomery, West Virginia to integrate the city's public swimming pools. In the 1948 case of Lawrence v. Hancock, Nutter was victorious in the federal courts to provide evidence that the city were violating the civil rights of blacks by excluding them for enjoying the city's public pools. The courts agreed with Nutter and ordered the pools be granted equal access to the services offered to whites. In satisfying the "equal but separate doctrine", the city realized they could not afford to build a separate swimming pool, so they decided to close the only one they had. Unwilling to allow blacks in the one pool the city had, the City of Montgomery decided to close the city's pools altogether. Pools in the city were not reopened until 1961.

In 1924, Nutter published an article in "The Messenger", a West Virginia publication, as part of a series on blacks in America entitled, "These Colored United States". He interviewed twenty-eight successful blacks, both male and female, in their respective business ventures or educational endeavors, including his wife Sarah, and spoke of their success to showcase the greatness of African Americans at that time. He showed that the owned property, produced crops, and were upstanding members of their given communities.

In 1928, Nutter was elected as the West Virginia leader of the Knights of Pythias, a black fraternal association. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Charleston, a black church founded in 1868. At the church, he served as the Men's Sunday School Teacher. Thomas Gillis Nutter died in 1959.





## BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA

...was born on August 4th, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii, to his mother, Stanley Ann Dunham a white woman from Kansas, U.S.A. and his father, Barack Obama, Sr., a black man from Kenya,

Africa. After his mother's death, Barack was raised by his grandmother and grandfather. His grandfather had served in "Patton's Army" while his grandmother worked her way up from the secretarial pool to become Vice President at a local bank.

On his way to the Presidency of the U.S., Obama worked diligently through high school, Occidental College in Los Angeles, Columbia University in New York, and later, Harvard Law School, with the help of scholarship money and student loans, he completed his studies.

In 1985, Obama moved to Chicago, where he got his start in community organizing on the city's South Side, working to help rebuild communities devastated by the closure of the local steel plants. He called that time in his life "*...the best education I ever had. Better than anything I got at Harvard Law School.*" He has credited that experience as crucial to finding his identity, something that shaped his path to the White House.

Obama is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School, where he served as President of the Harvard Law Review. He was a community organizer in Chicago before earning his law degree. He worked as a civil rights attorney and taught constitutional law at University of Chicago Law School between 1992 and 2004. He served three terms representing the 13th District in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004, and ran unsuccessfully in the Democratic primary for the United States House of Representatives in 2000 against incumbent Bobby Rush.

Obama was elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996. During his time in Springfield, he helped pass the first major ethics reform in twenty-five years in Illinois, cut taxes for working families, and expanded health care for children and their parents. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, he reached across the aisle to pass the farthest-reaching lobbying reform in a generation, helped locked up the world's most dangerous weapons, and

helped to bring transparency to government by tracking federal spending online.

Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States on January 20th, 2009, in the middle of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. A time when the U.S. economy was losing 800,000 jobs a month. He acted immediately to get the economy back on track. His administration worked to improve the lives of working families. The private sector added more than ten million jobs during the longest, uninterrupted period of job growth in the nation's history.

In his first term, the Obama cut taxes for every American worker, putting \$3,600 back in the pockets of the typical family. He passed historic Wall Street reform to make sure taxpayers never again would have to bail out big banks. He passed the Affordable Care Act, which helps to put quality and affordable health care within the reach of millions of American people. He ended the war in Iraq and is worked to end the war in Afghanistan in a responsible manner.

Obama was the first sitting President to stand up for marriage equality, and fought for equal pay and a woman's right to make her own health decisions. He made college education more affordable for millions of students and their families and is working diligently to bring a comprehensive solution to fix the U.S. broken immigration system.

Obama believes in an economy that should be built to last. To do so, he believed that a sound economy starts by growing and strengthening the middle class. His plan was to create jobs and restore economic security to working families. He believed that America will prosper when everyone is all in it together. Hard work and responsibility, he believed, pays off and is rewarded when everyone, from Main Street to Wall Street, does their fair share and plays by the same rules.



## MICHELLE LAVAUGHN ROBINSON OBAMA

...was born on January 17, 1964, in DeYoung, Illinois, to Marian (née Shields) and Fraser C. Robinson III. The Robinson and Shields' roots stem from the Gullah people of South Carolina's Low Country region. Michelle Obama grew up in Chicago's South

Shore community. Raised in a conventional American home, i.e., the mother at home while father works, dinner around the table at a set hour, and the elementary school was blocks away, in walking distance. Michelle and her brother Craig enjoyed playing, as most kids did, but they also enjoyed reading and music with Michelle playing the piano.

Growing up in a Methodist lifestyle, the family attended church regularly, vacationed during the summer months and doing the school years, education was the major focus. Both Obama and her brother Craig skipped the second grade. Joining a gifted class at Bryn Mawr Elementary School (later renamed Bouchet Academy), she was determined to stay away from trouble and became an exceptional student. She went on to attend Chicago's first magnet and selective enrollment high school, Whitney Young High School.

While taking advanced placement classes, Obama was an honor roll student all four years of her high school matriculation. She was a member of the National Honor Society, and served as Student Council Treasurer. Graduating in 1981, she proudly was Salutatorian of her class.

After law school, Obama became an Associate at the Chicago office of the law firm Sidley Austin. Her duties surrounded marketing and intellectual property issues. While there she met Barack Obama, her future husband. Assigned to mentor the new summer associate, their relationship began from their common concerns in community organizing. Impressed with Barack, she ignored the promise she had made to her mother, that she would focus solely on her career, and began to date Barack. Married in October of 1992, the Obamas have two daughters, Malia Ann, born in 1998 and Natasha (known as Sasha), born in 2001.

For the next few years, Obama held several public sector positions in the Chicago city government. She became Assistant to the Mayor, Assistant Commissioner of Planning and Development, and Executive Director for the Chicago Office of Public Allies, a non-profit organization focused on social issues in nonprofit groups and government agencies. She served as the Associate Dean of Student Services at the University of Chicago, developed the University's Community Service Center.

Obama, in 2002, became Executive Director for Community Affairs for the University of Chicago Hospitals, and then Vice President for Community and External Affairs. She held that position leaving only to assist her husband, Barack, on his primary campaign, and to take a leave to spend the growing years with her daughters and family. While attending to her position at the University Hos-

pital, she was a Board of Directors member of TreeHouse Foods, a major Wal-Mart supplier. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

At that time she was the majority household "bread winner", earning a much higher salary at her job than her husband did in the U.S. Senate. Having reservations about Barack's presidential campaign, using fear of a negative effect on their daughters as an excuse, Obama jumped on board after negotiating an agreement between the two of them whereby she would reduce her professional responsibilities to assist in the campaign, if he would give up smoking in exchange. Of course, he gave up smoking.

Becoming First Lady of the United States upon the election of her husband, Barack Hussein Obama II, as the 44th President of the United States. Believing that *"that you work hard for what you want in life, that your word is your bond, and you do what you say you're going to do, that you treat people with dignity and respect, even if you don't know them, and even if you don't agree with them,"* Michelle Obama is the epitome of hard work, family values, civil dignity, and ceaseless class.

As First Lady, Obama has visited homeless shelters, served at soup kitchens, and has been an advocate for schools and public service. She held White House reception for women's rights and put her efforts toward the enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 Pay equity law. Involved in politics, to the dismay of many, Obama supported the economic stimulus bill, visiting the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and United States Department of Education to show support.

Other initiatives of the First Lady included advocating on behalf of military families, helping women balance family and career, promoting national service, and supporting the arts and arts education. Having military families as a personal agenda, Obama bonded well with military families. She supported the campaign to bring back the school girls kidnapped in Nigeria by Boko Haram militants. Her resolve was shown in gratitude in April of 2012, when she and husband were given the Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans), the highest honor given to homeless veteran advocates.

Obama efforts toward healthy eating was shown by her planting an organic White House Kitchen Garden, the first vegetable garden since Eleanor Roosevelt served as First Lady. She launched the *"Let's Move!"*, aimed at reducing childhood obesity and created the Task Force on Childhood Obesity. Her goal was to put together a national plan towards changing the health of America's youth. Healthy eating and a healthy body, she made a part of her legacy.

An opponent of constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage, Obama has given her support to the struggles for gay rights and civil rights. She has stood up for LGBT rights, fought against gender violence, and supported the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the legislation that repealed "Don't Ask Don't Tell". To show her support, in her national military families initiative, Obama included openly gay service members.

During her term as First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama has carried herself with grace and showed a passionate heart. Her care for the children, hers and the nation's, is a testament to a First Lady that will be remembered in history as not only one of supreme class but one of the most intelligent to serve in that coveted position.





## CHARLES JAMES OGLETREE, JR.

...was born on December 31, 1952, in Merced, California, the first of their five children born to migrant workers, Charles Sr. and Willie Mae Ogletree. When Charles, Jr., became old enough, he also began working in the fields, picking figs and other fruit. His parents' marriage was plagued by spouts of violence

and they divorced, remaining on good terms.

In high school, Ogletree ran with a closely held clique of young black males determined to stay out of trouble and to do well in school. One of his closest friends who dated the high white Judge's daughter was charged with arson in a fire at the coach's home and convicted. Sent to a youth camp, a race riot broke out and the friend was charged with the murder of a white inmate. He was convicted and sent to San Quentin Penitentiary where he found himself co-charged with killing a prison guard and placed on Death Row. That decision was eventually overturned but left a lasting impression on Ogletree of how difficult it was for young black males to receive fair treatment once inside the criminal justice system.

That childhood incident coupled with witnessing his father, after an incident of domestic violence, being taken away in handcuffs instilled in him a deep distrust toward the law enforcement community. To combat this feeling of powerlessness, as a child, Ogletree, Jr. spent countless hours in the public library studying. His good grades from school were a testament to his dedication and he stayed out of trouble.

After high school, Ogletree enrolled in Stanford University in 1970. His dormitory was the first room he had ever had to himself. He soon became dismayed by the elitism at the institution and organized an Afrocentric dormitory, where he met his future wife, Pamela Barnes. Being near the center of the Black Power movements of San Francisco, the city of Oakland, and the University of California at Berkeley, he took a more radical stance. He lent his expertise, learned from his time spent in the library in his youth and edited the campus Black Panther, "*The Real News*". He traveled to Africa and Cuba as part of his student activist groups.

Ogletree's first became interested in a law career during the trial of Black Power activist and Communist Angela Davis. He attended nearly every day of the trial. Although tedious, he became fascinated with the process. Completing his Bachelor's degree, with distinction, in Political Science in 1974, Ogletree earned his Master's degree a year later. In the fall of 1975, he applied and was accepted to Harvard Law School. There he aligned himself with other African-American students and continued his political activism, becoming National President of the Black Law Students Association.

After graduating from law school in 1978, Ogletree began working for the District of Columbia Public Defender Service, first as a staff attorney, then as Training Director, Trial Chief, and Deputy Director. In 1985, he became a Professor at Harvard Law School. In 1992, he became the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Vice Dean for Clinical Programs.

Ogletree's resume is vast and long. In short, he was the District of Columbia Public Defender Service, Washington, DC, staff attorney, 1978-82; Director of Staff and Training, 1982-83; American University, Washington, Adjunct Professor, 1982-84; Deputy Direc-

tor, 1984-85; Antioch Law School, Washington, Adjunct Professor, 1983-84; Partner, Jessamy, Fort & Ogletree, Washington, 1985-89; Counsel, Jessamy, Fort & Botts, of, 1989-; Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, visiting Professor, 1985-89; Director, Introduction to Trial Advocacy Workshop, 1986; Assistant Professor, 1989-93; Director, Criminal Justice Institute, 1990-; Professor, 1993; Director of Clinical Programs, 1996; Jesse Climenko Professor of Law, 1998; Associate Dean for the Clinical Programs, 2002; Vice Dean for the Clinical Programs, 2003; Director, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, 2004.

His selected memberships include the National Legal Aid and Defender Association; Southern Prisoners Defense Committee (Chair and Board of Directors); Society of American Law Teachers; National Mentor Program; Stanford University Board of Trustees; and the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees.

His selected awards include the Award of Merit, Public Defender Service Association, 1990; Personal Achievement Award, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Black Network, 1990; Nelson Mandela Service Award, National Black Law Students Association, 1991; National Bar Association, Presidential Award for The Renaissance Man of the Legal Profession, 1996; Washington Bar Association, Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit, 2001.

Ogletree has made countless media appearances and contributions including *State of the Black Union*; *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*; *Ethics in America*; *Hard Drugs, Hard Choices, Liberty and Limits: Whose Law, Whose Order?*; *Credibility in the Newsroom, Race to Execution, 2006*; *Beyond Black and White*; *Liberty & Limits: Whose Law, Whose Order?*; *That Delicate Balance II: Our Bill of Rights*; and other Public Broadcasting Service broadcasts. He has been a guest on many television programs, including *Nightline*, *This Week with David Brinkley*, *McNeil-Lehrer News Hour*, *Crossfire*, *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Larry King Live*, *Cochran and Company: Burden of Proof*, *Tavis Smiley*, *Frontline*, *America's Black Forum*, and *Meet the Press*. He has contributed to periodicals such as *New Crisis*, *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, and the *Harvard Law Review*.

In 2003 he visited the University of Washington, Seattle, to speak on reparations. At the time several of the majority-Black audience asked him how much money could potentially be wrought from reparations. While Ogletree would not elaborate on a particular number he seemed to support an audience member's suggestion of more than \$2 trillion or more.

On July 21, 2009, Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., was arrested at his own home after being mis-identified as the home owner. The incident became a major news story showcasing the issues surrounding politics, police power, and race in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Ogletree issued a statement in response to the arrest of his Harvard colleague and client and later penned a book about the events titled "*The Presumption of Guilt: The Arrest of Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*" and "*Race, Class and Crime in America*".

In February 2011, he gave a three-part lecture at Harvard Law School entitled "*Understanding Obama*", which provides an inside look at President Barack Obama's journey from boyhood in Hawaii to the White House. A note of importance is that Ogletree taught both Barack and Michelle Obama when they attended Harvard.

He is a founder of the Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School and serves on the school's foundation board. The school library is named in his honor. He has received the National Conference on Black Lawyers, *People's Lawyer of the Year Award*, *the Man of Vision Award*, *Museum of Afro-American History (Boston)*, *the Albert Sacks-Paul A. Freund Award for Teaching Excellence*, *Harvard Law School in 1993*, *the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, 1995*, *the Ruffin-Fenwick Trailblazer Award*, and the *21st Century Achievement Award, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts*.





## H AZEL R OLLINGS R EID O 'LEARY

..was born on May 17, 1937 in Newport News, Virginia. To give her a better opportunity for an education, rather than send her to the public segregated schools in Newport News, her parents sent her to New Jersey to live with an aunt hoping for a better opportunity for their daughter. In New Jersey, O'Leary attended a school for artistically gifted students.

After graduating high school, O'Leary enrolled into Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where she received her undergraduate degree with honors in 1959. She graduated as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. She returned to New Jersey to attend Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

O'Leary took her first professional job as an attorney working in the New Jersey State Attorney General's Office. She served as a New Jersey attorney for several years before moving to Washington, D.C. where she became a partner at Coopers and Lybrand. The accounting firm was one of the larger accounting firms in the nation.

Several years after arriving in Washington, she joined the administration of President Gerald Ford as General Counsel at the Community Services Administration (CSA). The CSA was the U.S. Government agency that oversaw the nation's anti-poverty programs. She was later appointed by then President Ford as the Director of the Federal Energy Administration's Office of Consumer Affairs. In her position as Director, she represented the concerns of American citizens and consumers of energy in negotiations of fair costs with energy manufacturers and distributors. O'Leary also served as an administrator to the Economic Regulatory Administration.

In 1977, then President Jimmy Carter appointed O'Leary to head the Department of Energy's (DOE) Economic Regulatory Administration. She oversaw more than 2,000 employees and enforced price controls on energy producers. She was successful in her lobbying to pass the Fuel Use Act, which decreased demands for natural gas. She also created conservative usage programs for low-income residents. It was at the DOE that she met and married, John F. O'Leary, who also served at the DOE.

In 1981, O'Leary and her husband established the consulting firm of O'Leary & Associates, where she served as Vice President and General Counsel. Two years later, she was named as the Executive Vice President of the Northern States Power Company's Environmental and Public Affairs Division in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She then became the President of its' natural gas division.

In 1993, then President Bill Clinton nominated O'Leary as Secretary of Energy. She became the first woman and the first African American woman to serve as Secretary. In her role as Secretary, she investigated long held claims of American citizens, during the Cold War era, being used in human radiation experiments by the U.S. Government, as human guinea pigs. She was able to get gov-

ernment classified papers declassified, which proved the rumors correct. From those findings, President Clinton issued an Executive Order that created the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments (ACHRE) to prevent such abuses of power ever happening again.

In 1996, O'Leary was criticized after an audit by the U.S. General Accounting Office, the watchdog for government spending, that called into question her spending on travel and hotel accommodations that they found unsatisfactory. Her spending had exceeded the budget set for the office and she was called before a Congressional Committee to testify about her spending. O'Leary apologized for her overspending and resigned her post.

The following year, O'Leary again was involved in political scandal. Johnny Chung, a political donor to the Democratic Party, alleged that after giving \$25,000 to one of her favorite charities, Africare, a Washington, D.C. based charitable organization that focuses on the development of African countries, O'Leary met with Chinese oil officials on his behalf in a business deal. An FBI investigation was called for from the Department of Justice (DOJ) by then FBI Director Louis Freeh. DOJ Attorney General Janet Reno, after a thorough investigation, determined that there was no evidence of wrong doing by O'Leary and she was cleared of the allegations.

In 2004, O'Leary was named as the new President of Fisk University, her alma mater. She is credited with increasing fundraising revenues and other financial support for the university. She was able to recapture the schools historical position in academia, which attracted more top students from across the country that chose Fisk to attend, both in the undergraduate school and its' law school. After eight years at the helm, O'Leary retired from the Presidency of the University in 2012.

While serving as President of the University, O'Leary spearheaded a proposal to raise much needed capital for the University by selling half of its' prized art collection, the Alfred Stieglitz Collection, to a museum in Arkansas. The collection contained valuable original paintings by famed artist Georgia O'Keefe, the wife and widow of Stieglitz. O'Keefe had bequeathed to Fisk with the stipulation that the collection never be sold.

O'Leary and Fisk administration officials made an appeal to the Chancery Court to vacate the stipulation and allow the school to sell one half of ownership to the museum, as the University was in dire need of funding to continue to operate. Some in the community were outraged that the collection would leave the university and Nashville to go to a museum in Arkansas where not as many people may be able to see the collection and that the collection belonged at Fisk.

As a result and compromise to Fisk's financial needs, the Court ordered the State Attorney General to develop an alternative plan that would allow the collection to remain in Nashville. Attorney General Bob D. Cooper devised a plan that allowed the collection to remain in Nashville. The collection would be housed at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, a museum in Nashville and would be known as the "Alfred Stieglitz Collection at Fisk University". Fisk was able to raise needed capital and Nashville art patrons, Fisk students, and Fisk alumni could still visit the collection without traveling to Arkansas. The proposal was backed financially as a joint city and state museum project.



## REVIUS OLIVER ORTIQUE, JR.

..was born on June 14, 1924 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He attended segregated public schools before entering college at Dillard University in New Orleans where he received his B.A. degree in Sociology in 1947. He received his

M.A. degree from the University of Indiana in Bloomington in 1949 before obtaining his J.D. degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1956.

After having served in World War II and having passed the Louisiana Bar, Ortique began his professional legal career by opening his own private law practice. In his early beginnings, he accepted any type of case that came his way. He then began to focus on cases related to estates. He would eventually become one of the largest estate practicing firms in the state.

In 1958, Ortique was elected as the President of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans. He would serve in this capacity for five terms. He was elected as President, in 1959, of the National Bar Association. He would serve in that capacity for two terms. He also served as President of the Community Relations Council in New Orleans. He served in that role for three terms. With continued protesting by blacks aimed at ending desegregated restaurants and public use facilities, Ortique served as the chief negotiator in the fight that brought an end to desegregation in New Orleans. With his help, the city changed their desegregation policies as it came to the use of lunch counters, hotels, and public facilities in New Orleans.

In 1966, then President Lyndon Johnson appointed him to the Federal Hospital Council. In 1970, President Richard Nixon, after the killings of students that protested the Vietnam War at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi and Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, appointed Ortique to serve on the President's Commission on Campus Unrest. Ortique would play a pivotal part in calming the unrest that was occurring across the college campuses across the country.

In 1974, Ortique was again called upon by President Nixon to serve. This time, Ortique was asked to serve on the newly created Legal Services Corporation, a non-profit private corporation created and established by the U.S. Congress to assist in the funding of U.S. citizens who were unable to pay for or gain equal access to the criminal justice system. In 1978, the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed Ortique as a Judge Pro Tempore of Orleans Parish Civil District Court.

In 1979, Ortique ran and was elected to the seat he held as Judge of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court. He became the first African-American judge elected to the Court. Serving on the Court with distinction, in 1984, he was elected as Chief Judge by his fellow Judges. His selection made him the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the Court.

A firm believer in giving back to his community and over the years working with the Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Aid Committee, Ortique's pro bono legal work provided legal assistance to many New Orleans citizens that could not otherwise afford legal services. The care and assistance given to his New Orleans community paid off when he ran for a seat on the Louisiana Supreme Court.

In 1992, Ortique ran and was elected to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. His election was a step towards being appointed to the Louisiana Supreme Court. With his appointment to the Supreme Court, he became the first African-American to serve on the state's highest court. He would serve until 1994. He then became the President of the New Orleans Urban League. In 1999, then President Bill Clinton named Ortique as an Alternate Representative to the United Nations General Assembly.

Ortique was a member of many law Bar associations, community based organizations and national committees including serving as President of the Southwest Bar Association. He was a member of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Legal Aid Committee, the New Orleans Metropolitan Area Committee, and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. He sat on the Board of Trustees of the Civil Justice Foundation and chaired the Louisiana Caucus of Black Judges.

Ortique has been recognized for his legal work by many of his legal peers, private organizations, national leaders, and government officials. He was awarded honorary degrees from several colleges and universities including Campbell College in Jackson, Mississippi; Ithaca College in New York; Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana; Morris Brown University in Atlanta, Georgia; Southern University Law School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and the University of Indiana in Bloomington. For his efforts, the LSBA bestowed upon him their "Pro Bono Lifetime Achievement Award". The National Bar Association awarded him their "Gertrude Rush Award" and the American Bar Association honored him with their "Thurgood Marshall Award". The Southern University Law Center renamed their annual Symposium on Law, Politics, Civil Rights and Justice in after Ortique. In addition, four U.S. Presidents, during Ortique's time on the bench, appointed him to five Presidential commissions.

Revius Oliver Ortique, Jr. passed away on Sunday, June 22, 2008. He was eighty-four years old.



## MORRIS L. OVERSTREET

...was born in 1950 and graduated from Amarillo High School in Amarillo, Texas where he excelled in both academics and athletics as a football and track star. He attended Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas where

he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a minor degree in Biology and Chemistry. He went on to obtain his law degree in 1975 from Texas Southern University School of Law in Houston, Texas.

To begin his professional legal career, Overstreet took a position with the 47th Judicial District at the District Attorney's Office in Amarillo. For five years, he served as a Prosecutor where he prosecuted thousands of criminal cases with none of the convictions being reversed on appeal due to any error committed by him or his staff during his time in the District Attorney's Office. By the time of his departure, Overstreet had advanced to First Assistant District Attorney. During that time, for four years, he also presided over the Potter County Court at Law Number 1 in Amarillo.

After leaving the District Attorney's Office, Overstreet decided to place his name in the pool of statewide lawyers seeking a judgeship in the courts of Texas. He entered his name into the pool and won a 1990 seat on the Texas Court of Appeals of Criminal Appeals, the state's highest criminal Appellate Court. He became the first African American to ever be elected in Texas to a statewide office. He would be elected twice more to the Court serving from 1990 to 1998. While sitting on the bench, Overstreet authored over five hundred opinions.

Upon his departure from the Court of Appeals, Overstreet, in January of 1999, became a certified contract advisor with the National Football League Players Association. This privileged authorization gave him the right to negotiate contracts between potential and current football players and their prospective National Football League teams. While performing his duties as a legal representative for his football clients, Overstreet also served at his alma mater, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law.

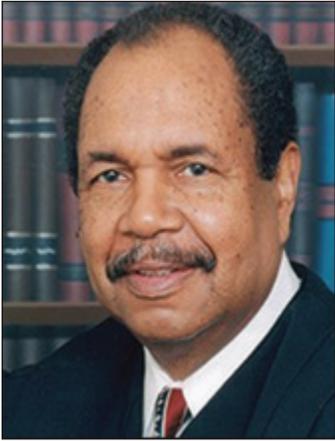
In September of 2002, Overstreet became the Director of the Legal Clinic and Professor of Evidence and Criminal Procedure at Texas Southern where he would serve four

years. He has served in the past as General Counsel to the Texas State Baptist Convention where he chaired their state-wide Bible Drill Competition. He served as Chair of the Texas State Bar Crime Victims Committee in addition to serving the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, of which he is a member, as their National Legal Counsel. Overstreet is a member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas and also attends both the Windsor Village United Methodist Church and the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, both located in Houston.

Overstreet is a life member of the National Bar Association and a member of the American Bar Association. He became the Chair of the Judicial Council Division while a member. A life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he has devoted uncountable time to the civic and civil causes of the organization.

A frequent lecturer and public speaker, Overstreet continues to teach continuing legal educational classes throughout the state of Texas. A decorated legal professional, he teaches classes for organizations such as Constitutional County Judges, Justices of the Peace, local Bar Associations, the National Bar Association, and the State Bar of Texas Advance Criminal Law Seminar. He has assisted the National Medical Association, serving as their President of the Auxiliary.

Overstreet is now a private practice attorney serving Houston. He continues to serve his football clients while turning into an entrepreneur. He purchased a funeral service entity in Amarillo, Warford and Walker Mortuary, as a means of transitioning from his law profession to one in business.



## CHARLES L. OWENS

...was born on April 13, 1930 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Growing up in the segregated South, although many say Oklahoma is in the mid-west, Owens faced many obstacles in overcoming

the prejudice and racism that he experienced in his everyday life. From a very young age, he seemed to have a mission, although he has admitted that he did not know for sure what that was. From the determination and drive his parents had instilled in him, he knew he had to overcome the obstacles he faced in order to establish his own right.

Owens graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, a segregated black school in north Tulsa in 1948. He matriculated to Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. From Lincoln, he would obtain, in 1952, his undergraduate Business degree. It was in college that he first became interested in becoming a lawyer.

After graduation, he entered the military to complete his required service. During his two years of service in the military, his interest in the law continued to peak. After completing his military service, Owens returned to Tulsa. Back in his home town, he took a job with the city's police department. While working the graveyard shift, 11 p.m. - 7 a.m., as a police officer, for four years, he studied and took day and evening classes from The University of Tulsa Law School.

After a grueling four years where he often would see his wife, Edythe, in passing as he worked nights and she worked days as a school teacher. He would sleep for only a few hours, rise and begin either his studies or his trek to campus to attend classes. Owens spent countless hours away from home at the school library, in class or working his night shift police job. He would earn his law degree from the University of Tulsa Law School in 1960.

After obtaining his law degree, Owens still worked as a police officer for a bit. In 1963, then Oklahoma Attorney General Charles Nesbitt chose him as Assistant Attorney General. Admired for his dedicated work and his impressive legal abilities, Owens was asked to stay on as Assistant Attorney General when the next elected Attorney General, G.T. Blankenship, assumed office.

Two years later, Owens would receive a most coveted appointment, that of sitting on the State of Oklahoma's District Court's bench.

In 1968, then Gov. Dewey Bartlett appointed Owens, just thirty-eight years old, as an Oklahoma District Judge. With that appointment, he became the first African American to sit on the state's District Court's bench, a most coveted seat. He would hold that seat for thirty years.

As judge, Owens presided over the first and only case to be televised from Oklahoma, *State v. Roger Dale Stafford*. Stafford, his wife and brother went on a multi state killing spree, killing ten people. Some believed there were more victims but he was tried for killing six people at an Oklahoma restaurant, and 3 others who had stopped to help his broken down car. Found guilty, Stafford was executed in by lethal injection on July 1, 1995.

Although Owens handed out many tough sentences, as he did in the Stafford case, as a sitting judge, he had a more soothing style than some of his associates. Known for his fairness, many times when he handed a defendant a lengthy jail sentences, many of them would thank him for his treatment of them during their trials. Despite a defendant's guilt or innocence, Owens gave them a sense of dignity and respect while his gavel laid down the law.

When Owens retired, he retired only from the bench and not from life. He became President of the Board for the Oklahoma Foundation for the Disabled. His daughter, born blind, has always given him motivation, as he watched her over the years deal with her Handicap. In retirement, he could work to help others suffering from blindness as he had helped his daughter overcome her condition for many years.

Honored many times over, Owens is in a unique class of people and firsts. He is among the first alumni class to be inducted into his high school's Hall of Fame, the Booker T. Washington Hall of Fame. The University of Tulsa Law School honored him with their Lifetime Achievement Award, and with their Distinguished Alumni from The University of Tulsa as well. He was also recognized by Lincoln University as a favored alumni.

Charles L. Owens, after a lifetime of public service, died on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. He was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Oklahoma City.



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