



Honoring America's

African American Lawyers

*From The Law Offices
Of*

Attorney Name or Firm Goes Here

Deliberations

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

Publisher
W.R. “Reggie” Colbert
Concepts with Solutions LLC

What is LAW?

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

Pro Bono Legal Fund
www.probonolegalfund.org

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

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

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

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

Photo
and BIO
of

ATTORNEY

THE BOOK IS DEDICATED TO

(PERSONALIZED INFORMATION)

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Volume Two

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**WILLIAM
REGINALD
"REGGIE"
COLBERT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





Clyde S. Cahill

...was born on April 9, 1923 in St. Louis, Missouri to Effie Sedona and Clyde S. Cahill, Sr.. The second of seven children, Clyde was raised in difficult times and hardships, as were many during the Great

Depressions of the 1930s. By the age of nine, Cahill had lost his mother and two siblings.

Cahill began his formal schooling by attending St. Louis public schools. He attended elementary school at L'Ouverture Elementary and graduated high school from Vashon High School as Valedictorian in 1942. After graduating high school, Cahill enlisted into the U.S. Army Air Corps completing his duties in 1946. Completing his military duties, he returned to St. Louis taking a job teaching veterans that were returning to school.

Taking advantage of the military's G.I. Bill, he enrolled into St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri where he received his undergraduate degree. He majored in Religion and Philosophy, graduating in 1949. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the same University's School of Law in 1951. While at the University, Cahill converted to Catholicism and married his sweetheart, Thelma Newsom.

Cahill began his career as a private practice attorney in St. Louis. In 1954, he became an Assistant Circuit Attorney for the City of St. Louis prosecuting murder cases. He would remain with the City for seven years. While serving the City of St. Louis, Cahill held the title of Chief Legal Advisor for the Missouri chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He would file the first lawsuit in Missouri to implement the Brown v. Board of Education laws implemented by the U.S. Supreme Court. He would serve the NAACP in that capacity until 1965. Smith returned to private practice although still assisting the City of St. Louis as a Special Assistant Circuit Attorney.

From 1966 through 1968, Smith worked with the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity in Kansas City, Missouri as a regional attorney. There he worked to put into place policies aimed at fighting the government's "War on Poverty" edits. He then became the General Manager of the Human Development Corporation (HDC) in St. Louis. Ca-

hill truly enjoyed his time at the HDC as he was able to initiate the Head Start program, Comprehensive Health Care and other needed programs to the needy citizens of St. Louis.

In 1972, Smith served as the Executive Director and General Counsel for the Legal Aid Society of the City and County of St. Louis. In this role, he was able to regain funding from various government agencies, which won him acclaim from local bar associations. He also expanded legal services for the local community.

In 1975, Cahill was appointed as a Circuit Judge in the 22nd Judicial Circuit of the State of Missouri by then Governor Kit Bond. In 1980, then President Jimmy Carter nominated Cahill to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. With his appointment, Cahill became the first African American Federal Trial Judge ever appointed. He served on the Court for twelve years until he reached Senior Status in 1992. He would serve in that capacity another twelve years until his death.

Judge Cahill was truly admired by his peers. The community in which he served affectionately loved him and young, up and coming attorney's rightfully respected him. His passion for the civil rights of all people provided him the opportunity to implement rulings that affected the lives of many in his beloved St. Louis.

A recipient of many awards and honors, Cahill has received the Clarence Darrow Award, the National Bar Association William H. Hastie Award, the Nelson Mandela Prize from the Black American Law Students Association, the St. Louis ACLU Civil Liberties Award, and the St. Louis University Alumni Merit Award among others. He has also been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law from St. Louis University.

A lover of music, photography and stamp collecting, all lifelong hobbies, Cahill's had a deep appreciation for marching band music. Amongst some of his favorites were the Colonel Bogie, The Stars and Stripes Forever, and Washington Post marches. He enjoyed each up until the time he died.

After a year's long battle with cancer, Judge Clyde S. Cahill Jr. passed away in the comfort of his home on August 18, 2004.



ARCHIBALD JAMES CAREY, JR.

...was born on February 29, 1908 in Chicago, Illinois to Elizabeth H. (Davis) Carey and the Reverend Archibald J. Carey, an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) minister. He had four

siblings were all raised under the AME tenets.

Carey graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago. He attended local Lewis Institute, now Illinois Institute of Technology, graduating in 1928 with his Bachelor of Science. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from nearby Northwestern University's Garrett Biblical Institute in 1932 before attending Chicago-Kent College of Law where he obtained his law degree in 1935.

As a theologian, Carey served as Pastor of Woodland African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) in Chicago for eleven years, from 1930 through 1941. He then became the Pastor of Quinn Chapel AME Church, a church where his father had once been Pastor and he knew well. He would remain the church's pastor until 1967.

Carey easily passed the Illinois State Bar and set up practice in Chicago. Politically active and aligned with fellow attorney William L. Dawson, top of the African American political chain on both the Republican and Democratic side, it did not take Carey long to begin to gain political clout. In 1949, Chicago's Quinn Chapel AME Church named Carey as its' Pastor. He would lead the church over the next eighteen years. In 1967, Carey was named Pastor Emeritus.

He then ran for Alderman from Chicago's Third Ward and won. He won the seat again on the next election and served as Alderman for eight years. While Alderman, he was asked to speak at the 1952 Republican National Convention where he called for equal rights for all minorities.

In 1953, Carey was appointed to the United Nations as an Alternate Delegate. He was selected by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to serve on his Committee on Government Employment Policy. The Committee's purpose was to reduce racial discrimination. The President later appointed Carey as Committee Chair. He was the first African American to be named to the position. Carey served the Committee well and left in 1961.

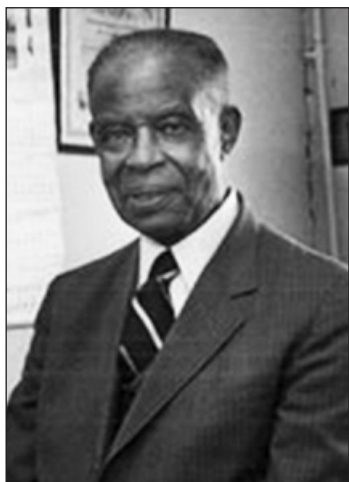
By 1956, Carey's connections with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were strong. He joined King in a conference held by the Montgomery Improvement Association's Institute on Nonviolence and Social Change. Carey, in support of Dr. King's suggested boycott of the yearlong Montgomery bus boycott, raised money and brought public awareness to the transportation needs of the Montgomery boycotters.

In 1960, Carey was asked to give a speech before the members of the World Methodist Council at a meeting held in Oslo, Norway. In his speech, Carey addressed how AME activists drew their theology and practices from Wesleyan theology. Although the AME Church did not strongly embrace activism, and a follower of the work of Richard Allen, the founder and first Bishop of the Church, Carey and several other AME pastors were actively involved in the civil rights movement. Carey was a confidante of Martin Luther King, Jr. and fought along side in the civil rights movement to end discrimination in the government work place and bring an end to the unwritten policies that held blacks back from achieving higher rankings in government jobs.

In his speech, Carey called for freedom for all mankind no matter what region they may be in, what religion, or what race. He called for freedom to ring from the Green Mountains and White Mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire to the Ozarks in Arkansas and Stone Mountain in Georgia. He called for the freedom of those disenfranchised in of South Africa, those persecuted in Europe, and for those in bondage in Africa and Asia. Carey's fiery "Let Freedom Ring Speech" is the precursor to the Rev. Martin Luther King's Famous, "I Have A Dream Speech" given in 1963 during the legendary "March on Washington".

In 1966 Carey changed his party affiliation to Democrat and ran for the seat of Cook County Circuit Court Judge. He won. He served two years before he was forced into retirement in 1978 by the mandatory seventy-year old age limit. Due to the heavy caseload the Court was faced with, Carey was reappointed to the bench and served another year.

Archibald James Carey Jr. died on April 20, 1981 in Chicago.



FRED J. CARNAGE

...was born in the state of Georgia. He was the grandson of a slave. He attended Morgan College in Baltimore, Maryland where he received his undergraduate degree. To earn his law degree, Carnage graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C..

After obtaining his law degree from Howard, Carnage chose Raleigh, North Carolina as the place to begin his professional career. He opened his law offices there in 1932. In doing so, he became one of the only two lawyers practicing law in the city at the time. He chose the most prominent street in Raleigh, Hargett Street to do so. His Hargett Street address would be his base throughout his legal career until his death.

In the days of segregation, most cities had separate areas designated for black-owned businesses away from the downtown areas where whites shopped. For Raleigh, Hargett Street was the area designated for the black businesses. Referred to as "Black Main Street", Hargett Street resembled Fifth Avenue in New York. There were thriving black businesses including Arcade Hotel, Hamlin Drug Store, and Mechanics Farmers Bank. The street had a movie theater, a barbershop and a hair salon. Of course, Carnage had his offices there, located in the Odd Fellows Building.

During the 1930's in Raleigh, as it was across all of the Southern States in the country, segregation was the norm. Civil rights for blacks were nonexistent. If a black were accused of a crime, the chances of being found innocent were slim. Jim Crow laws were in full force and the black representation in both politics and policing was intimidating. Carnage wanted to change that. That was one of the reasons he had decided to enter the law profession.

For the next several years and decade, Carnage operated from his Hargett Street offices in Raleigh to help black people in their everyday legal problems when it came to mere existence if they happened to "step out of bounds" when it came to legal issues. Carnage knew that changing the laws that were in force could only happen if blacks, or whites that cared for equal representation of blacks, were elected.

With those set principals, Carnage helped to organize the Negro Voters League (NVL) in Raleigh. The NVL as founded by John Wesley Dobbs, a black civic and political leader and often referred to as "The Black Mayor of Atlanta". In 1936, as a voter's registration drive having a goal of registering 10,000 voters, Dobbs sought out others that wanted to assist in his efforts. Believing in the same ideals, Carnage eagerly joined in and gave both his office and his time to those efforts.

In 1949, Carnage was appointed to the Raleigh School Board. He was only the second African American to ever sit on any North Carolina School Board at the time. Ironically, of the total students attending the Raleigh public schools at that time, only a third were African American.

Raleigh, as did most school districts, had separate schools for white students and black students. The schools designated for blacks were subpar to the white schools when it came to facilities, schoolbooks and funding. Carnage, as a member of the School Board fought to correct those inequalities.

Schools in the United States had practiced the rule of segregation since 1896 when the infamous Plessy v. Ferguson decision was implemented. That decision allowed for state sponsored segregation in public schools. In 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Brown v. Board of Education that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and the law that allowed for separate schools for black and white students was unconstitutional.

Although the law surrounding segregated schools was changed, integration did not come quickly. Raleigh's School Board implemented rules that if a black student wished to attend a white school, they were required to obtain a recommendation from a "trusted source" in order to be considered to change schools. Carnage was often charged with that task and oversight of the rules.

It wasn't until the 1960s that the Raleigh Public Schools began to integrate. In the 1961 vote to integrate the public school system, Carnage was the only Raleigh School Board member to vote YES for the admission of a black student to be admitted to the all-white Broughton High School. In an effort to get other School Board members to give a positive vote to the question of integration of the Raleigh Public Schools, Carnage stated to his fellow Board members that, "...the sooner a few Negro children enter these schools and the public finds they are just like other children, the sooner the whole thing will be settled." It would not be until 1965 that a new segregated school was built. The southeast Raleigh junior high school taught students in grades seven through nine. Carnage would go on to serve on the School Board for 13 years.

By 1961, there was more and more protest breaking out across the United States. Sit-ins were becoming commonplace as blacks demanded access to public facilities and eating establishments. Three local Shaw University students were detained after protesting at local restaurant that only served white customers. They refused to leave the lunch counter and were arrested. It was Carnage that came to their defense and represented them.

Carnage led a distinguished during his career as an attorney. He was appointed to several government boards and commissions and was a member of numerous civic organizations. In his honor, the Raleigh School District named school after him, the Fred J. Carnage Middle School.



CHARLES V. CARR

...was born on October 9, 1903 in Clarksville, Texas to Pauline and Will Carr. Both of his parents were educators, which called upon them to travel often. Because of that, he lived

with his grandfather who when Carr was fifteen years old, his grandfather moved to Cleveland, Ohio. He attended East Tech High School. He received his undergraduate degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and his law degree from John Marshall Law School in Cleveland.

In 1954, Carr took and passed the Ohio Bar and then opened his own law firm with two partners, Carr, Jackson and Payne. He became the legal counsel and a Board member to the Future Outlook League, a Cleveland organization founded by John O. Holly that assisted the many African Americans that had left the South to find better opportunities in the North. The organization helped them to find jobs.

In 1939, Carr was elected as a City Councilman serving Ward 17. As a Councilman he began to fight for the civil rights of Cleveland's African Americans. He was crucial to the passing of a civil rights ordinance that revoked the business licenses of any establishment that discriminated against blacks. In 1947, he led the fight to integrate the Euclid Beach Park Amusement Park. In 1959, he became the Democratic Majority Leader of the Council.

In 1959, Carr introduced ordinances aimed at housing discrimination and in 1966 he was pivotal to the passing of a city income tax. He was also the co-sponsor of the first Fair Employment Practices legislation in the State of Ohio.

Carr was a loyal Democrat, an unpopular political alignment at the time as most blacks embraced the Republican Party, the party of Abraham Lincoln. He fought to ensure that the black community received its' fair share of opportunities and economic advancement. His main focus throughout his political career was the well being of his people, the black people of Cleveland.

Often referred to as "The Dean" of the City Council, in 1975, Carr lost his Council seat. He was subsequently appointed to serve on Cleveland's Regional Transit Au-

thority's Board of Trustees. He would serve on the Board until his death.

Carr's political power in Cleveland was greater than the Mayor's that came and left. He helped many politicians, both Democrats and Republicans, in the election bids. Anyone seeking public office, made sure they consulted with Carr before moving forward. If they needed help in gaining votes or finances, Carr was the go-to-guy.

After Carr became the President and Chief Executive Officer of the old Quincy Savings and Loan Association, he helped black homeowners obtain mortgages that had previously been denied to the by white banks. He helped black churches with their funding needs, which save many churches to survive. He assisted young people obtain grants and scholarships in order to attend college and assisted those that had criminal records receive rehabilitation.

Having become a major stockholder and Chief Legal Counsel of Supreme Life Insurance Company, he helped those unable to obtain business and personal insurance to do so. He ensured that the company invest its' money into the black community as well. Still sitting on the Board of the Regional Transit Authority, Carr instituted policies that called for 20% of the Authority's production contracts be awarded to minorities.

With the Cleveland Police Department's heavy handed tactics of stopping and frisking women and their illegal search and seizures, without warrants, it was Carr that brought an end to this practice. He participated in demonstrations and picket line protests to force Cleveland companies, such as the East Ohio Gas Company, the Ohio Bell Telephone Company, the Quincy Movie Theater, and the Woodland Market, to hire African Americans.

Always able to change with the times, Carr did just that. When he looked at Cleveland and saw that something needed to be changed, he set about making that change. His commitment to the city has never been questioned as his actions have shown his resolve and determined alignment to his causes, that of his people.

Carr has been recognized for his great work to the City of Cleveland by having city streets named after him as well as several buildings throughout Cleveland. Honored by many and loved by more, his legacy is forever etched in the hearts of Cleveland citizens. Having served the city for over forty years, when thought of, there are not many that have not seen or felt the contributions that he provided to the city.

Charles V. Carr died in his beloved city, Cleveland, on April 30, 1987. He was eighty-three years old.



Photo Not
Available



GEORGE D. CARROLL

...was born on January 6, 1922 in Brooklyn, New York. His father drove a truck for a living and his mother was a housekeeper. She died when Carroll was five years old. After high school, he joined the military and served in

World War II. Serving in Italy, Carroll was a part of the Army's 92nd Infantry Division and served in battle on the front lines.

After leaving the military, through a G.I. Bill, Carroll was able to attend undergraduate school at Brooklyn College in New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude from the school. To pay for law school, he worked in the Kings County District Attorney's Office. He would receive his law degree in 1950, again, cum laude.

After completing law school, Carroll moved to Berkeley, California to begin his legal career. Two years later, he and his wife Lorna moved to Richmond, California. In opening his law offices in Richmond, Carroll became the first black lawyer in the city. That year, he also helped to establish the West Coast Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In 1961, Carroll ran and was elected to the Richmond City Council where he would serve for three years. He became the first African American to sit on the City Council. In 1964, he entered the Mayoral race and was elected to the top city post. As he had done with the City Council, Carr became the first African American to be elected Mayor of the city or any large city in the United States. He would serve for one term.

Leaving the Mayor's office, Carroll was appointed by then Governor Pat Brown as a Judge to the Bay Municipal Court in 1965. His appointment gave Carroll the distinction of becoming the first African American to sit on the Court. In the next three general elections, he ran unopposed and was re-elected each time to his seat on the Municipal Court bench. Carroll was later given an opportunity to join California's Superior Court but declined, instead preferring to remain on the bench in Richmond. Not wanting to work in Martinez, although less than

twenty miles away, he turned the offer down because he loved living in Richmond too much.

In 1976, Carroll was remarried to his second wife, Janie. He would remain married to her for the next forty years. For more than fifty years, he was a member of the Alpha Gamma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He also mentored many young men and women during his lengthy legal career.

In 2009, the Richmond courthouse was renamed, "The Judge George D. Carroll Courthouse" in Carroll's honor. A park located within the city of Richmond was also named in his honor, The George D. Carroll Park at Point Richmond. After a long and distinguished career as an attorney, Judge George D. Carroll died in his sleep on January 14, 2016. He was ninety-three years old.



TERRANCE D. CARROLL

...was born on January 16, 1969 in Washington, D.C. as an only child of a single mother who was fifty-one years old when she gave birth to him. He received his early education at Fork Union Military Academy located one hundred and

twenty-five miles southwest of Washington. He graduated from H.D. Woodson High School back in Washington before entering Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1992, he would receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse.

Carroll left Atlanta moving to Denver, Colorado to pursue a Ph.D. degree in Political Science from the University of Denver. He took a job as a campus police officer to pay for his tuition but not long after arriving in Denver, he decided politics was not his calling, but religion was. He would graduate from Denver's Iliff School of Theology in 1999 with a Master of Divinity degree.

He then moved back east to Cambridge, Massachusetts to attend the Harvard University Divinity School. He completed his course studies at the divinity school's Center for the Study of Values in Public Life, Summer Leadership Institute in 2000. He then became an ordained Baptist minister.

To obtain his law degree, Carroll entered the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver. While completing the requirements to receive his Juris Doctorate, Carroll, in 2003, Carroll was appointed to an open seat in the Colorado House of Representatives. He would complete his law degree requirements in 2009 representing his spring graduating class as the Commencement speaker and winner of the Law Star Award. Four years later, in 2009, he became the first African American to be elected as Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives.

Carroll represented Colorado's Seventh District, one of the most diverse districts in the state, which covered the state capital of Denver. While serving in the House, he rose to become Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and the Assistant Majority Leader. He served his district for eight years leaving at the end of his consecutive four, two-year mandatory term-limit. Carroll left the House in 2011.

While serving in the House, Carroll, along with fellow Colorado Senate President Peter Groff, sponsored a House bill that gave the power and decision making to Colorado schools when it came to budget control, set curriculums, teacher compensation, and the length of the school days for their districts. He focused on civil and criminal justice and worked in conjunction with members of the U.S. Homeland Security Department. Carroll also sponsored a bill, which allowed new charter schools to be created and helped to standardize the calculations of high school graduation rates are determined. One of his more culturally satisfying bills was the bill that renamed a portion of Colorado Interstate Highway #70, the "Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway", in honor of African American servicemen who served as airmen during World War II. He also supported education reform.

During his legislative career, Carroll's leadership of the 65-member House of Representative members, prompted strong action in the area of education. His initiative of having parents involved in the schools, fine-tuning the criminal justice guidelines for both punishment and rehabilitation, and his input that attracted new businesses to the state, all made Colorado a better state to reside in before Carroll was elected to serve in the House and as Speaker. He strove to cut unemployment, create new jobs, end the high rate of foreclosures, and cut state spending.

In recognition of his served to District 7 and the citizens of the state of Colorado, the Denver Business Journal named Carroll as an Industry Leader in Law in Colorado. The Law Week Colorado selected Carroll as a recipient of the Compleat Lawyer Award. In addition, Chambers USA gave recognition to Carroll's work on behalf of the citizens of Colorado.

Carroll is a partner in the national law firm of Butler Snow LLP. He focuses on the firm's government and regulatory policy cases. His expertise on acquisitions, corporate governance, divestitures, joint ventures, mergers, and regulatory and legislative policy, has been an invaluable asset to his clients. His negotiating skills in acquisitions and organizational structure, has proven extremely helpful in closing private equity and venture capital contracts.



PAMELA LYNN CARTER

...was born on August 20, 1949 in South Haven, Michigan to Dorothy Elizabeth Hadley Fanning and Roscoe Hollis Fanning. Although born in South Haven, Carter was raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. As a young

child, she heard the many stories her parents and grandparents would speak of that depicted the conditions of African Americans in the United States. She listened as they spoke about the civil rights attorneys that were fighting for the rights of southern blacks as well as those in the rest of the country. After meeting Martin Luther King, Jr., Carter made the decision that she wanted to enter public service work to help build a better world in which to live.

After completing high school, Carter enrolled into the University of Detroit in Michigan where she graduated with honors in 1971. After marrying her husband, Michael Anthony Carter, she remained at the university where in 1973, she earned her Master's degree in Social Work. Staying with the university, she accepted a position with the School of Public Health in Ann Arbor working as a Research Analyst and Treatment Director aimed at the care of clients.

In 1975, she accepted a position with the Mental Health Center for Women and Children as the Executive Director. After several years, she returned to school to obtain a law degree. She enrolled into the Indiana University School of Law and completed her course studies in 1984 and was awarded her law degree.

She accepted her first law job with the United Auto Workers Union at General Motors in Indianapolis. A year later, she took a position with the Secretary of State of Indiana as a securities attorney. She later became the Executive Assistant for the state Department of Health and Human Services. In 1989, then Governor Evan Bayh appointed Carter as his Deputy Chief of Staff.

In 1993, Carter left her Chief of Staff position to enter private practice. She chose the law firm of Baker and Daniels. The firm's focus centered on health-related law. Shortly thereafter, Carter made a run for the office of Indiana Attorney General. Despite her opponents racial and prejudicial campaign, she won the election earning fifty-two percent of the vote. Her historical victory made her the first African-American woman Attorney General

in the state of Indiana and the first woman of color in the United States. Her first act as the newly elected Attorney General was to hire more people of color for the office.

Serving for four years, Carter argued and won more cases before the U.S. Supreme Court than any other attorney general in the United States. During her tenure, her office initiated a Victims' Bill of Rights aimed at protecting those injured by criminal activity. She also introduced a "rape shield" law that protected victims of rape from personal attacks during the trials of accused rapists.

Carter, as Attorney General, worked to protect Indiana citizens against consumer fraud. She investigated patient abuses in hospitals in Indiana. In 1993, she assisted in the development of a conflict resolution organization, Project PEACE, Peaceful Endings through Attorneys, Children and Educators, created to build mediation skills in resolving disputes and to find nonviolent means to end disagreements and other issues.

In 1997, after her term as Attorney General ended, Carter served the Indiana House of Representatives as the Parliamentarian. She again was a first, the first African American woman to become Parliamentarian. Returning to private practice, she joined the law firm of Johnson, Smith, Pence, Densborn, Wright & Heath. As a partner, she chaired their economic development department.

A year later, Carter became the Vice President and General Corporate Counsel for the international company, Cummins Filtration. She was later promoted to the Vice President and General Manager positions for the company's Europe, Africa, and the Middle East operations. In that role, Carter traveled extensively spending much time abroad.

Returning to the United States in 2005, she became Cummins's President of global distribution earning another first, this time, the first woman President of any company in the filtration industry. Eleven years later, she is still a leading voice within the company. While serving the company, she has given more time to her local community and has been recognized for her effort.

Carter has been honored by the Indiana Perinatal Association when she received their Outstanding Service Award. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference awarded her their Drum Major for Justice Award and she was named one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans and Organization Leaders" by Ebony magazine. The Indianapolis Bar Association also awarded her their Antoinette Dakin Leach Award. Carter is a member of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Indiana Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the Society of Attorneys General Emeritus.





ROBERT L. CARTER

... was born on March 11, 1917 in Caryville, Florida. The Carter family moved to Newark, New Jersey when Robert was an infant. Soon after arriving in New Jersey, his father died. His mother then moved the family to East Orange, New Jersey with Robert and his seven

sisters and brothers. Their mother took jobs as a maid to provide for the family and to pay for the schooling.

In New Jersey, Carter first attended Barringer High School in Newark before graduating from East Orange High School. Having excelled in his studies, Carter skipped two grades and graduated from high school at sixteen years of age with a full academic scholarship. He began his collegiate career at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania where he earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science. He graduated magna cum laude in 1937.

He moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University's School of Law where in 1940, he received his law degree. A year later, he received his LLM degree from Columbia Law School in New York City. For his masters thesis, Carter wrote a paper that would come to define the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) legal strategy under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution for the right of blacks to have freedom of association.

After completing his studies at Columbia, Carter fulfilled his military duties and joined the segregated United States Army Air Corps. After his stint with the U.S. Army Corps was completed, Carter joined ranks with the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund (LDF). For the LDF, he became a legal assistant to famed attorney Thurgood Marshall. In 1945, he was promoted to Assistant Special Counsel.

In the landmark case of *Sweatt v. Painter*, a U.S. Supreme Court case that successfully struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine that legalized racial segregation in the U.S. by the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* case. Carter was the lead attorney for the *Sweatt* case. In the landmark, *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, Carter plead parts of the Supreme Court arguments. That case challenged segregated education in America. He also was the lead attorney in the desegregation case involving the University of Oklahoma, *Sipuel v. Board of Regents of Univ. of Oklahoma*.

Carter, having learned much under the tutelage of Thurgood Marshall, in 1956 was promoted to succeed Marshall as the General Counsel of the NAACP. Taking over, Carter successfully argued, co-argued, and won a staggering twenty-one out of twenty-two cases before the United States Supreme Court. A few of his most important cases includes the 1958 *NAACP v. Alabama* case where Alabama had sought to keep the NAACP from conducting business in the state and demanded their membership lists. Failing in their efforts, the ruling in favor of the NAACP removed much of the white intimidation that southern whites had been using in their attempts to derail the NAACP's voter registration campaigns and other civil rights issues. Carter remained as General Counsel until his resignation in 1968.

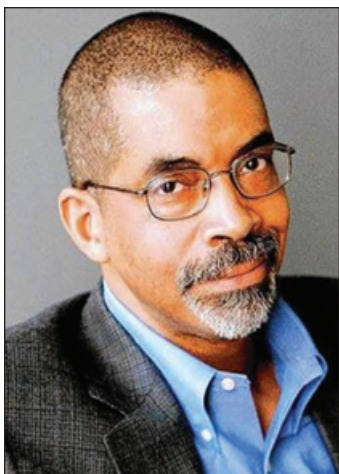
Carter abruptly resigned as General Counsel of the NAACP in 1968. Protesting the dismissal of NAACP employee Lewis Steele, Carter and the entire legal staff of the NAACP turned in their resignations. Steele had written a unsavory article in *The New York Times Magazine*. Carter felt the firing was in retaliation for him not surrendering control of the General Counsel's office to the governing board.

For his dedication to civil rights causes, in June of 1972, then President Richard M. Nixon nominated Carter to a vacancy on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Fourteen years later, Carter would receive senior status on the Court. He served as a Senior Judge up until his death.

Prior to his death, Carter co-founded the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL). He served on many bar committees, private organization committees, and several educational and corporate foundations. He was a delegate to the World Assembly on Human Rights, a member of New York City Mayor's Judiciary Committee, Co-Chair of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, a board member of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, and a board member of the American Civil Liberties. He was also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

In recognition of his tireless efforts, Carter was awarded in 1995, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Also in 1995, he received the Federal Bar Council's Emory Bucknor Medal for Outstanding Public Service. In 2000, the Harvard Law School, gave him their Medal of Freedom award and in 2004, the NAACP bestowed upon him both their Spingarn Medal and their Legal Defense Fund's, Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award. Fordham University School of Law awarded Carter an Honorary Juris Doctor degree in November 2004 in recognition of his lifetime achievements in civil rights.

Robert L. Carter suffered a stroke in 2012 and died from complications associated with the attack.



STEPHEN L. CARTER

... was born on October 26, 1954 in Washington, D.C. and was the second of five children. Carter began his education in public schools in D.C.. The family moved to Ithaca, New York where Carter graduated

from Ithaca High School in 1972. While at Ithaca High School, he was the Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper, *The Tattler*. As Editor, Carter was an advocate for student representation on the local school board.

Carter decided to move across country for his undergraduate studies. He enrolled into California's Stanford University, graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor's degree in History. While at Stanford, he was the Managing Editor for *The Stanford Daily*, the independent student run daily newspaper. After receiving his undergraduate degree, he returned to the east coast enrolling in Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut where in 1979, he earned his JD degree. At Yale, Carter became Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. Also while at Yale, he won the title of best Oralist in the Thurmond Arnold Moot Court Competition.

With law degree in hand, for his first job as an attorney, Carter served Judge Spottswood W. Robinson III of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit as his law clerk. He was then privileged to have clerked for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. After his time with Marshall was done, he entered private practice but for only a short period of time. He was offered a teaching job at Yale of which he accepted. Ending his short private practice stint, Carter joined the faculty of Yale University in 1982.

Taking the job as the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Yale Law School, Carter would remain at the law school for over thirty-four years. Teaching courses on evidence, contracts, intellectual property, ethics in literature, professional responsibility, and the law and ethics of war, Carter has written numerous articles and books on the subjects.

His non-fiction books have received many accolades for their subject matter. His writings and books have been praised by notable people as Marion Wright Edelman,

founder of the Children's Defense Fund and John Joseph O'Connor, a prelate of the Catholic Church. In 2002, Carter wrote his first novel, *The Emperor of Ocean Park*. For this novel, he received from New York book publishers, Knopf, a record \$4.2 million advance. The novel was on New York Times' best-sellers list for eleven weeks. Carter would continue writing novels and policy writings for various magazines, major newspapers, and Internet news and opinion entities for years to come.

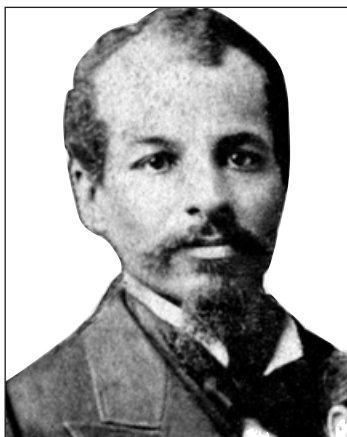
Carter wrote his fourth novel, *Jericho's Fall*, in 2009 and in 2011 penned his book, *"The Violence of Peace: America's Wars in the Age of Obama"*. For several years, he wrote a feature column for *Christianity Today* magazine. He also wrote as a columnist for Bloomberg View on their website Bloomberg.com. In essence, Carter has published seven books and has written countless columns surrounding issues dealing with law, the public and policies surrounding both.

Carter's prolific writings have focused on the role of religion in culture and politics, as well as, the integrity and civility in people's daily lives and activities. Picked by *Time* magazine as one of the country's leading public intellectuals, Carter has set himself apart from many legal minds in the new millennium world through his writings and his opinionated editorials.

He is a member of the American Law Institute as well as a Fellow at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. At the Aspen Institute in Washington, D.C., he is a Trustee, where he presides over leadership seminars designed for executives focused on values-based initiatives. He moderates many other seminars as he is often called upon to do.

Carter has been awarded eight honorary and doctorate degrees. He has been awarded degrees from colleges and universities including Bates College in Lewiston, Maine; Colgate in New York City; Hamilton College in Clinton, New York; the University of Notre Dame adjacent to South Bend, Indiana; and the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia.

He is frequently called upon to appear on TV talk shows such as *Face the Nation*, *Nightline*, and *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*. Carter is married to Enola Aird and they have two children. The family currently resides in Connecticut.



THOMAS FRANK CASSELLS

It is said that Cassells was born somewhere in between 1843 and 1847 in Berlin Crossroads, Ohio. The Cassell family was large and extended across Jackson and Ross counties. The area had been the center of the

Hopewell Native American Tribe and a settlement of the Shawnee Tribe.

Central Ohio received an influx of settlers leaving the crowded east coast or freed black slaves leaving the south for better opportunities in the north. The Woodson family is one of the families that moved to the area. Cassells mother, Francis L. Woodson was the granddaughter of President Thomas Jefferson and his slave mistress Salley Hemmings. His father, T.F.

After completing high school, Cassells enrolled into Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio where he earned his undergraduate degree. He obtained his law degree from Oberlin as well. He then moved to Memphis, Tennessee where he opened a law practice in 1868.

Cassells became the first African American to be admitted to the Memphis Bar Association. He was also the first African American to plead a case before the Supreme Court of West Tennessee. During that time, he married Emma Frances Lett and joined the local Second Congregational Church. Together, they had two sons, Clinton and DeWitt.

In 1872, Cassells moved to Louisville, Kentucky and became the co-editor, along with N.R. Harper, of the Louisville Weekly Planet newspaper. He remained in Louisville for several years before moving back to Memphis. Back in Memphis, he continued building his private practice.

In 1878, Cassells was appointed as Assistant Attorney General of Memphis. Two years later, he was elected on the Republican ticket to serve one term in the 42nd Tennessee General Assembly. On the Assembly, he served on four legislative committees. He served on the Education and Common Schools, Judiciary, Privileges and Elections, and the Public Roads committees. He introduced ten bills ranging from levying taxes to employee pay to city workers.

Cassells introduced a bill that prohibited extramarital sex between white men and black women. He introduced a bill to compensation for the victims of mob violence and to end lynching of black men in Tennessee. He introduced House Bill No. 289, which required a Nashville school for the blind to admit black students. He did the same for a "deaf and dumb", the term used then to describe the mentally unstable, school in

Knoxville, Tennessee. Unfortunately, none of Cassells bills were passed. That same year, General Ulysses S. Grant gave a visit to Memphis and Cassells was invited to accompany the former U.S. President on his tours of the Beale Street Baptist Church and LeMoyné Normal Institute.

In 1884, Cassells served as Surveyor of Customs. After being contacted by the U.S. Surgeon General about a French child dying from cholera aboard the Mississippi steamboat Annie P. Silver. Cassells was dispatched to inspect the ship. No other signs of cholera were found. That same year, he represented civil rights activists Ida B. Wells in a suit filed against the Chesapeake & Ohio & Southwestern Railroad Company who had thrown Wells off of a train reserved for whites only.

Wells fired Cassells after he advised her to accept a deal offered by the railroad thinking he had been bought off. Wells hired another attorney, James M. Greer, who tried the case in Circuit Court winning \$500 for Wells. The case, however, would be overturned in the Tennessee State Supreme Court.

At the 1884 convening of the Tennessee Convention, a gathering of three hundred of the most powerful African American leaders from around the state, Cassells was elected as Chairman. At the convention, discussions were held on several subjects with one in particular being the recent Supreme Court decision that Congress could prohibit racial discrimination by state agencies but not private organizations. The group gave concern to the legal status of Negroes in America and contemplated ways in which blacks could gain the same privileges that white citizens of the United States afforded themselves.

In 1888, Cassells became a Republican presidential elector. He campaigned for his Party and worked for his community needs. He continued to litigate private law cases in Memphis and was well respected. Thomas Frank Cassells died on April 2, 1903 from tuberculosis. He was buried in Zion Christian Cemetery (the oldest African American cemetery in Memphis).

In his honor, the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association erected an historical marker in downtown Memphis to showcase the love they and the city had for Thomas Frank Cassells. The marker reads, "Thomas F. Cassells is considered the first Black to practice law in Memphis. After moving to Memphis in 1875, he was appointed 'attorney pro tem' of the Criminal Court in 1880 and served in the Tennessee General Assembly from 1881 to 1883. During the 1800s, he was Collector of the Port of Memphis and in 1883 was appointed U.S. Surveyor of Customs. His first office was located at 317 Second Street". The historical marker is located near where Cassells' old offices were located.



JULIUS LaVONNE CHAMBERS

...was born on October 6, 1936 in Mount Gilead, North Carolina. Growing up during the Jim Crow era of segregation and racial strife, Chambers witnessed the racism first hand. When he was twelve years old, his father

owned a small auto repair business. After completing repairs on a white customer's car, the man refused to pay his father for the services saying he would not pay a black man. His father, unable to hire a lawyer to recoup his money, had to write the repairs off as a loss. It was then, that Chambers decided to become a lawyer.

Chambers graduated from high school in 1954 during the same month that the U.S. Supreme Court had passed the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* law ending segregation in public schools. He enrolled into North Carolina Central University in Durham where he graduated in 1958, summa cum laude, with a major in History. He was also the President of the Student Union. He then attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan earning a graduate degree before enrolling into the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where received his law degree.

While in law school, he was the Editor-in-Chief of the school's Law Review. He was the first African American to serve as Editor-in-Chief. He was also the first African American to become a member in the Order of the Golden Fleece, the highest honorary society at the University. He would graduate, in 1962, first in his class of one hundred students but was not allowed to attend the end-of-year banquet as it was held at Chapel Hill Country Club which did not admit blacks.

Chambers went on to earn a LL.M degree in 1964 from Columbia University Law School in New York. While earning his LL.M, he served as an intern for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense Fund (LDF). Chambers was personally selected for the internship by then LDF Director-Counsel Thurgood Marshall.

In 1964, Chambers moved to Charlotte, North Carolina and opened a law firm with partners James E. Ferguson II and Adam Stein. The firm became the first integrated law firm in North Carolina's history. Taking on civil rights cases for the LDF, Chambers was involved with employment discrimination cases and education cases. Some of the cases that Chambers litigated were met with violence from white supremacists opposed to changes in North Carolina's Jim Crow laws. Both his car and his home were bombed. Although no one was injured, the incidents received

national attention. His downtown Charlotte law offices were later firebombed as well. All of this happened in his first year practicing law.

Not deterred, Chambers continued litigating civil rights cases. During the next year, he would take on thirty-five school desegregation lawsuits and twenty others involving discrimination of public facilities. He gained an important victory when he challenged a charity football game, the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas, as it did not include black football players. The game was barred from being played that year.

In 1984, Chambers his firm, moving to New York to join LDF's offices there. He became the organization's Director-Counsel succeeding Thurgood Marshall. Continuing his litigation of civil rights issues, he represented cases involving affirmative action, capital punishment, education, employment, housing, and voting rights.

In 1993, Chambers left the LDF and returned to North Carolina. He accepted the position as Chancellor of his alma mater, North Carolina Central University. As Chancellor, he was credited with the launch of a \$50 million capital fundraising campaign. He also established the University's first endowed chairs. Chambers would retire from his position as Chancellor in June of 2001. He then joined the law firm now known as Ferguson Stein Chambers Adkins Gresham & Sumter PA.

During his professional legal career, Chambers has served as an Adjunct Professor and/or Lecturer to several law schools. He taught at Columbia University Law School in New York; the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia; and the University of Virginia Law School in Charlottesville. Chambers also taught at the Charles Hamilton Houston Distinguished Professor of Law at North Carolina Central University in Durham and as a Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina's School of Law.

Chambers wrote or was a contributing writer for several articles and books on the topic of civil rights. He penned "Adequate Education for All: A Right, An Achievable Goal" (1987); "Black Americans and the Courts: Has the Clock Been Turned Back Permanently?", *The State of Black America* (1990); "Afterward: Racial Equity and Full Citizenship, *The Unfinished Agenda*," *African Americans and the Living Constitution* (1996); "Race and Equality: The Still Unfinished Business of the Warren Court," *The Warren Court: A Retrospective* (1996), and "Beyond Affirmative Action" (1998).

Chambers was a member of the Gamma Beta Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He was married to Vivian Giles Chambers. Together they had two children.

Julius LaVonne Chambers died of a heart attack on August 2, 2013. He was seventy-seven years old.



ALVIN ODELL CHAMBLISS, JR.

... was born on January 22, 1944 in Vicksburg, Mississippi to Ledorsha and Alvin Odell Chambliss Sr.. When he was young, the family moved to Columbia, Mississippi where he would grow up. Although the family was poor, his parents taught him and his siblings

the value of self-improvement, determination and the pursuit of a good education.

Chambliss graduated from Columbia High School in 1962. While in high school, he was mentored by, C.J. Duckworth, his high school principal. Duckworth would go on to become the President of the American Teachers Association as well as the Mississippi Teachers Association. Chambliss attended Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi for his Bachelor of Arts degree. At Jackson State, he became a star linebacker for the University's football team.

Chambliss received his J.D. degree in 1970 from Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C.. He travelled across country to attend the University of California at Berkeley where he received his Master of Law degree in 1972. The following year, he married Josephine Johnson and together, they had three children.

Chambliss returned to Mississippi in 1974 and began work with North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS). The federally funded program was designed to serve Mississippi's poor and senior citizens throughout Mississippi's thirty-nine rural northern counties. The NMRLS at its' height, had thirty-two lawyers, over one hundred employees, and a budget exceeding \$3 million.

During that time, Chambliss also performed legal services for the law firm of Cohon, Jones, and Fazande; Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity); the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County, California; the National Conference of Black Mayors; and the New Orleans Legal Assistance. A year later, Chambliss became the lead attorney in the Ayers v. Barbour case, which was a class action suit filed by Chambliss on behalf of Jake Ayers, the father of a student at a Mississippi historically black university.

The suit filed against the State of Mississippi alleged that the state operated a dual system of higher learning that discriminated on the basis of race, which was unconstitutional. This landmark case, and one of the longest running civil rights cases in history, did not reach court until 1987. Chambliss had tried to reach an out-of-court settlement before the case reached court but to no avail.

When the case was finally presented before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi in April 1987, unfortunately, Jake Ayers had died. While devoting much of his time to the Ayers case, Chambliss did take time to serve as a Delegate to the 1988 Democratic National Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia in support of Jessie Jackson, an African American candidate. Once the five-week trial ended, it took the Court several months before rendering a verdict. Unfortunately, the Court ruled against Ayers and

the case was dismissed. Chambliss filed an appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which reversed the decision. The Court then changed the decision to an affirmative decision upholding the lower Court's ruling. Chambliss filed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in 1992, rendered a decision in favor of Plaintiff Ayers, and sent the case back to the U.S. District Court.

In 1994, the case was retried, this time in a ten-week trial. In the verdict of that trial, the Court ruled in favor of Ayers on some of the issues in the suit and ruled in favor of the State of Mississippi on others. The case did bring about revised admission standards and improved academic programs for all Mississippi universities. The decision allowed several Mississippi schools slated for closure to remain open including the historically black Mississippi Valley State University and the all-white Mississippi University for Women. The ruling called for addition funding for several universities as well.

Because of the amount of time spent and the amount of NMRLS resources were expended on the case, Chambliss came under fire. On the verge of personal bankruptcy and fighting to keep his home, he was suspended from the NMRLS before being fired. Having spent over 1,300 hours of his own time, he was uncertain if he would be paid for his time. In addition, Congress cut the NMRLS's funding by 30% and placed additional restrictions on what types of legal services could be provided in the future. These cuts caused many of the staff members to be let go.

Chambliss left Mississippi for Houston, Texas to take a job as a law Professor in the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. He gave assistance to a case involving the desegregation of Texas's higher education system, which brought increased funding to the states two historically black universities, and Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University. Chambliss also took on the case of James Byrd, Sr. of Jasper, Texas. Byrd had been dragged for three miles behind a pickup truck by white supremacists, dying of his wounds.

Although he was no longer employed by the NMRLS and financially strapped, Chambliss continued his representation of the Ayers class action suit. He would turn down two settlement offers worth millions stating they were attempts to buy him off. In 2000, both parties to the suit were ordered by the Court to make a settlement in the case. With the U.S. government becoming an intervenor in the case, all parties in the case, excluding the plaintiffs that Chambliss represented, signed a settlement agreement for \$503 million to be paid by the state of Mississippi over a period of seventeen years.

In 2003, the Ayers settlement case was appealed yet again, this time to the U.S. Supreme Court. Not knowing if the case would be heard, Chambliss joined the faculty of Indiana University in Bloomington as a Distinguished Visiting Professor. In 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the final appeal, which brought an end to the Ayers case, the longest running case in U.S. history.

For his years of legal service, Chambliss has been given several awards and honors. A few organizations to give recognition to him included the NAACP, the Prince Hall Masonic Orders of North Mississippi, the Mississippi Education Association, the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. In addition, he was named one of the its "Most Significant Blacks in the Last 100 Years" by Black Issues in Higher Education.





CARLOS JAMES CHAPPELLE

... was born on July 28, 1951 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Elizabeth Cooley Chappelle and Rev. Dr. T. Oscar Chappelle, Sr.. Carlos attended elementary school in the Tulsa Public School system.

He graduated from Central High School in 1969. A gifted athlete, Chappelle was a member of his high schools' 1969 State Champion basketball team.

For his undergraduate degree, he attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1973. In 1974, he earned his Associate of Applied Science degree from Tulsa Junior College. While in college, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Returning to Tulsa, Chappelle went into business as a real estate broker. He became very successful in the Tulsa business community. He eventually became a Director in a nursing home. After becoming involved in local politics, to better serve the community, he decided to become a lawyer.

Chappelle subsequently enrolled into the University of Tulsa's Law School. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1980. After attaining his degree, he opened his private practice law firm in Tulsa. He would operate the law firm for the next fourteen years.

In 1995, he was appointed as a Special Judge in the Tulsa Municipal Court. He would serve the Court for fourteen years. In 2009, he became a sitting District Judge for the Court. Five years later, he would be named the Presiding Judge of the Court where he would remain until his retirement. As Presiding Judge, Chappelle became the first African-American to be appointed to that position in Tulsa County.

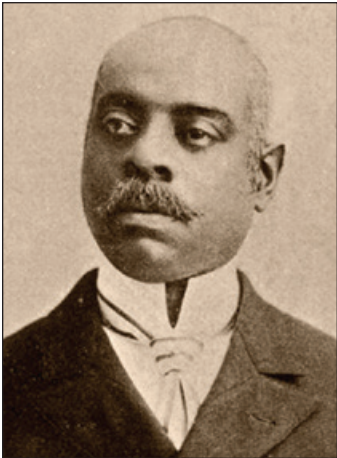
While being the Presiding Judge of the Court did not garner Chappelle any additional financial compensation, it did give him duties and powers that other District Judges did not have.

He was in charge of appointing grand juries. He heard motions to disqualify other judges from specific cases and he made docket assignments for Special District Judges.

He, along with other colleagues, oversaw the hiring of Special Judges and he also served as the conduit between the Oklahoma state courts and the district court.

While serving the Court as the Presiding Judge, Chappelle handled the additional meetings and paperwork with ease while adjudicating his own docket. In addition to his assignments as Presiding Judge, he served on several Boards and selected Commissions. He continued to advocate for citizen rights using his various professional memberships as tools to those ends.

Honored countless times for his community and judicial involvement, Carlos James Chappelle died on June 28, 2015.



WILLIAM CALVIN CHASE

...was born on February 2, 1854 in Washington, D.C. to , Lucinda Seaton and William H. Chase. When he was nine years old, his father was shot and killed in the blacksmith shop that he owned. He attended a private school at the

time of his father's death and was forced to leave school. He was sent to Methuen, Massachusetts to live with relatives where he worked selling newspapers and hats for local hat makers, Holley & Brother where he was enrolled in school.

Chase, returned to live with his mother in Washington, D.C. and worked as a newsboy. He attended D.C. public schools before entering the Howard University Model School, "B" class. He then entered Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he received his undergraduate degree.

While studying at Howard, Chase worked as a clerk at the U.S. Government Printing Office for two years. He left the GPO offices after being passed over for a promotion due to his color. He filed discrimination charges against the GPO with U.S Public Printer, Almon M. Clapp.

In 1875, Chase took a job as a Washington Correspondent to the Boston Observer. The paper closed four years later. Chase then went to work for the Washington Plain Dealer. Frederick Douglass, who worked with the United States Marshall's Office, asked Chase to join him in his office. GPO head Clapp blocked Chase's hiring.

Chase joined the staff of the Argus newspaper edited by Charles N. Otey as a writer. He became the Editor when Otey retired. The paper changed its' name to The Free Lance and shortly thereafter the paper was sold to a group that Chase had criticized and he was let go.

In 1882, Chase took a job with the Washington Bee, a new local Washington, D.C. newspaper. A year later, he became the papers Editor. He would remain the Editor for the next thirty-nine years.

In 1881, Frederick Douglass became the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds. He again contacted Chase asking him to work for him. Chase accepted and became a clerk in his office. While working in the office, he wrote scathing editorials in The Washington Bee about G.W. Williams, author of "History of the Negro Race" and another criticism of R. Purvis, which caused controversies for Chase. In 1882, Chase became the Editor of Washington Bee, a weekly newspaper.

On January 28, 1886, Chase married Arabella McCabe. Together they had a son, William Calvin, Jr. and daughter Beatriz. He then entered Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law for a year. He then studied privately before taking the bar exam in both Washington, D.C. and Virginia in 1889. He opened a law office, continued his editorial writing at The Bee, and joined the Republican Party where he soon became a leader in the Party. He would become a District of Columbia Delegate to the Republican National Conventions.

As Editor of The Bee, Chase began to editorialize civil rights events in the country and leverage support for crusades to improve the lives of blacks. He opposed the compromise education proposals of Booker T. Washington, spoke out against the post Civil War "Redeemers" and their Jim Crow policies as they related to the lynching of blacks, and gave commentary on the desegregation plans that many black activists proposed.

With the closing of rival newspaper, The Colored American, a paper endorsed by Booker T. Washington, Washington needed a news vehicle and Chase needed money, so the two came together and Chase began to support several of Washington's views. Chase would later, after W.E.B. DuBois began the Niagara Movement in 1905, move his support from Washington to DuBois. DuBois would later establish another organization, which was the precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. (NAACP) Chase then formed an alliance with the NAACP and began to write editorials in support of the NAACP in The Bee.

Over the next several years, Chase would continue to serve as Editor of the newspaper writing political and social columns, some of which angered his opponents. His support of civil rights issues and his activism never wavered. He continued to support the NAACP and other organizations that fought for the betterment of the black community.

On January 3, 1921, Chase was found dead at his desk in the offices of The Bee. He had suffered a massive heart attack. He died doing what he loved to do, write editorials. He was sixty-seven years old.

In his death, the Council of the District of Columbia honored Chase by issuing Memorial Resolution Number 16-187 and adopted on February 7, 2006. The resolution cited the historical works of Chase as one of the nation's foremost newspaper editors and a champion of the civil rights movement. As one of the first supporters of freedom in the American and African American press and a historic preserver of African American culture, the resolution gave credence to Chase's lifetime of political and social endeavors. His combination of law and journalism in his published editorials provided the black community with a voice unlike any other ever provided before.



G WENDOLYN SAWYER CHERRY

...was born in 1923 in Miami, Florida. She received her undergraduate degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). For her law degree, she enrolled into the University of Miami

as the first African American woman admitted to the law school but later transferred back to FAMU to complete her Juris Doctorate as the top student in her law class.

When Cherry passed the Florida State Bar exam, she became the first African American woman to be admitted to the Florida State Bar. She also became the first African American woman to practice in Miami-Dade County, Florida when she joined, as a staff attorney, the Legal Services of Greater Miami in 1966. There were only nine staff attorneys working for Legal Services at the time.

After practicing law for five years, Cherry decided to leave her profession to teach in the Miami Public Schools. She would teach in the school system for more than twenty years. During that time, she also served as a Professor of Law at FAMU. She was politically active in the Democratic National Convention and was the co-initiator of the Florida Women's Archive.

In 1970, Cherry was elected to a seat in the Florida State House of Representatives serving Florida's 96th District. She was the first African American woman to serve as a state legislator in the state of Florida. While serving in the State House, Cherry supported women's issues and rights and lobbied for disadvantaged minorities, including introducing the Equal Rights Amendment bill. She also introduced a bill to create a state holiday to celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. She was re-elected to three more terms in the state legislature.

In 1972, Cherry was elected as the Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee for Democratic National Convention. She was also selected to serve as Chair of the National Women's Political Caucus. In addition, she served legal counsel to the Miami Chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW). Cherry co-authored, along with Pauline Willis and Ruby Thomas, "Portraits of Color" and was active in her sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc..

In 1979, Cherry unfortunately was killed in an automobile accident in Tallahassee, Florida. Her death shocked her peers and members in the Florida legislature and others across the country. At her funeral, then U.S. Senator Bob Graham called her, "a champion for the rights of all people and a voice of reason and concern." The State of Florida's Women's posthumously inducted her into its Hall of Fame and the FAMU College of Law in Orlando, Florida dedicated a law building in her honor, the Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry, Esquire Lecture Hall. The lecture hall is used for classrooms and for mock trial competitions.

Across the state of Florida, others gave homage to Cherry by giving her name to their causes and buildings. In Tallahassee there stands the Department of Education Child Development Center. In Windermere, Florida, artist Xavier Cortada named a garden in her honor. In Miami, people reside in The Gwen Cherry Apartments, and the Miami-Dade County Government established the Gwen Cherry Park NFL YET Center. Attorney H.T. Smith helped to establish the Gwen Cherry Park Foundation, which provides programs for Liberty City youth and both the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity at FAMU and the Black Women Lawyers Association in Miami are named in her honor.



SAMMIE CHESS, JR.

...was born on March 28, 1934 in Allendale, South Carolina. He attended elementary school in Allendale before the family moved to High Point, North Carolina. He attended William Penn High School in High Point. Chess saw no benefit in staying in school, thinking he could drop out and get

a job now, which would be the same job that he could get after graduating high school. He felt that because of the segregated south, education did not mean much when it came to employment, as most of the jobs were menial jobs anyway. He thought that school was a waste of his time.

With that, Chess dropped out of high school to take a job at a local factory, Myrtle Desk. The principal of the school, Samuel Burford went to the factory to try to convince Chess to return to school and complete his high school studies but he wanted no part of it. Burford asked Chess what he could do to convince him otherwise. Chess replied that if he were to find a part-time job, which would give him spending money, he would return to school. Within a few days, Burford returned with a job for Chess shining shoes in a local barbershop. Chess returned to high school and graduated in 1952.

Chess went on to enroll into North Carolina College, now North Carolina Central University (NCCU), in Durham where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in history. He earned his law degree from NCCU as well. In 1958, he opened his law firm in Durham. He then, in order to fulfill his two-year military duties, joined the Army serving in the Korean War. Returning from the Army, he officially began his legal career.

As the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s was in full swing, protests and demonstrations were spreading across the country. Chess joined in, from a legal point of view. He returned to his hometown of High Point and began to represent cases having justice and equality as their purpose. He took on cases and lawsuits that were pivotal to ending racial segregation of High Point's theaters, schools, hospitals, and work places.

In two of Chess' more notable cases, he brought suit against High Point Memorial Hospital and Thomasville Hospital that ended segregation at both hospitals. Neither hospital allowed black women to be admitted to their maternity ward at the time. Chess changed that with his suits.

Anytime Chess saw inequality of any sort, he looked to eradicate it. He became active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their Legal Defense Fund (LDF). He took on their cases that dealt with the civil rights of African Americans in North Carolina. He assisted the Black Panther Party, the Congress of Racial Equality, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with their litigations. His focus was not on

the money but the inequalities that African Americans faced on a daily bases.

In working with the LDF, Chess litigated the landmark case of *Griggs v. Duke Power Company*. The case, heard by the U.S. Supreme Court ended employment discrimination at the energy company. Always a champion for the underdog, his commitment to those that he represented and to himself, was aimed at elevating the quality and standard of life for his people.

In 1971, then Governor Robert Scott appointed Chess to the Superior Court in North Carolina. Chess was chosen by the Governor after a group of African American lawyers met with the Governor where they voiced their displeasure that there was no blacks in the state judiciary and urged him to appoint one as the time had come to do so. Chess was the spokesman for the group. Taking the group's plea into consideration, several days later, Chess received a call from the Governor's legal counsel, Fred Morrison Jr., who had attended the meeting indicating that the Governor had decided to name an African American to the bench and wanted Chess to be that person.

Chess thought that he could better serve the community as a lawyer rather than as a Judge. As an advocate for change and the betterment of the African American community, he felt that by being on the bench, he would have restraints that he would not have as a private lawyer. Not wanting to accept the position, Chess had to be talked into taking the seat. His appointment made him the first African American to sit on the Court as a Superior Court Judge.

After serving on the bench for the four-year appointment, Chess returned to his first love, private practice law. In 1991, he was called upon again, this time to serve as an Administrative Law Judge. In 2002, he was named the recipient of the highest award given by the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, their award for Excellence in Professionalism & Ethics.

Judge Chess retired from the bench in 2007. For his years of dedicated service, both on the bench and in private practice, Judge Chess has been given honors by both professional law associations and private law organizations. The National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary (NAALJ) presented him with their 2015 Liberty Bell Award. The award, presented by the NAALJ's Young Lawyers Division to a lawyer that has "strengthened the American system of freedom under law" is a befitting gift to a man that has done just that. In an additional recognition, Judge Chess was also inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame.

Judge Chess has served in the past as the President of the High Point Bar Association. He is a former member of the North Carolina Board of Higher Education and served as a Trustee of Winston-Salem State University. He also served on the NAALJ's Board of Governors and has been a frequent guest speaker several of the organization's annual conferences. He is also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



J.L. CHESTNUT, JR.

... was born on December 16, 1930 in Selma, Alabama to Geraldine Phillip Chestnut and J.L. Chestnut, Sr. He graduated from Knox Academy in 1948, Dillard University in 1953, and Howard University Law School in 1958. He was drafted into

the U.S. Army and served from 1954-1956.

An author, attorney, and a prominent figure of the Civil Rights Movement, J.L. Chestnut, Jr. has the distinction of being the first African-American attorney in Selma, Alabama.

Chestnut, Jr. attended Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C.. Upon graduation, he returned home to Selma in 1959 and opened his law office, the first African American to do so in Selma. He was one of only nine black lawyers practicing in the entire State of Alabama. He began his practice by representing civil rights demonstrators in their trials when the Selma Movement began in the 1960s.

In 1963, Chestnut, Jr. and Bernard Lafayette, the first person to work full-time as a civil rights worker in Selma, began to persuade black Selmians to attend meetings, a very dangerous undertaking at the time, to discuss the current issues and to organize against the bias and unfair treatments the blacks were getting. Those organized meetings were the beginnings of the "Selma Movement" which, along with other voting rights violations, led to the Bloody Sunday march, otherwise known as, "The Selma to Montgomery March" and the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

When Dr. Martin Luther King came to Selma in 1964 to assist in the protests and to organize the marches, Chestnut, Jr. represented him and hundreds of demonstrators, including James Foreman, Dick Gregory, John Lewis, Ralph Abernathy, Joseph Lowery and many, many others. Chestnut's voice was loud and was heard during the historic Selma Civil Rights battles. In 1968, he took on a case that won black people the right to sit on juries in Dallas County, Alabama, the first time in one-hundred years. He took on racial discrimination suits that won jobs for black people in city hall and the county courthouse. In 1976, he carried the lawsuit that resulted in the first black person being named Principal of Selma High School. Chestnut, Jr. defended more capital cases than any lawyer in Alabama history and never lost a client to the electric chair.

For the NAACP, he was lead counsel in implementing the Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation decision in Alabama. He was a lead class counsel in the polybutelene pipe case, which resulted in the largest class action settlement in Alabama history at the time. He was also class counsel in the Black farmers case.

This national class action filed on behalf of more than twenty-thousand poor farmers in the U.S. against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The final settlement resulted in more than one billion dollars being paid to poor black farmers. The U.S. District Court judge that presided over the case in Washington, D.C., Paul Friedman, quoted Chestnut, Jr. by name seven times in the sixty-seven page court decree that approved the settlement with the government. Having success against the USDA, Chestnut, Jr. conducted similar litigation against USDA on behalf of Latinos, Women and Native Americans. He was also involved in class action litigation against the major manufacturers of tobacco products.

Chestnut, Jr., along with Birmingham, Alabama Mayor Richard Arrington, was one of the founders of the New South Coalition in 1986. This was done, in part, when the Alabama Democratic Party refused to endorse Jesse Jackson for U.S. president. In 1994, Chestnut, Jr. was active in protesting the jailing of political activist Lyndon LaRouche.

In 1972, Chestnut Jr., Rose M. Sanders and Hank Sanders formed the law firm of Chestnut, Sanders, and Sanders which grew into the largest Black law firm in Alabama and one of the ten largest in the country at one time. J.L. Chestnut, Jr. was senior partner. He was very proud of the many young lawyers he helped train and develop. Many have followed in his footsteps of service. From Chestnut, Jr.'s law firm have come two circuit court judges, one city judge, a state senator, a county commissioner and a city councilman.

He is the author of an autobiographical book, *Black in Selma*, which chronicles the history of the Selma Voting Rights Movement, including the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches and the Bloody Sunday march. He the recipient of numerous awards including an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from St. Michael College in Vermont. He served as the First Board Chair of the powerful Alabama New South Coalition, the Second Board Chair of the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, and President of the Alabama Black Lawyers Association. He served on many other boards including the Board of Trustees of the University of South Alabama and the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science. His most prized positions was Chairman of the Board of Deacons at his beloved First Baptist Church.

J.L. Chestnut, Jr., died on September 30, 2008



C HARLES WADDELL CHESTNUTT

... was born on June 20, 1858 in Cleveland, Ohio to Ann Maria Sampson and Andrew Chesnutt. Both of his parents were “free persons of color” from Fayetteville, North Carolina. Although he was seven-eighths white and his paternal grandfather was a

white slaveholder, Chesnutt who could “pass” as a white man chose his one-eighth bloodline and identified himself as black. Had he been born in the 1920s, he would have been classified as legally black, where in most of the South under the adopted laws that existed then, one drop of black drop made a person black.

When the Civil War ended in 1867 and southern slaves were emancipated, the Chesnutt family moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina where his parents opened a grocery store. Working in the store gave Chesnutt ample time for his studies. By the time he was fourteen years old, was a pupil-teacher at the Howard School, founded for black students under the Freedmen’s Bureau during the Reconstruction era.

Continuing to study and teach, he was promoted to Assistant Principal of the Normal School in Fayetteville, a historically black college established for the training of black teachers. The school later became Fayetteville State University. At that time most southern states hired black teachers to teach black students.

At the age of twenty, in 1878, Chesnutt married Susan Perry. Wanting to escape the prejudice and poverty of the South and to pursue a literary career, they moved to New York City. Six months later, they moved to Cleveland. There, having learned stenography as a young man in North Carolina, he took a job as a stenographer for Nickel Plate Railroad Company. In his spare time, he began to study law.

In 1887, Chesnutt passed the bar exam. By that time, he had established a lucrative court reporting, i.e., legal stenography, business which provided his family a prosperous livelihood. He began writing stories, of which many were published in national magazines including *The Atlantic Monthly*, the first work published by an African American to, and *The Goophered Grapevine*. Chesnutt enjoyed a twenty year relationship with *The Atlantic Monthly*. In 1890, Chesnutt tried to get his book, “A Business Career”, published but to no avail. He was told that he needed to establish his reputation more before publishing a novel. That novel was not published until 2005.

His first book, published in 1899, was a collection of short stories entitled, “*The Conjure Woman*” featuring black char-

acters who spoke in Negro dialect, popular in contemporary southern literature. His second publishing, “*The Wife of His Youth and Other Stories of the Color-Line*” was a collection of short stories, which included, “*The Passing of Grandison*”. These stories spoke about the behavior of slaves, their seeking of freedom, and raised issues surrounding African-American culture.

Chesnutt’s writings were far more complex than those of his contemporaries. His characters dealt with the difficult issues of mixed race, “passing”, racial identities, and illegitimacy. In his, “*The Wife of His Youth*”, he explored issues of class and color preference within the black community. He even wrote a biography of Frederick Douglass, who had escaped from slavery and became an slavery abolitionist in the North.

Wanting to express a stronger sense of activism and encouraged by *Atlantic* editors, Chesnutt moved to the larger novel form. His first novel, published in 1900, “*The House behind the Cedars*”. In 1901, based on the Wilmington Massacre of 1898, when whites rioted taking over the city, attacking and killing many blacks, the only coup d’état in United States history, he published, “*His Marrow of Tradition*”. So impressed with his writings, Mark Twain invited Chesnutt to his seventh birthday party in New York City.

Chesnutt tried his hand in playwriting with his play, “*Mrs. Darcy’s Daughter*”, but it was a commercial failure. He published his last novel in 1905. With his literary sales dwindling, he returned to his court reporting business and, increasingly, to social and political activism.

In 1910, he served on the General Committee of the newly founded National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Working alongside W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, he became one of the early 20th century’s most prominent activists. He began contributing to the NAACP’s newly founded magazine, *The Crisis*.

Along with the NAACP, in 1917, Chesnutt protested and gained prohibitions of showing in Ohio the controversial film, “*Birth of a Nation*”, which glorified the Ku Klux Klan and their violent action against freedmen. Having little tolerance for the ideology of white race pride depicted in the movie, he spoke out against that premise whenever possible. His vision was of a nation of “one people molded by the same culture,” a vision that Martin Luther King, Jr. would have years later.

Chesnutt was awarded the NAACP’s Spingarn Medal for his life’s work in 1928. The United States Postal Service honored, on January 31, 2008, honored Chesnutt with the 31st stamp in their Black Heritage Series. He died at the age of seventy-four on November 15, 193. He was interred in Cleveland’s Lake View Cemetery.



**KIM
BERKELEY
CLARK**

...was born and raised in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania and graduated from Wilksburg High School. She received her undergraduate degree from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. He earned her law degree from Duquesne University

School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was admitted to the Pennsylvania State Bar in 1983.

For her first professional legal position, Clark accepted a job as an Assistant Deputy District Attorney in Pittsburgh. She worked in the District Attorney's Office for six years where she litigated more than one hundred and fifty jury trials, including trails of sexual assault and trials related to child abuse. Clark also tried almost seventy-five cases involving homicides. She was lead prosecutor in Pittsburgh's and Allegheny County's first gang related drive-by shooting and murder case. While serving in the office, Clark also headed the Crimes Persons Unit, which handled all sexual assault and child abuse cases in Allegheny County.

In 1990, the University of Pittsburgh and the Family Intervention Unit of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh sponsored a conference, "Perspectives on Child Abuse: Pre-School Children and Their Families", where Clark wrote and published a paper entitled, "Prosecuting Child Abuse Cases". She would later write two chapters of Pennsylvania new "Dependency Benchbook". Clark also wrote other noted articles including the "President's Messages" for the Allegheny County Bar Association.

In 1999, then Governor Tom Ridge appointed Clark to fill a vacancy on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She was the first African-American to be appointed as a Judge to the Family Division. In the upcoming November election, Judge Clark was elected to serve a full ten-year term. She was assigned to the Family Division where she presides mainly over cases involving juveniles. She later became the Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Court.

In 2006, Judge Clark was elected as the President of the Allegheny County Bar Association. She was the first African-American woman to serve as the organization's President. She has previously served on the association's Board of Governors for six years from 1996 to 2003. She then became the Secretary for another six years, serving from 1997 to 2003.

Judge Clark has been asked to serve on many civil and legal associations, including serving as a member of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission on Racial, Gender, and Ethnic Fairness; serving as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission

on Crime and Delinquency – Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee; ad serving on the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision. She has served on the Advisory Board of the Beverly Jewel Wallace Lovelace Children's Program, the Advisory Board of the National Council of Jewish Women's Children's Waiting Room, and the Pittsburgh Children's Hospital Ethics Committee. She has served as the Co-Chair of the Fatherhood Engagement and Visitation Workgroups for the Statewide Children's Roundtable and has served as a member of the Joint State Government Commission on Children of Incarcerated Parents. In addition, Judge Clark has given time serving the Pennsylvania Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network and the Allegheny County Youth Futures Commission.

Judge Clark has served on other committees, including the Pennsylvania Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Curriculum Committee. She also has served on the Governor's Commission on Children and Families. Judge Clark, in addition to the committees mentioned, serves as a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. She is a member of the Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania, serves as Chair of the Board of Fellows to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, as is a Fellow of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

Judge Clark has served as a mentor to many law students and has been a Moot Court Judge for several law schools. She has been an Instructor of Evidence at the Allegheny County Police Academy and an Instructor of Drug Laws for the Pennsylvania Minor Judiciary Education Board. She has given countless lectures on the subjects related to child abuse and sex assault prosecution and was the Keynote Speaker for the First Canadian Conference on Family Group Conferencing held in Toronto, Canada.

Judge Clark's honors and awards are extensive. To name only a few of her esteemed accomplishments, she has been awarded an Outstanding Judge Award, a Mosaic of Public Service Award of Excellence in Law, a Children First Prevention Award, and the Lydia's Place Volunteer Award. She was also given a Violence Humanitarian Award, a Champion of Grace Award, the Duquesne Light/WQED Multimedia African American Leadership Award for Excellence in Education, and the Children's Hospital/UPMC Champion of Hope and Healing Award. Judge Clark has been honored many times over for her dedicated work toward children's rights and humanitarian rights. She is an active member of the Church of the Holy Cross and sings in the church choir. She also serves the Choir as its' interim organist and Choir Director.





KATHLEEN NEAL CLEAVER

...was born Kathleen Neal on May 13, 1945 in Dallas, Texas to activist parents. Both of her parents were well educated having graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her mother earned a Master's degree in Mathematics and her father studied Sociology.

When Neal was born, her father served as a Professor of Sociology at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas.

When Neal was three, her father accepted a job as the Director of the Rural Life Council of Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. The family moved and settled in a predominately African American community near campus. The family would move again six years later, when her father joined the Foreign Service. During the next several years, Neal would live in the countries of India, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and the Philippines.

By living in these different countries, Neal was exposed to different cultures, different religions, and different social beliefs. She learned about Communism, Nationalism, and Socialism. Her brother unfortunately died of leukemia and the family returned to the United States.

Back in the states, Neal was sent to the George School, a Quaker boarding school near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which had recently begun to accept African American students. She graduated from the school in 1963 with honors. She then enrolled into Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio to begin her undergraduate studies. She transferred to Barnard College in New York City, New York before stopping her studies again to take a secretarial job with the New York office of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Neal joined SNCC after a childhood friend, Sammy Younge, was murdered by a white supremacist.

Since she was a teenager, Neal had been inspired by female civil rights activists, including Gloria Richardson, Diane Nash, and Ruby Doris Robinson and with the death of her friend and the rise of the Black Power Movement, she became involved in the need for social change and the role of women and gender in the U.S. society. In her job as the Secretary of SNCC, she was given the task of organizing a student conference at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where she met Black Panther Party leader Eldridge Cleaver, a speaker at the 1967 conference. He had just been released from jail for his civil rights activism and had just released his noted publication, "Soul on Ice".

She fell in love with Cleaver, joined the Black Panther Party, and moved to San Francisco, California to be with Cleaver. The two were married later that year. Neal, now Cleaver, became the Party's Communications Secretary and helped to organize demonstrations, created disseminating information, held press conferences, and spoke at protest rallies on behalf of the Party. Cleaver became the first woman to serve in a management role for the Party. She worked alongside noted SNCC leaders, including Julian Bond who urged her to bring other women into decision-making roles for the Party, which she did with Elaine Brown and Ericka Huggins becoming two important women joining in leadership roles.

When Black Panther Party leader, Huey Newton was jailed, Cleaver organized a national campaign to free him. She also orga-

nized her husband, Eldridge's electoral campaign when he ran for President of the United States on a Peace and Freedom ticket. He finished third in the four-candidate race. At the same time, she ran for a seat in the California Assembly representing the 18th District, also unsuccessfully.

As the political consciousness of the African American community changed and with the Black Panther Party becoming a part of that change, the federal government began to target members of the Party. The Cleaver's apartment was raided in a search for guns and ammunition. In response, later that year, Eldridge staged an ambush against the Oakland police where two officers were injured. In the gunfight, one Panther member, Bobby Hutton, was killed and Eldridge was wounded and charged with attempted murder. Out on bail, he jumped bail and fled to Cuba and later moved to Algeria, Africa.

Kathleen Cleaver reunited with her husband when he was in Algeria where they established an international branch of the Black Panther Party. After two years in Algeria and after a disagreement between Party members, the International Branch of the Black Panther Party was expelled. The Cleavers began a new organization, the Revolutionary People's Communication Network. After a period of time, the Algerian government became disgruntled with Eldridge and the family was forced to leave the country in 1973. By this time, the couple had two children, Maceo and Joju Younghi. Eldridge moved to Paris and Kathleen decided to return to the United States with the children landing in New York City.

Back in the states, Cleaver began work on bringing her husband back. She organized the Eldridge Cleaver Defense Fund. In 1974, the French government gave legal residency to Eldridge and the couple was reunited. Less than a year later, they returned to the United States.

Upon his return, Eldridge was arrested and sent to jail. In his defense, he claimed that the Panthers were ambushed by the police and not as was alleged. The investigation into the matter showed that Hutton had been shot more than a dozen times after surrendering and stripped down to his underwear proving he was unarmed. Eldridge was found guilty of assault. A Judge later reduced Eldridge's charges with him being placed on five-years probation and having to perform community service tasks as punishment.

After the trial, Cleaver left her husband and returned to school with a full scholarship to Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. She graduated in 1984, summa cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Three years later, she divorced Eldridge and continued her education and received her law degree from Yale's Law School.

After graduating with her law degree, Cleaver accepted a position with the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore. She later became a law clerk in Philadelphia for Judge A. Higginbotham in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Cleaver also served as a faculty member of Emory University in Atlanta, as a Visiting Professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City, as a Professor at the Graduate School of Yale University, and as a Professor at Sarah Lawrence College in the Bronx, New York.

In 2005, Cleaver was chosen as an inaugural Fletcher Foundation Fellow. She then became a Senior Research Associate at the Yale Law School and a Senior Lecturer in the African American Studies Department at Yale. Cleaver also has given time to gaining freedom from death row inmates Mumia Abu-Jamal and habeas corpus for Geronimo Pratt. She remains in contact with past members of the Black Panther Party and is working on publishing her biography, "Memories of Love and War".



FRANKLIN D. CLECKLEY

...was born on August 1, 1940 in Huntington, West Virginia but raised in the state's McDowell County. Cleckley earned his undergraduate Bachelor's degree from Anderson College in Anderson Indiana graduating in 1962. He remained in Indiana obtaining his law

degree in 1965 from Indiana University in Bloomington. To continue his legal education and training Cleckley moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts to attend Harvard University where he earned his Masters of Law Degree in 1969. For additional post-graduate studies, Cleckley then attended Exeter University, located in Exeter, Devon, in South West England.

To fulfill his military obligation, Cleckley enlisted into the United States Navy. He served for three years during the Vietnam War and attained the rank of Judge Advocate General Officer. During the war, Cleckley built up a such a good reputation that he became the most sought out attorney in Vietnam. After his military duties were completed, Cleckley returned to the United States and West Virginia to begin his pursuit of his legal profession.

In 1969, Cleckley joined the West Virginia University law faculty. In that, he became the first African American to be appointed to full professorship at the University. He would serve on the University's College of Law faculty for the next forty-four years. As a professor, Cleckley taught curriculums in civil rights, criminal procedures, and issues surrounding evidence. At the same time, he also served as a Visiting Professor at other colleges and universities including Louisiana State University, Mercer University, Syracuse University, the University of Maryland, College Park, the University of Mississippi, and the College of William & Mary's Law School.

In 1990, Cleckley founded the Franklin D. Cleckley Foundation, a nonprofit organization with the purpose of helping former convicts re-enter society upon their release from incarceration receive an education and find suitable employment. Believing that it was extremely important to assist inmates in their re-entry into the communities that they had left or were entering, Cleckley's foundation sought to reduce the rates of recidivism. Through education, training and new job opportunities, Cleckley's Foundation was able to help countless convicts in their transition from prison back into their communities and the society at large.

In 1994, then West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton appointed Cleckley, although briefly to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. With the appointment, Cleckley became the first African-American Justice ever to sit on the bench in West Virginia. When the next general election came about in 1996, Cleckley declined to run for re-election, instead choosing to return to his law faculty position at West Virginia University.

While Cleckley continued teaching law at West Virginia University, he wrote several handbooks designed to help lawyers understand the intricacies of the law and the judicial system. He authored the "Evidence Handbook for West Virginia Lawyers" and "West Virginia Criminal Procedure Handbook." He co-authored several other books including the "Litigation Handbook on West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure", "Health Care and the Law", and "Introduction to the West Virginia Criminal Justice System and Its Laws".

Cleckley wrote several law reviews published in several law publications. He authored "A Free Market Analysis of the Effects of Medical Malpractice Damage Cap Statutes: Can We Afford to Live with Inefficient Doctors?"; "A Modest Proposal: A Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege for West Virginia"; "Clearly Erroneous: The Fourth Circuit's Decision to Uphold Removal of a State-Bar Disciplinary Proceeding Under the Federal Officer Removal Statute; and "Tribute to a Champion: Thurgood Marshall".

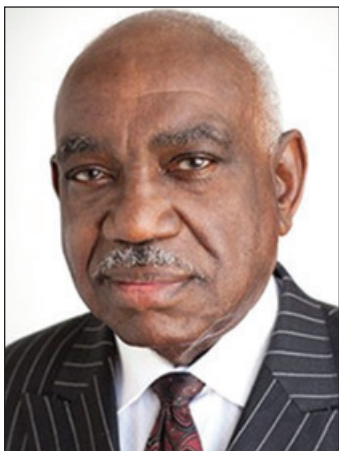
In 1996, Cleckley penned the inspiring article, "Foreword: Never Again". He went on to write over one hundred majority opinions for the Supreme Court. He wrote numerous concurring opinions and dissents as well. He drafted the original West Virginia Rules of Criminal Procedures, The West Virginia Rules of Evidence, and the Revisions of the Local Rules of United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia. Cleckley's published works became to be referred to as "the Bible for West Virginia's judges and attorneys."

Cleckley has been honored by many professional organizations, colleges and universities as well as his peers during his over forty years teaching the edits of law and its' applied procedures. In recognition of his life's work, he received the West Virginia School of Law's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Social Justice Council's "Neil S. Bucklew Award for Social Justice". The West Virginia Human Rights Commission awarded Cleckley their "Civil Rights Award". Other honors bestowed upon him include the "Thurgood Marshall Award" from the West Virginia branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the "Civil Libertarian of the Year Award" from the West Virginia Civil Liberties Union; the "W. Robert Ming Advocacy Award" from the National offices of the NAACP; and the "Award for Public Service" from the West Virginia Common Cause. Cleckley has been honored by other local and national organizations as well.

In conjunction with the University of Chicago Law School, the West Virginia University College of Law created a Fellowship in Cleckley's honor, the "Justice Franklin D. Cleckley Fellowship". The two-year position with the West Virginia Innocence Project, is designed to ensure that West Virginia law enforcement agencies have a written policy with guidelines for eyewitness identification protocols. Also in Cleckley's honor, West Virginia University created the "Franklin D. Cleckley Symposium" having as its' purpose to give leading spokespersons of the civil rights communities a platform from which to speak about their issues and concerns.

Retiring after over forty years at West Virginia University, Franklin Dorrah Cleckley holds the position of "Endowed Professorship Emeritus".





U.W. CLEMON

...was born April 9, 1943 in Fairfield, Alabama to Addie and Mose Clemon. His parents, both sharecroppers, having nine children and needing more to support the family left Mississippi for Alabama to take advantage of jobs in the steel industries surround-

ing Birmingham. Life became better, however, there were still challenges for the family.

As was typical of most of the schools for blacks in the Jim Crow south, Clemons began his education in a building having outdoor bathroom facilities, no library, and no playground equipment. A few blocks away, the white students were educated in a state-of-the-art elementary school designated for whites only. Despite the segregated education, Clemons excelled in his studies due to his love of learning encouraged by his parents.

In high school, he attended Westfield High School graduating in 1961. Clemons was President of the student body and served the school newspaper as Editor-In-Chief. He also became Valedictorian of his class.

Attending Birmingham's Miles College, he became committed to equal and civil rights, joining other students in boycotting downtown city stores. Public Safety Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor labeled him and his fellow student activist as "outside agitators". Nonetheless, Clemons continued his protests by creating a petition to the Birmingham City Commission against Birmingham's segregation ordinances.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. launched the Birmingham Campaign against civil rights, Clemons was assigned to assist in the desegregation of the Birmingham Public Library. While a student activist, he continued his studies at Miles College. He graduated in 1965. As he did in high school, Clemons was the President of the student body and Valedictorian of his class.

Alabama, having no law school for blacks at the time, paid for blacks to attend schools in other states. Clemons chose New York's Columbia University Law School to attend. While at Columbia, continued his involvement with the civil rights movement. He worked part-time with the local NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) before graduating in 1968. While at Columbia, he married Barbara Lang and together they had two children. After graduation, the family returned to Birmingham.

Clemons' took a job with the law firm of Adams, Burg & Baker, which later became Adams, Baker & Clemon. The firm soon became one of the preeminent civil rights law firms in Alabama. Focusing on school desegregation cases and discrimination in education, Clemon's firm, during the 1960s and 1970s, was involved in the majority of lawsuits brought against the public and private employers in Alabama.

A lead attorney in cases that lead to desegregation of public schools in north Alabama, Clemons championed the educational causes of blacks in the Deep South of America. In 1969, he sued Paul "Bear" Bryant, the football coach at the University of Alabama, forcing him to recruit black athletes. He also represented victims of police brutality which led to the establishment of a bi-racial committee to improve relations between the black community and the Police. He played a pivotal role in the election of Richard Arrington Jr., the city's first black mayor.

In 1974, Clemon ran and was elected to the Alabama Senate. He was one of two blacks elected, the first since Reconstruction. In the Senate, he championed capital punishment issues becoming the Chair of the Rules Committee and the Judiciary Committee. Going head to head with then Gov. George Wallace, Clemons pushed for more blacks to be appointed to state boards and agencies. He worked to ensure that black state universities became independent of the all-white State Board of Education.

In 1977, with Clemon's help, a bill was defeated aimed at filling the Fifth Circuit Court seats with conservative judges that would effect judicial outcomes in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. With his urging, the bill failed to pass. For his efforts, President Jimmy Carter nominated him to a seat on the federal bench. In 1980, he became Alabama's first black federal judge.

For almost thirty years, Clemons presided over hundreds of the most important federal cases presented to the Court. His verdicts resulted in more than \$1 billion in damages being paid to plaintiffs involved in race, gender, disability discrimination, and environmental lawsuits filed. He drew national attention when he ruled to ensure that Alabama counties constructed new jails and prisons and improved the medical care for inmates.

In 1999, Clemons was appointed as Chief Judge of the Northern District of Alabama, serving until 2006. He was instrumental in a plan that increased minority participation on juries. While Chief Judge, he made mandates that reduced the distances jurors had to travel and increased diversity in the court's employment. Retiring in 2009, Clemon joined the law firm of White Arnold & Dowd P.C. in Birmingham. He also served as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Alabama Law School.

Judge Clemons has been honored and awarded with numerous awards including the Alabama Bar Association's Judicial Award of Merit, the American Association of Justice's Johnny Cochran "Soaring Eagle" Award, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Drum Major Award, the National Bar Association's C. Francis Stradford Award, the Columbia University Law School's Paul Robeson Award, and the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association's Howell Heflin Award.

Clemons holds Honorary degrees from both Miles College and Birmingham-Southern College. The City of Birmingham have named streets in his honor. A Deacon at Birmingham's Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, he also is a member of the church's Male Chorus.



JOHN ROBERT CLIFFORD

...was born on September 13, 1848 on a farm near Moorefield, West Virginia to free slaves Isaac and Satilpa Clifford. At age fifteen, Clifford joined the Union Army and fought in the Civil War.

The Clifford name has long been affiliated with military Service. During the Civil war, John was a Union soldier in Company F, 13th United States Heavy Artillery. While serving, he attained the rank of Corporal. He volunteered in Chicago, Illinois and served for three years. Under the command of General Grant, Clifford saw service in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Eastern Virginia. His brother, the Reverend Theodore K. Clifford, also served as a Union soldier.

John's grandfather, Evan Kent, belonged to the "Mingo Tribe," an independent group in the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy which inhabited Hardy County, West Virginia in 1776. His father's grandfather, Jacob Clifford, was Irish and contributed to the settlement of Hardy County, West Virginia, a valley is called "Clifford's Hollow," in Jacob's honor.

John Robert Clifford was the first African-American lawyer admitted to the bar in West Virginia. He was educated at a Chicago high school, graduated at Storer College in 1875, and received a degree from A.M. Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

He taught at Keyser and Williamsport, West Virginia, Grant County, and Moorfield, Hardy County, West Virginia. He founded and published the Martinsburg, "*Pioneer Press*", the first African-American newspaper in West Virginia for sixteen years. The newspaper was devoted to "the uplifting of the race" as Clifford became more active in state and national African American politics.

Clifford married Mary Franklin at Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia on December 28, 1876. He became a 32nd Degree Mason; a lecturer for the State of West Virginia; past Grand Master of West Virginia; First Vice President of the American Negro Academy; and a member of a Committee on the "Wise Men", a private organization. He was the Principal of the "colored city school" of Martinsburg, Berkeley County, West Virginia.

For the next several years, Clifford "read law" in a local attorney's office. In 1887, he was admitted to practice before the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, becoming West Virginia's first African American lawyer.

In 1892, Clifford became the attorney for Mrs. Carrie Williams, a Tucker County African American schoolteacher. Clifford represented her in a landmark West Virginia civil rights case, *Williams v. Board of Education* (W. Va. 1898), from the Blackwater Canyon region of Tucker County. The Williams case established the right of all African American school children, specifically, the children of African American workers in West Virginia involved with Henry Gassaway Davis' Tucker County, West Virginia coal mine and coke ovens to have school terms of equal length as those enjoyed by white children. The Williams case also established the right of African American school teachers in West Virginia to equal pay.

The Williams case was a first in American jurisprudence, and played a significant role in establishing West Virginia as a state where African Americans could exercise their rights and opportunities to education, voting, and jury duty. Those opportunities translated into political and economic power. Being able to exercise for a new kind of educational, civic, religious, business, academic, and political leadership. This new type of leadership became the vanguard for the civil rights movement of the twentieth century. This vision was the catalyst for the August 1906 Niagara Movement meetings at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. In August of 2006, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the gathering of the Niagara Movement, the first major civil rights organization of the twentieth century.

Clifford's daughter Mary delivered the opening Credo at the 1906 meeting. The speech, written by W.E.B. DuBois and recognized as one of the most important of twentieth Century African American writings. Some scholars have said that her speech in many ways equals Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1963 "*I Have A Dream*" speech given years later in 1963.

The Niagara Movement was the forerunner to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Determined to take their rightful place in society, Niagara members demanded equal enforcement of the law for all races and active political involvement at all levels of society. The group's 1906 meeting was later described by W.E.B. DuBois as "*one of the greatest meetings that American Negroes ever held.*"

Clifford was an active leader in African American efforts for justice until his death in 1933.



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Available



LEWIS W. CLYMER

...was born on December 16, 1910 in Neosho, Missouri. When he was nine years old, his family moved to St. Louis, Missouri. Wanting more for him, his mother, from an early age, pushed

Clymer to study and to pursue a good education knowing that would be the key to his future success. He attended Lincoln University High School, graduating in 1928. He matriculated to Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he received both his undergraduate degree and his LLB degree.

Returning to Missouri, Clymer took and passed the Missouri Bar in 1939 and began to practice law. After practicing in St. Louis for two years, he moved to Kansas City, Missouri where he took a job with the War Man Power Commission. The Commission was created by then President Franklin D. Roosevelt in an Executive Order for the purpose of balancing the labor needs of agriculture, industry production and the armed services. Clymer's role with the Commission was as a Minorities Placement Specialists, which helped the government place blacks and other minorities into government jobs. His territory included Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Clymer remained with the Commission until the end of World War II.

After the war ended, in 1945, Clymer was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Kansas City. In 1948, he took a position as a Jackson County Assistant Prosecutor where he would remain for four years. In 1952, Clymer and fellow attorney Harold L. Holliday, Sr. challenged segregation in the Kansas City public schools. Winning the suit, black students were allowed to attend the all-white Benton High School.

In 1953, Clymer became an Assistant Attorney General where he would serve for seven years. Two years later, he was one of the first three blacks to be admitted to the Kansas City Bar Association. In 1960, he was appointed as Judge in the Kansas City Municipal Court. In one of his rulings, Judge Clymer fined an owner of a local private club, the Parkway Bowling Club, \$100 for violation of the city's public accommodation law. The club had had

denied blacks the right to become members of the club. Clymer re-ran for his seat on the Municipal Court in the 1967 general election and was elected to a second four-year term.

In 1961, Clymer joined forces with two other African American political activists, Leon M. Jordan and Bruce R. Watkins, in their goals of electing more blacks in the political process. The two men, along with Clymer and others, founded the Freedom, Incorporated of Kansas City Missouri (Freedom, Inc.), which became a leading force in the election of blacks in Missouri politics, then and now. Through Freedom, Inc.'s efforts, the organization was crucial in the elections of many of the black state representatives that served in the Missouri legislature, then and now.

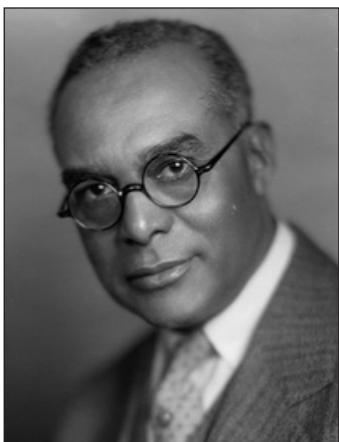
In 1970, then Governor Warren E. Hearnes appointed Clymer to the Jackson Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Court Division Number Eight. He became the first black to sit on the Court. He would retire from the bench at age seventy in 1980.

Although Clymer retired from the Circuit Court Bench, he was far from being done. He continued his political involvement and lent his legal expertise to the continued fight for African American's to fight for their rights for equal justice and economic advancements. In that, he became a member of the Kansas City Board of Education.

As a Board member, he continued to strive for the inclusion of African Americans into mainstream American life. He brought attention to the sociological causes of crime in the communities that African Americans lived in. Always placing education at the forefront, he worked to ensure that more African American teachers were hired in the schools and that they were paid accordingly.

In an attempt to help the less fortunate, Clymer gave of his time to give legal advice to indigent people. Through those efforts and by his example, other lawyers did the same. In fact, it wasn't long before the state government began to pay lawyers to represent the destitute with their legal needs. For his life's work, the Jackson County Bar Association created an award in Judge Clymer's honor. The Clymer Award recognizes each year a minority "for their service to the community and their promotion of the integrity of the legal profession".

Judge Lewis W. Clymer died of heart failure at the Research Medical Center in Kansas City on August 13, 2001. He was ninety-one years old.



JAMES ADKAU COBB

...was born on January 29, 1876 in Arcadia, Louisiana. He began his undergraduate degree from the Straight University, New Orleans, Louisiana before completing it at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He obtained his Bachelors of Law degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law in 1899. The following year, he would receive his Master of Laws degree.

He then opened a law firm in Washington to begin his professional law career. He operated the firm for seven years before being appointed as a Special Assistant to the Department of Justice's Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte. He worked in the Attorney General's Office for eight years before returning to private practice.

In 1916, Cobb joined the teaching faculty of the Howard University Law School. The following year, he was appointed to the United States Supreme Court by a motion submitted by Robert H. Terrell, the founding member of the Terrell Law School. After serving for five years on the Supreme Court, Judge Cobb returned to Howard University to take the position of Vice Dean of the University's Law School. He served as the Dean for six years.

While serving as Dean, in 1926, he was appointed by then President Calvin Coolidge as a Judge on the Municipal Court of Washington, D.C.. The appointment was for a term of nine years. While sitting on the bench, in a 1930 ruling, Judge Cobb ordered then South Carolina's United States Senator Cole Blease to pay an outstanding note of \$186 to a South Carolina bank. Later, on the floor of the U.S. Senate, Blease made comment about Judge Cobb's order in an attack against "nigger Judges".

Despite the attack, then President Herbert Hoover reappointed Judge Cobb to another term on the bench. In 1936, even with a public outcry for another reappointment, Judge Cobb was not reappointed to the Court when his term expired. He served as a clerk for Frank W. Adams before again returned to private practice.

In 1938, Judge Cobb retired from his teaching position at Howard University. He continued his private practice endeavors and gave of his time to local community

and civic organizations. If and when called upon to fill in for a Judge on the Courts unable to adjudicate a case for various reasons, Judge Cobb gladly filled in. For his years of teaching and contributions to Howard University's Law School, in 1955, the Howard University Law School Alumni Association presented Judge Cobb with its' Alumni Achievement Award for his distinguished service to the law school.

Judge James Adlai Cobb died on October 14, 1958. He was eighty-two years old.



J OHNNY COHRAN

...Johnny Cochran was born on October 2, 1937, in Shreveport, Louisiana to Hattie and Johnnie L. Cochran, Sr.. A well established and sought after attorney, Johnny's focused on high-profile police brutality cases involving

the African-American community. His client list was vast including such celebrities as Michael Jackson, accused of child molestation and O. J. Simpson charged with the 1995 murders of his ex-wife and her mail friend. From this trial, Cochran entered the national spotlight and too became a celebrity making screen appearances and writing memoirs.

The family moved from Louisiana to California in 1943, where Johnny excelled as a student during a time when American culture was becoming a more racially integrated environment. In 1959, he received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and later attended Loyola Marymount University's Law School, graduating in 1962.

Upon passing the bar, Cochran worked as a Deputy Criminal Prosecutor in Los Angeles. He later entered private practice with Gerald Lenoir and eventually launched a firm of his own, Cochran, Atkins & Evans.

Cochran built his reputation by taking on cases involving questionable police actions against African Americans. In 1966, he took on a case involving a black motorist, Leonard Deadwyler. While attempting to hurry his pregnant wife to a hospital, Deadwyler was killed by police officer Jerold Bova. Cochran filed a civil suit on behalf of Deadwyler's family. He lost the Case. Nonetheless, he was inspired to take on police abuse cases over the ensuing years.

In early 1970, Cochran defended Geronimo Pratt, a former Black Panther accused of murder. Pratt was convicted by the jury and imprisoned. Cochran charged that the activist was railroaded by authorities, asking for a retrial. The conviction was eventually overturned but not before Pratt served more than two decades. Pratt was eventually released, with Cochran also overseeing Pratt's wrongful imprisonment suit.

In 1978, Cochran joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, later returning to private practice.

During the early 1980s, he oversaw a police brutality case for the family of African-American football player Ron Settles, who died in a police cell under questionable circumstances. A decade later, Cochran would win a huge, unprecedented court payment for a thirteen year old who was molested by a police officer.

In 1994, Cochran joined Alan Dershowitz, F. Lee Bailey, Robert Shapiro, Barry Scheck and Robert Kardashian to form the core of the so-called "*Dream Team*" of lawyers hired to defend athlete/actor O.J. Simpson in his trial for the murders of his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman. The proceedings were dubbed the "*Trial of the Century*". Began in January of 1995, the trial was among the most publicized trials in American history, and followed by millions of people from around the world.

Due to the worldwide press coverage of the Simpson trial, Cochran entered the superstar realm of "celebrityhood", reportedly receiving a \$2.5 million advance to write his memoirs. Soon thereafter, items from his personal life became public. His first wife, Barbara Cochran Berry, wrote her own memoir, "*Life After Johnnie Cochran: Why I Left the Sweetest Talking, Most Successful Black Lawyer in L.A.*", accusing her ex-husband of cruel behaviors that included physical and emotional abuse. Cochran's longtime mistress, Patricia Sikora, also spoke out against the attorney.

Cochran wrote more books including "*Journey to Justice*" (1996) and "*A Lawyer's Life*" (2002). He appeared on Court TV's, "*Inside America's Courts*" and was also featured on a number of TV programs, including "*Jimmy Kimmel Live*", "*The Chris Rock Show*" and "*The Roseanne Show*" as well as the Spike Lee film "*Bamboozled*" (2000).

Cochran continued to take on new cases into the new millennium, ranging from work for clients like Abner Louima, a Haitian man who was tortured while in New York City police custody, to rapper/music mogul Sean "Puffy" Combs, to an anti-trust litigation issued against racing giant NASCAR.

In 2004, it was revealed that Cochran was suffering from an undisclosed illness. He later died from a brain tumor on March 29, 2005 at the age of 67.



A NNIE VIRGINIA STEPHENS COKER

...was born on April 7, 1903 in Oakland, California to Pauline Logan Stephens and William Morris. She attended public schools in Oakland before her family moved to Pacific Grove, California. There, in 1921,

she graduated from high school.

Coker attended the University of California at Berkeley (UC Berkeley) where in 1924, she received a Bachelor of Science degree. She was urged by her father to continue her education and to obtain a law degree. She did so and enrolled into the Boalt School of Law at UC Berkeley.

At the time of her graduation, she was the second woman to receive a law degree and the first African American woman to complete the program from the law school. Coker completed her Juris Doctorate degree in 1929. She passed the California State Bar exam that year, the first African American woman to be admitted to the California Bar and the first to practice law in the state. Unfortunately, that year her mother passed. Her father passed away several years later.

With her lofty law degree, Coker found it difficult to find legal work, as no white law firm was willing to hire the first African American attorney. After an extensive search for a firm willing to break the color barrier, she gave up and moved east to Alexandria, Virginia. There, she opened her own law firm where she would practice as a solo attorney for almost a decade.

In 1939, Coker closed her law practice and returned to California. She settled in Sacramento and joined the State of California's Office of Legislative Counsel as a Junior Deputy Legislative Counsel. California was giving more opportunities to women attorneys, and Coker worked her way from an entry-level position to become the head of the Indexing Section of the Legislative Council. In her responsibilities as the head of the department, Coker compiled and kept all state codes current, indexed all pending bills for the state legislature, and rendered opinions on proposed state legislation.

In 1966, Coker retired from the Legislative Council after serving twenty-seven years. Upon her retirement, the state legislature recognized her distinguished service

as the longest serving attorney at the State Office of Legislative Counsel. Annie Virginia Stephens Coker died on February 17, 1986 in Sacramento, California. She was eighty-three years old.



TOM COLBERT

... was born on December 30, 1949 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The family relocated to Sapulpa, a suburb of Tulsa, Oklahoma where Colbert graduated from Sapulpa High School. Before graduating from high school, he was told

by his high school guidance counselor, that he was unfit for college. His mother and grandfather thinking differently encouraged Colbert to seek collegiate admission. They instilled in him a sense of strength and pride and despite the discouragement he had gotten from the counselor, they guided him toward excellence promoting a thought that the only way that one was to break the chains of poverty was to push forward when others felt you could not. Colbert went on to receive his Associates degree from Eastern Oklahoma State College located in Wilburton, Oklahoma.

He went on to attend Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. At Kentucky State, Colbert was a student athlete and participated on the schools track and field team. His athletic abilities earned him a spot on the U.S. All-American team. After receiving his B.A. degree, Colbert entered the U.S. Army to fulfill his two year military duties. He was honorably discharged in 1975.

Returning to civilian life, Colbert enrolled into Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. There he earned a Master of Education degree. After receiving his degree, he relocated to Chicago where he taught in the public schools system. During that time, he also worked in the United States Army's Criminal Investigation Division.

Colbert returned to his home state of Oklahoma to enroll into the University of Oklahoma in Norman. In 1982, he earned his Juris Doctorate degree. After completing the requirements for his J.D. degree, Colbert moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, accepting a position at Marquette University as Assistant Dean of their Law School. He served as Dean for two years.

In 1984, Colbert received an appointment as Assistant District Attorney in Oklahoma County. He remained in that position until 1986. He then entered private practice. Joining with Vicki Miles-LaGrange, together the

formed the law offices of Miles-LaGrange & Colbert. They worked together for the next three years.

Colbert alternated his time between his private practice cases and serving as an attorney for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. In 1989, he made the decision to go it alone and opened his own private practice, Colbert and Associates. He operated the firm for eleven years, from 1989-2000.

In 2000, Colbert became the first African-American appointed to the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals. The first black in the state to hold the privilege, in 2004, he was appointed as Chief Judge of the Court. This was another first for Colbert, becoming the first black Chief Judge.

Continuing his rise, in October of 2004, a seat became available on the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Governor Brad Henry appointed Colbert to fill the vacancy. Accepting the appointment, he became the first black Justice on the Supreme Court of Oklahoma. Colbert was sworn in by Charles Owens, the first African American Judge in the state of Oklahoma.

Justice Colbert has been involved in local community affairs throughout his judicial career. He participates at a Master's Level in the Track & Field, a sport designated to athletes over thirty years of age having varying abilities. He conducts a summer reading program for young children and a mentoring program for young men. He can also be heard speaking frequently at public schools.

A vocal advocate for the betterment of African Americans, Colbert believes vehemently that black males "are living in a dangerous time." Citing figures of how black men are negatively affected in society, Colbert has taken an active role in changing the lives of black America. In a 2008 symposium, "*African American Men at the Corner of Progress and Peril*," held at Tulsa's Langston University campus, Colbert cited figures showing the disparity between black and white males. He spoke on issues such as seven out of ten black babies are born out of wedlock and that over fifty percent of black freshmen would not graduate from high school. Colbert told the listening crowd that black men were "an endangered species" and by the year 2020, over 4.5 million black men and young boys would be in prison. Colbert continues his push to eradicate these issues from the black community.

Colbert is a member of several bar associations, including the Tulsa County Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

On March 9, 2016, Colbert was inducted into the University of Oklahoma College of Law's Owl Hall of Fame.





HARRY A. COLE

...was born in Washington, D.C. on January 21, 1921, New Year's Day. When his father died, as an infant, his mother moved the family, including her other four children, back to her hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. At-

tending Baltimore public schools graduating from the all black Douglass High School. A very gifted student, he attended Morgan State College, also in Baltimore, where he was Valedictorian of his class graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1943.

After receiving his law degree, Cole enlisted into the U.S. Army. He received an honorable discharge in 1946 after serving as a First Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps. Completing his two-year military duties, Cole earned his law degree from the University of Maryland Law School, also located in Baltimore.

Cole entered the legal field after being hired as an Assistant State Attorney General. He was the first African American lawyer to be a staff member of the office. In his role at the Attorney General's office, Cole's responsibilities were to provide legal advice state agencies.

In 1954, Cole made state history when he challenged a long-time powerful and seasoned Baltimore politician, James H. "Jack" Pollack, to win the Republican Party's nomination for the Maryland State Senate seat. His victory over Pollack forever changed the political landscape of politics in the State of Maryland. He went on to defeat Democratic Bernard S. Melnicove in a bitterly fought election by a mere thirty-seven votes before taking his seat in the State Senate. Taking his seat in the Senate, Cole became the first African American to occupy any Maryland Senate seat. He would serve only one term.

In the 1958, after marrying the former Doris Freeland in 1958, Cole ran for a seat on the Baltimore City Council. He unfortunately lost that bid to Jack Pollack, the person he had defeated four years earlier in the State Senate race. He lost the City Council election by 2000 votes. Although he lost, his election to the State Senate gave other African Americans the confidence to enter state politics and opened the door for them to do so.

After losing the election for City Council, Cole was appointed to the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. He became the Committee's first Chairman. Adding another first to his resume, obviously, he was the first African American to serve at the Commission.

After serving in the Maryland State Senate, Cole gave up that seat for a seat on the Municipal Court of Baltimore City, after being appointed by then Governor Spiro Agnew in 1967. He

accepted the Associate Judge position serving for only one year. In 1968, he moved to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, now known as the Circuit Court, again an Associate Judge.

In 1977, after serving ten years on the Supreme Court, then Governor Blair Lee, III named Cole to the Maryland Court of Appeals. Cole again became a first, the first African American to serve on that Court. For the next fourteen years, he would sit on the Appeals Court's bench until his retirement in 1991 at the age of seventy, the mandatory age for retirement.

During his time on the Court of Appeals, one of the most notable opinions written by Cole, a unanimous one at that, upheld the right of the State of Maryland to fund abortions for poor women within the state. In another ruling, Cole was the sole dissenter in a decision that upheld the state's method by which it funded its' public schools. Over his time on the bench, ironically, Cole became known as a "good dissenter", meaning that after reviewing a case and making his decision, he held stern to his position.

Having served in Maryland's courts for most of his professional legal career, Cole was known for his fairness in his rulings demonstrating an evenhanded approach in his decisions. He took special interest in cases surrounding prisoner's rights, constitutional and civic rights, and the rights of the public. In one of his cases, he dismissed charges against two integration protestors, ruling that despite whether he personally agreed or disagreed with the protestor's stance, they had the right to protest no matter what their cause may be.

Cole was a true pioneer in breaking long established barriers that held African Americans from entering the higher echelon of Maryland's legal and political machine. Having a brilliant mind, he was admired for his impartiality in his rulings by not only his peers but by most of the lawyers that plead their cases before the Courts. He was also very kind to the young lawyers as he knew they were the future vanguards of the law and needed to be mentored in a way to instill within them his sense of fairness and constitutional awareness.

A lover and collector of music, Cole possessed an extensive record collection which included the likes of famed jazz musician Count Bassie and legendary crooner Frank Sinatra. He loved to dance and used dance as a way to free and express himself when he was not wearing his robe. Although enjoying himself in his retirement, Cole continued to utilize his legal skills. In one of his last legal acts, he accepted the position as head of a Commission tasked with revising the Baltimore City charter.

Harry A. Cole, after a year's battle, died on February 14, 1999 of pneumonia at Church Home, a long term care facility in his hometown of Baltimore. He was seventy-eight years old.



MICHAEL B. COLEMAN

...was born on November 18, 1954 in Indianapolis, Indiana. His family moved to Toledo, Ohio when he was very young. He graduated from the Toledo public schools before attending the University of Cincinnati, in Cincinnati, Ohio where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

He would attend the University of Dayton's School of law to obtain his Juris Doctorate degree.

After receiving his law degree, Coleman returned to Columbus to begin his legal career. He would spend the next fifteen years as an attorney with the law firm of Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn Co. LPA. Coleman would make partner in the firm. He would serve as a general practice attorney while working at Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn Co. LPA.

In 1992, Coleman was elected to the Columbus City Council where he served for seven years. In 1997, he was named the Council's President and served as President until he left the Council in 1999. Before leaving the Council, Coleman served as a Democratic running mate of Lee Fisher, a losing gubernatorial candidate, before running for Mayor of Columbus, Ohio.

In 1999, Coleman ran for the job of the 52nd Mayor of the City of Columbus and was victorious in his campaign. He was the first African American to ever serve as Mayor of the city. He would be elected in the 2003 election and ran unopposed in the 2005 election.

Before running in the 2005 election for Mayor, Coleman announced that he would be a running mate to Democrat Lee Fisher who was seeking the governorship of the state of Colorado. After a gruesome Democratic primary campaign, citing family obligations and that the city sorely needed him to remain as Mayor, Coleman dropped out of the race for the Lieutenant Governor's job. He then ran for to his position as Mayor and was re-elected.

In the 2007 general election, Coleman won a third term as Mayor and in the 2011, he was re-elected to a fourth term. In the next election, he was defeated in his campaign by eventual winner Andrew Ginther. Coleman had served a record fifteen years as Mayor. His tenure as Mayor was the longest of any Mayor that ever served as Mayor to the city of Columbus, Ohio. He was also the longest-serving African American Mayor in the United States.

As Mayor, Coleman supported the eventual Democratic candidate for Governor, Ted Strickland, in his election to the highest seat in state government. With Strickland's victory, Coleman was rewarded and named Chair of Strickland's gubernatorial transition team. As Mayor, for the citizens of Columbus, he focused on making the city a safer place to live. He instituted his Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition, better known as "Every Town for Gun Safety", aimed at

getting illegal guns off of the streets of Columbus. The national gun campaign was co-chaired by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. For his efforts, Coleman was selected from a long-list as a finalist in the 2008 World Mayor's Award.

Under Mayor Coleman's leadership, the city of Columbus city government has saved \$54 million of their allocated budgets. At the same time, he increased fire and police expenditures by five percent of the city's annual budget. Despite increased costs for city employee's medical insurances, wages, and worker's compensation, and not decreasing any of those obligations, Coleman is credited with cutting more than \$190 million from the city's budgets creating a city surplus available to use for other city needs. Thanks to Coleman's efforts, the city of Columbus, Ohio received a AAA bond rating from all major rating associations.

In 2010, Columbus city workers were planning to travel to Arizona to support a protest of the Arizona law that allowed local police to demand upon request identification documents of anyone they deemed illegal to the United States. The city of Columbus had existing contracts with Arizona based Redflex Traffic Systems, which operated twenty red-light cameras in the city. They also had contracts with the state of Arizona, which the Columbus city employees want to boycott.

Coleman banned city workers from travelling to Arizona stating that the city laws prohibited city employees from engaging in activities outside of the state unless it related to police enforcement officers and extradition matters of retrieval of incarcerated inmates. He did, however, compare Arizona's enacted law to 19th-century laws, which required freed slaves to carry their emancipation papers with them at all times. He understood the Arizona demonstrations and boycotts as they were intended to draw attention to immigration measures and that enforcing the law in the manner Arizona was doing was not the American way.

In showing its' gratitude to the years of service that Coleman gave to the city of Columbus, on March 22, 2016, the Columbus City Council announced the construction of an eight-story government office building and that it would be named in the honor of Coleman. The Michael B. Coleman Governmental Center, located at 111 East Front Street, sits adjacent to the Columbus City Hall. It is due for completion in December of 2017. The Coleman Center houses the Building and Zoning Department, the Public Service and Development Departments, and the Public Utility offices.

Well loved in the city and respected by his fellow Mayors across the country, Coleman has served the city of Columbus, Ohio well. The city grew under his leadership and the quality of life improved. Throughout his tenure as Mayor, Coleman worked to ensure that the faith the citizens of Columbus gave him as their Mayor, he delivered to them with his deeds. Coleman is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and is a Prince Hall Free Mason. He attends St. Mark's Lodge #7 in Columbus.



VERONICA FREEMAN COLEMAN- DAVIS

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966 from Howard University in Washington, D.C. majoring in Sociology. She earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1975 from the Mem-

phis State University School of Law, now the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in Memphis, Tennessee.

In her first job in the legal field, she accepted a part-time with the Shelby County Public Defender's Office. In 1975, she was hired to a full-time position. In being hiring, Coleman-Davis became the first female and African American woman to be hired as an Assistant Public Defender in Shelby County, Tennessee.

In 1977, Coleman-Davis founded and became a partner in the first all-female law firm in Tennessee. In private practice, she served as a court appointed defense attorney for the Public Defender's Office and as in-house counsel to the University of Memphis. She also served as a litigator for the Federal Express.

After practicing law for a few years, Coleman-Davis was hired as an Assistant District Attorney for Shelby County. She became the first African American woman to become a Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court Referee. In 1993, Coleman-Davis became the first African American and the first African American woman to be named a United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee.

After three decades away from the office, in 2014, Coleman-Davis made a decision to return to the Public Defender's Office in Shelby County where she began her legal career. This time around, she was not the only female in the office as nearly forty percent of the public defenders were women. Coleman-Davis focused her attention on the needs of juveniles.

Back in the Public Defender's Office, Coleman-Davis became a part of the newly created Juvenile Defender Unit. The Unit entered into an agreement with the Department of Justice with the hopes of bringing a remedy to the areas of due process of the law and equal protection under the law for juveniles. The Unit was created to help

the many youth that were increasing the caseload of the juvenile courts.

In 2001, Coleman-Davis and several former U.S. Attorney colleagues founded, along with twelve fellow African American U.S. Attorneys, the National Institute for Law & Equity (NILE). The Institute focused on fair and equal treatment for those involved in the criminal justice system.

NILE focused on the economic and social impacts the justice system had on young defenders. It looked at the cultural aspects surrounding juvenile lawbreakers and how the youth make life-changing decisions. In their research of the issue, NILE published several articles and held many and focus groups and forums on the subject. NILE published, "Pathways from Dependency and Neglect to Delinquency", to highlight the issues surrounding juvenile delinquency and co-produced with the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, "Prosecutorial Decision-Making and Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Federal Criminal Justice System". For her work, Coleman-Davis was called to testify before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee on the matter of disparities in sentencing for cases involving crack cocaine.

With its' success, NILE created a membership organization, Mothers of the NILE (MOTN). The organization was concerned with reducing the increasing number of children, teenagers, and young adults entering the Shelby County juvenile justice system, became a crucial part of the reduction of young children entering the juvenile justice system. Coleman-Davis served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit organization.

In 2004, MOTN began the Parent Partner Program, intended to address truancy by instituting a parent mentoring and training program aimed at getting parents involved with the education, social and cultural aspects of their children. Funded by NILE, Coleman-Davis served on the Board (MOTN). Her role in advocating equal justice for the nation's juveniles has been extraordinary and her dedicated work in the area life saving for many of the children and young adults that have been able to take advantage of the programs she has instituted.



JAMES H. COLEMAN, JR.

...was born in Lawrenceville, Virginia. The son of a sharecropper, he attended the segregated schools in Lawrenceville. After graduating high school, he attended Virginia State College in Petersburg. He went on to obtain his law

degree in Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law where he completed his studies in 1959.

After leaving Howard, Coleman moved to New Jersey seeking a better life than that which afforded in in the South. For the next several years, he practiced law as a general practice lawyer. His good works paid off when in 1964 he was picked to be a Judge of the New Jersey Workers Compensation Court. After serving for nine years on the Compensation Court bench, he was appointed to New Jersey's Union County Court in 1973 where he served for five years. During that time, Coleman also served as a Judge in the Law Division for New Jersey's Superior Court.

In 1979, Coleman was named to the Special Three-Judge Resentencing Panel where he served for two years. In 1981, he was appointed, he moved to the New Jersey Superior Court's Appellate Division staying six years when he was appointed to as the Presiding Judge in 1987. He remained the Presiding Judge until 1994.

In recognition of his great legislative work and coupled with the fact that newly elected New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman had campaigned during her election outreach to be more inclusive as it came to minorities serving in the state legislature. She had promised to make state appointments more reflective of the ethnic and racial demographics of the state and she made good on that promise. After a ten-month committee search for the right person to sit on the Supreme Court bench, she stated that in the committee's search, Coleman's name kept rising to the top in the names being recommended for the post. She ultimately chose Coleman for the appointment. Her nomination and his eventual confirmation made Coleman the first African American to sit on the bench of New Jersey's highest court.

Coleman's confirmation gave hope of better things to come for New Jersey residents, both privileged and disadvantaged. When asked how he felt after being confirmed, Coleman responded by saying, "Only in America could the son of a sharecropper ever be afforded a chance to serve on the highest court of this great and honorable state."

Historically, New Jersey's State Supreme Court nominees and those confirmed to sit have come from an inner circle of

Trenton's, the state capital, pool of senior government legal minds. Six of the seven sitting judges at that time had come from those holding senior executive jobs or nominated by the governing party according to their party affiliations rather than those actually holding an active judicial post. The seventh sitting Judge had been a past President of the State Bar Association. Coleman was from neither camp. His nomination and appointment broke that cycle of selective appointing.

Coleman was well liked amongst many of the legal minds in New Jersey, including the sitting President of the State Bar, William B. McGuire who enthusiastically endorsed Coleman's appointment. In complimenting Governor Whitman on her selection, McGuire stated that the Governor was "...listening ... and is committed to creating a government which reflects the diverse needs of this state". He went on to say, "Fairness is his strong suit", in speaking of Coleman. McGuire added about the Governor's appointment, "It's a superb appointment that will meet with great favor and approval not only from the bar but also from the judiciary." Indeed, Coleman was the right choice for New Jersey as the political climate was right and the majority of the state's residents were in approval of the appointment as well.

Throughout his lifelong long and arduous quest for justice, Justice Coleman's contributions are immeasurable. His determined commitment to balancing the application of power as it relates to racial and social justice are immeasurable. As New Jerseyans go, Justice James H. Coleman ranks at the top, both as a Supreme Court Justice as well as a man.

Honored in so many ways, Justice Coleman has been recognized for his contributions by the finest of his New Jersey's legal peers. Included in those that have cited his life's work are the Best Lawyers in America who named Coleman as "The 2015 Newark Best Lawyers Arbitration Lawyer of the Year". The New Jersey Hall of Fame nominated him for induction into their hallowed Hall and the New Jersey Law Journal bestowed upon him their "2016 Lifetime Achievement Award". Coleman was the inaugural recipient of the "Governor Kean Award for Commitment to People in Poverty" and the recipient of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund's "Award of Excellence". As a parting gift and a gesture of gratitude as Justice Coleman retired and left his Court associates, the New Jersey Supreme Court unveiled a portrait of "The Honorable James H. Coleman Jr." which hangs in its' Conference Room.

Upon his retirement from the bench, Justice Coleman became "Of Counsel" in the law firm of Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C. in New Jersey. There he focuses on attorney advisement and appellate strategies. He also acts as a mediator for cases set for arbitration that deal with complex and/or private disputes.



WILLIAM THADDEUS COLEMAN, JR.

...was born on July 7, 1920 in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Laura Beatrice (née Mason) Coleman and William Thaddeus Coleman Sr.. His family had produced six generations of Episcopal ministers and an operator

for the Underground Railroad, which helped escaped slaves leave the United States for residency in Canada. It was not uncommon for notable politicians, educators, activists and historians, including the likes of W.E.B. DuBois and Langston Hughes, to visit the Coleman home.

Coleman graduated from Germantown High School. As one of only seven black students at the high school, he received a reprimand after cursing at teacher for suggestion that after graduation, he would make a great chauffeur. He was denied attempts to join the school's swim team. The swim team coach would later write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Coleman to the University of Pennsylvania (UP) in Philadelphia where he was accepted.

Coleman enrolled into the UP and took on a course of study that would earn him a double major in Economics and Political Science. He graduated summa cum laude from the UP in 1941 with his Bachelor of Arts degree. While at the UP, he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The international honor society, Pi Gamma Mu, selected him as a member. Coleman also joined the fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Coleman then attended Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He suspended his studies to enlist into the United States Army Air Corps to fulfill his military duties. Wanting to join the famed Tuskegee Airmen, Coleman found himself instead defending in court servicemen accused of court-martial. After completing his duties, Coleman returned to Harvard to complete his studies. Back at Harvard, he joined the Harvard Law Review and was the Review's first African American staff member. In 1946, he would graduate as the top student in his class, magna cum laude.

Coleman began his legal career serving as a law clerk to Judge Herbert F. Goodrich of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He then clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter. He was then hired by the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison based in New York City, New York.

In 1954, Thurgood Marshall, the chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) recruited Coleman as co-author and lead strategist to the legal brief in the case of "Brown v. Board of Education". That legendary case, ruled on by the U.S. Supreme Court, held that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Coleman would serve on the NAACP's National Legal Committee, would serve as the Director of the Executive Committee and as President of the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

In 1959, he served as a member of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Committee on Government Employment Policy. Four years later, he became a consultant to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency where he served until 1975. Coleman would

serve on the 1964 President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, also known as the Warren Commission, as an Assistant Counsel. While on the Committee, Coleman was selected to meet with Cuban President Fidel Castro who denied involvement with the Kennedy assassination. Coleman's report was hand delivered to Commission Chairman Earl Warren, the Chief Justice of the United States at the time.

Coleman joined, as a senior partner, the partner in the law firm of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish, Levy & Coleman. He then served as co-counsel in a Florida case whereby the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously struck down laws prohibiting interracial couples from living together. In 1969, he was selected as a U.S. delegate to the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. He was also a member of the National Commission on Productivity.

In 1975, Coleman earned his LL.D. from Bates College. On March 7, 1975, President Gerald Ford appointed Coleman as the fourth United States Secretary of Transportation (DOT). He became the second African American to serve in the United States Cabinet. As Secretary, Coleman is credited with beginning operations at the DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's East Liberty, Ohio facility. Under Coleman's leadership, the DOT established the Materials Transportation Bureau to regulate the shipment of hazardous materials on U.S. roads and to address U.S. pipeline safety. For the automobile industry, he opposed consumer activists who pressured the DOT to mandate new automobile airbag regulations. He instead instituted a two-year study, which favored the auto industry. After the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey banned the French Concorde jet from landing at their respective airports, Coleman ordered a testing period that allowed the jets to land. The Port Authorities filed legal action, however, in the end, the U.S. Supreme Court sided with Coleman. He left the DOT in 1976 with the election of Jimmy Carter.

Coleman returned to Philadelphia for a short period before joining the Washington, D.C. offices, as a partner, O'Melveny & Myers. He would argue nineteen cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. For the respondent in the 1984 *Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority* case, Coleman presented the arguments and re-arguments. In the case of *Bob Jones University v. United States* case, Coleman argued before the Supreme Court and won a ruling that changed the tax exemptions as they related to discriminatory groups.

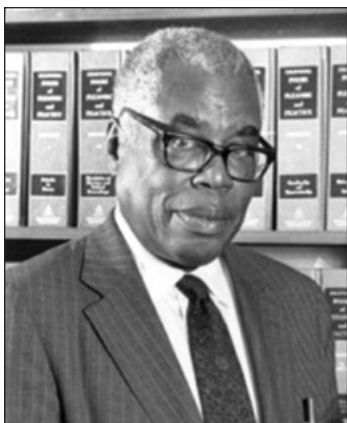
For his service to the federal government, on September 29, 1995, President Bill Clinton presented Coleman with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A year later, after the fatal crash of TWA Flight 800, the President appointed Coleman to his Commission on Airline and Airport Security. In 2004, President George W. Bush appointed Coleman to the United States Court of Military Commission Review.

When President Gerald Ford died, Coleman served as an honorary pallbearer at Ford's state funeral held in Washington, D.C..

Coleman was honored by Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts when they awarded him an honorary degree. Boston College in Cambridge, Massachusetts would award him an honorary degree as well. In addition, he received an honorary degree from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Coleman sat on the Board of Directors of IBM, Chase Manhattan Bank, and Pan American World Airways.

William Thaddeus Coleman Jr. died at his home in Alexandria, Virginia on March 31, 2017 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was ninety-six years old. At his death, Coleman was the oldest former U.S. Cabinet member living.





NATHANIEL SEXTUS COLLEY

...was born on November 21, 1918 in Carlowville, Alabama. When he was a young, his family moved to Snow Hill, Alabama. The youngest of six boys, he attended Tuskegee Institute in Tus-

kegee, Alabama graduating in 1941.

After graduating from Tuskegee, Colley joined the U.S. Army serving in World War II where his unit developed defenses against chemical weapons. To make his and other members of his unit safe, Colley developed a protective suit that was able to keep poisonous gas from penetrating it. This suit saved many soldiers lives. He would rise to the rank of Captain while serving.

Returning from the war, Colley applied to the University of Alabama Law School for admission for was denied. He then enrolled into the Yale Law School In New Haven, Connecticut where he earned, with honors, his law degree in 1948. At Yale, he was awarded the Benjamin Sharp Prize, which is given to a third-year law student who has written the best original essay.

Colley left the east coast migrating to Sacramento, California. He first took a job as an Associate Editor for the Sacramento Outlook newspaper before taking the California State Bar exam. In passing the California Bar, he became the first African American attorney in Sacramento. He became a private practice trial lawyer but his concerns lie with civil rights issues. He joined the efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) where he chaired their legal committee. He also served as the organization's western regional counsel.

In 1952, he presented arguments before the Sacramento County Superior Court that ended housing discrimination with the Sacramento Housing Authority. He later went again before the Superior Court to argue successfully in *Ming v. Horgan*, that California developers receiving federal funds from the Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration would not be able to discriminate against black and other minorities seeking housing. Several years later, California voters voted in the infamous Proposition 14, which gave property owners the right to pick and choose who they sold their property to, Colley and a group of other lawyers again went before the California Supreme Court arguing that the law violated the Constitution, particularly the Fourteenth Amendment of equal protection under the law.

The Court agreed and voided the law. The following year, after an appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld that decision.

Concerned with education and employment issues, Colley became the Co-Chair of the California Committee for Fair Employment Practices. He was pivotal in the passing of the state's 1959 Fair Employment Practices Act, which ended workplace discrimination. For his devoted work, then Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown named Colley to the California State Board of Education. Colley became the first African American to sit on the Board. Not happy with the omissions of black people's contributions in textbooks, he persuaded publishers to include the roles of African Americans in their depictions of U.S. history in their books. As a Board member, he also assisted in ending the segregation in several of California's school districts.

Colley was then asked to serve on the California State Democratic Central Committee. He was selected by Hubert Humphrey to serve as his Campaign Chairman in his 1968 presidential bid against the ultimate winner, President Richard Nixon. With his political clout ever increasing, in 1962, then President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the Committee on Discrimination in the U.S. Armed Forces. Colley's task was to visit the many Army bases around the world and report back to the President his findings on racial discrimination in the Army. His reports were crucial to African Americans' rise in military posts.

Colley then began a teaching career. He accepted a part-time position at the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific in Sacramento. He would teach at the law school for seventeen years. One of Colley's colleagues at McGeorge was Anthony M. Kennedy, who would be named to the United States Supreme Court by then President Ronald Reagan. A close friend of Kennedy's, Colley travelled to Washington, D.C. to testify on behalf of Kennedy in his Congressional hearings before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Colley later regretted the endorsement of his friend, after Kennedy changed his position on civil rights. Kennedy adopted a more conservative view of the issues involving civil rights as it related to employment, which made it more difficult for minorities as it related to discrimination in the workplace.

Colley served as a member to many Boards and organizations. He was a member of the NAACP's National Board, Chairman of its' Legal Committee and served as the Presiding Officer at one of the organization's National Convention. A lover of horses and a breeder, served the California Horse Racing Board, the state regulatory agency, as its' Chairman.

Nathaniel Sextus Colley died of brain cancer on May 20, 1992 at his horse ranch home in Elk Grove, California. He was seventy-four years old.



HARRIETTE VESTA BAILEY CONN

...was born on September 22, 1922 in Indianapolis, Indiana to Nelle Vesta Bailey and Robert Lieutenant Bailey. She began her education in the public school system in Indianapolis grad-

uating from Crispus Attucks High School at the age of fourteen. She matriculated to Talladega College in Talladega, Florida where she received her undergraduate degree majoring in English and Speech.

While at Talladega, Bailey acted in theatrical plays and wrote poetry. She was the first woman and first African American to serve as President of the college's Little Theatre. She was active in the Young Women's Christian Association and became a member of the Alpha Zeta Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Conn later joined the Chi Chapter in Indianapolis.

Bailey was the second family member to attend the college, following in the footsteps of her father. Like her father, she wanted to become a lawyer, as he had served as a Deputy Attorney General. Before entering law school, Bailey married Clifton Foulks Conn. They would have seven children together.

Bailey, now Conn, returned to school to earn her law degree. She enrolled into the Indiana University Law School at Indianapolis where she received her law degree in 1955. After passing the state bar exam, Conn, like her father, became a Deputy Attorney General of Indiana. Her main responsibilities at the Attorney General's Office were as a Corresponding and Research Deputy.

Conn handled cases involving criminal appeals, declared judgments, and extraditions. She was assigned to monitor the Civil Rights Commission, the Public Employees Retirement Fund, and the Teacher's Retirement Fund. During that time, unfortunately, Conn and her husband, Clifton, divorced.

Conn left the Attorney General's Office in 1965 and for a short time worked for Indiana State Highway Department as a Staff Abstractor. She then opened her own law practice with partners Marie T. Lauck and Jane Hunt Davis. She also served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Indiana's 19th Judicial Circuit.

In 1966, Conn was elected as a Republican to the state legislature representing Marion County. She was re-elected to a second term in 1968. While serving in the state legislature, Conn sat on the Constitutional Revision Committee, was a ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, and served as Chairperson of the Welfare and Social Security Committee. Her sponsored bills centered on civil rights, abortion, aid for dependent children, private slum clearance, and property rights for married women.

In 1968, Conn became the legal counsel to the Indianapolis City Council. In her duties, she assisted in the writing of the Unigov Council rules and advising the Indianapolis Human Rights Commission. She also drafted city ordinances.

In 1970, the Supreme Court of Indiana appointed Conn as the State Public Defender. This would be the last job that Conn would take. She served with the Public Defender's Office until her death. She was the first woman and the first African American to ever serve in her capacity at the Public Defender's Office.

While serving in the office, under her direction, the office provided legal services involving appeals for Indiana inmates. Under her leadership, the office grew from three attorneys to having twenty-seven by the time of her departure. The personal care for those unable to afford a private attorney was the same care that she instilled into each and every attorney that came to work for the Public Defender's Office.

Conn has been a member of several associations and organizations during her professional career. She was a member of the American Bar Association, the Indianapolis Bar Association, and the Indianapolis Lawyers Commission. She was also a member of the Indiana Women Lawyers Association and the Marion County Bar Association. She became a member of the Supreme Court Bar of the United States in 1971.

She was a member of the Republican National Committee, the Fall Creek Valley Republican Club, and the Indiana Republicans. She was also a member and appointed officer of the Greater Indianapolis Women's Political Caucus, a non-partisan political group. She was active in various civic, fraternal, and social organizations where she served as a devoted leader.

As a mother, she served as a Cub Scout Den Mother and as Chairman of the Girl Scouts Cookies. She worked with the Flanner House Nursery Parents Club and for the Marion County Heart Association, she was a block representative. She gave time to the March of Dimes and to the Speaker's Bureau of the Maternal Health Fund, later renamed the Planned Parenthood Association.

Conn served her Delta Sigma Theta sorority as the President of the local chapter and was a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She was appointed as member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights and the Community Service Council of Metropolitan Indianapolis, Inc.. Conn served on the Board of Directors for the Indianapolis Senior Citizens Center and was a Board advisor to Vincennes University in Vincennes, Indiana. She gave time to the Citizens Forum, the Happy Gardeners Club, the Indianapolis Urban League, the Social Action Committee of Family Services, and the Talladega Alumni Association. In 1974, Conn ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the bench of the Municipal Court of Marion County losing in the primary.

Conn has been awarded many awards and has been given many salutations for her service to the citizens of Indianapolis and Indiana. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree from Indiana's Franklin College. She was honored twice by the State of Indiana, receiving the state's Distinguished Service Award, and was named by then Governor Matthew Welsh as a Sagamore of the Wabash award winner, an award given by the state. As an beloved alumni of her alma mater, Crispus Attucks High School Hall, she was inducted into the schools Hall of Fame.

Harriette Vesta Bailey Conn died on August 21, 1981. She was fifty-eight years old.



JOHN JAMES CONYERS, JR.

... was born on May 16, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan. His father having moved from Georgia during the auto manufacturing boom began working at a Chrysler auto plant. He discovered that black auto painters were paid less than whites and began a protest to

management. Realizing that there was union organizing going on, the elder Conyers was fired. Undaunted, the personal protests continued and he soon rose to a high position within the United Auto Workers Union.

Graduating from Detroit's Northwestern High School Conyers, Jr. served in the Michigan National Guard from 1948 to 1950. He joined the Army, serving for four years before entering the U.S. Army Reserves from 1954 to 1957. He served in Korea for a year as an officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During his military career, he awarded several combat and merit awards.

After completing his military service, Conyers completed his college education at Wayne State University in Detroit. He received his B.A. degree in 1957. A year later, he received his law degree from Wayne State. He passed the bar and co-founded the law firm of Conyers, Bell, and Townsend. He first began taking on cases involving landlord-tenant disputes. He also became a referee for state workmen's compensation claims.

In 1961, Conyers declared his candidacy for a U.S. House seat representing the City of Detroit's north side. Winning by a mere forty-four votes, he took the seat to represent Michigan's First Congressional District. He quickly made a legislative mark by becoming involved in the Selma, Alabama 1963 civil rights movement's voter registration drive, "Freedom Day".

Conyers then co-sponsored the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965. He supported liberal social legislation campaigns including establishing the Medicare program. He led resistance of a southern conservative bill designed to delay legislative redistricting regarding the principle of one person, one vote. In 1968, after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee, Conyers introduced a bill calling for a national holiday to celebrate King's birthday. The bill became law in 1983.

In 1969, Conyers and thirteen other black U.S. Senators and members of the U.S. House of Representatives founded the Congressional Black Caucus. Began as a political arm to address the concerns of African Americans in the pursuit of civil liberties, the organization began to lobby Congress and then President Nixon about their concerns. Conyers later became a leading voice calling for the impeachment of President Richard Nixon in the wake of the Watergate scandal of 1974.

In 1988, Conyers introduced bill requiring health warnings on packaging labels for alcoholic beverages became law. He was the first Congressman to ask the U.S. Department of Justice to look into the differences in treatment by police of blacks and whites. He became

a champion of legislation that dealt with voter registration, violence against women, and hate crimes. He even sponsored legislation that designated a "National Tap Dancing Day", as a gesture to his Detroit musical upbringing.

Later in 1988, Conyers participated in the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment proceedings of then President Bill Clinton's sexual misconduct case involving White House intern Monica Lewinsky. As the Senior Democrat on the committee, Conyers was the "de facto" leader of Clinton's defense against the impeachment charges. Clinton ultimately was not impeached.

Conyers, in 2000, along with other Congress members, gave efforts to obtain reparations for African-Americans as compensation for the forced exploitation of their current labor and that during the era of slavery. Gaining a reputation as a watchdog for African American concerns, he occasionally butted heads with other members of Congress. As a result, he was investigated as his House checking account was frequently overdrawn. Known for keeping abreast of Republican activities, in 2003, allegations surfaced that some of his staff members were engaged in prohibited political activities.

In 2003, Conyers questioned the governments' stated rationale for the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Voting against the invasion, his name was added as plaintiff to a lawsuit contending the war was unconstitutional because it had not been declared by Congress as the U.S. Constitution called for. As an opponent of the war, he gathered over 500,000 signatures on a petition asking then President George W. Bush to address a British government document, the Downing Street memo, that suggested that the Bush administration was set on war with Iraq despite diplomatic efforts to not go to war.

Conyers co-introduced in 2005, the Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement and Rights (VOTER) Act. Created to address voting issues that impacted African Americans voters during the 2002 and 2004 U.S. elections, Conyers again became the watch dog for the unfair treatment of blacks in the election process. He released his *"What Went Wrong In Ohio: The Conyers Report On The 2004 Presidential Election"*, in May of 2005, which addressed voting irregularities in the state of Ohio during the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election. The report showcased statistical abnormalities in the differences between exit poll results and actual votes registered at Ohio locations. It also reported the use of faulty electronic voting machines and their lack of credibility to tally votes correctly. He and thirty-one other House members voted not to count the electoral votes from Ohio in the 2004 presidential election.

Conyers continues to spearhead issues surrounding the lives of African Americans, not only in the U.S., but around the world as well. He supported measures to aid impoverished Haiti and other Caribbean nations. For musicians, he spearheaded a measure to insure they maintained copyright's to their created works.

In Congress, Conyers had sat on many committees and subcommittees including Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary. He has served as an ex officio member of all subcommittees including the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy, the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, and the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law. A proponent of fair and equitable civil liberties, Conyers has been a vanguard for African-American causes and uses his Congressional senior status for those causes.





ROBERT H. COOLEY, III

...was born in Richmond, Virginia to Ruth Golden and Robert H. Cooley II. He was raised in nearby Petersburg. His father, Robert H. Cooley, II, was a prominent civil rights lawyer

in the area. After graduating high school, Cooley attended Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, where he earned his undergraduate degree. He then enrolled into Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C..

After earning his undergraduate degree, in 1962, Cooley enlisted into the United States Army where he would serve for eight years. In the military, he rose in rank from private to major and was stationed in Arizona, in Germany, and in France. He was then assigned to the Army's Judge Advocate General training academy at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

After receiving his military law degree, Cooley served as a trial judge during the Vietnam War. A patriotic serviceman, he was discharged honorably and received the Army Commendation Medal. He left the Army in 1971.

Leaving the Army, Cooley took a job with a law firm in Washington, D.C. for a short period of time before moving back to his hometown of Petersburg to join his father's law firm. After several years with his father, he left to establish the first mixed race law firm in Richmond. He then joined another firm, again for a short time, before opening his own law firm.

In 1976, Cooley was appointed as a federal Judge to Petersburg District Court. He became the first African American federal Judge in the Court's history. He was then appointed Judge to the Eastern District of Virginia and became its' first African American Judge to serve on the Court.

Cooley was a leading voice for his family in their claim to the bloodline of President Thomas Jefferson. Claiming to be the great-great-great-great-grandson of Jefferson, he was able to prove that indeed he and his relatives were descendants of Sally Hemings, a slave of Jefferson, who had a long-term liaison with her and bore several children. Cooley and his family proved through the bloodline of Thomas Woodson, a son of Hemings, that

Thomas Jefferson, the slave owner, was his great-great-great-great-great-grandfather. Some scholars question Cooley's findings and saying he lacks firm DNA evidence, while Cooley and his family have had the story passed down through the generations of the blood connection.

Cooley serves as President and General Counsel to the Thomas Woodson Family Association, which comprises approximately two hundred of an estimated 1,800 Woodson descendants. He has tirelessly spoken to anyone that took time to hear of the family claim. He has appeared on national television broadcasts showing the bloodline and wanting recognition to the fact that his bloodline stems from that of President Jefferson.

After years of gaining slow awareness of the fact that Jefferson and Hemings did have a relationship and several children were borne, the Woodson family was finally recognized by Jefferson's estate, however, the Woodson descendants could not be buried in the cemetery at Monticello, Jefferson's home in Charlottesville. The cemetery, owned by an association of approximately eight hundred of Jefferson's acknowledged descendants, has no black descendants buried there. The Jefferson Association, although acknowledging that Jefferson blood can be linked to the Woodson descendants, they believed that the Woodson descendants could have come from one of Jefferson's nephews. There was not way of proving it was Jefferson's blood link. The Woodson family descendants were denied permission to be buried at Monticello.

Cooley would die before seeing his dream of one of the Jefferson descendants from the Woodson bloodline being buried in the cemetery at Monticello. He was interred at Lawn Cemetery in Richmond. He was fifty-eight years old.



CLARENCE COOPER

...was born on May 5, 1942 in Decatur, Georgia to Herman & Hazel Cooper. His family would relocate to Atlanta, Georgia settling in the Edgewood/Kirkwood section of the city. After completing his high

school requirements at David T. Howard High School, Cooper entered Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia where in 1964 he received, with honors, his Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Political Science and History. He remained in Atlanta to attend Emory University School of Law where he earned his Doctor of Law Degree in 1967.

After earning his law degree from Emory, Cooper took a job with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society before joining the District Attorney's Office in Fulton County, Georgia, the first African American to be hired in the state to prosecute cases serving Fulton County. His law career was interrupted for two years while he served in the United States Army to fulfill his military duties. After leaving the Army, he returned to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office accepting the position of Assistant District Attorney. He would remain in the office for five years.

In 1975, Cooper was appointed to the City of Atlanta Municipal Court as a Judge. He was the first African American to serve as a full-time Judge on the Court. He would sit on the Municipal Court bench for five years.

In 1976, Judge Cooper took a leave of absence from the bench to accept Fellowships at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which are both located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University and a M.P.A. degree from MIT. For his M.P.A. degree, Cooper submitted a research paper on the "Judiciary and It's Budget".

Returning to Georgia and the bench, one of Judge Cooper's more high profile cases, reaching national news, was the case of the "Atlanta Child Murders". Convicted killer, Wayne Williams, had been brought on murder charges in the serial killing and disappearance of twenty-eight African American children, adolescents and adults during a two year period, 1979 through 1981. Judge Cooper presided over that case.

In 1980, Cooper became the first African American elected to a seat on the Fulton Superior Court. His ten-year tenure on the Court ended in 1990.

From 1990 to 1994, Judge Cooper served on the Georgia Court of Appeals. He then served as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Nominated by then President Bill Clinton, Cooper's confirmation again made him a first, the first African American to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge in the Northern District. He assumed Senior Status on February 9, 2009.

A few of Cooper's more notable rulings were in the cases of *Selman v. Cobb County School District* and *Whitaker v. Perdue*. In the *Selman* case, Cooper ordered the Atlanta School District to remove textbook stickers, which advocated the "theory of evolution" which he stated was a theory and not a fact. Ruling that the stickers were an endorsement of religion, which violated the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The *Whitaker* case challenged Georgia House Bill 1059, which required that sex offenders registered with the state could not live or work within 1,000 feet of schools, school bus stops, day care centers, churches, or in any other places that children may be present including recreation centers, parks, playgrounds, and swimming pools. Ruling that the law was cruel and unusual punishment, Cooper struck down some of the plaintiff's claims but allowed some of the law's requirements to stand.

Judge Cooper's list of memberships in legal associations, civic boards and private organizations, locally, nationally, and internationally is long. He is a member of the Friendship Force, Inc., a non-profit cultural organization that promotes citizen diplomacy through personal friendships and the sharing of member's homes while emphasizing cultural education. As a member, Cooper led a Georgia delegation to the Soviet Union. The delegation became the first American's to live in the ordinary homes of ordinary Russian citizens.

Judge Cooper has been given numerous awards including a 2010 Trumpet Award and a 2011 Emory History Makers Award. The Atlanta, Georgia based Gate City Bar Association honored Judge Cooper by naming two annual awards after him. The Judge Clarence Cooper Judicial Section Award is given to a selected jurist recognized for the outstanding service to the judiciary and the community. The Judge Clarence Cooper Legacy Award salutes an attorney for their representation of the law holding high professional standards.

Today, Judge Clarence Cooper remains a member of the U.S. District Court's Northern Division where he continues to make constitutional law decisions affecting the lives of many. His legacy, though not complete, is one well earned having respect from his peers and the community in which he lives and serves.



O LLIE MAY COOPER

...was born in 1887 in Bell, Tennessee. When she was young, her parents relocated to Washington, D.C.. She attended the Washington, D.C. public schools. She attended local

Howard University in Washington where she earned her undergraduate degree and her law degree, graduating in 1921 magna cum laude.

After obtaining her law degree, Cooper began her private practice law career as a Acting Secretary of the Howard University School of Law. She remained with the university law school for four years. She applied to take the District of Columbia bar exam and passed. On Monday, October 11, 1926, the Committee of Examiners of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia certified her for admission to the District of Columbia Bar.

Cooper entered private practice law when she opened her own law firm with her legal partner Isadore Letcher. In opening the law firm, Cooper and Letcher became the first African-American women in the United States to form a law firm that was owned and operated by African American women. There were approximately 1,500 female attorneys practicing law in the United States at the time. Of them, there were fewer than 25 African American female attorneys practicing. There were only a handful of African American law firms and the idea of a law firm owned by African American women was unheard of. Cooper's specialty centered on landlord-tenant law and wills and probate law.

While operating her own law firm, Cooper also taught at her alma mater, Howard Law school, teaching a one-hour course. She served as the law school's clerk for ten years beginning in 1918. She also served as the Secretary for several of the Deans at the university.

In 1921, Cooper, along with Gladys E. Tignor founded and incorporated the Epsilon Sigma Iota Legal Sorority. The sorority was the first organization began that focused on the needs of African American female attorneys. For twenty-five years, the sorority functioned as the only social and legal group for African American women lawyers and African American women law students.

For the National Law Association, Cooper served as the organization's Assistant Secretary. For the Washington Bar Association, she served as the Vice President. Cooper served her local community by giving of her legal services to many local residents that could not afford legal representation.

Ollie May Cooper died of congestive heart failure. She was ninety-four years old. In her honor, the Washington Bar Association named an award in her name. The award is presented annually to an attorney that has given outstanding service to the D.C. bar or who has shown leadership and organizational skills that have enhanced the image of the Washington Bar Association.



JAMES ROMEO CORLEY

...was was born April 26, 1925 in Irmo, South Carolina to James and Pauline Corley. Leaving the segregated South, Corley's family moved north to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to create

a better life than that which would afford them in South Carolina. There, he would graduate from the prestigious Northeast High School in 1943.

After graduating from Northeast High, Corley entered the U.S. Army. He served during World War II in the "South Pacific Theater" where he made the rank of Sergeant. Returning from the war, he enrolled into Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania. He would receive his undergraduate degree in 1949. He then attended The Ohio State University College of Law in Columbus, Ohio where he earned his law degree, graduating in the class of 1952.

After taking and passing the Ohio State Bar, Corley opened a law office in Mansfield, Ohio, the county seat for Richland County. Located about half way between Columbus and Cleveland, Corley picked the city to begin his legal career, as there were no African American attorneys registered there. He became the first African American lawyer in the city.

As the only African American attorney in the area, Corley soon began to acquire clients. Most of his new clients had cases associated with some type of civil rights violation. Although the state of Ohio had been a "free state" during slavery and had welcomed blacks seeking freedom, education, and an opportunity to advance themselves, there were still those that did not respect the rights of African Americans and other minorities living in the area. Corley was able to fill the void of attorneys able and willing to take on their cases.

Corley soon became the voice for local civil rights and a community activist. He took on cases aimed at desegregating local public facilities, social clubs, and workplaces in Richland County. Always having the well being of his clients as his motivating force, Corley was able to bring relief to his clients and those that affected by the discrimination that existed.

Corley served his community for over thirty years as an attorney and a Board member to many local and national organizations and commissions including sitting on the Richland County Board of Health for over thirty years. Other notable accomplishments and professional affiliations by Corley are:

- American Bar Association
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- Boy Scouts of America Board Johnny Appleseed Council
- Church Trustee, Richland County Planning Commission
- Community Action Board
- Lions Club International
- Mansfield Metropolitan Housing Board
- Mansfield-Richland County Chamber of Commerce
- National Bar Association
- National Bar Association Hall of Fame
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio Trial Lawyers Association
- Peoples Hospital Board
- Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association
- Richland County Area Safety Board
- Richland County Bar Association
- Richland County Selective Service Board
- Salvation Army Board member
- The Ohio State University Alumni Association
- Toastmasters International

James R. Corley, Sr., following a short illness, died on August 6, 2002. He was seventy-seven years old.



WILLIAM COUSINS, JR.

...was born in 1927, in Swiftdown, Mississippi. Before arriving in Chicago, Illinois, his family moved from Swiftdown to Memphis, Tennessee. He graduated high school Chicago's DuSable High School in 1945. To receive

his undergraduate degree, Cousins enrolled into the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois graduating with honors in 1948. He then attended Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he earned his LL.B. in 1951.

Joining the U.S. Army, Cousins served as a combat infantryman in Korea War. He received the rank of Lieutenant before leaving the Army in 1953. He would serve as an active Army Reserve for the next twenty years, officially retiring from the military as a Lieutenant Colonel.

To begin his legal career, Cousins accepted a job with the Chicago Title & Trust Company where he worked for four years. In 1957, he worked as an Assistant State's Attorney, registered as a Republican, a requirement for the position. Four years later, he entered private practice when he accepted a position with the law firm of Turner, Cousins, Gavin and Watt. In 1967, he ran and was elected as a "Free Democratic" Alderman serving Chicago's Eighth Ward.

For the next nine years, Cousins would serve his Chicago constituents as an "outsider" to the political powers that controlled Chicago. In each of the elections that he ran in, he ran as an Independent and not as a Republican. In 1976, he decided to run for the Circuit Court Judge of Cook County and was victorious.

For the next twenty-six years, Cousins would serve the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois residents as a Judge on the Circuit Court and the Illinois Appellate Court. During that time, he would serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee; Presiding Justice of the Court's First District, Second Division and its' Third Division. He served as Chairman of the Illinois Appellate Judges Annual Meeting. He would become a member of the Illinois Judicial Conference and a Special Supreme Court Committee on Capital Cases member. Cousins also served as Chairman of the Judicial Council and a Board member of the Illinois Judges Association. He was a Board member of the National Center for State Courts and served as Chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association.

Outside of the Courts, Cousins dedicated much of his time and energy to various organizations and causes. He has assisted in the legal matters of the Chicago Area Planned Parenthood Association and served as past President of the Chatham-Avalon Park Community Council. He sat on the Board of the Citizens' Schools Committee and was a founding and Board member of Operation PUSH.

A religious man, Cousins gave of his time to serve as a Deacon of Lincoln Memorial Congregational United Church of Christ and as an Assistant Moderator and member of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ. He sat on the Board of the Parkway Community House and as a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity he has been involved with the Fraternity's social and community outreach programs.

Judge Cousins has been the recipient of numerous awards, accolades, and honors during his lifetime. Several of the salutations given to him include the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's XI NU Omega Chapter's Monarch Statesmanship Award; the Bulletin Newspaper Award; the Chicago Bar Association's Earl Burrus Dickerson Award; the Chicago Friends of the Amistad Research Center's Distinguished Service Award; Cook County Bar Association's Edward N. Wright Award; Cook County Bar Association's William R. Ming Award; Cook County State's Attorney's C. Francis Stradford Award; the DuSable High School Alumnus's Mary Herrick Lifetime Achievement Award; the IIT/Chicago-Kent Black Law Students Association's Thurgood Marshall Award; the Illinois Judicial Council's Charles A. Freeman Pioneer in Justice Award, the Illinois Judicial Council's Kenneth E. Wilson Award; the Illinois State Bar Association's Access to Justice Award; the John Marshall Black Law Students Association's Outstanding Judge Award; the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association's Raymond Pace Alexander Award; and the Olive-Harvey College Award; just to name a few.

Judge Cousins has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of his high school alma mater, DuSable High School, the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and the Cook County Bar Association's Hall of Fame. He holds memberships in the Bar associations of the American, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois State and the National Bar Associations. He is also a member of the American Judicature Society.

Judge William Cousins, Jr.'s legacy is one of dedication to the field of law and to the causes of justice having inclusion to all members of every community especially to those that practice law as a means of fairness, honesty and equal protection afforded them under the law.

Photo Not
Available



COW TOM

...was born somewhere around 1810. He was a slave belonging to Native American Chief Yargee of the Upper Creeks, an inner tribe of the Muskogee Creek Nation with territory in Alabama. He was given the name Cow Tom as he cared for the cows. Chicken George cared for chickens, etc., etc.

During the 1930's U.S. removal of Native American nations from the eastern to western lands, Tom and his family trekked west with his slave owner, Chief Yargee, to the destined Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Many did not make the infamous "Trail of Tears" journey as harsh weather conditions, sickness, and sadness took its toll on them and they died. Tom's family survived the journey to Indian Territory.

Prior to the removal to Indian Territory, Tom had become fluent in several languages. He spoke the white man's English and spoke both native tongues of the Upper Creek and that of the Lower Creek Muskogee tribe. That skill made him a favorite of the Chief.

Prior to the tribes removal from Alabama to Indian Territory, the chief rented Tom out to the U.S. Army as an interpreter. The Army was in dire need of interpreters and Tom was a very good one, so Chief Yargee leased Tom out for a profit.

Tom was first leased to a white military officer, but was "re"-leased to General Thomas S. Jessup, "Father of the Modern Quartermaster Corps". General Jessup was in charge of the entire military exercise to rid Florida of the Seminole Tribe. Along with Cow Tom, there were two other black interpreters, Sugar George and Harry Island. Each of them were assigned to different Army units and all of them spoke several Native American languages and dialects. These three men would play pivotal roles in the drafting of the treaties between the U.S. Government and the Native American nations, specifically, the "Five Civilized Tribes". Tom, as an interpreter often read the legal papers and translated them and the agreements that lay before them.

Now in Indian Territory, Chief Yargee depended upon Cow Tom even more than before. A part of the Upper Creek clan of the Muskogee Creek Nation, the Chief had little interest in mixing with whites. However, the Lower Creek clan of the tribe had intermarried with whites before the relocation which put Chief Yargee at odds with the Lower Creeks. Tom many times negotiated as he was interpreting and the Chief knew this. Cow Tom was definitely an Upper Creek and the Chief trusted him as such.

Although Tom was a good cattleman, it was his interpretation skills that the Chief wanted most. There were more negotiations ahead between the tribes and the government, and the Chief needed Tom to act as his voice.

The Chief began to pay Tom for his work interpreting. Enough so that Tom was able to purchase his and his family's freedom. Now a freedman, he was able to charge more for his services. He and the other three black interpreters became the "trial lawyers", present at the signing of the documents. Tom began to earn more money than

the local blacksmith. Tom bought land and purchased livestock of his own.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, in 1863, a bloody battle, the Battle of Honey Springs, was fought between Confederate and Union soldiers in an effort to gain control of the Indian Territory. In the aftermath, Native Americans were relocated again to a different part of the state. When the native refugees needed to speak to the white soldiers, Tom was the only one present that spoke the languages fluently and the military officers used Tom's skills for refugee issues and to translate tribal matters. At that point, Cow Tom became the Chief of the Muskogee Nation. He was not elected Chief, he took over the role, as there was no one else that could. When the war ended, Cow Tom was officially appointed Chief of the Muskogee Nation.

For the misplaced refugees relocated all over the mid-west, Tom's interpreting skills were called on even more. In the final treaty negotiations after the Civil War ended, of the five tribes that convened at Ft. Smith, Arkansas to sign the official treaty of peace, Chief Cow Tom and the Muskogee Creek tribe were the only tribe to bring blacks with them in an official role.

The treaties called for the Native Nations to bring their slaves into their respective tribes as citizens with full Native rights unlike southern white slave owners who simply had to release their slaves. The other four tribes wanted to remove the black Indian altogether from their tribes.

The U.S. Government convened a hearing on the matter in Washington, D.C.. Chief Tom, Harry Island and Ketch Barnett, traveled to Washington to argue the case that black Indians should not be removed from the tribes. The argued that benefits extended to the citizens of the Nation should be extended to its' black Muskogee Creek Freedmen as well.

In Washington, the Lower Creeks presented their case for no integration of the blacks into the nation fearing the monies the government was set to pay the Nations would be diluted with the black Indian involved in the settlement agreement. Despite the plea to omit the black Indian, the Creek Freedmen received their citizenship, their land allotments and their status as citizens.

Cow Tom had gone to Washington, argued his case, and won the rights for black Indians and Freedmen to be included in benefits to be bestowed upon the tribes. From Tom and his teams' work, years later, those dividends would be seen in the creation of the Upper Creek's black Indian and black American town of Tulsa, better known as "Black Wall Street". Thanks to Cow Tom and his team of un-degreed attorneys, one of the most landmark cases in history, is the one won that day.

Always wanting to be a cattleman, Cow Tom retired to farm life, is cattle business, and to a life with his family. His business tenacity and his foresight to fight for the black Indian to get their allotment of land and other benefits paid off years later, when his son and grandson found oil and began the prosperous Simmons Oil Family of Oklahoma. Black oil magnate Jake Simmons is Cow Tom's grandson and he too is Muskogee Creek.

Black Indians across the world, give great tribute to Cow Tom, Sugar George, Harry Island, and others for their hardships, their resolve, and their "un-learned" knowledge of language in both Indian and American law.

Cow Tom died in 1874. He is buried, with his wife Amy, in the Cain Creek cemetery near Boynton, Oklahoma.



**JAMES
W.
CRAWFORD, III**

...was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, North Carolina

in 1979. His commission came through the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps Student Program and his law degree was obtained from the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He went on to earn a Master of Laws in Ocean and Coastal Law from the University of Miami School of Law in Coral Gables, Florida. He also received a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

In his first legal career job, Crawford worked as Defense Counsel at the Naval Legal Service Trial Defense Activity at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida. He then served as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He served in that capacity for four years. He then became the Commander of the NATO Rule of Law Field Support Mission/Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan.

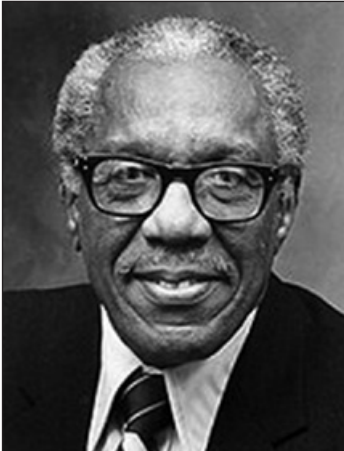
In 2012, Crawford served as the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy and Commander of the Naval Legal Service Command. He served in these capacities for three years. As the Commander of the Naval Legal Service Command, Crawford led the Judge Advocates, enlisted legal soldiers, and civilian employees. He oversaw fourteen commands worldwide wherever legal defenses and prosecution cases arose. He gave legal assistance to military personnel on shore and commands at sea.

Prior to receiving flag rank status, Crawford served as Special Counsel to the Chief of Naval Operations, the Senior Staff Judge Advocate for the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command. He also served as the Fleet Judge Advocate for U.S. 7th Fleet. For the Region Legal Service Office Southeast, Crawford served as the Commanding Officer.

When Crawford was promoted to Advocate General of the Navy, he became the 43rd Judge Advocate General. As Advocate General he became the top military Legal Counsel to the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief

of Naval Operations. He represents the Department of Defense for Ocean Policy Affairs (REPOPA). As Advocate General, he is charged with overseeing the Navy's the 2,300 attorneys and civilian employees worldwide belonging to the Navy JAG Corps community. Crawford has in legal capacities at the Naval Justice School and Cruiser-Destroyer Group 8, the Navy Personnel Command, the Naval War College, and the Office of the Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also served as Commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

Crawford has been highly decorated during his career. He has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Defense Superior Service Medals, the Distinguished Service Medal, and three Legion of Merit Awards. He also received two Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



GEORGE WILLIAM CROCKETT, JR.

... was born in Jacksonville, Florida on August 10, 1909 to Minnie Amelia Jenkins and George William Crockett Sr.. His mother was a poet and a Sunday school teacher while his father worked as a railroad carpenter and served as a Baptist minister, pastoring the Harmony Baptist Church for

over thirty years. Crockett, Jr. graduated from Stanton High School in 1927 before enrolling into Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1931 majoring in History. In 1934, he earned his J.D. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

After passing the Michigan State Bar, Crockett began his legal career as a private practice attorney. Crockett had to put his legal career on hold in order to fulfill his military duties. He served in World War II under the Federal Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) as a Hearing Officer. The legislative program was created under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Initiative.

After the war, Crockett took a job with the United States Department of Labor (DOL) in Washington, D.C.. He became the first African American lawyer to be hired by the Department. With the passing of the National Labor Relations Act, he focused on employment cases.

In 1937, he assisted in the founding of the National Lawyers Guild, the first bar association in the United States to become integrated. He served as the Guild's Vice-President. Leaving his job at the DOL in 1944, Crockett accepted a position with the Fair Employment Practices Department of the International United Auto Workers Union (UAW). He worked for the UAW for four years.

In 1946, Crockett and his partners founded what may have been the first racially integrated law firm in the country. Based in Detroit, they opened Goodman, Crockett, Eden, and Robb which would go on to take on a few of the country's most important racial cases. The firm would operate for fifty-two years closing in 1998.

In 1948, Crockett and a group of other lawyers took on the case involving eleven members of the U.S. Communist Party including their leader, Gus Hall and New York City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, charged with violating the Alien Registration Act of 1940, better known as the Smith Act. The Act set criminal penalties for advocating the overthrow of the U.S. government. In defending the group, Crockett and four others on the defense legal team were jailed in the Ashland, Kentucky Penitentiary and served four months. After being released, not deterred, he represented future Detroit Mayor Coleman Young who was being investigated under the same ACT by the House Un-American Activities Committee. To document the trial and the jury's summations, Crockett wrote about his experience in his published sixteen page book, "Freedom is Everybody's Job!: The Crime of the Government Against the Negro People, Summation in the trial of the 11 Communist leaders".

In 1964, Crockett and his team defended civil rights workers in Jackson, Mississippi in the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project. He participated in the search for three civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, who had been arrested for investigating the arson of a Black church near Phila-

delphia, Mississippi. The three men were released from jail in the middle of the night and had disappeared. Neshoba County Sheriff Lawrence Rainey had refused to investigate their disappearance. It was later discovered that the Sheriff and his deputy had conspired with sixteen white supremacists to capture and kill the three investigators. Their dead bodies were found days later buried in an earthen dam.

In 1965, Crockett ran as a candidate for the Detroit Common Council. He lost that race. A year later, he ran and was elected as a Judge of the Recorder's Court in Wayne County Michigan. Eight years later, he was elected as Chief Judge of the Court. He would serve for four years before retiring from the bench.

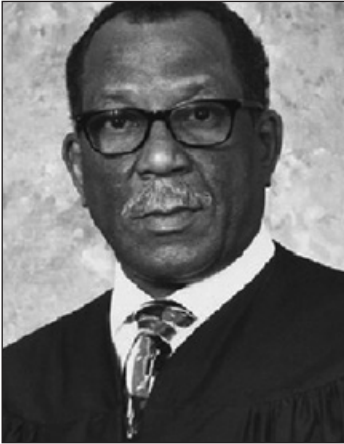
In 1969, Crockett represented members of the secessionist group, The Republic of New Afrika. The organization had rented a meeting hall in the New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit in their efforts to raise public awareness to their community causes. After a confrontation outside of the church between the groups members and the Detroit police, an officer-involved shooting occurred and the all-white police force stormed the church. Over one 150 people were arrested, both children and adults. The church's Pastor called on Judge Crockett to intervene, which he did and released 130 of those arrested. The police unit then moved to impeach Crockett for his actions, however, the black community and many from Detroit's white community rallied to Crockett's defense.

In 1980, Crockett was elected to Michigan's 13th District Congressional. Sworn in by U.S. House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Crockett was seventy-one years old when he became a Congressman and served for ten more years. In Congress, he became a member of the U.S. Houses Subcommittee on Africa, where he focused his attention on eradicating Apartheid, the form of government that ruled South Africa. He authored the Mandela Freedom Resolution, which called on the South African government to release anti-Apartheid activist Nelson Mandela who had served twenty-seven years in prison as a penalty for his activist activities. Crockett, along with then Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, was arrested for protesting outside of the Washington, D.C. South African Embassy.

For his efforts, then President Ronald Reagan appointed Crockett to a delegation to the United Nations that helped to abolish the Apartheid system in South Africa. Before leaving Congress, Crockett worked on a controversial Act where he sought to have certain illegal drugs decriminalized. While serving in Congress, Crockett was a member of the Congressional Arts Council, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, and the Democratic Study Group. He sat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and its' Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs. He also served on the Select Committee on Aging.

Crockett has been given many honors during his lengthy legal career. In 1972, he was awarded an Honorary LL.D. from Morehouse in 1972 where he served as a Trustee. He received a coveted award from the Cotillion Club of Detroit and in 1998, the George Crockett Academy opened in Detroit in his name where nearly 400 students, grades 9-12, attend. In 1986, his beloved fraternity, the Kappa Alpha Psi awarded him their Loral Wreath Commission. The Detroit branch of the NAACP created a public education program in his honor as well, the George W. Crockett, Jr. Community Law School.

Judge George William Crockett, Jr., after suffering a stroke, died on September 7, 1997. He was eighty-eight years old. He was interred in the New Zion United Methodist Church cemetery in Laurel, Delaware where his parents and other generations of Crocketts are buried, all within walking distance of famed Crockett Street, named in honor of his family.



GEORGE WILLIAM CROCKETT, III

...was born on December 23, 1938 in Fairmont, West Virginia to Dr. Ethelene Crockett and George Crockett Jr.. He was raised in Detroit, Michigan where his father was a promi-

nent attorney, jurist, and U.S. Congressman. Crockett III grew up surrounded by conversations centered on the leading political, legal and social happenings locally and nationally from the many cases his father was involved with.

Crockett received his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. His Juris Doctorate degree was obtained in 1964 from the Detroit College of Law in Detroit, Michigan. He moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan to begin his professional legal career. After practicing in Grand Rapids for a few years, Crockett returned to Detroit where in 1967, he became an Assistant Corporate Counsel and Supervisory Attorney for a legal services center. He then became the Chief Deputy Defender with a local legal association.

In 1977, Crockett was elected as a Judge to the Detroit Recorder's Court, which became a part of the Wayne County Circuit Court. For a short period of time, both he and his father, Judge George Crockett, Jr., served on the Circuit Court's bench at the same time. The Crockett's were one of the few father son jurist teams to practice law in the United States.

Judge Crockett presided over several controversial proceedings but none more important than the case in the beating death of Detroit native Malice Green by Detroit police officers. The case is considered by some to be one of the most high profile cases in the history of Detroit's legal proceedings. The case sparked great racial tension in the city.

In the case, in November of 1992, Green, who was often described in the media as an unemployed African-American steelworker who had been arrested several times having charges of spousal battery, fleeing and eluding, and assaulting a police officer, died after being beaten by white police officers, Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn. The two officers beat Green with their police ba-

tons and flashlight while Green was in police custody and defenseless.

The car that Green was sitting in and parked in front of a known drug house had been reported stolen. After arresting Green, he was subsequently beaten. The two officers were tried before Judge Crockett simultaneously with each officer having a different jury. One jury had eleven blacks and one white while the second jury had ten black and two white jurors. Both juries found both men guilty and were subsequently convicted of second-degree murder.

Judge Crockett's handling of the case during and after the proceedings have been credited by some to have been tension calming to some in the African American communities and was instrumental in preventing upheavals during and after the trial. He had an eye for dispensing equal treatment under the law and treated everyone who came into his courtroom with respect and dignity and gave them the justice by which the law entitled them to. He treated others, as he would like to be treated, with kindness and fairness.

Judge Crockett retired in 2003 to spend time on his love photography and woodworking and enjoying his forever love of jazz music. A skilled craftsman, he built tables, gazebos, and had a fully functioning workshop. He eventually relocated to Florida but remained active in his endeavors.

Judge George William Crockett, III died on July 1, 2016. He was seventy-seven years old.



JOHN WESLEY CROMWELL

...was born in on September 5, 1846 in Portsmouth Virginia to Elizabeth Carney Cromwell and Willis Hodges Cromwell. Both of his parents were slaves. His father was a carpenter and transported freight aboard his boat where he earned enough money whereby he and his wife bought their way out of

slavery paying Thomas Twine, of Elizabeth City County \$3250.00 for his family's freedom. They took their seven children, all ranging in age from two and a half to twenty-five years old and moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In Philadelphia, once John was old enough to attend grade school, he attended a Quaker school, the Institute for Colored Youth. There he was taught classical languages, history, and mathematics. After graduating at the age of twenty, due to his excellence in Greek and Latin studies, Cromwell became a teacher in Columbia, Pennsylvania. The school closed not long after he took the job.

He returned to Portsmouth, as a free man, and operated a private school. He was then offered a job with The Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People in Maryland. Within a year, he returned again to Portsmouth after the church where the school operated from was burned and someone fired a gun at him.

Back in Portsmouth, he taught Sunday school at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Knowing the importance of education, especially blacks, Cromwell wanted to help the "unfortunate, illiterate and down-trodden" elevate themselves from their current conditions. In 1866, he was hired as a teacher by the American Missionary Association for their Providence Church, in Norfolk County, Virginia. The school closed in June 1867, and Cromwell moved to northern Virginia for a short time as an agent for the Society of Friends, a Quaker anti-slavery Quaker organization.

Cromwell became involved in politics. He became an organizer for the Philadelphia-based Union League Association and the Republican Party. In 1869, he returned to teaching taking in classrooms in Wytheville, Richmond, and in Southampton County for the next two years. Deciding on obtaining a law degree, Cromwell enrolled into law school.

He moved to Washington, D.C. and enrolled into Howard University's Law School in 1871. While studying for his degree, Cromwell took the U.S. governments' civil service exam and became a clerk at the Treasury Department. It did not take him long before he became the Chief Examiner of the Money Order Department. He later worked in the post office in the Auditor's office.

While working for the federal government Cromwell was a strong advocate of African American education. He was elected Second Vice President of the Virginia Educational and Literary Association in August 1875. He gave the Keynote speech before their convention in Richmond that year. The speech was later published entitled, "Address on the Difficulties of the Colored Youth, In Obtaining an Education in the Virginias". He was also the Chair of the Committee on Organization at the convention. That committee created the Virginia Educational and Historical Association where he was named President.

In April of 1876, Cromwell lent his hand to publishing. He published his Inaugural issue of the *People's Advocate*, a weekly newspaper, in Alexandria, Virginia. In 1878, he had moved it to Washington, D.C., where he continued to print, using the paper's columns to voice his concerns about racial issues and the importance of studying history

and literature. Cromwell, the Managing Editor until 1884. In 1880, he was pivotal in forming the National Colored Press Association, later the National Afro-American Press Association where he wrote a history of black churches.

In 1877, Cromwell helped found the Negro American Society. In 1879, he was President of the Banneker Industrial Education Association. In May, he was elected its Secretary of the National Conference of Colored Men of the United States and Chaired their Committee on Education and Labor. In 1887, he wrote an essay that appeared in the "*Southern Workman*" publication entitled, "*The Chance for Skilled Negro Labor in the South*", which showcased hailed the trade school at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, now Hampton University, as an educational institution boosted black participation in the region's industrial development.

In 1881, he helped establish the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, sat on its' Advisory Board, sat on the Executive Committee, and in 1886 and 1887 was elected President. To commemorate the Association's Fifteenth Anniversary he wrote the, "*History of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association*" document. During this time, Cromwell was selected as a Honorary member of the Philosophian Literary Society of Lincoln University. He also sat on the Board of the Progressive Co-operative Society, was an Officer in the Mutual Benefit Association. He was selected to represent the District of Columbia at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, which opened in New Orleans in December of 1884.

Completing his studies at Howard University, he passed the exam and was admitted to the bar. Cromwell left his job at the Treasury Department in June of 1885 to practice law. Two years later, in one of his cases, *William H. Heard v. the Georgia Railroad Company*, he was Counsel to a plaintiff and appeared before the Interstate Commerce Commission. He is believed to be the first African American attorney to argue a case before the Commission.

In 1897, Cromwell played an important role in the founding of the American Negro Academy (ANA) and was elected Corresponding Secretary becoming the organizations public face. He was elected the Academy's fourth President in 1919. Because of his age, he did not seek reelection but did Chair several of the Executive Committee's.

Cromwell married Lucy A. McGuinn on November 13, 1873 in Washington, D.C. They had seven children, two sons and five daughters, one of whom died in infancy. After his wife died on April 6, 1887, he married Annie E. Conn in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania on October 20, 1892. They bore no children.

In 1899, Cromwell again resumed his teaching career. He became a Principal at several District of Columbia schools for the next twenty years. During that time, in 1914, he received an Honorary degree from Ohio's Wilberforce University.

In 1910, with a desire to promote the work of black scholars, Cromwell helped establish the American Negro Monograph Company, publishing four papers. In 1915, he and Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, a Puerto Rican historian, organized the Negro Book Collectors Exchange with Cromwell as Vice President. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York is named in honor of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg.

Throughout his career Cromwell wrote many articles on educational and historical matters, including *The Early Negro Convention Movement* and *The Jim Crow Negro*, *The Negro in American History: Men and Women Eminent in the Evolution of the American of African Descent*, *The Challenge of the Disfranchised: A Plea for the Enforcement of the 15th Amendment*, and other articles for the *Journal of Negro History*, a few with titles of, "*The Aftermath of Nat Turner's Insurrection*" and "*The First Negro Churches in the District of Columbia*", a revised version of his history of black churches written earlier in 1887.

As Cromwell became older, he continued to teach and write about African American history. In 1924, he published his last scholarly paper. On April 14, 1927, Cromwell died at his Washington home. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the District of Columbia.



Photo Not
Available



JAMES ALBERT CRUMLIN, SR.

...was born in 1914 and was a native of South Carolina. He attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he received his undergraduate degree. He earned his law degree in 1943 from the Robert H.

Terrell Law School also located in Washington, D.C..

Crumlin served in the U.S. Army to fulfill his military duties. He also supported and gave of his time to the American Red Cross. After completing his military duties, he returned to Louisville in 1947 to begin his legal career. Because of the Jim Crow laws that were in effect at the time, Crumlin's focus, like many of the other few black lawyers, was on civil rights issues.

Crumlin would serve for a short period of time as an Assistant Commonwealth attorney as a prosecutor. He would also serve as a prosecutor in the Louisville Traffic Court. He soon traded in his position as prosecutor to a private practice attorney representing defendants instead of the Commonwealth and the City of Louisville.

In 1948, Crumlin took on one of the most important cases in Kentucky's history. He represented Lyman T. Johnson in a lawsuit against the University of Kentucky. At the time, segregation was the norm in America's South and the University did not admit blacks to its' law school. Johnson, wanting to attend a law school in his home state, filed suit to challenge the law. He called upon Crumlin to represent him in his attempt to change the law. Crumlin took on the case and was successful in the case. Johnson was admitted to the Kentucky school in 1949.

While working on the Johnson case, Crumlin also took on a case aimed at changing the Kentucky state law that prohibited black nurses and doctors from training in state owned and private hospitals. With the help of several other African American attorneys, additional lawsuits were filed that tackled discrimination in Louisville's public parks, golf courses, theaters, and even the city's fishing ponds. Known as "Mr. Civil Rights", it wasn't long before Crumlin became one Louisville's most respected education reformers and civil rights leaders.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court passed desegregation laws in its' legendary Brown v. Board of Education ruling. The Court's decision outlawed segregation in public schools in the country and Crumlin set out to help enforce that law. He and his fellow attorneys filed several suits in the rural areas of Kentucky that had not adhered to the federal law and still did not allow blacks to attend public schools in their rural school districts. Many of the school districts refused to create desegregation plans until forced to do so.

In his advocacy for human and civil rights, Crumlin served as the President of the Louisville and state chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also was a member of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission. While conducting his law practice and caring for the needs of his clients, Crumlin had become an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1960, in order to spend more time on his ministry, Crumlin stepped down as the President of the NAACP. Although not President of the NAACP, he did keep his law practice.

With his resignation from the NAACP, he was able to devote more time to his parishioners at Brown Temple AME Zion Church where he officiated. Crumlin grew his church ministry to include eight other AME Zion churches in the Louisville area. As a man of God, Crumlin took on the many issues surrounding the local community in which he served. No matter how much money one had or didn't have, Crumlin looked at the case, especially if it involved discrimination in any form. He would campaign several times for elected office by each one ended without success.

Reverend James Albert Crumlin Sr., after declining health, died at Veterans Affairs Medical Center on August 25, 2004. He was ninety-years old.



BENJAMIN LLOYD CRUMP

...was born on October 10, 1969 in Lumberton, North Carolina. His mother was a worker in Converse shoe factory and as a maid and his father was a military man that served in the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Bragg, just north of Fayetteville, North Carolina. The oldest

of nine children, having both full and step siblings, Crump was partially raised by his grandmother.

Crump attended elementary school in North Carolina but graduated high school in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His mother had remarried and Crump was sent to live her second husband. Crump claims his stepfather, who was a math teacher, as "his father". His stepfather played a pivotal role in giving him the guidance and support he needed to get a good start toward being a responsible adult.

Completing his high school studies, Crump enrolled into Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida earning his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 1992. He received his Juris Doctorate from the same university in 1995. Once he earned his Doctorate and passed the Florida bar, Crump set his sights on helping those less fortunate, to help right the wrongs of victims of varying crimes, and many times doing so pro bono. It did not take long for him to build a reputation of taking on high profile cases.

Taking a page from some of the most historic legal minds in the history of law in America, the likes of Thurgood Marshall, Johnny Cochran and James Nabrit, Crump kept a keen eye on cases with constitutional civil rights wrongs and took them. Over the years, he has taken on some of the nations' most visible cases. In 2002, Crump represented the family of Genie McMeans, Jr., an African American driver who died after being shot by a rookie Florida Highway Patrol trooper.

In 2006, Crump took on the family case surrounding the death Martin Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old African American teenager who died at the hands of guards in the Bay County Boot Camp, a Panama City, Florida youth detention center. Seven guards and one nurse were charged with aggravated manslaughter of a child, a felony. They were all later acquitted of the charges.

In February of 2012, seventeen year old Trayvon Martin, on his way home from a convenience store was shot and killed by George Zimmerman. After being profiled and followed, Martin, while on the phone with his girlfriend, was shot in what Zimmerman claimed was done so in self defense. Crump represented the Martin family in the case.

In August of 2012, Crump represented Ronald Weekley Jr., a twenty year old African American college student and skateboarder that was beaten by police in Venice, California. A cellphone video showed three Los Angeles police officers holding Weekley down on the ground while a fourth officer punches him in the face. The officers and the city were not found liable.

The same year, he represented the family of Alesia Thomas. The thirty-five year old Los Angeles mother died while in police custody. Thomas was arrested by L.A. Police officer Mary O'Callaghan after Thomas allegedly abandoned her children at a local police

station. Once handcuffed, the dashboard video shows O'Callaghan kicking and assaulting Thomas to the point that Thomas could not breathe, lost consciousness and died. Crump, represented the Thomas family in a civil case against both the L.A. Police Department and O'Callaghan. He demanded the release of the police dashboard video even requesting that U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder launch a federal probe into the incident. O'Callaghan was found guilty of assault under the color of authority and sentenced to four years in prison and fired without pay from the police department.

In January of 2013, Kendrick Johnson, a African American high school student from Valdosta, Georgia, was found dead with his body stuffed inside a rolled up wrestling mat in the Lowndes High School gymnasium. His mysterious death has not been solved.

Another national headline case involved the 2014 death of 18-year-old Michael Brown of Ferguson, Missouri. Brown was fatally shot by Darren Wilson, a white police officer. Conflicting reports surfaced surrounding the shooting. Brown, unarmed, had thought to have been a person of interest for the theft of several packages of cigarillos from a nearby convenience store.

Wilson seeing Brown and his friend Dorian Johnson walking down the street. Stopping them, according to Wilson's testimony, an altercation occurred with Brown attempting to take Wilson's gun. A shot was fired, Brown and Johnson ran with Wilson in pursuit. Witness accounts were that Brown stopped running, turned to face Wilson with his hands up. Wilson then fired twelve shots striking Brown, killing him instantly. Brown's body lay in the streets for several hours which outraged the community. Protests ensued and quickly grew into a riot. For more than a week, violence erupted nightly. Doing the day, peaceful protesters marched, with their hands up, chanting, "Hands up, don't shoot." After a U.S. Department of Justice investigation, Wilson was cleared of any civil rights violations related to the shooting.

Another 2014 case taken on by Crump was the shooting of Tamir Rice, a twelve year Cleveland, Ohio African-American boy. Rice was playing in a public park with a air gun. Police arrived and within two seconds of arriving on the scene, Rice was shot dead. The City of Cleveland settled a wrongful death suit, paying the Rice family six million dollars.

In February of 2015, Crump became involved with the Antonio Zambrano-Montes case in Pasco, Washington. Zambrano-Montes, an illegal immigrant from Mexico was killed by police after allegedly throwing rocks at them. No charges were filed against the three officers. In October of 2015, Crump became a part of the Palm Beach, Florida shooting of Corey Jones, killed by a plainclothes officer. A drummer in a band, Jones had left a performance when his car broke down on an Interstate 95 exit ramp. Two officers stopped in a unmarked van with tinted windows. Within minutes, Jones was dead.

In his most recent of cases, Crump and his team are representing several of thirteen women in their civil suits against the Oklahoma City Police Department and one of their officers. The women were victimized by Oklahoma City police officer Daniel Holtzclaw who was convicted on 18 of the 36 counts of rape and sodomy brought against him. He was sentenced to 263 years in prison.

Recognized as one of the best trial lawyers in the country, Crump is a much sought after attorney for high profile cases. He has dedicated his practice to personal injury cases, wrongful death, and civil rights issues. His awards and honors are simply too many to list here. He is active in many, many organization, charities and social concerns. In essence, Benjamin Lloyd Crump is a lawyer amongst lawyers.





ELIJAH EUGENE CUMMINGS

...was born on January 18, 1951 in Baltimore, Maryland to Ruth and Robert Cummings. He attended high school in the public schools of Baltimore before enrolling into the Baltimore City College where he

graduated in 1969 with honors. He transferred to Howard University in Washington, D.C. to complete his undergraduate studies with a major in Political Science. At Howard, as a sophomore, he became the Class President. He served as the student government Treasurer and the student government President. He also became a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society graduating in 1973.

He received his law degree from the University of Maryland's School of Law in 1976. He was admitted to the Maryland bar the same year. After being admitted to the bar, Cummings entered private practice where he would serve the local Baltimore communities for the next nineteen years. He then decided to enter politics.

Cummings began his life of dedicated public service by becoming a member of the Maryland General Assembly's House of Delegates. He would serve in the House for thirteen years becoming its Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland. He also became the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro Tempore, the second highest position in the House of Delegates.

With the U.S. House of Representative Kweisi Mfume leaving his seat in the U.S. Congress, Cummings placed his name in the election bid to represent Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the 1996 election. He became victorious in his bid. As a U.S. House member, he continued his commitment to ensure that future generations had adequate access to quality healthcare, quality education, clean air, clean water and economic advancement.

Today, Congressman Cummings serves as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in Congress. The Committee has the jurisdiction to investigate any federal program and federal policies. In his role as Ranking Member, Cummings has been a steadfast advocate for the civil rights of U.S. citizens working to create reforms that prevent waste, fraud and abuse and

that ensure government programs meet the needs of the American people.

Cummings also serves as a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He serves on the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation as well as the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. He has also focused his energies on protecting the rights of U.S. citizens that face foreclosure. In that regard, Cummings regularly holds Foreclosure Prevention Seminars whereby he seeks to match lenders and the homeowners together in attempts to work out loan modifications.

Cummings during his lengthy legal career has served on several Boards and Commissions. He has spearheaded efforts to strengthen the Maritime curriculum at the Maritime Industries Academy (MIA) in Baltimore, serving as Chairman of the MIA Board and Chairman of the MIA Foundation Board. For the U.S. Naval Academy, he serves on their Board of Visitors. He serves on the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors, the Morgan State University Board of Regents, the SEED School of Maryland, and the University of Maryland Law School Board of Advisors.

For the KIPP Baltimore Schools and the Baltimore School for the Arts, Cummings is an honorary Board member. At Howard University in Washington, D.C., he is the 2014-2015 holder of the Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy Lecture Series. He has been awarded eleven honorary Doctoral degrees from various universities across the United States. An active member of Psalmist Baptist Church in Baltimore and is married to his wife, Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings.



HARRY SYTHE CUMMINGS

...was born in May of 1866 in Baltimore, Maryland to Eliza (nee Davage) Cummings and Henry Cummings. He attended school in the Baltimore public schools in Baltimore's

11th Ward before entering Lincoln University in Chester, Pennsylvania. He graduated with his undergraduate degree from the University in 1886.

For his law degree, Cummings returned to Maryland to enrolling into the University of Maryland Law School located in his hometown of Baltimore. He completed his law degree requirements in 1889. He was one of the first two African Americans to graduate from the University's law school.

On December 19, 1899, Cummings wed Miss Blanche T. Conklin. The wedding ceremony was held at Baltimore's Madison Street Presbyterian Church. Together, they two bore two children, Harry Sythe Cummings, Jr. and Louise Virginia Cummings.

During his time in Baltimore, he resided in four different homes. In 1891, Cummings resided at 935 North Eutaw Street. He then moved to 424 West Biddle Street where he lived for eight years before moving to 1234 Druid Hill Avenue where he stayed for twelve years moving again in 1911. His last address was in the Druid Hill section of Baltimore where he lived at 1318 Druid Hill Avenue.

In 1890, Cummings was elected to Baltimore's City Council representing his native 11th Ward. The Ward had been redistricted which gave the Ward more Negro voters, which paved the way for Cummings to win his run for the Council seat. In his first term, Cummings was successful in obtaining a scholarship for Harry S. Pratt to the Maryland Institute. Tradition held that each City Councilman select a candidate from their respective Wards for free admission to attend the respected art school. It was necessary for Cummings to use legal means to have Pratt admitted, as the administrators of the school did not want Pratt to attend the school because of his color. Cummings was successful.

In the 1891 general election, Cummings lost his bid for re-election to the City Council. He entered pri-

vate practice serving Baltimore residents for the next five years. He partnered with fellow African American attorney, Warner T. McGuinn. Their law offices were located at 19 E. Saratoga Street in Baltimore. After two years with McGuinn, the two separated and Cummings set up his own law firm in Baltimore.

In 1897, he made a second run for the City Council seat and was victorious. He was elected to serve a two-year term on the Council. Cummings won a third term to the City Council and then returned to his private practice law firm. He opened offices at 313 St. Paul Street before moving to 225 N. Calvert Street.

In 1904, Cummings was chosen to second the nomination of President-Elect Theodore Roosevelt at the Republican National Convention held in Chicago, Illinois. His speech earned him accolades from attendees and others across the United States that heard of his remarks. He was later invited to the White House by President Roosevelt upon his election to the Presidency.

In 1907, Cummings ran for a fourth term on the City Council and was elected, this time to a four-year term. He would go on to win two more terms in the 1911 and 1915 general elections. While serving as a City Councilman, Cummings maintained his law practices, moving his offices to 219 Courtland Street. During that time, he promoted the establishment of a high school and became known as "The Father of Colored Polytechnic".

Harry Sythe Cummings died on September 7, 1917 at his Druid Hill Avenue home. He had suffered a stroke one week before his death. His funeral attracted many dignitaries, luminaries, community leaders, and local civic workers.



WAYNE KEITH CURRY

...was born on January 6, 1951 in Brooklyn, New York to Juliette and Eugene Curry. His mother was a homemaker who later took a secretarial job and his father was a school teacher. When Wayne grew into his teenage years, the family relocated to Cheverly, Maryland. In their relocation to Maryland and the county of Prince George's,

the family encountered discrimination at every turn when trying to move into certain neighborhoods controlled by whites. His mother, quite upset with the declines that the family received when looking for a neighborhood in which to live, began to campaign for open housing. This was one of the many experiences that would shape Curry's perspectives and set his direction for greater things to come, especially in politics.

Curry attended nearby Bladensburg High School graduating in 1968. After graduation, he was accepted to attend undergraduate school at Western Maryland College in Westminster, Maryland. He earned a B.A. degree from Western in 1972. At Western, he was elected in his senior year as Class President.

Curry accepted a job as a teacher for a short time before taking a job in 1975 as an office staffer in the Prince George's County's County Executive office of Winfield Kelly. By 1980, he had worked his way from that entry level job to become Kelly's Senior Assistant. While working as the Senior Assistant, Curry was earning his law degree from the University of Maryland. He would earn his law degree from the university, graduating with honors.

For the next fourteen years, Curry would work in private practice law focusing on corporate business and health care related concerns. For the Michael Companies, a real estate and development company, he handled real estate law issues. He was General Counsel for "Dimensions Health Corporation", a major health-care business that operates several hospitals in the Prince George's County. During that time, he was actively involved with community affairs working to break down some of the barriers he faced as a young teen when his family first moved to Prince George's County. Involved in the politics of the county and to forge a change, he decided to enter politics.

Having worked in the County Executive's office for five years, in 1994, Curry tossed his hat into the race for the top position in the county, that of County Executive. With overwhelming support from the African American community, he easily won the nomination and the general election. In winning his campaign, Curry became the first African American elected to the office of County Executive in the state of Maryland.

In taking office, Curry took over a county that over the years had gone through a racial transformation. A suburb of Washington, D.C., the county prior to the Civil War was 60% black, with most of them being slaves. After the Civil War, the county changed to become predominately white. In the early 1960s, the county changed again as inner city blacks, and others from around the country, began to enter the county, again changing the demographics to be-

come majority black. Within a short time, the county became the wealthiest county for blacks in the United States.

When he took office, Curry and the county were left with a budget containing a \$108 million deficit. Despite the combined wealth of the African American residents, the county suffered much in the way of public services, education, high end retail stores, and policing. At the same time, New York Wall Street investors were threatening to lower the county's bond rating, which would increase the cost of public services or cause for more public taxes. Curry took on these issues head first. With the help of others, including religious leaders, business and community leaders, and that of certain state legislatures, a plan was put together to turn the county around.

Curry was viewed by some as a brash and contentious County Executive because of his unyielding defense and protection of the citizen's rights of his county. To protect the county's bond rating, he went to Wall Street to present his plan. After hearing the strategy being imposed, the investors applauded his presentation and his straight forward approach to solving the county's issues. Although the presentation was well received, the county still faced the possibility of its' bond being reduced. Curry, in his presentation, went so far as to threaten the investors, stating that if they could give applause to his plan and understanding that the plan could work to fix the problems that if he was not given time and the county's bond was reduced, he would call every newspaper he could find in the country and publicly call them "straight-up racist". The county's bond rating was not reduced.

Curry then began work to attract some of the larger corporate businesses asking them to bring their services to the county as the residents had the wealth to support their investments. From his plan, he oversaw the arrival to the county of the National Football League's Washington Redskins. The state of Maryland, to satisfy the desires of then Washington owner Jack Kent Cooke, wanted Curry to spend \$175 million of the county's moneys to offset the cost to build the stadium. Curry stood steadfast in his refusal to do so and would not sign off on the deal, indicating the team was welcome to the county, but not on the backs of the county's residents as the county did not have the cash. The state of Maryland eventually paid the \$175 million and the team relocated to Landover from Washington, D.C. in 1997.

Curry worked to end court-ordered school busing and he reduced crime in the county. He oversaw the transformation of county policing and the relationships between the citizens and the police. By the end of his second term, the county had grown tremendously. The \$108 million deficit he inherited was now a \$114 million surplus.

After leaving office, Curry joined the law firm of William H. "Billy" Murphy Jr., a prominent Baltimore lawyer. He became the Chairman of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corp. During his career, he has served as Chairman of the United Way Campaign of Prince George's County, President of the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the "Prince George's County Substance Abuse Advisory Board", Chairman of the "School Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Black Male Achievement", Director of the "Bonnie Johns Children's Fund," and Director of "United Communities Against Poverty". He also was member of the "Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Christmas in April."

Wayne Keith Curry died on July 2, 2014 at his home in Upper Marlboro, Maryland from cancer. He was 63.





HAYZEL BURTON DANIELS

...was born in in 1907 in Fort Clark, Texas. When he was six years old, his family left Texas moving to Fort Huachuca, Arizona where his father served in the military as a member of the 10th

Calvary. He graduated from Tucson High School where he was a star football player. He was the fastest halfback in the state of Arizona during that time and for his speed, he was given the nickname of "Flying Ebony". For his talents on the football field, Daniels was named to the All-American Honorable Mention team in his senior year.

Daniels attended the University of Arizona (UVA) in Tucson, Arizona where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1939 majoring in Social Science. He also received a Masters of Arts degree in Education from UVA in 1941. After receiving his Masters of Arts degree, Daniels took a job teaching in Fort Huachuca. Daniels himself served in the United States Army during World War II.

After serving his military duties, Daniels returned to Arizona to attend UVA's Law School graduating in 1948. He was the first African American to graduate with a law degree from the University. He was admitted to the Arizona Bar Association that year as the first African American to pass the Arizona Bar.

Daniels relocated to Phoenix, Arizona where opened his own law firm. He joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and became involved in local Phoenix politics where he took on cases involving violation of African American's civil rights. Two years later, Daniels was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives. He, along with Carl Sims, became the first African Americans to serve in the Arizona legislature.

While serving in the State House, Daniels fought for school desegregation in the state. He filed suit against the Phoenix Union High School District in 1952 and argued successfully to integrate the school district. The following year, Daniels was successful in his litigation against the Wilson Elementary School District forcing administrators to change their positions on segregated education. In both cases, after the passing of the legendary 1954 "Brown v. Board of Education" by the U.S. Supreme Court, Arizo-

na Supreme Court Justices found the schools segregated policies to be unconstitutional and public education in Arizona became available in those school districts to all African American students.

With his victories against the school boards, Daniels political power began to increase. He became an Assistant Arizona State Attorney General and was the first African American to serve in that capacity. He was later, in 1965, appointed as a Phoenix City Court Judge by then Phoenix Mayor Milton H. Graham. He again was a first, the first African American to preside over a Phoenix City Court.

Daniels served as a member of several civic and legal organizations. He served as a member of the Arizona Black Lawyers Association, which in 1993 renamed itself as the Hayzel B. Daniels Bar Association in the Judges honor. Judge Daniels died the previous year, in 1992.



CHRISTOPHER ALLEN DARDEN

... was born on April 7, 1956 in Richmond, California. He received his B.S. degree in 1977 in Criminal Justice Administration from San Jose State University. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the Univer-

sity of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1980.

Darden is best known as one of the state prosecutors in famed football player, O.J. Simpson's infamous murder case of Simpson's exwife, Nicole and her friend Ron Goldman. Simpson was acquitted of the charges. Although Darden was not successful in his case against Simpson, during his tenure as a prosecutor and Assistant Head Deputy Attorney of the Special Investigations Division, he has tried nearly thirty homicide cases. He has successfully prosecuted many of those cases.

Called the "Trial of the Century," Simpson had been charged on two counts of murder for the June 12, 1994, deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her waiter friend, Ronald Lyle Goldman. The trial became historic because of the social status of ex-NFL Hall of Fame football player and TV star, O.J. Simpson. Simpson had made a name for himself in the southern California area where he was a star running back for the University of Southern California's football team.

An All-American player in college, Simpson went on to have a very successful career in the National Football League. After retirement from football, Simpson became an actor in Hollywood and appeared in several movies in supporting roles. He won endorsements from major manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of several of the countries largest conglomerates. He appeared on many TV commercials selling his client's wares.

With the death of his ex-wfie and Goldman, the news became national and international news. The news media published daily headlines about the investigation. Simpson was indicted on 2 counts of murder and he stage was set for one of the most highly watched TV broadcast murder trials in the history of television.

Darden and his fellow prosecutor, Marcia Clark, prepared their case against Simpson, reading for trial. For the defense, Simpson hired some of the best legal defense lawyers in the country. Led by highly successful defense attorney Robert Shapiro, Simpson's team included high profile attorneys such as Johnnie Cochran, Alan Dershowitz, Carl E. Douglas, F. Lee Bailey, Shawn Holley, Robert Kardashian, and Gerald Uelman. Simpson brought in two more attorneys that were specialist in DNA evidence collecting, Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck. DNA would play a central role as the prosecution was relying on

blood samples, as well as a glove that was found they believed linked Simpson to the murders.

Darden and Clark proclaimed Simpson's guilt while the defense professed his innocence. The trial's turning point came when Darden and Clark introduced a glove found behind Simpson's house, they say was linked to the scene of the murder. In his defense of Simpson, attorney Johnnie Cochran, in a courtroom demonstration, had Simpson try on the glove. Simpson tried and had difficulty getting the glove on. Cochran in a move to prove Simpson not guilty of the alleged murders, then uttered his most famous words of the trial when he said of the gloves that the defense had introduced, the ones that appeared to small for Simpson's hands, "...if it doesn't fit, you must acquit!" Simpson was ultimately found not guilty of the murders.

After the O.J. Simpson case was over, amongst the unfavorable media coverage he received, Darden resigned. He took a position with at California State University, Los Angeles, where he taught undergraduate criminal law. Later that year, he was accepted a position as Associate Professor of Law at Southwestern University School of Law located in Mid-Wilshire, Los Angeles. There he taught criminal procedure and trial advocacy.

Darden has been a legal commentator for CNN, Court TV, NBC and CNBC. He has made guest appearances on Court TV and Fox News Network. He has made cameo appearances on TV network shows such as *Girlfriends*, *Roseanne*, *Muppets Tonight*, *The Howard Stern Show*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, and *Touched by an Angel*. He has appeared in the movie *Liar Liar* and the TV movie *One Hot Summer Night*. He served as the principal attorney for the syndicated legal show *Power of Attorney*.

As a writer, Darden has penned several writings. In his, *In Contempt*, he chronicled his involvement with the O.J. Simpson trial. He also co-authored, with Dick Lochte, several crime novels, including *The Trials of Nikki Hill* which was published in 1999. In 2000 Darden co-authored, *LA Justice*, and in 2003, *The Last Defense* was published.

In 1999, Darden left his job at the law school. He opened his own law firm, Darden & Associates, Inc.. He focused his practice on criminal civil litigation and defense.

Darden sprang back into the spotlight in 1996 when he revealed that he was a Republican and wished to address the 1996 Republican National Convention convened at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California. His request was denied and not replied to.

Darden was honored when he received from the Loved Ones of Homicide Victims (LOHV) their Crystal Heart Award. The LOHV is an organization devoted to helping families, as a result of violence, that have suffered the loss of a loved one. Darden was also recognized as "Humanitarian of the Year" by Eli Horne, a California shelter for abused children and women.

Darden continues to practice law, but hasn't received the celebrity status that he shared with Simpson, in the "Trial of the Century."





ANDRE MAURICE DAVIS

... was born on February 11, 1949 in Baltimore, Maryland. His mother was a food services worker and his father was a schoolteacher. His mother remarried and his stepfather was a steel worker.

Davis graduated high school from Phillips Academy in Baltimore. He matriculated to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor's degree in American History. Loving history, Davis wanted to become a college professor. During this time, he took a position with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City as an Assistant Housing Manager and Equal Opportunity Specialist.

While studying for his undergraduate degree in History, Davis took a course in constitutional law. That course changed the career direction that he had set. After graduation, he returned to Maryland and enrolled into the University of Maryland School of Law. Now knowing what career he wanted to engage in, Davis received his law degree in 1978. While studying at Maryland's Law School, Davis was chosen as a member of the school's three member National Moot Court Team.

For his first job, Davis accepted a position with U.S. District Judge Frank Kaufman of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, as a clerk. After one year, he clerked for Judge Francis Dominic Murnaghan, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals. In 1980, he took a job as an appellate attorney for Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice's.

In 1981, Davis worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland. Two years later, he decided to enter private practice. After one year, he accepted a job at the University of Maryland School of Law as an Assistant Professor.

In 1987, Davis was appointed to the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City as an Associate Judge. In 1990, he became an Associate Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. He sat on the bench for five years.

President Bill Clinton, on May 4, 1995, nominated Davis to be a Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Three months later, the U.S. Sen-

ate unanimously approved the nomination. Davis would sit on these bench for five years before President Clinton called upon him again.

This time, Davis was nominated by Clinton for judgeship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The President wanted to integrate the Fourth Circuit and knew that Davis would fit the bill. At that point, no African-American had been nominated for a seat on the Court as Judge.

Unfortunately, Davis' nomination hit a snag. According to the Thurmond Rule, a presidential nomination cannot be submitted after July 1 during a presidential election year, as Davis' had been. No Congressional hearings would be scheduled, so Davis' nomination was returned to Clinton. When President George W. Bush was elected to office, he chose not to nominate Davis for the Fourth Circuit Court.

Davis won a reprieve in 2009, when newly elected President Barack Obama nominated Davis to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit on April 2, 2009. His nomination passed through Congress with overwhelming support for Davis and he received his commission on November 10, 2009. Five years later, Davis assumed senior status. He was President Obama's first, and to this date, the only appointee to the federal courts to assume senior status.

During his distinguished judicial career, Judge Bell has had a philosophy of ensuring that the "loser" in the case has a fair and just understanding of his rulings. Knowing there will always be a winner, Davis chose to give the loser the best opportunity to plead their cases and to understand the Court's rulings according to Maryland law and the U.S. Constitution guidelines. He ensured that all defendants were able to be heard and that they heard and understood his opinions.

Davis retired from the Court on February 28, 2014 at the mandatory age of seventy. He has been honored and continues to be awarded many accolades for his years serving the state of Maryland and its' citizens. In his retirement, Davis continues to lecture to college and university students and is active in his legal associations and community involvement.



AGENITA SCOTT DAVIS

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971 from Howard University School of Business Administration in Washington, D.C. where she majored in Accounting with a minor in Economics. While in undergraduate school, she was named as an Outstanding Student by How-

ard's Women's Association. Davis also was listed in Who's Who in American Schools and Colleges.

Davis remained at Howard where she obtained her law degree in 1974. She focused her interest on Administrative Law, Federal Taxation II, Land Finance, and Tax Law. During her last three years in law school, she received awards for earning the highest grades in three classes.

In her first professional job as a practicing attorney, Davis worked for Shell Oil Company as a tax attorney based in Houston, Texas. She served in sales and matters related to use and excise tax. Davis handled affiliate operations in states in the northeastern United States.

In 1975, Davis accepted a job with the law firm of Burney, Edwards, Hall, Hartsfield and Scott. For the firm, she provided pro bono legal service for low-income residents of the community of Acres Homes. She made partner with the law firm.

In 1979, Davis served as General Counsel to the Port of Houston Authority of Harris County, Texas. She served as the Manager of Legal Department and was a member of the Executive Management Committee. As a Committee member, she handled contracts, monitored referrals, employment and regulatory matters and gave advice to the Port Commissions. For the Pilot Board Operations, she drafted legislation to the Counsel to the Board including findings from accident investigations. She served as General Counsel for the Port Authority for ten years.

In 1989, Davis became the Senior Vice President and Community Affairs Officer to JPMorgan Chase & Company in the Houston offices. She again served as Manager of Legal Department and oversaw the Community Affairs Division. She was responsible for all outreach to Houston's local communities to ensure their bank compliance issues related to the Community Reinvestment Act. She reviewed the qualifications related to community development grants and assisted in developing the National Faith based Initiative Grants. Davis also served as the Loan Executive for the William A. Lawson Institute that provided financial help to affordable housing. In addition, she served as Chairman of the Financial Education Center at Houston's Texas Southern University (TSU) where she obtained a \$500,000 matching grant for the University.

In 2004, Davis became a Professor at the TSU School of Public Affairs. She taught several courses, including a course on affordable housing strategies, expert utilization, collaboration

between organizations, and the development of proposals for materials used to build affordable housing in inner city neighborhoods. She presented these proposals to local Houston government officials.

The following year, Davis became a Professor at TSU's School of Law. She developed class curriculums and taught classes on legislation, ordinances, and regulations that facilitated the Community Reinvestment Act, legislation related to tax increments, and compliance with public enhancement tools. Davis also taught courses on lending services in underserved areas.

That same year, Davis taught at the School of Business Administration at TSU. She taught classes in the school's Business Curriculum Department on Business Law and Essentials of Business Grammar. She also taught courses on Public Speaking in the Undergraduate School.

In 2006, Davis became the Executive Director for the Houston Habitat (HHH) for Humanity. As the Executive Director, she managed one of HHH's top affiliates having an annual budget of \$11 million and assets exceeding \$30 million. The HHH had a staff having forty-eight employees as well as volunteer consultants that rendered help in six local housing communities. Davis created the Family Services Department where she selected families to participate in post closing, education, and employment training. She selected land to acquire for development and identified possible sponsors for the funding needs of events held in the local communities that addressed homeowner associations in their organizational operations.

Davis was instrumental in the Expanded Restore retail operations that generated over \$2 million in annual sales and promoted green initiatives aimed at saving the local residents money in the expenditures of products and services related to housing. She worked to improve neighborhood sustainability and to make upgrades to the communities in modification in housing products. Davis also was pivotal in the initiation of the Bike-to-Build Gala and other fundraising events that brought attention to the programs run by the HHH.

Davis continues to work with organizations to improve their executive management team operations and to increase their financing and funding of their respective projects. She works with them on the banking and regulatory issues and assists them in the corporate and entrepreneurial programs aimed at developing better leadership skills for the organizations staff. She also helps the organizations spokespersons in their public speaking and presentation skills.

Davis has served as the President of the National Bar Association and of the Houston Lawyer Association. She has chaired the Greater Houston Women's Foundation, the Downtown Management organization, and the Central Houston Housing Corporations I and II. Davis is also the founding Director of the William A Lawson Institute, the MacGregor CDC, and Tax Increment Zones Number 7 and 9. In addition, she has served as a member of the Houston City Planning Commission being appointed to the Commission by the last five Houston Mayors. Lastly, Davis serves on the Advisory Board of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research.



ARRIE W. DAVIS

...was born on July 21, 1940 in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended public schools there graduating in 1959 from Frederick Douglass Senior High School. He attended Morgan State

College in his hometown receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963. He earned his Master of Arts degree from New York University in New York City in 1966. While working on his Master's degree, Davis clerked for Judge Joseph Carter and Master Harry Sachs.

To earn his Juris Doctorate degree, Davis enrolled into the University of Baltimore School of Law in Baltimore, Maryland. While at the University, he worked as a Bailiff to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore for two years. He also worked as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City.

After obtaining his J.D., Davis took and passed the Maryland State Bar. He would be admitted to practice law in both the U.S. District Court for District of Maryland Bar and the U.S. Court of Appeals for 4th Circuit in 1972. A year later, he would be admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court Bar.

While Davis was establishing his private law practice, he taught Business Law courses at his alma mater, Morgan State University for two years. He also taught classes at Villa Julie College in Stevenson, Maryland. In addition, Davis taught English and was a swim coach at several Baltimore City public schools. He performed as a water safety instructor for the American Red Cross.

From 1970 to 1971, Davis worked as an Assistant Attorney General in the office's Criminal Appeals Division. He then served as Counsel for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service's Division of Corrections until 1981. In 1981, Davis was appointed to the District Court of Maryland for District 1 in Baltimore City as an Associate Judge. In 1983, he was appointed to the Baltimore City Circuit Court, 8th Judicial Circuit, again as an Associate Judge, where he would serve for seven years. In 1988, Davis was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar.

In 1990, Davis was appointed to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, 6th Appellate Circuit in Baltimore City, the state's second highest Court. He would serve as a

member of the Legislative Committee, its' Executive Committee, and the Civil Law and Procedure Committee. He also served the Maryland Judicial Conference. He would retire from the Court of Special Appeals in 2010.

Davis has been a member of many legal bar associations including the Baltimore City Bar, the Maryland State Bar, the Monumental City Bar, and the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar. He has served as the Chairman of the Harry A. Cole Judicial Council. Davis has served as a Board member of the Judicial Institute of Maryland, the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, and the Committee to Study Sentencing and Correctional Alternatives for Women Convicted of Crime.

He is a member of the Maryland Bar Foundation, the Wranglers Law Club, and has served as Chair Emeritus of the Harry A. Cole Judicial Council. For the Academy of St. James Episcopal Church, Davis has served them as a Board of Directors member as well.

Judge Davis has been given many awards during his professional career. He has received the "Legal Excellence Award" from the Waring Mitchell Law Society of Howard County Maryland; the "Legacy for Excellence in Litigation Award" from the Snyder Center at the University of Baltimore School of Law; the "Legal Excellence Award" from the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association; the "Alumnus of the Year" from the University of Baltimore School of Law; and the "Distinguished Alumnus from Frederick Douglass Senior High School Award" from the Baltimore City Council. In 2011, he was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame.



L. CLIFFORD DAVIS

... was born on October 12, 1924 in Wilton, Arkansas to Dora Duckett Davis and Augustus Davis. He was the youngest child of seven. When he was in the eighth grade, the family moved to Little

Rock, Arkansas because, at the time, the Wilton schools did not offer any high school classes to black students and Little Rock, a larger city, did. He graduated from Dunbar High School before attending Philander Smith College in Little Rock where he received his undergraduate degree majoring in Business Administration. He then moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University Law School.

After one year, he wanted to transfer to the University of Arkansas School of Law, which did not allow blacks to attend their school at the time. His application sparked the beginning of the integration of the law school, however, it took the school two more years before the first African American student was permitted to attend the school. Even then, the school imposed "internal segregation" policies that placed limitations on a black students activities and movements while on campus. The law school wanted to have separate classrooms for black students, separate study halls, and they would have no access to the libraries. They also could not use bathrooms designated for white students. By then, Davis only had one more year to complete his studies at Howard. Looking at the condition's he'd have to endure at the Arkansas school, he decided to remain at Howard. During that time, Davis did spend some time doing graduate work at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia studying Economics.

Completing law school, Davis returned to Arkansas where he passed the State Bar exam and began his legal career in 1949. He first began working in Pine Bluff, Arkansas with another African American attorney, W. Harold Flowers. He took on the civil rights case of integrating the DeWitt School District. He then decided to open his own firm, moved to Camden, Arkansas, and did so. Along with another attorney, Shepperson Wilburn, Davis brought suit against the Bearden and Helena School Districts to end their public school segregation.

In 1952, Davis moved to Waco, Texas where he took a job teaching at Paul Quinn College. In 1954, Davis again moved, this time to Fort Worth, Texas where he opened one of the first African American law firms in the state. Arriving

in Fort Worth, it wasn't long before he took on the task of integrating the Mansfield School District. He gained a favorable decision from the U.S. District Court, however, the local community fought enforcement of the decision and there was little support from the federal government, so Davis dropped his efforts to force enforcement in the school district.

His work on these integration cases, however, brought him an opportunity to assist Thurgood Marshall and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the legendary Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas case that brought an end to the segregation of public schools throughout the United States. After joining the National Bar Association based in Washington, D.C., he organized the organization's Fort Worth Black Bar Association branch. With the success of the Brown case, Davis then turned his attention to integrating the Fort Worth School District where he was successful in his attempts. With the success of his integration suits in Texas, Davis then sought to end the practice of discrimination in housing and employment in Texas.

In 1983, then Governor Mark White appointed Davis as a Judge in the Criminal District Court. In the upcoming general election, he won his re-election bid to the Court serving until 1988. He then moved to the District Court in Tarrant County. Before leaving that Court in 2004, he served in several capacities, including serving as Senior District Judge.

After leaving the bench, Davis joined the Fort Worth law firm of Johnson, Vaughn and Heiskell. There he primarily performs pro bono work. A firm believer in giving back to the community, Davis was an advocate for "pro bono" work. Seeing the need for more lawyers to engage in the practice and knowing it was of great service to those that could not afford an attorney, he gave his time and money to that end. In addition, he volunteers with the North Texas Legal Aid Society and the NAACP.

Davis has earned numerous awards and recognitions, including the NAACP's William Robert Ming Award, as well as the Blackstone Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Tarrant County Bar Association. Davis has also been inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, and was the 2015 recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from Texas Lawyer. He received the William Robert Ming Award from the NAACP Fort Worth Chapter and an elementary school in Fort Worth was named in his honor, the L. Clifford Davis Elementary School.



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Photo Not
Available



RICHARD A. DAWSON

...was born in Virginia in 1848. He earned his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. In 1869, he obtained his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. Dawson was the first Af-

frican American to graduate from the newly created law school doing so in June of 1870. After passing the Illinois Bar, he was the second African American to admitted to the bar doing so in July of 1870.

After being admitted to the state bar, Dawson went to Pine Bluff, Arkansas where he was also admitted to the Arkansas State Bar. In 1871, Dawson served as a Representative from Arkansas at a South Carolina African-American men's convention. Two years later, he was elected Senator to the Arkansas General Assembly representing Jefferson County. In the 1874 general election, at the age of twenty-four, he was re-elected to a second term.

In 1873, Dawson was a plaintiff in a successful lawsuit litigated by Mifflin Gibbs and Lloyd Wheeler. Dawson and his associates brought suit against a saloon owner that had violated their civil rights by refusing to serve them. His two attorneys argued the case on the bases that the saloon owner had violated the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the four plaintiffs were due damages.

In 1874, Dawson served as a clerk to the Jefferson County Court. He served as clerk for two years. After three years in private practice, in 1879, Dawson served for another term in the Arkansas General Assembly.

In 1891, after his second term ended in the Arkansas General Assembly, Dawson returned to Chicago, giving a speech to celebrate the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation before a gathering of African American politicians and civil rights advocates. A year later, he again returned to Chicago as an Arkansas representative at another meeting of "Colored Republicans" gathered to protest lynchings and other racial abuses by whites against blacks. From that gathering a resolution was drafted for presentation to the Republican Convention to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In 1896, Dawson moved from Arkansas to Chicago. There he became even more active with the Republican Party. Four years later, disillusioned with the course of actions that the Party upheld, Dawson switched to the Democratic Party.



WARREN HOPE DAWSON

...was born in Mulberry, Florida. He was the second African American student to graduate from Polk County High School. He attended college at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida graduating in 1961 with a degree

in Political Science. While attending FAMU, he was a distinguished military student in the school's Army ROTC program. As a gifted musician, he was also a member of the University's world famous marching band, "The Marching 100". He held the lead position in the varsity debate team and sang in the University choir.

After obtaining his undergraduate degree, he enlisted into the United States Army serving for two years. After his release from the Army, he enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School. He received his law degree from the university in 1966.

After receiving his law degree, Dawson returned to Florida where he was admitted to the Florida State Bar. He began his career as a private practice attorney. He accepted a job in Tampa with the National Labor Review Board. He was the first African American hired by the Board in the regional office.

In 1970, he entered the race for a seat in the Florida House of Representatives. Although he lost the race, he was the first African American candidate to make it to a runoff in Hillsborough County since the Reconstruction Era in the United States. He then took a job as an Assistant City Attorney. He again became a first, the first African American to serve in the City Attorney's office.

Dawson then joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their Legal Defense Fund (LDF). He took on their causes and cases affecting civil rights and voting rights issues. In 1974, Dawson began participation in ending segregation in Hillsborough County's public schools. The case would last for twenty-seven years ending in 2001.

He was a part of the case of *Warren v. City of Tampa*, a case that challenged the First, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and their violations committed by the City of Tampa. In 1980, the case had grown into a class action suit. In the case, Dawson challenged the City of Tampa's At-Large Council elections, which ended in the creation of single-member districts being instituted in the city and the county. This new election system gave way for more African Americans to be elected to political positions in the city.

Dawson, as a community activist, continued his fight for integration of the city and county's facilities, organizations and any all-white event that excluded blacks. When the City of Tampa won the 1990 National Football League's Super Bowl, he fought for integration of the all-white Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla (Gasparilla Pirate Festival). The large festival and parade has been held in Tampa since 1904, which celebrates mythical Spanish pirate Jose Gaspar

who operated in Southwest Florida in the 1800s. He also took on the owners of a local proposed theme park that wanted to have a slave ship as one of its' featured attractions. Thanks to Dawson, that attraction was shelved.

Always having been an advocate for the lives of African Americans, Dawson made another run for the Florida House of Representatives seeking to represent District 59. He lost that bid to Democratic candidate Betty Reed. Losing the election did not stop Dawson from working on behalf of Tampa's African American community.

When a massive forty-acre mixed use entertainment, residential, office, and retail development project was announced by Jeff Vinick, the owner of the Tampa Bay Lightning, Tampa's local professional hockey team, and financed by Microsoft's billionaire owner Bill Gates, Dawson fought to ensure minority owned companies benefitted from the contracts and jobs that would be awarded.

Tireless in his work on behalf of the residents of his community, Dawson has given much time and energy to causes surrounding the African American communities that he has served. An outstanding American, black or white, he continues to take part in ensuring that African Americans receive a fair share of opportunities that come about. In that, Dawson has been a leader and supporter of many in their attempts to achieve their necessary goals.

He has served as the President of the National Bar Association, which recognized his long legal career by inducting him into their Hall of Fame. He is a life member of The Fellows of the American Bar Association Foundation and served

as President of the Howard University Law Alumni Association. In addition, Dawson was a founder of Tampa's largest predominately African-American bar associations, the George Edgecomb Bar Association. He recently became a Board member to the local radio station, WMNF 88.5.

Active with the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Dawson is involved with the church's outreach programs aimed at improving the conditions in African American communities throughout the country. He was elected to the Judicial Council of the church, which has an estimated 7.5 million members in 39 countries. The Judicial Council acts as an appellate court giving final rulings on disputes within the church and the church's placements of its' pastors.

Dawson also lends his time to providing assistance in improving the relationships between local law enforcement and the black communities in Tampa. With the spike in police shootings across the country and the community up in arms, He works to bring an end to the violence. Believing that his Christian spirit does not approve of violence against anyone, he works to end violence in the black community, no matter which side it comes from, police or members of the community.

Dawson has been given many honors during his political career. His alma mater, Florida A&M University bestowed upon him a Doctor of Humane Letters degree and the Hillsborough School Board named a new elementary school in his honor. With no plans to retire, Warren Hope Dawson continues to operate his practice as he enjoys what he is doing in protecting and taking care of his community in Tampa. Believing that he can still do great things for those that seek his services, his doors are always open.



WILLIAM LEVI DAWSON

...was born on April 26, 1886 in Albany, Georgia. He graduated high school in 1905 from Albany Normal School, a school that prepared its' graduates to teach lower level education at the school. He enrolled into Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where he earned his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, in 1909.

After graduation, Dawson relocated to Evanston, Illinois where he attended Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Theta Chapter. He left the school in 1912 after completing requirements for his law degree.

Before he could begin his law career, Dawson had to fulfill his military duties. He enlisted into the United States Army and served in World War I. He was shipped to France and served in the 355th Infantry Regiment and left the Army as a First Lieutenant. In 1919, Dawson left the Army returned to Illinois, settling in Chicago.

Dawson operated as a private practice attorney for the next several years handling a varied caseload. As he built his client base, he became heavily involved with Chicago's inner circle of political elite. As his political clout grew, so did his ambitions. With U.S. President Roosevelt's New Deal administration in power, with the promise of more opportunities, more and more African American's were leaving the Republican Party to join the Democratic Party. Having lost some of his Republican Party backer, Dawson followed and switched his Republican Party affiliation to Democrat

In 1930, as a Republican, Dawson was named as a State Central Committeeman for the First Congressional District of Illinois. He would serve on the Committee for two years. Dawson' switch to the Democratic Party then paid off. He was appointed as the Democratic 2nd Ward Committeeman by newly elected Democratic Mayor, Edward J. Kelly.

In 1930, as a Republican, Dawson was named as a State Central Committeeman for the First Congressional District of Illinois. He would serve on the Committee for two years. Dawson' switch to the Democratic Party then paid off. He was appointed as the Democratic 2nd Ward Committeeman by newly elected Democratic Mayor, Edward J. Kelly.

In 1943, as a Democrat, he was elected as the Democratic Representative from the state of Illinois to the U.S. House of Representatives. He was the only African American serving in Congress during his first term. While serving in the House, Dawson opposed the poll tax, citing its discriminatory practices against African American and poorer voters. He is credited with the defeat of the Win-

stead Amendment proposed by Mississippi Representative William Winstead, which would have allowed white military members to opt out of being assigned to a black military unit.

Dawson became the first African American to serve as the Chairman of a Congressional Committee when he chaired the Committee on expenditures in Executive Departments in the 81st and 82nd U.S. Congress. For the 84th and 91st Congress, he served on the Committee on Government Operations. He would serve in the House for twenty-seven years.

In 1952, at the annual conference of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, a national civil rights organization, Dawson was the featured speaker. The conference was held in the all-black town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. In making that speech, he was the first African American Congressman to speak in the state since the end of Reconstruction in 1877.

In Cook County Illinois, as black politics went, Dawson was the leader of the predominantly African-American wards. He led the Cook County Democratic Organization. Having aligned himself with the powerful Mayor Richard J. Daley, Dawson did not support the civil rights protest of Martin Luther King, Jr., or any other activist that wanted to topple Chicago's powerful political machine, of which Dawson found himself accepted. He ran his Wards in similar fashion to how Daley ran the city, patronizing his friends and punishing his rivals. Dawson had to constantly feed the bigger machine, Daley, in order to keep his own clout.

In the 1960 United States general election, Dawson campaigned for Democratic Candidate John F. Kennedy. Upon his election, Kennedy offered Dawson a position of United States Postmaster General for his work on the campaign. Dawson declined. He felt he could accomplish more as a Congressman than as Postmaster General.

Dawson's career was not always easy with the black community. Many were opposed to his tactics as they thought he was too soft and needed to take bolder positions when it came to issues surrounding the black community. Many wanted to go against the city's reluctance to make needed improvements in the black community and felt he was playing a "behind-the-scenes" negotiator, and not always in the community's best interest. Non-committal and evasive to questions posed to him by his constituents, Dawson kept his allegiance to the Daley power machine intact. He did however, pick up and coming political minds to mentor, which he did in a young Archibald Carey, Jr., helping him to jumpstart his political career.

William Levi Dawson died on November 9, 1970 of pneumonia in his Chicago home. He was eighty-four years old.





CHARLES EDWARD DAYE

... was born on May 4, 1944 in Durham, North Carolina. After graduating from Durham's public schools, he attended local Durham's North Carolina Central University (NCCU) where

he received his Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude and was a leader in the schools student government. For his law degree, he attended Columbia University School of Law in New York City, New York. At Columbia, Daye was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and graduated cum laude in 1969.

After leaving Columbia, he served as a clerk for Judge Harry Phillips on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He was the first African American to serve as a law clerk on the Sixth Circuit. He then practiced law serving as an associate attorney in the firm of Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood in New York City. Daye left the New York City law firm moving to Washington, D.C. to work for the firm of Covington & Burling. After a period of time in Washington, he moved further south to join the law faculty at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill in 1972. In accepting the faculty position, Daye became the first African American to hold a tenure-track position for the law school.

In 1979, Daye was named as the Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers. As Executive Secretary, he played instrumental in ensuring that the UNC Law School and other law schools across the country become more diverse in their pursuit of students attending their law schools. He was particularly desirous that the schools attract more African American students into their class courses.

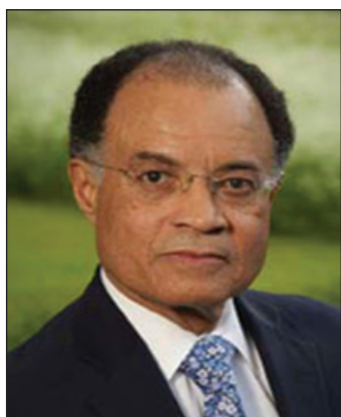
In 1981, Daye became the Dean of the NCCU School of Law. He remained the Dean for four years before returning to UNC to join the UNC law faculty in 1985. For his dedicated teaching and his leadership as the Dean, in 1991, he was named as a Henry Brandis Distinguished Professor. In his teaching, Daye taught Housing and Community Development and Administrative Advocacy. He also authored several articles and books on the topics.

In 1991, Daye became the President of the Law School Admission Council and served for two years. He then became a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Minorities in the Profession and later served as the Chair of the Association of American Law School's Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure. Daye also served as the Black Law Students Association as an advisor.

Daye, along with co-authors, J. Kushner, P. Salsich, H. McGee, D. Keating, B. Bezdek, O. Hetzel, D. Mandelker, and R. Washburn penned the course book, "Housing and Community Development". He later co-authored, "North Carolina Law of Torts" with Professor Mark Morris of NCCU School of Law. Other written works have been published of Daye's writing on subjects related to affirmative action, academic support programs, constitutional law, empirical analysis of educational diversity, ethics in law school admissions, housing, state administrative procedure, and torts.

Daye has served as the Chair of the UNC's Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid and has served as the Chair of the University's Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board. He also served as the Deputy Director of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. Daye has given service to several nonprofit and public service organizations, including serving as the President the Law School Admission Council, as the President of Triangle Housing Development Corporation, and as Vice President for Legal Affairs of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice. Daye has also served as a member of the Board for the Center for Community Self Help.

Daye has been awarded several distinguished honors for his legal service including receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the UNC Thomas Jefferson Award, and an Outstanding Faculty Award. An award was named in Daye's honor of which he was awarded, The Charles E. Daye Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. He was also presented with the Professor S. Elizabeth Gibson Award for Faculty Excellence. In addition, Daye was given an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts.



DREW SAUNDERS DAYS, III

... was born in Atlanta, Georgia on August 29, 1941. At an early age his mother, a school teacher, and his father, an accountant moved to Tampa, Florida, trying to find a better life. The family re-

mained in Tampa until the relocated to New Rochelle, New York to escape the segregated South.

Before leaving Tampa, Days was indoctrinated to America's "separate but equal" way of life. He attended a segregated school, rode segregated buses, ate at segregated lunch counters, and drank from segregated water fountains. Years later, after becoming an attorney, Days would successfully argue for the desegregation of the Tampa school system.

One saving grace for Days, was that his father was an officer in an insurance company headed by famed Mary McLeod Bethune, a civil rights activist and a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of then President Theodore Roosevelt. From those early interactions, Days knew he would be involved in civil rights and individual liberties.

The family moved frequently before landing in New York. He graduated from a New Rochelle High School. He enrolled into Hamilton College in Clinton, New York earning his undergraduate degree before attending Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. At Yale, he excelled academically and sang in the Russian Chorus as a featured tenor.

As a student, Days took classes centered on the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, discrimination and civil rights. He became involved in the student organization, The Law Students Civil Rights Research Council. The Council was involved in a national program that arranged for law students to spend summers interning in the offices of civil rights lawyers in the South. Those summers became a turning point for Days.

During the summer of his junior year, Days interned in Albany, Georgia for civil rights lawyer C.B. King. Representing many civil rights workers, King was beaten and bloodied by the local Sheriff after King looked into the disappearance of a civil rights worker. Seeing King's blood flow down his face onto his white shirt, Day's was amazed that King withstood the beating and persisted in his pursuit of the truth.

Working with King and other civil rights lawyers on voting rights and segregation cases, Days learned how to endure and rise above the hatred by whites in the pursuit of civil liberties for the blacks in Georgia. Day in and Day out,

Days' resolve grew deeper and deeper. He saw the unjust treatment of blacks on a daily bases. What Days witnessed during those hot summer days became a very pivotal experience for him.

After graduation from law school, he began his legal career for a short time in Chicago, Illinois before volunteering to the Peace Corps, being sent to Honduras. He served the Peace Corps for two years. In 1969, he returned to the United States and became First Assistant Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) in New York City. For the next eight years, he litigated various civil rights cases for the LDF.

Leaving the LDF, President Jimmy Carter, in 1977, nominated him to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the United States Department of Justice. There he led an aggressive campaign for the enforcement of the nation's civil rights laws. Days left the Justice Department in 1981 to join the faculty of the Yale Law School. As a faculty member of Yale's Law School, in 1988, he founded the Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for Human Rights. He served as its Director until 1993.

He became the Solicitor General in the Department of Justice in 1993, this time being nominated by President Clinton to serve. Back at the Justice Department, he represented the interests of the United States in arguments before the Supreme Court. In his new position, Days' first argument before the Supreme Court was to correct a wrong decision by a lower court in *Knox v. United States*, a child pornography case. Although the lower court's decision had been ruled in favor of the government, he plead for the Supreme Court to vacate Knox's conviction for possession of child pornography. The Supreme Court found in favor of Days and the case was remanded to Circuit Court.

Leaving the Clinton administration, Days returned to private practice and to teach at Yale Law School. He remained involved in national and international efforts to help cure social and economic issues. He was involved in the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts, has lent his time to help alleviate poverty amongst poorer Americans, placed emphases on environmental concerns, and has been a voice for juvenile justice for America's youth.

With the purpose to promote diversity awareness and fostering dialogue among the wide variety of cultures represented on Hamilton College's campus, in 2011, the college opened the Days-Massolo Center. The center is dedicated to Days and a fellow Hamilton trustee Arthur J. Massolo. Days also served as a Trustee at Hamilton College.

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Available



D AVID DEAN

...was born in 1934. After graduating from high school, Dean enrolled into Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California where he received his undergraduate degree in 1972. He was a naturally gifted pi-

anist and organist and had a very deep love and passion for music, however, he turned away from a music and performing career to work a career as a lawyer when he was wrongfully faulted after an automobile accident. It was that losing encounter that made Dean want to become a lawyer to help others that may be caught in a similar situation and too may be innocent of the crime.

San Francisco, at the time, was saturated with young attorneys, so Dean and his wife, Jeannette, decided to stake a claim elsewhere. They chose Reno, Nevada as the destination to start their new lives. In Reno, Dean was able to obtain a job as a clerk for Nevada Judge Peter Breen. He worked in the Judges office until he took and passed the Nevada Bar exam.

After passing the Nevada State Bar exam, Dean left Judge Breen's tutelage to open his own general law private practice. In opening his own law firm, he became the first African American attorney to practice law in the city of Reno, Nevada. His law firm was also the only African American law firm in the city.

Dean soon had more cases than he could handle and most of them were from potential clients who did not have enough money to pay for his services. He found a way to work with them in scheduling payments and sometimes traded an item, such as a car, in exchange for the service bill. Other times, he simply wrote the charges off as pro bono services. Dean took on cases that others would not, that had fear that the accused was guilty as charged before looking at or considering any evidence.

A highly articulate and intense man, Dean twice ran unsuccessfully for several political positions in Reno. He first ran for a judgeship on the Reno Justice Court in Department 2 of which he lost. He later ran for a seat on the Reno City Council, again losing. He then ran for a seat on the Reno Municipal, which he once more was unsuccessful.

Dean then accepted an appointment as Special Deputy State Attorney General for the Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens. He then became an Associate Counsel for the Nevada Commerce Department's insurance division.

Dean smoked a cherry-flavored tobacco pipe all his adult life, which ended with him growing lung cancer. When he was diagnosed as terminal, Dean did not want anyone to know and instructed his wife, Jeannette, not to tell anyone of his announced death, not even to some of their closest associates. Word did get out that Dean was indeed terminal. His closest friends immediately set up a trust fund for the family to alleviate any living concerns they may have.

After years of smoking his beloved cherry-flavored tobacco, David Dean died on September 30, 1986 of lung cancer. He was fifty-two years old.



MERCEDES FRANCIS DEIZ

...was born Mercedes Francis Lopez on December 13, 1917 in New York City, New York to a Czechoslovakian mother and a Cuban father. She grew up poor as the oldest of ten children but rich in culture. Growing up in the fast paced city, Lopez

spent much of her time in the library reading and visiting the city's many museums learning about art and culture.

Lopez graduated from high school at the age of sixteen and attended Hunter College in her hometown, New York City. While earning her undergraduate degree, she worked several jobs as a maid, switchboard operator, a theater usher, and as a ticket clerk. Lopez completed only three years of her studies at Hunter and then got married and had a child at the age of nineteen.

An activist, Lopez helped to organize women in their employment and held fundraisers to help pay attorneys to litigate discrimination cases. After twelve years in marriage, she left her husband and moved west to Portland, Oregon to live with her brother. She arrived in Portland with only \$12 in her possession.

In Portland, Lopez began to look for work. She found it difficult to find a job as the employers were looking for "men only" even though she was qualified. When she was denied service in a Portland restaurant, she became so disillusioned with the discriminatory practices of employers and the segregated practices in Portland that she joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and became active in the Portland Urban League. After a continued job search, Lopez was able to land a job working for the Bonneville Power Administration.

After working for a while at Bonneville, Lopez sought an opening at the company that paid better wages, however, the job description stated on men or veterans need apply. She eventually left the company to take a job with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). While working at the IRS, Lopez met Carl Deiz, fell in love, and in 1949, the two were married. They would have two more children together.

Lopez, now Deiz, left her job at the IRS to work for a local law firm as a legal assistant. She always wanted to become a lawyer so decided to return to school to complete her education and obtain a law degree. Her husband helped care for the children while she attended night school at the Northwestern School of Law. She earned her law degree in 1960 finishing fourth in her graduating class. She was admitted to the Oregon State Bar that same year.

In passing the bar exam, Deiz became the first African American woman to be admitted to the state bar. The first African American woman to practice law in Oregon was Beatrice Morrow Cannady, however, she never passed the state bar

exam. Cannady failed the exam on separate five occasions.

After passing the bar exam and receiving her law license, Deiz practiced as a trial lawyer for eight years representing mostly white males. She then was named as an Administrative Law Judge handling worker's compensation disputes for two years. In 1969, Deiz was appointed by then Governor Tom McCall as a District Court Judge. She was the first African American woman to serve on the District Court. Three years later, in 1972, Judge Deiz was elected as a Judge to the Multnomah County Circuit Court. She won the seat as the only woman in the race and defeated seven men who sought the position.

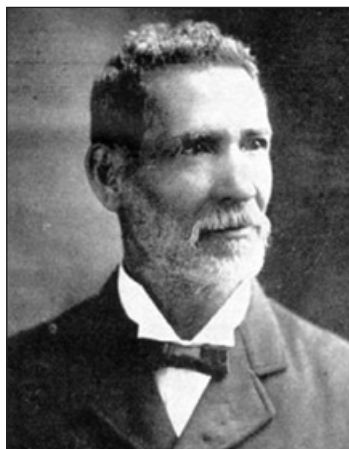
While serving on the bench, Judge Deiz was an advocate for affirmative action and for children in family court. In that regard, she served on the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth and the Metropolitan Youth Commission. She mentored and tutored young lawyers on the nuances of the law and wore her ethnicity proudly. Although her father was of white ancestry, she identified herself with her black Cuban roots. As the first African American female Judge, she was under constant scrutiny and responded by always being gracious with determined confidence.

As a sitting Judge, Judge Deiz served on the Oregon Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Issues in the Judicial System and served on the Multnomah Bar Association's Status of Women Committee. Judge Deiz also served as a member of the Public Service and Information Committee, chaired the Minor Courts Committee, and the Press and Broadcasters Committee. She was a founding member of the National Association for Women Judges and was involved with the National Bar Association, the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association and the Owen Panner Inns of Court. After serving on the bench for four six-year terms, Judge Deiz was forced into retirement in 1992 due to mandatory age limits.

Judge Deiz then taught as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts and at her alma mater, Hunter College. She served as the Secretary and Treasurer to the Multnomah Bar Association; was a member of the American Bar Association, Queen's Bench' and was a member of the American Judicature Society. Judge Deiz was also a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

For her dedicated service to the Oregon legal profession and service given to Portland residents, the Oregon Women Lawyers Association created the Judge Mercedes Deiz Award. The award is given to "an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to promoting minorities in the legal profession and in the community." The Northwestern School of Law presented Judge Deiz with a Distinguished Alumna Award and the Oregon Women's Lawyer's Association presented her with the its' Mother of Achievement Award. Judge Deiz has received many other awards and recognitions during her illustrious career as well.

Judge Mercedes Deiz died on October 5, 2005. She was eighty-seven years old.



RODOLPHE LUCIEN DESDUNES

...was born on November 15, 1849 in New Orleans, Louisiana to and Henriette Angélique (Sonty) Pierre Jérémie Desdunes. His mother was Cuban and his father was Haitian. His family manufactured cigars, as they owned a tobacco plantation. Des-

dunes attended integrated schools in New Orleans, which was the norm at that time.

In the 1870s, Desdunes joined the efforts of the pro-black civil rights organization, the Young Men's Progressive Association. He joined the

Louisiana militia and fought in the Battle of Liberty Place, a fight between the Crescent City White League and the Reconstructed Louisiana state government in 1874. In the battle, the elected government had attempted to be overthrown by white insurgents opposed to the Party's views of disenfranchisement of blacks.

In 1879, Desdunes was appointed as Secretary of his parish's Vice Committee and worked as a member of the New Orleans Police Department. He was a member of the international fraternity, Odd Fellows. For the fraternity, he translated the lodge's rituals into French. He joined the Republican Party and became the Secretary of the Republican State Central Committee of Louisiana.

After receiving his law degree, Desdunes worked for the United States Customs House in New Orleans twice, first from 1879 to 1885 as a messenger and then again from 1899 to 1912 as a clerk. He also served as the cashier. In 1891, Desdunes was appointed Chief Clerk of the Sub-Treasury in New Orleans.

Desdunes grew up in New Orleans when public facilities, restaurants and hotels were integrated. During the late 1880s, that began to change. The Louisiana State Legislature enacted laws that established segregation in the state. To fight these new laws, Desdunes became a member of the L'Union Louisianais, a local union, and also wrote for the union's weekly newspaper.

While working, Desdunes attended undergrad school and received his law degree from Straight University in New Orleans in 1882. In 1884, Desdunes, his brother, Aristide, and several others re-opened the Couvent School where both brothers served on the Board of Directors. Desdunes also served as a teacher.

In 1889, Desdunes took the job as Editor of a weekly black newspaper, The Crusader. The newspaper was printed in both English and French. As Editor, Desdunes used his position to encourage the black and Creole community to right the segregationist laws being implemented. The publisher, Louis A. Martinet, endorsed Desdunes's editorials and urged legal actions from New Orleans attorneys.

Desdunes and Martinet became a voice for civil rights for residents of New Orleans and those across the United States that

the new segregation laws affected. Together, they developed the American Citizens Equal Rights Association (ACERA), a national civil rights organization. After the Louisiana State Legislature passed "The Separate Car Act 1890", which segregated railroad passenger cars, many of ACERA's supporters dropped out fearing intimidation by white segregationist. They then formed the Citizens Committee ("Comité des Citoyens") to continue their civil rights fights.

Backed by a wealthy New Orleans compassionate woman, in 1892, Desdunes had his son, Daniel, board an interstate train to challenge the law. He was promptly arrested but acquitted due to the train being an interstate train instead of an intrastate one. Desdunes then had Homer Plessy, who could pass for white, purchase a ticket and board the East Louisiana Railroad's white's only car to challenge the law on an intrastate train four months later. Arrested and found guilty of violating the segregated law, Desdunes and a group of other lawyers appealed the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Their legendary Plessy vs. Ferguson, the named sitting judge who ruled that the state had the right to enforce the law, set the precedent for the establishment of the "separate but equal" law that the U.S. Supreme Court handed down in 1896. Although blacks were allowed to travel within the state on the railroads, their separate facilities were far from equal.

Also in 1892, Desdunes served as a speaker for the Louisiana Republican Party during their campaigns calling for support of moderate candidates in political elections having Louisiana ties. Desdunes gave support to candidates that denounced the lynching of blacks, opposed poll taxes, desired to build more schools for education, and sought to end black suffrage. Each demand was included in Louisiana's 1898 Constitution under Article 197.

That was the last legal or political activity that Desdunes was involved in. He returned to work for the New Orleans Customs House. He also turned his attention to writing and penned several articles and books. In 1911, he published "Our People and Our History: Fifty Creole Portraits", which depicted the lives of prominent Creoles living in New Orleans. He left his job at the Customs House in 1912 after granite dust blew in his eyes while supervising the unloading of a cargo ship, which left him partially blind.

After the injury, Desdunes left New Orleans for Omaha, Nebraska to live with his son, Daniel. He became involved with the local community there and continued his writing, using poetry as his means of release. He submitted various written works to local newspapers, including the Omaha World-Herald which described him as "Omaha's Blind Negro Poet". For the next seventeen years, Desdunes enjoyed his retirement and his writing.

Rodolphe Lucien Desdunes died at the home of his son, Daniel, in Omaha, Nebraska from cancer of the larynx on August 14, 1928. His remains were interned back in New Orleans in the family tomb of St. Louis Cemetery No. 2.



HUBERT THOMAS DELANY

...was born on May 14, 11, 1901 in Raleigh, North Carolina to Nannette James Logan Delany and the Rev. Henry Beard Delany. He was the eighth of ten children and attended the St. Augustine School in Raleigh where his father served as

the Vice Principal of the school. His mother served as a teacher and administrator. He graduated high school in 1919.

He received his undergraduate degree from the City College of New York in 1923. He remained in New York to earn his law degree, attending the New York University School of Law in 1926. While in college, he joined the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the first African American men's Greek fraternity to be founded in the United States.

After receiving his law degree, Delany married Clarissa Scott, a Harlem Renaissance poet, essayist, educator, and social worker for the National Urban League. As newlyweds, they worked together gathering statistics for a project, "Study of Delinquent and Neglected Negro Children". Unfortunately, Scott died a year later from kidney disease.

In 1926, Delany was appointed by then U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Charles H. Tuttle as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. During his stay at the U.S. Attorney's Office, he would win 493 of the 500 cases he litigated in the U.S. District Court. He became the first African American to serve in the office and the highest paid African American federal appointee in the United States. For his service to the city, then Mayor LaGuardia appointed him as the Tax Commissioner, the first African American to serve as Commissioner.

In 1929, Delany ran for a seat in Congress representing the 21st District, today's 13th District. He won the Republican primary candidacy but lost in the general election. In losing, Delany garnered 37.9% of the votes and gained the respect and friendship of then Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia.

Years later, after the 1935 Harlem riots, La Guardia would call upon Delany and other civil rights and community leaders to sit on a commission to study the causes of the riot. La Guardia had thought that communist agitators had caused the riot. The commission found that it was caused by the deprived conditions and racial discrimination that existed in the city.

In 1933, Delany joined the law firm of Mintzer, Todarelli and Kleid. He left three years later to form his own law firm. His firm represented classical contralto Marian Anderson in 1939 when the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) refused to allow her to sing at Washington, D.C.'s Constitution Hall because of her color. Delany introduced a resolution that allowed her to perform on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial instead. Because of the uproar caused by the DAR's discriminatory act of refusing to allow Anderson to

sing, many of DAR's members resigned from the organization, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

In 1942, Mayor La Guardia appointed Delany as a Justice of New York's Family Court. On the bench, Delany served with liberal fairness and leaned toward protecting issues surrounding families with children. Some of his critics believed his left-wing views were communist based and with the election of Mayor Robert F. Wagner, when his appointment renewal came up in 1955, the Mayor declined to re-appoint him.

In 1956, Delany retired from the Domestic Relations Court. He joined the law firm with attorneys Emile Zola Berman, A. Harold Frost, and George J. Mintzer. The trio litigated cases in the state courts of New York, the Federal District Courts, the Circuit Courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Delany served as an advisor to many high profile clients. He advised civil rights activists Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and United States Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.. He served as an advisor to famed opera singer Marian Anderson, esteemed poet Langston Hughes, and civil rights activists and singer, Paul Robeson. He represented Simms Campbell, a famous cartoonist and bandleader Cab Calloway. He also represented Major League Baseball great Jackie Robinson.

That year, Delany became a consultant to the State of Israel's Minister of Justice studying Israel's juvenile delinquency and to reorganize its Domestic Relations Courts. Back in America, Delany and his collaborating attorney, William Robert Ming represented Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a Montgomery, Alabama federal charge of tax evasion case. King was acquitted in the historic case tried in front of an all-white southern jury.

In 1963, then New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller appointed Delany as Chairman of Temporary State Commission on Low-income Housing. The powerful commission held authority with full legislative power to integrate New York's public housing. The commission was the forerunner to the New York State Urban Development Corporation and the Empire State Development Corporation. The commission is credited with creating over 88,000 low-income housing units for New York residents.

During his lengthy career, Delany worked diligently on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served on their Board of Directors and as the organization's Vice-President of their Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Together with the many attorneys working for the organization, Delany litigated legendary cases that impacted the lives of African Americans favorably.

For his years of service, he was given far too many awards and recognitions to list here. In addition, his service to the many communities he served across the country are too vast to name in this short biography. Worth noting are two awards given to Delany. He received a Honorary Legum Doctor award from Lincoln University, a historically black university in Pennsylvania and a Honorary Fellowship from the University of Tel Aviv in Israel. Only two Americans had ever been awarded a Honorary Fellowship up until that time.

Hubert Thomas Delany died on December 28, 1990. He was eighty-nine years old.



EARL B. DICKERSON

...was on June 22, 1891 in Canton, Mississippi to Emma Garrett Fielding Dickerson and Edward Dickerson. Earl's father died when he was five years old. When he was sixteen, he stowed away in a railway car and made

his way to Chicago, Illinois. In 1909, he graduated from a prep school sponsored by the University of Chicago. Three years later, after marrying his wife Inez Moss, he began his collegiate career by attending Northwestern University in Chicago before transferring to the University of Illinois at Urbana where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1913. While there he helped to establish the Beta Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

After completing college, Dickerson accepted a teaching job at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama under the leadership of Booker T. Washington. After teaching for a year, he returned to Chicago and began to work his way through college for two years at the University of Chicago Law School. Dickerson took time away from his legal studies to serve in World War I in 1917. He enlisted into the U.S. Army where he served as an infantryman with the American Expeditionary Force's 92nd Division in France. He would leave the military at the rank as a Second Lieutenant.

While in the Army, Dickerson protested discrimination practices as it related to black soldiers. On his trip back to the United States aboard the returning ship, he lobbied black officers to sign a petition indicating the discriminatory practices that had been implemented by the U.S. Army. After serving for two years at war, the return trip included subpar sleeping quarters having been given certain areas to sleep on the ship's open deck.

Returning from the war, he resumed his law studies and re-enrolled into the University of Chicago Law School where he received his J.D. degree. He became the first African American to earn a Doctorate of Law degree from the University. Still angered by the discrimination he experienced in the Army, while in law school, he helped to found the American Legion for black veterans and personally organized the George L. Giles Post 87 in Chicago.

The following year, Dickerson assisted in the founding of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company and became its' General Counsel. The company was created to fill the need by African Americans to obtain insurances, mortgage loans, and employment opportunities in the insurance industry. The company would grow to become the largest African American owned

business in the northern part of the United States. Dickerson would later become the company's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

In 1927, Dickerson played a part in the opening of the Burr Oak Cemetery in Cook County. At the time, there were not many places for blacks to be buried in the County. When the cemetery defaulted on their loan, Dickerson and Supreme Life provided financing to save the cemetery from bankruptcy.

During that time, Dickerson started a private law firm with fellow law school graduate Wendell E. Green. He also performed work for the City of Chicago as an attorney. In 1933, he became the first African American to be appointed as Illinois Assistant Attorney General. He would serve in that role for six years. In 1939, he was elected as an Alderman on the Chicago City Council becoming the first African American to serve. He served on the Council until 1943. While on the Council, he helped to found the African American Chapter of the American Legion in Chicago.

That same year, Dickerson was hired to represent a black businessman, Carl Hansberry, the father of famed playwright, Lorraine Hansberry, who had moved into a Chicago all-white neighborhood. His neighbor, Anna Lee, filed a lawsuit against him, *Hansberry v. Lee*, for violating a city covenant that restricted blacks from living in the area. The case, which eventually was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, and won by Dickerson in 1940, set into motion the eradication of the restrictive covenant laws in Chicago that discriminated against African Americans in Chicago and across the United States as well. Ironically, it was Dickerson and the Supreme Life Insurance Company that had provided Hansberry the mortgage to his house.

In 1941, Dickerson was appointed by then President Theodore Roosevelt to the President's Fair Employment Practices Commission. The Commission was tasked with "banning discriminatory employment practices by Federal agencies and all unions and companies engaged in war-related work. The Commission was established shortly before the United States entered World War II. Two years later, Roosevelt signed another order that gave the Commission its' independent status.

In 1947, Dickerson was elected as President of the National Bar Association. He has served the legal community, affiliated associations, and other community based organizations in many capacities during his years of service. He has served as President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), President of the Chicago Urban League, and the President of the National Lawyers Guild. As President of the Guild, he became the first African American to hold the position of President of any integrated Bar association. For His fraternity, the Kappa Alpha Psi, he served as Grand Polemarch.

Earl B. Dickerson died on September 1, 1986 in his Chicago home. He was laid to rest next to his wife Kathryn in Burr Oak Cemetery, the same cemetery that he helped found years before. As a gesture to his memory, the University of Chicago Black Law Students Association was named in his honor.





M AHALA ASHLEY DICKERSON

...was born on October 12, 1912 in Montgomery County, Alabama to Hattie Moss Ashley and John Augustine Ashley. Her parents owned a general store. She

and her two sisters attended the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls, a private K-8 school for African American girls established in 1886 by Alice White and H. Margaret Beard, two white Christian education Reformers. The school had as its' purpose to provide education for students in the segregated South hoping to inspire them to become teachers.

At the school, she became friends with another female student, Rosa Parks. Parks would later become involved in the civil rights movement and would become a crucial participant in the Montgomery Bus Boycott years later. Dickerson would later become an advocate for civil rights as well.

After completing high school, Dickerson would attend Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. She graduated cum laude in 1935 with a degree in Sociology. She met and married Henry Dickerson in 1938. Together, they had three sons, triplets. Unfortunately, their marriage ended the following year.

Six years later, she enrolled into Howard University's Law School in Washington, D.C. where she became one of four women in her class of 1945 to graduate. As she had done at Fisk, she graduated from Howard cum laude. After graduation, she returned to her home state of Alabama. She took and passed the state bar in 1946, becoming the first African American woman to be admitted to the bar in Alabama. She began her legal career practicing law in Montgomery and Tuskegee.

Dickerson met and married Frank Beckwith in May of 1951. They relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana where she took and passed the Indiana state bar exam. She wasn't the first African American woman to be admitted to the Indiana state bar, but she was the second. Unfortunately, her marriage to Beckwith also ended in divorce. She then moved to Alaska.

When she first arrived in Alaska in 1958, Dickerson settled near Wasilla where she homestead 160 acres of

land. As she did in Alabama and Indiana, Dickerson took and passed the Alaska state bar exam. Like Alabama, she became the first African American woman admitted to the bar in that state.

Beginning her legal practice in Alaska, Dickerson chose the city of Anchorage, as it was the states' largest city. For several years, she took on ordinary cases and advocated for the poor and the underprivileged, whether black or white. She serviced her Alaskan clients cases with nothing special or headline worthy until 1975. In 1975, she took on her most distinguished case when she represented several University of Alaska professors who filed suit in an attempt to receive higher wages as they were paid less because they were female. She was not successful in the case, however, it was later reversed on appeal. With this case, Dickerson began to look at the equality in women's rights as a focus.

She became dedicated to women and human rights, especially as they related to employment in the workforce. Many of her cases were conducted as pro bono cases. During her time there, she also mentored other up and coming attorneys.

Dickerson, during her legal career, has been recognized for her many contributions to civil right and the laws surrounding them. Her outstanding work was recognized by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) when she was honored by them in 1982. A year later, the National Association of Women Lawyers chose her as their President. She became the first African American to serve as the President of the organization.

She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree in 1984 by the University of Alaska. The American Bar Association, in 1995, honored her with their Margaret Brent Award for her outstanding service given to the law profession. She was awarded the Alabama State Bar's Maud McLure Kelly Award in 2006.

Her autobiography, *Delayed Justice for Sale*, showcases her life and views on how she gave her services to the poor and underprivileged in Alaska and throughout the United States. Dickerson kept her practice in Alaska until she was ninety-one years old. She died at the age of ninety-five on her homestead in Wasilla, Alaska on February 19, 2007. She was buried on her property in Wasilla.



CHARLES COLES DIGGS, JR.

...was born on December 2, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan to Mayme E. Jones Diggs and Charles Diggs. He was their only child. A prominent family, the family owned an ambulance service, a funeral insurance company, and a mortuary. His father

also was a wealthy real estate investor.

During the 1920s, due to the U.S. automobile industry's rapid growth, Detroit's black population tripled. A massive influx of southern blacks in search of work and greater earnings made the city grow at a faster rate than any other northern city. Diggs, Sr., took great advantage of the opportunity becoming one of black Detroit's most influential businessmen. His community status granted him becoming the first African American Democrat elected to the Michigan State Senate.

Diggs, Jr., taking from his father's educational acumen, graduated from Detroit's Miller High School in 1940. He matriculated to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor but after two years there, he transferred to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. A year later, on February 19, 1943, he joined the United States Army Air Forces as a private. Serving in World War II, Diggs became a member of a segregated Army unit stationed in Alabama. At the rank of Second Lieutenant, Diggs took a discharge from the military on June 1, 1945.

Resuming his academic career, Diggs enrolled into Wayne College of Mortuary Science back in Detroit. Graduating in 1946, he joined his father's funeral business as Chairman of "The House of Diggs, Inc", by then Michigan's largest funeral home. To earn extra income, he gave weekly commentaries on local and current affairs on a radio show sponsored by the family business.

In 1952, Diggs enrolled into Detroit College of Law, later renamed The Michigan State University College of Law in East Lansing. In his first year in law school, he was elected to the Michigan State Senate from the 3rd District serving until 1954. His dedication to the social causes of his constituents while serving in the State Senate, Diggs ran and was elected to a seat in the 84th Congress. He would be re-elected to the next twelve Congresses through 1980. He became the first African American to be elected to Congress from the state of Michigan.

Having a great passion for civil rights for Africans and African Americans and prompted by the 1955 murder of Em-

mett Till, a young black Chicago, Illinois teen visiting relatives in Money, Mississippi, Diggs realized that Tallahatchie County, Mississippi did not have any African American registered voters. The only member of Congress to attend Till's funeral, Diggs immediately began a campaign to slash Mississippi's representation in Congress bringing it into proportion with its' disenfranchised African American population.


In April of 1955, at the annual conference of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership (RCNL), said to be the largest civil rights group in the state, Diggs spoke to a crowd of about 10,000. That Mound Bayou, Mississippi speech helped local civil rights activist move their agenda forward in their pursuit of voter registration rights. He used his political seat to then raise money to "get out the vote" appeals.

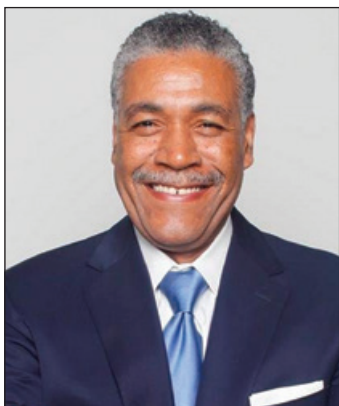
From his radio program, he raised nearly \$4,500 to help support the Montgomery bus boycott. As an elected official, he attended Martin Luther King Jr.'s boycott violation trial in Montgomery, Alabama. His interest in the low rates of African American registered voters in the South were shared views of King's. In 1957, he joined the Advisory Board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

For the next several years, Diggs continued his fight against the Jim Crow laws of the South. In Congress, he was appointed as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa on the Committee on Foreign Affairs. As Chairman, he strongly advocated ending Apartheid in South Africa with his 'Action Manifesto' of 1972.

Diggs was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Began in 1971 by thirteen African American U.S. Senators and House of Representative members who wanted to address the needs and rights of their black constituents the represented. Diggs became the Caucus' first Chairman. As Chairman, he successfully led a Caucus boycott of President Nixon's State of the Union Address after Nixon refused to meet with the Caucus members to discuss issues relevant to African Americans.

Diggs faced political scandal in 1978, when he was charged with taking kickbacks from his staff after raising their salaries and diverting office operating funds for his own personal use. He was convicted on eleven counts of mail fraud and filing false payroll forms on October 7, 1978. Claiming no wrong, he was re-elected while awaiting sentencing. On July 31, 1979, he was censured by the U.S. House and subsequently resigned from Congress on June 3, 1980. He received a three years in prison although he only served seven months.

After being released from prison, Diggs returned to Detroit and the family's funeral business. He remained in the business until his death in 1998. While visiting Washington, D.C., as a result of a stroke, Diggs died at Greater Southeast Community Hospital in Washington. After his funeral, he was interred at Detroit Memorial Park in Warren, Michigan. Diggs was married four times and had six children. 



GODFREY J. DILLARD

...was born in 1948 and grew up in a Detroit middle class family to Vera and Earl Dillard. His father owned a local grocery store but died of a heart attack at the age of thirty-three. He left his family in a good finan-

cial position and from his father's life insurance, the family was able to continue their lifestyles and even move to better dwellings in one of the city's finest neighborhoods, the Boston-Edison neighborhood. Although it was bordered by troubled neighborhoods, the family lived well.

Dillard attended Detroit's Roman Catholic parochial schools as one of the few minorities in the predominantly white schools. He was drawn to the legal profession after being mentored by his neighbor, lawyer Hobart Taylor, who would become the highest-ranking African-American male in then President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration. Taylor served as a role model and father figure for the fatherless Dillard and kept him on an educated path and not one that would lead him into trouble.

Dillard took the educated path and became his sophomore class President at his high school. In his senior year, he was elected as the Student Council President and was a gifted athlete on the schools sports teams. After graduating from high school, he entered Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee receiving an athletic scholarship. He was one of seven African American students enrolled at the school at that time. Dillard was also the first African American to play collegiate basketball in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Before graduating, Dillard suffered a career ending knee injury and lost his scholarship. He transferred to a school closer to home, Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he completed his undergraduate studies in Philosophy in 1970. He then attended the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1973.

After completing his law studies, Dillard spent some time traveling overseas. He returned to the United States to enroll into Washington, D.C.'s George Washington University where he received a Graduate degree from the School of International Affairs. He then accepted a job in D.C. with the U.S. State Department, serving as the Deputy General Consul in Zaire, Africa.

After his appointment was completed in Africa, Dillard returned to the United States and took a private practice job

with one of Detroit's top firms, Evans & Luptak. He focused his attention on civil rights cases and successfully litigated several important and time changing cases. Dillard litigated the successful 1983 discrimination lawsuit filed against the University of Detroit where he claimed the school discriminated against black students. The case was settled by a consent decree after reaching the Michigan State Supreme Court.

Dillard, along with fellow attorney and mentor, Milton Henry, took on a similar case at the University of Michigan pro bono. That race-based admission and nationally headlined lawsuit brought tremendous debate over the validity of set-aside policies at higher learning and public institutions in the United States. The case was historic due to the fact that, although Dillard served as lead counsel for only a small group of minority students and civil-rights groups that supported the school's admissions policy, it was the first time that a court allowed current students to present their arguments in support of maintaining a diverse student body. Realizing that Black and Hispanic students would be the ones most hurt by the courts decision if ruled unfavorably, Dillard argued for inclusion of people of color to be involved with the case on a first-hand bases and not as mere observers and after the fact commentators.

Dillard represented several groups that were involved with the case, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense Fund, the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. The case was historic as it was the first time that the courts allowed civil rights groups to be a part of a case for fear of introducing past histories of racism and racial discord. This case also reached the U.S. Supreme Court. Dillard and his legal partners had made oral agreements with the opposing attorneys that they would share some of their time for Dillard to address the issues before the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, when it came time for Dillard's minority students to address the Court, the opposing attorneys reneged on their verbal agreement. Fortunately for Dillard, the Supreme Court sided with Dillard's group and they received a victory for affirmative-action programs at state and federally funded schools and universities like Michigan.

Dillard would go on to become the founding member of the Citizens for Affirmative Action's Preservation. He wanted to ensure that just as he had done, African American and other minority groups should have the opportunity to study law at the best law schools in the country of which Michigan was one. He also wanted to ensure that those up and coming law students were mentored and given a path to legal education just as he had been given when his father died and his neighbor, Hobart Taylor, had done for him.



DAVID NORMAN DINKINS

... was born on July 10, 1927, in Trenton, New Jersey, to Sally and William Harvey Dinkins, Jr., a barber and real estate agent. Dinkins' mother was a domestic worker. His parents separated when he

was six years old causing him to move to Harlem, New York. He returned to Trenton after elementary school and attended Trenton Central High School. He graduated in 1945 in the top ten percent of his class.

Wanting to enlist in the United States Marine Corps, after graduation, Dinkins attempted to enroll but was turned away being told that the racial quota had been filled. Not deterred, he traveled the northeastern towns of the United States until he found a recruiting station that had not filled their quota for Negro Marines. He joined and became a Marine. Unfortunately or fortunately, World War II was over before Dinkins finished boot camp. He was amongst the Montford Point Marines who were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by the United States Senate and House of Representatives. He served in the Marine Corps from 1945 through 1946.

After returning from military duty, Dinkins enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C.. He graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Mathematics. He later his Law degree from Brooklyn Law School in Brooklyn, New York and joined the Democratic party. He quickly rose through the Democratic Party organization in Harlem, beginning at the Carver Democratic Club under the tutelage of J. Raymond Jones. He ultimately became a part of the influential group comprised of African American politicians Percy Sutton, Basil Paterson, and Charles Rangel, known as the "Gang of Four". Dinkins, in 1971, also invested monies to Percy Sutton found Inner City Broadcasting Corporation.

In 1966, Dinkins became a member of the New York State Assembly. Nominated as a Deputy Mayor by Mayor Abraham D. Beame, he was not appointed. Six years later, he became President of the Board of Elections serving one year. He was City Clerk from 1975 to 1985 until he was elected as Manhattan Borough President on his third attempt for that office. On November 7, 1989, he was elected Mayor of New York City, defeating three-term incumbent Mayor Ed Koch. He defeated Republican candidate Rudy Giuliani in the general election.

Dinkins' pledge to the citizens of New York was racial healing, famously referring to New York City's diversity as a "gorgeous mosaic." Under Dinkins the crime in decreased dramatically, in terms of actual numbers and percentage. Despite the

actual decrease in crime, the perception was that crime was out of control during his administration. He expanded the police department nearly twenty-five percent implementing a new hiring program. His award-winning initiative that took a portion of the cities' anti-crime money and used it to keep schools open after hours, helped keep tens of thousands of teenagers off New York City streets.

In his final days in office, Dinkins made a last ditched effort to negotiate with the sanitation workers to preserve the continued pickup and removal of public garbage. Defeated by Rudy Giuliani in the 1993 Mayoral race before leaving office, Dinkins signed a last-minute 99-year lease with the USTA National Tennis Center. Based on the US Open's gross income, the deal that the Dinkins' administration negotiated for the City of New York, that one event brings more revenue to the city than the New York Yankees, New York Mets, New York Knicks and New York Rangers teams do, combined. Other large scale revenue-producing events created during the Dinkins' administration include Fashion Week, Restaurant Week and Broadway on Broadway.

Dinkins was pivotal in the cleanup and revitalization of the Times Square area in Midtown Manhattan, New York City. He even persuaded the Walt Disney Corporation to rehabilitate a 42nd Street theater. Committed to the rehabilitation of dilapidated houses in northern Harlem, the South Bronx, and Brooklyn, despite significant budget constraints, Dinkins rehabilitated more houses in one term than his successor would do in two.

During his term there were sharply opposing factions, divide into groups for and against. Polarized events such as the Family Red Apple boycott, a boycott of a Korean-owned grocery in Flatbush, Brooklyn, and the 1991 Crown Heights riot, all brought unfavorable light to Dinkins. Despite the boycotts, the city flourished.

Although out of politics, Dinkins has remained active and his endorsement of various candidates running for political Office. He became a Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, teaching the Practice of Public Affairs. As a tribute to Dinkins, since 1995, Columbia has hosted its' annual David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum. Past Keynote Speakers have included Al Gore, Hillary Clinton, Michael Bloomberg, Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Rangel.

Dinkins is married to Joyce Dinkins and they have two children. Dinkins is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi ("the Boule"), the oldest collegiate and first professional black Greek-letter fraternities, respectively. He became, in 1952, accepted as a Master Mason in King David Lodge No. 15, F. & A. M., PHA in Trenton, New Jersey and a member of of the Church of the Intercession in New York City.



JULIAN CAREY DIXON

...was born on August 8, 1934 in Washington, D.C. and attended Monroe Elementary School. At the age of eleven, he moved with his mother to Los Angeles, California where he graduated from Dorsey High School in 1953. Several

years later, he joined the United States Army where he served for three years before being discharged reaching the rank of Sergeant.

Leaving the military, Dixon enrolled into California State University, Los Angeles (USC) graduating in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He received his law degree from Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles. While in college, Dixon joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and became married to Betty Lee Dixon.

After passing the California State Bar, Dixon began his legal career as a private practicing attorney and legal aide to California State Senator Mervyn Dymally. After several years working as a practicing attorney, in 1972, Dixon entered the political race for a seat in the California State Assembly. Running as a Democrat, he won his electoral campaign. He would go on to be re-elected in the next two elections.

Taking his seat in the State Assembly, Dixon became the Chair of the Democratic Caucus. He was the first freshman member to chair the Caucus. He then was named to the influential Ways and Means Committee and the Criminal Justice Committee. On the later committee, Dixon is credited with introducing legislation that brought \$55 million in state funding to California counties. He was able to build important relationships with other powerful Assemblymen, including Assembly Majority Leader Howard Berman as well as Governor Jerry Brown.

In 1978, Dixon was elected to the United States House of Representatives. As a freshman member of Congress, he was named as the head of an Appropriations Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, a rare feat for a first time House member. In addition, he became the first African American to chair a subcommittee and remained on the Committee until his death. He went on to chair the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, which investigated the ethics probe of then Democratic Texas Speaker of the House, Jim Wright, resulting in his resignation from the House in 1989.

Dixon also chaired the Rules Committee during the 1984 Democratic National Convention. He was the first African American to chair the Committee. He went on to hold a high-ranking position on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which made him one of the most important House members.

Dixon also served as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) in the 98th Congress. He pursued legislative

initiatives pertaining to issues involving the African American communities across the United States. He authored a resolution passed by the House, which awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the longtime President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Benjamin Mays. He introduced another resolution that designated September as Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month in 1983.

One of Dixon's most popular legislative resolutions created the mass transit system for the city of Los Angeles. He was able to secure more than \$3.8 billion in federal funding from 1983 to 2000 to establish the transit system. He introduced legislation that promoted low and moderate-income housing and sought legislation to provide better health care for the California residents.

After the 1992 race riots in Los Angeles and the 1994 Northridge earthquake, Dixon was able to obtain federal relief funding to restore normalcy to the city. In 1997, he secured a \$400 million loan to develop the Alameda Corridor, which connected the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to national railroad lines. Dixon worked on behalf of small businesses and contractors who suffered economic losses after several military bases were closed in southern California.

While sitting on the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the Appropriations Committee, Dixon was influential in foreign countries receiving monetary funding with the condition they were opposed to Apartheid, the system of governmental oversight in South Africa. For this cause, he was arrested for protesting in front of the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C.. From his efforts, many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa received increased developmental aid. Dixon was able to secure disaster relief funds for Jamaica and scholarships for disadvantaged students in South Africa.

Soon after Dixon was re-elected to a twelfth consecutive term in Congress in 2000, he suddenly died of a heart attack while in Los Angeles. He was buried in Inglewood Park Cemetery in Inglewood California. At the time of his death, Representative Juliana Carey Dixon was sixty-six years old.

In Dixon's honor, the City of Los Angeles named a metro transit stop in his honor, the 7th Street / Metro Center / Julian Dixon Transfer Station. The transfer station serves the Red Line, Purple Line, Blue Line and Expo Line in downtown Los Angeles. At the station, the city erected a plaque commemorating Dixon's role in obtaining the federal funding, which enabled construction of the Los Angeles Metro Rail system.

To give tribute to Dixon, his alma mater, Southwestern University School of Law, opened the Julian C. Dixon Courtroom and Advocacy Center. The Center is located in the former Bullocks Wilshire building. Also in his honor, the Culver City branch of the Los Angeles County Library is named after him, the Culver City Julian Dixon Library.

In his honor, the third revised edition of Black Americans in Congress 1870-2007 was dedicated to the memory of Dixon. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, from the floor of the House, made resolutions ordering the printing of the revised edition.



BERNICE BOUIE DONALD

...was born on September 17, 1951 in DeSoto County, Mississippi. She was the sixth child of the ten her parents had. Her mother worked as a domestic and her father was a self-taught me-

chanic. Her formal learning began when she was one of the first four African American students to integrate Mississippi's Olive Branch public schools. She would graduate with honors from the Olive Branch high school.

In high school, Donald was the recipient of a scholastic scholarship but was never told that she had won. Not knowing, she worked her way through college with the help of a few grants and loans to assist her financial needs. She would go on to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Memphis State University in Memphis, Tennessee in 1974. In 1979, she received her Juris Doctorate degree from the Memphis State University School of Law.

After passing the Tennessee State Bar exam, Donald began her legal career in private practice in Memphis. After one year in private practice, she took a job as a staff attorney with the Memphis City Government in their Employment Law & Economic Development Unit. She then moved to the Memphis Area Legal Services before becoming an Assistant Public Defender in the Shelby County Public Defender's Office in 1980. She remained in the office for two years while also serving as an Adjunct Professor at Shelby State Community College in Memphis.

In 1982, at the age of thirty, Donald was named as a Judge on the Tennessee General Sessions Criminal Court. She became the first African American to serve on the Court. She would remain with the Court for six years. During that time, she served as an Adjunct Professor at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis. She served as Adjunct Professor for five years at Memphis State University's Humphreys College of Law. A year later, Donald joined the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority's Alpha Eta Zeta Chapter.

In 1988, Donald was named as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in the Western District of Tennessee. She would serve on the Court for eight years. In 1995, then President Bill Clinton nominated Donald to a seat on the

United States Court for the Western District of Tennessee. She would serve on the Court for fifteen years.

In 2010, then President Barack Obama nominate Donald as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth District. Her nomination was heard before the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary and on September 6, she was confirmed in a 96-2 U.S. Senate vote. In addition, Donald was selected to serve as Judge-in-Residence to the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. She also served at American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. and the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Donald in the past has served as the Secretary of the American Bar Association (ABA). She was the first African-American woman in the history of the association to serve as an officer. For the ABA, Donald also chaired their Commission on Opportunities for Minorities in the Profession. As Chair of the Commission, she created the organization's Spirit of Excellence Award. Donald also became the first African-American to serve as the President of the American Bar Association's Foundation. She served the National Association of Women Judges as their President and co-chaired the ABA's Section of Litigation's Task Force on Implicit Bias and Diversity. She also co-chaired the Diversity Committee for the ABA's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section.

Donald has been the recipient of many awards during her illustrious career. In 2014, she received the 2014 the Senior Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association presented Donald with their John H. Pickering Award of Achievement. The award is given to a qualified attorney in recognition to their dedication of equal justice for all having the highest standards of ethics and professionalism in the law.



ERNESTINE HUNT DORSE

...was born in Memphis, Tennessee where she graduated high school from Melrose High School. Early on, she became involved in equal justice for all, especially the African American

community. In high school, she led a student body protest and demonstration by organizing a walk out of the students in support of Dr. Martin Luther King's famous Memphis sanitation strike. The students marched from their school to the downtown area of Memphis to support the sanitation workers.

At the rally, King spoke, and as a charter member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Choir, Dorse sang. Ironically, Dorse and her sister, Mary Hunt, would be at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on the day that King was assassinated on the balcony of the motel. Mary had left the motel only minutes before the fatal shot was fired that killed King. Her sister witnessed the killing. In the iconic photograph of King lying on the balcony deck, Mary can be seen pointing in the direction of where the gunshot was fired. That event propelled Dorse to complete her education, with honors, and decide to attend a historically black university.

Dorse entered Clark College, now Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia to earn her undergraduate degree. She would graduate cum laude a few years later. She became the first in her family to obtain a college degree. She then became an exchange student at Dag Hammarskjöld College, which allowed her to further her studies abroad. She studied in five foreign countries through United Nations Agencies including Geneva, Switzerland; Paris, France; Malmo, Sweden; Luxembourg, Germany; and Vienna, Austria.

After completing her international studies, Dorse returned to Memphis and enrolled into the University of Memphis. There, in 1984, she earned her Juris Doctor degree. She then began her professional career teaching school in the Memphis City School system. She also served as a Research Associate and as a paralegal.

Dorse then took a job with several law firms. She first began practicing law with Perkins, Hanna and Associates. She then joined the firm of Evans, Willis, Stotts and

Kyles. She next became an attorney with the Memphis Area Legal Services and the Shelby County Public Defender's Office.

In 1990, Dorse was elected as City Court Judge in Memphis. She became the first African-American female judge to sit on the City Court. She was also the second African-American female judge sitting on the bench in the State of Tennessee.

Judge Dorse has served on the Boards of several community associations and organizations. She holds memberships in several professional associations as well. She is involved with the National Bar Association (NBA) and has chaired several of their committees. She chaired the NBA's Judicial Council and is a member of the Ben F. Jones Affiliate Chapter of the NBA.

Judge Dorse has served as a faculty member at the National Judicial College and for the American Bar Association (ABA), she served as chair of its' Judicial Division's National Conference of Specialized Court Judges' Committee on Mental Health Courts. For the National Council of Community Behavioral Health Organizations, she served on their Board of Directors. Dorse has served as chair of the Board of Directors for the Memphis Mid-Town Mental Health Center and is an Executive Board member of the Sister Network' Memphis Chapter.

Judge Dorse attends the Mount Pisgah CME Church and serves on the Steward Board and is a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. She is married to businessman Fred O. Dorse. Together, they have seven children.



ROOSEVELT F. DORN

... was born on October 29, 1935 in Checotah, Oklahoma, a small town some seventy miles south of Tulsa. He was one of nine children in a very poor family. Being educated in segregated schools, Dorn made his way through school and when

old enough, set out on his own. He recounts when talking about his early years after leaving Oklahoma for California stating that he arrived in Los Angeles with only \$1.50 in his pocket and a few pieces of clothing.

In 1954, Dorn enlisted into the United States Air Force. He served in the military for four years leaving honorably in 1958. Upon his departure from the U.S. Air Force, he returned to Los Angeles where he joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. For eight years, as a Deputy, he served as a Superior Court Bailiff. In 1965, he married Joyce Evelyn Glosson and together they had three children.

Dorn received his law degree in 1969 from the Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa, California. Shortly thereafter, he took and passed the California State Bar Examination. He then began his search for employment.

Accepting a position as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles, Dorn would work at the job for ten years, leaving in 1979. He left his City of Los Angeles job after then California Governor Jerry Brown appointed him to the Municipal Court. In 1980, Brown appointed him to the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

As a juvenile appointed judge, Dorn had a tough-love approach toward young offenders. Parents praised him and had much respect for his no-nonsense approach to those that came before him. He was known for handing out tougher and longer probation sentences than many other Judges on the Court. Have a thundering baritone voice, he could be heard telling the young people standing before him that if they violated the rules of probation that he would detain them longer than the prosecutors sometimes requested. He urged the kids to stay in school, stay off the streets and keep their set curfews.

Others, however, felt that Dorn used the bench for his on personal missions. He did things his own way and many felt he was abusing the law to further his own views and not those of the community at large. Defense attorneys would react to him with either anger or fear as he handled his gavel with absolute power. His autocratic style rubbed many the wrong way. Although he denied the allegations, some attorneys felt he favored certain private attorneys in his appointments.

In 1997, Dorn ran for and was elected Mayor of Inglewood, California. The past Mayor, Edward Vincent, had become a member of the State Assembly leaving the office open. Dorn won the unexpired term in a special vote. He became the second black mayor in the

history of Inglewood. A year later, in 1998, in the general election, he was re-elected.

In his campaign for Mayor, Dorn ran on a platform of promised reform. Inglewood was on a verge of Collapse. The two sports teams that had brought great revenue to the city, the National Basketball League "Lakers" and the National Hockey League, "Kings" had signed new contracts and were moving to new stadiums in downtown Los Angeles. The city's coffers showed a deficit of \$8 million. Businesses were leaving as well, and Inglewood residents complained about the spike in crime.

As Mayor, Dorn had both detractors and supporters. Some say that he did more harm than good while others point out the good deeds done. For his most positive feats, he is credited with the implementation of a program dedicated to reducing high school drop-out rates, Project Hope. He spearheaded the effort to pass a \$131 million bond initiative to fund programs and services for children. He was also pivotal in bringing back businesses that had departed and getting entrepreneurs to invest into the city. The "big box" retail area of Century Boulevard between Crenshaw and Prairie is one of his hallmark achievements. As the incumbent Mayor, he would win the Mayoral races in 2003 and again in 2007.

Three years later, Dorn would find himself resigning as Mayor and being banned from ever holding political office again. Brought on by a public corruption charge, he plead guilty to a misdemeanor conflict-of-interest charge. The City of Inglewood in 2004, due to the high cost of living in the city, had instituted a program intended to help city administrators with low-interest loans.

The program was extended to include elected officials. Dorn used the program and obtained a \$500,000, using the money to pay off his existing home mortgage and placing the remainder in his personal bank account. Although he paid the money back in 2006, it was found improper for him to have taken the loan. As his trial was about to begin, he abruptly resigned as Mayor, agreed to the guilty plea and accepted a two year probation sentence. He was also fined \$2,000 and was barred from ever holding public office again. His portrait was removed from City Hall and his name was stricken from the hallway register.

After his departure from the Mayor's office, Dorn became an independent contractor and involved in the real estate industry. He has received over 300 awards and honors from his judicial colleagues, community organizations, and political associations. He has been featured on television, in radio, newspapers and magazines for his outstanding contributions.

Dorn is a member of the National Bar Association and the John Langston Bar Association. He is past National Vice President 100 Black Men of America, an African American men's civic organization and service club whose mission is to educate and empower African-American children and teens. He is the Past President of the Los Angeles chapter of the 100 Black Men as well. He is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Past President of the National Conference of Black Mayors.


He is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and has been involved in civil and human rights since his involvement with law. He is active with the Los Angeles based New Frontier Democratic Club, and is involved with his alumni university's, Whittier Alumni Association. 

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Available



JAMES WESTON DORSEY

...was born in 1897 at Fort Missoula, Montana to Laura Belle (Smith) and Ephraim Thomas Dorsey. He was reared in Missoula's Northside Railroad Historic District, which was a haven for minorities living in the area, including African-Americans, Chinese,

and Japanese. Many of the African Americans that resided near Fort Missoula were members of the famed black military unit known as the Buffalo Soldiers that were stationed at the fort. Dorsey's father was a member of the unit having been transferred to the unit from Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

Dorsey graduated from Missoula's Loyola High School in 1918 before entering the University of Montana (UM) in Missoula where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1922. In 1923, Dorsey married Vivian Marie Brooke of Billings, Montana. While studying for his law degree, he worked menial jobs as a janitor, a sign painter, a window decorator, and as an employee of a dance hall in order to pay for his tuition. He received his law degree in 1927 from the University's Law School.

Dorsey was the first African American to graduate from the school's law school and is believed to be the first African American to receive any type of higher learning agree from the UM. Dorsey attended the University as a student athlete and earned letters in track and football. He played football as a lineman for the school's football team, the second to do so. He played along side Montana great Steve Sullivan who went on to play football professionally.

After completing his law degree at the UM, Dorsey attempted to establish a law practice in Missoula but was unsuccessful as not many white residents wanted an African American to represent them. In order to build a career, he left Missoula moving to Fort Dodge, Iowa and later to St. Paul, Minnesota. He had some success but needed a city with a larger African American population as a base to attract clients. He decided on Milwaukee, Wisconsin as that place.

In 1928, Dorsey had settled into Milwaukee and was admitted to the Wisconsin State Bar. He soon was representing both black and white clients as well as becoming involved with the local Milwaukee government. He ran for a citywide office, the first African American to run in a citywide election, but was not successful in his campaign. Dorsey later appointed as a Court Commissioner becoming the first African American to the post.

Dorsey joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and served as the Chairman of the Milwaukee branch. He joined forces with Milwaukee Urban

League Executive Director William Kelley to fight the discriminatory hiring practices of local manufacturing factories that refused to hire African American workers. The unemployment rate for African Americans at that time was more than twice that of white workers.

In 1941, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an Executive Order, the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC), which aimed to end job bias in industries associated with government administration and defense manufacturing. Dorsey and Kelley then took on government contractors that prohibited the hiring of minorities in their companies. They took affidavits from African American workers that had been denied employment and filed cases against those companies.

Dorsey was called upon to attend government hearings in Chicago, Illinois before FEPC administrators to present findings on their cases. He successfully litigated five cases against white contractors that refused to hire African American and Jewish workers. If hired, the minority workers were assigned to menial jobs as common laborers, janitors, and porters. In order to keep their government contracts, the FEPC issued a statement to the contractors that for them to maintain their contracts they must "accept applicants for all classifications of employment without regard to race, color, creed, or national origin."

Dorsey was instrumental in bringing changes to other discriminatory practices in Milwaukee. He fought for the city's school system to hire more African American workers and teachers. He questioned the education being given to African American children arguing that they were being taught to work "dirty jobs" rather than white-collar jobs. He also fought for fair housing and new hiring practices in Milwaukee's housing departments.

In 1957, Dorsey represented African American bricklayers in a fair employment case in the construction industry. He filed and eventually argued the case to the Wisconsin State Supreme Court that the bricklayers union was employing discrimination in their hiring and job selection, which violated the Fair Employment Practices Act. Dorsey plead for the Court to make a ruling to force the union to admit African Americans for membership, however, the Court ruled in favor of the unions. Dorsey then lobbied members of the state legislature to enact legislation to strengthen laws associated with the Fair Employment Practices Act, which was passed.

In 1962, Dorsey was instrumental in bringing changes to the City of Milwaukee's Fair Housing Ordinance. He became a member of the Governor's Commission on Human Rights and served as the President of the Catholic Interracial Council. Dorsey fought for civil rights and equal justice for African Americans throughout his legal career up until his untimely death.

James Weston Dorsey died in May of 1966 in house fire at his home in Milwaukee. In his honor, by the University of Montana awarded him its' Distinguished Alumni Award. The African American community of Milwaukee gave honor to him for the dedicated work he had performed on their behalf.



CARL EDWIN DOUGLAS

...was born on May 8, 1955. He earned his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He began

his legal career in 1980 working for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) before becoming a public defender.

Several years later, Douglas would join forces with African American attorney, Johnnie Cochran, Jr. when they represented music giant, Michael Jackson in his child molestation case. While in the midst of that case, Cochran was contacted by National Football League (NFL) star O.J. Simpson to serve as legal counsel in the murder case of Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman, which Simpson was arrested and charged with the double murder. The group of lawyers became known as the "Dream Team", which was led by African American attorney Johnnie Cochran, Jr. and F.L. Bailey. Other famous attorneys on the defense team included Robert Kardashian, Alan Dershowitz, Shawn Holly, Gerald Uelmen, Barry Scheck, and Peter Neufeld. Simpson was ultimately found not guilty of the charges.

Douglas served as the managing attorney for Cochran's law firm and was pivotal in administering the defense teams court filings and administrative functions. He would become one of Cochran's most trusted and top attorneys in the law firm. The two represented rapper Tupac Shakur, rap mogul Sean "Puffy" Combs, and Todd Bridges, the child actor for the hit television show, "Diff'rent Strokes". In addition, Douglas represented actor Jamie Foxx, actress and singer Queen Latifah, and NFL defensive safety, Darren Sharper

In 1998, Douglas left Cochran to form his own law firm, The Douglas Law Group, later changed to Douglas / Hicks Law. It was not long before Douglas became involved with one of the largest verdicts rendered by a California court when he represented Patricia Anderson against automobile manufacturer General Motors. The case stemmed from a 1979 automobile accident where two women and four children had become trapped in a

burning Chevrolet Malibu when the car's gas tank exploded after an accident on Christmas Eve. Douglas was able to successfully litigate the case resulting in a record \$4.9 billion in damages for Anderson. That verdict was the largest single personal injury case in history at that time.

In 2008, Douglas brought suit against the city of Los Angeles, California for the police shooting death of unarmed motorist, Maurice Cox. Cox was killed while driving through South Los Angeles and caught on videotape by filmmaker, Alex A. Alonso. Alonso posted the video that same night on www.streetgangs.com, which brought local and national attention to the wrongful shooting. Douglas took on the case and sued the Los Angeles Police Department for over \$10 million dollars on behalf of Cox's family.

A year later, Douglas represented National Basketball League ex-player and corporate executive, Elgin Baylor in a suit against the Los Angeles Clippers, Clipper executives, and the National Basketball Association (NBA). The suit alleged racial and age discrimination within the Clippers organization. The racial discrimination count was dropped before trial with the age count being unsuccessful. Douglas was successful in winning other claims by Baylor against the franchise.

Douglas has been given many honors by many several organizations, legal associations, and educational institutions during his career. He has received twice the Loren Miller Lawyer of the Year Award presented by the John M. Langston Bar Association and has received the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award from the Consumer Attorney's Association of Los Angeles. Douglas continues to practice law from his Beverly Hills, California offices.



JAMES MATTHEW DOUGLAS

...was born on February 11, 1944 in Onalaska, Texas to Mary and Desso Douglas. He attended Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas where he received a Bachelor of

Arts degree in Mathematics in 1966. He remained at the University to attend its' law school to earn his J.D. degree graduating from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law graduating first in his class in 1970. A year later, he received his J.S.M. degree in Computer Law from Standard University in California in 1971.

While earning his law degrees from 1966 to 1971, Douglas worked for Singer Simulation Company. Singer was a leading government contractor holding large contracts in Houston, Texas with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). After leaving NASA, Douglas joined Texas Southern University, also in Houston, as an Assistant Professor.

During the next years, Douglas would teach law at several Universities. From 1972 to 1975, he taught law as an Assistant Professor at the Cleveland State University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. From 1975 to 1980, he taught at Syracuse University College of Law in Syracuse, New York. He also served as the school's Associate Dean. He then moved to Boston, Massachusetts to teach at Northeastern University School of Law where he taught from 1980 to 1981. He then returned to Texas Southern University as a Professor and Dean of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law where he first started his law career as a student. Fourteen years later, in 1995, he became the University's Interim Provost and its' Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In 1999, Douglas' time as President ended and he was named as a Distinguished Professor of Law at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. In 2005, he served as the Interim Dean at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida. At the school, he is credited with creating the school's law school from its' inception including the development of the curriculum, faculty and staff hiring, human resources, facility management, and the operational budgets. In 2008, he left the University to once

again return to Texas Southern University, this time as the Executive Vice President.

During his time as a Professor of law, Douglas served on the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Legal Foundation, the Hiscock Legal Society, the Law School Admission Council, and Editorial Board of The Texas Lawyer. He also served as a member of the Minority Affairs Committee of the Law School Admission Council. For the Education for the Committee of Science and Technology Section, he served as their Chairman. For the many years that Douglas taught and served as a Professor and Dean of the many school's of law he served, his responsibilities included academic and administrative leadership, law school operations, fundraising, all aimed at advancing the vision of each school. In addition, he wrote articles for several law journals.

In addition to his many Professorships, Douglas has served as the President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Houston branch. Douglas continues to live in Houston, Texas where he is researching the historic history of Texas Southern University's, the school he loves so much. He is married to Tanya Smith Douglas and together they have three children.



MICHAEL L. DOUGLAS

...was born on March 13, 1948 in Los Angeles, California. After graduating high school, he attended California State College, Long Beach where he obtained his undergraduate degree in 1971. He earned his law

degree in 1974 from the University of California Hastings College of Law. He received further legal training at the University of Nevada, Reno's National Judicial College.

From 1972 through 1982, Douglas practiced law as a private attorney in California and Pennsylvania for several years before moving to Las Vegas, Nevada. Arriving in Nevada, he accepted a position with the Nevada Legal Services (NLS). After working at the NLS for two years, he took a position with the Clark County District Attorney's Office where he worked in their Civil Division leaving for a job in a courtroom.

In 1995, he was picked to fill a position on the bench of Nevada's Eighth Judicial District Court. In the 1996 general election, he was elected to a full term on the Court. While serving at the Court, he became the Chief Judge and the Business Court Judge. He also served on several District Court committees.

In 2004, Douglas was appointed to the Supreme Court of Nevada. Re-elected to the bench three times. While serving the Court, Justice Douglas has chaired or co-chaired many Supreme Court committees, including the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, and the Nevada Supreme Court Bench-Bar Committee. He also served on the Nevada Supreme Court Specialty Court Funding Committee.

In 2011, Douglas became the Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. He was the first African American to serve in this capacity. While sitting on the bench, Justice Douglas has been a member of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, the Vice President of the Nevada District Judges Association, and Past President of the Nevada American Inns of Court. He has actively been involved with the Consumer Credit Counseling Service, the Nevada Law Foundation, and the State Bar of Nevada. In 2012, Douglas was re-elected to the Supreme Court in an uncontested race.

Justice Douglas during his professional career has taken on many issues when it comes to community involvement, social issues that affect Nevada's minority communities, as well as the concerns of the youth. He has supported groups and organizations that strove to combat and fight domestic

violence. He has supported youth development including volunteering as a youth coach and being a frequent speaker at local Las Vegas area schools.

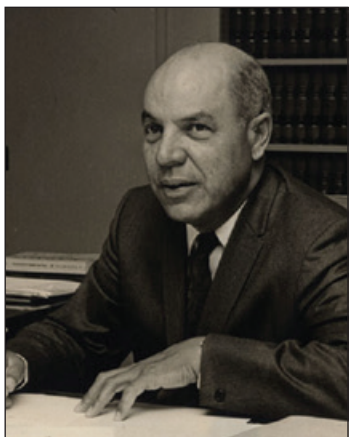
As a role model to all Nevada residents, Justice Douglas takes special pride in what his judicial appointments have shown to the African American community. It has shown them that it is possible to attain a status in life that years before had seemed impossible to achieve. His achievements have given young and old confidence to know that they too can obtain positions of power and be successful in the performance of their duties.

Knowing that he sits in a position of power that can set policies and applications that can affect an individual but also the masses at large. His rise to the top legal position in the State of Nevada has given African Americans faith that the system can work in their favor, if viewed by someone that looks like them and have had some of the similar life experiences as they have had. His presence on the bench has inspired both professionals within the prosecutorial and defense sectors of jurisprudence but also the community in which he serves and lives.

One of Justice Douglas most important desires in sitting on the bench is that each of the African Americans that come before the Court receives a fair day in court. He believes that is important to the African American community that they become involved in the legal process, not as a defendant, but on the side of defense. Understanding the inherent racism of days past and present, he feels that in today's legal climate, the courts are held to a higher standard and the courts decisions will be held in scrutiny, thus fairness and knowledge are a must.

When it comes to sentencing, prisoners, and the overall prison system, Justice Douglas is keenly aware of some of the unspoken and mitigating circumstances surrounding a defendant's crimes. Many times other factors play a pivotal part in a defendant committing a crime. Lack of education, access to gainful employment, family issues, or simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time, all are contributing factors to one and their illegal activities. Although accountable for their actions, Justice Douglas believes that through education, parental responsibility and technological advancement, the African American will be able to prosper. He also believes that if more African Americans serve on trial juries, many could be judged by their peers, which in some cases may give them the break that they seek.

During his lengthy judicial career, Justice Douglas has been given countless awards and citations. He has been honored by the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association when the bestowed upon him their Lifetime Achievement Award. He currently still serves on the Nevada Supreme Court and his current term expires in 2019.



EDWARD R. DUDLEY

...was born on March 11, 1911 in South Boston, Virginia, the son of a local dentist. He attended undergraduate school at Johnson C. Smith College in Charlotte, North Carolina

in the school's pre-dental program where he received his B.S. degree in 1932. While in undergraduate school, he pledged to the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

After completing college, he moved to Gainsboro, Virginia where he taught elementary school children. The school only had one room and it was in that teacher's job that he first experienced discrimination in employment. While white teachers were paid \$115 per month for their services, Dudley was paid only \$60 a month. After his one year contract was up, Dudley left Virginia and teaching for a better paying job in the North.

Dudley then moved to Washington, D.C. where he enrolled into Howard University's Dental School for one year after receiving a dental scholarship. He then moved to New York City. He took several odd jobs to support himself including working as a Stage Manager for famed director and producer, Orson Welles, at a public theater project. He then decided to return to school and enrolled at St. John's University School of Law in Jamaica, New York. He graduated from the school in 1941 after obtaining his LL.B. degree.

He practiced law in New York for a brief time as an Assistant New York State's Attorney General before entering the field of politics as a Democrat. He became a member of Harlem's Carver Democratic Club and a precinct activist. He landed a job as an Assistant State Attorney and a second job as a sales representative for the Pepsi-Cola Company serving the Army camps in New York.

He joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) where he served as an Assistant Special Counsel for the organization. He met his wife Rae Oley and they married and had one son, Edward, Jr.. As a member of the NAACP legal team, he prepared cases and wrote briefs. His job was to assist Southern black students that sought admission to Southern colleges and universities that denied admission to black students

as segregation was in full force. He worked on cases involving equal pay for black teachers across the country and discrimination of blacks in public transportation.

In 1945, Dudley became the Executive Assistant to the Governor of the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean where he served for two years. Then, he was appointed as the Minister to Liberia, Africa by then President Harry S. Truman. In 1948, he became the country's Ambassador. With his appointment, he became the first African American to hold the position of Ambassador of the United States to any foreign country. As Ambassador, he oversaw the President's Point Four program of economic assistance for third world countries.

He returned to the U.S. in 1953 and practiced law, again with the NAACP. That year, he was named as the Director of their Freedom Fund. Two years later, then New York City Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr., appointed him to the Domestic Relations Court as a Judge. He would serve on the Court for six years.

In 1961, he became the Borough President of Manhattan, serving for three years. As Borough President, he focuses his attention to improving moderate-cost housing hoping to keep the tax paying middle class from leaving the city for New York's growing suburbs. He also served as the Democratic County Chairman for New York's County Democratic Committee.

During his tenure as President, in the 1962 New York state election, he ran as a Democratic and Liberal candidate for Attorney General. He lost that election to incumbent Republican. Louis Lefkowitz. Although he was not successful in his bid for the Attorney General position, he did become the first African-American to run for state-wide office on a major-party ticket in New York. For his efforts, he was selected as a Delegate to 1964 Democratic National Convention.

In the November 1964 New York general elections, he ran for a seat on the New York Supreme Court and was elected as a Justice to the Court. He served in the First Judicial District, which covered Manhattan and the Bronx. In the 1978 election, he was re-elected to the Court. Because of his stellar service to the Court, he served past the retirement age set for Justices of the Court. While on the Court, he served as an Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court of the City of New York. He would serve on the bench for twenty years until his retirement in 1985.

Edward Richard Dudley died on February 10, 2005 at St. Luke's Hospital in Manhattan of prostate cancer. He was ninety-three years old.





ALLYSON KAY DUNCAN

...war born on September 5, 1951 in Durham, North Carolina. She graduated high school from Hillside High School in 1968. Duncan attended undergraduate school at Hampton Uni-

versity in Hampton, Virginia where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972. She returned to her hometown of Durham to earn her Juris Doctorate degree from Duke University's School of Law in 1975.

In her first legal position, she took a job as an Associate Editor for the Lawyers Co-Operative Publishing Company where she worked for one year. In 1977, she moved to Washington, D.C. after accepting the job as clerk for Judge Julia Cooper Mack, the first African American woman to serve on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. She would clerk for Judge Mack for one year.

In 1978, Duncan became a staff member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). During her two year stay at the EEOC, she served in several important posts including as Appellate Attorney, Assistant to the Deputy General Counsel, Assistant to the Chairman, Acting Associate Legal Counsel, and Acting Legal Counsel. Working along fellow colleagues, future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and future University of Oklahoma Professor Anita Hill, Duncan became the Commissions Chief of Staff.

After leaving the EEOC, in 1986, Duncan became an Associate Professor at North Carolina Central University School of Law. At the University, she taught Appellate Advocacy, Employment Discrimination, and Property Law. She would stay at the school for four years.

In 1990, she was appointed, although briefly, by Governor James G. Martin as an Associated Judge to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. In the following election, she ran for the full term seat but lost to James A. Wynn. She was then appointed as a member to the North Carolina Utilities Commission. She would remain with the Commission for seven years until 1998.

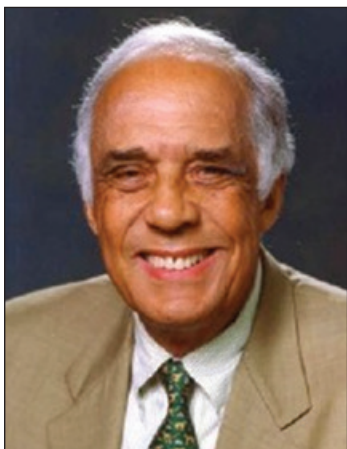
Duncan then became a partner in the Raleigh, North Carolina law offices of Kilpatrick Stockton. It wasn't long before she was elected as the first African American Pres-

ident of the North Carolina Bar Association. She would stay with Kilpatrick Stockton until she was named to the federal bench.

On April 28, 2003, Republican President George W. Bush nominated Duncan to fill a vacancy on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Virginia. She became the Court's first African American female Judge to serve on the bench. As a Republican, Duncan had the support of fellow Republican Senator's Elizabeth Dole and John Edwards. She easily won confirmation when her nomination came before the U.S. Congress.

Judge Duncan has served on many commissions, advisory groups, and organizations. She served as the President of the Federal Judges Association (FJA) and is a member of the organization's Executive Committee. The FJA is a group of legislative volunteer Article III Judges, judges that have been appointed by the President of the United States pursuant to Article III of the U.S. Constitution who's purpose is to protect the independence of the judicial branch. The Committee oversees the activities of over 1,350 active and senior federal judges.

An active member of several community based organizations, Judge Duncan has served her profession as a member of the Board of Trustees at Duke University where she chaired the school's Academic Affairs Committee. She served on the Boards of the American Law Institute, the Carolina Ballet, and the International Judicial Relations Committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference. She joined the Board of North State Bancorp and is a member of the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys. She is also a lifetime member of the Duke Law Board of Visitors. On October 1, 2015, United States Supreme Court Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., appointed Duncan as the Chair of the U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on International Judicial Relations.



ROBERT MORTON DUNCAN

...was born on August 24, 1927 in Urbana, Ohio to Wanda Brown Duncan and Benjamin Austin. In his early years, the young Duncan was educated in a desegregated school in a segregated community. In other words, he lived in an African American

community but was able to attend a mixed elementary and high school. He received his undergraduate degree from Ohio State University in 1948 and his law degree from the same university in 1952. Although he obtained a law degree, he was as excited about the achievement as most would be as he did not see a place for him in law as an African American lawyer. There were not many African American lawyers in Ohio at the time. Despite his shadowy observations, he passed the Ohio Bar the same year he graduated.

After passing the Bar, Duncan enlisted into the U.S. Army to fulfill his obligations to the military. He served his two years in the Army at a post in Korea. When he returned to Ohio after serving in the Army, a family lawyer acquaintance, William B. Saxbe, had been elected as the Ohio Attorney General and asked Duncan to join him as an Assistant Attorney General. Enthusiastically, Duncan jumped at the offer, which was a life changing decision for him as it changed his perspective on how he saw himself and his role in the law field.

Unfortunately, Saxbe lost his position at the Attorney General's office and as a sweep of Saxbe's staff followed, Duncan lost his position as well. Fortunately for Duncan, he was able to acquire a position with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation's Industrial Commission as an attorney. He stayed with the Bureau for two years preparing opinions and recommending worker's compensation packages for Ohio citizens.

In 1960, Duncan was hired as the Assistant City Attorney for Columbus, Ohio. After two years trying cases as an Assistant City Attorney, Duncan received a call from Saxbe indicating he had won his job back at the Attorney General's Office and asked Duncan to return with him. He returned to the Attorney General's Office with Saxbe, this time as the Chief of the Worker's Compensation Section. In 1965, the position of Chief Counsel opened up and Saxbe gave the position to Duncan. In that role, Duncan supervised 125 Assistant Attorney Generals and directed all legal work performed by the Attorney General's Office.

In 1966, Duncan ran and was elected to a seat on Ohio's Franklin County Municipal Court. Three years later, then Governor James A. Rhodes appointed him to the Supreme Court to succeed Supreme Court Justice Paul W. Brown. In the next election of 1970, Duncan won that race, which allowed him to keep his seat on the bench of the Supreme Court.

In 1971, he left the Supreme Court after then U.S. President Richard Nixon appointed him to the U.S. Court of Military Appeals, created by Congress in 1950. The three-justice panel, the highest court for military personnel, hears appeals originally adjudicated in military tribunals, presided over by commissioned officers or military judges. Duncan eventually became Chief Judge of the Court.

In 1974, Duncan was again appointed to serve in post by President Nixon. This time he was assigned to the U.S. District Court for southern Ohio. During the eleven years that Duncan served on this Court, he heard a myriad of cases, with the most crucial being that centered on the Columbus, Ohio school desegregation case. From the outcome of the case, Duncan was most elated that it secured the opportunity for African Americans to receive an equal education on par with those awarded to white students.

As crucial to African American education as the desegregation case was, Duncan felt that case had precedent and only needed to run its legal course to eradicate the segregation that existed at the time. His most difficult case involved that of Allied Artists. Big name movie production companies had challenged Ohio law, which prohibited "blind bidding", a practice where movie theater owners had been forced to purchase the licenses to show movies without a preview of them. Many of the theater owners felt the practice was unjust and unconstitutional and wanted a change in the policy. The production companies, of course, were against changing the policy.

Having no previous precedent by which to compare the merits of the case to, and no established Uniform Commercial Code to use as a guideline, Duncan believed that the production houses in their arguments were right, that a change would violate their constitutional 1st and 14th rights. He and the Court upheld the lower Court's decision and ruled in favor of the production houses, assessing the practice was constitutional. A true constitutionalist, Duncan believed that the Court had a responsibility to apply the law without regard to personal biases and to rule in way that met the challenges of the times.

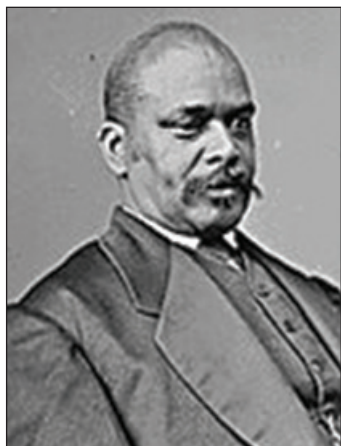
Stepping down from the bench in 1985, Duncan joined the private law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue in Columbus. As an Administrative Partner and the firm's Coordinator, he assisted in the firm's operations and client negotiations. For his alma mater, Ohio State University, now a client, he served as their Vice President and General Counsel. He also sat on the University's Board of Trustees and as the University's Moritz College of Law's Distinguished Jurist in Residence.

Well honored, Duncan was awarded "The Distinguished Service Award" from the American Civil Liberties Union with Executive Director Benson Wolman impressively stating that Duncan was "...one of the most impressive persons ever to grace the Columbus scene...as a jurist in the courts of Ohio and the United States. He fairly and justly demonstrated exceptional devotion to securing constitutional guarantees of expression and belief, due process, and equal protection of the laws for all citizens."

A devoted and caring citizen of his community, Duncan served on numerous Boards. Several of them included the American Electric Power, Columbus College of Art & Design, Franklin University of Ohio, and the Red Cross of Greater Columbus. Let's not forget his beloved Ohio State University. He served them graciously as well.

Having been the first in many of his achievements, Duncan was the first African-American to win a seat in a statewide Ohio election; the first African-American elected to judicial office in Franklin County; the first African-American the first to serve on the Supreme Court of Ohio; the first African-American to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court; the first African-American to serve on the U.S. Court of Military Appeals; and first African-American to be appointed to the federal bench in Ohio.

A pioneering Ohio jurist, Robert Morton Duncan died on November 2, 2012 at eighty-five years old.



Oscar J. Dunn

... was born into slavery in 1826 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Maria and James Dunn. His mother was a slave but his father was not having bought his freedom from his master. Dunn's

father, James, had been born into slavery in Petersburg, Virginia. He was sold to James H. Caldwell of New Orleans. Caldwell would go on to found the New Orleans Gas Light Company and the St. Charles Theatre. A skilled carpenter, James was able to save enough to buy his freedom in 1819. By 1832, James had saved enough savings from his carpentry skills to purchase the freedom of his wife Maria and their two children. They were free before the start of the Civil War that ultimately ended slavery.

Because the family did not speak the local Creole language, in New Orleans, the Dunn family were not a part of the everyday local culture of the free blacks. Because of his father's great carpentry skills, Dunn was privileged to have his education paid for. During elementary and high school, he was able to study music and with private lessons, he became an accomplished musician. He later taught others the violin.

After the Civil War ended, New Orleans became a haven for newly freed slaves. Dunn welcomed them began to work to gain them the equality that comes with freedom. He supported the right to own land, paid education for black children, and actively promoted the Universal Suffrage Movement. He also joined the Republican Party.

To help those in need, Dunn established an agency to help freedmen find jobs. For his efforts, the Freedmen's Bureau appointed him as Secretary of the Advisory Committee of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company of New Orleans. From his position, Dunn worked to ensure struggling freedmen were not disadvantaged in the treatment and hiring practices of the white planters.

In 1866, he established the People's Bakery. The bakery was owned and operated by the Louisiana Association of Workingmen. Dunn then ran for a seat on the New Orleans City Council. Winning the seat, he soon was named Chairman of a committee created to review Article 5 of

the City Charter. In his summation, Dunn proposed that all children between the ages of 6–18 be eligible to attend public schools. Dunn's resolution was presented in the Louisiana state convention and subsequently enacted into Louisiana law. The measure laid the foundation for Louisiana's future bi-racial public education system and processes.

In the 1868 state elections, Dunn teamed with Henry Clay Warmoth to run on the Republican ticket for Governor and Lt. Governor of Louisiana. Dunn, because of his connections to local, state and federal politicians, became a close ally of U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant and U.S. Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner. Calling upon his friends, the Warmoth-Dunn Republican ticket won the general election, winning over sixty percent of the votes. Taking office on June 13, 1868, Dunn became the first black Lt. Governor of any state in the United States.

During his long legal career, Dunn has served the city of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana in many capacities. He was the President Pro Tempore of the Louisiana State Senate. He sat on the Printing Committee of the legislature that had a million-dollar budget annual budget. He served as President of the Metropolitan Police, who had an annual budget of nearly one million dollars. Dunn sat on the Board of Trustees and Examining Committee for Straight University in New Orleans, founded by the city as a black college.

After a brief illness, Dunn died on November 22, 1871 at the young age of forty-five from congestion of the brain. He had launched a campaign for the upcoming state and presidential elections and some believed he was poisoned but there was never any evidence to prove that theory. At his funeral, more than 50,000 people turned out to honor his legacy. Reported on national news, federal and state legislators came to pay their respects. Masonic lodges, civic and social organizations paid homage by parading from the church where the services were held to Dunn's grave site in the Cassanave family mausoleum at St. Louis Cemetery No. 2.



ACY L. DURHAM

...native of Minden, Louisiana and a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) where she earned a double major degree in Accounting and Finance. While studying for her MBA degree, she took a job as an accountant

and auditor. She received her MBA from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. She obtained her Juris Doctorate degree from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Durham also earned an LL.M. degree in Tax Law from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas.

During and after receiving her law degrees, Durham worked for several entities, including private practice, corporate and government. For a period of time, she worked as a Benefits Advisor for the U.S. Department of Labor in its' Employee Benefits Security Administration. She also worked as a private practicing attorney where she gave advice to general public consumers.

Durham currently serves as a Tax Manager with Deloitte Tax LLP, a prominent accounting firm. Her specialty centers on employee benefits and executive compensation plans. She gives special emphasis to qualified plans, including, profit sharing, stock bonus, defined benefit, 401(k) and 403(b) plans. She provides health & welfare arrangements, fringe benefit issues, administrative plan designs, risk management, regulatory compliance, and document drafting.

For her clients, Durham conducts reviews of tax status and plans in preparation for routine audits. She prepares employment agreements, severance agreements, bonus plans, and other equity/compensation plans for compliance with federal law and regulations. If there is call for bankruptcy, Durham assists in the formation of the process and creates a plan of action whether they involve re-organizing, mergers, or total liquidation.

For her clients seeking acquisitions, Durham serves as the legal liaison for the financial gain or expenditure covering a broad range of tax related issues. She services her clients with human resources and employment law matters as well as establishing benefit packages if needed. Durham also is an expert in nonqualified plans and other welfare related plans. She is licensed to practice law in the states of Louisiana and Texas.

Durham has been sought after by many professional organizations where she has lectured on innovative leadership tactics surrounding business, legal, and professional operations. As a visionary, Durham is passionate about inclusion and diversity, particularly in women's rights. She empowers young women

and mentors them by volunteering her time to teach them about business and financial services. She is an advocate for diversity in life and in the workplace.

Durham gives time and energy in support of the Junior Achievement and serves as a Board member on the Dallas Junior Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. She supports Little Sister and has served as the Melrose Society Chair. She also recruits others to become involved in mentoring and encouraging young professionals while giving them great confidence to help build a stronger legal community having concerns about philanthropy and community giving.

Durham mentors several high school and college students and is a member of the Junior League of Dallas. As a member, she devotes time to the Genesis Women's Shelter where she assists victims of domestic violence and physical abuse. She helps victims rebuild their lives and gives comfort to them during a most vulnerable time.

Durham has taken and graduated from several leadership classes that have assisted her in developing her own leadership skills. She completed a program associated with the North Texas Business Council for the Arts, which promotes corporate investment in the arts and leads to giving artists a venue and network in which to showcase their works. Durham has learned how to connect professional artist with non-profit institutions interested in preserving and patronizing the arts as a developmental tool or as a cultural investment opportunity.

Durham is a member of the National Black MBA Association, the National Association of Black Accountants, and is a proud active member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.. She is a member of the National Bar Association (NBA), JL Turner Legal Association, the Texas Young Lawyers Association, and Dallas Association of Young Lawyers. Durham is also a member of the American Bar Association and has served as the Director on the Dallas Woman's Lawyers Association. She served as the Public Service Director for the Dallas Division and is responsible for all service projects presented to the 150,000 members and to the general public. She also served as the Secretary/Treasurer and Chaired the Division for one year.

Durham has been given several distinguished awards for her service to the law profession and to the community at large. She received the "Outstanding Young Lawyer Distinguished Career Award" from the Southern University Law Center and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers named her as the "One to Watch." The American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division presented Durham with its, "Star of the Quarter" Award. The Texas Young Lawyers Association then bestowed upon Durham their highest award, the "Joseph M. Pritchard Inn Outstanding Director of the Year Award". She also received the prestigious President's Award of Merit and the international non-profit organization, Altrusa International, presented Durham with its' Outstanding Woman of Tomorrow Award.

Photo Not
Available



WILLIAM J. DURHAM

..was born in 1896 in Sulphur Springs, Texas located in Hopkins County. He attended undergraduate school at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas. After only one semester

at the University, he enlisted into the United States Army serving in France during World War I. After returning to the United States, he took up residence in Sherman, Texas.

He was able to obtain a job with a white lawyer, Benjamin F. Gafford, where he began his law studies. He was admitted to the Texas State Bar in 1926. With his law degree in hand, he began his lifelong journey of fighting for the civil rights of blacks in Texas. Race relations in the state of Texas at that time were abysmal or not existent to say the least. Texas having been the last state to abolish slavery, the dislike by whites of blacks still existed. Durham took on these civil rights cases even though they were difficult to win with most of the juries being all white. In addition, many of those seeking his legal advice did not have enough money to pay.

In May of 1930, the black business district of Sherman was burned down during a white riot, including Durham's own law office. Luckily for Durham, he had served as Legal Counsel for an insurance company and he was able to rebuild. Not deterred, Durham and the black community rebuilt the burned down district and Durham continued his fight for equal and civil rights, even more so than before.

He joined forces with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in his and their fight to end segregation throughout the state of Texas. During the next several years, Durham, with the help of other attorneys involved with the NAACP, would take on over forty civil rights cases. He would eventually become the leader of the Texas branch of the NAACP.

One of Durham's most notable cases was that of *Sweatt v. Painter* in 1950. Herman Marion Sweatt had been denied admission to the University of Texas Law School. At the time, the statutes of the Texas State Constitution prohibited blacks from attending white schools and banned integrated education. Knowing that there

was no Texas University that admitted black law students, Durham saw that the University of Texas was vulnerable to a lawsuit. He along with legendary Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP, worked the case from Durham's home in Sherman. The case would eventually lead to the desegregation of higher education in the state of Texas.

Durham moved his offices from Sherman to Dallas, Texas where it would remain for many years. In Dallas, he became known as a civil-rights champion of the people. An effective leader, he argued cases before the local Courts to help struggling Dallas residents in their cases against employment mistreatment, civil disobedience claims, and other civil rights complaints. He challenged voting rights, school integration, and increased pay for teachers. In his fight for voting rights for the African American voters in Texas, Durham helped to organize the Texas Council of Voters.

After serving the citizens of Texas for over twenty-seven years, William J. Durham died on December 22, 1970. He was seventy-four years old.



ROLAND J. "DUKE" EALEY

...was born on June 20, 1914 in Kershaw, South Carolina. At one year old, his family moved to Richmond, Virginia. When he turned eight years old, he heard that a local liquor bootlegger had been arrested and was to stand trial for his misdeeds. Infatuated,

he begged his father to take him to the courthouse where the trial was to be held so that he could witness the proceedings. His father refused telling the young Ealey that he was too young to participant. Upset with his father's refusal, he told his father that was going to become a lawyer and go to any trial he wanted. That was the beginning of Ealey's legal career.

Ealey during his early education focused on his schoolwork with the goal of becoming an attorney always in the back of his mind. He graduated from Armstrong High School in Richmond before attending Richmond's Virginia Union University where he earned his undergraduate degree. He then entered Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law where he obtained his law degree.

After receiving his law degree, Ealey enlisted into the United States Army to serve his military duties. Completing his military service, he returned to Richmond to begin his private practice legal career. He then took on whatever cases of whatever nature that came before him. He practiced for many years serving Richmond citizens until he decided to run for election. He threw his hat in the ring for a seat in the Virginia state legislature.

In 1951, Ealey made a run for the state legislature although he was unsuccessful despite the fact that no African American had been elected to office in Virginia since the Reconstruction Era. In running in the election, Ealey understood that his run for elected office was a long shot, however, he did so hoping to stimulate "Negro" participation in the electoral process and to get them involved in governmental affairs.

In entering the race for the Virginia House of Representatives, knowing that he would not garner enough votes was not unlike many of the cases that Ealey took on. Some he knew he would not win, but knew that the litigant needed representation and many times he took on the cases without charging a fee for his services. Throughout his long distinguished career, he operated in a way that brought better service to his clients than what they could afford.

He then joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as a staff attorney. The NAACP needed attorneys to represent clients that made contact with them asking for help for issues surrounding civil and equal rights in Virginia. Ealey was a perfect fit for the NAACP as he

truly cared about the African American community and the people he served.

Ealey toured Virginia and North Carolina urging blacks to stand up for the constitutional rights and pushed for them to join others in fighting Jim Crow laws that held blacks back. He implored others to join in the fight for school desegregation preaching that through education, blacks could improve their lives and that of their children. He wanted to showcase the fact that through the courts, blacks could find the freedom they sought.

After the 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* that made segregated schools unconstitutional, Ealey began to challenge the segregated Richmond city schools in the Virginia courts. He represented a Virginia Union college student, the school he had graduated from, that had intentionally sat in a seating section in the local traffic court that was reserved for whites only. Ealey easily won the case arguing the separate but equal seating section the court had imposed was unconstitutional.

Although Ealey fought for civil rights and equal opportunities for African Americans, he was a believer of and preached racial reconciliation. He felt that if all people treated each other with decency and had a sense of fairness, the world would be a better place in which to live. He spread his position of equal interaction between the races telling African Americans that despite the fact that whites had treated blacks extremely unfairly in so many instances in the past, they should not stir up the hatred that whites had against blacks.

Ealey was appointed as a domestic relations and juvenile Judge for the Richmond courts. He later became a Circuit Court Commissioner of Chancery.

In 1983, James S. Christian Jr., the sitting Delegate representing Virginia's 70th District died after losing his battle with cancer. Ealey decided to make a run to take the Delegates seat, just as he had done years before. He campaigned for the seat and won the seat to represent Virginia's 70th District.

While serving in the Virginia House of Representatives, Ealey served on the Claims Committee, the Corporations Committee, and the Insurance and Banking Committee. He also served on the Labor and Commerce Committee and the Militia and Police Committee. For his 70th District, he lobbied for the needs and concerns that they presented to him for legislation. Ealey would serve in the House for five more terms and was the oldest serving member.

For his dedicated service, Ealey has been recognized by many organizations including the Astoria Beneficial Club, Richmond Afro-American newspaper, and the Richmond Urban League. He served as President of the Richmond chapter of the Old Dominion Bar Association.

Roland J. "Duke" Ealey, suffered from prostate cancer. Becoming weaker, after a fall in his home that broke both of his arms, on March 23, 1992, he died of complications related to cancer. He was seventy-seven years old. On hearing of his death, the Governor Douglas Wilder ordered state flags to be flown at half-mast.





CARL ALEXANDER EARLES

...was born in Hemphill, Texas on June 24, 1922. He attended Wiley College in Marshall, Texas where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1943. After completing college, he enlisted into the United

States Army where he served with distinction in the European Theater specializing in field artillery and chemical warfare. At the end of World War II, he was honorably discharged and returned to the U.S. and settled in Los Angeles, California.

He continued his studies under the G.I. Bill and enrolled for graduate studies into the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and the Southwestern School of Law. After receiving his law degree he took the California Bar exam and was admitted to practice law in California in 1951. He began his legal career as a private practice attorney. He opened an office, the same office that he would operate from for the next sixty years.

After obtaining his law license, Earles took time away to complete his duties in the military. After completing his two years, he returned to California to continue his law practice. During his lengthy time serving as an attorney, Earles was able to achieve many milestones. He became the first African American to serve as a Delegate for the California State Bar Association.

He became a mentor to many young aspiring attorneys and was instrumental in the decisions of many of them to attend his alma mater, Wiley College as well as other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) across the country. Believing that as future lawyers, they need to be given special care and guided in a way to ensure they understood fairness in the law and to engage in it with a purpose of uplifting the communities in which they served. His guidance and support helped to create many lawyers that are involved in the legal arena today.

Earles has given of his time, money and legal advice to many organizations, associations and civic groups. For his beloved fraternity, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, he has been active for more than seventy years. He served as

the Fifth Grand Counsel, their national attorney, and its' President of the organization's Los Angeles chapter.

For the Hamilton United Methodist Church, he served as a Trustee and their General Counsel. He was a Trustee for Wiley College's Board of Trustees as well as the Chairman of their Finance Committee. He was the President of the Los Angeles Wiley College Club. He has been a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the 28th Street YMCA Century Club, the Crenshaw Neighbors, the Hepburn Avenue Block Club, and the Spring Valley Lake Country Club.

Earles is a member of many Bar associations across the United States which includes the:

- American Bar Association (life member)
- Langston Bar Association (former President and Hall of Fame in 1997)
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- National Bar Association (Hall of Fame in 1993)
- Supreme Court of California and American Judicature Society
- Supreme Court of the United States of America
- State Bar of California

When Earles reached his ninetieth birthday, it was celebrated with well wishes from many of his past peers, judges, professors, legislators and government officials. Both President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama sent their congratulations. So did California Governor Jerry Brown, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and many members of the Los Angeles City Council. He was given salutations from both loved ones and those that respected him for the help he bestowed upon them.

Carl Alexander Earles died on May 18, 2013. He was ninety years old.



MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

... was born on June 6, 1939 in Bennettsville, South Carolina, the youngest of five children of a Baptist preacher. At fourteen years old, in 1953, her father died. It was said that in his last words, he urged her to

strive, saying, "Don't let anything get in the way of your education."

She graduated from Marlboro Training High School in Bennettsville, and went on to attend Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Her devoted studies granted her the ability to travel the world on a Merrill Scholarship and she was able to study in the Soviet Union as a Lisle fellow. She became involved in the Civil Rights movement, and after being arrested for her activism, she decided to study law enrolling into Yale Law School where in 1963, she earned a Juris Doctor.

Moving to Mississippi, Edelman became the first African American woman admitted to the State of Mississippi Bar. She began practicing law with the NAACP's Mississippi office of the Legal Defense and Educational Fund, working on racial justice issues connected with the civil rights movement. She representing many of the activists during the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. She also helped establish a Head Start program, in Mississippi.

In 1968, Edelman moved to Washington, D.C., where she assisted in organizing the Poor People's Campaign of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She founded a public interest law firm, Washington Research Project, and began to delve into issues related to children and childhood development.

In 1973, she founded the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) as a voice for poor children of all colors and all disabilities. The organization has served as an advocate and has been a research center for children's issues, documenting problems and offering solutions to the needs of children. She involved herself in several school desegregation cases and served on the Board of the Child Development Group of Mississippi, which represented one of the largest Head Start programs in the country.

As the founder CDF, Edelman assumed the role of leader and principal spokesperson for the organization with an aim to persuade Congress to overhaul foster care, improve

child care, support adoption, and protect children who are disabled, homeless, abused or neglected. Throughout her life, Edelman has continued to advocate for youth pregnancy prevention, the funding of child-care, prenatal care, and stopping children's exposure to the violent images transmitted by the mass media. Her compassion has driven her to serve on the Board of the New York City based Robin Hood Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to the elimination of poverty.

Edelman has received over one hundred honorary degrees and many other awards including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, and a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. In 2000, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings which include: *Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change*, *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*, and *Hold My Hand: Prayers for Building a Movement to Leave No Child Behind.*"

Edleman was married Peter Edelman, a Georgetown law professor an assistant to Robert Kennedy. They met in 1967 during a tour by Kennedy and Joseph Clark of Mississippi's poverty-ridden Delta slums. They married on July 14, 1968. They had three children: Joshua, Jonah, and Ezra. Joshua sought the educational administration field; Jonah, earned a Ph.D. from Oxford University, works in education advocacy; and Ezra is a television producer.

Honors and awards

1985	MacArthur Fellowship
1985	Barnard Medal of Distinction
1986	Doctor of Laws, honoris causa Bates College
1988	Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism
1991	Award for Greatest Public Service Benefiting the Disadvantaged, an award given out annually by Jefferson Awards.[3]
1992	Boy Scouts of America, Silver Buffalo Award
1995	Community of Christ International Peace Award
1996	The 2nd Annual Heinz Award in the Human Condition
2000	Presidential Medal of Freedom A Marlboro County library named in honor of Edelman, opened on February 22, 2010 in her hometown of Bennettsville, South Carolina
2011	Rathbun Visiting Fellow at Stanford University
2014	Rhode Island School of Design: MLK Celebration Series Annual Honoree and Keynote Speaker



GEORGE E. EDGECOMB

...was born in 1942 in Tampa, Florida. His mother was a single mom and the family was raised in government housing. He attended Middleton High School where he served as the student body President and graduated with honors. He entered Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he again served as the student body President during both his junior and senior years. In his senior year, he was awarded the Young Man of the Year Award.

Edgecomb earned his law degree from Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C.. At the law school, he was named as the Chief Justice of the Sigma Delta Legal Fraternity. He also worked for a local law firm while earning his law degree.

In 1964, Edgecomb married his high school sweetheart, Doretha. They married when he was a freshman in law school and she was teaching English at a local junior high school. Together, they had one daughter, Allison.

After completing his law studies at the age of twenty-six, Edgecomb returned to Tampa to take a job in the law offices of highly respected attorney Delano Stewart. He remained under Stewart's tutelage for eight years. While serving in the law office, Edgecomb served as the President of the Greater Tampa Urban League Board of Directors and as a steward at Mt. Sinai A.M.E. Church.

After leaving Stewart's law office, Edgecomb became an Assistant County Solicitor. He was the first African-American to serve as a County Solicitor. He later became an Assistant State Attorney. He was the first African-American Assistant State Attorney working for E.J. Salcines. Edgecomb later became the Chief of the Felony Division for the State Attorney's Office.

In 1973, Edgecomb was appointed by then Governor Reubin O'Donovan Askew as a County Judge for Hillsborough County. Edgecomb was the first African-American named as a County Judge in the county. He was only thirty-one years old when he was appointed to the bench and served only for three years before he died of cancer at the age of thirty-four.

Although his life was short, Edgecomb made a great impact on the lives of many in the Tampa area. To celebrate his life, H. Lee Moffit opened the Moffitt Cancer Center and named the cancer center in honor of Edgecomb. At the time of his death, there were no available treatment facilities for him in Florida and Moffitt wanted to ensure that Florida residents had a place that could treat the sickness and subsequently established the George Edgecomb Society at Moffitt Cancer Center.

On January 2004, the Hillsborough County Government dedicated the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court in Edgecomb's honor, naming it The George E. Edgecomb Courthouse. The local bar association was created and named after him, the George Edgecomb Bar Association, which recognizes and promotes African American lawyers within the legal and judiciary profession. Edgecomb has been given other distinguished awards, including being named Man of the Year by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and named as an Outstanding Citizen by the Frontiers of America.



JEFFREY LEE EDISON

...graduated in 1969 from Mumford High School in Detroit, Michigan. To receive his undergraduate degree in 1973 with honors from Howard University in Washington, D.C. majoring in Political Science, African American History, and Education. For his law degree, Edison attended Wayne State University School of Law in Detroit.

At Wayne State, Edison became involved in student activism and worked alongside other student activists Carl Edwards, Ivy Riley, Chokwe Lumumba, Daphne Curtis, Adam Shakoor, many others to fight racism at the law school. Edison joined the Black Legal Alliance, a student organization created by Edwards and Riley that challenged the law school's policies of exclusion of African American students. The organization provided legal education to the Detroit community and supported students in their studies.

In October of 1974, Edison attended his first annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) in New Orleans, Louisiana, together with fellow student, Rosalind Reed. At the conference, led by Lennox Hinds, Edison was inspired by what he heard by other attending activists, which set the framework and basis for what an African American attorney should be. He returned to Detroit and helped to organize the Michigan Chapter of the NCBL.

After receiving his law degree and passing the Michigan State Bar, Edison entered private practice as a criminal defense lawyer. In 1976, he joined forces with attorney Myzell Sowell, the Chief Defender at Detroit's Legal Aid and Defender Office, and along with other young attorneys, and took on legal cases for Detroit's underprivileged, underserved, and discriminated. The Defender Office, under Sowell's leadership, would produce sixteen attorneys that would later become judges, including Vera Massey Jones, Daphne Means Curtis, Warfield Moore Jr., and Michael Sapala, not to mention the importance of the other twelve judges produced by the Defenders Office.

In May of 1980, Edison joined the firm of Ashford Cannon Lumumba and Shakoor, P.C, formed by several fellow attorneys that worked at the Defender Office. During the next several years, Edison would defend clients involved with criminal alleged crimes and cases involving civil rights issues. In 1987, he represented NCBL on a hospitality tour of Togo, West Africa, which was his first pilgrimage to Africa and a life changing experience. He spent time in the Ivory Coast of West Africa, which gave Edison more pride in his African American heritage and a connection with other African attorneys and civil rights activists.

In 1989, Edison again represented the NCBL when he served as a member of a Nation of Islam delegation to Libya, which journeyed to Libya to celebrate and mark the country's 20th Anniversary. Among the members attending were National NCBL Co-Chair Adjoa Aiyetoro; Nation of Islam's Akbar Muhammed; President of the Republic of New Afrika, Kwame Ture; New Afrikan Peoples Organization representative Chokwe Lumumba; and New Afrikan Peoples Organization, Imari Obadele. In Libya, Edison again was able to forge relationships with other African attorneys, civil rights, and emancipation scholars.

In 1991, in collaboration with the M. Shanara Gilbert of the NCBL, Edison presented a paper, "Comments: The Draft Bill of Rights for Post-Apartheid South Africa: Protections for the Criminal Defendant," at a Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa with a purpose of creating a new constitution for South Africa. The African National Congress (ANC) had extended an invitation to attend the conference to the NCBL and the National Lawyers Guild in anticipation of an ANC victory in the upcoming South African national elections. The asked the invited organizations to analyze, discuss, and present papers on various issues aimed at assisting the ANC in formulating the new South African constitution.

In conjunction with the South African trip, Edison served as a part of another NCBL delegation that traveled to Namibia, Africa for Namibia's Second Anniversary of Independence celebration. In Namibia, Edison was hosted by renowned revolutionary freedom fighter, Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo, a founding member of the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO), the leading liberation movement credited with gaining Namibia's independence from South Africa. Toivo Ya Toivo had been captured, tried, imprisoned, and viciously tortured by the regime of South African during the Namibia's struggle for independence. Edison was also invited by Namibia's President Sam Nujoma to attend a State Dinner, where Edison was given the honor of presenting a toast to the President.

In 1992, Edison returned to Ivory Coast, traveling with a group of students and parents from the Natakali Talibah Schoolhouse in Detroit. He traveled to Ghana to pay a visit to one of his mentors, Mama Malkia Brantuo, a well known activist and educator and became a supporter of the Ababio Culture and Arts Center, which was a project of his wife, Shaakira. The Arts Center was created to revitalize the Bantuma community through culture, arts, education, and training in Elmina, Ghana.

Back in American, Edison would become involved in two major civil rights litigation cases. He served on the legal team organized by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Detroit Chapter that challenged the legislative abolishment of Detroit Recorder's Court, as a violation of the Voting Rights Act. For the case, Edison would author an amicus brief in support of affirmative action on behalf of NCBL in the United States Supreme Court.

In another of his more notable cases, Edison served on the legal team for Citizens for Affirmative Action's Preservation, as an intervenor in an affirmative action lawsuit. The litigation was filed to challenge the admissions policies that excluded African American students at the University of Michigan Undergraduate School. The case reached the halls of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Other prominent cases that Edison has acted as legal counsel include the case of Reclaiming Michigan's Throwaway Kids: Students Trapped in the School-to-Prison Pipeline and the pilot Restorative Justice Project for the Wayne County Circuit Court. The Restorative Justice Project is based on the idea that a community does not have a crime problem but a relationship problem. It's premise is that if broken relationships are repaired and restored there, defendants are much less likely to repeat a crime based on a healthy relationship with the justice system, their peers, their family, and their communities.

Edison has been a member of many civic, legal, and social organizations, institutions, and foundations, far too many to list here. His recognized accomplishments, awards, and honors would take pages to list and his sitting positions on charitable Boards are vast. His contributions to local communities has been recognized by many both in the United States and across the continent of Africa.



CHRISTOPHER FAIRCHILD EDLEY, JR.

... was born on January 13, 1953 in Boston, Massachusetts to Zaida Coles Edley and Christopher Edley, Sr.. Although born in Boston, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is where he spent most of his childhood. After graduating high school, he entered the local Swarthmore College. He graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and Economics.

Edley then took a job with Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Ironically, his father taught previously at the university. He left the university in 1976 to work with Jimmy Carter on Carter's Democratic Party presidential campaign. He worked in the Party's situation room.

After Carter's election to the U.S. Presidency, Edley returned to Harvard to complete his studies. He graduated from the John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1978 earning his Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Policy degrees. In earning his dual degrees, Edley became a historic First. He became the first second-generation African-American to graduate from the school. His father had graduated from Harvard twenty-five years before in 1953, the year Edley was born.

Edley took his first legal career position with the Carter administration in Washington, D.C. He served as Assistant Director on the White House domestic policy Staff. After two years at that White House position, he became a Special Assistant with the U.S. Secretary of Housing, Education, and Welfare.

Carter lost his presidential re-election bid and with the Republican Party taking control of the U.S. Government, Edley left government, again returning to Harvard University Law School. This time he would teach. He would become the fourth African American to attain tenure status at the university.

For the next several years, Edley would split his time between teaching and politics. He took time away from Harvard in 1987 to become the National Issues Director for Democratic hopeful Michael Dukakis. In 1992, he was a part of Bill Clinton's transition team when Clinton was elected President. He then became the Associate Director of Economics and Government for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

In 1995, he became Director of President Clinton's newly established commission, The White House Review of Affirmative Action Commission. His mandate was to reshape the White House policy related to affirmative action issues. Wanting to use a class based policy over a race based policy, Edley was able to persuade the President to use the latter policy which was then implemented.

In 1996, Edley returned once more to Harvard. Convinced from his work in Washington that academia needed to be an im-

portant part of the civil rights issues facing America. To help in his pursuit, he co-founded the Civil Rights Project (CRP) at Harvard University. Its purpose was to conduct research on civil rights in the U.S., past and present, and to influence public policy to create a future multicultural future. In that end, he published *"Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action, Race and American Values"*.

In 1999, Edley received another presidential Appointment. This time he was selected to a post with the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In 2000, he became a Senior Advisor to presidential hopeful and Democratic Party nominee Al Gore. While serving in these positions, Edley penned numerous editorial newspaper articles for many of the leading U.S. papers.

In one of his articles published in 2002 in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Edley took on the issues of civil-rights violations in the post-9/11 world in detentions. He proposed the establishment of an Office of Rights and Liberties within the Department of Homeland Security. He felt the watchdog department could assist in the prevention of abuse of authority.

In 2003, Edley was selected out of a pool of 200 candidates to become the Dean of the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. Reluctant to take the position as he would leave behind his beloved Civil Rights Project, he was convinced when Berkeley suggested he open a west coast arm of the Project as Berkeley was known for its political activism and civil rights stance. With his acceptance of the appointment as Dean, Edley became the first African American to head a major U.S. law school. He would serve as Dean until 2013.

Edley has served on many boards and commissions. He served on the board of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He was a board member for the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team. He served on the Aspen Institute Blue Ribbon Commission on Reform of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Carter-Ford National Commission on Federal Election Reform, California's Commission on Tax Reform and the 21st Century Economy, and the Commission on the Future of the University of California.

Edley has served as President of the organization Opportunity Institute, co-founded with Ann O'Leary, a Hillary Clinton advisor. He served in a senior position as an advisor on five presidential campaigns. He co-chaired the U.S. Department of Education's National Commission on Equity and Excellence in Education.

He has given time to the National Academies of Science's National Research Council (NRC), specifically the Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Law Institute, the Council of Foreign Relations, and the National Academy of Public Administration.

Throughout his notable and lengthy legal career, Edley has given his life's work toward the education of civil rights to students across the United States. His devotion to ensuring the rights of others has earned him a place amongst the country's best legal minds in the profession. From his insights, many have reaped their civil rights benefits from policies set in motion by Edley.





CARL R. EDWARDS

...is a Gordy Scholar and received his undergraduate degree from Michigan Lutheran College and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business and Accounting in 1970. He then attended the University of Detroit Mercy in Detroit, Michigan where he earned

a Master's degree in Urban Economics. To obtain his law degree, Edwards attended Wayne State University Law School completing his studies in 1974.

After leaving Wayne State's law school, Edwards worked as a legal apprenticeship with famed Detroit attorneys Harry M. Philo and Kenneth V. Cockrel, Sr., at the law firm of Philo, Maki, Robb, Cockrel and Cooper. Edwards served as an attorney for several years before deciding to hang his own shingle and open a private law firm.

Edwards established along with fellow attorney, Alice Jennings, the law firm of Edwards & Jennings, P.C.. Over the next several years, he was able to build a reputable legal practice and soon became to represent several notable and famous African American icons, including representing civil rights leader Rosa Parks and music entertainer and singer, Anita Baker. His stature in the legal profession grew enormously, which allowed him to be selected as a member of a delegation of U.S. judges and attorneys that traveled to the Peoples Republic of China and the Soviet Union to teach and educate government officials, law professors, academic scholars, and Chinese and Soviet citizens interested U.S. Constitutional Law and the U.S. Bill of Rights.

In the late 1970's, Edwards and his partner Jennings 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 Edwards and 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.

In 1980, Edwards and Jennings became 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, Edwards and Jennings 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's 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, Edwards and Jennings 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.

During his distinguished career, Edwards has litigated some very important and historic cases. Believing that the law should be utilized to advance causes of social justice and to advance humanity, Edwards believed in helping those that needed help and he did so through the law. In one of his landmark cases, he served as the lead counsel to save Detroit's General Hospital, the only city owned hospital in the city. The hospital was the only municipal-owned hospital in the city where uninsured city residents and the mentally ill could go. He and several others form the Coalition to save Detroit General Hospital.

Edwards would serve on the legal teams of several important cases and represented clients trying to obtain their freedom after being arrested for alleged crimes including murder. He represented Madeline Fletcher in her Flint, Michigan murder trial, represented Larry Guy in his Battle Creek, Michigan case, and represented Ricky Bullock in his Ann Arbor, Michigan case. Edwards also represented Africa American waterfront workers when he helped them to create the historic Brotherhood of Waterfront Workers organization.

Edwards has served as the past President of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA) and during his tenure, the MTLA established its' annual James A. Tuck Memorial Protect Your Rights Conference, on behalf of consumers, workers and injured victims and their organizations. He is the co-founder of the MTLA's People's Law School, which is associated with the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and operates across the entire State of Michigan. The school also operates in fifteen other states nationwide. Edwards currently teaches at Wayne State University.





DONNA F. EDWARDS

...was born on June 28, 1958 in Yanceyville, North Carolina. She received her Bachelor of Arts degrees in 1980 from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina majoring in English and Spanish. There were only six African

American women in her graduating class.

She found a job working for Lockheed Corporation at the Goddard Space Flight Center with the Spacelab program where she worked for a period of time before entering the Franklin Pierce Law Center, now the University of New Hampshire School of Law in Concord, New Hampshire. Edwards earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the University in 1989. She then left New Hampshire moving to Maryland.

In 1980, Edwards became a clerk for then Maryland House of Delegate Representative Albert Wynn. She became the co-founder and the first Executive Director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, which is an advocacy group and gives legal support to the needs for battered women. In that regard, she worked to pass the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. She would later become employed with the Public Citizen before becoming the Executive Director of the Center for a New Democracy. After several years there, she became the Executive Director of the Arca Foundation.

In 2008, Edwards won a seat in the U.S. Representative for Maryland's 4th Congressional District in a special election to take the seat vacated by fifteen year Maryland Congressman Albert Wynn who resigned. With her taking Wynn's seat, Edwards became the first African American woman to represent the state of Maryland in the United States Congress. Ironically, Edwards had clerked for Wynn during one of the terms he served in the House and had lost in the previous primary election to him for his Congressional seat. With her special election win, Edwards represented residents in the districts of Anne Arundel County and Prince George's County, Maryland.

In the 2008 general election, Edwards easily won a full term as a Congresswoman defeating Republican candidate Peter James and winning 85% of the vote. While serving in Congress, Edwards sponsored an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would repeal the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, where the Supreme Court ruled that laws that prevented corporations and trade unions from using general treasury funds for independent electioneering communications was a violation of the First Amendment, which guaranteed freedom of speech. In the spring of

2015, Edwards joined forces with several other members of the House of Representatives in introducing the Restoring Education and Learning Act (REAL Act). The measure was designed to restore Pell Grants to prisoners that have repaid society for their wrongdoings and wish to further their education.

Edwards believed that by educating prisoners we lower the rate of crime and recidivism, which ultimately brings benefits to taxpayers and lessens the government's financial responsibilities. She made a run for the Maryland U.S. Senate seat after long time Senator Barbara Mikulski announced the decision to step down from Congress in 2016. Edwards unfortunately was defeated in the primary for the Senate seat by Democrat Chris Van Hollen.



L OLIS EDWARD ELIE

...is believed to be born on January 9, 1930 in New Orleans, Louisiana although his birth certificate is dated February 9, 1928. He attended Gilbert Academy, a Methodist high school in New Orleans. Not supported by his family in his educational pursuits, particularly by his father who worked as a truck driver, Elie persevered in his studies. Despite the lack of

support, he strived in his studies and completed high school and set out to gain more education as best he could.

Leaving New Orleans, he served for six-months as a merchant seaman which took him to New York. Dazzled by the sites and sounds of New York, after his stint as a seaman, he decided to stay. To survive in New York, he shined shoes and worked as a delivery-man delivering stationery and other printed materials.

Elie joined the military with the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. He was shipped to California where he was assigned to a typing pool. Impressed with his work ethic and great typing and editing skills, a fellow soldier Frank D'Amico suggested to Elie that when he completed his military service, he should look into a law career. He would take D'Amico's suggestion and did so.

After leaving the military, Elie returned to the east coast to Washington, D.C. where he enrolled into Howard University. After completing one year at Howard, with the credits he had earned, he transferred to Dillard University in his hometown of New Orleans. Completing his undergraduate work at Dillard, he then enrolled into Loyola University also located in New Orleans. He would earn his law degree from the University's law school.

After passing the Louisiana State Bar exam, along with fellow partners Robert Collins and Nils Douglas, they opened their own law practice. With desegregation coming into full swing, they trio began to be involved with the many civil rights cases that were coming about. Elie helped to found the Citizen's Committee and took on clients that held claims of discrimination against employers denying them fair employment and restaurant owners that denied access to blacks to eat in their establishments.

He took on cases involving the local Black Panther Party organization in their pursuit of equal justice under the law and fair and rightful treatment of blacks across the country. He assisted the Freedom Riders who rode interstate buses in defiance of the Jim Crow laws of the South that prohibited blacks from doing so and were either arrested, maimed or had their lives threatened. He became a part of the many suits filed during the next several years that involved discrimination of blacks wherever and whenever someone called upon him to represent them.

Elie was one to challenge the social order and status quo of the time. He met with white leaders of the establishment seeking ways to change the discriminatory practices that were being applied. His desire was to help the disenfranchised and those less fortunate to the applicable laws being instituted.

Anyone willing to risk their lives for their causes of civil rights, Elie and his team came to their defense. If an African American was willing to resist white oppression, Elie was willing to risk his

life defending them. He confronted both violent and non-violent whites with non-violent defenses. He would visit those arrested and jailed for their defiant protests even when violence met violence. He defended many African Americans charged with violent crimes, arguing self defense in those cases.

Through they years of fighting these civil battles, change did not come easily. Being frustrated many times at the lack of progress, which took a toll on him and his legal associates, Elie never stopped his determined fight for racial equality for African Americans. He identified with the philosophy of other civil rights activists such as Malcolm X and the Black Muslim organizations across the country that had a platform of resistance "by any means necessary" in defense of and to protect the black communities across the United States.

In 1967, Elie represented Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial who was seeking to become the first African American to take a seat in the Louisiana House of Representatives since Reconstruction. Opposition forces filed a suit claiming that Morial did not live in the district he sought to represent. Elie took on the case and won. Morial took his seat and later became the first African American Mayor of the City of New Orleans as well.

In one such case in 1971, Elie represented twelve young African American men and women of the local Black Panther chapter who had been involved in a shootout with the local police. In their defense, he argued that Black Panthers were simply "standing up for human dignity". He stated that the Panthers were "were acting rationally in assuming the police were there to murder them." With the odds stacked against his defendants, Elie was able to win an acquittal.

The trial, which had a African American Judge presiding and many African American community leaders and citizens present every day during the trial, became a national headline. Elie, in his presentation of the facts, won the case by using intimidation as a tool. He made both the Judge and the African Americans that served on the jury identify with the immoral and unjust climate surrounding the incident. With his victory in the case, Elie became an icon to the New Orleans black community.

Elie then joined forces with James Farmer, the founder of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in their fight against the racial biases against African Americans of the times. Elie assisted in forming the Louisiana Consumers' League which instigated boycotts of local stores in the black community that refused to hire African Americans for jobs other than janitorial or delivery. Due to the boycotts success, black clerks and cashiers were hired.

Elie and his group of attorneys argued the case involving white Tulane University student, Sydney "Lanny" Goldfinch, charged with criminal mischief for assisting in the causes of black civil rights and faced ten years in prison. The case ultimately reached the U.S. Supreme Court. Elie and his team were again victorious, winning an acquittal for Goldfinch.

Elie would go on to become an Assistant District Attorney and a Civil District Court Judge. He left the bench citing he did not like the fact that he had to evict black people from their homes as part of the job as Judge. He was a man that did not like to be obligated and needed his independence. As a private practice attorney, Elie won many of his cases before all-white juries and judges. Whether the case was in Louisiana, Mississippi or any other part of the country, if he was called upon to help, he showed up ready to litigate.

Elie has been honored by far to many associations and organizations to be listed here. An advisor to many, his legacy is left to the many people that he has helped along the way. Lolis Edward Elie died in his home in Tremé, New Orleans on April 4, 2017. He was eighty-nine years old.





ROBERT BROWN ELLIOTT

...was born in 1842 in Liverpool, England to West Indian parents although many thought he was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Records show that he attended High Holborn Academy in London, England. In

his studies, he received a basic education learning to be a typesetter. He later studied law at Eton College graduating in 1859. After graduation, he joined the British Royal Navy.

Upon completing his duties with the British Royal Navy in 1867 at the age of twenty-five, Elliott came to the United States and settled in South Carolina. He was admitted to the South Carolina bar in 1868 and began practicing law in the state capital, Columbia under the tutelage of the future Congressman Richard H. Cain. He became the Associate Editor of the South Carolina Leader which was later renamed the Missionary Record. He was an elected State Delegate to the 1868 State Constitution Convention and months later, he won a seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives.

In 1869, due to his stint in the British Royal Navy, his military background gave him the expertise to be appointed Assistant Adjutant-General for South Carolina. He later became the first African American Commanding General for the South Carolina National Guard with the responsibility of fighting the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1870, Elliott was selected by the Republican Party to run for Congress for South Carolina's Third Congressional District. He was elected in November of 1870 and occupied his selected seat in March of 1871 as a Republican to the Forty-second and Forty-third United States Congress. During his time in Congress, Elliott continued to wage a fight against the activities of the Ku Klux Klan and adamantly opposed the granting of general amnesty to the ranking ex-Confederate military officers and participating civilians.

In 1872, Elliott became a candidate for one of South Carolina's U.S. Senate Seats. Unfortunately, he lost to his fellow opponent, Republican John J. Patterson. Believing that his reform agenda, fighting political corruption, could be better served at the state level, in 1874, he re-

signed his House of Representative seat to run for a seat in the South Carolina General Assembly. He won that election in 1874.

A year later, in 1875, Elliott was elected Speaker of the House for South Carolina's General Assembly. In 1876, he was elected South Carolina Attorney General which was his last public office. The following year, as the U.S. Reconstruction era was ending, the last of the federal troops were withdrawn from South Carolina. The Democratic Party gained power ending the Republican party's control of the state legislature, Elliott was forced out of office.

He practiced law until 1879 and continued his political aspirations by accepting an appointment as a Special Customs Inspector for the Treasury Department in Charleston, South Carolina. A year after that, he began working for Secretary of the Treasury, John Sherman's presidential campaign as the Manager of Sherman's black delegates. From that position, he was named a delegate to the 1880 Republican National Convention.

In January of 1881, he became one of the black delegation that met with President James Garfield in a protest involving the lack of civil and political rights in the South. On a trip to Florida in 1881, he contracted malaria and was transferred to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Establishing another law practice there, he was not able to attract enough clientele that his practice failed. Impoverished, Elliott died a few days before his forty-second birthday in New Orleans on August 9, 1884.

Photo Not
Available



G EORGIA HUSTON JOINES ELLIS

...was born in 1892. She graduated from Sumner Teachers College in St. Louis, Missouri. Ellis graduated in 1925 from the University of Chicago's John Marshall Law

School. She was admitted to the Illinois Bar the same year. While attending law school, Ellis worked in the Chicago Recorder's Office while she attended night school.

At the time Ellis received her law degree, there were only about twenty African American female lawyers practicing law in the United States. To begin her legal career, she became an "attaché" to the Domestic Relations branch of the Municipal Court. She was the first African American woman to hold a quasi-judicial posi-

tion in Chicago's court system. During her time serving as an attaché, Ellis had only one case heard by the court that was reversed. In 1941, she became the second African American woman to be granted permission to argue cases before the United States Supreme Court, following Violette Anderson.

Anderson joined forces with the law firm of African American lawyer Richard E. Westbrook headquartered in Chicago. She was one of only two female attorneys that worked for the firm. Fortunately for Anderson, Westbrook believed in a diverse workforce after having served as legal counsel in Chicago for the Republic of Liberia. Anderson handled government relations issues for the Liberian government as well as general practice cases that came to Westbrook's attention.

In 1929, Ellis was elected as the Vice President of the National Bar Association. With her election, she became the highest-ranking woman and highest ranking African American woman in the organization.





KEITH MAURICE ELLISON

...was born on August 4, 1963 in Detroit, Michigan to Clida (Martinez) Ellison and Leonard Ellison. The third of five sons, Keith was raised Roman Catholic in faith. Of the five boys, three became lawyers, one became a doc-

tor and the other became a Pastor.

Influenced by his family's in the civil rights movement, Ellison had a penchant to help the less fortunate beginning in his early years. His grandfather work extensively towards civil rights as a member of the NAACP in Louisiana. In his studies, he graduated in 1981 from the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy where he was involved in both sports and politics. He was a Senator in the student body government.

Upon graduation, at age nineteen, he enrolled into Wayne State University in Detroit. There, he converted from Catholicism to Islam. In making the change, he explained: *"I can't claim that I was the most observant Catholic at the time of my conversion. I had begun to really look around and ask myself about the social circumstances of the country, issues of justice, issues of change. When I looked at my spiritual life, and I looked at what might inform social change, justice in society... I found Islam."*

Graduating from Wayne State with a Bachelor of Arts in economics in 1987, he and his high-school sweetheart, Kim, married and moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota to attend the University of Minnesota Law School. The had four children, a daughter, Amirah, and three sons, Jeremiah, Elijah, and Isaiah. He graduated from the university with a Juris Doctor in 1990.

After finishing law school, Ellison worked at the firm of Lindquist & Vennum in Minneapolis for three years as a litigator specializing in civil rights, employment, and criminal defense law. Leaving the law firm, he became Executive Director of the nonprofit Legal Rights Center in Minneapolis, which specializes in the defense of poverty stricken clients. He then entered private practice working for the law firm Hassan & Reed Ltd, that specialized in trial practice.

Regularly involved in community service, he served as the unpaid host of a public affairs talk program at KMOJ radio, and has volunteered as a track coach for several organizations, working with youth between the ages of five and

eighteen. He looked at his volunteerism as a great community building device as it is for all ages and all genders.

Ellison was elected to his first public office in the November election of 2002, as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives serving House District 58B. His party was the smallest House minority in Minnesota history at the time he took his seat. That session, he was appointed to the Judiciary Policy & Finance Committee, the Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Committee, and the Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Committee. In 2004, Ellison was reelected to his seat, collecting eighty-four percent of the vote. For that term, he served on the Public Safety Policy & Finance Committee and the Civil Law & Elections Committee. He served until being selected to run for the U.S. Congress.

In 2006, at the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) Convention, Ellison won the party endorsement as the candidate for the U.S. Congress. After winning the general election, he became the first Muslim to be elected to the U.S. Congress and also the first black politician from Minnesota to serve in Congress. Taking his seat, Ellison focused on "relief and justice for the middle class", including wages, housing, and ending the U.S. involvement in the Iraq War. Arriving in Washington, Ellison began his tenure by voting on the 100-Hour Plan to raise the minimum wage, to fund stem cell research, and to allow Medicare to negotiate pharmaceutical prices.

Ellison introduced the Money Remittances Improvement Act of 2014, a bill that would make it easier for nonbank financial institutions such as money service businesses to provide remittance payments internationally. He introduced a credit reform bill, the "Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights" portion of the Credit CARD Act of 2009 to outlaw universal default, the practice whereby credit card companies raise interest rates on customers who are behind on payments to their creditors. He sought to limit interest rates on credit cards and to make the process easier for those who have a legitimate need to file bankruptcy.

Ellison has served on the following committees: Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary Committee. He has served on the following subcommittees: Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government-Sponsored Enterprises and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He has Co-Chaired the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Ellison was honored by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee when they presented him with their Trailblazer Award. In 2011, he was also named an Utne Reader visionary.





MABLEAN DELORIS EPHRAIM

...was born April 23, 1949 in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. When she was six-years old, her family relocated to Los Angeles, California (L.A.) where she was raised. At thirteen years of age, she

was a married woman. She married her childhood friend, Cassius Paxton when she was old enough to marry. They would remain together for nearly nineteen years, their divorce being finalized in 1981. They had one child together, although Mablean would have another later in life.

Ephraim began her law career working for the Women's Division of the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a Corrections Officer. While working as a Corrections Officer, to obtain her Juris Doctor degree, she took night classes at Whittier Law School where she graduated in 1978.

In 1982, Ephraim opened her own law firm where she focused on family law and personal injury cases. Over the next several years, her private practice law firm continued to grow and she served her cases and clients well. She then accepted a position as Prosecuting Attorney in the L.A.'s Prosecutor's Office.

In 1999, the producers of the "Divorce Court", a TV arbitration courtroom that hears small claims cases with litigants and defendants agreeing to the binding decision of the Court. The producers chose Ephraim as the Arbitrator. She became the first star of the hit TV show. She was also the first African American woman to preside over the show. The Divorce Court ran for seven seasons, 1990 through 2006.

Although Ephraim had significant legal experience and possessed a firm understanding of the law, she had never served as a Judge before appearing on The Divorce Court. The show went on to become a great success. Ephraim's humor frequently brought the studio audience to laughter as she adjudicated some of the outrageous and quirky cases that came before her. When advising one of the litigants standing before her, she would often remind them to, "Look deep before you leap", a slogan reserved as a way to show that before getting married, people should take the time to get to know each other. She believed that people should get to know each other

better before jumping into bed or getting married, which would help to lesson the Court's overloaded dockets.

Unable to reach a new contract agreement, Ephraim left the show after the 2005-2006 season. Her replacement, Judge Lynn Toler, who had previously hosted the TV law show, "Power of Attorney", took over and Ephraim left the show. Ephraim would later return to television in a new cable courtroom TV series, "Justice with Judge Mablean" in 2014. Her new syndicated show would be broadcast on the Justice Central cable channels.

Ephraim hit the big screen when she appeared in the Tyler Perry films, "Madea". In the Madea movies, Ephraim played a strict, stern, and no nonsense Judge that heard the cases Madea was involved in that came before the Court. In character and as the Judge, she would sentence Madea to some type of community service or another unflattering punishment rather than place her in jail. Their movie Court exchanges, although far from what actually happens in a court of law, were meant as comic relief and exaggerated humor.

Ephraim made other movie and film appearances playing a judge behind the bench. She did so in the film, "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" and another Tyler Perry film starring Madea, "Madea Goes to Jail". Ephraim also appeared in a reality TV series, "Celebrity Fit Club", where the contestants win money and prizes by losing weight on the show.

In her efforts to give back to the community, Ephraim hosts an annual awards event that honors and celebrates unsung fathers in her community. Her foundation's star-studded awards program, "Honoring Unsung Fathers" is held each year on Father's Day to bring awareness to the many fathers that are involved in the welfare of their communities and their families. The festive event, full of music, entertainment and good cheer, allows fathers to be highlighted and be given appreciation for what they do as fathers to their children.

The event also awards scholarships to deserving students to assist them with their college tuitions. The scholarships are meant for all students regardless of their grade point average, be they 1.5 or 5.0. The scholarships are set aside for anyone who wants to pursue their dreams, wants to go to college, and wants to be a production citizen in our society.



RICHARD CANNON ERWIN

...was born on August 23, 1923 in Marion, North Carolina, a rural town in McDowell County. He was nine years old when his father died and was raised by his mother, Flora Idella Cannon. He attended Hudgins High School in Marian graduating in 1940 as class Valedictorian

while working his father's farm. In high school, Erwin was a member of the Knowledge Expansion Club which studied subjects not presented in the class curriculum. It was during the parliamentary law studies that he decided to become a lawyer.

He attended Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina where he majored in Economics, Political Science and History. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1947. At Smith, he joined the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and married his wife, Demerice "Bunny" Whitley.

After his junior year at Smith, Erwin took time away from his studies to serve in the United States Army. He served during World War II leaving the Army reaching the rank of Sergeant. He chose the Quartermaster Corps program, which provided food, clothing, and tents to the soldiers and horses. Learning that only one man had ever died in the Quartermaster Corps, Erwin chose that division of the Army in which to serve. That man had died from a bale of hay falling on him as he fed horses. Erwin felt that was a safe way to serve out his time in the Army.

After returning from the Army, Erwin and his wife moved back to Marian where they remained for a years. They then moved to Washington, D.C., where He enrolled into Howard University and earned an LL.B. from its' School of Law in 1951. In law school, Erwin focused his attention on the evidence of law, as that was the most important element needed for a trial lawyer to success.

After obtaining his law degree, he returned to North Carolina settling in Winston-Salem where he opened a private practice law firm. He would operate from his Winston-Salem offices for the next twenty-six years. In his first case as a practicing lawyer, Erwin represented a young man charged with failing to stop after colliding with another vehicle. The young man fled the scene of the accident but was later charged. Erwin argued that the police could not prove that that particularly young man was the driver and was acquitted. Several years later, the young man approached Erwin to confess that he was indeed the driver and did not stop because he was carrying a load of liquor which was a major violation. In essence, Erwin's first legal law case, he was able to defend a guilty man although he did not

know he was guilty, giving him his freedom. Erwin did not feel any remorse about his defending the young man, as it was the State's responsibility to prove the man's guilt. Other cases that Erwin first took on centered on voting rights and civil rights cases. One of his focuses was on ending the practice of having to know the Constitution and being able to recite it before being allowed to vote, however, even knowing the Constitution did not garner one the right to vote.

In 1961, Erwin was selected to serve on the Winston-Salem School Board where he would remain for seven years. He became the Vice-Chairman of the Board while serving. He served on the State Board of Education as well.

During that time, he was elected to two terms in the North Carolina Senate running on the Democratic ticket. He became the first African American to be elected to a statewide office in the state of North Carolina since the Reconstruction Era. While a member of the General Assembly, Erwin partnered with Judge James A. Beaty, Jr. who handled Erwin's cases while he served. While in the General Assembly, Erwin focused his attention toward issues related to education, corrections and fiscal budget responsibility.


In 1977, then Governor Jim Hunt appointed him to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. He was the first African American ever appointed to the Court. As a practicing attorney, he was fortunate that he could operate on the court from the privacy of his own law office. In the upcoming election, he was elected to a full term on the bench. He would serve on the Court for three years.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter nominated Erwin to a seat on the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. Upon his confirmation on September 29, 1980, Erwin became the first African American federal Judge in North Carolina's history. In 1988, he would become the Chief Judge of the Court. In 1992, he received Senior Status.

During his time serving on the Courts, in addition, Erwin served as the President of the Forsyth County Bar Association. He also served on several sundry committees including the Calendar Committee. Erwin also served on the Board of Directors and as a Trustee for Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Erwin has given much of his time to pro bono cases. Not all of his pro bono cases began as such, but ended up as pro bono due to some of his client's hardships and not being able to pay. He credits his Christian upbringing as a leading cause of his generosity of giving back to his community.

One of the organizations that Erwin gave much of his time to was the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers serving on many of its' committees. He witnessed the organization grow from thirty to over three hundred statewide. He also gives of his time to the North Carolina Parents Teachers Association (PTA) due to his love of children.

Richard Cannon Erwin died on November 7, 2006 at a retirement home of Alzheimer's disease with his wife "Bunny" of sixty years by his side. He was eighty-three years old. 



A LPHONSO MICHAEL "MIKE" ESPY

...was born on November 30, 1953 in Yazoo City, Mississippi to Willie Jean (Huddleston) and Henry Espy. Alphonso and his twin, Althea Michelle, were the youngest of seven children in the affluent Espy household. Raised

in the impoverished Mississippi River Delta, the Espy family ties were none of the sort. His grandfather was Thomas J. Huddleston, Sr., founder of the Afro-American Sons and Daughters, a fraternal society operating out of the local Afro-American hospital. Huddleston, Sr. also owned a chain of nursing homes and in 1921, built the first black hospital in Mississippi. He was a leading provider of health care for blacks in Mississippi from the 1920s to the 1970s.

The family businesses sheltered the Espy children from the segregated public schools of the deep South. Through his first two years of high school, Mike attended a local parochial until it closed in 1969. Transferring to Yazoo City High School, Espy found himself to be the only black student. The racial South at the time was one that Espy actually carried a stick to fend off racist attacks from fellow students. Snarling dogs and whips, unfortunately, were the norm in Mississippi then.

Experiencing racial jokes, being sneered at, constantly having to fight, Espy's schooldays left both scars and impressions on him. In 1970, Yazoo City High School became fully integrated. Despite the racial atmosphere, Espy focused on his studies and was elected President of the black student body, his senior year in high school. White students at the school had their own president. Espy matriculated to Howard University in Washington, DC, where he earned a B.A. in Political Science in 1975. While at Howard, he was active in student politics, holding several elective positions.

In 1978, he earned his J.D. from Santa Clara University's Law School, located outside of San Jose, California. After graduation, he returned to Mississippi to practice law, married his wife, Sheila Bell and had two children, Jamilia and Michael. The later divorced. He took a job as an attorney with Central Mississippi's Legal Services and later became the first black Assistant Secretary of State

named to the department. From 1980 to 1984, he was the Assistant Secretary of the State to the Public Lands Division.

In 1984, Espy became Assistant State Attorney General serving one year before being elected on the Democratic ticket to the 100th U.S. Congress from Mississippi's 3rd Congressional District. With the win, he became the first African-American to represent Mississippi at the federal level since Reconstruction. Espy won three more elections, however, twenty days after resuming office for his fourth term and right after being appointed Secretary of Agriculture in President Bill Clinton's Cabinet, Espy resigned amidst a judicial inquiry.

Indicted on August 27, 1997, on charges of receiving improper gifts, including sports tickets, airfare, and lodging. Espy refused a plea bargain choosing a trial instead. He was later acquitted of all thirty criminal charges at trial on December 2, 1998. There were more than seventy witnesses called and the government spent more than \$20 million preparing for and trying the case. The defense rested its' case without calling a single witness, simply stating that the prosecution had not proven its' case. After less than ten hours of jury deliberations, Espy was acquitted of all charges.

Despite the not guilty verdict, in December of 1997, Tyson Foods Inc., U.S.'s largest poultry processor, pleaded guilty to felony charges of providing gifts to Espy. Another entity, Sun-Diamond Growers of America was fined \$1.5 million for giving \$6,000 in gifts to Espy although they won on reversal at the Court of Appeals. Sun-Diamond's legal counsel argued and the the Supreme Court agreed and affirmed that the gratuities statute requires a link between a gift and an official act. Unable to make such a link, the gratuity charges against Sun-Diamond were dismissed. That unanimous opinion of the court, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, played a pivotal role in the later acquittal of Espy because the Independent Counsel was unable to link gifts received by him to any official act.

Espy left the inner circles the Washington, D.C. having run the fourth largest federal agency in the United States. He returned to Jackson, Mississippi, to practice law. He opened his own private sector law firm involved in agricultural advising and counseling.



JAMES ESTES

...was born on October 10, 1832 in Haywood County, Tennessee. His family moved to Brownsville, Tennessee when Estes was young. His father, Captain Joel Estes, was a man of French descent. Captain

Estes once ran for a seat in Congress against the legendary Davy Crockett of Haywood County.

After completing high school, he enrolled into the University of Nashville in Nashville, Tennessee to earn his undergraduate degree before obtaining his law degree from the University of Nashville in Louisville, Kentucky at the age of nineteen years old.

In Estes' first job as an attorney, he worked for Judge Howell E. Jackson. He married Sara Jane Johnson and together they would have six children together. They were married for thirteen years before Sara suddenly died. Estes would later marry Lizzie Guion and together they would have five children. The family were members of the Presbyterian church where Estes served as an Elder.

Estes left the offices of Judge Jackson to begin working for Judge Ellett before joining the law offices of H.C. Warinner. He then decided to run for a seat in the Tennessee legislature. In 1861, Estes was elected to represent Shelby County in the Tennessee House of Representatives. While serving in the House, he served on the Banking Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, and the Finance Committee. He also served on the Judiciary Committee.

In 1862, then President Jefferson Davis appointed Estes as the Confederate States District Attorney for West Tennessee. Estes was unable to assume the appointment due to federal occupation as the Civil War was being waged in Tennessee. Because of the war, Estes was not able to perform the duties.

In 1878, then Governor James D. Porter appointed Estes to the Court of Arbitration for West Tennessee. Estes and the other Judges on the Court were able to dispose of cases pending to be heard by the State Supreme Court. Four years later, Estes was elected as the President of the Tennessee Bar Association. He served for one year before becoming the General Counsel to the Bar Association of America.

While performing his duties as an officer of the Court, Estes built a reputation throughout Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas as an attorney that was well prepared for his cases and worked diligently to represent his clients. His private practice endeavors became lucrative and he built one of the most successful law firms in the area. His caseload increased and he took on some of the most important cases heard before the courts. He was one of the most foremost attorneys practicing in the profession.

Estes took the fundamental principles he employed in law and applied them to the business world. His law practice and the businesses that he invested in became so lucrative that he became a stockholder in Memphis's Bank of Commerce. He also held stock in the Hernando Insurance Company and several other corporations. Estes also owned valuable real estate throughout Memphis.

Still trying cases, Estes' demeanor in court was calculating. A man of few words, when he did ask a question or make a statement, they were questions and statements that were on point and precise. His unremitting attention paid to the details of the case proved instrumental to the many cases that he argued and won. Estes discharged his duties to his client and to the courts in a fashion that earned him much respect amongst his peers and his community. James Estes died during the year of 1833.



H ERBERT BERNETTE EVANS

...was born on December 12, 1919 in Kansas City, Missouri. His family moved to Chicago, Illinois when he was young and he was raised on Chicago South Side. After he graduated high school, his family moved to Harlem, New York. He

moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University.

After completing his undergraduate studies and with the breakout of World War II, Evans was called to military duty. He served in the United States Army for three years before being discharged. He then returned to college to complete his law studies by enrolling into St. John University Law School in Jamaica, New York where he graduated in 1950 second in the law school class.

After graduating from law school, Evans took a job as a staff lawyer for the Legal Aid Society in its Civil Division. After working at the Society for several years, he left to form his own firm with several other up and coming lawyers. The four partners formed the law firm of Weaver, Evans, Wingate and Wright, which, ironically, all four partners would later become New York City Judges.

After establishing their law firm, Evans became actively involved in politics. His involvement in politics allowed him to become an Assistant Counsel to then Governor Averell Harriman. He then became the Commissioner of the New York State Parole Board.

In 1961, Evans ran and was elected as a New York City Councilman for the 21st District representing Harlem. After serving for two years on the City Council, then Mayor Robert F. Wagner appointed Evans a member of the Housing and Redevelopment Board. He later became the Boards Chairman.

In 1966, Mayor John Lindsay appointed Evans to fill a vacancy on the New York Civil Court bench. In the next general election, he was elected to a full term. In joining the Civil Court, Judge Evans was assigned to the Judiciary Relations Committee, which reviewed complaints against other judges. Judge Evans served on the Civil Court bench for seven years.

In 1973, Judge Evans was elected to the New York Supreme Court. After serving for four years on the Supreme Court, he was appointed as a Judge to Appellate Division First Department by then Governor Hugh Carey. Two years later, Judge Evans was named as the Chief Administrative Judge by then New York Chief Judge Lawrence H. Cooke.


In his role as Chief Administrative Judge, Judge Evans was responsible for the oversight and caseloads of 1,000 trial judges across the state and approximately 10,000 employees involved in the court system. He addressed the issues of court congestion, case backlogs, and the time taken to process cases through the courts. He initiated processes to move the cases within six months through the process of indictment to trial.

Judge Evans supported a proposal made by Chief Judge Cooke to move temporarily 242 Judges to other court jurisdictions to help alleviate severe delays and backlogged civil and criminal cases. The program was successful, which created a thirty-nine percent increase in the disposition of backlogged cases during the first month the proposal was implemented. Some Judges were opposed to the transfers citing personal hardships with one upstate New York Judge actually filing suit to avoid his transfer. Judge Evans served as the respondent in the case.

In 1983, Judge Evans left the Court and became a partner the law firm of Shea & Gould. He became heavily involved with the Harlem community and worked to improve the living conditions of Harlem's residents. He became the Chairman of the Board of the Harlem Urban Development Corporation, with redevelopment of the neighborhood as his goal. Judge Evans, while sitting on the Board, was instrumental in the building of large international trade center in Harlem.

In his dedicated efforts to improve the lives of African Americans in Harlem and across the United States, Judge Evans founded the 100 Black Men, a national organization of leaders in the black community that mentor young men to become leaders in their communities and strive for social and economic advancements for their given communities. He founded the Freedom National Bank and was an original member of the Board of the Interest on Lawyer Account Program (IOLA). The IOLA Board was a state run program that provided legal services to the poor.

Judge Evans was also a member of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the New York state agency that is responsible for disciplining Judges that have fallen under disciplinary actions. Because of his Board position on the IOLA Board, he was asked by then Chief Judge Sol Wachtler to sit on a committee that investigated legal services to the poor. The Commission ultimately submitted a report that suggested practicing lawyers be required to devote at least twenty hours per year to public service. That was the precursor for pro bono services. In one of his last request of service, then Mayor David Dinkins appointed Evans to a five-member independent panel, the Mollen Commission, given powers to investigate corruption within the New York City Police Department.

Judge Evans was married to Audrey Mendenhall Evans and had no children together. He died on June 16, 2009 in Sarasota, Florida. He was eighty-nine years old. 



ROBERT
A.
EVANS

...is a graduate of Rocky Mount Senior High School in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. He completed his high school studies in 1970. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he

earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1974. He obtained his law degree in 1977 from the University of Pennsylvania University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

After graduating from law school, Evans returned to North Carolina to open his own law firm. He would practice law from his Rocky Mount offices for the next twenty-two years. Evans specialized in trial proceedings and appellate cases. He then would then be named as a Judicial District Judge.

In 1999, Evans was appointed by then North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt to serve as a Judge for the 7A and 7B Judicial District Courts of North Carolina serving Wilson County, Nash County, and Edgecombe County. He was selected to fill the vacancy of Judge Howard Boney who retired from the bench. Evans was the only African American District Court Judge serving the Court and served the Court for eleven years.

In 2009, Evans was named by then Governor Bev Perdue as the District Attorney of the Seventh Judicial District of North Carolina. He was the first African American to ever be named to the office. He was only the second African American District Attorney in the state.

In 2017, Governor Roy Cooper appointed Robert A. Evans of the Wilson County District Attorney of the Seventh Judicial District as the Chairman of the Governor's Crime Commission. He serves as the lead legal mind of the forty-four members that serve on the Commission. The Commission serves as the chief advisory Board for the Governor and for the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety on crime and justice issues. It sets priorities for the programs implemented by the Department of Public Safety and reviews and makes recommendations on grants awarded by the Department.

The Commission is made up of leaders from the state involved in criminal justice and human services agen-

cies. It has members that represent law enforcement agencies, the state courts, local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, youth, and private citizens. It also has members that make reports to the State General Assembly.

Evans has served on several civic committees during his legal career. He has served as a President of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys. He also served on the University of North Carolina Board of Visitors and the University of North Carolina Alumni Association's Board of Directors. In addition, Evans has served on the Board of Trustees at North Carolina's Wesleyan College locate in his hometown of Rocky Mount



TIMOTHY EVANS

...was born on November 30, 1953 in Yazoo City, Mississippi to Willie Jean (Huddleston) and Henry Espy. Alphonso and his twin, Althea Michelle, were the youngest of seven children in the affluent

Espy household. Raised in the impoverished Mississippi River Delta, the Espy family ties were none of the sort. His grandfather was Thomas J. Huddleston, Sr., founder of the Afro-American Sons and Daughters, a fraternal society operating out of the local Afro-American hospital. Huddleston, Sr. also owned a chain of nursing homes and in 1921, built the first black hospital in Mississippi. He was a leading provider of health care for blacks in Mississippi from the 1920s to the 1970s.

The family businesses sheltered the Espy children from the segregated public schools of the deep South. Through his first two years of high school, Mike attended a local parochial until it closed in 1969. Transferring to Yazoo City High School, Espy found himself to be the only black student. The racial South at the time was one that Espy actually carried a stick to fend off racist attacks from fellow students. Snarling dogs and whips, unfortunately, were the norm in Mississippi then.

Experiencing racial jokes, being sneered at, constantly having to fight, Espy's schooldays left both scars and impressions on him. In 1970,, Yazoo City High School became fully integrated. Despite the racial atmosphere, Espy focused on his studies and was elected President of the black student body, his senior year in high school. White students at the school had their own president. Espy matriculated to Howard University in Washington, DC, where he earned a B.A. in Political Science in 1975. While at Howard, he was active in student politics, holding several elective positions.

In 1978, he earned his J.D. from Santa Clara University's Law School, located outside of San Jose, California. After graduation, he returned to Mississippi to practice law, married his wife, Sheila Bell and had two children, Jamilia and Michael. The later divorced. He took a job as an attorney with Central Mississippi's Legal Services and later became the first black Assistant Secretary of State

named to to the department. From 1980 to 1984, he was the Assistant Secretary of the State to the Public Lands Division.

In 1984, Espy became Assistant State Attorney General serving one year before being elected on the Democratic ticket to the 100th U.S. Congress from Mississippi's 3rd Congressional District. With the win, he became the first African-American to represent Mississippi at the federal level since Reconstruction. Espy won three more elections, however, twenty days after resuming office for his fourth term and right after being appointed Secretary of Agriculture in President Bill Clinton's Cabinet, Espy resigned amidst a judicial inquiry.

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Despite the not guilty verdict, in December of 1997, Tyson Foods Inc., U.S.'s largest poultry processor, pleaded guilty to felony charges of providing gifts to Espy. Another entity, Sun-Diamond Growers of America was fined \$1.5 million for giving \$6,000 in gifts to Espy although they won on reversal at the Court of Appeals. Sun-Diamond's legal counsel argued and the the Supreme Court agreed and affirmed that the gratuities statute requires a link between a gift and an official act. Unable to make such a link, the gratuity charges against Sun-Diamond were dismissed. That unanimous opinion of the court, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, played a pivotal role in the later acquittal of Espy because the Independent Counsel was unable to link gifts received by him to any official act.

Espy left the inner circles the Washington, D.C. having run the fourth largest federal agency in the United States. He returned to Jackson, Mississippi, to practice law. He opened his own private sector law firm involved in agricultural advising and counseling.



**VONDA
EVANS**

...was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Both of her parents were schoolteachers although Evans herself flunked out of the tenth grade of her high school, Henry Ford High. She loved the street life, had become a social

butterfly and loved to party with her friends, particularly her boyfriends.

When her high school administrators notified her that she had failed the tenth grade, Evans was devastated by the notification, which became a life changer. In failing the tenth grade, she learned a valuable lesson, and began to take her studies much more seriously. Evans realized that she had to care about her future and the life she was leading was not the one she wanted.

The following school year, Evans returned to Henry Ford High and made a commitment to becoming a far better student than she had been the previous year. She completed her high school studies and graduated from high school. She then enrolled into college and received her undergraduate degree before entering the Thomas M. Cooley Law School at Western Michigan University located in Lansing, Michigan where she received her law degree in 1989.

After receiving her law degree and passing the Michigan State Bar exam, Evans took a job as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. She served as an Assistant Prosecutor for six years. She would make a run for a seat on the bench of the 36th District Court losing to eventual winner and future TV realty show, Judge Greg Mathis.

Several years later, Evans would revisit the possibility of accepting a Judgeship in Wayne County. In 2002, Evans was elected as a Judge to the Third Circuit Court in Wayne County, Michigan. She would win re-election in the 2008 general election and sit on the bench for another six years. Wayne County voters would elect her once more to the bench in the 2014 election where she ran unopposed. Judge Evans will serve on the bench until her terms ends in 2020.

In 2015, Judge Evans reached national notoriety when in a December 2014 trial of a Michigan man found guilty of murdering his wife, she lectured the defendant for fifteen minutes about his crime. Businessman Bob Bashara had

been found guilty by a Michigan jury in the 2012 strangulation death of his wife and was to be sentenced to life in prison for the crime. In her speech to Bashara, she lamented the death of his wife and chastised Bashara for him becoming a "product of privilege" of his upbringing.

Judge Evans told Bashara that although he was indeed loved by his mother, she did not do a good job in training him to be a man. During the case, testimony was given about Bashara's upbringing and his privileged life living in the Grosse Point Park. Evidence was introduced showing his lifestyle that involved sadomasochism, full BDSM endeavors, and having a sex dungeon in his home. Bashara had argued that his wife's death was caused by a consensual act of sex.

Judge Evans has built a reputation of using bold statements to many of the litigants that come before her of which many have been somewhat controversial. She is not one to hold back on admonishing a defendant, plaintiff or legal counsels from either side if they become afoul of the court's opinions. She uses her position as a Judge to change the lives of those that she presides over and works to motivate them to straighten out their lives and to become productive citizens. She uses her own life experiences to connect with young litigants that have fallen into the same situations that she had when she was a teenager. She tells them her story so they can realize that they too can change their ways and become a positive force in society.

Judge Evans takes on the responsibility to ensure all defendants receive a fair trial and let's them know that at the end of the proceedings, in most cases, life does not end with the verdict. She takes the time to explain to them that the life they have led is behind them and it is what is in front of them that is most important. She stresses to them that it is never to late at any time to make a change in one's life. She urges all who come before her that may have taken a fall in their lives to get up and try again.

Judge Evans applied this principal to her lifelong friend, Monica Conyers, a former Detroit City Council member who pled guilty of conspiring to commit bribery and was sent to prison for her crimes. As a friend, Judge Evans visited Conyers in prison to give her some of the same advice she had given for years to the litigants that came before her, i.e., that life did not end with her guilty plea. Judge Evans gave Conyers encouragement that once she served her time, she could still make a positive contribution to society is she so chose to do so. It was not to late to change her life.

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