

*Deliberations*

Volume 4  
of Eight



*Honoring America's*

*African American Lawyers*

*From The Law Offices  
Of  
Attorney Name or Firm Goes Here*



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# *Deliberations*

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

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

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## What is **LAW**?

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

## Pro Bono Legal Fund

*www.probonolegalfund.org*

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

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

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

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

Photo  
and BIO  
of  
ATTORNEY

THE BOOK IS DEDICATED TO

(PERSONALIZED INFORMATION)

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**W**ILLIAM  
REGINALD  
"REGGIE"  
COLBERT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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







## S HERRILYN IFILL

...was raised in Queens, New York. Born to Panamanian parents who had emigrated to the United States, she was reared in a African Methodist Episcopal church going household. Having ten siblings, Ifill's early child-

hood consisted of hand me down clothing and the smaller portions at the dinner table. When she was almost six years old, her mother died of cancer.

After the death of her mother, Ifill's father, who had only a high school education and worked as an electrician, was able to secure a better job at a Harlem, New York community development agency helping young people. As a community activist, her father made it mandatory that Ifill and her siblings become politically aware. From the Sunday morning political talk shows to both the Democratic and Republican national conventions, Ifill got her fill of politics. She was most impressed with two African American women that she saw on TV, Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan and New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. These two women would help to shape Ifill's political awareness and sharpen her abilities to fight for her just causes.

Ifill's early education came through the public school system in New York. After graduating high school, she attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She then went on to attain her law degree from New York University's School of Law.

In the early 1980s, Ifill spent a semester in Spain perfecting her Spanish. There she met her future husband, Ivo Knobloch, a white German merchant marine. Understanding that their interracial wedding was a rarity at the time, Ifill nonetheless, went about her life loving her husband as any wife would do. They soon has a daughter.

In her first job after completing law school, Ifill served as a fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union. She then became an Assistant Counsel at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund (LDF). At the LDF, Ifill focused her attention mainly to voting rights cases. She was assigned to cases in the southern states of the country, specifically Texas. During that time, her husband, Ivo, would play an important role in parenting while Ifill was away performing her job.

Ifill played a pivotal role in the landmark Voting Rights Act case of *Houston Lawyers' Association vs. Attorney General of Texas*, in which the Supreme Court held that judicial

elections are covered by the provisions of section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. After successfully winning the case in 1993, Ifill took a position with the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, Maryland. As a faculty member, she taught her students Civil Procedures and Constitutional Law.

There she took on one of her more notable cases for free, one that would last twenty-one years. She represented a group of black and white residents of Harford County, Maryland in their attempt to stop the building of a landfill near a historic African American church, the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church. The church had been established by freed slaves in the 19th century and the church grounds contained the burial remains of both black slaves and black Civil War veterans. Although it took many years, in 2010 the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled in her favor and not landfill was built.

In another case, Ifill fought for residents of Jersey Heights, a black neighborhood on Maryland's Eastern Shore that was targeted by the state government to build a highway adjacent to the community. Ifill argued that two other highways had been built near the neighborhood and the proposed new highway, if built, would be seen as racial discrimination and a flagrant disregard for communities of color. Although she received several hate filled letters, Ifill was shaken but not deterred in her efforts to protect the civil rights of her clients.

From her research in that case, Ifill and her team of lawyers were able to uncover lynchings of two black men that had occurred in that area in the 1930s. One of the lynchings occurred in Princess Anne County and the other in Salisbury. Ifill is not one to live in the past but pressed her clients to understand the past so they would know how they got to be where they are.

Ifill has authored a book, *"On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the 21st Century,"* where she speaks about her lifelong analysis of race and public life in America. Other writings of hers address the importance of diversity in the courtroom, specifically on the bench. Always in pursuit of civil rights for her community, Ifill served the Open Society Institute as Chair of their Board of U.S. Programs. The Institute supports civil rights and social justice organizations throughout the country and is one of the largest philanthropic organizations to show this type of support.

As head of the LDF, Ifill splits her time between the Baltimore and New York City offices. She oversees a staff of seventy-five with twenty-five of them being lawyers. Her responsibilities include case assignments, fundraising campaigns and hands-on involvement with the twenty-five cases the LDF annually takes on.





## RODERICK L. IRELAND

...was born on December 3, 1944 and is a native of Springfield, Massachusetts. After completing high school, he attended Lincoln University in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania graduating in 1966 with his B.A. degree. He received his J.D. in 1969

from Columbia Law School in New York City. He went on to Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he was awarded his LL.M. Degree in 1975. In 1998, he earned his PhD. from Northeastern University's Law, Policy, and Society Program in Boston, Massachusetts.

In his early career, Ireland became the first staff attorneys for the non-profit legal services organization, the Roxbury Defenders Committee. Established to provide legal assistance to Boston's lower income citizens, Ireland became an advocate for the well being of the city's impoverished needing legal representation. After serving the Committee for six years, Ireland was nominated to sit on the bench of the Boston Juvenile Court by then by Governor Michael Dukakis.

In 1990, the Governor appointed Ireland to the Massachusetts Court of Appeals. After serving for seven years, new Massachusetts Governor William Weld appointed him as Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. With his appointment to the Court, Ireland became the states first African-American Associate Justice. He also became the Chief Justice of the Court in 2010, being nominated by Governor Deval Patrick, which garnered him the title of being the first African American Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court in its' three hundred year history. He resigned from the Court in 2014.

Chief Justice then took a position on the faculty of Northeastern University School of Law as well as the Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice. He is currently a Distinguished Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Northeastern University. He also serves the University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice as a Distinguished Professor. Ireland also taught at Boston University's Law School and at Harvard's Law School. For New York University's Law School, he was on their faculty from 2001 through 2014 serving on the school's Appellate Judges Seminar.

As a writer, Ireland has authored several published works including the Massachusetts Juvenile Law, a two vol-

ume discourse published by Thomson/Reuters in its' Massachusetts Practice Series. The first edition of his writings was published in 1993 and the second in 2006. His articles and opinions have been published in several law reviews as well.

Ireland has been called upon to speak at various events to share his perspectives on law and issues surrounding the law. In favor of same-sex marriage, Massachusetts was the first state in the United States to find for its' legalization and Ireland was one of the four Justices to vote for the passage of the landmark law making it constitutional for members of the same sex to marry. He delivered a lecture on the topic at New York University School of Law's Sixteenth Annual Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Lecture on State Courts and Social Justice. Entitled "*In Goodridge's Wake: Reflections on the Political, Public and Personal Repercussions of the Massachusetts Same-Sex Marriage Cases,*" Ireland's views on the subject are widely sought after.

Ireland has been honored with numerous awards, recognitions, and honorary degrees from colleges and university laws schools. The Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys awarded him their Judicial Excellence Award. The Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association awarded him their Celebration of Excellence Award while the Massachusetts Black Judges Conference gave him the same honor. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, the Judicial Excellence Award from the Boston Bar Association, the Thurgood Marshall Award for Lifetime Achievement from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the President's Award for Judicial Excellence from the Massachusetts Judge's Association.

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation bestowed upon Ireland their Great Friend of Justice Award. He received the Judicial Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Bar Association and Lawyers Weekly Newspaper. Boston College's Law School gave him their St. Thomas More Award and he received the Boston Covenant Peace Prize.

Ireland has devoted his life's interest to constitutional law, criminal law, and juvenile law. For the courts, he has always given efforts to diversify the judiciary at every level seeking training programs to help ensure his goals. He is the President of the Northeastern University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice's, The Justice George Lewis Ruffin Society, organized to help uplift minorities involved in the criminal justice system and legal profession as a whole.

Photo Not Available



## HARRY ISLAND

Little is known about the childhood of Harry Island. It is known that he was born in the year 1812. Island was a slave of the Upper Creeks of the Muscogee Creek Nation from the Alabama clan. The Muscogee Creek Nation was one of the "Five Civilized Tribes" that were relocated in the early 1830s from the southeastern regions of the United States to

Indian Territory, which is now the state of Oklahoma. The Creek Nation at the time controlled the majority of land covering the states of Georgia and Alabama.

After the American Indian Wars, native tribes were relocated from the eastern regions to the west. The U.S. took what is now the state of Oklahoma and made it "Indian Territory". In the infamous "Trail of Tears", the tribes were made to walk, some by boat, to their "new land" in Oklahoma.

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

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

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

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

At the beginning of the Civil War, the "5 Civilized Tribes", (Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Creek), were divided in their loyalties toward the Confederacy and the Union. Those that aligned the Union, which the Upper Creeks did and the Lower Creeks did not, during the ensuing battles lost everything and many lost their lives fighting for their freedoms. Island served as a interpreter and negotiator between the tribes.

During the Civil War, the U.S. Government was in need of Indian interpreters. Chief Yargee had several and Island was one. He hired him out to the U.S. Army. He became one of the mouth pieces between the government and the native nation leaders. Many times, Island was the main protector of the legal rights of the natives as he controlled the dialogue between the opposing parties.

After the war, Island became not only a translator of tribal and national policies, as they relate to Native American rights today, he be-

came a part of the negotiating team chosen to represent the Chief and the citizens of the Muscogee Creek Nation in the settlement treaties of the 1860s and 1870s. When the Civil War ended and the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the treaties that Island and his fellow interpreters had helped to negotiate between the government and the tribe took effect.

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

During the settlement process, the government convened a meeting at Ft. Smith in Arkansas whereby all "5 Civilized Tribes" were represented. Chief Yargee and the Upper Muscogee Creek clan were the only tribe to bring to the meeting black Indians in an official capacity. The Upper Creeks were the only tribe that wanted to include blacks in the settlement agreement. To ensure that blacks were included, Chief Yargee sent a contingent to Washington, D.C. to argue the case. He sent Island, Cow Tom and a few others to represent him and the Nation. Cow Tom would later become the Chief of the Nation.

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

Island and his fellow "interpreters", now acting as lawyers negotiating with the federal government, pointed out that in the fight for the territory and land in Indian Territory, one of the bloodies battles to occur was the "Battle of Honey Springs", also known as "the Affair at Elk Creek" was fought mainly by black soldiers.

It was pointed out that on July 17, 1863, the Union soldiers won an important victory in their efforts to gain control of Indian Territory. Fought near what is now Checotah, Oklahoma, this battle was the largest confrontation between Union and Confederate forces in the south. Island and his team pointed out that what was most ironic about that particular battle was that for the first time in such a large battle and with so many lives lost, on both sides of the fighting forces, the majority of the soldiers were black. No matter which side the government wanted to extend benefits, the black Indian was due his benefits. Island and his team were victorious. In the signed treaties, the black Indians were given the same benefits as any citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation. This given right would play a gigantic role in the creation of "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma during the oil boom of the early 1900s.

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

Harry Island died on August 15, 1872 at the age of sixty. He was buried in Agency Cemetery, an African Creek cemetery near Muskogee, Oklahoma. Buried in the same cemetery are his fellow interpreters, Cow Tom, Sugar George and over 1000 others, long forgotten.





## ALPHONSO R. JACKSON

...was born on September 9, 1945 in Marshall, Texas. The youngest of twelve children, Jackson's mother worked as a midwife delivering babies, while his father worked as a foundry worker, janitor, and a landscaper. He graduated high school from the public schools in Marshall.

He attended Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri where he earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science. In his freshman year, Jackson participated in his first civil rights demonstration when he marched in the historical Selma to Montgomery, Alabama march led by national civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. The march would become known as "Bloody Sunday". From that march, Jackson knew that he wanted to do more for equal justice and civil rights. He remained at Truman State to earn a Master's degree in Education Administration in 1969. He then entered Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri to obtain his law degree.

To begin his professional career, Jackson took a job as an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Several years later, he took the job of the Director of Public Safety for the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Four years after that, in 1981, Jackson accepted the position as the Executive Director of the St. Louis Housing Authority. He remained at the Authority for three years.

In 1983, Jackson became a consultant to an accounting firm and became more involved in the local politics, both the Democratic and Republican scene. Wetting his feet, he ran unsuccessfully as a municipal revenue collector and worked on the campaign of Republican Jack Danforth for U.S. Senate. Jackson was noticed by political powerbrokers in Washington, D.C. and was appointed as Director of the U.S. Department of Public and Assisted Housing for Washington, D.C..

In 1989, after several discrimination lawsuits had been filed, Jackson became the President and Chief Executive Officer to the Housing Authority (DHA) of the City of Dallas. He became the Authority's first African American President and CEO. He was charged with fixing the problems within the Authority and to improve the living conditions of the city's poorest residents.

Jackson is credited with repairing run-down and unsafe public housing complexes and made arrangements to improve neighborhood conditions. He brought to a struggling west Dallas neighborhood its' first supermarket and found investments to fund a commercial development project to bring jobs and economic growth to troubled areas.

In 1995, after a U.S. District Court order to desegregate public housing units across the country, Dallas was ordered to integrate it's public housing. The order called for 3,200 low-income minority families to be placed in predominantly white neighborhoods. Under Jackson's leadership, the city constructed new public housing units for mixed use in predominately white areas of Dallas. The designed housing units consisting of townhouses and duplexes were not without a fight from the local homeowner associations. Despite their objections,

Jackson and the city of Dallas built the public housing to comply with the federal mandate.

Jackson left the DHA for private practice and became the Vice President of Corporate Resources for Central Southwest Power, now American Electric Power. Two years later, in 1998, Jackson became President of Austin based and \$13 billion utility company, American Electric Power-Texas (AEPT). His responsibilities included operations and public and community affairs at AEPT's two subsidiaries, Central Power and Light Company and West Texas Utilities Company. He would serve as President until 2001.

In 2001, with the election of Republican George W. Bush to the Presidency of the United States and having known and lived in the same neighborhood as Bush, Jackson was tapped by Bush for a federal job in the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). At HUD, Jackson was the second in command and the Chief Operating Officer. He answered only to his immediate HUD boss, Secretary Mel Martinez and the President.

On January 28, 2004, Jackson was nominated by President George W. Bush to replace Martinez as Secretary of HUD. Jackson would be approved by Congress and became the thirteenth Secretary of HUD. He would serve as Secretary for four years, resigning over alleged unethical conduct in the way HUD was awarding contracts to its' contractors, sub-contractors, and vendors. Under Jackson's leadership, for the first time in thirteen years, HUD was removed from the U.S. Government Accountability Office's high-risk list of government agencies. He also increased minority spending when it came to procurement of outside vendors.

In 2008, after leaving HUD, Jackson took a position at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia as a Distinguished University Professor. He also served as the university's Director of the Center for Public Policy and Leadership. As Director, Jackson was responsible for making the university's research relevant to real world problems. Hampton is the only historical black university to have such a research center. He served as Director for four years. In 2012, Jackson took the position as Vice-Chairman of Consumer & Community Banking in New York City with JP Morgan Chase.

As an expert on public housing and urban affairs, Jackson has served on numerous state and national commissions. He served, most notably, as Chairman of the General Services Commission of the State of Texas. He also served on the National Commission on America's Urban Families and the National Commission on Severely Distressed Public Housing.

Jackson has been recognized for his outstanding work and has received several awards including an Aspen Fellow, the American Family Life Assurance Company (AFLAC) Lifetime Achievement Award, the Jewish National Fund of New York's National Tree of Life Award, and the National Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award. The National Boys and Girls Clubs of America awarded Jackson their Chairman's Award and the Truman State University gave Jackson their Distinguished Alumni Award. He also received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jackson has received honorary degrees from Benedict College, Hampton University, Harris Stowe State University, Hiram College and Morehouse College. He received honorary degrees from North Carolina A&T State University, Paine College, and Tuskegee University. Jackson also received an honorary degree from Texas College and Texas Southern University.





## JUANITA ALEXANDRA JACKSON

...grew up in a community and family that had a mixture of wealthy southern black culture and an inner city Black Panther flow. Her mother, a debutante, was from a wealthy family

while her father was a militant Black Panther Party member. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama (UA) in Tuscaloosa in 1988. She received her law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas in 1997. While studying for her degrees, Jackson worked as a Coordinator in the Residential Life & Housing at UA all four years that she studied at the University. She held the same job at the University of Houston when she studied there.

In her first professional position as a practicing attorney, Jackson worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the Texas Attorney General's Office. She served in the Consumer Protection Division where she litigated cases centered on product fraud and other consumer related matters. After almost two years with the Attorney General's Office, Jackson decided to open her own firm.

In 2001, she stepped out on her own and formed The Jackson Law Group specializing in criminal law. Since then, she has worked in the legal profession handling a variety of cases, from housing issues to murder. In 2011, Durham was offered a position in the Harris County Public Defender's Office as an Assistant Public Defender. For the last six years, she has served Harris County citizens unable to pay a private practicing attorney.

As a Public Defender, Jackson has litigated over seventy criminal cases and has tried sixty-five of them. She has represented defendants in cases involving family law, juvenile law, and civil rights. She also handles cases having criminal allegations.

Jackson starred in a Houston based "docu-reality" TV show, "Sisters in Law", which showcased the lives of several African American women lawyers practicing in the city. The show was aired on WE TV and had various themes ranging from rape and incest to suicide and

death. The show was signed for ten weeks and eight segments with Jackson and the other cast members agreeing to be followed twenty-four hours a day for the ten weeks the show was to be aired.

The show was designed to set itself apart from the cat fighting, bitch calling, and back stabbing reality shows that were being aired on national cable channels. The show wanted to show African American women who were not represented as angry or that married a rich athlete or entertainer. The show followed the women through their daily lives of client interviews, including accused murderers, and took the viewers into the courtrooms with the women attorneys.



## SHEILA JACKSON LEE

...was born Sheila Jackson on January 12, 1950 in Queens, New York. She graduated from Jamaica High School in Queens, New York. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972 from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut

majoring in Political Science. She attended the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia and obtained her Juris Doctorate degree in 1975. While in college, she joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Jackson Lee moved to Houston, Texas after marrying Dr. Elwyn C. Lee who took a job with the University of Houston (UH) in Houston, Texas. He currently serves as the Vice Chancellor at the UH System. He also serves as the Vice President of Student Affairs at the University. Arriving in Houston, Jackson Lee became involved with local politics and set out to serve the community's needs as an attorney. For decades she served Houston and Texas citizens as an advocate for human, social, and civic rights.

Jackson Lee serves as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 18th Congressional District in Texas. She is currently serving her eleventh term as Congresswoman and has become an influential force on Capital Hill in Washington and is dedicated to uplifting the Constitution while protecting the rights of her constituents. She has given a lifetime to protecting women, children and African Americans from injustice and unfair treatment.

Before becoming a Congresswoman, Jackson Lee served as a Houston Municipal Judge after being appointed to the position in 1986 by then Mayor of Houston Kathy Whitmire and she served for three years. She then was elected in the 1989 general election as an At-Large candidate to a seat on the Houston City Council. While serving on the Council, she was pivotal in the passing of a city safety ordinance that required parents to safeguard their weapons and to keep guns away from children. As a way to combat gang violence, Jackson Lee introduced legislation to expand the summer hours of the city's parks and recreation centers to keep the young off of Houston city streets.

In 1994, Jackson Lee challenged incumbent and four-term U.S. Congressman Craig Washington for his congressional seat in the Democratic primary. Some Houston residents had become disgruntled with Washington for his refusal to back several projects that could benefit Houston citizens. She easily defeated Washington gathering 63% of the casted votes. In the general election, she won 73% of the votes over her Republican opponent in the heavy Democratic district.

Arriving in Washington, it would not be long before Jackson Lee became involved in some of the most important issues facing Texas and the United States. She would take on some of the nation's most critical issues standing firm in her resolve to eradicate racism, unjust treatment of the civil rights of U.S. citizens, and econom-

ic fairness in government spending. During her lengthy tenure on Capital Hill, she has been appointed to many important committees and has engaged many of her peers to her causes.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee currently sits on three Congressional Committees. She serves as a senior member of the House Judiciary Homeland Security Committee, serves as a member of the important and crucial Budget Committee, and serves as the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigation Committee. She is also a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and serves as its' Whip.

Jackson Lee is known for her fiery stances and is unafraid when it comes to voicing her concerns or positions of current issues facing the nation. Over her long career, she has been labeled and has made the Washington Magazine's list as one of the "Best and the Worst" members of Congress. She was labeled as one of the best Congressional members for her steadfast determination and fight for protection of human rights and equal access to society's prosperity. She was labeled as one of the worst Congressional members by D.C. news publication, The Daily Caller, for having the highest staff turnover in Congress over the past decade. Jackson Lee has gone through eleven Chiefs of Staff in eleven years with a list of staff turnovers that is quite lengthy.

Despite those turnovers, Jackson Lee remains a force of reason for the issues and problems facing the country. On trade issues, she favored normalizing trade with China. For human rights, she has fought racism in Texas and has been in the forefront of racial incidents that have made national news. Internationally, she has backed sanctions against countries involved in human suffering including speaking out against Sudan and South African human rights violations. Jackson Lee has been actively involved in the immigration issues and is a supporter of increased border protection while at the same time calling for legalized citizenship for illegal immigrants already inside the United States but opposed a guest worker program introduced for temporary jobs for foreign nationals.

Jackson Lee has been critical of the Tea Party and an avid supporter of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act calling it constitutional under the Commerce Clause. She has introduced the Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act, which was designed to assess the effectiveness of the TWIC program. Jackson Lee even called for the U.S. National Weather Service to begin to name hurricanes after African Americans, as every name they have chosen were white names. She stated that all cultures should be represented in the name allotments. She also took a firm stance against the Confederate flag being flown over southern state capitals.

Jackson Lee has been instrumental in the construction of the Sentencing Reform Act, the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, and the RAISE Act. She was involved with the Fair Chance for Youth Act, Kalief's Law, and the American Rising Act. She has introduced several key House bills, including the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act, the Federal prison Bureau and Nonviolent Offender Relief Act, and the Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act. In addition, Jackson Lee is a supporter of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act.





## ELMER C. JACKSON, JR.

...was born October 22, 1912 in Kansas City, Kansas. He graduated in 1929 from Kansas City's Sumner High School. He enrolled into the University of Kansas where he received both

his undergraduate degree in 1933 and his law degree in 1935. After passing the Kansas State Bar, he began his professional career and opened his own law firm in his hometown.

Jackson would remain in private practice for the next seventeen years taking on a variety of cases that dealt with family law and civil rights. In 1952, he joined forces with a larger law firm, Stevens, Jackson, Davis and Haley. He would work with the firm for nine years.

In 1959, Jackson joined the National Bar Association. He became the President of the organization where he served for two years. In 1966, he served as the Secretary of Membership. He would serve in that capacity for nine years, until 1975.

In 1963, he took a job as the Project Manager and General Counsel with the Wyandotte County Legal Aid Society. At the Legal Aid, Jackson's responsibility was to administer legal services to the residents of Wyandotte County that could not afford to pay for their legal services. He would remain at the Legal Aid office for five years.

In 1970, Jackson was appointed by then Governor Robert Docking to the Kansas Board of Regents. Six years later, he became the Chairman of the Board where he served for two years. He became the first African American to become Chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents.

One of Jackson's more notable cases involved the 1975 case of four African American medical students from the University of Kansas that faced a lawsuit from a white administrator at the University. The four students had made a complaint against Dante G. Scarpelli, the Chairman of the University's Medical Center's Department of Pathology and Oncology. They claimed that Scarpelli was using techniques and strategies whose purposes were to remove the African American students from the medical school.

Scarpelli had brought suit against the four students claiming they had defamed his character when they filed a discriminatory complaint against him and the Medical School when they claimed in the complaint that Scarpelli had committed "willful and unlawful acts of discrimination toward black medical students in an attempt to systematically eliminate them from medical school". The trial ended in a hung jury and a second trial was set. In the second trial, Scarpelli had won a \$44,000 judgment against the four students from a Wyandotte County District Court jury.

Jackson came to the defense of the students in an appeal to the Kansas State Supreme Court. With the help of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the four students won a unanimous reversal in the case which gave vindication to the four students and gave other students, trade unions, and others a sense of hope for their civil rights struggles. The verdict also gave Jackson and the NAACP confidence in litigating similar cases that addressed civil rights issues. In their decision, the Court ruled that Dr. Scarpelli, as a public figure, did not meet the standards of proof that the students acted with malice when they made their claims rather than filing a complaint in good faith citing actual grievances and not reckless disregard to Scarpelli's character. Ironically, the four students went on to become successful doctors and are making great contributions to their respective communities.

Over his legal career, Jackson has been a member of several associations and organizations. He has been a member of the American Bar Foundation, the Kansas City, Kansas Bar Association, and the Wyandotte County Bar Association. For his alma mater, Jackson has served as a member of the University of Kansas Alumni and Endowment Association and the University of Kansas Endowment Association. He has served on the Boards of the Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce, the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and the Urban League.

Jackson was honored by the University of Kansas's Law School when they created a scholarship in his name to be given to deserving African American students interested in the field of law. The Law School also gave him their "Distinguished Alumni Citation". In 1991, Jackson was awarded the Fred Ellsworth Medallion for his service to the University.

Elmer C. Jackson, Jr. died March 19, 1999.



## MAYNARD HOLBROOK JACKSON, JR.

...was born on March 23, 1938 in Dallas, Texas to Irene Dobbs Jackson and Maynard H. Jackson Sr.. Growing up in a family having generations of education and civil rights as a dominate force, Jackson, Jr., had no options other

than success. He spent his first seven years in Dallas before the family relocated to Atlanta, Georgia.

The Jackson family placed a high value on education and political activism. His maternal grandfather, John Wesley Dobbs, was a civil rights leader who successfully helped to overturn the white primary in Georgia. Dobbs also lobbied for the hiring of black police officers in Atlanta and for street lights for the main retail street of the black community, Auburn Street. Jackson Jr.'s father died when he was fifteen and his grandfather Dobbs became the major influence in his life.

Maynard's mother Irene (Dobbs) Jackson was one of five daughters who all graduated from Spelman College. She earned a doctorate in France and later became a Professor, teaching French at Spelman College in Atlanta. She had four other sisters, all graduating from Spelman.

Jackson, Sr., after graduating high school, attended Morehouse College, a historically black college for men in Atlanta. He graduated in 1956 at the age of eighteen. Having being raised in the church and having a good voice, he sang in the Morehouse College Glee Club.

Jackson left Atlanta to attend Boston University's Law School in Boston, Massachusetts. He withdrew after a short time, joining the workforce selling encyclopedias. In 1964, he returned to graduate school, attending the North Carolina Central University Law School. There, he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He married Burnella "Bunnie" Hayes, in 1965 and had three Children, Elizabeth, Brooke, and Maynard III. After divorcing Bunnie, in 1977, Jackson married Valerie Richardson, having two more children, Valerie and Alexandra.

At the age of thirty, in 1968, Jackson made a run for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Herman Talmadge. Underfunded, he lost but gained prominence in Atlanta's black minority. The following year, he was elected as Vice Mayor. Atlanta modified its city charter and renamed the Vice Mayor position to President of the City Council.

He became Mayor in 1973, with sixty percent of the vote becoming Atlanta's first African-American Mayor at the age

of thirty-five. Supported by a rainbow coalition of black and white liberals, he vowed as Mayor to improve race relations in Atlanta and the surrounding areas. He began by leading the push for public-works projects for the city and ensuring affirmative action programs helped minority and women-owned businesses be a part of the economic advances. For his efforts, Jackson received the Samuel S. Beard Award for Greatest Public Service by an Individual Thirty-Five Years or Under, in 1974.

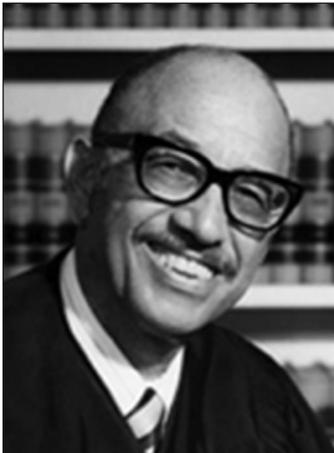
During his tenure, he worked to upgrade the then-William B. Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport's huge terminal (now Domestic Terminal). He opposed the construction of freeways through in-town neighborhoods, lobbied for federal funding to improve and expand the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), and was pivotal in securing the 1996 Summer Olympic Games he accepted the Olympic flag at the 1992 closing ceremonies in Barcelona, Spain.

For the inner cities of Atlanta, he oversaw improvements for city parks and recreation departments. He repaired freeways in anticipation of Atlanta's future growth expected after the Olympic Games were over. He helped to calm public tensions caused by the serial killings of black children in the infamous Atlanta Child Murders case between 1979 and 1981.

Jackson drew criticism when, believing a change was needed to help solve Atlanta's growing crime problem, he attempted to fire the incumbent white police chief, John Inman. Needing to solve the black community's concerns of the police's racial insensitivity toward African Americans, he came under fire when whites opposed the firing. Racial tensions rose when he appointed a college friend and fellow activist, A. Reginald Eaves, as Public Safety Commissioner who lacked police experience. Despite the protest, Jackson kept Eaves as Commissioner. Eaves was later convicted of extortion in 1988 after selling his vote on two rezoning bills. He created more controversy by appointing an ex-convict as his personal secretary and by his quota promotions and hiring process in the police department. Many labeled the practice as "reverse discrimination".

After leaving the Mayor's office, Jackson continued to be active with the Democratic Party. He unsuccessfully sought the Democratic National Committee Chairmanship but was appointed as the National Development Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and also became the first Chairman of the DNC Voting Rights Institute. He founded the American Voters League, a non-profit and non-partisan effort to increase national voter participation, in 2002.

At the age of sixty-five, after suffering a heart attack at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C., Jackson died of cardiac arrest at a Arlington, Virginia hospital. His remains were returned to Atlanta where he was buried at the Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta.



## BERNARD SAMUEL JEFFERSON

...was born on June 29, 1910 in Coffeeville Mississippi to Eldora M. and Nelson E. Jefferson. The youngest of four children, the family lived in a rural all-white community and education was segregated. To ensure their children received a good education, Jefferson and his sibling were

home-schooled. When Jefferson was a child, his family moved Denver, Colorado to make a better life than the one they had in Mississippi. The family would eventually make another move, to Los Angeles (LA), California.

In L.A., Jefferson attended the city's public schools. He was a very gifted student and his brilliance was noticed when he began to perform as a debater and orator. He played trumpet in his high school's marching band and graduated from the school, Manual Arts High School as class Valedictorian in 1927.

He entered the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) where he applied his great oratory skills and joined the school's debate team. He continued his trumpet playing with the school's marching band and joined the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. For his academic achievements, Jefferson was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Scholastic Society. In 1931, Jefferson graduated from UCLA, sum cum laude, with an A.B. degree in Political Science. To obtain his law degree, Jefferson accepted a scholarship to Harvard University Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He completed his law studies and received his LL.B degree, cum laude, in 1934.

Jefferson took a job in Washington, D.C. to begin his legal career. He served for six years as a Professor of Law at Howard University School of Law. He then returned to Harvard to pursue graduate studies. He obtained a Doctor of Juridical Science degree in the field of Evidence in 1943.

After obtaining his graduate studies degree, Jefferson returned to Washington D.C. to work for the Office of Price Administration as an Assistant General Counsel. He would serve at the Administration until 1946. He then moved back to Los Angeles.

In L.A., Jefferson practiced law as a private attorney and over the next thirteen years, he would build a successful law practice. In 1959, he was appointed by then Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr. as a Judge on the Municipal Court. A year later, he was elevated to the Superior Court.

In 1967, Jefferson was selected as a member of the faculty of California College of Trail Judges. After serving on the faculty for seven years, he became Dean and served in that capacity for one year. In February of 1969, Jefferson conducted a seminar for the National College of the State Judiciary in Anchorage, Alaska on Evidence and Civil Trials for Alaska's District Court Judges.

In 1972, Jefferson conducted a similar seminar, Evidence for Judges of the District Court of the State of Minnesota. He conducted another seminar, Evidence for Hawaii's Judiciary in April of 1974. A year later, Jefferson was appointed to the Court of Appeals. He became the first African Americans appointed to the state Court.

Justice Jefferson, while sitting on the bench, became one of the country's foremost scholars on legal issues. He distinguished himself as an unparalleled judicial litigator whose brilliant mind adjudicated many important cases presented to the Court. While serving on the bench, Jefferson penned several articles and publications while he served on the bench. In 1972, he authored his legendary 957-page book, "California Evidence Benchbook" published by the Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) for the California of Judges. Jefferson wrote a 344-page supplement to his 957-page book in 1975. Three years later, he wrote a 644-page supplement to the first book.

A Second Edition of "California Evidence Benchbook" was published in 1982 as a two-volume book set containing 1900 pages. Jefferson would author other legal articles that were published in the Boston Law Review, the Columbia Law Review, and the Harvard Law Review.

In 1980, Justice Jefferson left his position as Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals. He accepted a teaching position as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of West Los Angeles School of Law in Culver City. He became the President of the University's Law School in 1982. In addition, he taught classes in Evidence and Criminal Procedure. While serving as President, Jefferson is credited with expanding the school's curriculum, which allowed the school to gain more students entering the field of law.

Justice Jefferson has been a member of many associations and organizations including the American Bar Association, the California State Bar, the California State Bar's Joint Advisory Committee on Continuing Education of the Bar, the Executive Board of the Conference of California Judges, the Langston Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the Subcommittee on Trail Practice.

Justice Jefferson has served his local community and others across the country during his professional career. He has served on the Board of Trustee's First A.M.E. Church of Los Angeles, the Board of Managers Wilshire Branch YMCA, and District Commissioner of Boy Scouts of America, Regional Board of Directors National Council of Christians and Jews. He also served the Pacific Southwest Area Council of YMCA, the National Council of YMCAs, the L.A. Regional Welfare Planning Council, the Los Angeles Community Chest, the Minority Employment Advisory Committee of the Department of Employment, and the Angel City #18 Prince Hall of Masons.

Justice Jefferson built an outstanding reputation that exemplified his many awards and honors. He has been recognized and received awards from the Conference of California Judges, the California Trial Lawyers Association, the California Center for Judicial Education and Research, the Criminal Courts Bar Association, the Langston Bar Association, the Lawyer's Club of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association, and UCLA. Jefferson has been given the "Distinguished Merit Award" by the Minority Bar Association, the "St. Thomas More Medal" from the Loyola Marymount University Law School, and the "Order of the Coif" from the University of Southern California Law School. The California Association of Black Lawyers also gave Jefferson their, "Bernard S. Jefferson Jurist Award".

Bernard Samuel Jefferson died on March 17, 2002. He was ninety-one years old.



## SILAS JEFFERSON

...is also known as Ho-tul-ko-micco (Wind Clan Chief) was born in 1835 at Taskigi Town (or Tuskegee) in the Old Creek Nation of Alabama to Betsey and Jeffery Manac (McNac). He was a member of the Upper Creeks of the Muscogee Creek Nation from the Alabama clan. The Muscogee Creek Nation was one of the "Five Civilized Tribes" that were relocated in the early 1830s during the infamous "Trail of Tears" that moved the Native Americans from their eastern lands of Georgia and Alabama to

modern day Oklahoma. The Creek Nation at the time controlled the majority of land covering the states of Georgia and Alabama. Jefferson's tribe and family were relocated in 1838.

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

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

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

At the beginning of the Civil War, the "5 Civilized Tribes", (Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Creek), were divided in their loyalties toward the Confederacy and the Union. Those that aligned with the Union, which the Upper Creeks did and the Lower Creeks did not, during the ensuing battles lost everything and many lost their lives fighting for their freedoms. Jefferson served as a interpreter and negotiator between the tribes.

Jefferson and joined the First Indian Home Guard Regiment, Company I, during the Civil War. the Civil War, the U.S. Government was in need of Indian interpreters. Jefferson became one of the mouth pieces between the government and the native nation leaders. Many times, Jefferson was the main protector of the legal rights of the natives as he controlled the dialogue between the opposing parties.

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

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

For his black Indian heritage, Jefferson and other blacks faced being left out of the settlements concerning lost property as it related to the war. In the post

Civil War negotiations with the government, the Lower Creeks, not having many black citizens in their tribe as they had over the years assimilated more toward a European lifestyle, wanted to exclude the Upper Creek blacks from the negotiations and all future benefits as tribal Muscogee Creek members. Chief Yargee, a believer of inclusion of the blacks, chose Jefferson, Cow Tom, Harry Island, Silas Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Ketch Barnett, and John Meyers to represent him and the Muscogee Upper Creeks in the negotiations with Washington to protect black Indian rights as he spoke no English.

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

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

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

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

Jefferson served as an advisor to Chief Locha Hacho in 1875. The Chief was impeached a year later and removed from office by the Creek Council. Four years later, Jefferson ran for Second Chief on the Loyal Party Ticket, named for the Creek citizens that sided with the Union Army during the Civil War. Running on the ticket with Creek Judge Isparhecher, the entire ticket was dropped from the election, when the Loyal Party's leading voice, Isparhecher, called for armed resistance Against the Creek Constitutional government and withdrew the Party from the race altogether. He and the Loyal Party moved to Nuyuka Town west of Okmulge to set up their own government.

The U.S. Government made plans to take tribal land and redistribute it in allotments. In the plan, it was learned that the black Creek citizens would be given land. Full bloods were angry that blacks would be included in the dispersment of land. Chief Checote, not a proponent of mixing native blood with that of blacks, suggested the blacks receive land away from the rest of the tribe while the Creek Supreme Judge Isparhecher, a full blood, was opposed altogether of blacks receiving land. The government's position was that the Indian Treaty of 1866, signed after the Civil War, black Indians, as citizens, were entitled to receive land.

The two opposing sides became so enraged that Judge Isparhecher called for some Creeks to cede from the Nation and to take up arms against the government. It was then that Jefferson decided to leave the Loyal Party. The tension between the two opposing fractions soon erupted into war. The Green Peach War of 1882, named because the peaches were in season, did not solve the issue. Federal troops were sent in to end the war.

During the skirmish that summer, Jefferson became one of the interpreters that helped to calm both sides in the fight and to ensure the blacks received their land allotments. In 1996, the black Indians received not forty, but 160 acres of land per child or adult. In 1906, the government gave the black Indians, another 40 acres. Jefferson was one of the attorneys involved in the transfer of the land to the blacks. Silas Jefferson died in 1913 near Beggs, Oklahoma.





## WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

...was born on July 22, 1963 in San Antonio, Texas. He is a direct descendant of a slave, Shedrick Willis, who was owned by a Waco, Texas judge before the Civil War. Willis, after the Civil War ended gained his freedom and became a community activist and entered state politics. He was elected

to the Waco, Texas City Council, where he served two terms. Ironically, years later, Jefferson would take a similar path and enter the world state legislature. The only difference would be, Jefferson would enter on the side of law and not politics.

He attended and graduated from John Jay High School in San Antonio, Texas. He attended undergraduate school at the James Madison College at Michigan State University where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Philosophy in 1985. In 1988, he received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

Jefferson began his professional career as a private practice attorney. In 1989, he joined the appellate section of Groce, Locke & Hebdon in San Antonio. In 1991, he founded an appellate law firm along with partners Sharon Callaway and Tom Crofts. It did not take long before Crofts, Callaway and Jefferson became one of the preeminent appellate law firms in Texas.

In 2001, then Governor Rick Perry appointed Jefferson and fellow African American Dale Wainwright as Justices of the Texas Supreme Court. In naming the two Judges to the Court, Jefferson and Wainwright became the first African Americans to be appointed to Texas's highest Court. In the following general election, Jefferson was elected to a full term on the Court garnering 56% of the votes casted. He did not complete his elected term as the Governor called on Jefferson to take on another role, that as Chief Justice of the Court.

During the same year, Jefferson was elected to the American Law Institute (ALI), which was established in 1923 to promote the clarification and simplification of common law in the United States and how to adapt the law to the changing social needs of the Nation. The organization is comprised of attorneys, judges, law professors and others involved in the legal industry. Ten years later, Jefferson would serve on the ALI Council. Overall, he would serve as Chief Justice through 2013.

In 2004, Jefferson assumed the appointment as Chief Justice to serve out the remaining term of retiring Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips who was retiring after serving seventeen years on the bench. Jefferson's appointment made him the first African American to serve as the Court's Chief. Completing the appointment, Jefferson ran for the Chief Justice position in the next general election. Like before, Jefferson won the November 2006 election and returned to his seat as Chief Justice.

Jefferson, as Chief Justice, led the Court's efforts bring access and funding to several justice programs. He assisted in the reforma-

tion of the juvenile justice system aimed at helping juveniles that enter the judicial arena. Jefferson also inaugurated an electronic filing system for Texas's courts, which expedited the filing process statewide.

While serving on the bench, Jefferson also served as President of the Conference of Chief Justices, which is an association that was founded in 1949 and made up of Chief Justices from all fifty states and U.S. territories. The purpose of the Conference is to give the highest judicial officers in the United States an opportunity to come together to discuss matters important to the improvement of the administration of justice, rules of procedure, and to make recommendations on how to implement suggested improvements on matters related to judicial prudence. Governed by a Board of Directors, the Conference operates similarly to how a non-profit organization operates.

In October 2013, Jefferson became a Partner in the law firm, Alexander Dubose Jefferson Townsend LLP. In May of 2014, he became the Treasurer of ALI. He also served as Adviser to the organization's Restatement Third of Torts, the law of consumer contracts. In addition, he chaired the organization's Advisory Group, which covers the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. In 2015, then Governor Greg Abbott appointed Jefferson to the Texas Historical Commission.

Jefferson successfully argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, both before he reached the age of thirty-five, an achievement that not many lawyers in the country have done. One such case, Board of Commissioners of Bryan County, Oklahoma v. Brown, Jefferson was successful in his arguments that the Oklahoma County was liable for the excessive force used by one of their officers in the arrest of the Plaintiff, as was its' County Sheriff for failure to adequately review the background of the arresting officer. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Brown's favor.

In another legendary case argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District changed the overall guidelines as they relate to sexual harassment in public schools. Citing existing rules under Title IX of the United States Education Amendments of 1972, Jefferson successfully pled the case. The outcome of the Court's ruling caused all schools and universities across the country to revamp their policies when it came to interaction between students and the schools faculty as well as student to student interaction in sports.

Justice Jefferson has served on many Boards and has advised many organizations and their affiliates. He has sat on the Board of Advisors of the Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Judicial Selection Initiative amongst many others. He is also a member of the Republican Party.

Justice Jefferson has been given many awards and accolades. He was the recipient of the Texas Exes' "Distinguished Alumnus Award". He received the Texas Center for Legal Ethics' "Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award"; the Texas Appleseed's "J. Chrys Dougherty Good Apple Award"; the Anti-Defamation League's "Austin Jurisprudence Award"; the Texas Center for Legal Ethics' "Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award" and the University of Texas' "Presidential Citation Award". An alumnus of San Antonio, Texas's Northside Independent School District, a local middle school was named in Jefferson's honor, the Wallace B. Jefferson Middle School. Jefferson has received many more honors, far to many to be listed here.





## Alice B. JENNINGS

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971 from Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing, Michigan where she majored in Social Work. She also studied for her Master's degree in Social Work at MSU as well. For her law degree, Jennings attended Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan completing her studies in 1978. She was admitted to the Michigan State Bar that same year.

While earning her law degree, Jennings worked for the Detroit Board of Education, worked as a teacher, and served as a social worker. After receiving her law degree, she accepted a legal apprenticeship with the Michigan law firm of Philo, Atkinson, Darling, Steinberg, Harper and Edwards. Several years later, Jennings became a partner in the firm.

Jennings, along with another partner in the firm, Carl R. Edwards, left Philo, Atkinson, Darling, Steinberg, Harper and Edwards to establish their own law firm, Edwards & Jennings, P.C. Several years later, Jennings was selected to serve as a member of an U.S. delegation made up of judges, attorneys, and academic scholars that traveled to the then Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China to work with the respective governments of each country to educate their appointed government officials, law professors, legal scholars and concerned citizens about the United States Constitution and the U.S. Bill of Rights. The "People to People" project between the countries was reciprocal and the U.S. representatives learned valuable lessons for the foreign law professors and legal foundations on matters of domestic and international law.

In the late 1970's, Jennings and her partner Edwards served as lead counsel in several affirmative action cases in the United States. Together, they became Co-Coordiators of the Michigan Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD), an organization created to combat those seeking to disallow race as a factor in minority participation in higher learning admissions. The Coalition was composed of elected officials, civil rights organizations, labor organizations, religious organizations, women rights organizations, priests, ministers, community activist, and sexual preference organizations.

NCOBD, under Jennings leadership, took an active role in fighting the Bakke Decision, as the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The organization was able to orchestrate an historic march on Washington, D.C., which took the fight to Capital Hill. Over 100,000 concerned citizens participated in the May 1978 march for support of affirmative action policies where Jennings served as one of the guest speakers.

Jennings served as legal counsel in the litigation to save the Detroit Receiving Hospital, the only municipally owned hospital in City of Detroit's that served medically uninsured Detroit citizens and the mentally ill. As in the Bakke case, a coalition was formed, the Coalition to Save Detroit Receiving Hospital, which again was

comprised of labor representatives, elected city officials, religious leaders and community activists. Detroit Receiving Hospital was a part of the medical complex of the Detroit Medical Center.

In 1980, Jennings was a part of another coalition, the Coalition to Save the Detroit Human Rights Ordinance, comprised of local business owners that challenged the City of Detroit's Human Rights Ordinance. The Coalition was able to force contractors doing business with the City of Detroit to hire more minorities and women to their companies. For their efforts, Jennings and Edwards were presented with the City's "Spirit of Detroit Award" and a given a "Testimonial Resolution" by the Detroit City Council for their pro bono defense of the City of Detroit' Human Rights Ordinance.

In the early 1990's, after then Detroit Mayor Coleman Young made an attempt to privatize city services, which would cause the loss of thousands of jobs for city workers, Jennings and Edwards were again called upon by elected officials, labor organizations, religious leaders and community activists to create another coalition. The two were asked to act as leaders of the movement. The team formed the Coalition to Stop Privatization and Save Our City, which is credited with the creation of a new City of Detroit Charter that would specifically prohibited privatization of City of Detroit government services, until specified criteria were met.

In 1996, Jennings became a founding member of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice. She served as lead counsel and pro bono attorney for Sugar Law Center in their Flint, Michigan toxic air incinerator case, which resulted in a thirty-year environmental justice, consent judgment. For her work on the case, the Flint chapter of the NAACP presented here with an honored award.

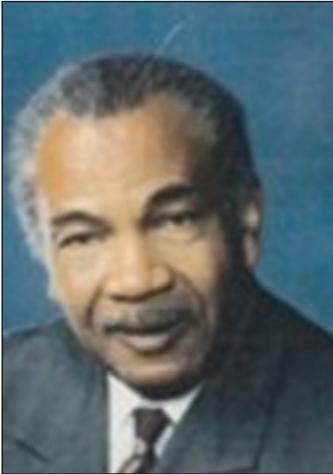
Jennings would go on to help in the creation of the Campaign for Corporate Justice at Detroit Edison Company, which filed a landmark class action suit centered on race and age discrimination. The case ended with Jennings team winning an unprecedented \$45,150,000 victory, the largest awarded under the states, "Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act", which gives rights and protects Michigan employees. At the same time, Jennings conducted litigation work for the National Organization of Women (NOW), the Rainbow/Push Coalition, famed actor and playwright Ozzie Davis, and his wife, Ruby Dee. She has represented the Boggs Center to Nurture Community Development and helped to establish the Rosa and Raymond Parks Endowment Trust.

Jennings has served as the Chairperson of the Civil Liberties Section of the Michigan State Bar Association. She became a founding member of the Black Women's Lawyers Association. She is also a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, the National Bar Association, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, and Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

Jennings has litigated many important cases during her legal career. She has litigated cases involving individual liability in a sexually hostile work environment and cases aimed at protecting Detroit residents against the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. The Water Department looked to make a massive water shut off to city apartment buildings and other residential homes.

Jennings has been honored by many legal organizations, including having received the "Trail Blazing Lawyer of the Year" and the "Harriett Tubman Award" from the Black Woman Lawyer's Association of Michigan.





## THEODORE R. JOHNS

...was born on December 29, 1927 in Silsbee, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore R. Johns, Sr.. He completed his high school studies at Waldo-Matthews High School in Silsbee before matriculating to Prairie

View University in Prairie View, Texas in 1947. After completing his undergraduate studies, Johns taught school in Jasper, Texas for one year.

He then travelled east to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University's School of Law. He received his LL.B. degree in 1951. He returned to Texas to take the state bar exam, which he passed.

After obtaining his law license, Johns had to take two years away from law to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in the Korean War. Upon his release from the military, he returned to Texas, settling in Beaumont, and opened his law firm. After one year in private practice, he joined forces with Elmo R. Willard, III, and the two of them formed the law firm of Johns & Willard.

Johns and his new partner, Willard began to take on cases that dealt with discrimination and civil rights issues. In 1954, the two took on the case of B.T. Fayson, et. al. vs. City of Beaumont. Johns brought suit against the City of Beaumont in an effort to desegregate its' recreational facilities, including the city's golf course, and its' public libraries. After a fight full of racial overtones, Johns was victorious in his efforts and the city opened its' public facilities to all citizens.

In 1955, Johns represented Versie Jackson and James A. Cormier and brought suit against Lamar State College in Orange, Texas. In Versie Jackson and James A. Cormier vs. Lamar State College, et. al., Johns sought to end discrimination at the school, as he had done with the City of Beaumont. This case brought more violence by white anti-desegregationist but Johns prevailed in the case.

Johns, representing elementary and secondary school children, would file cases to end school desegregation against the against South Park Independent School District. He did the same against the Brownsville Indepen-

dent School District. In each case, he was victorious and ended school segregation in both Texas School Districts.

For his dedicated service, Johns received numerous awards. Among them are the Jefferson County Bar Association's, "Blackstone Award"; the Texas Legislative Black Caucus's, "Outstanding Texan Award"; and the Texas Legislature's "Outstanding Service Award". In his honor, the City of Beaumont built a city library in his name. The library is located on Fannett Road in Beaumont. The Jefferson County Courthouse, in Johns and his partner, Elmo R. Willard, erected statues in their honor in May of 2008.

Theodore R. Johns, Sr. died on March 7, 2010. He was eighty-two years old.



## BERNETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON

...was born in June of 1943 in the Ascension Parish of Donaldsonville, Louisiana. She attended New Orleans, Louisiana public schools before accepting an academic scholarship into Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from Spelman in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in

Political Science. For her law degree, she attended the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University, where she received her Juris Doctorate degree in 1969. Spelman would award Johnson an Honorary Doctorate in Law degree in 2001.

After passing the Louisiana Bar exam, Johnson would enter private practice law where she would operate for fifteen years. She first took a position as the Managing Attorney of the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation (NOLAC), where she gave legal assistance to those that could not afford legal representation. She represented the poor, children, and the elderly in juvenile, state, and federal courts.

In 1981, Johnson joined the staff of the City Attorney's Office. She would later become a Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. She joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their Legal Defense & Educational Fund (LDF) as a community organizer. She gave time to fighting social injustice when she worked for the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

In 1984, she ran for a seat on the Civil District Court serving Orleans Parish and won. She would serve on the Court for ten years before being elected as the Court's Chief Judge in 1994. The Louisiana legislature, under a federal consent decree, increased their Justices from six to seven. Republican Justice Judge Jeffrey P. Victory of Shreveport, Louisiana felt that he should become the Chief Justice over Johnson although she had served on the Court for only four months over him. According to the directs of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, if a Supreme Court vacancy comes about prior to a general election, the next Chief Justice appointed is done so by the longevity of the Justices that are currently serving the Court.

Victory contended that although Johnson had been on the State Supreme Court a few months longer than he had, he felt that his service on a lower court, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals for four years, while Johnson had lost her bid for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals before she had been named to the Supreme Court gave him more tenure on the bench and thus he should become the Chief Justice. His fellow peers and the Louisiana Constitution did not agree. Johnson was named as Chief Justice and became the first African American to serve in her role.

Johnson was the first African American woman to serve as both a Justice and a Chief Justice to the State Supreme Court. Victory would retire from the Court a few years later. Justice Johnson won unopposed re-election to her seat in the upcoming general elections of 2000 and 2010. In 2017, Johnson was the only Democrat serving on the Louisi-

ana State Supreme Court. The Court consists of two Independents and four Republicans.

While serving on the bench, Chief Justice Johnson was an advocate of equality in legal representation and fairness in adjudicating the case. She has served the Court as Chair of the Louisiana Judicial Council and the Human Resources Committee and serves as a member of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board. She served the Court's Legal Services Task Force and the National Campaign on Best Practices in the area of Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. In an effort to improve legal profession in the state of Louisiana, she served as a member of the Committee on Bar Admissions. Chief Justice Johnson also served on the Court's Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee to help lawyers keep abreast of changing laws and their applications.

Chief Justice Johnson championed other successful legal initiatives. She implementing training and certification of Limited English Proficiency Interpreters in the Courts and put in place an electronic filing system for the Supreme Court. An advocate for civil rights and social justice, she ensured that minority participants involved in Court proceedings were sufficiently represented by their counsels and the opposing prosecutors did not infringe upon their rights.

For her dedication to a life of service, Chief Justice Johnson has been widely recognized for her many judiciary achievements. She was a recipient of the prestigious "Joan Dempsey Klein Award" presented to her by the National Association of Women Judges. Other notable recipients include U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor (1982), Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2003) and Sonia Sotomayor (2009).

Chief Justice Johnson was awarded by the "Spirit of Excellence Award" by the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. She also received an "Achievement Award" from the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers Association. The National Bar Association (NBA) inducted her into their Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law awarded her their "Distinguished Civil Rights Advocate Award".

Other awards and honors bestowed upon Chief Justice Johnson include receiving the first ever Ernest N. Morial Award presented by the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation; the NAACP Louisiana State Conference A.P. Tureaud Citizenship Award; the 2000 Women of Wonder Award by the National Council of Negro Women; the 2000 Medal of Honor presented by the Mayor of the City of New Orleans; the 2009 Distinguished Jurist Award presented by the Louisiana Bar Foundation; the 2012 Exceptional Leadership Award presented by the Louisiana Bar Association Committee on Diversity; the 2012 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Award; the 2012 National Urban League President's Award; and the 2013 Martin Luther King Unsung Hero Award presented by Louisiana State University (LSU). Chief Justice Johnson was also inducted into the LSU's Law Center's Hall of Fame. In addition, she was inducted into the LSU's Order of the Coif.

While serving on the bench, Chief Justice Johnson has given of her time to social and civic causes as well. She has been actively involved in the A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the American Inns of Court, the Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, the National Association of Women Judges, the New Orleans Chapter of Links, Inc., the Omicron Nu Zeta Chapter, the Women in Prison Project, and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She also is a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana Judicial Council, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the New Orleans Bar Association.



Photo Not Available



## CHARLES VERNON JOHNSON

...was born in Malvern, Arkansas. His family moved to Little Rock, Arkansas when he was six months old. His mother was a domestic worker while his father worked in a hospital boiler

room. He graduated from Dunbar High School before he enrolled into a local junior college. His high school advisor encouraged Johnson to take teacher-training classes in college as there were not many jobs for African Americans in the professional ranks, and teaching was one that African Americans could enter. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) was not given at his high school, so Johnson had to write in to have a test sent to his school to be administered.

In 1948, Johnson enlisted into the United States Army where he served for two years during the Korean War. After his tour was complete, he re-enlisted for another two years serving his time in Germany. When his second tour with the Army was complete, he returned to Arkansas to complete his education.

Back in Arkansas, Johnson enrolled into Arkansas A&M at Pine Bluff where he received his undergraduate degree. He then applied to law school at the University of Washington Law School and was accepted. He loaded his belongings in his car and headed to Seattle.

In 1954, Johnson enrolled into the University of Washington School of Law. He was one of a very few African American students enrolled in the law school when he began. When he graduated, Johnson was the only African American in his graduating class.

After graduation, it was difficult to find employment. His desire to work for the State Prosecuting Attorney's Office was foiled when they did not hire him. He was able to litigate several small cases to carry him through. In 1957, he was asked to revive the Seattle Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). With his ability to bring in new members and from the efforts he gave the Chapter, by 1959, he was selected to be the President. He was able to gain 1,000 members in six weeks for the Chapter. He would remain President for five years, until 1964.

While serving as President of the Seattle Chapter of the NAACP, Johnson also gave time to the Central Area Civil Rights Committee, a committee of civil rights leaders in the Seattle area. The Committee demonstrated and ran protest campaigns, which resulted in Seattle's 1968 Open Housing Ordinance that called for the desegregation of public housing in Seattle. The Chapter became involved in other issues surrounding Seattle's black community, including police relations with the black community, fair employment opportunities, and public accommodations.

After leaving the NAACP as President of the Seattle Chapter, Johnson worked for eight years for the Northwest Area Conference as their President. He would eventually be named to the National Board of Directors in New York for the NAACP. He would chair the organization's Legal Committee and serve as Vice-Chair of Branches whereby he set the national legal policy for the organization.

In 1969, Johnson was appointed as a Seattle Municipal Court Judge. He would sit on the Municipal Court bench for eleven years. In 1981, he was appointed by then Governor Dixie Lee Ray to the King County Superior Court. He would serve on the Superior Court for seventeen years. When Johnson came to the Court, there was a backlog of over 68,000 cases. Johnson was able to clear those cases from the dockets. He also implemented the Model Cities program initiated by U.S. President Lyndon Johnson to combat poverty and to foster new leadership in the African American communities.

The next issue that Johnson wanted to tackle on his legal calendar was to integrate the Seattle public school system. Johnson began to meet with other community and education leaders to develop a plan of action of how to integrate the schools and which organization should control the process. The plan that was adopted called for the boycotting of the school district. The organization was also able to attract white supporters, which gave them a well-needed base and cross over appeal, which brought in more supporters for their cause.

Charles Vernon Johnson died on February 6, 2013.



## GLENN T. JOHNSON

...was born on July 19, 1917 in Washington, Arkansas, to Reola Thompson Johnson and Floyd Johnson. He graduated from Langston High School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1941 from Wilber-

force University in Xenia, Ohio. He attended the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois where he earned both his J.D. degree in 1949 and his S.J.D. degree in 1950. Johnson would go on to receive additional legal training from the National College of State Trial Judges. In addition, Johnson also completed the Appellate Court Judge Seminar at New York University's Law School.

He served his military duties by enlisting into the United States Army. He served during World War II and would later serve in the Illinois National Guard. He also spent time in the U.S. Army Reserve.

In his first job in the legal field, Johnson worked as an Illinois Assistant Attorney General. He would stay with the Attorney General's Office for seven years. He then moved to the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago as a Senior Attorney.

In 1966, Johnson was elected as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Two years later, he was elected to the full Circuit Court where he would serve for five years. He then was appointed as a Justice on the Appellate Court of Illinois. He was the second African American to serve on the Appellate Court. He would remain on the bench of the Appellate Court until his retirement in 1994.

In one of his more notable cases, Justice Johnson upheld a \$6.6 million jury verdict that the lower Court had levied against the Chicago Park District. A Chicago Bears football sports fan had fallen from a ledge at Solider Field Stadium in Chicago and had become paralyzed. Justice Johnson ruled that Chicago Park had failed in its' responsibilities to provide a safe environment for its fans and had failed to correct the dangerous conditions that led to the sports fans injuries.

Justice Glenn T. Johnson would give over thirty years to the Courts as a Judge. He served for twenty-one years

at the Appellate level. He built a reputation of mentoring young attorneys and to develop the clerks that worked for him propelling them to loftier positions in the future. During his tenure as a Judge, Justice Johnson trained over twenty-one clerks of which nineteen were African American, more than any other Illinois Appellate Court Justice.

Justice Johnson served on several bar associations and organizations. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Cook County Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association. He served as Past President of the Cook County Bar Association, Past Chairman of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, and Past Chairman of the Bench and Bar Section of the Illinois Bar Association.

He was a Board of Trustees Emeritus member of the John Marshall Law School and a Trustee Emeritus member of the Woodlawn A.M.E. Church. For twenty-four years, he served as a member of the Church's Judicial Council. Justice Johnson served as President of the Cook County Bar Association while actively being involved with the Illinois and National Bar Associations. He served as the Chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the Chair of the Bench and Bar Section of the Illinois Bar Association, and was a member of the World Judges Association.

To honor Justice Johnson for his contributions to the law and specifically to the John Marshall Law School, law school students that comprised the Black Law Students Association renamed their chapter in his honor, The Honorable Glenn T. Johnson Chapter of the Black Law Students Association of the John Marshall Law School. The National Bar Association awarded Justice Johnson their prestigious "Heman Sweatt Award".

Johnson died in his Chicago home on November 30, 2010. He was ninety-two years old



## EDWARD AUSTIN JOHNSON

...was born on November 23, 1869 in Raleigh, North Carolina to Eliza and Columbus Johnson. Edward had eleven brothers and sisters. He received his elementary school education from a local free "colored" woman, Miss Nancy Walton. Walton also taught

school to several wealthy families children.

Johnson graduated in 1879 from Washington High School for Negroes in Raleigh before entering Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. While studying for his undergraduate degree, Johnson taught school in rural Houston County, Georgia. He also ran a barbershop.

Johnson graduated with his undergraduate degree and took a job as a school principal in Atlanta's Washington High School. He served as Principal for several years, before returning to Raleigh to accept a similar principal job in a Raleigh public school in 1885. While serving as a principal, Johnson published the first textbook written by a black author when he penned, "A School History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1890". The book was the first book written by a black author that was approved by North Carolina State Board of Education to be used in North Carolina public schools. Johnson's textbook highlighted achievements made by African Americans and was published in four editions. The schools black schools in North Carolina and Virginia used the book as a tool to teach their students.

In 1886, Johnson became involved with the North Carolina Negro Teachers Association. The organization demanded for African Americans throughout the state separate but equal high schools and regular schools. At the same time, Johnson also was elected as a Raleigh Alderman, where he served for two years. In addition, he was named as clerk to the federal District Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Johnson then decided to obtain his law degree.

In 1888, Johnson went back to school to obtain his law degree. He received it in 1891 from the Shaw University School of Law in Charlotte, North Carolina. Johnson was the first graduate of the new Shaw law school. He set up offices in Raleigh and began to practice law while he taught at the university as well. He would become Dean of the university upon the departure of the school's first Dean, John S. Leary.

Johnson became more involved in politics and was named as Chair of the 4th Congressional District for the Republican Party. For the 1892 Republican National Convention, he served as a Delegate. He would serve as a Delegate in the 1896 and 1900 Republican National Conventions. For President Theodore

Roosevelt's inaugural parade, Johnson served as an Honorary Brigadier General.

In 1894, Johnson married the great-granddaughter of the Rev. Richard Allen, Lena Allen Kennedy. Allen is the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. They had one daughter, Adelaide.

In 1899, Johnson became an Assistant to the U.S. Attorney for Eastern North Carolina. He became active in politics and the Republican Party. After serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for some time, Johnson served for one term on the Raleigh City Board of Alderman.

Also in 1899, Johnson published his second textbook, "History of the Negro Soldiers in the Spanish American War and Other Items of Interest". Five years later, his utopian novel, "Light Ahead for the Negro", described a 2006 future where there was no discrimination against blacks. In 1928, Johnson published his last book, "Adam vs Ape-Man in Ethiopia".

In 1900, co-founded with Booker T. Washington, the National Negro Business League, an organization dedicated to promoting the commercial and financial development of the Negro. By that time, Johnson was one of the largest property owners in Raleigh. Despite his financial success, Johnson still was a victim of racial discrimination. Tired of the segregated South, he decided to move north.

In 1907, Johnson moved from North Carolina to New York City, New York. He was admitted to the New York State bar and became active in the politics of Harlem and the local Republican Party there. In 1917, he ran and was elected to the New York state legislature. As the first African American member ever elected the New York State Assembly, he represented the 19th Assembly District. He served for only one term.

In 1920, Johnson turned sixty years old and was declared legally blind. Although he lost his sight, he did not stop speaking about political issues or writing his ideals and opinions. His desire for equal participation by blacks in mainstream American life was still a driving force in his actions.

In 1928, Johnson made a run for the U.S. Congress representing the 21st District of New York. Although he garnered the greatest number of votes from the Republican Party in his district, he lost the race to winner Royal H. Weller. Despite the loss, Johnson continued his involvement in politics supporting issues of race and country.

Although blind, Johnson published another book and his last, "Adam vs. Ape-Man in Ethiopia", eight years after losing his eyesight. His wealth afforded him a lifestyle that provided the assistance he needed to live. To assist others that have no eyesight, in his will, he left a portion of two-thirds of his wealth, \$75,000, to the Raleigh School for the Negro Blind. He also gave to the Congregational Church, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and established a Shaw University scholarship.

Edward Austin Johnson died on July 25th, 1944. He was seventy-five years old.



## HARRY E. JOHNSON

...was born on September 29, 1954 in St. Louis, Missouri and attended Christian Brothers College High School. In 1982, he completed post Baccalaureate work in Public Administration at St. Louis University in

St. Louis, Missouri and his Bachelor of Arts from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1986, he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law. At Texas Southern, he was a member of the Thurgood Marshall Student Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta President, and Senior Class President.

In 2002, Johnson became the President and CEO of the Washington, D.C. Based Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.. The Foundation was created and given the enormous task by The President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to erect a memorial to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Johnson was selected to take this historical feat.

Needing \$127 million needed to complete the memorial, the Foundation raised more than \$119 million saving \$8 million by choosing Chinese master sculptor Lei Yixin and having the monument created in China. Under Johnson's leadership, three Boards were created to begin the process, an Executive Leadership Cabinet, Governing Board and Honorary Board. To achieve the goal of erecting the memorial, Johnson amassed the support from all living U.S. Presidents, Congress, members of the corporate and nonprofit communities, many celebrities, and entertainers. The Memorial was dedicated on August 28, 2011 with great fanfare, celebrations and national pride. with President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, members of the President's Cabinet, Congressional members and many international dignitaries were in attendance.

Prior to accepting the monumental task of erecting the Memorial, Johnson served as the 31st National President of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity from 2001 to 2004. With his selection, he became the youngest person ever elected to the position of National President in forty years

of the fraternities existence. He was elected with the highest vote margin of any President in twenty years.

While President, Johnson oversaw over seven hundred Alpha Phi Alpha chapters located throughout the United States and abroad. He increased the number of chapters in good standing and was given credit for enhancing the organization's national image of the fraternity members, its' business leaders and its' political officials. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for their communities.

Johnson is the President of Creative Concourse Concessions, LLC, an airport concessionaire business that partners with vendors and other entities to provide services in retail operations, food and beverage dispensaries, and duty free shopping. He has also owned and operated a Domino's pizza franchise in Houston, Texas.

During his professional career, Johnson has served as City Attorney for Kendelton, Texas and has taught at Texas Southern University in the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and School of Public Affairs. He has dedicated much his time to aid community groups with their issues, such as voter registration, blood donations and HIV/AIDS awareness and care. He is involved with the Boy Scouts of America and the Big Brothers organization. He also serves on the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Foundation Board, he March of Dimes Board, and The National Urban Board.

Johnson was named as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" by Ebony Magazine's in 2004. Johnson is married to Karen Gorrell Johnson and have three children, Jennifer, Harry, Jr. and Nicholas. He calls his home, Houston, Texas.

He has national affiliations with:

- National Board Member of Big Brothers Big Sisters
- National Member of March of Dimes Volunteer Corps
- State Bar of Texas
- American Bar Association
- National Bar Association
- NAACP, Missouri City Branch
- National Volunteer, Boy Scouts of America
- Texas Trial Lawyers Association
- Houston Trial Lawyers Association
- One Hundred Black Men
- Board Member of the Sam Houston Boy Scouts of America





## JACK BRUCE JOHNSON

...was born on April 3, 1949 on Johns Island, which is located near Charleston, South Carolina. He was the fifth of ten children. His mother worked as a maid and his father worked the fields as a vegetable farmer.

Johnson attended segregated schools in his elementary and high school years. He then entered Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970. While in college, Johnson joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. After completing his undergraduate studies, Baker enlisted into the United States Army where he served for four years.

After completing his military duties, Johnson accepted a job in the accounting department of a life insurance company in New York City, New York. He then left New York moving to Washington, D.C. where he enrolled into Howard University's School of Law and obtained his law degree in 1975. After passing the bar, he accepted a job with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) where he would spend the next nine years. While working at the IRS, Johnson was elevated to become the Chief Counsel.

In 1984, Johnson became an Associate Professor of Tax Law at North Carolina Central University School of Law located in Durham, North Carolina. He would remain as an Associate Professor for three years. He then entered the realm of politics when he became the campaign Treasurer for former law school friend, Alexander Williams, Jr., who was vying for the State's Attorney's Office of Prince George's County. Johnson ran the day-to-day operations for Williams's campaign.

Williams was victorious in his pursuit of the office defeating twenty-four year incumbent Arthur "Bud" Marshall. He became the first African American to be elected to a countywide office in Prince George's County. As a reward for his work on the campaign, Williams hired Johnson as a Deputy State's Attorney. In his role in the State's Attorneys Office, Johnson was responsible for the day-to-day management of the office, which had a \$5 million budget.

In 1994, Williams was appointed by then President Bill Clinton to a federal judgeship. Johnson entered his name to fulfill the term left open by Williams' departure. He was successful in replacing Williams as the State's Attorney winning twice as many votes as the runner-up.

As the top prosecutor in the County, Johnson aggressively made a push to bring a halt to the police brutality that ran rampant in the County's Police Department. He fired several Deputy State's Attorneys for their refusal to prosecute bad police officers and took on the police union for their failure to fire officers that were rogue. His position on improving the relationship

between community residents and the police brought anger and distrust from many in the police department and even several County Judges who felt that Johnson was grandstanding to make his points and questioned his grasp of criminal law. Nonetheless, Johnson continued his attempts to clean up policing in the County.

In 2002, Johnson made a run for the top position in Prince George's County as the County Executive. He won the election and took the seat running the business of the County. He was re-elected as County Executive in the 2006 election.

During his tenure as County Executive, Johnson came under fire for his excessive travel expenses. He was attacked for traveling in business and first class during his trips and staying at the most expensive hotels during his stays. His response to the attacks was that the residents of the County did not expect him to travel in economy class.

In 2010, Johnson again came under fire when investigations began against him and four other County Council members by the Office of the Maryland State Prosecutors Office. The five County employees had allegedly solicited bribes and favors while negotiating a one-million-dollar annual lease for a County agency. As the investigation increased, Johnson, along with his wife Leslie found themselves under arrest by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on political corruption charges.

The Johnson's were ultimately charged with witness tampering and destruction of evidence when Johnson was heard over a wiretap of his home instructing his wife to flush a \$100,000 check from a developer and co-conspirators down the toilet. He was overheard on the tapes telling his wife to hide another \$79,600 in cash in her bra as FBI agents were knocking on the front door of the family home attempting to execute a search warrant. Both Johnson and his wife were charged with corruption and faced up to twenty years in prison for their crimes.

Although charged, Johnson remained in his office until his term ended while serving home detention with electronic monitoring. His wife Leslie had been elected to a seat on the County's Council but was removed upon her and Johnson's convictions of their charges during trial. Johnson was indicted and pled guilty of soliciting more than \$200,000 in bribes from County developers dating back to before he was County Executive. His wife pled guilty to her charges as well.

On December 6, 2011, Johnson was fined \$100,000 and was sentenced to seven years and three months in the Butner federal prison located in Butner, North Carolina. He was later transferred to the Cumberland Federal Correctional Institution located in Cumberland, Maryland. In December of 2016, Johnson was released from federal custody and placed in a halfway house near Baltimore, Maryland.

Leslie Johnson was sentenced to one year and a day for her crimes. She served out her sentence at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp in Alderson, West Virginia. She was released ten months after entering the prison camp for good behavior. The Johnson's maintained their home in Mitchellville, Maryland and together they had three children.



## JAMES COODY JOHNSON

...was born on July 27, 1864 at Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma to Elizabeth Davis Johnson and James Coody Johnson. His father was a black Creek lawyer, politician, and entrepreneur. He was a leading voice for the inclusion of African Americans in the economic and political arenas before and after Oklahoma statehood. Johnson was born at Ft.

Gibson as his mother fled there as a refugee during the Civil War.

He attended the Presbyterian Mission north of Wewoka, Oklahoma. He received a sponsorship to attend Lincoln University in Chester, Pennsylvania from the Seminole Nation graduating in 1884. He returned to Oklahoma after receiving his undergraduate degree.

Back in Oklahoma, Johnson was hired as a cowboy with a local cattle company. He remained a cowboy for the next year and a half working throughout Arizona, Mexico and Texas. His father became ill back in Oklahoma and died. Learning of his father's death, Johnson returned to Oklahoma.

Johnson spoke both English and several Native languages. He secured a job with the Federal District Court for Western Arkansas and Judge Isaac Parker, who had jurisdiction over the Indian Territory. While working for Judge Parker, Johnson was admitted to practice in the federal courts.

Johnson held dual citizenship in both the Creek and the Seminole nations and spoke both languages fluently. He became an official interpreter for the Seminole nation and advisor to Seminole Chief Halputta Micco. He was one of a few Freedman that was granted this type of privilege.

In the mid 1890s, the U.S. Government, in preparation for making the Indian Territory a state, implemented a commission, lead by Senator Henry Dawes of Massachusetts. The government passed legislation, in making the territory a state, that the land would be allotted out through a registration process. Senator Dawes, Chairman of his namesake committee, wanted to omit the black native citizens from the land allotments.

The Creek nation was split on the idea of blacks receiving land. The U.S. Government had made plans to take tribal land and redistribute it in allotments. In the plan, it was learned that the black Creek citizens would be given land. Full bloods were angry that blacks would be included in the dispersment of land. Chief Checote, not a proponent of mixing native blood with that of blacks, suggested the blacks receive land away from the rest of the tribe while the Creek Supreme Judge Isparhecher, a full blood, was opposed altogether of blacks receiving land. The government's position was that the Indian Treaty of 1866, signed after the Civil War, gave black Indians, as citizens, the rights and entitlements to receive land.

Because of his bi-lingual abilities, Johnson was of one of a few interpreters that was hired to help bring the fighting sides together. By being the voice between government officials and tribal leaders, Johnson soon became a leading figure in Creek politics. He ran was elected to the House of Warriors of the Muscogee Creek Confederacy. From his elected position, Johnson became an active advocate in the protecting

the full citizenship rights for the black Indians after Oklahoma became a state.

Johnson played a leading roll in the fight to ensure blacks were included in the land allotments the government was giving out before Oklahoma became a state. He was an opponent of Jim Crow laws that were being instituted. He fought to ensure the civil rights of black people were protected and to ensure blacks were included in the benefits of land based upon the Treaty of 1866. During this time, Johnson served as President of the Negro Protection League.

To ensure blacks were included in the dividends of land, Johnson was part of a delegation to Washington, D.C. to argue the case to President Roosevelt of inclusion for blacks in the Indian Roll count. Johnson was victorious in his arguments as blacks were ultimately included in the land allotments. Blacks would get their land.

In the transition from Indian Territory to becoming the state of Oklahoma, the land was divided up between the tribes and their citizens. In the final allotment settlement, for the Creek citizens, including the blacks, each child and adult living, when registered received 160 acres of land. In the second land allotment, each child and adult received another 40 acres. Although the tribes received land, they lost much of their cultural ways when Oklahoma was ruled by Indian law and not U.S. Government law.

As an entrepreneur, Johnson was a success there as well. He owned the Black Panther Hotel in Wewoka and founded the Black Panther Oil and Gas Company. He later built another hotel and his own law office building. In 1985, the National Register of Historic Places placed the Johnson Building located at 124 North Wewoka, Wewoka, Oklahoma on its' list (NR 85001744).

Johnson's legacy was tarnished when he, along with several other attorneys, black and white, were served with disbarment. Claims against them were brought charging they had taken unfair economic advantages of an uneducated orphan girl after she reached the age of maturity in her legal matters related to her finances. The woman in question was a Creek Nation freedwoman and was soon to inherit a considerable estate. In the middle of the proceedings against Johnson, the freedwoman mysteriously died and the investigation could not continue. The complaint against Johnson and the others were dropped.

In 1915, Johnson became the President of the Negro State Fair Association. As President, he oversaw Oklahoma's first Negro Independent State Fair held in Muskogee. In 1920, he staged his best fair at Wewoka with Wiley Post was the main attraction. Post was the first man to fly solo around the world. Held on Johnson's expansive ranch, the State Fair was so popular and looked forward to that the state school superintendent, R. H. Wilson, closed every Oklahoma African American school for two days so students could attend. Johnson also served two terms as Grand Master of the Colored Masons of Oklahoma.

On February 27 1927, Johnson died in Wewoka. In his will, he dedicated enough land having it used to build a school for "Negro boys and girls", the Johnson Grove School. He donated this land for the school because at that time, black children were not allowed to attend school inside the city limits. The school was closed when the laws changed. The students were transferred to Wewoka's Douglas High School. At Johnson's request, he was interred in the same cemetery, north of Wewoka, as is his mother, father, and daughter.





## JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

...was born on June 17, 1871 in Jacksonville, Florida to Helen Louise Dillet, a native of Nassau, Bahamas, and James Johnson. He was an American author, educator, lawyer, diplomat, songwriter, and civil rights activist. Johnson

lead the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) beginning work there in 1917. Three years later, in 1920, he became the organization's first African American to be chosen as Executive Secretary. He essentially was the organization's operating officer. He served in that position through 1930.

Johnson established his reputation as a writer, and was known during the Harlem Renaissance for his poems, novels, and anthologies collecting both poems and spirituals of black culture.

Johnson and his brother, Rosamond, were first educated by their mother, a musician and a public school teacher, before they attended Edwin M. Stanton School. At the age of sixteen, Johnson began his collegiate career enrolling in Clark Atlanta University, a historically black college, graduating in 1894. Leaving the university, Johnson knew he was expected to devote himself to helping black people advance.

After the ending of slavery in America, joining the Great Migration out of the South, Johnson and his brother moved to New York City. There they collaborated on songwriting and achieved some success on Broadway before James decided his calling lay elsewhere. Over the next forty years, Johnson would serve the public in many capacities, working in education, the diplomatic corps, and the civil rights arena. Molded by the classical education for which Atlanta University was best known, Johnson regarded his academic training as a tool to be used to help black people strive.

In 1904, he became involved in Theodore Roosevelt's successful presidential campaign. After winning the election, President, Roosevelt appointed Johnson as United States Consul at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela where he served from 1906 to 1908, and to Nicaragua from 1909 to 1913.

In 1910, while working as a songwriter, Johnson met and married Grace Nail. A well-educated and cultured

New Yorker, Grace Nail Johnson collaborated with her husband on a screenwriting project. In 1934, he became the first African-American Professor to be hired at New York University. He later was a Professor of Creative Literature and Writing at Fisk University.

When he returned from Nicaragua to New York, Johnson became involved in the Harlem Renaissance, a time of an explosion of African American art and writing. He began writing his own poetry, compiling and publishing anthologies of spirituals and his poetry. He became a leading voice in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

Johnson became involved in civil rights activism, actively involved in the campaign to pass federal legislation against lynching, as none of southern states prosecuted anyone accused for any of the lynchings. Having joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as a Field Secretary in 1917, he rose through the ranks to become one of the most successful officials in the organization.

In 1915, he traveled to Haiti to investigate conditions following the United State's occupation after the murder of Haitian President Vilbrun Guillaume Sam. Johnson, five years later in 1920, wrote a report about "the economic corruption, the forced labor, racial segregation, press censorship, and the violence introduced to Haiti by the U.S. occupation. The report caused many African Americans to flood the State Department and Republican Party officials with letters calling for an end to the abuses and to remove U.S. troops. The U.S. did not end its occupation until 1934.

In 1920, Johnson was appointed as the first black Executive Secretary of the NAACP. He helped to increase the membership and extended the organization's reach by establishing new chapters in America's south. During this time, the NAACP was conducting legal challenges to the southern states' disfranchisement of African Americans, which had long been established reaching back to the turn of the century by such legal devices as poll tax, literacy tests, grandfather clauses and white primaries were used to disenfranchise blacks. Helping the disenfranchised was his life's work,

Johnson died in 1938 while on vacation in Wiscasset, Maine. The car his wife was driving was hit by a train. His Harlem funeral was attended by more than two thousand people. His ashes are interred at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y.





## JEH CHARLES JOHNSON

...was born on September 11, 1957 in Wappingers Falls, New York to Norma Edlin Johnson and Jeh Vincent Johnson. His mother worked for Planned Parenthood while his father was an architect. Jeh, pronounced "Jay", was given the name in honor of a Liberia, African tribal chief that reportedly saved Johnson's

grandfather's life while on a 1930 trade mission for the League of Nations in Liberia

Johnson received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. His law degree was obtained from Columbia Law School in New York City, New York. In 1984, he joined the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP as an associate attorney. Johnson would eventually make partner with the firm.

In 1989, Johnson was named as Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York where he prosecuted public corruption cases. In 1992, Johnson returned to the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. In 1994, he married dentist Susan Maureen DiMarco whom he had known since childhood.

In 1998, then President Bill Clinton appointed Johnson to serve as General Counsel to the Department of the Air Force. Once confirmed, Johnson became the senior legal official in the Air Force. He also served as the Governor of the Pacific Ocean located Wake Island. While serving as Governor, his tenure coincided with the 1999 NATO Operation Allied Force and his efforts during the events awarded him the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.

In 2001, Johnson returned to Paul, Weiss in New York. At the firm, he handled large commercial cases as a trial lawyer. On September 11, 2001, Johnson's birthday, the attack on the World Trade Towers in New York City happened. Not a day for celebrating, Johnson walked the streets of New York offering help to anyone that needed it.

During that time, Johnson served as Chairman of the New York City Bar Association's Judiciary Committee who has the responsibility of rating and approving all local, state, and federal judges in New York City. In 2004, Johnson was elected as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He also served as Special Counsel to the 2004 presidential campaign of John Kerry.

In 2007, Johnson was nominated to become the Chief Judge of New York by the New York State Commission on Judicial Nomination. Unfortunately, former Governor Eliot Spitzer reappointed incumbent Judith Kaye to the position. Johnson returned again to private practice. He also became involved with the presidential campaign of Barack Obama as foreign policy advisor and Obama's national finance committee.

In 2009, Johnson was appointed as the General Counsel of the Department of Defense by then President Barack Obama. Johnson played an important role and was the legal architect of the U.S. military's counterterrorism policies. He was involved in the reform

of military commissions and testified before Congress on several occasions in support of the Military Commissions Act of 2009. He was appointed by the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, as co-chair, along with Army General Carter Ham, of a group tasked with studying the impact of the President's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The report sent to the President laid the foundation to repeal the policy and opened the doors to gays and lesbians being able to serve openly in the U.S. military.

In 2010, Johnson participated in the public dialogue over the classified Pentagon documents, the Afghan War Diary, released by WikiLeaks. In a letter to Timothy J. Matusheski, the lawyer representing WikiLeaks, Johnson indicated that the government would not participate in dialogue with WikiLeaks concerning the documents. WikiLeaks is an association involved in whistle-blowing as it relates to government information leaks.

Johnson created controversy in 2011 when he had made statements indicating the civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. would have supported wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Johnson believed that American soldiers were Good Samaritans, which paralleled what King exposed. He suggested that the soldiers were fighting for peace, which King protested for. Johnson's opponents and many in the civil rights movement were appalled at Johnson's remarks stating that King was against the Vietnam War and would be opposed to any war. Johnson's team quickly put out a statement that his comments were taken out of context.

In 2012, Johnson intervened again when he wrote a letter to a former Navy SEAL who penned a book "No Easy Day, a memoir by a Navy SEAL". The SEAL had participated in the military mission that killed U.S. foe Osama bin Laden. Johnson warned the author of the book that the U.S. government has a signed Non-Disclosure Agreement with him that forbade him from disclosing certain classified information.

In 2013, President Obama appointed Johnson as the fourth United States Secretary of Homeland Security. Johnson's top priority was to fill the many vacancies and senior level positions in the Department. With the large influx of immigrants crossing America's southern border, Johnson worked with the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate the needs of the immigrants. For the unaccompanied children and adults with children, he worked with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officers to determine who gets asylum versus deportation. He established three family residential centers to house the immigrants which some compared to the Japanese internment camps the U.S. employed during World War II. A U.S. District Court Judge in California ordered Johnson to comply with a 1997 court order concerning the detention of children.

For the West Africa crisis of the Ebola disease, Johnson implemented policies, procedures, and protocols to identify incoming U.S. travelers that may have been exposed to the disease for screening. Rather than limiting travel visas, Johnson felt screening was a better option so not to influence other countries in policies related to the disease. Leaving Homeland, Johnson returned as a partner in the New York firm he had worked at before accepting his government jobs. He was the first African American to be elected as partner.

In 2017, Johnson was chosen as the designated survivor to the Inauguration of President-Elect Donald Trump.



## JUSTIN MORRIS JOHNSON

...was born on August 19, 1933 in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania to Irene and Oliver Johnson. He was raised in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as the second of three children. He graduated high school from Shady Side Academy and received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in 1954 from the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois in Liberal Arts and earned a Bond Medal. After completing his undergraduate studies, Johnson enlisted into the United States Air Force and served for three years as an Aircraft Commander from 1956 to 1959. He would remain active in the Air Force and eventually reach the rank of Major.

Johnson was discharged from the Air Force and returned to Chicago to continue his studies at the University of Chicago's Law School where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1961. He received further legal education at the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia where he studied Trends in the Law & Jurisprudence at the Graduate School for Appellate Judges in 1983.

Upon completing his law degree studies and passing the bar, Johnson joined the law firm of Johnson, Johnson & Johnson as one of the partners. The firm, founded by his father and Senior Partner, Oliver Livingston Johnson, already had as a partner his brother, Livingston Johnson who would later become a Judge to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County in 1973. Justin Johnson was the third Johnson to earn a law degree and the last Johnson on the company's letterhead. He too would later become a Judge serving on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

After spending fifteen years as a partner in Johnson, Johnson & Johnson, Justin became an Assistant Solicitor and Assistant Secretary to the Pittsburgh and Mt. Oliver Boards of Education. He worked in that capacity until becoming a partner in the law firm of Berkman Ruslander Pohl Lieber & Engel. The law firm would later merged with another law firm creating the law firm of Buchanan Ingersoll, LLC.

In 1980, Johnson was appointed to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Judge Johnson was the second African American to serve as a Judge on the Superior Court in twenty-seven years. He would sit on the bench for the next twenty-seven years retiring in 2007. While serving the Court, Judge Johnson served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University School of Law.

In 2011, Justice Johnson would become a member of the Board of the Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts (IOLTA). The IOLTA oversees the deposit accounts of attorneys clients held in banks and receives the interest accumulated and other fiduciary funds held in escrow. The Board then distributes those funds to nonprofit organizations that provide free legal services to Pennsylvania residents that are unable to afford an attorney. Justice Johnson sat on the Board for two years. During that time, he also served as a Commissioner to the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission. The Commission receives and adjudicates complaints from County residents that have claims of discrimination based upon gender orientation, marital status, nationality, physical disabilities, and race.

Judge Johnson served as the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Examination and has served on the Board of Trustees for Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital. He has sat on the Boards of Princeton Theological Seminary, the Southside Hospital, and the United Way of Allegheny County. Judge Johnson is also a lifetime Trustee of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University.

For his dedicated service to the judiciary, Judge Johnson has been awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Citizen's Award; the Homer S. Brown Service Award; the Pittsburgh Young Adult Club's Award of Merit; and the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association's Presidents Award. He has also been given the Top Hat Award for Distinguished Judicial Services. In addition, Judge Johnson was given the Man of the Year Award from the Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

Judge Johnson is married to his wife, Florence, and is the father of three children. The family lives in Pittsburgh.



## LEROY REGINALD JOHNSON

...was born on July 28, 1928 in Atlanta, Georgia to Elizabeth Heard and Leroy Johnson. He graduated in 1945 from Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta. He matriculated to Morehouse College in Atlanta where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949. He

would attend Atlanta University, later renamed Clark Atlanta University, where he would earn his Master's degree in 1951.

After obtaining his Master's degree, Johnson took a job as a Social Sciences teacher in the Atlanta public school system. He would teach for four years before deciding to pursue his law degree. He then enrolled into the law school of North Carolina Central University. He left the school with his law degree in 1957.

He accepted a job with Georgia's Fulton County in their Solicitor General's Office, now called the District Attorney's Office. At the DA's office, he served as a criminal investor. He remained with the office for five years.

In 1960, a group of Atlanta university students were conducting protests and sit-ins around the city in an attempt to end segregation in public facilities, restaurants and hotels. In one demonstration, the students, including future civil rights leaders, Jessie Hill, Whitney Young, and Julian Bond were among the students were at the forefront of the demonstration. The group had orchestrated a massive sit-in at the lunch counter at local Rich's Department Store. Johnson, along with other community leaders, came to their defense and became advisors to the group of protestors.

In 1962, Johnson ran and was elected to serve in the Georgia State Senate. He was the first African American State Senator to be elected to the state legislature since the Reconstruction Era. He was also the first African American to be elected to any public office in the Southeastern part of the United States. In his first Senate session, Johnson sat alongside freshman State Senator and future U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

As a new State Senator, Johnson represented the 38th District in Fulton County Georgia. The District was created after the Georgia State Legislature eliminated the county-unit system, which changed the vote demographics. Historically, Georgia operated a county-unit system, which allocated seats to the General Assembly. That system was replaced with a "one man, one vote" system implemented by court order. The new restructured District encompassed a predominately all-black section of the inner city of Atlanta.

In taking his seat in the Assembly, Johnson received some of the same discrimination that he faced in Atlanta. At the Senate cafeteria, he found it to be segregated and cafeteria workers first refused to serve him but did so reluctantly after orders were made for them to do so. Despite his treatment, Johnson would persevere and go on to become the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the most powerful committee in the Assembly.

In 1966, student activists Julian Bond had been elected to the State Senate representing the District encompassing Atlanta. Bond had

supported fellow activist John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), who had denounced the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and supported those refusing to be drafted for the war. White members of the Georgia Assembly chastised Bond and refused to allow him to be sworn in to his seat in the House of Representatives.

The House established a hastily created committee to vote on Bond's admission to his seat. Johnson testified on behalf of Bond. The House Committee voted to deny Bond his seat. Johnson and other civil rights advocates filed suit. The U.S. Supreme Court later ruled that Bond must be seated in the Georgia House of Representatives. A huge victory for freedom of speech advocates and one for the right to protest activists, as the white legislators never forgot Bond's college days of protests and sit-ins end discrimination in public places.

In 1970, Johnson was pivotal in helping World Heavyweight Champion boxing great Muhammad Ali when he returned to boxing after his career was halted due to his protesting of the Vietnam War and his refusal to enter the U.S. military. His license to box had been taken away as punishment for not entering the military. Johnson helped stage his comeback after Ali's four-year hiatus from the ring.

When Ali was given back his license to return to boxing, Johnson was instrumental in producing Ali's first comeback fight. A boxing match was promoted at Atlanta's Municipal Auditorium between Ali and white boxer Jerry Quarry. Not having fought in four years, the fight drew national and international attention as everyone wanted to know if the new Ali was the same as the old Ali. Quarry, having disrespected Ali and his stance against the Vietnam War paid a hefty price for his disrespect. The fight was stopped in the fourth round after Quarry was left battered and bloody. Unable to answer the bell, Ali won the fight and was on his way to regaining his Heavyweight Championship belt.

Johnson would go on to play an important role in Atlanta's civil rights movement. He focused his attention to the needs of the residents of the city and worked diligently worked on their behalf. In 1973, he ran for the job as Mayor of Atlanta. He was endorsed by The Atlanta Constitution, the local city newspaper, but lost the election to Atlanta's first African American Mayor, Maynard Jackson.

Johnson would lose his Senate seat in the 1974 election. He entered private practice where he continued his fight for equal justice for African Americans. Then U.S. President Richard Nixon had secretly instructed the Internal Revenue Service to audit tax returns of many civil rights leaders and other African American politicians. Johnson himself was targeted. He was acquitted of the charges in a federal trial held in Atlanta, as were most of the others.

Johnson, after twelve years, left the State Senate and accepted a position as the Executive Director of the Atlanta-Fulton County Recreation Authority. He stepped down from that position in 1987 after the Atlanta Ethics Board cited him for an appearance of impropriety resulting from his handling of the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium's parking lot revenue. Johnson's son had managed the Stadium and irregularities were discovered. Although Johnson was cleared of any wrongdoing, he was criticized of his oversight of the affairs and as a result, he left the Authority.

Johnson then entered the area of real estate law. He would become an advisor to the Development Authority of Fulton County, assisting them on their bond issues. He would remain in private practice.

In gratitude for his twelve years serving in the State Senate, a portrait of Johnson was commissioned and hung in the State Capitol. The Senate also passed a resolution that renamed a portion of Fulton Industrial Boulevard as Leroy Johnson-Fulton Industrial Boulevard. 



## M. TIA JOHNSON

...attended Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She received her first legal education from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia. She attended Temple University in Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania where she received her Juris Doctorate degree. She continued her legal education back at the University of Virginia where she received her LL.M degree. She received a second LL.M. degree from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. She also obtained a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Johnson was nine years old when she decided that she wanted to become a lawyer. The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the ensuing riots, left a lasting impression on her and after then President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in 1968, as a child she made a conscious decision to understand the laws of the act. She wanted to know the "rules" and concluded that someone had to know the rules in order to help African Americans not be taken advantage of.

During her college years at Temple, Johnson was able to see strong black women fight for the civil rights and work to change the lives of African Americans. She was able to witness the works of women such as C. Delores Tucker, a Philadelphia civil rights activists and Juanita Kidd Stout, the first African American woman to be elected to a judgeship in the U.S. and first to serve on the Supreme Court of any state. Johnson's interest in civil right grew tremendously, so much so, that her J.D. thesis in advanced constitutional law focused on the tenets 1866 Civil Rights Act.

Johnson's career in the military began when she was a freshman at Hampton. Unable to take certain class, she enrolled into the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC). Liking the class and excelling in it, her sophomore year, she received a ROTC scholarship. Johnson completed the ROTC program and was commissioned in 1980 as a Second Lieutenant. She entered active duty in January of 1984.

In 2002, Johnson was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army's JAG Corps. She became the first African-American woman to be promoted to such a high rank in the 227-year history of the JAG Corps. She served the Corps well and before her departure from the Corps, she served as

the Senior Military Assistant to the General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Johnson served as a U.S. Army Judge Advocate (JAG) where she specialized in international and national security law. In her JAG role, she has served within the Department of Defense as a legal advisor in the U.S., Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy, and Korea. She has also taught law at the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) school in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In 1987, Johnson was selected to participate in a comparative law study in Central and South America to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The organization People-to-People wanted to send a delegation of women attorneys to emerging Democratic countries in the region as part of the study. With her selection to the team of women attorneys, Johnson was exposed to the rules and regulations of international law in the military. From that selective trip, Johnson decided to further her legal understanding of international law and its' application to national security law.

In 2000, Johnson taught at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School, where she occupied the Waldemar A. Solf Chair of International and Operational Law. As Chair, he held the "national security law" portfolio and taught national security. She also taught international and intelligence law as well as the law of war. After the attack on the New York World Trade Centers, Johnson developed a class course on homeland defense and was a contributor to the Domestic Operations Deskbook.

Johnson has been involve with the American Bar Association (ABA) and served on the Standing Committee on Law and National Security. She also served on the Advisory Committee. She is a Senior Fellow at the University of Virginia's Center for National Security Law. For Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., she served as the National Security Law Crisis Simulation.

Johnson has received many military awards during her career. The American Bar Association recognized her for her dedicated service and the National Bar Association inducted her into their Military Law Section's Hall of Fame. She now serves as a civilian Senior Advisor to the Director of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the Washington, D.C. offices of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As Senior Advisor, she is responsible for implementing key aspects of the President of the United States' immigration reform initiatives. She also serves as the liaison between DHS, ICE, and other administrative officials charged with the President's immigration initiatives. In the absence of an incumbent Director of DHA, Johnson would serve as the Acting Chief of Staff. She would oversee the complex and sensitive issues surrounding the strategic plans and policies undertaken by the agency.



Photo Not Available



## THOMAS P. JOHNSON

...was a slave in 1859 and was brought to Arkansas by his master from either from Kentucky or North Carolina when he was approximately thirty-eight years old. During the outbreak of the Civil

War, he served in the Union Army with the 54th United States Colored Infantry from Pulaski County, Arkansas. Although he had been a slave, Johnson was a very smart and educated man as his master had taught him to read and write. He also learned much about the law.

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Johnson became involved in the local politics in Arkansas. He began to fight for the civil rights of African Americans and was outspoken in that regard. He became a minister, and by 1868, his reputation was such that he was elected as one of eight African American members to the 1868 Arkansas Constitutional Convention, representing Pulaski County, Arkansas, which included Little Rock.

At the Convention, Johnson was active in the legislative proceedings. He spoke seven times on the Convention floor and served on two committees. He was involved in the debates to continue the Freedman's Bureau and argued for reconstruction and the need to end universal suffrage. He, along with other African American Delegates called for economic fairness for blacks recently freed from slavery.

After the Convention ended, Johnson continued his fight for equal justice and civil rights throughout Arkansas. In 1870, he was admitted to practice and argue cases before the Arkansas Supreme Court. He was then elected as Justice of the Peace serving Little Rock. By that time, Johnson owned over \$2,000 in property and real estate with \$500 in personal wealth. At that time, that was a fair amount of money.

Johnson would serve as a Justice of the Peace in Little Rock for twelve years. He continued to practice law while serving as minister to both Baptist and Methodist congregations for the remainder of his life. In 1901, Johnson became the President of the Wonder State Bar Association, a legal organization serving the needs of African American Attorneys.

During his legal career, Johnson did represent many clients in court. On one of the few occasions he did, he was cited for contempt of court and sentenced to three days in jail by a Judge. A second Judge vacated the sentence citing errors in the contempt citation and Johnson was released the same day.

Johnson was married to his wife Charlotte and together they couple had three children, Willie, Carrie, and Elias. He died on December 6, 1905 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was approximately eighty-four years old.



## CHARLES S. JOHNSON, III

Johnson graduated from Bard College located in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York with an undergraduate degree. He then attended the Boston College Law School in Boston, Massachusetts where he obtained his law degree. While at Boston University, he served as a member of the school's Law Review.

After graduating from law school, Johnson returned to Georgia and entered the law profession in private practice as an antitrust attorney. He served at the University of Georgia Law School as an Adjunct Professor of Antitrust Law. His extensive knowledge of antitrust laws would prove a valuable asset to many of the clients that would call upon him to help them with their antitrust legal issues.

Johnson's lengthy private practice has helped developed policies for several small companies, large corporations, municipalities, and private and public higher learning institutions. He helped to create the city zoo in Atlanta, Zoo Atlanta. He was pivotal in establishing the Countywide Library System for Fulton County Georgia and Georgia's first tax allocation districts.

Johnson was an advisor to Atlanta's Morehouse College in their attempts to secure the "Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Collection", a collection of King's papers, personal items and gifts presented to him during his lifetime. He served as Legal Counsel to Georgia citizens in regulating the authority given to Georgia's Commissioner of Insurance. Johnson represented citizens in their fight to ease the taxing power of Georgia's school districts.

The Georgia Department of Community Health faced Johnson in a case involving health regulations and he was instrumental in enforcing the federal Clean Air Act as it related to environmental issues in the state of Georgia. His vigorous litigation skills helped to enforce rules related to the Fair Housing Act for Georgia residents. For school desegregation, Johnson ensured that the state of Georgia consider the quality of education students received when funding and fashioning remedies to bring fairness to every Georgia students, especially African American students.

In 1986, Johnson ran unsuccessfully as a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives for Georgia's Fifth Congressional District. He then took to the lecture circuit. Johnson has been called upon to lecture on public policy issues to many political and social entities. He has delivered messages to the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, the Georgia Real Property Law Institute, the Institute for City and County Attorneys, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He has litigated cases on issues surrounding civil RICO and qui tam, commercial disputes, education policy litigation, em-

inent domain litigation, employment litigation, and health policy litigation. He also represents his client in matters of securities litigation, tax litigation, and zoning litigation.

Johnson has litigated large-scale cases in the courts including defending a multinational auto manufacturer against numerous antitrust claims. Other groundbreaking cases Johnson has been involved in include defending a student loan guaranty agency against claims that they had received inferior education at the school they attended. He defended a Fortune 100 telecommunications carrier whose major corporate client sought to end a long-term contract set-aside for minority participation. He took on cases involving unfair business practices, cases involving hospitals and Medicaid programs, and cases involving pharmaceuticals and software development. When it came to antitrust law, as an attorney, Johnson's name was at the top of the list.

Johnson has written articles and opinions on several law topics for local, state and national publications. He has penned topics for the Georgia County Government Magazine, the Municipal Desk Reference for the Georgia Municipal Association, and the Real Estate Finance Journal. He continues to write and lecture to many civic, governmental and social organizations on the topics of antitrust law.

Johnson has served on many, many Boards during his illustrious career. He has been a Board member of the American Bar Association, where he served on several of their committees, including the Antitrust Section Committee and the Committee on Insurance, Energy and Transportation. He was a Board member of the Atlanta Bar Association, the Gate City Bar Association where he served as President, and Techwood Park, Inc. of Atlanta. Johnson also served on the Boards of the National Bar Association as a Vice President, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc., and the Georgia State Bar.

Johnson has been a member of many legal associations and organizations while serving as an attorney. He has given of his time and energy to the Atlanta Exchange, the Atlanta Judicial Commission, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, the Atlanta Region Open Housing Coalition, the Atlanta Urban League, the Georgia State Board of Bar Examiners, and Leadership Atlanta. He would serve as Chairman or President to many of these organizations. Johnson is licensed to practice law before all courts in the state of Georgia. He also has privilege with the U.S. Tax Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals, including the Fourth, Fifth, and Eleventh Circuits. He also can present cases to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C..

For his years of dedicated service, Johnson has been honored and given many awards by associations, organizations, private institutions, and corporate clients. He has been named a Georgia Super Lawyer and one of the Top Ten Outstanding People in Atlanta. The King Center, named after Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., awarded Johnson their Peace and Justice Award.

Charles S. Johnson, III is still a practicing attorney in Atlanta. He is currently an Equity Partner at the international law firm of Holland & Knight, LLP.





## ALBERTA ODELL JONES

...was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. She graduated from Louisville High School at the top of her class before attending the Louisville Municipal College for Negroes. The college was later merged

with the University of Louisville (UL) and Jones graduated from the UL with her undergraduate degree ranked third in her senior class and as one of the few African Americans that attended the law school.

She began her legal studies at the UL's Law School but after one year transferred to the Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. where she obtained her law degree, this time graduating fourth in her class. She passed the bar exam that same year and opened up her own law practice. In passing the Kentucky State Bar exam, Jones became one of the first African American women to pass the Kentucky bar following only Sally J. Seals White.

Jones began her career focusing on civil rights litigations and became an activist for African American causes. Her activism would increase and she became involved with many of the organized causes sponsored by various African American civil rights groups. She even participated in the March on Washington organized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963. Jones also participated in other civil rights local marches in Louisville. Her activism and legal acumen paid off when she was selected to represent young Olympic boxer, Cassius Clay. At the age of twenty-two Clay would become the WBA, WBC and World Heavyweight Champion and would change his name to Muhammad Ali, the greatest heavyweight of all time.

Jones became involved with the voters rights issues and founded the Independent Voters Association. In order to teach African Americans about the voting process, she rented several voting machines and taught classes so they could learn to use the technology and not be afraid to cast their votes for the candidate of their choice. She then joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Louisville Urban League.

In 1965, Jones was appointed as a Prosecutor to Jefferson County, Kentucky. She became the first female and the first African American woman to serve in the County Prosecutor's Office. Her time at the Prosecutor's Office would be short as Jones was found murdered in August of that year, her body being discovered in the Ohio River. Her death was at first attributed to drowning but after the autopsy was completed it was discovered that she had forced blunt trauma to her head.

Further investigation found that Jones had been abducted by three to four men, beat her until she was unconscious and then threw her into the river, thus causing her drowning. No one was ever charged in her death. Many suspected that because of her stance on fighting the wrongs perpetrated by whites against African Americans during the Jim Crow Era and her representing Ali in his stance against American tyranny, Jones was targeted for elimination.

Jones was a single woman and lived with her mother and a sister at the time of her death. She was working on several prosecutorial cases at the time of her disappearance. Although fingerprints were found in her car that matched those of a seventeen-year old white boy, prosecutors stated that was not sufficient evidence to look further into the case and the case was closed as a drowning by accident.

During her short legal career, Jones was a tireless attorney that fought for the freedoms of others. She was an advocate for equal rights and fair employment practices. The Louisville African American community lost one of its' brightest stars with the death of Jones. Her remarkable young life garnered her the privilege of representing a young Muhammad Ali. With Jones' life being taken at a young age, we may never know how she, like Ali did, could have changed the world. She was only thirty-four years old.



## BEN FRANKLIN JONES

...was born on November 28, 1919. After graduating high school, Jones enrolled into LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York where he received his undergraduate degree. Jones joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. while studying at the college. Upon completion of his studies, he enlisted into the United States

Army and reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. He served during World War II.

Returning from the war, Jones enrolled into Lincoln University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri where he earned his law degree. While at Lincoln, Jones and other classmates discovered that a popular faculty law member, although having earned a law degree had never passed any state bar exam, yet he was teaching them the rules of law applicable to any state where they desired to practice. Jones and his fellow law students argued that they were receiving a sub-standard law education and pressured the Dean of the law school to rectify the issue. With continued pressure, the Dean declined to renew the law professor's contract until the bar exam was taken and passed. The professor obliged the Dean and the students and took the state bar exam to pass the bar.

Not one to shy away from controversy, in the 1948 fall semester, students returned to campus to find the Dean of the law school absent for several weeks. Jones learned that the Dean was away campaigning for a candidate running for Vice President of the United States with whom the Dean had ties. Jones mobilized his fellow students to bring attention to the Deans unauthorized absence to the schools Board of Trustees. The Board made demand that the Dean return to campus and assume his delegated duties.

In 1949, Jones passed the Tennessee State bar and was given his license to practice in the state. He received notice of his passing of the exam several months after taking the exam and months after white law students had been notified and they had been recognized publicly and were given an induction ceremony. At the time, the Memphis Bar Association did not allow African American lawyers to become members.

Although the American Bar Association allowed African American members in their ranks, they did not, however, allow them to attend social functions or stay in the same hotels where their conventions were held. Despite these setbacks, Jones was persistent in his goal of practicing law. His stubbornness and determined push to litigate law paid off when he was invited to join the law offices of one of his college mentors, A.A. Latting in his Memphis offices.

Joining Jones in Latting's law firm was H.T. Lockard and Benjamin Hooks. Together, the three young lawyers took on cases involving criminal defense, divorce, personal injury, real estate, and probate. Jones and his fellow officemates did not have any white clients although larger white law firms called upon them to assist them with their controversial cases, especially their cases that involved black defendants, plaintiffs or key witnesses.

Jones took the lead on many of the local civil rights cases that were happening in Memphis. As a legal strategist, he led prepara-

tions in criminal defense cases for students arrested in civil rights demonstrations. He represented students arrested for lunch counter sit-ins at the downtown Memphis Walgreens and other residents of Memphis that took part in the fight for civil rights and equal justice. Jones even helped clients in their income tax issues.

Although Jones and his fellow attorneys were taught to be prepared immaculately in their case preparations, word came from their white legal associates that black attorneys were ill prepared in the litigations of their cases. It was said that black attorneys were slovenly and their work unkempt. These reports concerned Jones and his group of lawyers, as they were attorneys that had earned high respect in both the black community and the white community as well.

To address this issue, Jones, H.T. Lockard, Benjamin Hooks, S.A. Wilbur, and James Estes met at the offices of Lockard to make a plan of action to assist other African American attorneys as a whole and improve the overall image of African American attorneys. From that initial meeting to address the improvement and excellence of African American attorneys, the Memphis Chapter of the National Bar Association would be born. The five attorneys in attendance at that meeting would become known as "The First Five", i.e., the first five member of the Memphis Chapter of the National Bar Association.

From that 1960 meeting, the five attorneys made a pledge to never validate the stereotypes that their white counterparts were attempting to portray in reference to African American attorneys. They vowed to properly counter the insulation that black attorneys were inferior to white attorneys in any fashion. They began by challenging each other to be flawless in their appearances and in their work products. They drew up professional standards that they would abide by from their personal appearances to ensuring that their legal briefs had no smudges, fingerprints, or illegible typed print.

The group agreed to meet once a month to discuss professional developments and self-improvement. It was not long before other Memphis attorneys that believed in the ideals the group was imposing joined the once a month meetings. After several years consulting and giving constructive criticism of each other, in 1966, the group officially created a charter and the Memphis Chapter of the National Bar Association was formed and the charter was submitted to the National Bar Association in Washington, D.C.. With the Memphis chapter forming, Jones turned his attention back to the many civil rights cases that arose as the civil rights movement was in full swing.

As the Memphis charter was being finalized, Jones suffered a sudden heart attack and died. He was only forty-seven years old. Soon after his death, one of the attorneys that had joined the group, Johnny Johnson, spearheaded the official completion of the Memphis Charter of the National Bar Association. With a unanimous vote, the Memphis chapter was named in honor of Ben F. Jones.

Jones was a man of class, a man of integrity, and a man well prepared. Always impeccably dressed, he strove to show a class of African Americans that many thought they could never achieve. A fearless and committed attorney, Jones made great strides in the self-improvement, the professional excellence, and the diligent workmanship of every attorney that he worked along side, while professing an uncompromising pledge to overcome any obstacle that they may face.



## E LAINE RUTH JONES

...was born on March 2, 1944 in Norfolk, Virginia. Her mother was school teacher while her father was a Pullman Porter. He was also a member of the nation's first black trade union. She was the only child of the couple.

Growing up in the Jim Crow South, at an early age she learned the reality of racism. She was raised in a segregated town but understood politics and civil injustices from the conversations her family would have at the dinner table. She was given the confidence and convictions that though the world was unjust, it could accommodate her boldest ambitions. Inheriting a love of problem solving and to challenge society's pigeon-holed perceptions of her value, she once told a magazine that, "*I have always known that the struggle for equality would be my life. I've always known that.*"

After completing her college requirements from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1965, Jones received her degree in Political Science. She took a job teaching English in the U.S. Peace Corps from 1965 to 1967 serving in Turkey. Once her two-year Peace Corps contract was over, she returned to the United States and enrolled into the University of Virginia's School of Law. She was the first African-American woman to attend and became the first African-American woman to graduate.

In 1970, Jones graduated from law school and took a position with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund (LDF). Her desire to fight for equal rights and justice for people of color, women and the poor, the LDF position was a perfect fit. Her first focus was the defense of African American women on death row in America's South where many of her trials were picketed by the Ku Klux Klan.

After two years with the LDF, Jones became Counsel of a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Furman v. Georgia*, which abolished the death penalty in thirty-seven states across the U.S. She also argued employment discrimination cases. She took on class action cases against some of the country's largest Employers. A few of those important cases were *Patterson v. American Tobacco Co.*, *Stallworth v. Monsanto*, and *Swint v. Pullman Standard*.

In 1975, Jones was appointed as Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Before she departed her position two years later, she was deeply involved in the United States Coast Guard allowing women to join. Rejoining the LDF's Washington, D.C. office as a Legislative Advocate, she used her negotiating skills and her fervent passion to be the voice for those who have been shut out of the economic, political, and social mainstream.

Jones helped to reshape the federal judiciary allowing more people of color to be involved in the Process. She advocated for more Judges to be committed to equal rights. She played a key role in the passage of the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982, the Fair Housing Act of 1988, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991. In 1992, Jones and the LDF served as a liaison between the Los Angeles Police and the black communities following the Rodney King beating.

Having served the LDF for sixteen years, in 1993, Jones was appointed as President and Director-Counsel of the LDF, first woman to be named to the position. In that role, although the organization's focus was on its' core work in education, voting rights, economic access and criminal justice, she expanded LDF's case loads into areas surrounding environmental justice and health care. She supervised a staff of almost one hundred employees and oversaw a docket of more than three hundred cases.

As President and Director-Counsel, the LDF successfully defended the affirmative action case of *Gratz v. Bollinger*, a United States Supreme Court case regarding the University of Michigan's undergraduate affirmative action admissions policy. She oversaw the successful clemency case on behalf of Kemba Smith, a young woman incarcerated and sentenced to an excessively harsh and severe federal mandatory minimum Sentence. She also assisted in the landmark case against the Shoney's restaurant chain. Brought on by the restaurants African American employees who claimed racial discrimination in the hiring and promotion of black workers at Shoney's. A \$105 million settlement was reached which was largest ever in a case of that kind, at the time.

Her work was acknowledged in 2000 by President Bill Clinton when he presented her with the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award in recognition of her activism. After thirty-four years of service to the LDF, in 2003, she stepped down from her position.



## JOLANDA JONES

...was born on November 6, 1965 in Houston, Texas and graduated magna cum laude from Alief Elsik High School. She was a star athlete as well on both the track and basketball teams. She made the All-American High School Track Team

and even won the Texas State 5A Team Championship as an individual. She was the only person to have achieved that feat.

Tragedy struck the Jones family when her father committed suicide while she was in the room. As she grew into her teenage years, her mother had four more children and Jones became a primary care taker while her mother worked. There were times when there was no running water and the electricity was intermittent. During colder months, at times there was no heat and the family used candles as the only source of warmth. With that, the family's rental home caught fire and burnt down.

Left homeless, the family stayed with other family members and was supported by caring neighbors. Hurt and hardships were not over for the Jones family. Soon two of her uncles committed suicide, an aunt was murdered, and several family members were sent to prison for various crimes. The entire family fell into welfare. Despite the living conditions, Jones' mother would always push her to be the best she could be and gave her a sense of pride that she would be successful. She was taught to help others, even if you needed help yourself.

Jones went on to graduate high school with honors. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Houston in Houston, Texas in 1995, again magna cum laude, with a degree in Political Science. While obtaining her undergraduate degree, Jones continued her track career joining the schools track team. She was a U.S. Track and Field Heptathlon Champion and won three unprecedented NCAA heptathlon championships.

Jones was the NCAA Southwestern Conference runner-up for the Female Athlete of the Decade for the 80s and was a two-time Academic All-American. She was also a NCAA Top Six Award winner. For her academic achievements, several University school administrators nominated Jones for a NCAA Postgraduate Rhodes Scholarship. The scholarship allowed her to further her studies more easily.

Jones obtained her law degree a few years later from the University of Houston's Law School. While in law school, Jones served as a member of several campus and community Board of Directors, including the University of Houston's Student Body Government. She combined her academic regimen with her athletic schedule while trying to give time to a love relationship.

Unfortunately, that relationship turned abuse and due to the abuse, Jones had to retire from track and field. She would not run competitively for seven years. During that time, she focused her attention to her law career and was determined to become a success. She took on a part time job as a corporate lawyer and began to build her practice.

After seven years away from the track, Jones began to train once again. Within three months of beginning her training, she qualified for the 1996 US Olympic Trials. As you was preparing for the trials, just two weeks before the trails were to be held, tragedy once a gain struck. Her nineteen-year old brother was murdered. Death had followed her family throughout her life. Her training suffered and so did she during the trials.

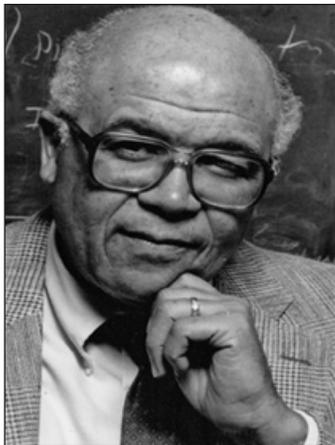
After three events in the Heptathlon Championship, Jones was in sixth place and extremely dehydrated. She was forced to withdraw from the trials, as the burden of her brother's death and having on a few months to prepare was just too much. Despite her withdrawal, for her determined efforts and her resolve to continue after suffering a devastating loss, the University of Houston Athletic and Alumni Center inducted Jones into its' Cougar Hall of Fame. Jones was also inducted into the GTE (Verizon) Academic All-America Hall of Fame and into the Texas Black Hall of Fame.

Jones starred in a Houston based "docu-reality" TV show, "Sisters in Law", which showcased the lives of several African American women lawyers practicing in the city. The show was aired on WE TV and had various themes ranging from rape and incest to suicide and death. The show was signed for ten weeks and eight segments with Jones and the others agreeing to be followed twenty-four hours a day for the ten weeks the show was to be aired.

The show was designed to set itself apart from the cat fighting, bitch calling, and back stabbing reality shows that were being aired on national cable channels. The show wanted to show African American women who were not represented as angry or that married a rich athlete or entertainer. The show followed the women through their daily lives of client interviews, including accused murderers, and took the viewers into the courtrooms with the women attorneys.

Jones continued to build her law firm where she specialized in Family Law, Juvenile Law, and Criminal Justice. As a successful lawyer, and having the background she had growing up, with tragedy and all, she gave considerable time to community based projects aimed at helping young people, especially teens and young adults, handle life's unexpected situations. In 2000, Jones suffered another loss when her niece died of SIDS. In her honor, a 501 c(3) foundation was formed, the U'jana Conley Foundation for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and Jones serves as a Board of Director's member. She also sits on the Board of the Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority for the City of Houston. Jolanda Jones currently resides in Houston, Texas and lives with her son, Jiovanni.





## JAMES E. JONES, JR.

...was born on June 4, 1924 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri where he graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude. He then entered the University of Illinois where

he received his M.A. degree in 1951 majoring in Industrial Relations. He received his law degree in 1956 from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

In his first legal position while and after passing the bar exam, Jones served as an Industrial Relations Analyst for the U.S. Wage Stabilization Board. He then joined the U.S. Department of Labor as a Legislative Lawyer. Jones left the Wage Stabilization Board to become Counsel for Labor Relations at the Department.

Jones would next serve as the Director of the Office of Labor Management Policy Development before accepting the position as Associate Solicitor for the Office of the Solicitor of Labor in its' Division of Labor Relations and Civil Rights. He would leave the Division to accept a position teaching.

In 1969, Jones accepted a position as Professor of Law and Industrial Relations at the University of Wisconsin. While teaching, he also wrote extensive articles and opinions on issues surrounding labor laws, equal protection under the law, and affirmative action and their effects. His love of teaching would inspire many of his students to pursue the field of law involving labor.

While teaching, Jones would serve on many Boards and give of his time to community issues involving labor. In 1970, he served as a member of the United Auto Workers Board of Public Review. In 1971, Jones became the Director of the Industrial Relations Research Institute at the University of Wisconsin. He would serve in this capacity for two years. Jones was then appointed by then Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey to the state's Manpower Planning Council, where he would serve for five years.

In 1972, Jones began a three-year term as a member of the University Senate. He served on the Athletic Board as well, leaving in 1989. He was named to the Madison, Wisconsin Police and Fire Commission by then Mayor Paul Soglin and served on the Commission for four years. In 1994, he served again on the Commission, this time for only one year.

In 1974, he became an Associate of the Institute for Research on Poverty. He also served as the Director of the Center for Equal Employment and Affirmative Action of the Industrial

Relations Research Institute. He would serve at the Institute for nineteen years through 1993.

In 1973, Jones created the William H. Hastie Teaching Fellowship program at the University's Law School. In 1983, he became a John Bascom Professor serving as Professor through 1991. He then became a Nathan P. Feinsinger Professor of Labor Law.

In 1984, Jones was named to the Wisconsin Task Force on Comparable Worth. He would remain with the Task Force for two years. Jones was named to a national post in 1978, when U.S. President Jimmy Carter appointed Jones to the Federal Service Impasses Panel. He would serve on the panel for four years.

At the end of the spring semester in 1993, Jones retired from full-time teaching. He accepted Professor Emeritus status and for the next four years taught labor law and labor arbitration on a part-time basis. When not teaching, he spent his time researching, writing, and lecturing on equal employment issues and policies.

Jones has served as member of the Labor Law Group and has chaired the Editorial Policy Committee. While chairing the Committee, he also served as the Chief Executive Officer and the Editor-in-Chief of their publications. As Editor, the Labor Law Group published six books with labor law as the topic. In 1995, Jones, along with co-editor and University of Wisconsin Professor H. Hill, wrote the book, "Race in America", which was named as an "Outstanding Book", by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in North America.

Professor Jones has been the recipient of many awards, both as a teacher, lecturer, and as a private citizen interested in protecting their labor laws. The University of Wisconsin named him as a "Hilldale Award" winner for outstanding service as a professor in the Social Science Division. The Wisconsin Law Alumni Association gave him their "Distinguished Service Award" and the Society of American Law Teachers awarded Jones their "Teacher of the Year" award.

The University of Illinois Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations named Jones as a "Distinguished Alumnus" and the National Bar Association inducted him into their Hall of Fame. He is also listed amongst Who's Who Among Black Americans; Who's Who in America; Who's Who in American Law; and Who's Who in the Midwest. He is a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators as well as the Industrial Relations Research Association. He has also served as a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the National Bar Association.

James E. Jones, Jr., after a lengthy illness, died peacefully on November 21, 2014. He was ninety years old.



## NATHANIEL R. JONES

...was born on May 12, 1926 in Youngstown, Ohio to Lillian Brown Jones and Nathaniel Bacon Jones. He graduated from Westside High School. While in high school, Jones was mentored by J. Maynard Dickerson, an African American publisher of the activist publication, *Buckeye Review*.

For the publication, Jones wrote a sports column, "Sports Shorts".

At nineteen years old, Jones was drafted into the military. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and was assigned to a base in Dayton, Ohio. While in the Army Air Corps, Jones was Dickerson introduced him to National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) activist Mylie Williamson, James H. McGhee, and F. Leon Higginbotham. After leaving the military, he met Walter White, the NAACP Executive Secretary. His association with these notable civil rights activists made a tremendous impression on Jones and paved the way for his future legal activities.

After returning from the war, Jones continued his education by enrolling into Ohio's Youngstown State University. He received his A.B. degree in 1951. He remained at Youngstown State where he obtained his LL.B. degree in 1956. The following year, he was admitted to the Ohio State Bar. While earning his degrees, Jones became a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

After passing the bar, Jones entered private practice where he would litigate cases for four years. In 1960, he accepted the position as the Executive Director of the Fair Employment Practices Commission. Two years later, he was appointed as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio serving Cleveland, Ohio. He was the first African American appointed to the office.

In 1967, Jones was appointed by then President Lyndon B. Johnson as Assistant General Counsel to the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder. The Commission would later be referred to as the Kerner Commission. After his appointment ended, Jones returned to private practice. He joined the law firm of Goldberg & Jones in Youngstown.

In 1969, Roy Wilkins, the Executive Director of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) called upon Jones to serve as General Counsel to the NAACP. At the following years NAACP Youngstown Annual Banquet, Jones gave the keynote address. In his remarks, he told the over 600 dignitaries attending that the work was far from done. He told them that African Americans live in the basement of America's great society and that African Americans must continue to strive for what they were seeking. Jones would direct the legal affairs of the NAACP for the next nine years.

In assisting the NAACP to end northern segregation, Jones argued several historic cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He argued cases aimed at affirmative action and cases intended to end discrimination in the U.S. military. He also coordinated successfully the defense of the NAACP's case of the legendary Mississippi Boycott case where he argued First Amendment rights.

On May 17, 1979, Jones was nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by then President Jimmy Carter. Jones would go on to serve on the Court of Appeals for twenty-three years until his retirement in 2002. While serving on the Court of Appeals, Jones taught or was guest speaker at several law schools, including Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His stance on civil rights garnered him speaking engagements around the world. In 1993, he was asked to be a member of the U.S. team that travelled to South Africa to observe the country's first democratic election. Jones played an important role in South Africa abolishing their system of Apartheid when he assisted the drafters of the new Constitution of South Africa. While observing, Jones conferred with South African civil rights activists, Nelson Mandela, who had recently been released from prison after serving twenty-seven years for his protests of civil rights. Jones assisting Mandela in assuring that the new laws written in the Constitution protected the rights of the blacks in South Africa, then and in the future. Mandela would become South Africa's first black President.

On May 6, 2003, as a gesture to Jones' long and lengthy career to public service, the second federal courthouse in Youngstown was named in his honor, the Nathaniel R. Jones Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. He would receive, years later, the NAACP's highest award, the Spingarn Medal. His memoirs, "Answering The Call: An Autobiography of the Modern Struggle to End Racial Discrimination in America"; was published by The New Press in May of 2016.

Jones received numerous other awards and accolades. He was the recipient of the American Bar Association's, "Young Lawyers Division Annual Fellows Award"; the American Lawyer's, "Lifetime Achievement Award"; the Children's Defense Fund's, "Changing the Odds Award"; the Federal Bar Association's, "Pillar of Justice Award"; Just The Beginning Foundation's, "Trailblazer Award"; the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.'s, "Laurel Wreath Award"; the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center's, "International Freedom Conductor". He also received the Ohio State Bar Association's "Ohio Bar Medal Award"; the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, "Award of Excellence"; and the Washington Bar Association's, "Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit".

Jones was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. In 2014, the Nathaniel R. Jones American Inn of Court was chartered in Youngstown, Ohio. He has been awarded nineteen honorary degrees and has been named a "Great Living Cincinnati".

Nathaniel R. Jones currently serves as Senior Counsel at Blank Rome LLP based in Cincinnati, Ohio. His focus at the firm centers on alternative dispute resolution, appellate litigation, commercial and general litigation, and employment for both benefits and labor. For his corporate clients, Jones advises executives on diversity issues, advises corporate retailers on racial profiling, and represents employees and corporations in corporate employment disputes.

Jones has served the needs of both civic and community organizations as his way of giving back. He has served the Advisory Board of Soteni International, the Advisory Board of the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights, the KnowledgeWorks Foundation, the Marvin Lewis Community Fund, and the Metropolitan Club. He has been a co-chair and Board member of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Jones has also been a member of the Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc. Diversity Advisory Board.





## PAUL KF. JONES

...was born in 1909 in Kentucky. At the age of eleven, his family moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he attended Pittsburgh's public schools. After completing his undergraduate studies, he at-

tended Pittsburgh's Duquesne Law School where he received his law degree.

Jones served his military duties serving in World War II before turning his attention to his law profession. He served in several positions during the next several decades, including serving as a Water Assessor for the city of Pittsburgh. He also worked for Allegheny County's Treasurer's Office as well as serving as a Solicitor to the City Controller of Pittsburgh.

In his first public service position, in 1950, Jones won an At-Large seat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing Allegheny County. While serving in the State House, he served as the Chair of the Urban Renewal Committee. The Urban Renewal Committee played a pivotal role in the redevelopment of the lower Hill District of Pittsburgh and central to the African American community. Jones served in the House for four years.

In 1954, with the departure of Pittsburgh City Council member William Davis who was elected as the County Sheriff, the City Council seat was left vacant. The Mayor of the city held the responsibility of appointing a new member to fill the seat with the Council's approval. Mayor David Lawrence chose Jones endorsed Jones with all other Democrats on the City Council following suit. Jones easily was elected as a member of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's City Council becoming the first African American to sit on the Council.

Before and after being elected to the City Council, Jones received praise from his fellow attorneys, Council members, and the public at large. The Pittsburgh Courier, the local African American newspaper, ran articles applauding Jones' selection to the Council and printed transcripts of politicians voicing their approval of Jones, never mentioning his color but speaking on his valiant efforts toward the progress of the city of Pittsburgh.

Councilman Jones would be elected to a full term in the 1955 general election and again in the 1959 election. What is unique about Jones run in on the City Council is that during that time, candidates were elected by a city-wide vote as opposed to the modern vote by District. In essence, the majority of city voters liked the politics of Jones and showed so at the polls.

Jones served as an active member to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also served as a member of the Urban League and the American Legion. In addition, as a veteran, Jones was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Councilman Jones died while serving in office in July of 1960. His sudden death sent shockwaves through the African American community and through the entire city of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Courier printed on its' cover with broad and glaring headlines the death of Jones, "Councilman Paul F. Jones Dies!" He was only fifty-two years old.

Before his death, Jones was leading the charge to change city zoning that would allow for the first African American funeral home to be established in the city. At his funeral, he was eulogized at great length for his futuristic views for the city and his inspiring aspirations for the city's residents. He was praised for his efforts to rid the city of slumlords, to create recreational centers for impoverished neighborhood children, and for his drive for urban renewal to make the city surroundings comfortable for all.



## RANDY K. JONES

...was born in Richlands, North Carolina and is the youngest of eleven children. Growing up in a large family, Jones learned the value of sharing early on. He learned how to get along with others even when in disagreements with the others as the tides would turn when they would need to get along with him to

reach a common goal that was once uncommon. He learned the value of compromise while maintaining his own humility and strength in his own position and resolve.

He grew up in the church with a strong family foundation of protection to his loved one and his community. Growing up during the turbulent 1960s, he witnessed racial disparity and North Carolina poverty although his family was rich in tradition and values. As he became older, he knew the situations that African Americans faced wasn't right and vowed to do something about it. He began making a change but studying and learning all he could.

After graduating from Richlands High School as the first African-American to Student Body President, Jones enrolled into the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (UNC). He was the first in his family to do so. Although life was better on campus, he still witnessed the mistreatment and injustices of African American students on campus and elsewhere. His passion to address the injustices grew even more. He led long night debates with fellow students and roommates about the issues that the world faced, particularly African Americans.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Jones received his Political Science degree in 1979. He remained at the university and earned his law degree from the law school in 1982. He then enlisted into the United States Navy where he served in the Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps stationed in San Diego, California. Once his assignment was complete, Jones remained in the Reserves and reached the rank of Commander.

While serving in the military, Jones defended and prosecuted over two hundred felons in jury trials. He gave expert legal advice to senior U.S. Navy Officers involving issues surrounding enlisted personnel and private citizens that became involved in a legal matter with Navy personnel. He also counseled other Navy executives in military, domestic, and international legal matters.

Leaving the military, Jones took a job with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in the U.S. Attorney General's Office in San Diego. In his role as a federal prosecutor, he held responsibility to investigate and prosecute cases involving complex criminal conspiracies, fraud schemes, financial crimes, immigration violations, and violent crimes. He directed numerous federal investigations and litigated more than fifty trials in U.S. federal courts. He oversaw cases associated with bankruptcy fraud, Hobbs Act extortion cases, mail and wire fraud, securities fraud, trademark violations, and tax fraud.

In 1997, Jones was elected as the President of the National Bar Association (NBA). He was one of the youngest attorneys ever elected to

lead the national organization. As President, he successfully lobbied the White House on behalf of two hundred and two African-American World War II sailors who had been wrongly jailed for mutiny. He orchestrated the first delegation of judges and lawyers to the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

In 1998, Jones was the recipient of the his alma mater, North Carolina University's General Alumni Association's Distinguished Young Alumni Award. For the association, he served as Second Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. In sitting on the Board, he was able to convince other alumni to become involved with the school even though some of them still had displeasure with their treatment while attending the school.

After severing as U.S. Attorney for so many years, Jones joined the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. in the San Diego offices. His expert experience in orchestrating federal grand jury proceedings has been instrumental to the firm's military, corporate and private clients for more than thirty-five years. His knowledge of sensitive and high profile internal investigations has been an invaluable asset to his clients that face criminal and complex civil matters in state and federal courts. Clients having high stakes commercial and business disputes, government and corporate clients facing investigations, and professionals having healthcare fraud allegations, and white-collar managers needing defense of alleged wrongdoing, have all called upon Jones for his guided assistance in their legal matters.

His ability to take over cases to complicated for other law firms has garnered him great respect from the most praised legal minds. Jones, as a seasoned trial attorney, implements crisis management plans that greatly lower the costs associated with litigation and avoids negative publicity and costly business disruptions. In many cases, he has been able to end government investigations before they reach the trial stages.

Jones is a member of several legal bar associations and is authorized to try cases before several different courts. His is a member of the California Bar and the North Carolina Bar. He is also a member of the bars associated with the United States Court of Appeal for the Armed Forces, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, United States District Court for the Central District of California, United States District Court for the Northern District of California, United States District Court for the Southern District of California, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Jones is also a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar.

His awards are vast. He has been recognized by the California Lawyer as one of its' "Top 20 Lawyers of the Year", the California Law Business Journal as one of its' "Top 25 Lawyers Under 40", the Ebony Magazine as one of its' "100 Most Influential Leaders", the San Diego County Bar Association's "Public Lawyer of the Year", the San Diego Magazine as one of its' "San Diego's Top Lawyers", and the Union Bank/KPBS recognized Jones as a Local Hero Recipient. The UNC General Alumni Association awarded Jones a Distinguished Service Medal and the UNC General Alumni Association awarded him its' Distinguished Young Alumni Award. Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina gave Jones a Honorary Doctor of Laws and he is listed in Who's Who in American Law.

Jones has served local and national communities and continues to give back in order to help others less fortunate. He donates his time and money to better improve the lives of crime victims, those caught in the web of gangs, and young aspiring law students hoping, as he once did, to make a difference in their communities and society. Jones is married to his wife Traci and has a son, Randy, Jr. and a daughter, Arrington.





## SCIPIO AFRICANUS JONES

...was born on August 3, 1863 in Tulip, Arkansas. Jones' mother, Jemmina Jones, was a fifteen year old slave when he was born. His father was "unknown". Jemmina was bound to a Dr. Adolphus and Carolyn Jones. She was assigned to their

daughter, Thresa, as a companion when the girls were young. They soon became best friends and grew up together. Thresa, a year younger than Jemmina, was nine years old when her parents died. She and her slave, Jemmina, were forced to move to the house of her uncle, Dr. Sanford Reamey. From this forced arrangement, Scipio Africanus Jones was born with an "unknown" father.

Jones attended the black schools near his hometown, Tulip in Dallas County, Arkansas. During his early growing years, while he was enrolled in school, he chopped cotton in order to support himself. In 1883, at the age of twenty, he moved to Little Rock, and took preparatory courses at Philander Smith College. In 1885, earned a Bachelor's Degree from North Little Rock's Shorter College, a historically black college.

Jones began his professional career as a school teacher in Big Rock District Two from 1885 until 1887. He rented living conditions from James Lawson, a prominent white man and member of a "pioneer" family of Little Rock. Jones also befriended three prominent Black business owners, Ed Wood Sr., owner of the largest Black-owned plantation in the state and the only African American on the local commodities trading floor; John Bush, a powerful Black merchant and lumber yard owner; and Chester Keatts. Through these three men, Jones was initiated into the Prince Hall Freemasonry, a secret fraternal society of prominent African Americans who pooled resources for the ideals of liberty, equality and peace.

When Jones passed the Arkansas Bar in 1889, Arkansas had no law school for African-American students to attend. To further his knowledge of the law, he offered to work for free as a janitor at the law offices of U.S. District Judge Henry C. Caldwell, Judge T.B. Martin, and Atty. S.A. Kilgore. They accepted. In his spare time, he read as many law books as he could. This led to him becoming an apprentice, reading law under Circuit Judge Robert J. Lea. Reading law in an established law firm was a common way to study law and prepare for the bar.

The following year, he was admitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court. In 1901, Jones argued two important civil rights cases before the Arkansas Supreme Court. In both cases, Jones objected to the all-white jury. In one case the Court overturned a lower court's conviction. In the second case the court ruled that there was no discrimination in jury selection. Despite the mixed outcome Jones quickly emerged as the leading black attorney in Arkansas.

In 1905, Jones won a court case that exposed the unfairness of the convict labor system. Convicts were being paid fifty cents per day and charged for each day they could not work. Time was added to their sentences to cover days lost from work. As a result of Jones' victory, the convicts stipends were increased to seventy-five cents a day, regardless of whether they worked or not.

Jones was an active member of the Arkansas Republican Party and was an elected Delegate to the National Republican Conventions of 1908 and 1912. He opposed Arkansas's Jim Crow laws and successfully argued cases before the United States Supreme Court between 1913 and 1925. Known for his pro bono work for poor African American defendants, Jones became the lead attorney in Arkansas for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their cases. In 1915, he was elected to be a Special Judge for the Little Rock Municipal Court to preside over a court case that involved a black defendant.

Jones is most famous for the successful appeals of the Elaine 12. This case involved twelve black men who were sentenced to death for their participation in the Elaine, Arkansas race riot of 1919. Despite his efforts, the twelve defendants were tried, convicted, and sentenced to death by an all-white jury. The deliberations of the trial were short while outside, an angry mob of whites cried out for lynching the defendants if the jury did not sentence them to death.

Despite the vile attacks and death threats, Jones sat on the case through an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and is credited as the author of the brief. There is no doubt, that because of Jones' tenacity, the Court in *Moore v. Dempsey* (1923) set aside the convictions, freeing all of the defendants and granting new trials to the Elaine 12 defendants.

In 1924, Jones became one of the first black attorneys to hold a judgeship in Arkansas. He was elected to become Chancellor in the Pulaski County Court. Despite his growing success, Jones kept his focus on civil rights and criminal defense advocacy. Six months prior to his election as Chancellor, he was involved in a murder case and won a stay of execution.

Judge Scipio Africanus Jones died on March 2, 1943 in Little Rock, Arkansas.



## STARLET MARIE JONES

...was born on March 24, 1962 in Badin, North Carolina. Her mother worked an office job as a human services administrator. She was raised by her stepfather who was a municipal security chief. The family relocated to Trenton, New Jersey where Jones graduated from Notre

Dame High School in nearby Lawrenceville.

For her undergraduate degree, Jones attended American University in Washington, D.C. where she earned her B.A. degree in Administration of Justice. At American she joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority's Lambda Zeta chapter. She went on, in 1986, to earn her J.D. degree from the University of Houston's Law Center in Houston, Texas. A year later, Jones took and passed the New York state bar.

Jones took a job with New York's Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn as a prosecutor. In 1992, she was promoted to Senior Assistant District Attorney. A year earlier, she had taken part in a commentary team of lawyers aired by Court TV. The 1991 rape case of William Kennedy Smith, a member of President John F. Kennedy's bloodline, was national news and Jones was hired to provide legal perspectives.

From those TV appearances, Jones would spend the next several years appearing on many talk shows lending her legal and sometimes political views to the viewing public. She appeared as a correspondent on many TV local and national networks across the country, including NBC Nightly News and NBC's Today Show.

In 1994, network TV launched for Jones her own TV show. Her "Jones & Jury" show mirrored the formats of several top arbitration based reality court shows being aired on TV at the time. Jones' show varied in that it sometimes took on more of a talk show format than that of a courtroom. The show lasted only one season. Despite its' cancellation, Jones became the first African American lawyer to serve as a TV arbitrator in a televised court series.

Jones then accepted a position with the TV news and gossip show, Inside Edition as their Chief Legal Analyst. For the infamous 1994 O.J. Simpson murder trial, she led the American Journal's legal news coverage. During the civil trial, she was the only reporter to be given an interview by Simpson.

In 1997, she became one of the original four co-hosts of the daytime TV show, "The View". Her nine year stint with the show came with much controversy and ridicule. A large woman, her obesity was made fun of. She became the jokes of many because of her size.

In seeking solutions, Jones' diagnosis called for her to lose weight. She began a weight loss program. Over the next three years, Jones would lose an astonishing 160 pounds (73 kilograms). Controversy came when Jones, after claiming for several years that she had lost all of her weight through exercise and diet had actually had undergone gastric bypass surgery. Some were even more exasperated with Jones, after learning that others had lied to the public on her behalf, including Barbara Walters told Oprah Winfrey. Some of the viewing audience turned against Jones.

Despite the outcry, Jones continued with her legal commentary work. She became a red-carpet host for the E! television network where she interviewed arriving celebrities at awards shows and other high profile events. After one year, she left to become a host on several cable produced shows such as HGTV's "House Hunters in New York City". The show scored the largest household ratings in the cable channel's history.

With Jones' contract with ABC expiring in July of 2004, the network discovered that she, for months, had been endorsing and pushing products and services on the air for vendors that she was using for her upcoming 2004 wedding to Al Reynolds in exchange for free services. The producers of the show immediately called for Jones to leave the show, "on her own terms", by finishing out the remaining fews shows remaining to be taped for that season and make an on air announcement that she was leaving.

All agreed upon the date when Jones would make the announcement. To their surprise, she made the announcement on live TV two days earlier with no mention of her contract not being renewed. Blindsided, Barbara Walters and the network powers removed Jones immediately from the show. For the remaining shows, the network ran reruns and aired only reruns in which Jones did not appear.

In 2007, Jones returned to Court TV who had changed their name to truTV. There she served as the Executive Editor of daytime programming. She also hosted her own live weekday talk show. Her show focused on pop culture, entertainment, crime and civil justice.

Six months later, it was announced that the plug had been pulled on the Star Jones show and all episodes were canceled. It was also announced that Jones was leaving truTV altogether due to changes in program selections. With her final airing of the Star Jones show, on February 1, 2008, Jones signed off the air, took her three-year contract buyout of \$24 million and left truTV.

During her career, Jones has hosted numerous cable shows, including Larry King Live and the Michael Eric Dyson radio show. She has appeared on the The Bad Girls Club Season 2 reunion on the Oxygen Network. She has been seen on several TV shows including Law & Order: Special Victims Unit where she appeared twice. For TV talk show host, Dr. Phil, she has served as his legal analyst. She did the same for The Insider TV show.

Other TV appearances include her 2009 celebrity appearance on the TV game show, "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?". For her selected charity, The East Harlem School at Exodus House, a New York City middle school created underprivileged kids. She won the school \$25,000. For the fourth season of the TV reality show, "The Celebrity Apprentice", she placed fifth amongst the contestants.

Jones has penned several books, including "You Have to Stand for Something, or You'll Fall for Anything"; "Shine: A Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Journey to Finding Love"; and *Satan's Sisters*. She has served as the President of the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW). For the organization, she has been actively involved in their Foundation's philanthropic endeavors. As a national volunteer for the American Heart Association, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and Dress For Success and Girls, Inc., Jones gives her time, efforts and money to worthy causes that help her selected and member organizations succeed in their desired goals.

Jones became the President of Professional Diversity Network (NASDAQ: IPDN). They soon appointed her as a member of its' Board of Directors. She became the youngest in a small group of African-American women leading a major public company in the United States.





## **T**IERRA DANIELLE JONES

...graduated from Mineral County High School in Hawthorne, Nevada in 1999. In high school, she was a member of the Honor Society and served as the Society's vice President. She mentored younger students helping

them with their studies to help them achieve academic success.

After her high school graduation, Jones enrolled into the University of Nevada at Reno where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2003 majoring in Counseling and Educational Psychology. While studying for her undergraduate degree, she was a member of the Criminal Justice Honor Society and the Student Orientation Staff. As a Counseling major, Jones worked with students that had addiction problems associated with alcohol, pharmaceutical or leisure drugs.

Jones obtained her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas attending the William S. Boyd School of Law where she completed her studies in 2006. While earning her law degree, she worked as an intern for the Federal Public Defender's Office to the District of Nevada. For her exemplary work at the Public Defender's Office, she was promoted as a paid part-time law clerk in the Post-Conviction Habeas Corpus Petitions Department. She also served as the Vice President of the Public Relations Division of the University's Black Law Student Association. In addition, Jones participated in the Legal Education Assistance for Prisoners Program and served as the Chair of the Student Only Auction Committee for the Public Interest Law Student Association.

After passing the Nevada State Bar exam in 2006, Jones accepted a job with Nevada's Nye County District Attorney's Office. After a period of time with the office, she moved to Nevada's Clark County Public Defender's Office. She then accepted her current position in Nevada's Clark County District Attorney's Office where she serves as a Deputy District Attorney. For the Office, she prosecutes criminal cases that involved charges ranging from misdemeanors to felonies. In her young career, Jones has already handled thirty-two jury trials with several of them involving serious and violent offenses. Jones

has been certified to try cases before the Pahrump Justice Court, the Las Vegas Justice Court, and the Fifth Judicial District Court of Clark County. She also has privileges to argue cases before the Eighth Judicial District Court.

On April 27, 2017, Jones was appointed by Governor Brian Sandoval as a Judge on the Eighth Judicial District Court in Nevada's Tenth Department. With her appointment, she became the first African American woman to be appointed as a Judge to the Eighth Judicial District Court. The seat on the Court's bench became available with the retirement of Judge Jessie Walsh.

Judge Jones is a member of the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association (NBA). For the NBA, she has served as the local chapter's Secretary, Vice President, and has chaired its' Mentoring Committee. She is a member of the Clark County Prosecutor's Association, Leadership Las Vegas, Emerge Nevada, and the Junior League of Las Vegas.



## BARBARA CHARLENE JORDAN

...was born in Houston, Texas's Fifth Ward to Arlyne Patten Jordan and Benjamin Jordan. Barbara's early childhood had church at the center of their lives. Her father was a Baptist preacher and her mother was a teacher in the church. The youngest

of three girls, she had two siblings, Rosemary Jordan McGowan and Bennie Jordan Creswell.

Jordan attended Roberson Elementary School and graduated from Phillis Wheatley High School with honors in 1952. She credits a speech by Edith S. Sampson she heard in high school that inspired her to become a lawyer. In her matriculation to college, Jordan set that as her goal, becoming a lawyer.

Because of the segregated South, she attended Texas Southern University, majoring in Political Science and History rather than the larger and more prominent University of Texas at Austin. Despite the exclusion, Jordan became a national champion debater. She and her TSU debate team defeated Yale and Brown opponents and tied Harvard University in debates. In 1956, she graduated magna cum laude and pledged to the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. For her law degree, she attended Boston University's School of Law in Boston Massachusetts, graduating in 1959.

Jordan took a job teaching Political Science at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama for a year. She returned to Houston to take the bar exam. Passing it, she started her private law practice. Two years later, in 1962, she campaigned unsuccessfully for the Texas House of Representatives. She tried again in 1964 and again lost. In 1965, she supported the renewal of the Voting Rights Act and the expansion that extended protection to Hispanics in Texas.

In 1966, she won a seat in the Texas Senate, becoming the first African American and the first black woman State Senator since 1883 to serve. She was re-elected to a full term in 1968, serving until 1972. She became the first African-American female to serve as President Pro Tem of the State Senate and acted as Governor of Texas for one day on June 10, 1972. No other African American woman has served as Governor of a state (excluding lieutenant governors) since. During her time in the Texas Legislature, Jordan sponsored or cosponsored over seventy state bills.

She was elected to Congress in 1972 becoming the first woman to represent Texas in the House. Receiving support

from then President Lyndon B. Johnson, she secured a position on the House Judiciary Committee. While there, she passionately supported the impeachment process of President Richard Nixon. In 1975, she was appointed to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

In 1976, Jordan, became instead the first African-American woman to deliver a Keynote Address at a Democratic National Convention. Although she was not a candidate running for office, Jordan did receive one delegate vote for President at the Convention. She supported the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, legislation requiring banks to lend and make services available to under served poor and minority communities.

In 1979, Jordan retired from politics and became an Adjunct Professor teaching Ethics, ironically at the university that she could not attend as a collegiate Freshman, The University of Texas at Austin. Taking a position at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, Jordan completed "full circle" a life journey like no other. Not stopping her political involvement, she was asked to be the Keynote Speaker at the Democratic National Convention in 1992.

In 1994, Jordan became Chair of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, an advocate for increased restriction on Immigration. She increased penalties on employers that violated U.S. immigration regulations. She tightened border security and opposed amnesty for illegal immigrants citing the harm done to US citizens in jobs and employment from cheaper illegal alien workers. She was for a clear process for the deportation of legal immigrants.

In 1973, Jordan began to suffer from multiple sclerosis. She also suffered from leukemia. After being cared for by her thirty year partner, Nancy Earl, an educational psychologist, in 1988, Jordan nearly drowned in her backyard swimming pool while performing physical therapy. Earl discovered her floating in the pool, pulled her from the water and revived her. At the age of fifty-nine, Jordan died on January 17, 1996, in Austin, Texas due to complications from pneumonia.

During Jordan's tenure as a Congresswoman, she sponsored or cosponsored over three hundred bills or resolutions, some of which are laws today. President Clinton, in 1994, awarded Jordan the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The NAACP later presented her with the Springarn Medal. She was honored and given over twenty honorary degrees from institutions across the country, including Harvard and Princeton. She was elected to the Texas and National Women's Halls of Fame.



## EMMA COLEMAN JORDAN

...received her undergraduate degree from San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California and obtained her law degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law where she

graduated first in her class. She is widely known for her work in the field of economic justice in legal theory. She is also an expert in the civil rights law and laws surrounding financial services.

She currently teaches law courses at Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C. specializing in Banking and Finance and Commercial Law. Her courses on Commercial Law: Payments and Secured Transactions; Contemporary Issues in Economic Justice; and Federal Regulation of Banking: Modern Financial Institutions and Change, are centered on economic justice and the impact of asymmetric legal representation in the foreclosure crisis.

Prior to teaching at Georgetown, Jordan began teaching as a teaching Fellow at Stanford University Law School in Stanford, California. She also taught for twelve years at the University of California at Davis for twelve years. She has served as an expert in the financial services field and has served as the Chair of the Financial Institutions Committee of the California State Bar. In serving on the committee, Jordan was a member of the team that drafted the statute to regulate bank check holding practices. She also served as the Co-Counsel in class action suits that challenged bank's stop-payment fee charges.

In 1980, Jordan served as a White House Fellow for one year where she served as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. During the U.S. Congressional hearings on the confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' hearings, she served as legal counsel to Oklahoma Professor Anita Hill. In 1984, Jordan served as the past President of both the Association of American Law Schools and the Society of American Law Teachers. That year, she was elected as a member in the American Law Institute.

Jordan has served as a regular commentator on the subject of economic justice issues and the financial service industry on national broadcast shows such as

CSPAN, PBS News Hour, NPR, Diane Rehm, and the Bill Moyer Show. Her opinions have been published in the American Banker, the Huffington Post, the New York Times, and the Washington Post. Jordan assisted in the organization of the Financial Institutions and Consumer Financial Services section of the Association of American Law Schools.

Jordan has written several textbooks on financial and economic topics. She recently released the second edition of her textbook, "Economic Justice: Race, Gender, Identity and Economics", which is one of many articles and books she has written on the subject. Other published works of hers include, "The Short End of The Stick: The Role of Race in Law, Markets and Social Structures" (2009); "Beyond Rational Choice: Alternative Perspectives on Economics" (2006); "A Woman's Place is in the Marketplace: Gender and Economics" (2006); "When Markets Fail: Race and Economics" (2006); and "Cultural Economics: Markets and Culture" (2006).

For her contributions to the legal financial profession, Jordan has been awarded the Clyde Ferguson Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Teaching and Service. She has been called upon to speak at national meetings and seminars on topics related to financial law and has made presentations to several financial associations and institutions, including presenting to the Annual Meeting of the Council of Institutional Investors and the New York University School of Law's Derrick Bell Lecture series.



## VERNON EULION JORDAN, JR.

...was born on August 15, 1935 in Georgia, to Mary Belle, and Vernon E. Jordan, Sr. Raised in the segregated South, Vernon and his brother Windsor felt their share of racial injustices but did not let that interfere with their ultimate

goals. Despite the segregated treatment of blacks during that time, Vernon became an honor graduate of David Tobias Howard High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Rejected for summer intern desk jobs because of his race, he earned money to pay his way to college by working as a chauffeur to former Atlanta Mayor Robert Maddox, a banker at the time.

Earning enough, Jordan attended and graduated from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, in 1957 as the only black student in a class of four hundred. He earned his law degree at Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1960 and became a member of the Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities

Returning to Atlanta, Jordan joined the law offices of civil rights activist Donald L. Hollowell. The firm sued the University of Georgia for racial discrimination in their admission policies. In 1961, the suits ruling ended with a Federal Court order demanding the admission of African Americans, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton E. Holmes. Personally escorted by Jordan, Hunter walked her way past a group of angry white protesters on their way to the university's Admissions Office

Jordan left private law practice in the early 1960s, becoming directly involved in activism, serving as the Georgia Field Director for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He left the NAACP in 1964 to become the Director of the Southern Regional Council's Voter Education Project which helped significantly increase the number of black voters in the deep South.

In 1970, he became Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund and in 1971, he became President of the National Urban League leaving in 1981. Resigning, he took a position as Legal Counsel with the Dallas law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in their Washington, D.C. office.

Jordan's life almost came to an end on May 29, 1980. While outside of a Marriott Inn Hotel in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Jordan was shot and seriously wounded. Joseph Paul

Franklin, charged but acquitted in 1982 of the attempted murder, later admitted to the shooting. In a 1996 unrelated murder case, Franklin, again charged, but this time convicted of murder. Jordan's shooting was covered nationally by the U.S. media. President Jimmy Carter paid Jordan a visit while he was recovering. That visit became the first news story covered by the newly launched cable network, CNN.

By 1992, Jordan, had become a friend and political adviser to Bill Clinton. He served on the presidential transition team after Clinton was elected President and was a golfing companion as well. In essence, he had become the "go-to-guy". Dubbed the "Consoler in Chief", Jordan became the conduit to the high and mighty. He was the "go-between" and sometimes the bearer of bad news. He is the one that told Mike Espy, then Secretary of Agriculture that "he had to go".

Jordan helped Warren Christopher win his Secretary of State position and that of Gen. Colin L. Powell for his Cabinet job. He is also known for the controversial help given to Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern involved in the Bill Clinton White House Sex Scandal, after she left the White House. Attempting to collect legal fees, on October 1, 2003, a United States Court of Appeals rejected Jordan's claim for reimbursement for fees related to assisting Clinton in his scandals involving Lewinsky and another woman, Paula Jones. Jordan asked a for reimbursement \$302,719, but the government paid only \$1,215 to him.

Since January 2000, Jordan has been Senior Managing Director with Lazard Freres & Co. LLC, an investment banking firm. He sits as on the Boards of multiple corporations, including American Express, J.C. Penney Corporation, Asbury Automotive Group, the Dow Jones & Company, Revlon, Sara Lee, Corning, Xerox, and RJR Nabisco. One of his closest friends was Charles Peter McColough, the late Xerox tycoon. McColough persuaded Jordan to join the Board of Trustees at Xerox and served as Jordan's mentor and friend until his death. Having power friends has been one of Jordan's greatest assets.

In 2004, Jordan elected President of the Economic Club of Washington. In 2006, he served as a member of the Iraq Study Group, formed to make recommendations on U.S. policies regarding Iraq.

Jordan first married Shirley Yarbrough, who died in 1985. They have one daughter, Vickee Jordan Adams. In 1986, he remarried, marrying Ann Dibble Jordan.



## ARTHENIA L. JOYNER

...was born on February 3, 1943 in Lakeland, Florida. She attended Florida A&M University (FAMU) in Tallahassee where she received her undergraduate degree in 1964 majoring in Political Science. To obtain her law degree, she remained at Florida A&M and received her Juris Doctor degree in 1968.

While attending FAMU, Joyner was active in civil rights issues and was arrested twice for her involvement in student protests of a segregated movie theater. After passing the Florida State Bar exam, Joyner's first job in the legal profession was as an Assistant to Joe Lang Kershaw, a Florida State Representative. In accepting the assistance position, Joyner became the first African American woman to practice law in both Polk and Hillsborough Counties. She would leave Representative Long's office to form her own law firm, Stewart, Joyner and Jordan-Holmes.

In 1984, Joyner, after joining the National Bar Association, served as the organization's President. As President, she took an active role in addressing issues surround civil rights. She was again arrested for her protest activities, this time for protesting the system of Apartheid in South Africa outside the Washington, D.C. South African Embassy. In her protests, she campaigned for the release of Nelson Mandela, a South African civil rights activists that had been in prison for twenty-seven years for his protest of Apartheid. Mandela would not be released until February of 1990.

In 1985, Joyner was appointed by then President Bill Clinton as a representative to the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing, China. Several years later, she was appointed by then Florida Governor Lawton Chiles to a seat on the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority. She was the first African American woman to serve as a member of the Authority. While serving, Joyner was crucial in the development of the Airport Minority Advisory Council and in the diversity hiring of African Americans and other minorities to the Aviation Authority.

In 2000, Joyner ran for a seat in the Florida House of Representatives representing the 59th District, which encompasses the cities of Brandon and Tampa. Running on a platform of reducing crime, improved health care, childcare support issues, and for the creation of well paying jobs, she handily won the House seat tallying 71% of the casted votes. She was re-elected in the 2002 general election with another landslide vote winning 89% of the vote. In the 2004 election, she ran unopposed.

In 2006, Les Miller, the Florida State Senator who represented the district that Joyner represented in the House made a run for the U.S. Congress. Joyner ran for his seat in the Florida Senate. She broadened her scope to include a larger base of Floridians to serve, which included Apollo Beach, Bradenton, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, St. Petersburg, and Tampa Counties.

During the campaign, Joyner's office was vandalized and racial slogans were scribbled on the door. Joyner, without hesitation,

called the act of vandalism a disgrace and stated there was no place for it in the twenty-first century. She used the incident to call further national attention to the plight of civil rights. In the primary election, Joyner out distanced her Democratic rival, winning the Senate seat garnering 79% of the vote. In the general election, Joyner's only opponent was a write-in candidate. She won the general election winning nearly 100% of the votes. With the win, she took her seat in the Florida Senate. In the 2010 general election, she was re-elected, again unopposed.

While serving in the Senate, Joyner co-authored legislation making it easier to prosecute identity theft without the need to prove stolen information was used fraudulently. She opposed the State of Florida's legislation that expedited death row inmate's execution. Her coined phrase, "Is swift just, fair justice", became a rallying cry for opponents of the death penalty, as many innocent men had been executed that were found innocent later.

In 2012, Florida redrew its' legislative districts. Joyner's 19th District remained almost the same with a few other areas added to the territory she represented. She ran unopposed in both the primary and the general election. She resumed her seat in the Senate but that would be her last Senate election as she had reached her term limits as a Florida State Senator. Serving her last term, Joyner was elected by her peers as the Floor Leader serving at the pleasure of her fellow Senate Democrats. As the Senate Minority Leader, she became the first African American woman to serve in that capacity.

After leaving the Florida State Senate, Joyner served as the National Vice President of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL/Women). She also served as the Florida State Director for Women in Government. For the Florida Senate on the Criminal Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures, she served on their Committee as well.

Joyner has served her Florida constituents well, as was validated by her many re-elections by those that voted for her. She practiced law for forty-seven years in Florida, longer than any other African American woman in the state of Florida history. Her leadership in the areas of civil rights, human rights, civil justice reform, health policies, and consumer protection has been exceptional. Always having the people that she served as her focal point, Joyner's legislative feats have resulted in furthering the African American agenda or they have served to defeat legislation aimed at harming her constituents.

Joyner has served several organizations in leadership roles. She has given her services to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as their National Legal Advisor; the Florida Legislative Black Caucus as their Chair; The Links, Inc. as their National Parliamentarian, the National Bar Association as President, and National Black Caucus of State Legislators as a member of their Executive Committee. Joyner served at the pleasure of U.S. President Bill Clinton as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Population Conference in Cairo, Egypt and was a member of Women in Government and the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL. In addition, Joyner served as a member of the Management Advisory Council of the Federal Aviation Authority.

Joyner has been given many prestigious awards and recognitions during her professional career and they are still amassing. Her passion for truth, justice and equal rights has been woven into those that she has mentored and touched. Arthenia L. Joyner is a Florida icon, loved and cherished by her constituents, peers, and residents of Florida's 19th District.





## KEVIN JUDD

...earned his law degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School in 1992. After passing the bar, he accepted a job with the law firm of Washington, D.C.'s Bell & Adams as an associate attorney. He focused his legal attention to the financial

problems of his clients and guided them through the bankruptcy and arbitration process. He remained with the firm for two years.

In 1994, Judd established the Law Firm of Kevin D. Judd, his own law firm. Understanding that unfortunate situations do arise at any time during a person's life, he set up practice to help those that needed to go through the process and had little knowledge of what may be available to them. He advised his clients on the paperwork, filing schedules and compliance issues. He worked to calm the anxiety many had when facing bankruptcy. He also suggested relief options that helped many maintain a sense of pride when they may have thought all was lost.

In 1996, Judd was named as a Board Member of the National Bar Association. He has served the organization for the past twenty-one years. In 2002, Judd became the President of the Federal Bar Association's District of Columbia chapter. In 2008, Judd was named as President of the Howard University Law Alumni Association.

In 2016, Judd became the President of the National Bar Association (NBA). The NBA is the oldest and largest national legal association of predominately African American lawyers and judges in the United States. It has over 45,000 judges, lawyers, law clerks, and law students in its' membership. He has previously served as the Vice President of the law association. He also served the organization as a Board Member At-Large.

As President, Judd focused on the financial stability of the association and sought to find better ways to serve the needs of the membership while remaining loyal to the needs of the community. His desire to build a consensus within the membership and to create professional development initiatives is what led him to seek the office of President of the NBA. Judd, having served in leadership positions for several other law association's understood the needs of his member judges, lawyers, and law students and worked to make the NBA a better organization than when he took the helm.

As a bankruptcy attorney, Judd takes his time to understand his client's financial dilemmas and brings options including the

preconceived stigma surrounding bankruptcy. He works with clients to rebuild credit and life after filing. He assists clients in foreclosures as well.

Judd takes special care for African American clients, as they most often have looked at bankruptcy in a manner far different than their white counterparts. Many look at the idea of bankruptcy as a sign of moral defeat when in actuality, it is but one aspect of one's personal perils that happens to many. Whether caused by divorce, health conditions, family medical emergencies or business failures, Judd works to ease the pain and mental anguish of going through the process.

His expertise in individual, corporate or sole proprietor bankruptcy is vast and works to steer clear of any of the pitfalls that may surround the process. He works to ensure that family's and businesses maintain as much of their sanity and property by knowing the laws and how they are applied to the courts. Whether Chapter 7 or Chapter 13, Judd is well versed in both and applies applicable laws to find the best remedy to address the case.

Judd sits on several Boards and has chaired the Bankruptcy Law Section for the National Bar Association. He is licensed in both Bankruptcy Law and Commercial Law. He is a member of many bar associations including the National Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, and the New York Bar. Judd can present to Bankruptcy Courts, including the U.S. Bankruptcy Court District of Columbia, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Eastern District of New York, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Maryland, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Northern District of New York, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Southern District of New York, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Western District of New York.

Judd can present to the U.S. District Court Central District of California, the U.S. District Court District of Maryland, and the U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York. He is authorized to present to the U.S. District Court Northern District of New York and the U.S. District Court Southern District of New York. In addition, Judd can present to the U.S. District Court Western District of New York.

Judd is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers Arbitrator; the National Bar Association, Bankruptcy Law Section; the Washington Bar Association; the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys; the Maryland State Bar Association Consumer Bankruptcy Section; and the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland. He is also a member of the American Bar Association; the Federal Bar Association, D.C. Chapter; and National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. In addition, Judd is a member of the Sigma Delta Tau Legal Fraternity, Inc. and served as the fraternity's Chief Justice.





## **A** MALYA LYLE KEARSE

...was born on June 11, 1937 in born in Vauxhall, New Jersey to Myra Lyle Smith Kearse and Robert Freeman. He mother was a medical doctor and her father worked as a postmaster. She graduated high

school from Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey. She then attended Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts where she graduated in 1959 majoring in Philosophy.

To obtain her law degree, Kearse attended the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor. She was the only African American law student in her graduating class. While earning her law degree, Kearse served as the Editor of the Law Review. She graduated in 1962 cum laude.

After completing her law studies, Kearse accepted a job in private practice in the New York City, New York law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed. She would rise in the law firm to become a partner. While working at the law firm, Kearse also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at New York's New York University Law School.

In 1979, Kearse was appointed by then President Jimmy Carter to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She became the second African American to serve on the Court following Thurgood Marshall. Years later, Judge Kearse would be considered by then President Bill Clinton for the position of United States Attorney General, however, he would instead appoint U.S. Attorney Janet Reno. Judge Kearse would remain on the Court of Appeals for twenty-three years reaching senior status in 2002.

Judge Kearse was elected to a Fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers. She was the first woman to become a Fellow at the College. She was also a member of the University of Michigan Law School Committee of Visitors. She served on the Committee for eight years.

Judge Kearse was a world-class bridge player. She won the World Women Pairs Championship in 1986 while playing with her longtime partner Jacqui Mitchell. With her victory, she won the title of World Bridge Federation World Life Master.

Her honors on the bridge table include being inducted into the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) Hall of Fame, being awarded the Blackwood Award, and receiving the Charles H. Goren Award. She won a World Women's Pair Championship and six North American Bridge Championships. She also won a United States Bridge Championship.



## SAMPSON WESLEY KEEBLE

...was born in 1833 in Rutherford County, Tennessee to Nancy Polly Keeble and Sampson W.. Born into slavery, his family was owned by Walter Keeble who instructed his heirs that upon his death or when the law allowed, that the servants, the

term he used instead of slave, were to be set free. Keeble's last will and testimony called for the freed slaves to be educated and cared for as well.

Upon the death of Walter "Blackhead" Keeble, Sampson was eleven years old. His ownership was transferred to Walter Keeble's son, attorney Horace Pinkney Keeble. When Sampson turned eighteen, he began working at the Rutherford Telegraph in Murfreesboro, Tennessee as a "roller boy". Three years later, he became a press operator for the Rutherford Telegraph and the Murfreesboro News. With the breakout of the Civil War, Keeble joined the Confederate ranks during most of the war, as an aide to his master, Horace Keeble.

After the war, Keeble moved to Nashville, Tennessee where he found work as a barber and a custodian in a law office where his interest in law took foothold. Attorneys in the law office supported Keeble in his desire to become a lawyer. He followed their cases and learned the protocol and procedures of law, while he cleaned the offices.

At the end of the Civil War, Tennessee became the third state in the Union to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, which granted citizenship status to African Americans. The state lessened the restrictions on political endeavors for African Americans and Keeble became involved in the politics. It was not long before he became heavily involved in the political and social concerns of the black citizens of Nashville.

In 1866, Keeble participated in the second State Colored Men's Convention held in Nashville. The central theme during the convention was to lobby state legislatures to approve the right to vote for African Americans. The right to vote was approved by the Tennessee General Assembly in March of 1867. The Assembly vote also allowed blacks to hold political office. During that time, General U. S. Grant made a run for the office of the President of the United States. Keeble campaigned for Grant and was pivotal in the turnout of the heavy black vote. Grant was successful.

By the 1880s, Keeble had become a successful lawyer. The training Keeble received while working as a custodian at the law offices proved invaluable when he applied to take the Tennessee Bar exam. At that time, to become a lawyer did not include a written test. Instead, one went before a group of legal professionals who assessed and recommended approval from a sitting Judge. Keeble easily was approved.

As for his successful business enterprises, Keeble owned the Rock City Barber Shop, a well-known local hangout in Nashville. He even advertised the barbershop in the city directories. As one of the few African American lawyers in Nashville, Keeble's barbershop became a place to get a haircut, a shave, and legal advice.

Keeble became a leader in the Nashville community. He took on the concerns of the black community and fought in the courts and in the society at large for the rights of those that sought equal rights. He was appointed as a member of the Advisory Board to the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company Bank and as the Director of the Colored Agricultural and Mechanical Association. He then joined the Davidson County Republican Party, where he was nominated as Davidson County's representative to the Tennessee House of Representatives.

By 1870, Keeble had become financially successful. He owned a boarding house, The Harding House, valued at \$4,000, which was a considerable amount of money at the time. He became one of the wealthiest men in Nashville, black or white. His considerable wealth afforded him and his family luxury items not often acquired by blacks as slavery had ended only a few years prior.

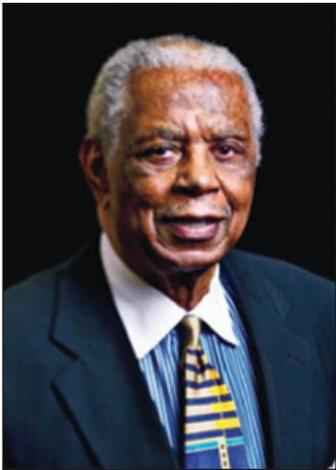
In 1871, Keeble became the Director of the Tennessee Colored Agricultural and Mechanical Association. The Association is responsible for the construction of the Colored Fairgrounds Amphitheater erected for the annual state fair. Keeble became the Treasurer of the Association soon thereafter.

In 1872, Keeble took his seat in the state legislature becoming the first African American to serve in the General Assembly. He would serve on the House Military Affairs Committee and the Immigration Committee. During the three years he served in the Assembly, Keeble introduced three progressive bills. The first bill called for the amending of the Nashville charter that prohibited African Americans from operating businesses in downtown Nashville. The second bill introduced by Keeble called for the protection of "Negro" laborers and their wages, and the third bill called for the state funding of the Tennessee Manual Labor University, a freedman college established by the Disciples of Christ Church and the only school established by African Americans in Tennessee. Also in 1872, Keeble became a Board member of the newly incorporated Freedman's National Life Insurance Association. The Association began with shares of \$100 each and amassed over \$100,000 by its opening.

In 1877, Keeble was elected a magistrate in the Davidson County Court. He served on the Court for five years. He made an attempt to regain his seat in the General Assembly in 1878 but was defeated by the Greenback Party candidate.

Keeble remained active in local politics, served on a grand jury in 1881 and eventually turned to teaching. For his service to his community and to the citizens of the state of Tennessee, a historical marker was erected outside the House Chamber in the Tennessee State Capitol. A bust of him was placed in the hallway to the Chamber as well.

Sampson Wesley Keeble died on June 19, 1887. He was fifty-four years old.



## DAMON JEROME KEITH

...was born on July 4, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan to Annie L. (Williams) Keith and Perry A. Keith. He graduated from Northwestern High School in 1939. After graduation, he enrolled into West Virginia State

College in Institute, West Virginia where he received his undergraduate B.A degree in 1943. In 1949, he earned his J.D. degree from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. and was awarded his L.L.M. Degree in 1956 from Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan.

After serving in the military and completing his legal degrees, Keith became an attorney in the law offices of the Friend of the Court in Detroit. He served the Court until 1956. He then served on the Wayne County Michigan Board of Supervisors before moving to the Detroit Housing Commission serving from 1958 to 1963. He left the Commission to go into private practice. It was then that he became involved politically with the Democratic Party and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In 1964, following the Detroit Race Riots, one of many that sprung out as a result of civil rights issues, Keith was elected as Co-Chair of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson nominated him to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He would rise to become the Chief Judge of the District Court. After ten years serving the District Court, Keith was then nominated by President Jimmy Carter to a seat on the Sixth Circuit Court.

During his tenure, Keith has ruled on some of the most important cases to be heard by the District and Circuit Courts. In the 1971 case of the United States v. Sinclair, a case involving U.S. Attorney General John N. Mitchell's authorization of illegal wiretapping without obtaining the proper search warrants, Keith ruled that Mitchell must provide transcripts of the illegal wiretaps that had been conducted. Mitchell appealed Keith's ruling, however, the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit upheld the his ruling. Appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which also upheld the ruling, the case became known as "The Keith

Case" as it played an important part in the decision made by President Carter to sign the landmark Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

In the 2002 case of *Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft*, Keith ruled that absolute closure of deportation hearings in "special interest" cases, known as the Creppy Directive, was unconstitutional. The hearings had been closed under the direction of then U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft who instructed Chief Immigration Judge Michael Creppy to have all immigration judges close to the media and the public any hearings associated with the September 11, 2001 bombings of the World Trade Center in New York as they related to immigration statuses. Ashcroft had placed a tag of "national security" on the hearings which would prohibit the public and media from attendance.

The plaintiffs in the case, the Detroit Free Press, Inc.; The Herald Company, Inc, dba, the Ann Arbor News; the Detroit News, Inc.; Congressman John Conyers, Jr.; and Metro Times, Inc., had sued for access. The ACLU of Michigan also joined the case representing Rabih Haddad, a native of Lebanon that resided of Ann Arbor, Michigan since 1988. Haddad had been targeted by the federal government for deportation proceedings. Having come to the U.S. on a six-month tourist visa, on December 14, 2001, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service arrested Haddad for remaining in the U.S. after his visa had expired.

The Plaintiffs attorney's argued that the secluded hearings were a violation of the First Amendment Rights of the defendants and that the hearings should be open to the media and the public. The prosecution countered citing several past cases in which the government held closed hearings in order to preserve national security and plead that the case before the court fell under those guidelines. Keith and the Court ruled that the Haddad case did not fall under the Creppy Directive and did not label the case as a "special interest" case and the hearings must be made open to the media and the public.

For his service to the legal profession, Keith was honored by the American Bar Association when they awarded him their Thurgood Marshall Award. He was honored by the National Anti-Defamation League after receiving their Distinguished Public Service Award. Keith has been awarded the Edward J. Devitt Award for Distinguished Service to Justice and the Spingarn Medal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Keith is was married to Rachel Boone who died in January of 2007. Together they had three daughters.





## CHARLES LIONEL KELLAR

...was born on June 11, 1909 in Saint Joseph, Barbados to Irene W. Smith. When his mother was twelve years old, she was assigned to work on a plantation. When she was almost sixteen, she gave birth to Kellar. He did not have contact or a relationship with his father who was reported to be the wealthiest black man in Barbados. His father did not acknowledge him

as his son and would not speak to him when Kellar approached him but instead would walk away or get on his big white horse and ride off. His father's refusal of accepting Kellar was not based on race but on class. In Barbados at that time, it was not unusual for rich landowners, black or white, to take advantage of their workers, especially pretty young girls.

When Kellar's mother gave birth to another child, his grandmother moved away from the plantation, taking Kellar and his mother to the larger city of Bridgetown. There she met a man from Trinidad who eventually became his stepfather. It was not long afterwards that the family left Barbados and moved to the United States.

The family chose Brooklyn, New York as a place to settle. His mother worked in a cannery and his stepfather was a home caretaker for wealthy homeowners. Within four years, they had earned and saved enough money to buy a home. Twelve years later, in 1934, Kellar received his U.S. citizenship.

In school, Kellar was a very good student. He won a scholarship to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, but was unable to attend as his family home caught fire and destroyed all their belongings. He instead enrolled into the local City College of New York.

After graduating from college, Kellar worked as a Probation Officer. On his job, he was able to see the discrimination of the courts when it came to cases involving blacks as to the courts treatments of whites. Also, there were not many African American lawyers to represent them. It was then that he decided to become a lawyer to help those that looked like him. He enrolled into St. John's University School of Law in Jamaica Queens, New York where he would earn his law degree.

After passing the New York State Bar exam, he opened his own law firm. He was able to hire five other attorneys and they began to take on civil rights cases, which was one of the most important issues facing New York's black community. New York's unwritten law at the time was that one could not sue the police, as they were a part of the state. Kellar challenged that premise and showed that you could. He then took on the New York City Police Department.

For an attorney, fighting civil rights is not a lucrative endeavor. To subsidize his law practice, Kellar became involved in real estate. As certain sections of New York City changed due to white flight, many of the nicer and luxurious homes were left behind. Kellar saw this opportunity and began to purchase those empty homes. He became so successful that at one time, he and his staff of lawyers owned over fifty homes that the rented out. They earned over \$1 million a year in subleases.

Kellar's law firm was successful as well and he caught the attention of civil rights lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Kellar joined forces with the NAACP. It was not long before he became the President of the Brooklyn chapter.

Marshall was leading the NAACP's Bar Representation Program and asked Kellar to join his program. The program was designed to send law-

yers to states across the country and to establish residency there in order to integrate areas where there was no African American legal representation. Marshall asked Kellar to move to Nevada. He sold his house and moved to Nevada carrying with him the \$285,000 certified check from the equity he had in his home. The year was 1959.

Arriving in Las Vegas, Kellar went to a local bank to open an account. The bank manager called the police, as they felt no black man could ever have that much money and must be a felon. When the police arrived, rather than lose his temper, Kellar laughed at the situation, so much so, that the police themselves were embarrassed so they did not arrest him. The bank eventually honored the check and Kellar set up his house and office and began to look for cases to represent.

In 1959, Nevada had no black attorneys practicing in the state. Kellar immediately filed to take the Nevada State Bar exam. He was not permitted to take the exam as blacks were not allowed into the state bar association. Kellar then filed a discrimination lawsuit against the state. The Nevada Supreme Court intervened and ordered the state of Nevada to allow Kellar to take the state Bar.

In 1960, Kellar booked a hotel room in Reno and traveled there to take the exam. Arriving at the hotel, he was denied a room because of his color. Unable to find other hotels that he could reserve, he slept at the airport for two nights and waited until the test day. After the test, the results were posted but not Kellar's. He had scored so high that the state test examiners thought he had cheated and refused to award him a license. He immediately went on the attack.

For the next four years, Kellar sat for the exam and each time his results were denied. Knowing he had passed the exam, Kellar went on a local radio show to protest Nevada's refusal to allow an African American into the bar. Although he was not admitted, news spread nationwide that blacks could take the bar in Nevada. Two Washington, D.C. students completing their law studies at Howard University were hand picked to go to Nevada to take the test, as they would surely pass.

In the legal battle process, Kellar's house was shot at and his office was firebombed. Not deterred, Kellar pressed on with his lawsuit to be admitted to the bar. It wasn't until 1965 that Kellar received his bar license and immediately set out to lay foundations to fight for civil rights in the Silver State.

With that victory, Kellar began to target other institutions and establishments that denied full access to African Americans in the state. The first case filed in Nevada dealt with providing equal education in the Nevada public schools. At that time, Nevada's Clark County public schools had an unwritten policy of not admitting black students. Kellar filed suit against the County alleging discrimination in their public education. In his arguments, he cited the widespread discrimination in housing in Nevada, which contributed to the state's segregated schools. He won the lawsuit and several west Las Vegas schools integrated their sixth-grade schools where African American students could enroll.

Kellar would go on to file many other lawsuits aimed at ending segregation in Nevada. He took on cases involving the employment of blacks, housing, and access to public facilities. He took on a case against an insurance company refusing to insure blacks. He even sued a loan company that refused to allow him to purchase a condo at Tropicana Villas, a high-income living complex. He won cases that overturned death convictions and argued other cases before the Nevada Supreme Court, none of which he lost.

A feisty lawyer, Kellar's courtroom demeanor was not mild but any standards. He was sanctioned by several judges for his "no-backing-down" approach and even once punched an opposing attorney in open court for disrespecting him. Kellar's legacy in Nevada is one built on securing the rights of African Americans and to fight to keep the achievements they have gained.

Charles Lionel Kellar died on June 25, 2002. He was ninety-three years old.



Photo Not Available



## **H**AROLD LILLARD KENNEDY, JR.

was born on October 8, 1926, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina to Willie Hall Kennedy and Harold Lillard Kennedy, Sr.. Kennedy, Jr.'s grandfather, Francis Marion Kennedy, Sr., served as

the third President of Winston-Salem State University, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Kennedy graduated from graduated from Atkins High School in 1942 before matriculating to Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia where he received his undergraduate degree in 1948.

Kennedy then enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1951 with his law degree. He then moved to New York City where he worked for three years. Leaving New York, he returned to his native North Carolina.

In 1955, he opened his law firm and began to build his practice. As did many African American attorneys during that time, Kennedy took on civil rights cases involving discrimination and unequal treatment of African Americans by the white established status quo in an effort to balance the opportunities given to whites as it related to housing, employment, and equal access to public facilities. Over the years, he would build a successful law practice, which would eventually grow into the firm of Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy and Kennedy, L.L.P.. The firm would be comprised of his wife, Annie Brown Kennedy, his twin sons Harold L. Kennedy III and Harvey L. Kennedy.

Twenty-two years later, Kennedy would be elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives where he served with honor and distinction. He would serve in the 1977 Session of the General Assembly where he made an impact by sitting on several committees and subcommittees. He sat on the Appropriations Committee and the subcommittees on Corrections, Courts and Judicial Districts, Education, Higher Education, Judiciary I, and Professional Law Enforcement Personnel and Practice.

Kennedy has served on several legal bar associations. He is a member of Forsyth County Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the North Carolina Bar As-

sociation. He is also a member of the Winston-Salem Bar Association and the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers. He was a supporter of the Democratic National Party (DNC) and served as a precinct member. He also served the DNC as a precinct chair where he participated for more than forty-years in local, state, and national political campaigns.

Kennedy was also involved in the affairs of his local community. He served the community by serving as President of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association and as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Redevelopment Commission of Winston-Salem. He served as a Board member to the Arts Council, the Boy Scouts of America, the Experiment in Self-Reliance, Inc., the NAACP, the Victory Credit Union as President, and the YMCA.

Kennedy was involved as a member of the Hospice of Winston-Salem, the People for the American Way, and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He also served the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the Society for the Study of African-American History, and the Twin City Kiwanis Club. As an Episcopalian, he was a founding member of St. Anne's Episcopal Church, and served as a Junior Warden and a Lay Reader.

Harold Lillard Kennedy, Jr. died on January 15, 2005. He was seventy-eight years old.



## KIM M. KEENAN

...was born in Buffalo, New York. She earned her undergraduate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He obtained her law degree from the

University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After receiving her law degree, Keenan worked as a clerk for Judge John Garrett Penn in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. She then entered private practice, where over the next eighteen years she would work for two nationally recognized law firms. She then joined the faculty of the George Washington Law School in Washington, D.C. as an Adjunct Professor where she taught pre-trial advocacy and trial advocacy.

Prior to being elected to serve as President of the National Bar Association (NBA) in 2004, Keenan served as past President of the 100,000 member District of Columbia Bar. The NBA is the oldest and largest national legal association of predominately African American lawyers and judges in the United States and has over 45,000 judges, lawyers, law clerks, and law students in its' membership. She also served as General Counsel and Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the world. She also served as a private practicing attorney.

In 2007, Keenan joined the faculty of the National Trial College for the University of Virginia School of Law. That year, she also became a lecturer and for the Charles Hamilton Houston Law Preparatory Course at Georgetown University Law Center where she speaks on civil procedure. She has served as a lecturer to the university for ten years. She served on the faculty of the George Washington University Law Center as a Senior Adjunct Professor. In addition, she also served the University of the District of Columbia as a Trustee.

Keenan is a regular lecturer to several organizations and is called upon to speak at national conventions and seminars throughout the country. She has been a guest speaker to the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, now the American Association for Justice, the Maryland State Bar Conference of Bar Presidents, and the National

Urban League. She has also spoken before members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Her expertise was showcased on the first season of the television show "Power of Attorney" on Fox TV and she has served as a commentator for Fox News. Keenan has been a guest speaker on "Dayside", another Fox TV legal program and has appeared on cable giant CNN's Sunday Morning Legal Show, "Attorney-At-Law." She has also made appearances on C-SPAN, Court TV, and TV One's "News One Now".

In 2014, Keenan was named as the President and CEO of Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC). In succeeding co-founder and CEO of twenty-eight years, David Honig, she became the first African American and African American to lead the Council. The MMTC is a national nonprofit organization that promotes and preserves equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications and broadband industries.

As President and CEO of MMTC, Keenan addressed the need for improvement of diversity in Silicon Valley, bridge the gap in education and health disparities between minorities and mainstream media through technology, and to maintain the openness of the Internet as a vehicle for emergency medical or health related needs. She also worked to expand MMTC's mentoring and training programs for lawyers and entrepreneurs, young and old.

Keenan has received numerous awards and recognition from several organizations during her professional career. She has been honored by the American Bar Association, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the National Association of Women Lawyers, and the NAACP. Washingtonian Magazine named her as a Top Lawyer and she is listed on the Lawyers of Color Power List of top attorney's in the United States.

Keenan currently operates and serves as the principal the Keenan Firm in Washington, D.C. where she focuses on complex medical malpractice litigation. She serves her alma mater as a member of the University of Virginia Law Alumni Council. She also gives time in preparation for her many speaking engagements.





## KRISTIN POLLARD KIEL

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Professional Writing and a minor degree in Spanish from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. She furthered her Spanish learning by completing the Intensive Spanish Language Program at the Cole-

gio Adventista de Sagunto in Valencia, Spain. While she was earning her undergraduate degree, Kiel served as a volunteer at the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville.

Kiel obtained her law degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. After passing the bar exam, she took a job as a law clerk for the Lovette Entertainment Group. After spending a year at Lovette, Kiel accepted a position with the Kettering Health Network as a law clerk in the firm's Corporate Integrity & Ethics Department.

At Kettering, Kiel produced subject matter related to federal laws and regulatory compliance concerns that has significance to healthcare programs for individuals eligible for benefits under the Medicare program and similar federal programs. She analyzed, identified, and presented business opportunities for the company and assessed the risk value taking into consideration government regulations as they pertained to Medicare. Kiel was involved in the renewals and expansions of provider networks where she provided sound legal advice and language to the proposals.

Kiel aided in the review of operational processes and advised individual business units on necessary changes needed to bring their operations into compliance with the applicable regulations they may be in violation of or may become in violation with emphasis on CMS set rules. Kiel is credited with writing the Network Compliance Manual utilized by company management and distributed to company employees.

In 2008, Kiel became the In-House Legal Services Clerk for the Adventist Health System (AHS). Her responsibilities included providing written and oral legal counsel to Adventist's Executive Management teams and other company leaders regarding their operating system including legal issues surrounding STARK, EMTALA, Anti-Kickback Statutes, Fraud & Abuse claims, labor and employment laws and HIPAA regulations. She formulated and communicated the conclusions of the federal governments' regulatory agencies and disseminated those conclusions to AHS shareholders. She performed depositions and alternative dispute resolution hearings, drafted physician lease contracts, and provided recommendations on critical issues affecting the health care system to senior management.

In 2009, Kiel became an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Georgia Department of Labor in its Appeals Tribunal. She prepared prehearing and status conferences serving in the capacity of an Administrative Judge. She served as an advisor pointing out issues of burden of proof, maintaining decorum, and explored settlement options. Kiel also managed the case-loads according to the importance, quality production of needed documents and timely preparation to carry out the directives of the case.

Later on in 2009, Kiel became a Managing Partner with the firm Pollard Law Group, LLC. The firm offered litigation services to individuals, businesses, religious, and non-profit organizations in settlement agreements of their legal issues through mediation. Kiel represented clients before the Georgia Department of Labor and offered pro bono services to Georgia low-income residents.

Kiel currently works as an Assistant Public Defender in the Houston Judicial Court's Public Defender's Office. She specializes in complex criminal litigation where she represents clients in administrative hearings, pretrial hearings and on appeals. She strives to educate her clients on the legal process giving a thorough understanding of the overall proceedings. She is able to secure expert witnesses and other legal factual processes that may be needed to litigate a case.

Kiel currently works for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at its Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) located in Huntsville, Alabama. At NASA, she provides a variety of legal services and advice to NASA officials and administrators representing a broad range of subjects and topics that she gives her expertise to. She is keen on the Federal Tort Claims Act and the Space Act. She is proficient in labor relations laws and negotiations, a proponent of alternate dispute resolution, equal employment opportunity issues, and personnel security.

Kiel acts as legal counsel to NASA in its administrative hearings, its pretrial hearings, its trials, and those on appeal. She advises NASA's Chief Counsel on requested issues and brings a proactive solution to the production process. She identifies possible legal and business problems and moves quickly to solve the potential issue before it affects the agency in any manner.

For NASA, Kiel drafts Space Act agreements, contracts agreements, cooperative agreements, and other binding legal documents that NASA may need in order to conduct its business. She produces work specifications, terms and conditions for project specific procurements, and ensures compliance with federal regulatory directives. In performing her job, Kiel was selected by MSFC leadership to participate the inaugural NASA Leadership Program. The class consisted of only thirty-eight participants from across all of NASA's space centers. MSFC officials again recognized Kiel and presented her with its MSFC Innovation Team Award.





## KWAME MALIK KILPATRICK

...was born on June 8, 1970 in Detroit, Michigan to Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick and Bernard Kilpatrick. When he was eleven years old, his parents divorced. His mother was a career politician and represented the City of Detroit in the

Michigan State House from 1979 to 1996 and served in the United States House of Representatives representing Michigan's 13th Congressional District from 1996 to 2010. His father was a semi-professional basketball player turned politician.

He graduated from Detroit's Cass Technical High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida in 1992. While at A&M, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was the Captain of the University's football team. Kilpatrick received his Juris Doctor degree from the Detroit College of Law, now the Michigan State University College of Law.

In 1996, Kilpatrick was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives replacing his mother who was headed to the U.S. Congress. His campaign staff was built from past high school classmates including Derrick Miller and legislative aide, Christine Beatty. There became issues surrounding Kilpatrick's campaign budgets where he claimed had a budget of only \$10,000 due to the fact that he did not receive endorsements from trade unions, congressional districts, or the Democratic Party establishment.

While serving in the Michigan House, Kilpatrick was elected as the Minority Floor Leader for the Michigan Democratic party where he served for the next two years. In 2001, he was elected as the House Minority Leader becoming the first African American to hold that position. He then decided to make a run for the Mayor of Detroit.

He hired Berg/Muirhead Associates for his campaign management and marketing firm charged with handling public relations upon his election. He was elected in the 2001 general election and became the youngest Mayor to ever run the City of Detroit. He was only thirty-one years old.

Things did not begin well for Kilpatrick. He proposed closing the century-old Belle Isle Zoo and Belle Isle Aquarium due to the overhead cost of maintaining the facilities. The City Council, not liking the idea, overrode his funding veto and gave the zoo its' annual \$700,000 budget. Later he had the authority taken away as administrator of the Detroit Water Department budget and operations when serious questions about water department contracts were asked. The Mayor of the city has held that authority for thirty years, but it was taken away from Kilpatrick by Judge Feikens and placed in stewardship with another overseer.

Kilpatrick would again come under scrutiny as Mayor when he received allegations of bribery and kickbacks. An investigation was begun and it was revealed that Kilpatrick had used city funds to pay for lease payments for family cars, had spent thousand of dollars on personal spa massages and personal health items, had spent city funds on personal entertainment extravagant dining, and had purchased expensive alcohol and wine, all paid for with city funds. In May of 2005, the Detroit Free Press published a report that showed for the first thirty-three months of Kilpatrick's term, he had charged over \$210,000 on his city-issued credit card for travel, meals, and entertainment. He reimbursed the city a very small amount of the overcharges.

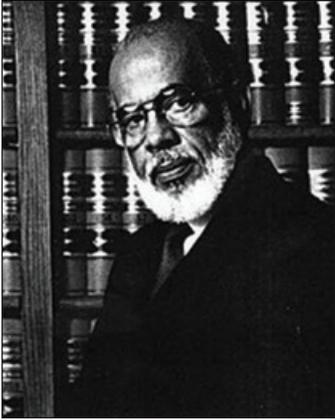
After further investigations, Kilpatrick vehemently denied that he held wild parties at Manoogian Mansion, the official residence of the Mayor. In January of 2006, Kilpatrick came under fire for three controversial contracts awarded or was in the process of being awarded that were being done so by by-passing the Special Administrator's authority, the Water Board Directors and members of the City Council. One particular contract awarded \$131 million for a radio system for the city's police and fire departments. Another contract was a no-bid public relations contract given to a close personal aide. Politics in Detroit looked so bad to American that Time magazine named Kilpatrick as one of the worst mayors in America.

In July 2006, while traveling in Houston, Texas, Kilpatrick was hospitalized and diagnosed with diverticulitis, a digestive disorder. Returning to Detroit, he again faced criticism as his filings of city audits was fourteen months late and city planners and administrators were calling for its' release. Kilpatrick needed \$2.4 million more city dollars to pay for the audit taking blame for the delay on him being forced to lay off city accountants due to budget cuts. Because of the delay in submitting the city's annual audit, the Michigan State Treasury withheld \$35 million of its' monthly revenue sharing to the City of Detroit. The city could not obtain release of those funds until compliance of the audit was completed. Kilpatrick was also prohibited from selling city bonds without the approval.

The City of Detroit was going through a very tough time. The automobile industry was suffering, which meant less jobs and less income for needing Detroit citizens. Because of Kilpatrick's public and political woes, many organizations pulled their conferences, meetings, and seminars away from Detroit. The National Conference of Black Mayors moved its' meeting from Detroit to New Orleans, Louisiana due to Kilpatrick's legal problems.

In 2008, Kilpatrick was forced to resign as Mayor in and was sentenced to spend four months in jail for perjury and obstruction of justice. Two years later, he was sentenced to 18 months and 5 years in state prison for violating his parole. In 2013, everything stopped for Kilpatrick. On March 11, 2013, he was convicted and sentenced on twenty-four felony counts, including mail fraud, wire fraud, and racketeering and given twenty-eight years in federal prison where he currently resides.





## CHEYENE "C.B." BOWERS KING

...was born on October 12, 1923 in Albany, Georgia to Margaret Slater and Clennon W. "Daddy" King. Both his father and his mother were graduates of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. His father was a prominent civil rights attorney in southwest Georgia.

Having all male siblings, Chevene was the third of seven sons.

Education was a driving force for King as his father made that a priority for all of his children. The elder King had been a "buggy boy" for the Tuskegee's famed President, Booker T. Washington so the path to higher education was paved early on for the King boys. The entire family became involved in the civil rights movement and the push for educating blacks.

C.B. King, as did all of the blacks at that time, attended segregated schools in Georgia. After graduating high school, King attended Tuskegee Institute, where his father worked. Spending only a short time in school, he was drafted by the military and joined the U.S. Navy. After completion of his military duties, he enrolled into Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated in 1949.

Not able to attend Georgia's whites-only law schools, King enrolled at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. There he met Carol Roumain with whom he had five children. He received his law degree from Case Western in 1951.

With law degree in hand, he returned to Georgia and opened his law office. There were only a few African American lawyers in the entire state and King was the only black lawyer in southern Georgia that would take on civil and criminal cases of which there were many. Although King took on civil cases, his appearances in the Georgia courts were many times uncivil. He faced many hostile court clerks, prosecutors and judges.

Despite the hostility, inside and outside the courtroom, King stood his ground in the representation of his clients. He was once addressed in court as "C.B." instead of "Mr. King," the respectful courtroom manner in which an attorney was to be addressed. His response was epic as he countered by referring to Albany Police Chief Pritchett by his first name, Laurie, a big "no-no" for blacks at that time.

In his practice, King won many reversals from higher courts as many of his clients were often found guilty and sentenced before all-white juries. One major case that was not won on appeal was that of his brother Preston, who, in 1961, was sentenced for draft evasion. Preston eventually left the U.S. settling in Europe to escape a prison sentence for not reporting to the draft as ordered.

King was a master of the English language. His courtroom delivery often surprised his adversaries and at times pushed them to anger. Many times, his words confused his opposing attorneys as they were not sure of what he was saying. Despite confusing the

prosecutors, King had a photographic memory which put his opponents at a disadvantage. He could recite in a case the appropriate law in detail pertaining to the charges. To the dismay of many judges and courts, recesses had to be called so that the clerks could validate the accuracies of his statements.

During the 1960s, King began to take on even more civil rights cases due to the growing civil rights campaigns of southern blacks and their northern supporters. Their protests brought a new set of complexities in dealing with the southern Jim Crow laws. King took the lead in their defenses representing them at every turn. He played a crucial part in the defense of the Albany Movement, a desegregation coalition formed on November 17, 1961, in Albany, Georgia, by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

He also represented the Americus Four. First began as a protest against the segregated Martin Theater in Americus, Georgia, a small town in Sumter County located about thirty miles north of Albany, the organization soon began to orchestrate civil rights marches aimed at achieving racial equality. Four marchers were arrested and King came to their rescue.

King represented most of those arrested or charged with civil disobedience crimes in southern Georgia. In defending their protests, he represented the likes of Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Martin Luther King Jr., William G. Anderson, leader of the Albany Movement, and Andrew Young, also of the SCLC, at the time. King himself, like many, many others, was injured in the protests and marches. He once even represented an injured white demonstrator who aligned himself and stood with the Protesters. Put into a cell with other white prisoners, King's client was beaten badly suffering a broken jaw.

Fighting literacy test requirements for voters and to integrate public schools, public accommodations, the jury system, and city employees hiring. He played a lead role in the Jury Selection and Service Act. of 1968.

In 1964, King ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives. His attempt made him the first black since Reconstruction to run for Congress from Georgia. In 1969, he became the first African American candidate for Governor. He lost that election as well.

During his career, King believed in mentoring legal interns. He influenced many students he mentored from some of the countries most recognized universities, including the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, Howard, the University of Massachusetts, and Yale. Many of these students went on to become leading civil and environmental rights advocates, highly respected attorneys, judges, and members of Congress.

For his life long legal work in Georgia, the C.B. King U.S. Courthouse was named in his honor. The the state of Georgia legislature recognized his contributions and presented him with the first Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award. After a lengthy illness, in 1988, Chevene Bowers King died.



## PATRICIA A. KING

...was born in Norfolk, Virginia to Grayce and Addison King. She was raised in public housing in the Roberts Park section of the city. Her mother worked for the Norfolk Journal and Guide, the city's African American newspaper

and her father also worked for the paper in the marketing department. He later worked for the Pittsburgh Courier in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, another African American community newspaper.

King was a very intelligent child and was skipped twice in junior high school. Because of her parents work at the newspaper, she was given her own weekly column in the North Journal. An avid reader, by the time King was graduating high school, through reading newspapers and other books, she was well rounded on the world outside of Norfolk.

After graduating from Booker T. Washington High school as her class Valedictorian, King left home, at the age of seventeen, to attend Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts where she received her undergraduate degree. Although she struggled in her first year at Wheaton, she was able to pull herself together and graduated from the school with her undergraduate degree. King went on to obtain her law degree from Harvard University's School of Law in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1969.

After graduating from law school, King would serve in several federal government positions. She first served as a Special Assistant to the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). King then served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW). In 1973, King joined the faculty of Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University School of Law. While serving on the faculty of Georgetown, she served on several government and national advisory groups that studied issues surrounding biomedical concerns ranging from genetic research to human subjects experimentation.

King has conducted extensive academic research on ethics in law, medicine, and public policy. She has focused much of her attention to biomedical science. With increased advances in genetic research, King serves as a pioneer and leading expert on subjects related to bioethics and law. She has written many articles and pub-

lished works on the topic, including being the co-author of "Cases and Materials on Law, Science and Medicine".

In 1975, King became a member of the Harvard Law School's Alumni Advisory Group and served for six years. In 1980, she joined the Department of Justice (DOJ) and served as a Deputy Assistant Attorney in DOJ's Attorney General's Office working in the Civil Division. She worked in the Attorney General's Office for one year.

In 2005, King was elected to as a member of the Harvard Corporation, the highest governing body at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She became the first African American woman to serve as a member of the Corporation replacing the first African American man to serve, Conrad K. Harper. Harper stepped down from the Corporation after his displeasure with the University President Lawrence H. Summers' comments concerning women and minorities.

King was chosen for the position after an extensive four-month search for Harper's replacement. King was selected for several reasons, not withstanding her academic qualifications, but also due to the fact that she is an African American and she is a woman. The Corporation's seven members have historically been male and white. Also having in her favor is the fact that King was not coming from corporate America. She follows the first and only other woman to serve on the on the Corporation, Nannerl O. Keohane, a past President of Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts and Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. King stepped down from her post on the Harvard Corporation in December of 2012.

King as served as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management's School of Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She is a member of the American Law Institute, the Institute of Medicine, and serves as a Fellow of the Hastings Center. King has served on the HEW's Advisory Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, has served on the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research, has served on the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, and served the Ethics, Legal and Social Issues Working Group of the Human Genome Project. King has also served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for her alma mater, Wheaton College and served on the Board of Directors to the Golden West Financial Corporation, a \$120 billion asset management firm based in Mesa, Arizona.

King is married to Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist Roger Wilkins, who serves as a Professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia.





## VIVIAN R. KING

...was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She is a graduate of the University of Houston (UH) in Houston, Texas, the second in her family to earn a college degree. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from the UH in 1980. She then began to look for a job rather than go straight on to law school.

King was hired for a Fortune 500 banking and accounting firm. She performed very well at her job but after working for nine years as an internal auditing and systems analysis, King retired from her Fortune 500 and decided to return to college and obtain her law degree. At the age of thirty, she entered the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston and three years later, in 1992, she received her law degree graduating cum laude.

After graduation and passing the Texas State Bar exam, King became only the second African American female Board Certified attorney practicing Criminal Law in the state of Texas. She joined the Harris County Prosecutor's Office in Houston as an Assistant State Prosecutor. She worked in the offices for three years leaving in 1995.

King left the Harris County Prosecutor's Office and entered private practice. She would remain in private practice for the next twenty-two years as the principal in her own law firm, The Vivian King Law Group. She specializes in criminal defense cases.

King is Vivian is passionate about the Houston community's safety and gives of her time to community service to make Houston a better place to live. She brought hard work and fair ethics to the Harris County District Attorney's office. In her judiciary duties, she was fair in her assessments of crimes and treated each case on the facts of the matter. She understood the human element to the crimes and worked to improve the lives of those she defended. She is fluent in Spanish and worked with her Hispanic and Latino community residents to help them with their legal woes.

King starred in a Houston based "docu-reality" TV show, "Sisters in Law", which showcased the lives of several African American women lawyers practicing in

the city. The show was aired on WE TV and had various themes ranging from rape and incest to suicide and death. The show was signed for ten weeks and eight segments with King and the others agreeing to be followed twenty-four hours a day for the ten weeks the show was to be aired.

The show was designed to set itself apart from the cat fighting, bitch calling, and back stabbing reality shows that were being aired on national cable channels. The show wanted to show African American women who were not represented as angry or that married a rich athlete or entertainer. The show followed the women through their daily lives of client interviews, including accused murderers, and took the viewers into the courtrooms with the women attorneys.

King has been given many awards and honors during her many years in the legal profession. The Texas Monthly Magazine named her as a "Super Lawyer" and the Harris County Criminal Defense Lawyers' Association named her as its' "Lawyer of the Year". King was also given a Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association's Percy Foremen Award, the first time the award had been bestowed upon a women. King shared the award with two other Texas female attorneys. In addition, King was named as one of its' "Winning Women Trial Lawyers" by the Texas Lawyer Magazine and the Harris County Council of Organizations gave King its' Eagle Award.



## JOHN B. KING, JR.

...was born in 1975 in Flatlands, Brooklyn, New York to Adalinda and John B. King, Sr.. His mother was a school guidance counselor and his father was a public school administrator and had become Brooklyn's first African American principal. King, Sr. also served as New York City's Executive Deputy Superintendent of Schools.

When King, Jr. was eight years old, his mother died. His father died when he was twelve and King, Jr. went to live with his half brother who was twenty-four years old at the time. He attended Phillips Andover Academy in Andover, Massachusetts but was expelled in his junior year, as King could not abide by the Academy's rules although he was an exceptional student. He then went to live with an uncle in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. After completing high school in New Jersey, he was accepted to enroll into Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

King enrolled into Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City where he earned a Master's degree in Education. He then taught school for three years and founded the Roxbury Preparatory Charter School. For the next five years, he served as the Co-Director developing the schools curriculum and student rules including a no talking in between class rule. The charter school students received the highest state exam scores and out performed students of all urban middle schools in Massachusetts.

King left the school to become the Managing Director for an urban public charter school, Uncommon Schools. The school operates many of the highest performing urban public schools in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. Under King's leadership, the Uncommon School won the Eli and Edythe Broad Prize as a top charter school network.

King then enrolled into Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut where he received his Juris Doctorate degree. He also received a Doctor of Education in Educational Administrative Practices from Columbia University in New York. As a Truman Scholar, King in 1995 received the James Madison Memorial Fellowship to teach American History, Government, and Social Studies.

King continued to teach for several years finding ways to improve the educational experience for students. In 2005, King served on the Board of New Leaders for New Schools. He remained on the Board for four years before becoming a Fellow to the Aspen Institute-New Schools Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education.

In 2011, King was appointed as the New York State Education Commissioner and as President of the University of the State of New York (USNY). USNY is comprised of more than 7,000 elementary and secondary schools; 270 colleges and universities; 900 museums; 7,000 libraries; 3,000 repositories; and 436 proprietary schools. King also oversaw 52 professions with approximately 240,000 certified educators, 850,000 licensees, and program services for children and adults having disabilities. That year, King was

appointed to the U.S. Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission by then United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

King pursued educational reform and was a leader in implementing New York's Common Core standards. The state's educator site, EngageNY, has had over 100 million users throughout the U.S. who want to learn more about the Common Core curriculum. King launched USNY's Race to the Top funding program which networked teams throughout the state of New York to provide training and support for the implantation of the Common Core and EngageNY resources. New York became on the first states in the U.S. to measure exams to determine if students are meeting the standards of Common Core.

King, in partnership with Governor Cuomo, the state legislature and the teachers union, implemented new teacher evaluations, which incorporated student learning as a measurement on the teachers teaching success. King created the Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (STLE) grants program, which focuses on recruiting, developing, and retaining effective teachers and school administrators. King worked to strengthen teacher and principal preparation while raising the bar on their certifications. He also launched a more comprehensive and rigorous approach to authorizing charter schools and made existing schools more accountable to student learning.

King came under fire when the state of New York adopted the Common Core Standards for its' schools. The state teacher's union called for his resignation. To ease the disruption, King conducted a listening tour in Poughkeepsie but after he could not speak being drowned out by the crowd, he cancelled the other tours.

In 2015, King was appointed as the Acting Deputy Secretary of Education where he oversaw the management policies and the program functions of the education in the U.S.. The following year, after Duncan resigned, President Obama appointed King to succeed Duncan. King became the first African American to serve as Secretary. The President signed the "Every Student Succeeds Act, the modified successor of the "No Child Left Behind Act". King was charged with carrying out the provisions of the President's program.

In an effort to increase student diversity, King established a \$12 million grant competition aimed at socioeconomic and racial integration. The funds would be awarded to 20 school districts that implemented policies to increase student diversity and boost integration. He addressed discipline in public schools and instituted policies that allowed prisoners to apply for Pell grants to continue their education, which for twenty-two years had a Congressional ban against the practice.

King has had as one of his top priorities preparing teachers to lead. He has been an advocate to allow Title II funds to be allocated to the development of teachers. He has especially been a supporter of teachers of color. He has been a proponent of students not just going to college, but completing the course study and graduating. He has worked on programs to assist students in completing college and to help them with their student debts.

In February of 2017, The Education Trust named King as their President and Chief Executive Officer.



## RONALD "RON" KIRK

...was born on June 27, 1954 in Austin, Texas. He was the youngest of four children. He grew up in a politically active family living in a predominately black neighborhood. His father knew almost every-

one and knew home addresses, as he worked as a postal worker. He was engaged in the affairs of the community.

Kirk graduated from John H. Reagan High School and served as Student Council President in his senior year. He enrolled into hometown Austin College for his undergraduate studies where he studied as a double major student receiving degrees in Political Science and Sociology. For his law degree, he attended the University of Texas School of Law, also located in Austin, where he obtained it in 1979.

After passing the bar, Kirk entered private practice law. In 1981, he joined the office of then Texas U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen. He worked for Bentsen for two years before moving to Dallas to work as a lobbyist to the state legislature. He then took a job with the City of Dallas before returning to private practice.

In 1994, Kirk landed a job with then Texas Governor Ann Richards serving as her Secretary of State of Texas. He was the first African American to serve as Secretary. After one year, he made a run for the job of Mayor of Dallas, Texas and was victorious.

In 1995, Kirk was elected as Mayor of Dallas. With sixty-two percent of the vote, he became the first African American to be elected as Mayor of Dallas. As Mayor, Kirk began to build cohesion between the Dallas City Council and the Dallas School Board. He put forth a proposal, "Dallas Plan", which gave a twenty-five year vision of the development of the city. The plan included the Trinity River Project, a \$246 million that redeveloped the city's flood plains of the Trinity River into public parks, thruways, and highways. Kirk was also able to construct and celebrate the 2002 opening of the American Airlines Center. In 1999, Kirk won re-election as Mayor in a landslide victory winning seventy-four percent of the vote.

In 2000, Kirk ran for a seat in the United States Senate. Unfortunately, he lost the race to Republican John Cornyn. Kirk then accepted a position as partner in the law firm of Vincon & Elkins in Houston, Texas. At the same time, he lobbied for Energy Future Holdings, an electric utility company, where he became one of their highest paid consultants. He also lobbied for Merrill Lynch, a wealth management company.

In 2001, Kirk resigned as Mayor to make a run for a Senate seat in the Texas State Legislature. Although he garnered for-

ty-three percent of the vote, he lost his bid for the seat. He then joined the Dallas law firm of Gardere Wynne Sewell.

In 2004, Kirk sought the Chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee but was not named as Chairman. He moved to Houston, Texas to accept a partnership in the Vincon and Elkins.

In 2009, then President Barack Obama nominated Kirk to serve as the United States Trade Representative. Kirk supported the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which drew criticism for his advocates. He came under fire for having tax related issues as they related to deductions of charitable giving and entertainment expenses. Despite those findings, on March 18, 2009, Kirk was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as to the position of United States Trade Representative where he served for four years before stepping down.

Kirk was the first African American ever named as U.S. Trade Representative. Along with being named the U.S. Trade Representative, the position came with the title of Ambassador and therefore Kirk served as a member of the President's cabinet. In his role, Kirk focused on the developmental and enforcement of intellectual property laws in the U.S. and abroad. His trade policy oversight included the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). Kirk is credited as being the U.S. Agent responsible for convincing South Korea to accept and adopt the ACTA guidelines. In South Korea, because of the ACTA enforcement, tens of thousands of illegal trade websites were removed due to copyright infringement. Kirk was pivotal in the making of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) treaties.

Kirk challenged the Chinese on the protection of and the leaking out of American businesses intellectual property and trademarked product information to Chinese businesses making them more competitive in the marketplace and giving them a greater advantage. He also was critical of the China's censorship of the Internet, which doesn't allow American companies to market their products to Chinese consumers.

In 2012, Kirk's critics claimed he was being non-transparent and lacked public participation in his treaty negotiations as the related to the TPP process. A group of thirty legal scholars and law professors publicly called upon Kirk to "dial back" his approach and release negotiating documents for scrutiny by the public. The group made claims that public-interest stakeholders were being completely excluded in the negotiations.

In response, Kirk took a position that he must have some confidentiality and discretion in the negotiating process and that he was being as open and transparent as possible. He pointed out that those involved in the TPP treaties were willing to place issues on the table that they otherwise would not and some of those issues needed to be kept confidential. He dismissed his critics as mere tension in a negotiating process. Kirk left the position as the U.S. Trade Representative on January 22, 2013.



## VANUE B. LACOUR

...was born on September 10, 1915 in Cane River, Louisiana. He grew up eighty miles north in Shreveport. He graduated in 1933 from Central Colored High School in Shreveport, Louisiana as Valedictorian of his

senior class. He matriculated to Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana where earned his undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, in 1938. To obtain his law degree, he attended Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C., where graduated in 1941 as Salutatorian of his class.

Lacour left Washington after law school for Kansas City, Missouri where he began his legal career as a private practice attorney. After building his practice for six years, a fellow Howard University law student, Louis Berry, convinced Lacour to leave Missouri and return to Louisiana to become one of the first faculty members of a new law school to be established at Southern University in Baton Rouge. Lacour welcomed the idea and left Missouri.

As Dean, the Southern University School of Law graduated its' first class of law students in 1950. Prior to that, the Jim Crow laws enacted in the 1880s did not have sufficient schools for black students seeking to enter the field of law could attend. Therefore, there were a mere handful of African-American lawyers available to represent the black citizens of Louisiana. Berry, with the help of Lacour and several other law professors that were recruited to become a part of the first wave of professors to teach at the new law school, would change that. The law school's mission was to train black lawyers for the purposes of fighting racial injustice and social discrimination. Lacour would remain with the new school for the next twenty-four years.

Over those twenty-four years, Lacour and his fellow law professors have produced some of the greatest legal minds to represent the law or sit on a bench of a Court to adjudicate law. A few of the great legal minds that have gotten their law degrees from Southern University's School of Law include Earl Amadee, Murphy Bell, Richard Millspaugh, James Sharp, Jesse Stone, Thomas Todd, and Leroy White. Of course, we did not forget Justice Revius Ortique.

Shortly after accepting the position at Southern, Lacour formed a private practice law firm with former student Jessie N. Stone in Shreveport. They took on cases involving civ-

il rights and voter registration. In one of the more notable cases that Lacour litigated was the "Byrd v. Brice" case. The case centered on voter registration where Lacour and his team challenged the identification clause of Section 37 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, citing its' unconstitutionality. In successfully arguing the case, Lacour, along with fellow attorneys Louis Berry and Edward Jackson, they became the first three African American attorneys to ever appear in a criminal trial in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. In the case, the Court ruled that the identification clause of the Louisiana statute that denied Blacks the right to vote was unconstitutional. The Court ordered the election registrar to cease the practice.

In his most notable case, Lacour helped change way Louisiana law viewed acknowledgement of illegitimate children. In "Weber v. Aetna Insurance Company", a case ultimately heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, he presented arguments that showed that illegitimate children were entitled to the same care as dependent children when it came to awarding workers' compensation benefits. In his successful plea, he convinced the Court that illegitimate children had the same right of equal protection and voting otherwise would deny them that protection.

In his leisure time, Lacour had a love for ham radio. Having always had a love for the outdoors, he gave his support to the Boy Scouts of America. For his service to the organization and the education giving to many young men when it came to radio communications, the Boy Scouts of America would award him their Beaver Award. As a love for ham radio, Lacour was a member of the OMIK Amateur Radio Association.

Lacour was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the National Bar Association. He was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame in 1988.

Lacour helped to pave the road for many aspiring lawyers that represent and service today's legal needs. Through his teachings and administrative skills, across the United States there are many prosperous lawyers producing valued legal services, with a firm understanding of the law and its' applications. His teachings have given groundwork to not only successful attorneys but to Congressmen, Senators, and Judges.

Vanue B. Lacour died on January 7, 2011. He was ninety-five years old.



**JEWEL  
STRADFORD  
LAFONTANT  
MANKARIOUS**

...was born on April 28, 1922 in Chicago, Illinois to Aida Arabella and C. Francis Stradford, one of the founders of the National Bar Association. She graduated from Englewood High School, in

Chicago and, in 1943, received her A.B. degree in Political Science from Oberlin College, and in 1946, her J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

In 1936, Jewel Lafontant became the first black woman to earn a law degree from the University of Chicago. She had a phenomenal legal and political career. Under President Dwight Eisenhower, she became the first black woman to serve as Assistant U.S. Attorney. During the Nixon administration, she became the first black female Deputy Solicitor General in the Justice Department, presenting cases before the Supreme Court. President Nixon also considered her as a possible nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. In President George H.W. Bush's administration, she worked in the State Department as Ambassador at Large and U.S.

Coordinator for Refugee Affairs. Jewel traveled extensively during this time all over the world. She made a yearly recommendation to President Bush about the number of refugees that should be admitted to the United States.

Stradford married John W. Rogers, Sr., a former member of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, on December 7, 1946. They had one child, John W. Rogers, Jr., who became an investment executive. The couple divorced in 1961. She remarried Haitian-American attorney H. Ernest Lafontant in 1961, and they remained married until his death in October of 1976. In 1989, she married Naguib Soby Mankarious and remained with him until her death in 1997.

In 1947, Lafontant was admitted to the Illinois State Bar and became a trial lawyer for the Legal Aid Bureau of Chicago, now Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services. In 1949, she opened in Chicago her law firm with her first husband, John W. Rogers, Sr. and began to build their business. She worked thoroughly and diligently on her craft. In 1955, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed her as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois where she served until 1958.

In July of 1960, she became a Delegate-At-Large to the Republican National Convention. For President Nixon's nomination to be the Republican candidate for President during the 1960 Presidential election, she gave the Seconding Speech.

In 1961, back in Chicago, she opened the doors to a new law firm with her father and second husband Stradford, fittingly named Lafontant and Lafontant. In 1963, she argued a case before the Supreme Court of the United States. Her case, Beatrice Lynumn v. The State of Illinois set the precedent for the landmark case, Miranda v. The State of Arizona case in 1966. Some say she was the first black woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court while others give that distinction to Lucy Terry Prince. Either way, she argued her case, and did so well.

In 1962 and 1970, she ran unsuccessfully in the Illinois judicial elections. Despite the first loss, Nixon, in 1969, again gave Lafontant an appointment to serve. This time as Vice Chairman of the U.S. Advisory Commission on International, Educational and Cultural Affairs. In 1972, he called upon her for an appointment, now as a Representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations. In 1973, Nixon appointed Jewel to be the first-ever female Deputy Solicitor General. In 1975, she left the Nixon administration to return to private practice in Chicago.

During her professional career, Lafontant-MANKarious sat on more than twenty non-profit and corporate boards, including those of the Jewel Companies, Inc., Continental Bank, Mobil Corporation, Revlon, Inc., Ariel Capital Management, the Illinois Humane Society, Howard University, Oberlin College, and Pan American Airlines. She served as Secretary of the National Bar Association from 1956 to 1964, and was active in the Cook County Bar Association, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Economic Club of Chicago, and the Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She was admitted to the D.C. Court of Appeals in 1985.

Jewel Stradford Lafontant-Mankarious died of breast cancer at her home in Chicago on May 31, 1997 at the age of seventy-five.



## GARY L. LANCASTER

...was born on August 14, 1949 in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education in 1971 from Slippery Rock State College in Slippery Rock, Pennsyl-

vania. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1974 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In 1974, Lancaster served as Regional Counsel to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission where he served for four years. He then became an Assistant District Attorney in Pennsylvania's Allegheny County. After leaving the District Attorney's Office, Lancaster entered private practice in Pittsburgh. In private practice, he focused his attention on civil and criminal cases.

In 1987, Lancaster became a United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He held that position until he was nominated as a District Judge by then President Bill Clinton in 1993. Lancaster was appointed to the judgeship after Judge Timothy K. Lewis vacated his seat after being elevated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The following day after the United States Senate confirmed his nomination on November 20, 1993, Lancaster received his commission.

While serving on the bench, Judge Lancaster served on the committee held responsible for drafting the Third Circuit's Model Civil Jury Instruction. He was then appointed by Chief Justice, William H. Rehnquist to serve on the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Judicial Resources. Judge Lancaster also was responsible for the oversight of the \$75 million renovation to the historic federal courthouse in downtown Pittsburgh. He was also appointed by the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge, Anthony J. Scirica to serve on a committee established to draft standard civil jury instructions for the federal Appeals Court.

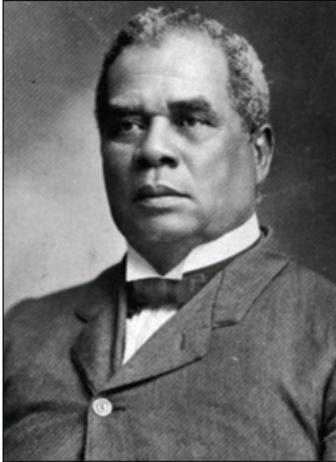
In 2009, Judge Lancaster was selected to serve as Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania where he succeeded Donetta W. Ambrose. He was the first African American

to serve on the Court's bench. While serving on the Western District Court, Judge Lancaster was instrumental in the Patent Pilot Program, which was a national initiative created to enhance the expertise of federal Judges in patent litigation cases. The United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania was one of the few judicial districts that had a local patent rules program and would remain one of the few for the next several years.

In 2011, Judge Lancaster was selected to serve as Third Circuit District Judge's representative to attend the Judicial Conference of the United States. He served as the representative for three years. He was not able to complete the task due to his death in 2013.

Judge Lancaster served on the Community Advisory Board of the Directors of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He gave of his time to other civic, religious and charitable groups as well. His care for people was evident and in non-dictatorial style of adjudication was more collaborative than confrontational.

Judge Lancaster died suddenly on April 24, 2013 at his home in Pittsburgh from hypertensive heart disease. He was sixty-four years old.



## PIERRE CALISTE LANDRY

...was born on April 19, 1841 into slavery on the plantation of Dr. Francois Marie Prevost near Donaldsonville, in the Ascension Parish of Louisiana to Marcelite Prevost and Rosemond Landry. He was given the name Carlisle. His mother was a cook for her master and his father

was a white laborer on the plantation. The Prevost plantation, at the time, had one of the largest slave populations in the South. For the first thirteen years of his life, Landry worked as did the other slave children on one of the largest plantations devoted to sugar production in the United States.

In 1854, the Prevost estate was sold and despite the fact that the owner's wanted to free some of their slaves, Landry was sold to the wealthy Marius St. Colombe Bringier for \$1,665. Bringier son, Louis Amedée Bringier, would later inherit the plantation. The Bringier family owned 35,000 acres of land spread across several plantations in Louisiana. They were all a part of the inherited Hermitage Plantation, however, Landry was assigned to the Houmas Plantation which lie between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Landry's early education came at the hands of two local ministers, W.D. Goodman and A.L. Atkinson, who tutored him and other young slave children. He also attended the plantation's primary and technical slave school, Houmas. Landry soon earned enough trust that he lived in the mansion with his master where he was taught the trade of confectioner and cook. He also took care of the plantation's yard.

On the plantation, Landry was allowed, along with the head butler, to operate a plantation store on the property. In 1862, he was released from his yard duties and assigned to the plantation's head white carpenter and machinist as an apprentice. He remained in the care of the carpenter/machinist until the end of the Civil War in 1865.

After the war, in 1866, Landry changed his name from Carlisle to Pierre and moved to the third-largest black community in the state, Donaldsonville. With their new freedom, many slaves moved to black towns and communities from rural areas finding safety in numbers as well as to establish their own businesses from the crafts they had learned and performed on the plantations they had left. Landry did so as well and soon established a name for himself in the community for his concerns and his business acumen.

Within one year of arriving in Donaldsonville, Landry had established two day schools and a night school for black children. He build a house for his family becoming the first freed slave to own a house in Louisiana. He was the first to purchase a piano, buying one for his home. As he had done back on the Houmas plantation, he opened a small store in the community.

Landry married Amanda Grigsby with whom he would have twelve children. On January 1, 1867, mainly due to his unselfishness and his community awareness, the Donaldsonville black community unanimously elected him as the overseer of all matters related to the town. In 1868, his popularity paid off as he was elected as Mayor of Donaldsonville where he served for one year. Landry became the first black freed slave in the United States to be elected to any office. He also became the first black in the United States to be elected a Mayor of any community.

A religious man, he also founded the St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church where he became the Minister of the church. He also became the Superintendent of the public schools, the tax collector, Postmaster, President of the police jury, a Parish School Board member, Justice of the Peace, and eventually the Judge. Influential in community politics, he joined the Republican Party and established a black faction to represent the black communities at-large. In 1872, he ran for the Louisiana House of Representatives and won an overwhelming victory. As a House member, he introduced a bill to establish New Orleans University, the third school in Louisiana designed as a private black college in the state. The school would later merge in 1935 with Straight College of New Orleans for form Dillard University.

In 1874, Landry was elected to the Louisiana State Senate representing the 8th Senatorial District of Louisiana where he served until 1880. As a Senator, he played a pivotal role in the Reconstruction legislature passing laws that for the first time established public education. He helped establish funding operations for the education system as well as public welfare reforms aimed at helping those in need. For his efforts, when President Ulysses S. Grant paid a visit to Louisiana, Landry was one of two blacks that dined with the President to discuss matters pertinent to Louisiana and the Donaldsonville black community.

While a state Senator, Landry served as the Editor of the Monthly Record, a Christian newspaper. In 1879, he represented the Ascension Parish as an elected delegate at the state Constitutional Convention. Upon leaving the state Senate, Landry returned to private practice and his attention to education and his position as a member of the Board of Trustees at New Orleans University.

In 1881, as Minister of his congregation, Landry was elected as Presiding Elder of the Baton Rouge District of the AME denomination. In 1885, moving to Shreveport, he became Presiding Elder of the Shreveport District. He became the Pastor of the St Paul Methodist Episcopal Church in Shreveport in 1889. Always representing his church at the annual conferences of the denomination, in 1891, Landry was elected to the highest position in the church, Presiding Elder of the South New Orleans District.

Landry's wife, Amanda, became ill and died. He continued to teach his children the value of education as a means to economic success. He remarried to Florence Simpkins, and together they had two children. Together, they continued to teach the value of education and a commitment to the church. He would continue to work as a lawyer caring for his people and the community until his death on December 22, 1921.

Photo Not Available



## GEORGE MOTLEY LANE

...was born February 11, 1866 in Virginia. Once his high school studies were complete, he enrolled into the Wayland Seminary in Washington, D.C.. He then entered Washington's Howard University where he obtained his law degree and was admitted to the Maryland bar. He was one of the first African Americans to pass the Maryland State Bar exam.

After passing the bar, Lane moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he opened his law practice. He soon married Mattie Genevieve Nelson and together they had five children. It was not long before Lane's legal practice grew as there were very few African American lawyers practicing.

Lane became a community leader and his practice grew as he took on more cases. He became involved with the local politics in Baltimore as more and more Baltimore citizens called on him for help. He became a founder in the Lexington Savings Bank and was one of its' largest depositors. By 1897, the bank was having financial issues and was on its' decline.

Lane joined the Republican Party but soon became disgruntled with the leadership and focus of the political machine. He and a group of other concerned activist broke off to form their own political movement, the Committee of 100. They casted their own members for elected office and Lane chose to run for the Mayor of Baltimore. Although they received some support, on the eve of the election, the group's candidates did not appear on the ballot. It had been disqualified due to faulty petitions.

Lane joined the Republican Party but soon became disgruntled with the leadership and focus of the political machine. He and a group of other concerned activist broke off to form their own political movement, the Committee of 100. They casted their own members for elected office and Lane chose to run for the Mayor of Baltimore. Although they received some support, on the eve of the election, the group's candidates did not appear on the ballot. It had been disqualified due to faulty petitions.

Despite the loss, Lane remained in politics. He was asked to speak to a large gathering of Republicans, as he had rejoined their ranks, at the Samaritan Temple in Baltimore. He spoke of his dissatisfaction with the current leadership and showcased a new crop of black Republicans that were joining the Party that were well educated, and harbored aspirations for a better state for blacks. He called upon the members to speak to the Republican leadership notifying them that times had changed and a new beginning was on the horizon.

Lane's words were taken in by the listeners who called for a second meeting, which was held at Asbury Hall held in April of that year. In preparation for the state convention, a call was made to condemn discrimination within the legal counsels of the Party. At the convention, the members of the Party were at odds with how to address

Lane's proposals. Some of the attendees proposed leaving the Party to join the Democratic Party as the Republican Party had changed from the Party of the years before. The arguments on both sides became heated and a riot amongst the convention attendees almost ensued.

The Democratic Party, aware of the discontent, looked for ways to bring those dissatisfied with the new Republican agenda to their side. The Democrats seeing an opportunity to increase their ranks welcomed those that wished to join the organization. Lane, dissatisfied with the Republican Party but not yet ready to join the Democrats, decided to run for elected office on a "colored independent ticket".

In a compromise, the Republican Party revised their stance and made promises that they would support three black candidates for office, Walker W. Lewis, Whitfield Winsey, and Hawkins. Despite the promises, before the next Republican Convention, the white majority of the Party voted down the candidates. The issued statements indicating that the more powerful black Republicans were not in agreement and the Party supported white Republicans for office.

Protests were launched during the next several months. By October, the Party Committee had revised the ticket to include black candidates and endorsed Lane as the candidate for Mayor. A few weeks later, the ticket was abandoned with allegations that more than half of the signatures submitted to the Nominating Committee were invalid. The group was given one day to come up with the needed signatures to remain on the ballot, which was impossible and Lane and his fellow candidates were shut out of the election.

Lane did not contest the Committee's findings on the illegal signatures but stating that he had nothing to do with the irregularities and was not culpable. Had he won the election for Mayor of Baltimore, he would have become the first black Mayor of the city. It would be seventy years before another African American's name would appear on a Baltimore ballot for elected office. In 1967, Arthur Sherwood made a run for the Mayor of Baltimore as a Republican. He won the primary election but lost in the general election to Thomas J. D'Allesandro, III.

Lane dropped out of the public and political arena after the debacle and went into obscurity. The ordeal created marital problems with his wife and they separated. He would live his remaining years in Baltimore lodging temporarily at various locations.

George Motley Lane died on June 26, 1912 of tuberculosis. He was forty-five years old.



## JOHN MERCER LANGSTON

...was born in 1829 in Louisa County, Virginia to Lucy Jane Langston, a mixed African and Native American free woman and white planter, Ralph Quarles. John was the youngest of four siblings. He, his sister and two brothers were born free as Quarles had freed his mother and her children from slavery.

Before Quarles and Lucy died in 1833, Quarles arranged for a friend, William Gooch, to be come the guardian of his children. At four years old, Langston was moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, a free state. There, with the inheritance left by his white father, Langston's education was preserved. Although Quarles ensured a future for his mixed children, John and his brothers assumed the surname of their mother, Langston.

In 1835, Langston's older brothers, Gideon and Charles became the first African-American students to be admitted to the preparatory school of Ohio's Oberlin College. Oberlin was the first college in the United States to admit black and white students to study together. At the age of fourteen, John would follow them to Oberlin. He would earn, in 1849, his Bachelor's degree. Three years later, he would receive a Master's degree in Theology.

Because of his mixed race, Langston was denied admittance to law schools in Ohio and New York. As was the custom for black law students, Langston became an Apprentice for Republican attorney Philemon Bliss. Langston took and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1854.

Langston met Caroline Matilda Wall, a student at Oberlin and married her in 1854. Wall too was of mixed race and had a well to do white father who freed her from slavery and sent her to the free state of Ohio. Together they had five children.

In 1855, Langston became the first black elected official in the state of Ohio when he was elected town Clerk of Brownhelm Township. At his brother's prodding, he became involved in the abolitionist movement. As part of the Underground Railroad, he helped runaway slaves to escape to the North. He and his brother Charles took a lead in the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society. John became the President and Charles acted as Executive Secretary. The Society operated out of Cleveland. Catching the attention of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who encouraged him to speak out more about anti-slavery issues.

In 1863, the United States Colored Troops was approved by the U.S. government. Langston was hired to recruit blacks to join the Union Army. In that role, he convinced hundreds to join the Massachusetts Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth divisions of the Army, officially the country's first African American military unit. He also enlisted 800 men creating the first black regiment in Ohio. From that effort, Langston began his fight for those black servicemen to have the right to vote and take their rightful and equal place in society.

At the end of the Civil War, Langston accepted the position as Inspector General for the Freedmen's Bureau. The Bureau's task was to help freed slaves in labor contracts and related issues. It established schools for freedmen's children and operated a bank for their financial assistance.

At the 1864 black National Convention, Langston chaired a committee calling for racial equality, unity and self-help. From that committee, the National Equal Rights League was founded. Langston served as President for four years. A precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the League worked to establish local and state offices across the U.S. By the close of the war, thanks largely to Langston's efforts, the National Equal Rights League was a national organization.

In 1868, Langston was selected by Howard University in Washington, D.C. to assist in the establishment of a law school, the first black law school in the country. Langston became its Dean. In 1872, he became Acting President of the school while he served as Vice President. He was not selected for the permanent position as President.

For the Civil Rights Act of 1875 enacted by the 43rd Congress, Langston played a part in its' creation assisting Massachusetts Republican Senator Charles Sumner in the drafting of the bill. The bill, passed by Congress, was signed into law on March 1, 1875 by then President Ulysses S. Grant. For his efforts, Langston was appointed by Grant to become a member of the Board of Health of the District of Columbia.

In 1877, Langston was appointed by President Rutherford Hayes as U.S. Minister to Haiti. He later became the Chargé d'Affaires for the Dominican Republic. When his assignment was completed in 1885, he returned to Virginia, accepting a position as the first President of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, a black college in Petersburg. The school would later change its name to Virginia State University.

Langston, at the urging of both black and white Republicans entered Politics. He ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Not supported by the biracial political party holder, the Readjuster Party, Langston was not successful in his attempt.

Contesting his loss claiming voter fraud and political intimidation, after eighteen months of Congressional hearings, Langston took his seat in the U.S. Congress being declared the winner. He served the six months remaining on the term but on the next election, he was not elected back to the seat in Congress. Nonetheless, Langston was the first black elected to Congress from Virginia. No other black person would be elected to Congress from Virginia until 1972 after civil rights legislation was passed allowing equal voting rights for blacks and all citizens.

Langston, in 1890, became a member of the Board of Trustees of the newly formed St. Paul Normal and Industrial School. Founded on September 24, 1888, by James Solomon Russell, a Protestant Episcopal Church ordained Deacon, the Lawrenceville, Virginia school was funded by the Virginia General Assembly as a black college to train students for agricultural and industrial related jobs.

In 1891, Langston moved to Washington, D.C. where he practiced law until his death in 1897. He died from malaria induced acute indigestion at his home on the morning of November 15, 1897. He was buried at Harmony Cemetery in Maryland but later moved to Woodlawn Cemetery in Washington, D.C..

In his honor, Oberlin College created The John Mercer Langston House in Oberlin, Ohio, which has since been designated as a National Historic Landmark. In Oklahoma, the state named a town, Langston, Oklahoma and the historically black university in his honor, Langston University. The District of Columbia named an elementary school in his honor in 1902 that served black students until its' closing in 1993. It was then turned into a homeless shelter.



## CHARLES DOUGLAS LANGFORD

...was born on Dec. 9, 1922 in Montgomery, Alabama. Not much is known about Charles Douglas Langford's early life. What is known is that he was one of the pioneer legal minds during the civil rights struggles

during the dismantling of the Jim Crow laws of the Deep South and especially in the state of Alabama.

Langford enrolled into Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee Alabama spending two years before being drafted in the U.S. Army during World War II. During the European Theater Operation, he served overseas as a truck driver. In 1946, he received an honorable discharge.

Upon returning from his military duties, Langford continued his college education at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1948, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. He later earned his law degree from The Catholic University in Washington, D.C..

Returning to Alabama after graduation, he was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1953 and opened his law office on Monroe Street in Montgomery. He began to represent local African-Americans in civil rights cases. Langford joined renowned civil rights attorneys, Fred Gray and Solomon Seay, Jr. in their law firm. Together, the three of them began to represent Alabama citizens either wrongly convicted or to protect their civil rights. It did not take long before their first landmark case appeared.

Langford, along with Gray and Seay, Jr., defended Claudette Colvin, the first person arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery city bus to a white rider. Nine months later, he would represent Rosa Parks for the same offense. This time working with Martin Luther King, Jr. and E.D. Nixon, President of the Montgomery Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the case became national Headline news and the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955. On Nov. 13, 1956, ruling in another Montgomery case, *Browder v. Gayle*, the United States Supreme Court affirmed a District Court's ruling outlawing segregation on the city buses.

In 1964, Langford was part of the team that represented Arlam Carr in a lawsuit against Montgomery's Board of Education that led to the desegregation of the city's public schools. Carr's mother had attempted to enroll Carr into Lanier High School in Montgomery and met resistance. Carr's case was combined with the 1964 class action suit *Lee v. the Macon County Board of Education*. That pivotal civil rights case sought the integration of the all-white Tuskegee High School in Macon County, Alabama. The initial lawsuit, filed in 1963, was expanded to include all of the Alabama's primary and secondary schools, all two-year postsecondary schools, and every public university. Langford and his team celebrated another win when a three-judge federal District Court issued a blanket desegregation order in the case. On appeal, the decision was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Wallace v. United States*. The initial case filed by Langford and his team became the blueprint for school desegregation throughout the United States.

Another important case handled by Langford and his team was the case of *The New York Times v. Sullivan*. Montgomery Police Commissioner L.B. Sullivan, had sued the newspaper and four African-American Ministers for printing a defamatory story about him, written by Bayard Rustin. One of the Ministers, happened to be Reverend Solomon Seay, Sr., the father of his partner, Solomon Seay, Jr.. The others were Ralph Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth and Joseph Lowery, all civil rights activist. Langford, Gray and Seay Jr. represented the four Ministers.

Sullivan originally won the case in an Alabama court but *The New York Times* Appealed. They argued that the U.S. Constitution's first amendment protected them and they had the right to print the advertisement. The Alabama ruling was reversed resulting in U.S. libel law being rewritten.

In 1993, representing a group of black Alabama state legislators, Langford assisted in ending the flying of a Confederate battle flag from the dome of the State Capitol in Montgomery. Langford, as a Democrat, entered politics and was elected to the Alabama State Senate representing Montgomery's 26th Senate District. He served for five terms before retiring in 2002.

Langford had a long career in the Alabama legislature always having civil rights at the forefront of his elected duties. Charles Douglas Langford died on February 11, 2007 at his home in Montgomery in his sleep. He was eighty-four years young.



## ALLIE B. LATIMER

...was born in 1929 in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. When she was young, her family relocated to Alabama. Her mother was a schoolteacher and her father worked as a day laborer in construction.

After graduating from Alabama State Lab High School, she enrolled into Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina. After one year, she transferred to Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia where she completed her studies to earn her Bachelor's of Science Degree. While earning her degree, Latimer performed in drama and theater and danced on the dance team.

Completing high school, Latimer enrolled into Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, in Hampton, Virginia, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. Before pursuing her law degree, she took a two-year hiatus to give time as a volunteer the American Friends Service Committee for two years. The Quaker International Volunteer Service program focused on mental health conditions in U.S. juvenile centers, jails, prisons, and any other institution where one may be confined.

While giving time to the American Friends Service Committee, Latimer Worked at a women's prison in New Jersey. She took on the fight of desegregating the New Jersey State Hospital at Vineland and travelled on a peace-rebuilding mission to France as part of a women's group. Whenever or wherever she saw a need to help women's rights, Latimer would give of her time.

To continue her education, Latimer enrolled into Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. where she received her Juris Doctor degree in 1953. She would earn a Master of Legal Letters degree from The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law. A believing Christian, Latimer would earn both a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Howard University.

In 1968, Latimer founded and built the Federally Employed Women (FEW). The organizations purpose was to protect the rights of women in the federal and public workforces. She fought against gender discrimination in federal and public sector jobs. The FEW over the years, has helped countless women in the federal workforce improve both their standings in their given fields and their protection while

performing those jobs. Her lobbied work ensured improved conditions for women in performing their jobs. Most importantly, she ensured improved restroom facilities for women, integrated.

Beginning as a grassroots organization, FEW would grow to have more than two hundred chapters nationwide. Not only did the FEW efforts help women in their work places, their efforts helped every employee receive better working conditions. For the community, Latimer fought to integrate a suburban community outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1969, Latimer became an Ordained Elder in the Northeastern Presbyterian Church, a Washington, D.C. church. As an Elder, her outreach spanned to more than fifty countries around the world. She travelled often, speaking at conferences and seminars in these countries on behalf of the Church.

Latimer took a job with the federal government with the General Services Administration (GSA) as an Assistant General Counsel. After one year, she left moving to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as its' General Counsel. She returned to the GSA in 1977 as the General Counsel. She became the first woman and first African American woman to serve in the capacity of General Counsel of any major U.S. agency. In her role at the GSA, she was tasked with bringing the federal government into compliance with the rules and regulations set by the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Latimer was able to give women more opportunities for administrative and managerial jobs and brought in new and innovative programs designed to ensure an open door policy to women and their rights. She remained General Counsel for ten years. She left that position in 1987 to become Special Counsel for Ethics and Civil Rights at the GSA.





## CAESER COOLERIDGE LATIMER, SR.

... was born on January 27, 1926 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Maria L. Latimer and Major S. Latimer, Sr.. He graduated from Tulsa's Booker T. Washington High School in 1944. He enlisted into the United States Marines where he

fought in World War II. His unit took part in the U.S. take-over of Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

Having been raised in the food industry, he immediately took notice of the unequal eating facilities and subpar food given to the African American soldiers as to what the white soldiers were given. He took note of when fighting in muddy foxholes, the white soldiers were given rations of beans and other sustainable packaged food while his unit ate rations of beets and radishes.

Latimer grew up in the food business. His father owned a famous barbecue restaurant, Latimer's Barbecue, which brought customers from miles away. As a child, the young Latimer, a proficient clarinet player, to make extra income provided tutored classes to aspiring young musicians. Of course that was after his schoolwork was complete and his chores at the restaurant. World famous Latimer's Barbeque still operates from its' North Tulsa location, more than sixty years later.

Leaving the military, Latimer returned to Tulsa where he looked into colleges and universities to attend. He wanted to enroll into the University of Oklahoma but learned that although the school did accept G.I. Bills to cover tuition, they did not accept G.I. Bills designated for blacks. Without fight and not discouraged, he moved on to another choice, Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Latimer obtained his undergraduate degree from the University as well as his law degree, doing so in 1954.

While in college, the Latimer family suffered a tragic loss. His father and sister, Julia, were killed in an automobile accident. Because of limited medical care available to blacks at that time and the hospital that accepted blacks during an emergency was miles away, by the time his father and sister arrived at the hospital, a choice had to be made as to who received care first, he or his daughter. The hospital staff could only work on of them at a time.

Latimer's father insisted that they care for his daughter first. Unfortunately, by the time the hospital staff was able to

attend to him, he died from his injuries. Latimer left Wilberforce to return home to help care for his sister and mother and run the family barbecue business. Fortunately, his mother knew his heart wasn't into running a barbecue restaurant and insisted that he return to school. He did so.

He finished his undergraduate studies at Wilberforce and immediately entered law school at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. To pay his tuition, thanks to his exceptional musical talent, he played clarinet in the "Indiana Marching Hundred", the school's marching band. After obtaining his law degree, he returned to Oklahoma and opened his own law practice. Of course, he took care of the legal affairs of his family barbecue business, after all, it is "World Famous".

Latimer begin his legal career as a City of Tulsa Investigator for the city's District Attorney's Office. He later became a Prosecuting Attorney and an Assistant District Attorney, the first African American to do so. Although he took some disdain from the black community for prosecuting other African Americans, his position was that it was better for him to work from the inside to ensure that the prosecution was done so fairly. Years later, Latimer traded hats. He gave up his job as a prosecutor, left the District Attorney's Office and entered private practice to represent people rather than prosecute them.

Latimer would spend many more years in private practice. He represented a large amount of people, many who could not afford to feed themselves, let alone, pay an attorney to represent them on charges from fines for not cutting grass to being arrested for being drunk in public. It did not matter the problem, people knew that there were two things that Caesar Cooleridge Latimer, Sr. could do for you. He could represent you in the court of law and he could feed you some good barbecue at Latimer's Barbeque.

Caesar Cooleridge Latimer, Sr. died on August 29, 2016. He was ninety-years old.



## AUGUST ARVIS LATTING

...was born on January 30, 1905, in Helena), Arkansas. He attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1926. To obtain in law degree,

he attended the Northwestern University School of Law in Evanston and Chicago, Illinois where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1932. During his college years, Latting joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. A year later, Latting was admitted to the to the Arkansas State Bar and was given the privilege to argue cases before the Arkansas State Supreme Court.

After passing the state bar, Latting left Arkansas moving to Memphis, Tennessee where he opened his own private practice law firm. He became one of the few African American lawyers practicing in Memphis at that time. He was admitted to the Memphis Bar Association and the Shelby County Bar Association in 1935. He was the first African American to be admitted to the Shelby Bar.

In beginning his law career, Latting specialized in Probate Law. He also handled cases involving civil and criminal law. As he took on more cases, his reputation and respect earned increased rapidly.

During his legal career, Latting taught Political Science at local Memphis LaMoyne College. He also taught Political Science and Economics at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. In addition, he served as Dean of Jackson State's Political Science Department.

Latting was later appointed to the City of Memphis's Civil Service Board. He was also served as an Associate Government Appeal Agent and was elected as a County Judge. In addition, he became a member of the American Bar Association.

In 1943, Latting married Pine Bluff, Arkansas native Marietta Ish. Together, they had three children, Arivs, Carol, and Jean. Known as the "Dean of black lawyers", Latting was mentor to many young African American lawyers and touched the lives of others entering the field of law for the first time. He was a kind and caring attorney who unselfishly gave of his time and money to help further the goals and lives of others.

Latting was honored by one of the past Governors of Tennessee when he was awarded a Commission of Colored Aide de Camp for his patriotism. He was also awarded a Congressional Certificate of Merit for his work with the Selective Service System. Augustus Arvis Latting died on October 21, 1975. He was sixty-nine years old.



## BELFORD VANCE LAWSON, JR.

...was born on July 9, 1901 in Roanoke, Virginia. His mother was a schoolteacher and his father worked for the railroad. After graduating high school, Lawson began his higher education by enrolling into Ferris Institute, now Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan.

He later transferred to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan to complete his undergraduate degree.

While at Michigan, Lawson played varsity football as a fullback and was the second African American to play for the team. He was the only black player on the team of legendary Michigan football Coach Fielding H. Yost. During his time at Michigan, he was a member of the Varsity Debate Team and won several awards as an orator. He joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and graduated from the College of Literature, Science, and Arts in 1924.

After completing his degree at Michigan, Lawson was hired as Coach and Athletic Director at Jackson College, now known as Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. He coached the team for four years being outscored while Coach 54 to 0. While coaching at the school, Lawson served as Professor of Social Science and as the Director of the Teacher's Professional Department. He then became a Coach at Atlanta, Georgia's Morris Brown College and taught Economics.

Lawson was accepted to attend Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut after receiving an endorsement from then Morris Brown President John Lewis. Lewis would later become a Congressman in the United States House of Representatives. Lawson instead received his Juris Doctorate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law in 1932.

A year later, Lawson founded, along with John A. Davis Sr. and M. Franklin Thorne, the New Negro Alliance (NNA). The Alliance was as a means of opposing white-owned businesses located in black neighborhoods that would not hire black employees. Lawson would conduct the radical campaign, "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work". He organized pickets and called for a boycott of white businesses in the black community.

In response, white businesses obtained a court order injunction to halt the picketing. Lawson called on legendary attorney Thurgood Marshall to counter the white establishment's injunction. The case of the New Negro Alliance v.

Sanitary Grocery Company was eventually argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1938, the Supreme Court ruled that the boycott was constitutional. The landmark decision became a catalyst for anti-discrimination cases against discriminatory hiring practices litigated across the country. Don't Buy Where You Can't Work campaigns began to spring up throughout the nation. By 1940, the NNA was able to generate over 5,000 jobs for African Americans, jobs they held in their own neighborhoods.

During the two years that the NNA's trial lingered in the Courts, Lawson, as a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, convinced the organization to finance the case of Donald Murray who was looking to integrate the University of Maryland's Law School. He engaged Marshall to become involved in the litigation of that case. Marshall brought in other lawyers from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP including Special Counsel Charles Houston to take on the case. That historical case eventually reached the Maryland Court of Appeals before Murray was admitted to the law school.

In 1950, Lawson became a member of the legal team that litigated the successful case of Henderson v. Southern Railway Company, which challenged the United State's Interstate Commerce Commission's segregated railroad practices. The case's results abolished the practice. The railroad company opened all of its' passenger cars to all interstate travellers although they and other railroad companies kept their "intra state" segregated policies, which was abolished several years later.

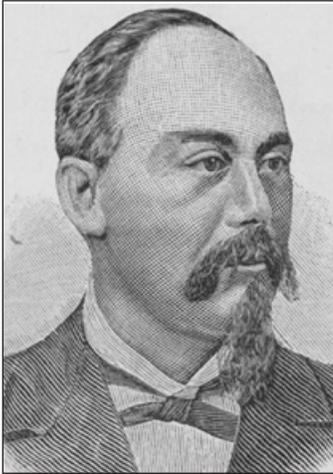
For his dedicated work to the organization and to the concerns of the African American communities, Laws was elected as the 16th General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The fraternity today sponsors an annual Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Contest where college oratorical students demonstrate their skills in open contests. Winners compete in state and regional competition with the winner making an oral presentation at the fraternity's national convention. Topics chosen in the competition are topics central to the goals of the fraternity.

During his professional legal career, Lawson made eight appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court making oral arguments. He was the first African-American man to win a case before the Court. The oratorical skills he learned years before while a member of the University of Michigan's Debate Team were pivotal in his legal successes.

In 1973, Lawson was elected President of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). He was the organization's first African-American President. He also served as a member of the organization's National Council.

Belford Vance Lawson Jr. died on February 23, 1985 in Washington, D.C. succumbing to Alzheimer's disease and cancer. He was eighty-three years old.





## **J**OHN SINCLAIR LEARY, SR.

...was born on August 17, 1845 in Fayetteville, North Carolina to Julia Memriel Leary and Matthew Leary. He attended public school in Fayetteville into his teens where he learned the trade of harness-maker

and saddler. His father owned a well-known leather shop and Leary grew up learning about leather since birth. He worked at his father's leather shop for several years before continuing his educational pursuits.

Having being reared in a well to do family due to his father's very successful business, Leary was surrounded by the top echelon of African American society. His father would invite to his home community activists, the clergy, other businessmen, and at times, a few politicians where they discussed the current social and community issues, economic advancement for African Americans and care for the overall community.

For his efforts in his community's affairs, in 1868, Leary was elected to the State Legislature representing North Carolina's Cumberland County. He served in the State House for two one-year terms during the Reconstruction Era. While in the legislature, Leary advocated and voted for minority protections and against fraudulent bonds that were taking advantage of those that bought bonds for financial security but not savvy enough to not be scammed.

In 1871, Leary entered into Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. where he would earn his law degree. After completing his requirements in 1873, he left D.C., returning to North Carolina where he took the North Carolina Bar exam and passed. In passing, Leary became only the second African-American lawyer to be admitted to the bar in North Carolina. He was the first to open an office and practice law in Charlotte.

Leary had remained active in politics after leaving the state legislature and in 1876 he was elected as a Fayetteville Alderman. He served for eleven years in the legislature and served as a Delegate to every Republican State Convention from 1876 to 1894. For the Republican National Convention, Leary served as an Alternate Delegate

to the 1880 Republican National Convention and served as a Delegate to the 1884 National Convention.

In 1881, Leary was appointed as a U.S. Deputy Collector for the Fourth District of North Carolina at the U.S. Internal Revenue Department. He worked as a Deputy Collector for four years until the election of then U.S. President Grover Cleveland. With the change of political parties, Leary was out of a job and entered private practice where he found himself practicing for a number of years.

The following year, Leary became prominently involved as a member of the Statewide Convention of Colored People headquartered in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He then served as the President of the labor organization, North Carolina Industrial Association. He joined the Odd Fellows and served as its' Honorary Commissioner from North Carolina at the 1884 World's Fair held in New Orleans, Louisiana. A religious man, Leary also became a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

In 1890, Leary entered North Carolina's Republican electoral race to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Fayetteville. He was unsuccessful in his bid losing the election to Benjamin F. Grady. After losing the race, he was asked to become the Dean of the newly created law school at Shaw University in Charlotte. Leary accepted the offer and became the first Dean to ever serve at the University and was instrumental in initiating the University's first student curriculum. Leary also served on the local School Board.

In 1892, Leary moved his offices to Charlotte and was admitted to practice law in Mecklenburg County by the state bar. He was the first African American to be admitted to practice law in Mecklenburg County. Leary would practice from his Charlotte office the remainder of his life.

Leary was married twice during his life. He first married Alice B. Thomas of Raleigh, North Carolina. The couple had two children that unfortunately died when they were young. After her death in October of 1880, Leary married Nannie E. Latham in July of 1886.

John Sinclair Leary, Sr. died on December 9, 1904. He was fifty-nine years old.



## DEBRA LOUISE LEE

...was born August 8, 1955 in Fort Jackson, South Carolina to Delma L. and Richard M. Lee. Her family later moved to Greensboro, North Carolina where she was raised and graduated from Greensboro's James B. Dudley High School. Lee

received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island in Political Science having an emphasis in Asian politics.

Lee then entered Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government where she earned a Master's degree in Public Policy. She remained at Harvard to obtain a law degree from the University's law school in 1980. At Harvard, she served as a member of the Board of Student Advisers.

In her first legal professional job, Lee served as a law clerk to Judge Barrington Parker, a judge to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. After serving for one year as clerk to Judge Parker, she entered private practice taking a job with the Washington, D.C. based law firm of Steptoe & Johnson. After five years there, she became the Vice President of Black Entertainment Television's (BET) Legal Affairs Department and General Counsel. As Vice President, Lee played a pivotal role in the building of BET's headquarters building in Washington, D.C.. She is also credited with BET going public in 1991, the first African American owned company to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Lee also served as BET's Corporate Secretary and later served as President and Publisher of BET's publishing division. The publishing division owns Heart & Soul magazine and Emerge BET Weekend. Lee was named as the President and Chief Operating Officer of BET Holdings, Inc. after network founder, Robert L. Johnson, stepped down.

Lee was later named as the President and Chief Executive Officer of BET. Under Lee's direction, BET would grow by adding new cable networks, including BET Gospel, BET Hip Hop, BET Jazz, and BET International, which broadcast jazz to Africa and Europe. Lee added an event production department; added BET Sound Stage, a themed restaurant in Largo, Maryland; and added a clothing line for men; and a financial services division. The company then added movie production, documentaries, news and public affairs broadcasting, and late night talk shows. She also created a separate entertainment network, CENTRIC, that broadcast reality shows, movies, and gave a platform to up and coming new artists.

Lee used BET's popularity to bring awareness to the needs of the African American communities throughout the United States. She established the annual BET Walk of Fame, which raised funds to aid the United Negro College Fund, and led the "Black Lives Saves" initiative, which gave financial assistance to educational programs throughout the country. For the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Lee began the Rap-It-Up campaign to help curb the spread of the deadly disease.

Lee and BET were not without criticism and some drama. A BET fired Corporate Executive sued the network for \$21 million after alleging that both Lee and founder Johnson had used corporate funds for personal use, had evaded paying taxes, and were employing illegal accounting practices. Lee then received negative spotlight views when it was revealed that she and Johnson had a personal relationship, which played a part in Johnson and his wife, Sheila, divorcing. Lee and BET received further negative press after some members of the African American community criticized the network for its' lengthy broadcasting of rap and hip hop music and not enough educational material. Her critics wanted BET to address more positive issues that the African American communities faced and not show as many videos that influenced young viewers to the entertainment industry as opposed to more educational endeavors.

Despite negative press and community backlash, BET continued to grow its' viewer base. Lee introduced the national awards program, The BET Awards, which airs annually recognizing important African Americans in many industries affecting the African American communities, past and present. Under Lee's leadership, BET would grow into a very profitable company and in 2000 the company was sold to Viacom, a multinational media conglomerate having interests in cinema and cable television, for a staggering \$3 billion.

Lee has served on the Board of Directors of the Marriott Corporation and Revlon. She has also served on the Boards of the Washington Gas Light Company's WGL Holdings and for Genuity, a subsidiary of Monsanto. In addition, Lee has served on the Board of Twitter, the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, Eastman Kodak Company, and Girls, Inc.

Lee has been given countless awards and honors during her career. She is a member of the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame, has been named a Woman of Vision Award by Washington, D.C.'s Women in Film & Video, and has received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Brown University. Turner Broadcasting System presented Lee with its' Tower of Power Trumpet Award, the National Association of Minorities in Communications gave her a Quasar Award, and the National Cable and Telecommunications Association presented Lee with its' Idell Kaitz Vanguard Award.



Photo Not Available



## JOHN KENNETH LEE

..was born on November 1, 1923 in Charlotte, North Carolina to Sara Bell Lowdner Lee and Henry Franklin Lee. Lee was the thirteenth of fourteen children, whose father served as a minister in the Church of God denomination, and his family had meager means and survived

off of the mere \$11 a month that his father earned.

Not being able to afford to live in Charlotte, Lee's family moved eighty miles east to the small town of Hamlet. Lee would graduate from a small school having four grades, no library, and was held at a small Hamlet Baptist church. Although small, Lee's thinking was not. He graduated from Capital Highway High School as Valedictorian of his class in 1941.

Without difficulty, he was accepted into North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College (NCA&T), located in Greensboro. Lee realized that his father's sacrifice of moving the family from Charlotte to the poorer life in Hamlet, was so that he could save up the thirty-three dollars needed to pay his first semester tuition. Arriving on campus, Lee was astonished, as he had never lived in a place that had electricity or running water. He was even more amazed when he first visited the schools chemistry and electrical engineering laboratories. He had never been in a lab and the instruments he saw, he had only seen in books.

Lee's undergraduate studies, six weeks from graduation, were interrupted when he was drafted into the military. He joined the U.S. Navy and served in World War II. He married his wife, Nancy Young, while serving in the Navy as a Second Mate Electrician on the USS Dade. The racism he experienced in the Navy was no different than that he had experienced in North Carolina, so he was able to serve his time and receive his discharge in 1946. He returned to NCA&T where he received his B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering.

Although the local newspapers were full of ads with job openings for electrical engineers, Lee was unable to find work. After much searching, he was finally able to land a job in North Carolina and refused offers elsewhere. An opportunity came about with alma mater, NCA&T, and he joined the faculty of the school's engineering department. Not liking the segregated system imposed during that time in the South, or the racial mistreatment that came along with it, Lee knew that the only way to make a change was by changing the laws that allowed segregation to exist. He decided to go to law school.

In 1949, Lee enrolled into North Carolina College before joining a lawsuit brought against the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Lee was asked to join the suit to force the integration of the University's Law School as the plaintiffs in the case had already graduated from law school elsewhere and the twenty-five blue-star team of NAACP lawyers needed a plaintiff to move forward. Lee agreed to join the case. Thurgood Marshall

and his expert team of lawyers from the NAACP then argued before the U.S. Supreme Court Lee's case. The Court ruled against the NAACP, however, with mounting national pressure from media covert and social outcries, the UNC School of Law opened it's admissions to African American students.

In June of 1950, Lee and Harvey E. Beech, with a contingent of law enforcement officers escorting them, they entered the halls of the UNC School of Law. Although admitted, the two faced racism at every turn. They were given the worst seats available away from the regular student body until Lee and Beech protested. All other students were referred to as Ms. or Mr., however, in Lee's case, the professor would merely make a grunt and point at him when needing to speak with him.

After passing the North Carolina State Bar exam, Lee became an Assistant Legal Counsel for the NAACP, as many African American attorneys were fearful of the job. He immediately took on cases that had all-white juries where the evidence was stacked high against black defendants. He faced hostile prosecutors and witnesses and at times had spectators in the gallery with shotguns in full view of the jury, judge and the Sheriff. He defended black men accused of "reckless eyeballing" white women and others that were guilty of their crimes but did not deserve the harsh penalties imposed, including the death penalty.

Lee would go on to serve as legal counsel to over seventeen hundred civil rights and disobedience cases. He even once litigated a case against the local leader of the Klu Klux Klan accused of vandalism against who after losing the case had so much respect for Lee that in full view of everyone, he shook Lee's hand and told the crowd that no one was to touch Lee or his family and if anything did happen for Lee to come to him and he would solve any problems. Lee would also bring lawsuits ranging from the integration of North Carolina's Gillespie Park elementary and secondary public schools to defending students in their historic demonstrations and sit-ins to end segregation at all-white Greensboro eating establishments.

His dedicated work soon reward him as he became the first African American member of the North Carolina Banking Commission. Through his efforts, the state issued a \$2.2 billion tax-exempt bond that financed more than 55,000 new homes for low-to-moderate-income families. For his service, Lee was the first African American to be inducted into the Greensboro Business Leaders Hall of Fame.

In addition to running his successful law practice, Lee was also a businessman. He was involved in rental and commercial property, the development shopping centers, nursing home facilities, and helped to create the state's first federally chartered savings and loan association. Lee was able to provide loans and mortgages to African Americans to purchase more expensive homes as most white banks had a limit of \$13,000 that could be lent to blacks.

Lee opened a theater in Salisbury, North Carolina and built a radio and electronics trade school in Winston-Salem. For senior citizens, he built a fitness center in honor of his mother. For the business minded, he built an office complex near the NCA&T that bears his sons name and that of the owner of the Dudley Products Company, Joe Louis Dudley, Sr..

Extremely loved and high honored, UNC icon John Kenneth Lee, not only broke barriers but built a legacy of civil rights and economic advancement not only for himself but for everyone that needed his assistance.





## JOSEPH E. LEE

...was born in 1849 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduating high school, he attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he received both his undergraduate degree in Ministry and his degree

in law. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from Howard's Law School in 1873.

He left Washington moving to Jacksonville, Florida. He was admitted to the Florida State Bar the same year making him the first African-American attorney to open offices in Jacksonville. He was one of only a few African American lawyers in the state.

In 1875, Lee ran for and won a seat in the Florida House of Representatives. He served in the House for four years. He ran for and won a seat to the Florida State Senate in 1881. He served in the Senate for one term. During his term, Lee was nominated to the Florida Constitutional Convention as a Republican Delegate.

In 1888, Lee was elected as a Judge to the Jacksonville Municipal Court. He was the first African-American to be named as a Judge to the Court. While serving the Court, Lee also served as Dean of the law school to Edward Waters College, a black institution established in 1866 to educate freed slaves. For the next thirty years, Lee would serve as a Trustee of the college.

In 1890, Lee was appointed as Customs Collector for the Port of St. Johns. He would remain at the Port for only four years. He would, however, return to the job in 1897 where he would stay for an additional four years.

In 1898, Lee worked as a Collector of Internal Revenue. He became one of the highest paid Collectors for the Department. He stayed with the Internal Revenue office for five years.

For over four decades, Lee served as a public servant to residents of Jacksonville and the citizens of Florida. In return, Florida adopted him as one of its' own. He worked diligently throughout his professional career for those he represented. Joseph H. Lee was one of the most influential African-American Floridians during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He was a

leader in religious sectors and academic circles in Jacksonville. He was well respected on the local, county, and state levels by his peers and associates. The Joseph E. Lee Republican Club still operates in Jacksonville today.

Joseph E. Lee died March 25, 1920. He was seventy-one years old. Learning of his death, famed civil rights activists and educators James Weldon Johnson and A. Phillip Randolph gave tribute to Lee.



## L ENA S. KING LEE

...was born in Sumter County, Alabama. Her father, Samuel Sylvester King, was a coal miner. An activist, he fought for better conditions for miners, both black and white. At night, he worked as a chauffeur and butler to support his family. The family moved often be-

tween Alabama, Illinois and Pennsylvania, depending upon which coal mine was hiring and which one was not. Nonetheless, Lee's father made and saved enough money to be able to send her and her brother away to private boarding school owned by the black church.

By the time Lee graduated from high school, the family lived in Tarentum, Pennsylvania where she graduated third in her class in 1925. Her grades won her a scholarship to Cheyney Training School for Teachers, now Cheyney University of Pennsylvania in Cheyney, Pennsylvania. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Lee took a teaching job in Annapolis, Maryland. She moved to nearby Baltimore, where she also taught sixth grade in Baltimore's public schools while she continued her education.

She enrolled into Baltimore's Morgan State University where, in 1939, she earned her Bachelor's degree. To earn her law degree and due to the fact that the University of Maryland in nearby College Park did not allow blacks to attend its' graduate school, Lee travelled on weekends to New York City by train to attend New York University. She would receive her Master's degree in 1947. She then enrolled into the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, which was not connected to the University of Maryland at College Park, and received her law degree in 1951. At forty years of age, she became the third African-American woman to graduate from the school, after Juanita Jackson Mitchell and Elaine Carsley Davis.

In 1952, Lee was admitted to the Baltimore and Maryland bars. As she entered the legal world, she kept her teaching jobs in Annapolis and Baltimore. In fact, since receiving her Master's degree in 1947, she served as the Principal of Henry H. Garnet Elementary School. She would serve as Principal for the next seventeen years through 1964.

In 1966, mainly due to her devoted work in the Baltimore schools, Lee, at the age of sixty, was drafted to take a seat to the House of Delegates in the Maryland General Assembly. She represented the 4th District. The 4th District would later become the 38th, 39th, and the 44th Districts.

She became the first African American woman to be elected to the Maryland General Assembly. She would serve as a Delegate for fifteen years.

In 1970, Lee founded the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus. Her intent was to gather together the black legislators, many whom thought had "made it in life", to stress the need to huddle to legislate as a group. Known as "The Fearless One," Lee would ferret out bad bills and fight fearlessly to stop them before they hit the floor of the Assembly, and if they did, she'd fight even harder to kill them. She could smell out a snake bill and end it, many times in committee meetings.

In her legislative duties, Lee helped Morgan State receive their university status and helped save Baltimore's Orchard Street Church, a safe house on the historic Underground Railroad, from being torn down. She fought successfully for the construction of a new Provident Hospital, now Liberty Medical Center. The creation of no-fault divorce in Maryland, is credited in part to Lee's lobbying. In representing herself and her District, to Lee, it was never about the celebrity of being a Member of the General Assembly, it was about the service you brought and gave.

In 1982, Lee left her seat and handed the torch to a young brilliant and resolute leader, Elijah E. Cummings. She lobbied, campaigned, and raised money in an effort to get him elected. Although she wanted a woman to take her seat, she saw everything she wanted in woman in Cummings except the gender. She endorsed him and it would then be his duty to carry on in service to Maryland's 44th District. She left behind to him surpass a life devoted to public service as an educator and as a legislator. Cummings would go on to become a United States Congressman.

Leaving the legislator wasn't the end of Lee. She continued to fight for equal rights in education and more funding for the public schools. She pushed for higher pay for her teachers and advocated for their rights, especially when it came to the longer hours necessary to do their jobs and the lack of supplies and educational tools. She developed new curriculums intended to create higher standards in learning. Lee was intent upon making a contribution to her community and the country when it came to children and young adult learning.

Lee was a member of the American Federation of Teachers. Her life and her dedicated service has been recognized by the Federation and by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education when the presented her with a Presidential Citation. She is an inductee into the National Bar Association's prestigious Hall of Fame and the Hall of Fame in the Maryland Women's Bar Association

Lena K. Lee died in her sleep peacefully on her 100th birthday in the home she had lived in since 1940.



Photo Not Available



## MICHAEL WARING LEE

...was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland to Francis Lee and Thomas M. Lee Sr.. His mother was a school-teacher, a social worker, and a college librarian. His father worked as a photographer.

Lee graduated in 1968 from Northwestern High School. While in high school, he was active in student government affairs and would later found the Northwestern High School Alumni Association. After completing his high school studies, Lee attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota where he earned his undergraduate degree. He received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

While in law school, he worked to improve the Student Bar Association parliamentary procedures. He organized student caravans to travel to out-of-state moot court competitions and later served as the Chairman of the Moot Court Board. Lee also played a key role in resolving any issues that may spring up within the Black Law Students Association.

After graduating from law school, Lee served as a clerk for Chief Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman of the Baltimore Circuit Court. He would later take a job as an Assistant to the Baltimore City Solicitor. Le then became a staff attorney for the law firm of Mitchell, Mitchell and Mitchell.

In 1993, at the age of thirty, then Governor Harry R. Hughes appointed Judge Lee to fill a vacancy on the three member Baltimore City Orphans' Court. A year later, he became the Chief Judge upon the retirement of Chief Judge C. Warren Colgan, which made Judge Lee the first African American to be appointed as a Chief Judge of any Maryland Court in the history of all courts in the state of Maryland. Ironically, Judge Lee is the great-nephew of Everett J. Waring, the first African American attorney to be admitted to the Maryland State Bar, doing so in 1885.

The Orphans' Court is responsible for rendering decisions on legal disputes involving wills, estates and the guardianship of minors. While serving on the Orphans' Court, Judge Lee worked to make the Court respectable, fought to improve its' functionality, and to give it digni-

ty and respect. He worked faithfully to protect the rights of children and to ensure that their parent's estates were transferred with order.

In 1988, Judge Lee became an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland Law School teaching Appellate Advocacy. In his teaching, he was able to establish a rapport with the students hoping to give them a top-notch education in appellate law. He understood that the students were the future of the law profession and he worked diligently to give them the opportunity to learn and to take what they learned and apply it to their practice of the law. Although he was tougher than other Professors at the Law School, and many of the students did complain about the extra work demanded of Judge Lee, he gave them reinforcement and confidence that they could do what was asked of them and let them know that he cared deeply about them and their success.

Judge Lee suffered from seizures but never was one to allow his sickness to used as a deterrent to what he wanted to achieve for both his students at the law school and the children that he fought to protect while serving on the Orphan's Court bench. While teaching, he became more and more frail going from walking with crutches to being mobilized in a wheel chair, his energy never wained.

Judge Michael Waring Lee died on October 1, 1995 from complications of colon surgery at St. Joseph Medical Center in Baltimore. He was forty-two years old.



## TERRY HART LEE

...was the first African American graduate from the Wake Forest Law School. While at Wake Forest, she founded the Black American Law Students Association (BLSA). She also served as its' first President.

Lee began the BLSA in 1968 hoping to promote the aspirations and goals of black law students at the school. She wanted to bring about a change in the legal community that fostered an open dialogue about the issues facing African American lawyers and the African American community. The Wake Forest BLSA is affiliated with the Regional and National BLSA organizations.

Each year, the BLSA sponsors an annual scholarship banquet to raise money to help fund merit-based scholarships that are given to a selected BLSA student member in each law class. Eligible students must be current dues-paying members in their first, second or third year at the law school and in good standing with the guidelines of the student handbook. They must have completed all of their community service hours and the required pro bono service specified.

Lee first began her career taking a job with the General Services Administration (GSA) as an attorney-advisor and a litigator. At the GSA, Lee litigated complex cases centered on procurement policies and equal employment opportunity issues. She also litigated tort claims filed by the GSA in the U.S. District Court.

In the mid-1970s, Lee joined the Neighborhood Legal Services where she handled contract appeals, congressional inquiries and Freedom of Information Act matters. She served as a Legal Advisor to the U.S. Army Material Development and Readiness Command. She served as a longtime senior member of the General Counsel's Office and the U.S. Department of Commerce. While serving at the Department, she became the recognized expert in matters related federal acquisitions law.

Lee would serve at the U.S. Department of Commerce for seventeen years. During her stay, she has litigated cases before the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals; the Federal Bar Association; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; the U.S. Court of Federal Claims; and the U.S. General Accounting Office.

In July of 2011, Lee retired from her legal career after thirty-five years of distinguished service. She volunteered her services to issues surrounding violence against women, the plight of refugees for war torn or famine induced flight, and the vulnerability of the country's and the world population. She lobbied on gun control and the environment of grave concern to her. Lee worked to ensure that the judiciary was and remained independent of total government control. She also strove to be inclusive and created cross-cultural learning exchanges to bridge the gap between people of other cultures that had similar lifestyles.

Lee enjoyed calmness and practice yoga regularly and was an avid reader. She died on December 23, 2013.

Photo Not Available



## DA LEGGETT

...was born in a small town in Alabama where her mother was a schoolteacher and her father worked in a sawmill. She grew up in a time of extreme racial discord, segregated eating facilities, and paid poll tax in order to vote. In order to visit the local courthouse,

African Americans had to enter through a separate entrance for blacks only.

As a child that loved to read, Leggett could not use the all-white city library. To circumvent that, she read whatever books, newspapers, and magazines she could find. It was in one of those magazines, African American publication *Ebony*, that she read an article about then African American attorney Thurgood Marshall arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court the legendary "Brown v. Board of Education". Once she understood who Marshall was, she decided to become a lawyer.

Leggett graduated from a segregated high school before entering Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. She dropped out of Tuskegee after one and a half years and became married. She would have three children before divorcing and deciding to return to school. Because she had been married and had children, she was not able to receive financial aid but despite that, Leggett found a way to pay for her tuition and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of South Florida in Tampa, which was the first integrated school she had ever attended.

Leggett wanting to attend law school applied to several law schools and accepted a fellowship to Gonzaga Law School in Spokane, Washington. She moved with her three children to Spokane and attended both summer school and regular scheduled law school classes and completed her law degree studies in two and a half years to receive her Juris Doctor. While in law school, Leggett participated in two of the schools moot courts and won a regional championship and placed third in another national contest. She was able to pay for her and her children's living expenses by working in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Spokane.

After graduating from law school, Leggett clerked for then Chief Justice William Williams of the Washington Supreme Court. She passed the Idaho State Bar and became the first African American woman to be admitted to the state bar. She then joined the law firm of Lane Powell where she served as an associate attorney in the firm's civil litigation department. She focused her attention to defense of insurance claims and matters related to construction law.

After serving at Lane Powell for two years, Leggett accepted a job in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and worked in a new law

firm owned by a Gonzaga classmate for two years. Most African American attorneys would have concerns about opening a law firm in a state, which had a low population of African Americans and very few attorneys. She litigated cases in Idaho courts that had juries made up of white supremacist and others mildly against an African American representing them in open court.

After spending two more years representing an assortment of clients, Leggett caught the attention of the then Idaho Governor who appointed her to the Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole. She was the first African American female attorney to be appointed to such a role by the Governor. Her responsibilities included making decisions and finding consensus among her fellow Commission members about parole guidelines and who should be pardoned.

In 1992, then Governor Cecil Andrus appointed Leggett as a Trial Court Judge in Lewiston, Idaho, a small ranching and mill town having a population of approximately 30,000 residents. She became the first African American woman appointed to a state bench in the history of Idaho and served in the Second District. As a Judge, she was easy to like and was respected by both lawyers and litigants that came before her bench. She was not one to play legal games with but rather enjoyed the intellectual banter in the presentation of trials.

Although Judge Leggett was liked by many of the litigants and attorneys that came before the Court, there were twice as many that did not approve of her status. As a highly visible African American woman serving the community, she received threats on her life, particularly when she may have ruled against a family or friend of a defendant. When away from the Court, Judge Leggett found it difficult to co-exist in everyday life as she was constantly approached with some that gave her thanks for her role while others lambasted her at every opportunity.

Judge Leggett drew praise and criticism when she presided over the murder case of a former well known Deputy Sheriff who had killed two people alleged to have drugged and abused his teenage daughter. The case was later written about in Don Davis' book, "A Father's Rage", where Judge Leggett was applauded for being tough on the Deputy Sheriff. Although she could understand a father's rage and reaction to discovering the abuse of his daughter, she could not fathom a man of the law becoming a vigilante and taking the law into his own hands.

In 1998, Judge Leggett decided to leave the isolation of Idaho, resigned her post, and moved to Seattle, Washington to spend more time with one of her daughter's and her grandchildren. She opened a business venture that was not successful and continued to spend her time with her family. She taught her grandchildren the independence that she had been taught and pushed them to find a way to achieve what they wanted to achieve. Judge Leggett was a believer that one should never count on another to do something for them and that it was better to do it yourself.



**SIAH  
"IKE"  
LEGGETT**

was born on July 25, 1944 in Deweyville, Texas. His family moved to Alexandria, Louisiana where he was reared with his twelve siblings. He was a graduate and star football player of the Peabody Magnet High School in Alexandria. He then entered Southern

University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to earn his undergraduate degree. To support his tuition, Leggett worked as a groundskeeper in a work study program and graduated from Southern in 1967.

While in undergraduate school, Leggett was a leader in campus student civil rights organizations and had the privilege to twice meet Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Leggett served as a Commander in the Southern University Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) and during his senior year was elected as the President of his class. He also joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity while at Southern.

After graduating, Leggett enlisted into the United States Army and served as a Captain during the Vietnam War. He first served in combat with a Military Advisory Unit that supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. He then served as a Public Affairs Officer with the 7th Support Battalion/199th Light Infantry Brigade. In being discharged from the Army, Leggett was awarded the Bronze Star for Service.

Returning from the war, Leggett enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he earned his Master of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees in 1974. He graduated first in his law class. He then obtained a Master of Laws degree from Washington, D.C.'s George Washington University.

In his first professional legal job, Leggett served as a Professor of Law at Howard. He would teach at the school for the next thirty years. He did however take off for one year, in 1977, to serve as a White House Fellow under then President Jimmy Carter.

In 1979, Leggett was appointed as a member of the Montgomery County, Maryland's Human Relations Committee where he served for eight years. He was later named Chair of the Committee. He was then elected as an At-Large member the Montgomery County Council, the first African-American to serve. He is also the only African American to ever be elected to a Montgomery County, Maryland office At-Large. He was re-elected to the Council in the next three elections and served for three one-year terms as the President of the Council. While

sitting on the Council, Leggett served as the Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee and was pivotal in the passage of a County living wage law and a public smoking ban.

In 1992, Leggett came under fire when a County Council aide brought accusations of sexual harassment against him. The widely publicized case drew national attention with the allegations being dismissed but the damage was done to his reputation and he decided against running for his seat on the Council during the 2002 general election. Despite the negative publicity, Leggett's name was on the short list to run for Lieutenant Governor on the Democratic ticket for Kathleen Kennedy Townsend in the 2002 gubernatorial race. Unfortunately, she chose Admiral Charles R. Larson instead with some believing his sexual harassment scandal was too damaging for her to take the chance of adding Leggett as her running mate. Kennedy ultimately lost the race to Republican Robert Ehrlich who chose African American Michael S. Steele as his running mate, making Steele the first African American to be elected to a Maryland statewide election instead of Leggett. In consolation, Leggett was elected as the Chairman of the Maryland Democratic Party.

In 2004, Leggett left the Chairmanship of the Maryland Democratic Party to prepare to run for the position of County Executive of Montgomery County. The then serving County Executive, Doug Duncan had made the decision to run for Governor so Leggett set in motion a campaign to replace him. Leggett was victorious in his bid for the County Executive seat despite being outspent by his primary opponent Steve Silverman winning 61.3 percent of the votes. In the general election, Leggett easily outdistanced his Republican opponent Chuck Floyd and independent opponent Robin Ficker winning 68 percent of the casted votes. He won 239 of the 241 voting precincts.

While serving as the County Executive, Leggett proposed a statewide gas tax increase to help cover funding difficulties in the Transportation Department and administered new policies and a hiring site for day laborers with the city of Gaithersburg. He operated the County under a balanced budget and made improvements to roads, including an interconnecting highway cutting across the county to shorten traveling time for residents that lived on one side of the county but worked on the other side, which shortened traveling time.

In 2015, Leggett was elected as the President of the Maryland Association of Counties. In his role as President, he drew some criticism when he vetoed a bill that would gradually raise the minimum wage for workers in the County to \$15 per hour by the year 2020. Despite the veto, he was again re-elected as the County Executive in the past election and currently still serves.





## GEORGE N. LEIGHTON

... was born on October 22, 1912 in New Bedford, Massachusetts to Anna Silva Garcia and Antonio Neves Leitao. His parents had immigrated to the United States from Cape Verde, a group of island located off the coast of the countries of Mauritania and Senegal in West Africa. In America, Leighton's schoolteachers had difficulty pronouncing his last

name, Leitao. The closest they could muster was Leighton of which, Leighton's parents agreed, and Leitao became Leighton.

As poor immigrants, Leighton's parents did not have money to afford him the opportunity to attend school. Not dissuaded, he learned to read and studied on his own. His self-studies paid off when he won an essay contest sponsored by the Cape Verdean Memorial Scholarship Fund. The contest had a \$200 college scholarship as the winning prize. With his winnings and with no high school diploma, Leighton travelled to Washington, D.C., talked his way in and paid for his conditional and unclassified admittance to Howard University.

Leighton made Dean's List that first semester. He was rewarded for his studies by being admitted to Howard University's undergraduate class as a registered student. He would make the Honor Roll the next four years. To earn extra income, Leighton took a job working on an oil tanker during the day while at night he took classes at Howard to earn his undergraduate History degree. He would graduate from Howard with his law degree, magna cum laude.

In between earning his undergraduate and law degrees, Leighton took time away from his studies to fulfill his military duties. Between 1940 and 1945, he served in the ROTC's segregated 93rd Infantry Division as a Second Lieutenant. Upon his discharge from the military, Leighton had reached the rank of Captain of Infantry.

After his discharge, Leighton enrolled into Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he obtained his L.L.B. degree in 1946. Deciding in which state to take the Bar exam, he chose Massachusetts and Illinois. After taking and passing the Massachusetts State Bar exam, Leighton moved to Chicago where he took and passed the Illinois State Bar. He decided to make Chicago his home.

In 1947, Leighton began his law practice and soon became involved in Chicago's local political and social scenes where he built relationships and sought out those with similar and common causes. Within a few years, Leighton was involved in controversy. He was arrested for inciting a riot that lasted several days in Cicero, Illinois when he represented an African American bus driver on an integration case. To Leighton's defense came future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Leighton was acquitted of the charges.

Leighton then became the President of the Third Ward Regular Democratic Organization (TWRDO), serving for five years. While serving as President of the TWRDO, in 1949, Leighton also took a job as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Illinois. He would stay in the Attorney General's Office for three years.

In 1951, Leighton would cofound his own law firm in Chicago, which became one of the largest African American law firms in the

United States. He was then elected President of the Chicago Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He also served as legal counsel to the Donald Howard family in the infamous 1953 Chicago Trumbull Park Riot Case. A few years later, he was elected a Cook County Circuit Court Judge. In thirteen years, Leighton had grown from a fledgling independent attorney to Circuit Court Judge.

In 1956, Leighton was elected as a Judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. He served on the bench for five years. In 1969, he was appointed as Judge to the First District Appellate Court of Illinois becoming the first African American to hold this position in the State of Illinois.

In 1964, he began teaching at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. He also served as President and General Counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) while teaching. His legal work for the NAACP in fighting for the civil rights of African Americans covered areas of employment discrimination, employment and human rights violations, school desegregation, and voting rights.

In 1969, his dedicated work on the bench garnered him an appointment on the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Illinois First District. Six years later, U.S. President Gerald Ford appointed Leighton to serve on the U.S. District Court. On February 2, 1976, he was confirmed to the post. Leighton would retire from the U.S. District Court at the age of seventy-five. He continued practicing law, serving as Legal Counsel to famed Chicago law firm, Earl L. Neal & Associates.

In 1975, Leighton was nominated by then U.S. President Gerald Ford to a seat on the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Illinois. In 2005, the United States Postal Service renamed the New Bedford, Massachusetts's local post office, "The Honorable Judge George N. Leighton Post Office Building", in his honor. In 2012, the Cook County Criminal Courthouse in Chicago had its name changed as a tribute to Leighton.

While serving on the bench Leighton presided over many important and high-profile cases but none more so than the case of four members of a Puerto Rican state independence group who were on trial for plotting to bomb two Chicago military training centers. During the trial, Leighton had several supporters of the Puerto Rican independence group removed from the court after they intimidated witnesses by using hand signs to send messages of death threats. There were even threats of violence against him, but the case moved forward.

Leighton has served in leadership roles in judicial associations, governmental focus groups, adjudication associations, local, state and federal bar associations, and local community and civic Boards. He has served the Advisory Committee of the Illinois Division; the American Civil Liberties Union; the Character and Fitness Committee for the First Appellate District of Illinois; the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce; the Committee for the Adoption of an Open Occupancy Statute; the Drafting Sub-Committee of the Citizens Committee for the Adoption of the Fair Employment Practice Act; the Grant Hospital; the Illinois Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; the Independent Voters of Illinois; the Legal Redress Committee of the Chicago NAACP; and the Legislative Committee Chairman. Leighton also assisted the Public Review Board of the United Auto Workers, the Mayor's Citizens Committee on City Revenue and Expenditures, and the United Church of Christ.

Leighton is a tournament qualified chess player having picked up the game during his collegiate years when he worked on oil tankers. In retirement and at age one hundred and four, he still played. His mind was still bright, still sharp, and still calculating.





## **G**EOERGE "MICKEY" THOMAS LELAND

...was born on November 27, 1944 in Lubbock, Texas to Alice and George Thomas Leland, II. The family, when Leland was very young, moved to Houston, Texas's Fifth Ward, a predominantly African American and Hispanic neighborhood. He attended

Wheatley High School where he placed within the top ten percent of his class Rankings. Graduating, in 1964, he matriculated to Texas Southern University in his hometown, Houston.

Leland graduated from Texas Southern in 1970 earning a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy. He accepted a position at his alma mater as an Instructor of Clinical Pharmacy serving for one year. He turned his attention to the people health care. He set up an outreach campaign for low-income neighborhoods going door-to-door informing the public about medical care options and performing preliminary screenings. He then began to look at the political scene in Texas.

Texas, in 1972, changed laws and allowed seats in the State House of Representatives and State Senate to be elected as single-member districts. Five minority candidates, labeled the "People's Five", ran for district seats. Leland, and two others, Craig Washington and Benny Reyes, were victorious. He was re-elected in 1974 and in 1976, representing the 88th District in the Texas House.

While in Austin, he was a staunch advocate for hunger and public healthcare for the poor. His advocacy was key to passage of legislation that provided low-income citizens with affordable generic drugs. He also supported healthcare access through the creation of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO's) and was recognized as an advocate for children and the elderly healthcare issues.

Leland served on the Texas State Labor Committee, State Affairs Committee, Human Resources Committee, Legislative Council, and the Subcommittee on Occupational and Industrial Safety. From his seat on these committees, he fought vigorously to ensure his constituents healthcare rights were accessible and protected.

Elected Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Prison Reform, he took on the care of prison inmates. He became the first African American to serve on the Senate-House Conference Committee as a member of the House Appropriations Committee. For the Houston area civil rights movement, he emerged as a passionate and vocal leader. He brought other black national civil rights leaders to Houston to help in his purpose.

After serving in the Texas State Legislature for six years, in November of 1978, Leland was elected to the United States House of Representatives representing Texas' 18th District. He

easily won re-election in 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986 and again in 1988, serving until he died. In Washington, his leadership abilities allowed him serve as Freshman Majority Whip and twice as At-Large Majority Whip.

Concerned about the hungry and homeless, in 1984, Leland with the help of U.S. Rep. Ben Gilman (R-NY), established the House Select Committee on Hunger, of which Leland served as its' first Chairman. The Committee's mandate was to study the problems surrounding hunger and malnutrition." Exerting his personal moral leadership, his committee, to ensure access to fresh food for at-risk women, children and infants, he made legislative initiatives that created the National Commission on Infant Mortality. Leland helped create the first comprehensive programs that provided services for the homeless.

Notwithstanding the hunger issues in the U.S., Leland lent his hand in eradicating hunger around the world. In sub-Saharan, Leland lead a bipartisan Congressional delegation to evaluate food and health conditions and to determine what relief requirements were needed. To help solve the problem, he brought entertainers, religious leaders and any willing volunteers together asking for support for the Africa Famine Relief and Recovery Act of 1985. A successful campaign it was, raising over \$800 million in food and humanitarian relief supplies, saving thousands of lives.

While in Congress, Leland served on other committees. He was a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Subcommittees on Telecommunications and Finance, Health and the Environment, and Energy and Power. He was Chair of the Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services, a member of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, and a member the Subcommittee on Compensation and Employment. Leland received an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, Texas Southern University during the administration of then President Leonard O. Spearman.

A promoter of responsible children's television/cable programming and broadcasting, Leland through congressional hearings aroused the nation's conscience by highlighting the violence portrayed in what children watched on television. He advocated Affirmative Action in broadcast employment, in front of and behind the camera, and most importantly, and ownership. He fought to correct the ethnic stereotypes and unfairly portrayed images of the rich diversity that makes up the American people. Leland fought for minority participation in industries from healthcare to investment banking. He fought for inclusion for all.

Leland served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) from 1985 to 1986 during the 99th Congress. He also a member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 1976 to 1985 serving as Chairman of the its' Black Caucus. He also served on the DNC's Executive Committee.

Leland died on August 7, 1989 in a plane crash in Gambela, Ethiopia. While on a mission to Fugnido, Ethiopia fifteen people, including Leland, died in the crash. To commemorate his death, many initiatives and buildings have been named in honor of him, including The International Terminal (Terminal D) at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas.





## NEKIMI VALDEZ LEVY-POUNDS

...was born on June 27, 1976 in Jackson, Mississippi. She was the eldest of five children. When she was eight years old, the family moved to South Central Los Angeles, California. A gifted student, when she turned fourteen, she received an invitation to attend the prestigious board

school, Brooks School located in North Andover, Massachusetts.

After completing her studies at the Brooks School, she returned to Los Angeles to enroll into the University of Southern California where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She then attended the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign, Illinois and earned her Juris Doctorate degree. After passing the California bar, Levy-Pounds began her legal career working in Los Angeles until deciding in 2003 to relocate to Minnesota.

Once settled in Minnesota, Levy-Pounds took a job as an Associate Professor of Law teaching at the University of St. Thomas (UST) in Minneapolis. While teaching, she conducted research that focused her attention on the War on Drugs, unjust incarceration, mandatory sentencing, and sentencing guidelines. She paid particular attention to sentencing that affected women, children of color, and young black men.

In 2006, Levy-Pounds founded the Community Justice Project (CJP). In a partnership with UST's School of Law and the Saint Paul chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the project was funded. The CJP was created to allow law students who had interest in working with underserved communities gain experience through academic writing, holding public forums, and interacting with local governments and community leaders.

Brotherhood Inc., a self-help organization dedicated to helping young African American men leave or stay away from gang activity and the pipeline to prison was founded by Levy-Pounds. She chaired the Minnesota State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. She also gave legal counsel to Everybody In, a nonprofit organization having the goal of closing race-based employment gaps in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul and suburban areas.

Levy-Pounds has penned several articles and has been published in the Twin Cities Daily Planet and the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper. She has also appeared in the MinnPost, a local nonprofit online newspaper. She takes her testimony to the pulpit and served as a visiting preacher at Minneapolis's First Covenant Church.

In 2014, Levy-Pounds took part in anti-police brutality protests in Ferguson, Missouri after the killing of African American Michael Brown by white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. She participated in a protest of police brutality held at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota and sponsored by the national civil rights organization, Black Lives Matter. Levy-Pounds and ten other pro-

testers were charged by the City of Bloomington with disorderly conduct and trespassing, which carried a penalty and fine up to \$8,000 and called for a prison sentence of up to two years.

Levy-Pounds, who could be characterized as a defender and protector of the law and the community, labeled the charges as simple prosecutorial overreach and pointed out that the entire process was a misuse of taxpayers' dollars. The City of Bloomington, wanted \$40,000 in restitution from the marchers and protestors for the cost of maintaining peace during the protests, including overtime pay for police officers. The Police Department's administrators later withdrew their request for restitution and the charges filed by the City of Bloomington against the protestors, were dismissed by a Hennepin County Judge.

In 2015, Levy-Pounds decided to run for the position as President of the Minneapolis chapter of the NAACP. She ran unopposed on the ballot but was criticized by past President Jerry McAfee who questioned her time she spent focusing on issues of police brutality rather than focusing on crimes committed by African Americans against other African Americans. Nonetheless, Levy-Pounds became the President of the Minneapolis chapter. As President, Levy-Pounds hoped to attract more youth to become involved with the NAACP. She used her Presidency to bring attention to the racial disparities in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area, labeling them as some of the worst in the nation.

Levy-Pounds became a part of another city protest when in November of 2015, Minneapolis police officers shot and killed African American Jamar Clark. The black community upset with the shooting, protested and created a human blockade of the city's Interstate 94, a major thoroughfare through the city. Over forty protestors were arrested and Levy-Pounds was one of the first arrested as she was in the front of the line of the protestors. After her release, she continued with other protests during the following days. Savvy in her social media networking, Levy-Pounds was able to bring national attention to the police killings in Minnesota, which brought support from several national civil rights attorneys.

In 2016, Levy-Pounds resigned from her teaching job at UST to give more time to her endeavors related to economic inequities and racial justice. She also did not seek a second term as the President of the Minneapolis chapter of the NAACP. She vowed that she would be even more visible in her crusade to better the lives of the community that she served.

Levy-Pounds then announced her intention to run for Mayor of Minneapolis in the November 2017 general election. She made her announcement on the steps of Minneapolis's 4th Precinct police station, the site of eighteen-day protests held a year before after the police killing of Jamar Clark. She will face incumbent Mayor Betsy Hodges. Levy-Pounds will have support from some of the city residents while others feel her positions are too divisive.

Levy-Pounds has been honored and given several accolades including being named one of the "50 Under 50" by Lawyers of Color. The Minnesota Lawyer's named her as an "Attorney of the Year" and the Hennepin County Bar Association gave Levy-Pounds its' "Diversity Award". Levy-Pounds is married and has five children. Two of them are adopted. She lives within the city of Minneapolis, living on the north side.





## DAVID B. LEWIS

...was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He received his undergraduate degree with honors in 1980 from the University of Oklahoma where he studied Business Administration. In 1983,

earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the same university's College of Law.

He began his legal career in private practice in Lawton, Oklahoma where he served his clients' needs for three years. In 1987, he took a position with Comanche County Oklahoma as an Assistant District Attorney. He served in that capacity for four years. From 1991 to 1999, Lewis served as a Special District Judge of Comanche, Cotton, Jefferson, and Stephens Counties by then Governor Frank Keating. In 2002, he became the Chief Judge of the Comanche County Courthouse.

In 2005, Governor Brad Henry appointed him to the Court of Criminal Appeals. He became the first African American to be appointed to the Court. He would later become, in 2013, the Presiding Judge of the Court. With his appointment, Lewis became the first African American to serve as Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Throughout his professional career, Judge Lewis has shown the highest regard for legal proceedings. His opinions and rulings have been more conservative than liberal. While not as conservative as some of his colleagues on the Court, Lewis' political stance is still more conservative than the remaining members on the Court.

Lewis has been honored many times over and has received many prestigious awards. He served the Oklahoma Judicial Conference as a past President. He is an Oklahoma Bar Association fellow and is a selected member of the Henry Toll Fellowship Program of the Council of State Governments. He was also the Reach Out and Read Oklahoma past Chairman.

Other public honors and awards bestowed upon Lewis include serving on the Boards of the Black Achievers Program, Goodwill Industries of Lawton, Lawton Chamber of Commerce, the Oklahoma Access to Justice Commission, the Oklahoma Bar Association's National Mock

Trial Task Force, and the Oklahoma Bar Association's Professionalism Committee.

Lewis was a member of the Lawton Kiwanis Club and served on the Board of the Christian Family Counseling Center. In addition, he mentored young adults in the Lawton public school system. For his dedicated service on the bench, Lewis was re-elected to the bench where he will serve this term through the year 2018.



## WILLIAM HENRY LEWIS

...was born on November 28, 1868 in Berkley, Virginia. His father was a respected minister and education was important to him. At the age of fifteen, Lewis applied and was accepted into the Virginia

Normal and Collegiate Institute, now Virginia State University.

At the urging of Virginia Normal's President, John Mercer Langston, Lewis transferred to Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts to complete his studies. Lewis made the trip north and worked as a waiter to help pay his tuition. He also played football on the school's football team of three years. In the 1890 season, Lewis was voted as team captain. He also served as the class Orator after winning several school oratory and debate contests. For his graduation, in attendance was the famed W.E.B. DuBois who had come to congratulate him on his achievement.

Leaving Amherst, Lewis enrolled into Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For two years, he played on the Harvard football team as a center. In both years, he was named to the College Football All-American Teams. He was the first African American to be honored by the association. At the last game of Lewis' football career at Harvard, he was unable to play. In respect to his play at Harvard, the team voted him as Acting Captain of the team making him the first African American to be named a captain of the Harvard football team.

After completing law school in 1898, Harvard hired Lewis as one of their football coaches. He would spend six years on Harvard's field. The team during his tenure posted a winning record of 114-15-5. While coaching, Lewis wrote one of the first books on football tactics, "A Primer of College Football", published by Harper & Brothers. In his detailed book, he looked at the fundamentals of the sport from blocking, passing, catching, kicking, making holes, the breaking through of tackles and defensive tackling. For safety, he highlighted ways to avoid injuries. Lewis, for his knowledge of the game has been compared to legendary football mind, Walter Camp. Lewis would be inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

In 1899, Lewis entered the world of politics by successfully running for election to the Cambridge Common Council. He served for three years before being elected to the Massachusetts State Legislature. There would be a decade before another African American would be elected to the Council.

While at studying at Harvard, Lewis had become friends of Harvard alumni and President Theodore Roosevelt. Lewis had even been a guest at Roosevelt's Oyster Bay, New York estate. In

1903, at the request of Roosevelt to then President William Taft, Lewis was appointed as the United States Attorney for Boston, Massachusetts. He became the first African American to be an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

In 1910, Lewis was named by then President William Howard Taft as one of the five United States Assistant Attorney Generals. The post comes with a handsome salary with access to White House functions. There was extreme dissatisfaction to Lewis being named to the post by southern legislators and those of his own party who felt that although Lewis could pass for white, the position was to high a position for a black.

After several months of infighting, in June of 1911, Congress confirmed Lewis as an Assistant Attorney General. Lewis became the first African American to be appointed to the position. He also became the highest-ranking African American in any position working for the federal government. A year later, Lewis became the first African American to be admitted to the American Bar Association (ABA).

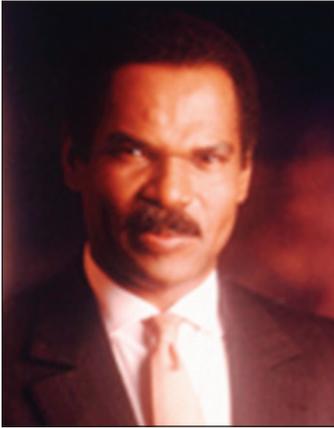
In becoming a member of the ABA, Lewis fought extreme opposition to his membership. Once it was discovered that Lewis was a Negro and not white, the membership quickly put pressure on Lewis to resign his membership but Lewis refused. Instead, he called for more blacks to become involved in the organization. He became an advocate for African Americans in the legal profession. In his fight over his removal from the ABA, Lewis published an article calling on black lawyers to represent the black defendants that filled the dockets of the Courts that were being exploited, swindled and misused by the legal system.

In 1913, Lewis entered private practice law in Massachusetts. He quickly earned a reputation as an outstanding trial lawyer and had argued cases before the United States Supreme Court. He represented clients facing racial discrimination and others charged with bootlegging and corruption. He was also active in Republican politics.

Outspoken on issues of race and discrimination, Lewis once sued a Cambridge white barber for \$5,000 who refused to shave him. His suit and his lobbying were integral to the passage of a Massachusetts law that prohibits racial discrimination in public places of accommodation. Lewis fought discrimination whenever he saw racial abuse or injustice.

In 1919, in the New York Herald a call for a National Conference was published. Lewis was one of the signatories to the action of calling an end to the lawless lynching in America's Deep South. After Lewis' call for the conference, there was a spike in the racial attacks against blacks across the country. The northern and mid-western cities where blacks had migrated were full of European immigrants that were competing for the same livelihoods. During the next several years, bad race relations and the lynching of blacks rose. The summer of 1919 was labeled "Red Summer".

William Henry Lewis died on January 1, 1949 of heart failure. He was eighty years old.



## REGINALD F. LEWIS

...was born on December 7, 1942 in Baltimore, Maryland. He grew up on the east side of the city in a neighborhood where he was influenced by his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and the neighbors that surrounded him. He was taught early on to be the best he could be at whatever he was doing. He credits his

grand parents with instilling in him a sense of hard work and wise savings.

By the time Lewis reached the age of ten, he had already parlayed his savings for a newspaper route. For two years, he sold newspapers for the local Afro American newspaper. Following his grandmothers advice on saving, for every \$20 he earned, he only spent \$2, saving \$18 for future use. He sold the paper route later at a profit.

Lewis also received good childhood training from his grandfather. Working as a headwaiter and maitre d' at a private country club, he drilled into the young Lewis that he must know his job in detail and then do the very best job possible. It was while working at the country club that Lewis found his love for fine food, fine culture, and the French language. Stressing the value of education, his family pushed Lewis at every turn with the goal of preparing him for success.

Lewis attended Baltimore's Dunbar High School. When he was a wise sixteen years old, he and one of his friends, Rober Mack Bell, joined a group of Morgan State University students in a sit-in of a lunch counter at one of Baltimore's segregated white restaurants in protest of Maryland's "No Trespassing" law. They were promptly arrested, charged with trespassing, and fined \$10 each.

The students were tried and convicted in the Maryland court. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and their Legal Defense Fund (LDF) hired prominent lawyers, Thurgood Marshall and Juanita Jackson Mitchell to appeal the case. Losing the appeal, the LDF hired attorneys Constance Baker Motley and Jack Greenberg to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court vacated the case back to Maryland's Supreme Court who, because of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, withdrew the students convictions. At sixteen years old, Lewis, Bell and the Morgan State students were involved in ending segregated public facilities in the state.

Graduating from Dunbar, Lewis enrolled into Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia on a football scholarship. A gifted athlete in high school, he unfortunately suffered a career ending injury which ended his play of football. He turned his attention to his studies and work. He found a job as a photographer's sales assistant. As he did with his paper route, he was a success. He secured so much business that the owner offered him a partnership. He politely declined as he knew that to accept the partnership would mean he would have to lessen his studying. Knowing what he wanted to do ultimately, he wisely chose his studies over ownership. Lewis left Virginia State University on the Deans List.

During the summer of 1965, Lewis won an opportunity to attend a program at Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, Harvard was seeking a select number of black students interested in legal studies

to participate in the summer program. Lewis did so well that the university extended an invitation for him to attend the law school in the fall. That became the first time in the 148-year history of the school, that Harvard had admitted anyone before they actually applied. At the time of his graduation in 1968, with honors, Lewis was well prepared for the legal field he wanted to explore, that of securities law and mergers and acquisitions.

Entering the legal world, Lewis accepted a position at one of the most prestigious law firms in New York City; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Two years later he left to begin his own practice. He and a few other colleagues opened the first African American law firm on New York's Wall Street. Lewis soon attracted several major corporate giants, including Equitable Life Insurance and General Foods. He represented the Wilmington Ten, a case involving ten African Americans charged with arson, and was counsel to the New York-based Commission for Racial Justice.

In 1983, Lewis left law to create the a venture capital firm, TLC Group L.P. With the help of private financier, Norton Simon and one of the largest brokerage firms on Wall Street. In his very first venture under the TLC Group, L.P., Lewis successfully purchased the number two sewing pattern company, McCall Pattern Company. Leveraging the buyout for 22.5 million dollars, Lewis instantly became the largest African American business in the U.S.

McCall, although profitable, was struggling. Lewis streamlined the operations and within one year, he brought the company the best yearly profit in its' 113-year history. For years after purchasing McCall, Lewis sold the company for \$65 million. He had made a 90 to 1 return on his investor's investment. Always keeping is grandmother's advice of saving his money, Lewis walked away with over 80% of the profits.

Not done, Lewis saw a larger deal. Learning of a possible sale, he successfully negotiated the purchase of the international division of Beatrice Foods which owned 64 companies in 31 countries. Pay a whopping \$985 million, the deal became the largest offshore leveraged buyout by an American company ever. Rebranding the company as TLC Beatrice International, Inc., Lewis took over as Chairman and CEO.

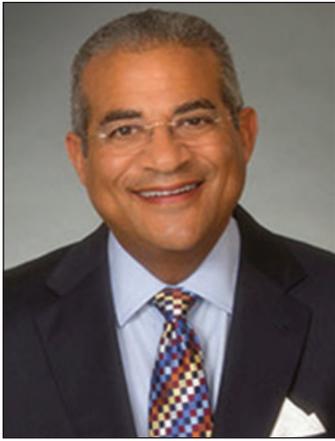
It wasn't long before, again following his grandmother's advice to work hard and save his money, at its' peak, the company had an annual revenue of over \$2.2 billion. Listed on *Fortune's* 500 top companies in the U.S. at number 512, the company was doing well. It was listed first for African American owned business on the *Black Enterprise's* List of Top 100 black owned companies. With the company doing well and his foundation, The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, awarding millions of dollars in grants to various non-profit programs, colleges, universities and other social organizations, Lewis was a man amongst men.

Continually giving of his time, energy and money, those that respected and loved Lewis returned the favor. He has been honored in so many ways and given so many awards, far more than can be listed here. In his honor, Harvard University named their ts International Law Center the Reginald F. Lewis International Law Center. That building became the first major facility at Harvard named in honor of an African-American.

In his honor, knowing his love of art and culture, the Maryland State Legislature, along with a \$5 million grant from Lewis' Foundation, he Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture opened in Baltimore in 2005. The magnificent 82,000 square-foot facility sits ear Baltimore's Inner Harbor with a grand view of Lewis' beloved Baltimore.

Reginald F. Lewis, after a short illness died on January 1993, at age the young age of fifty.





## WILLIAM P. LIGHTFOOT

...was born on January 3, 1950. He is Washington, D.C. Injury Attorney known for his effectiveness and the large judgments he has won for his clients. Managing Partner at the law

firm of William P. Lightfoot, Koonz, McKenney, Johnson, DePaolis & Lightfoot, L.L.P., William spends his professional and political time helping to improve communities. Wanting to make the metropolitan area safer for everyone, Lightfoot has successfully helped clients and constituents, in their cases which ultimately have made large scale changes in the lives of the citizens of Washington, D.C..

Haven been elected to public office, Mr. Lightfoot served for eight years as an At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia, chairing the Committee on the Judiciary. While a Council Member, he continued to practice personal injury law. He has practiced law in Washington, D.C. for more than thirty years. He made notable success in burn victim cases, specifically children disfigured by scalding water.

In Addition to Lightfoot securing large compensation awards for burn victims, his cases led to reforms in the hot water Industry. He was successful in persuading utility companies, hot water heater manufacturers, and landlords to lower set temperatures on water heaters. He is credited with the notification and warnings to consumers about the risk of burn injuries from scalding water. From his efforts, he received a U.S. Patent for developing a label on an air conditioners. He graciously gave the use of the patent to the public.

Mr. Lightfoot's cases have been influential in preventing childhood injuries. His cases have been cited by The National Safe Kids Campaign, a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, as being pivotal to changes in manufacturing processes and children protective laws. Other cases have led to changes in the construction industry and in hospital operations.

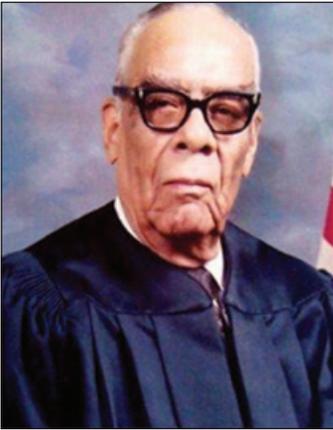
Some case findings and rulings have made changes in the procedures utility companies use to detect energized

electrical lines. Some case findings have reformed how doctor's offices keep its' medical records while other cases have protected workers, as they are now required to wear safety harnesses on elevated work platforms.

Mr. Lightfoot was honored by being awarded the Attorney of the Year "Good Scout" Award from the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, In 2008, in recognition for his work making the community a much better place to live. The recognition of his contributions and professionalism extends beyond his client base but throughout the professional world. For many years, the Washingtonian Magazine has regularly selected Mr. Lightfoot as one of the best lawyers in the District of Columbia. His opinions are often quoted on matters of law and politics throughout the media.

Mr. Lightfoot graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. before attending Washington University's School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. He is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. The National Board of Trial Advocacy certifies him in the field of civil trial advocacy, and he is a Diplomat of the National College of Advocacy. He has the highest rating as an attorney from Martindale Hubbell, an information services company to the legal profession[, founded in 1868. The company publishes the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, which provides background information on United States lawyers and law firms.

Mr. Lightfoot has been married to Cynthia for thirty-five years and they have two children, Ariana and B.J.



## ROBERT EMMITT LILLARD

...was born on March 23, 1907 in Nashville, Tennessee to Virginia (Allen) Lillard and John W. Lillard. From an early age, Robert knew he wanted to become a lawyer. Growing up in the south gave him plenty of reasons to do so.

Lillard attended local Nashville public schools before graduating high school from Immaculate Mother's Academy. He attended Beggins Commercial College, still wanting to become a lawyer. Once he completed his undergraduate studies, he set his sights on law school.

In 1932, he enrolled into the law school, Kent College of Law, a Nashville law school began by Z. Alexander Looby and several other black Nashville leaders. At the time, there were no black laws schools in Tennessee for black students wanting to become lawyers to attend. While working his way through college as a garage attendant, he married Hallie C. Moore. Together, they had three children. He graduated from Kent Law school in 1935.

Completing law school, Lillard took and passed the Tennessee bar exam. Although he had successfully been admitted to the bar, he continued to work at the city garage. In 1937, the Nashville Fire Engine Company No. 11 appointed him as a fireman. For fourteen years, he drove a fire truck, even though he had a law degree. In 1950, he left the fire department due to injuring himself and being given a disability pension. He then turned to his law degree.

As he entered the world of practicing law on a full time basis, Lillard became heavily involved with local politics. He focused his attention on issues that impacted the black communities in the Nashville area. He began an organization to help blacks in their voting rights. The 15th Ward Colored Voters and Civic Club was created in 1932. His purpose was to have the local politicians pay for black voter's poll tax of \$2 which many in the fifteenth ward could not afford. For the next several years, Lillard worked diligently for the concerns of his beloved Nashville residents.

In the 1951 election for Councilman, Lillard entered the race for the third district seat. A predominantly black district, the incumbent Councilman, Charles Castleman was white. The Democratic party and current Mayor Thomas Cummings supported Castleman. In order to persuade Lillard to drop out of the race, several white politicians tried to bribe him offering jobs and money if he exited the race. Lillard responded by emphatically stating that he could not be bought out or frightened out. They needed to beat him in the general election.

To split the black vote, some were persuaded by white politicians, Daniel West, a local Negro entered the race. West's entrance created a run-off election between Castleman and Lillard. Lillard was victorious over Castleman in the run-off Election. With his win, he, along with Z. Alexander Looby became the first blacks elected to Nashville's city council since 1911.

For twenty years Lillard on Nashville's City Council. During his time there, he never missed a regular Council meeting. While on the Council, he served on several committees as Chairman. He chaired the Public Election Committee, the Special Water Sewer Rate Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and the Special Beer, Wine, and Whiskey Committee. He was a leading voice in the transformation of making Cameron Junior High School a second high school for black students.

Lillard helped pass an ordinance to desegregate the Parthenon in Centennial Park. The Parthenon is a full-scale replica of the original Parthenon in Athens, Greece. Nashville's Parthenon was built for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897.

He opposed the state of Tennessee's plan to consolidate the city and county governments stating that a metropolitan form of government would weaken the black vote. In 1967, while a member of the City Council, Lillard took the position of Vice Mayor Pro Tem. He became the first black to serve in that capacity for the City of Nashville. He later ran He made unsuccessfully for the permanent job of Vice Mayor and Councilman-At-Large.

While a Councilman, Lillard's law practice continued to grow. His political activism grew as well. As an attorney, in 1955, he was admitted to argue cases before the Federal District Court. Two years later, he was admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals and the Sixth Circuit Court. In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court gave him court privileges.

In 1960, Lillard founded the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Leagues. For President John F. Kennedy's presidential election, he campaigned vigorously for Kennedy's Victory. He later was offered the job as Nashville's Assistant U. S. Attorney. He, however, turned that position down. He did accept an appointment to the Tennessee State Board of Pardons and Paroles by Governor Frank Goad Clement in 1964 and again in 1967 by newly elected Governor Buford Ellington. Governor Ray Blanton, in 1978, appointed Lillard as Judge of the First Circuit Court, Tenth Judicial District. Five months later, Lillard left the bench, retiring at the age of seventy-one.

For the next thirteen years, Lillard remained active in the community and with his church family. He died on November 6, 1991. His remains were interred in Nashville's Greenwood Cemetery, the second cemetery opened in Nashville where African Americans could be buried.





## CHARISSE LITTLE

...is a native of Houston, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut in 1973 cum laude. She enrolled into Temple University's Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 1976 making

the Dean's Honor List. In 1982, she would obtain her LL.M. degree from the Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. Little would go on to be awarded a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, from Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania in 2005.

Little began her legal career as a trial attorney working for the United States Department of Justice in its' Civil Rights Division. She then became a United States Assistant Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania before accepting the job of General Counsel to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. She also served as the City Solicitor of the City of Philadelphia.

In 1992, Little became a partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP. She served as Chair of the firm's litigation department. She was also a member of the firm's Employment and Labor Law Group and advised the firm's clients on anti-discrimination issues and diversity. She remained with the firm for thirteen years, departing in 2005.

In 1994, Little became a Trustee of Friends Select School, a Pre-K through 12 academic institution based on Quaker foundations. She served as President of the Board from 2003 to 2006. Little remained with the school for eight years.

In 2005, Lillie joined Comcast Corporation, a leader in the nation's providers of communication services and entertainment products as Vice President of Human Resources. Comcast, at that time, had over 24 million cable customers, 14 million high-speed Internet customers, and 5 million digital voice customers use Comcast's services. The company owns broadcasting networks including E!, Entertainment Television, G4, PBS KIDS Sprout, Style Network, The Golf Channel, TV One, VERSUS, and ten Comcast SportsNet networks. Comcast also operates Comcast Interactive Media, which manages the company's Internet business, including Comcast.net. Comcast owns the majority of the stock of Comcast-Spectacor, owners of the National Basketball League's Philadelphia 76ers and the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers. In addition, Comcast-Spectacor owns two large multipurpose event arenas in Philadelphia.

In 2011, Little was promoted to Vice President of Community Investment and Executive Vice President of the Comcast Foundation. She reported directly to Executive Vice President David L. Cohen. In her new role, Little assumed overall leadership of the community investment programs for Comcast including Comcast's Foundation and its' charitable giving initiatives.

The Comcast Foundation was created in June of 1999 by the Comcast Corporation and serves as the companies primary source of its' support of community related charity. Aimed at supporting programs that create positive and sustainable endeavors for local communities throughout the country. Some of the charities that Comcast supported under Little leadership include Big Brothers Big Sisters, City Year, the National Council of La Raza, the National Urban League, and the United Way.

Little and Comcast Foundation President Joe Waz played a prominent role in Comcast's drive to build a national reputation of giving back to the communities in which they serve. That year, Comcast charitable giving exceeded \$180 million in grants to over 500 non-profit organizations. \$13.5 million in cash was given to more than 1,500 other organizations for their immediate needs. In addition, the Foundation provided another \$154 million of in-kind contributions in the form of televised public service announcements.

After twelve years serving as Comcast's Vice President of Community Investment and Executive Vice President of the Comcast Foundation, in January 2017, Little left Comcast. Although retired, Little was far from done helping local communities across the country. Highly respected and admired, she continued working as an advocate for assisting non-profit organizations in Philadelphia. She continued working to strengthen community partnerships and remained a leader in developing digital literacy for the youth of Philadelphia and those around the nation.

Little has been honored by many and has been given accolades across the country for her work at Comcast. Her service to the nation's communities cannot be measured. For her dedicated service, in 2012, Little was honored by Philadelphia's Temple University Law Alumni Association when they bestowed upon her their Diversity Leadership Award. She was recognized as one of the most influential and powerful African American woman in the cable industry by the magazine CableFAX. The magazine recognized Little for five consecutively years, 2011-2015. In 2016, Multichannel News named a Little as the "Woman to Watch".

She has been the recipient of Liberty Award from the Greater Philadelphia chapter of Women in Cable Telecommunications, the Philadelphia Magazine Trailblazer Award, and Operation Understanding Outstanding Service Award. Little also was awarded the Paragon Award from the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Multi-Ethnicity in Communications.

Little has served as the President of the Board of Juvenile Law Center. She is a member of the Board to the American Arbitration Association, the Forum of Executive Women, the Franklin Institute, Howard University, and the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. She also serves the Boards of the PECO Energy Company, Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, the PNC Regional Advisory Board, and the United Way. Little also served as Chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity and as Chair of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.





## WALTER R. LITTLE

...was born in 1943 and raised in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest of twelve children that was raised by their single mother in public housing after father died when he was young. After

graduating from Central Catholic High School, Little joined the United States Army to fulfill his military duties where he spent four years.

After being discharged from the military, Little returned home to Pittsburgh and enrolled into the Community College of Allegheny County and earned an Associate's degree in 1968. He then entered the University of Pittsburgh and received his undergraduate degree in 1970. He remained at the University's Law School to receive his law degree doing so in 1973.

To begin his professional legal career, Little served as a clerk for Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge I. Martin Wekselman. He then clerked for Judge Livingston Johnson before becoming a County Public Defender. He then became a staff attorney for the Neighborhood Legal Services and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Affairs.

Little then became a Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He served as a Deputy Attorney for three years. He then became a trial attorney in the Allegheny County District Attorneys Office where he remained for another three years. Little was then appointed by then Mayor Richard Caliguiri as a District Magistrate of the City of Pittsburgh in 1979 where he stayed for six years.

In 1985, Little was elected as a Judge to the Common Pleas Court. As a Common Pleas Judge, Judge Little continued his tough stance of adjudicating cases in the criminal court. He employed a style that embodied legal intelligence with a flair of street sense. He kept up to date on new changes in the laws and ensured attorney's and litigates were abreast of those changes. A willing teacher, Judge Little was incredibly kind to those that showed respect to the court and tough on those that did not.

In 1999, Judge Little came under public controversy after his arrest on charges of solicitation for sex of an undercover Pittsburgh city police officer. He denied the allegations and began his defense of the charges. He was eventually cleared of the charges when a Judge from another jurisdiction acquitted him. Although the negative publicity

took its' toll on Judge Little, in the next general election he was re-elected to this seat on the bench, narrowly.

Judge Little presided over a large amount of cases and was a hard working, no nonsense jurist. He was once attacked while sitting on the bench after a defendant became upset with the Judge. During the attack, Judge Little was bitten on the face. Although traumatized, he refused to leave the bench and continued with his caseload that day.

Judge Little also was at odds at times with local police officers, defending attorneys, and at times state prosecutors. Some could not handle his demanding style of adjudicating the law while others understood his deportment and operated in a manner that was in alignment with the wishes of Judge Little. He developed a reputation of tossing out a criminal case if the evidence was not exact. Although he created some enemies, he stood his ground and adjudicated the law in ways that he thought was right despite the opinion of others.

Judge Little's health began to fail as he reached senior status. He continued to preside on the bench, even doing so in a wheelchair as his health worsened. Judge Little resigned from the bench on January 31, 2006. Even in senior status, he continued to work from his office until his death, which occurred in his office.

Judge Little was a devout Catholic and attended the St. Benedict the Moor Church in the Hill District of the city. He was one of several prominent African American leaders that attended the church. The group of leaders would sit at the back of the church and became known as, "the back row guys", as times they would have to leave church for some incident or emergency and did not want to disrupt the church services.

Judge Little served as a long time member to the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also served as a member of the Guardians of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc.. In addition, he served as a Board member of the Sickle Cell Society, Inc..

Judge Little was married to his wife, Elizabeth for many years and the couple had two daughters, Karen and Lisa. He loved to relax by listening to jazz music and giving of his time to his church. After battling prostate cancer, Judge Little died on June 5, 2006 at his desk in his office. Sadly, his brother Anderson Little, an executive producer and host of a public affairs program, "The Anderson Little Report", on local radio WDUQ-FM, died a few hours prior. A third brother, Lee Allen Little had died a few months before in March. The Little family held a funeral for both brothers at the St. Benedict the Moor Church.



## H OSEA T. LOCKARD

...was born on June 24, 1920 in Ripley, Tennessee to Lucille and Emmitt Lockard. He was raised on a farm in Henning, Tennessee along with his three brothers, Albert, Jr.; Emmitt; and Lorenza; and his sister

Lydia. He attended public schools fifty miles away in Memphis, Tennessee, as Ripley did not have any public schools that blacks could attend.

After graduating from high school, Lockard served in the United States Army to fulfill his military duties. He served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. While serving, Lockard was shipped to posts in Italy, France, Germany, and in in North Africa. Completing his military duties, Lockard began his studies at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France before returning to Memphis to enroll into LeMoyne-Owen College where he earned his undergraduate degree.

For his law degree, Lockard applied to Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee. Lockard was denied admission to the law school based upon his race. He then enrolled into Lincoln University's School of Law in in St. Louis, Missouri where he received his law degree in 1950.

Lockard, after obtaining his law degree, returned to Memphis and was admitted to the Tennessee State Bar. He then began to practice law in the state for several years. He became involved with the civil rights issues of Memphis and joined in with the efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In 1955, Lockard became the President of the NAACP's Memphis branch. He served as President for three years. For the Memphis branch, Lockard served on its' Legal Committee.

The Committee took on cases that dealt with desegregation and civil rights of Memphis residents. Lockard took on the case of desegregating the Memphis Street Railway Company, desegregating the University of Memphis, and desegregating public buildings and restaurants. For his work on desegregating Memphis institutions, Lockard was elected to a seat on the Shelby County Commission.

As he became more successful in trying his cases, he was noticed by then Governor Buford Ellington who appointed him to the Governor's cabinet. He was named as an Administrative Assistant to the Governor becoming the first African American member of a Tennessee Governor's cabinet. He served as the Governor's assistant from 1967 to 1971. Lockard also acted as an advisor to then President Lyndon Johnson on matters related to civil rights issues and problems throughout the nation related to race relations.

In 1975, Lockard was elected as a Judge on the Shelby County Criminal Court. He became the first African American to serve on the Court. He would serve on the Court for the next nineteen years. He became active in the local legal community and urged young African American attorneys to "not take their rights and privileges for granted" and to give appreciation to the African American attorneys that paved the way for them to practice their crafts.

In 1994, Judge Lockard suffered a stroke in 1994, which curbed his political and legal activities. He was cared for by his wife of forty-nine years, Ida Walker Lockard. Judge Lockard died on December 12, 2011.



## O LIVER LOFTON

...was born on April 24, 1934 in Neptune, New Jersey to Minnie Lofton (nee Johnson) and Quillie Lofton. Oliver was the youngest of eight children and graduated from the Neptune Township Public Schools before entering

Cheyney University in Cheyney, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Cheyney, summa cum laude, while achieving the highest grade point average in the history of the school.

Lofton then enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he received a Master's Degree in Psychology in 1958. To obtain his law degree, Lofton remained at into Howard University enrolling into the School of Law where he earned his law degree magna cum laude. While in law school at Howard, Lofton served as the Editor of the Law Journal, served as President of the Student Bar Association, and served as a Research Assistant to the law faculty. As a Research Assistant, Lofton participated in the research and the crafted strategies of several civil rights cases that were argued before the United States Supreme Court by legendary Thurgood Marshall and other respected and notable attorneys.

Lofton began his legal career serving as a Special Assistant to then U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy aiding him in the nation's civil rights issues. He then accepted the position as the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. While serving in the office, Lofton successfully prosecuted the infamous espionage case of U.S. v. Butenko. The case involved the indictment of John William Butenko and Igor a. Ivanov on three counts of conspiracy to delivery U.S. secrets to a foreign government. The men were found guilty of the federal charges and Butenko was sentenced to thirty years in a federal prison while Ivanov received twenty years. The case would set the precedent for what would become the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). For his work on the case, Lofton received a commendation from then Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach.

After leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office, Lofton joined the Essex County Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant Prosecutor. After working for a period of time in the Prosecutor's Office, Lofton focused his attention on public service and issues surrounding civil rights. With civil disorder and racial tensions high, there were several cases that Lofton could choose to litigate.

Civil disorder and protest demonstrations were prominent during this time and Lofton volunteered his services to the African American protestors that were arrested for various crimes associated with the civil rights movement. There were protests

aimed a fair, equal, and affordable housing; police brutality; corrupt city government officials; and racial discrimination in the courts. In one case, Lofton represented a taxi driver John Smith who was arrested and rumored killed in custody. Lofton took on the case pro bono.

For his selfless work on behalf of his clients, Lofton, along with U.S. District Judge Dickinson Debevoise, Rutgers professor Annamay Sheppard, and several others, founded the Newark Legal Services Project (NLSP), a free legal services and the first in the nation to represent the poor without compensation. Lofton became the first Administrator to the project. As Administrator, he served as a liaison between then New Jersey Governor Richard Hughes' Office and the various community based organizations in attempts to calm civil rights concerns of the communities and to assist those being arrested for public disorder.

For his dedicated service to the communities of New Jersey, then New Jersey Governor Richard J. Hughes appointed Lofton to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Civil Disorders. Serving on the Commission, Lofton was instrumental in drafting the landmark historical document, "The Final Action Report" submitted to the Governor. The document was used by the Governor to draft new legislation related to civil rights and equal justice under New Jersey law.

Lofton became a close friend, confidant, and advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during King's protest movement for civil rights. Dr. King even performed the wedding ceremony between Lofton and his wife. Lofton continued his pursuit of equal justice and mentored young up and coming attorneys on how to perform best at their jobs as legal representatives to their clients. He served the public needs while engaging in his own private practice cases. Lofton made history, along with New Jersey State Prosecutor Raymond A. Brown, when the argued a case against each other in a New Jersey court. It was the first time in U.S. history that an African American prosecutor argued a case against an African American defense attorney.

Lofton, always-impeccably dressed, operated with a sense of justice and fair play in his legal profession. His keen intellect, both in court and out, and his wit and humor, was pivotal to his success as an attorney. He used these gifted traits to disarm his opponents and bring confidence to those he represented.

For his efforts toward community service, Lofton was the co-founder of the 100 Black Men of New Jersey. He served as the organizations President. He also co-founded the organization of 100 Black Men of America. For the national organization, he served as the organization's Executive Vice-President.

Lofton has received numerous awards and citations during his professional career. The Essex County Bar Association presented him with their, "Professional Achievement Award" and the Essex County Government named him as an "Outstanding citizens of Essex County". Oliver Lofton died on November 22, 2015. He was eighty-one years old.



## BENJAMIN LOGAN

...was born in Dayton, Ohio. His father was a businessman and entrepreneur and at a early age Logan learned the value of hard and dedicated work. At the age of ten, he already had a job as a paperboy for the

Dayton Daily News. His work ethics paid off quickly as he was named Honorable Paperboy of the Year three years in a row when he was 11, 12, and 13 years old.

Logan attended Chaminade High School where he graduated in 1961. He then attended the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio for two years before transferring to the Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio Northern with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting and History in 1968. For his law degree, Logan remained at Ohio Northern enrolling into the law school where he obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1972. Twenty years later, in 1992, the university, years later, would bestow upon Logan, Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law.

In 1972, Logan relocated to Grand Rapids, Michigan where he passed and was admitted to the Michigan Bar. He immediately became involved with local civic and community groups. He became involved with the Urban League and became a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In his first legal job, Logan began working in the City of Grand Rapids with the Legal Aid Society of Kent County. He worked for the Legal Aid Society for two years. He then entered the general arena of private practice.

In 1974, Logan opened his own law firm, Logan and Beason, with a partner. For the next fourteen years, the firm would serve clients in their law issues. Logan developed a following that gave him high marks for how he practiced law. For his efforts, Logan was appointed as a Michigan Civil Rights Referee. He was also named as an American Arbitrator of the Arbitration Association.

In 1987, Logan served on the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Race and Ethnic Bias in the Court. He would serve on the Task Force for two years. During that time, Logan served as a Class Instructor at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Grand Valley State University in Allendale Charter Township, Michigan.

In 1988, Logan was elected to the 61st District Court. He would serve on the Court for a six years term. He became

the first African American to serve as a Judge on the District Court. As a write-in candidate, he was the first write-in candidate to be elected in the history of the Kent County District Court.

Logan was involved in several successful political campaigns. He gave of his time and supported mayoral campaigns, city commission campaigns, county commission campaigns, and school board campaigns. He was involved with judicial candidates who sought office over the years. For the United Negro College Fund of West Michigan, Logan served as its' Chair.

In 1994, while serving his tenure as Judge, Logan served as the chair to the National Bar Association's Judicial Council and chaired the American Bar Association's Judicial Division Task Force on Minorities in the Judiciary. On the bench, in 2002, Logan was named Chief Judge of the 61st District Court. He served as Chief Judge for six years. He also served as a member to the American Bar Association's Minorities in the Profession, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the American Judges Association, and the Michigan District Judges Association.

Over his professional career, Logan would become involved with many associations and organizations including the Gerald R. Ford Boy Scouts Council, the Lion's Club, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, the Press Club, the YMCA, the YWCA, and the University Club.

Logan has been admitted argue cases before the Michigan Bar, the United States District Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, both Western and Eastern Divisions, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the American Bar, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Grand Rapids Bar, the Federal Bar, and the District of Columbia Bar. Logan has served as the President of the Floyd Skinner Bar Association.

Logan is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He has served as the organizations Vice Polemarch, Vice President, Secretary, and is a Board Member. For the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, he served as Sire Archon for the Central Region and sits on their National Board. He has served as a legal advisor and member of the Elks Lodge of Grand Rapids 1029. Logan became a 33 degreed Prince Hall Mason on May 21, 1990.

Logan has received many awards including receiving the NAACP Grand Rapids Chapter's Appreciation Achievement Award for his commitment to equality and justice for Michigan residents. In 1992, Logan was recognized in Congress for his many achievements when the Senate of the United States entered a salutation to Logan that was listed in the 1992 Congressional Record.



## ZEPHANIAH ALEXANDER LOOBY

...was born on April 8, 1899 in Antigua, an island in the West Indies to Grace Elizabeth Joseph Looby and John Alexander Looby. His his mother died when he was five years old while giving birth to a sibling. His father died when he turned fifteen.

As an orphan, in 1914, he moved to the United States. Arriving in the U.S., he worked at any job he could find while all the time reading to educate himself.

Looby began his undergraduate collegiate career by attending Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. In 1922, he graduated with a bachelor's degree. IN 1925, he on earned a law degree from Columbia University in New York City, and later, in 1926, earned his doctorate in jurisprudence from New York University.

With his degree in hand, Looby accepted a position at Fisk University, a historically black college in Nashville, Tennessee, as an Assistant Professor. He took and passed the Tennessee bar exam in July of 1928 and opened his own law practice. Four years later, in 1932, he helped found the Kent College of Law in Nashville, an African-American night school which admitted both men and women. He taught law for the next eight years.

In 1940, Looby made an entrance into politics. Although he lost, he ran for the Nashville City Council. He returned to teaching but eleven years later, in 1951, the Nashville city charter was changed which led to an increased number of blacks registering to vote statewide. Looby ran again for a Council seat and was elected. He was one of the first two African Americans to serve on the Council since 1911.

During his years practicing law, Looby was involved in many civil rights cases. In 1946, he played a role in the defense of several black men charged in the Columbia, Tennessee race riot. The riot began after a physical confrontation between a black veteran and a white man. The white man was injured and rumors circulated that a group of unhappy whites planned to lynch the black man and his mother. African-American veterans and other men in order to defend their community, took up arms. Confusion ensued, the police became involved and a racial disturbance erupted. Police and black veterans and other community residents exchanged gunfire wounding four policemen with buckshot.

The Tennessee State Guard and Highway Patrol were called in to quell the rioting. Having no real plan to control the disturbance, the police entered the black community and commenced to looting black businesses themselves. Hundreds of blacks were arrested. Many were held and questioned without any legal representation. In the pursuing days, the Highway Patrol killed two black men and wounded a third, claiming they were killed in a botched escape attempt.

Looby, Maurice Weaver, a white attorney from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Thurgood Marshall of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) represented those charged with criminal offenses. Twenty-five blacks were charged in the shootings. Looby and the defense team won acquittals for twenty-four of the twenty-five men Charged. For the one man found guilty, his charges were reduced.

In 1954, after segregation of public schools was ruled unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Looby filed a lawsuit in Nashville on behalf of A.Z. Kelley. Kelly's son had been denied admission to a white school. That lawsuit began the school desegregation movement in Nashville.

During the height of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, Looby came to the rescue of students arrested in the Nashville sit-ins protesting segregated restaurants and other public facilities. Because of his legal representation of the students, Looby's house was nearly destroyed by a dynamite bomb. So powerful, the bomb blew out 140 windows at Meharry Medical College nearby. Several students were injured as well.

Despite the bombings and racial hatred, over 2500 students from Fisk University and other protesters marched silently to city hall to confront then Mayor Ben West. They continued their protests for several more months. In May of that year, the lunch counters and other public areas in Nashville were desegregated. Subsequently, 91 students charged "for conspiracy to disrupt trade and commerce," were exonerated.

In his honor, in 1976, Nashville's city government named a new library and community center in Looby's honor. To honor him, the James C. Napier Lawyers Association, in 1978, changed its name to the Napier-Looby Bar Association. He was posthumously awarded membership, in 1982, to the Nashville Bar Association which had previously rejected him In the 1950s on racial grounds.

After a prolonged illness, Looby died on March 24, 1972 at Hubbard Hospital in Nashville. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, ironically a cemetery opened in 1888 as the second cemetery in Nashville designated for for African Americans.





## SAMUEL R. LOWERY

...was born on December 9, 1830 near Nashville, Tennessee to Ruth and Peter Lowery. His mother was a member of the Cherokee Native American Tribe and his father was an American slave. When he was eight years old, his mother died.

Lowery's father worked as a janitor at Franklin College in Tennessee, a short-lived Restoration school founded by Tolbert Fanning. As a young boy, Lowery worked alongside his father at the school. While working, he was able to study under Tolbert Fanning and by the time Lowery was sixteen years old, he was qualified to teach school and did so for four years.

When Lowery was nineteen years old, his father had saved enough money to purchase the family's freedom from their slave master. His father then joined the Church of the Disciples and served as the church's first black preacher. Lowery converted to the church principles and began preaching himself.

In 1856, during the U.S. presidential campaign, the issue of slavery was a political topic talked about by the candidates for President. The debate became contentious and a riot ensued. Poor southern whites and newly arriving immigrants, upset with the growing wealth of several black families, rioted and took their resentment out on the black community, particularly the blacks with having property, education and substance.

The whites destroyed black property and physically attacked prominent members of the black community. The only free black school was ordered shuttered and over two dozen blacks were arrested and jailed during the skirmish. The Lowery's, and other prominent blacks, fearing for their safety, fled to the North.

In 1857, Lowery moved to Cincinnati, Ohio to spread his ministry there. He became the Pastor of the Harrison Street Christian Church in Cincinnati. A year later, he married and moved to Chatham, Ontario in west Canada where he continued his preaching and organizing churches. After three years, he returned to the United States. His father gave him a farm near West Lancaster, Ohio and Lowery settled there.

In 1863, with the issuance and signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lowery travelled to Nashville, Tennessee to spread his gospel to the black soldiers and the freed slaves living in the area. Lowery joined the military and applied for the Chaplain of the 40th United States Colored Troop regiment but was denied the position by Colonel R. K. Crawford, the man in charge of placements. Lowery instead was given a commission as Chaplain to the 9th United States Heavy Artillery U.S. Colored Troops. Lowery also taught the soldiers in the 2nd U.S. Colored Light Artillery U.S. Colored Troops, Battery A.

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Lowery moved his family from his Ohio home to Rutherford County, Tennessee where he continued to spread the word of God. With his father, in 1867, Lowery founded the Tennessee Manual Labor University in Ebenezer,

Tennessee. The school taught agriculture, mechanical arts, and Christian ethics to freed slaves. It was at this school that Lowery began his pursuit of becoming a lawyer.

After five years of operations, the school began to struggle. There were alleged financial improprieties based on a 1872 fundraising campaign that Lowery and Daneil Wadkins, a teacher at the school, conducted in northern states. There was the constant threat of the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists that were not happy with the school educating blacks fearing their education would affect their white superiority. In the end, Lowery and Wadkins were expelled from the church over the alleged misappropriations of funds. Without funds and the ability to raise more funds through their fundraising efforts, in 1874, the school closed. Lowery then moved to Nashville, the place where he was born.

In Nashville, Lowery took the state bar exam, passed and began to practice law in Nashville. Not long thereafter, Lowery moved to Huntsville, Alabama. He was then recommended for admission to the bar association of the Supreme Court by Belva Ann Lockwood, the first woman admitted to the Association. After being accepted, Lowery became the fifth African American attorney to be admitted to the bar association. He would become the first African American to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court as well.

Lowery, by this time, had a ten-year old daughter, Annie, who was a gifted child. After visiting an exhibition by Lewis Theobald on silkworms, she became infatuated with them and convinced her father to purchase silkworm eggs, which he happily did. Annie began to raise silkworms and soon the small project developed into a business. Unfortunately, Annie died a few years later. Lowery decided to continue with the business of raising silkworms.

He met with other silkworm growers and several major silkworm manufacturers across the country to further the business. By 1875, the business was growing at such a rate that Lowery founded the Lowery Industrial Academy to train others about the industry and the Birmingham Silk Culture Company to distribute silkworms. He later founded the S.R. and R.M. Lowery Industrial Silk Culture and Manufacturing Company. He hired local black workers believing they were ideal workers for the industry, as he compared raising silkworms to picking cotton.

In 1879, Lowery became the Editor of the National Freeman in Huntsville. A year later, he established a small cooperative community, Loweryvale, in Jefferson County, Alabama. While establishing other business ventures, Lowery continued to market his silkworm operations and advocating its' use. He travelled the country to educate the population on silk. He attended exhibitions in Louisville, Kentucky; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Omaha, Nebraska where he won awards for his grade of silk. He travelled to Washington, D.C. in an attempt to get federal funding and governmental backing for the industry.

In 1900, Lowery became involved with the National Negro Business League founded by Booker T. Washington as a means to further his outreach for his silk manufacturing operations. Lowery travelled to Boston, Massachusetts to attend meetings held by Washington and supported the organization in their financial needs. Unfortunately, Lowery died that year, however, his silk farming business would continue for several more years.

Photo Not Available



## JANE CLEO MARSHALL LUCAS

... was born in 1920 in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. on a full scholarship where she earned her undergraduate degree graduating in

1941. She obtained a Master of Arts degree in Political Science in 1942 from the University of Michigan's Rackham School of Graduate Studies in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In the fall semester of 1942, Lucas graduated from the Michigan School of Law with her law degree as the first African American woman to graduate from the law school. She took and passed the Michigan bar exam that year as well.

In her first professional job Lucas took a job was in the law office of Arthur Davis Shores, the only African American attorney practicing in Alabama at that time. Due to racial bias, she was not able to take the Alabama State Bar exam and decided to leave Alabama moving to Fairmont Height, Maryland. She took the Maryland State Bar exam and became the first African American woman to pass the Maryland State Bar in 1946.

After passing the Maryland State Bar, Lucas joined the faculty of Howard University's Law School. She was the first full-time African American woman to become a member of the University's law faculty. She served as a Professor of Law for four years before leaving the school in 1950. Lucas and her husband left Washington, D.C. to move to Staten Island, New York. In New York, Lucas accepted a position working for the Labor Department's Women's Division. She later left the Women's Division to work for the Civil Rights Commission before moving to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission back in Washington, D.C..

Lucas would be honored as the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Michigan's Law School by the law school when it created the Jane Cleo Marshall Lucas Committee for Jurisprudence and Activism Award to be presented to deserving women. The first woman honored by the Committee was Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals where she spoke on the need for more diversity in the judicial system.





## JOHN GRAY LUCAS

...was born on March 11, 1864 in Marshall, Texas. His mother Betty was a single mom and moved her family away from Marshall to Pine Bluff, Arkansas when he was young. Lucas attended public schools in Pine Bluff before entering the

Branch Normal College of Arkansas Industrial University, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. After only a few months before graduating from the school, he left the University to work in the merchandising industry to support himself. It would be two years before he returned to school to complete his undergraduate studies to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1884.

Lucas then moved to Boston, Massachusetts to attend Boston University's School of Law where he earned his law degree in 1887. He was the only African American law student from a class of fifty-two. He was one of only seven students that graduated with honors.

After graduating from law school, Lucas chose to return to Pine Bluff where he felt the life was better for African Americans that that they lived in Boston. While in law school, in 1886, he was interviewed by the Boston Daily Globe newspaper and asked about the living conditions of blacks in Arkansas. He happily told the newspaper reporter that in Pine Bluff, three of the eight City Councilmen were African American, the County Coroner was African American, and the County Circuit Clerk was African American. Nearly half of the local police force was African American and most of the local Justices of the Peace were African American.

Lucas went on to tell the reporter that in Pine Bluff, African Americans could serve on juries and that an African American owned Pine Bluff's principal streetcar system. In addition, there was no distinction of race in Arkansas public transportation system, which was not the case in Boston. He left the reporter with the question of why more blacks did not leave Boston to move to Pine Bluff, which gave them a better opportunity to better themselves in a professional manner.

Back in Pine Bluff, Lucas passed the Arkansas State Bar exam with a perfect score and began to practice law. He took a job as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney serving

Pine Bluff and Jefferson Counties. He was then appointed as the Commissioner for the U.S. Circuit Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas by then Judge H.C. Caldwell. He was also elected to the Republican State and County Central Committees as well as the Republican Eleventh Judicial District Central Committee.

In 1890, Lucas was elected to the Arkansas General Assembly as a State Representative serving Jefferson County. He was one of only twelve African American state legislatures during a time when there was a wave of new racism spreading across Arkansas. As a new member of the General Assembly, Lucas made an immediate impact when he gave an eloquent address to Assembly members asking them to oppose a proposed segregationist "Separate Coach" bill that would mandate racial segregation on Arkansas's railroads. Despite his plea, the measure easily passed due to the white Democratic majority rule in the Assembly.

A fluent debater, Lucas did win the support of some white Democrats for his fired speech. Both the Arkansas Gazette and the Arkansas Democrat, the state's two most important Democratic newspapers, gave praise to him for his brilliant representation of the African American cause. Although he personally was given accolades for his passionate call for justice, the Arkansas General Assembly adopted several measures that effectively disfranchised the majority of African American voters and virtually removed all African Americans from all public state offices during the next four years.

In 1893, Lucas relocated to Chicago, Illinois and established a law practice there. Having great success in Arkansas, his office occupied a spacious suite in downtown Chicago's loop. He would build a lucrative practice gaining a reputation as an extremely talented criminal attorney. He argued cases before the United States Supreme Court on four different occasions.

In 1934, Lucas was appointed by then President Franklin D. Roosevelt as an Assistant U.S. Attorney of Cook County. He would hold that position for the remainder of his life. As the Republican Party began to change with more supremacist whites becoming members, Lucas and other African Americans switched parties joining the Democrats.

Lucas then served as the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the city of Chicago. He also became the first African American Assistant Recorder of Deeds in Cook County. Over the next several years, Lucas' law practice and his business acumen made him a millionaire.

John Gray Lucas died on October 27, 1944. He was eighty years old.





## CHOKWE LUMUMBA

...was born as Edwin Finley Taliaferro on August 2, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan to Priscilla and Lucien Taliaferro. He was the second of eight children and attended local Catholic schools graduating from St. Theresa High School. In high school, Lumumba served as the President of the Student Council and was the Captain

of the school's football team.

As a young man growing up in Detroit, Taliaferro was witness to both police brutality and community activism. His mother collected money for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee by standing on street corners soliciting funds. He himself became involved in activism when he, while a student at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, took part, the day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, in occupying a university building to protest King's assassination and for the lack of African Americans on the faculty of the University.

After high school, Taliaferro entered Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan graduating in 1969 majoring in Political Science. While at Kalamazoo, he formed the Black United Front, a movement that advocated for more African American studies in Mid-western higher educational institutions. That year, Taliaferro changed his name to Chokwe Lumumba. He took the name Chokwe from the Chokwe people of Central Africa that historically had resisted slavery. The name Lumumba was taken from the assassinated leader of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba.

In 1971, Lumumba was elected as the Second Vice President of the Republic of New Africa, (RNA) which was a newly formed African American nationalist organization. The organization moved the capital of the provisional government to a farm in Hinds County, Mississippi and Lumumba moved as well. The RNA claimed the site as territory to build a new country having black majority rule.

After arriving in Mississippi, Lumumba was appointed as the President of the RNA and served as the Minister of Justice succeeding William E. Miller Jr.. After establishing the farm, Lumumba returned to Detroit to obtain his law degree from Wayne State University Law School graduating in 1975 cum laude. While at Wayne State, he created the Malcolm X Center and worked alongside other African American attorneys in the Detroit Public Defenders Office.

In 1978, Lumumba formed his own law firm in Detroit and soon was representing sixteen inmates charged with rioting and murder at a prison in Pontiac, Illinois. He was successful in his defense of the charged inmates. In another case, Lumumba represented Cynthia Boston, better known as Fulani Sunni Ali, a member of a revolutionary group that had been charged in a Brink's robbery case and held on a \$500,000 bond. He was initially barred from representing Ali due to his association with the NRA. There came national protests for his barring from legal groups, which allowed Lumumba to be appointed as Ali's legal counsel.

Lumumba worked on the case of Geronimo Pratt, a decorated military veteran and member of the Black Panther Party who served twenty-seven years in prison for the alleged kidnapping and murder of schoolteacher, Caroline Olsen. Pratt would eventually be released from prison and his sentence was vacated after it was discovered that the prosecutor in the case had withheld evidence that would have affected Pratt's verdict. During that time, there were more and more African American activists being imprisoned due to mandatory sentencing guidelines of which Lumumba fought to overturn.

In September of 1987, Lumumba was invited to give an address at a conference held at the Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The conference was sponsored by the National Conference of Black Lawyers, as the co-founder of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, Lumumba led a discussion on the constitutional neglect and the needs of the enslaved. A year later, he found himself back in Jackson, Mississippi but was not granted the right to practice law in Mississippi until three years later.

As a lawyer, Lumumba became a public defender with the City of Jackson representing indigent citizens. Several years later, he sued the municipality wanting his contract as a public defender voided. He lost an important case against a local police officer and found himself reprimanded publicly by the Mississippi Bar Association for his representation in the case. He was found in contempt of court by the judge and although he appealed the contempt order, the Mississippi Supreme Court upheld the order and Lumumba was forced to spend three days in the county jail. His also lost his license to practice law in Mississippi for six months.

In 2009, with the help of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Lumumba was elected to a seat on the Jackson City Council representing Ward Two. While sitting on the City Council, he served as the Chairman of the New African Peoples Organization and co-sponsored a rally held in Washington D.C. with the theme of, "Occupy the Justice Department". The following year, he gave an address in Atlanta, Georgia to the New Black Panther Party in civil and community activism. He then helped the Mississippi Public Broadcasting agency in its' anti-school dropout campaign aimed at young students.

In 2013, Lumumba mad a run for Mayor of Jackson as a Democrat. He forced a primary runoff against Jonathan Lee with incumbent Harvey Johnson, Jr. being omitted from the race. In the runoff, Lumumba defeated Lee winning by over three thousand votes, including winning more votes in white wards than his opponent. He was sworn in as the Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi on July 1, 2013. The following day, Lumumba drew criticism when he questioned the significance of Christopher Columbus as the discoverer of the United States.

Lumumba served as Mayor for only a short period of time. On February 25, 2014, at the age of 66, he died unexpectedly and complaining of a cold. It was reported that he died from a heart attack but many believed he was killed and the circumstances surrounding his death were questioned as the coroner refused to perform an autopsy. Three years later, in the 2017 general election, Lumumba's son, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, also a lawyer and a partner in his father's law firm, would win the mayoral election and take the seat his father once occupied, although for only several months.





## CHOKWE ANTAR LUMUMBA

...is the son of community activist Nubia Lumumba and Chokwe Lumumba, a former Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 2005 from Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. While at

Tuskegee, Lumumba served as the President the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society and as President of the Tuskegee Political Science Association. He also represented the institution as a member of Tuskegee's national Bio-Ethics Debate Team and was honored as the 2005 Gwendolyn M. Patton Student Scholar Activist. Lumumba obtained his law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University majoring in Sports and Entertainment Law.

After completing his law degree requirements, in 2008, Lumumba returned to Jackson, Mississippi and began his legal career working as a Junior Associate at his father's law firm, Lumumba, Freelon, & Associates. Within a year, he was promoted to managing attorney and held responsibilities of the firm's daily operations. In addition, Lumumba handled his own challenging caseload.

Lumumba litigated several criminal and civil cases and represented various sports and entertainment clients for the law firm. He performed numerous pro bono cases and became a member of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, an organization began by his father. He would eventually become the managing partner of Lumumba & Associates, his own law firm that was dedicated to the needs of the community.

Lumumba would become a founding member of the Mississippi Human Rights Collective and was a co-organizer of the "Stand Up to Take It Down" rally held at the state capitol in Jackson to support the removal of the Confederate battle emblem from the Mississippi state flag. Lumumba was also the co-author of "The People's Platform" and served as the media representative of the Coalition for Economic Justice.

In 2017, Lumumba was elected as the Mayor of Jackson at the age of thirty-four. The young Lumumba won the seat as Mayor winning 94% of the casted votes and takes his seat on July 3, 2017. His father had served as the May-

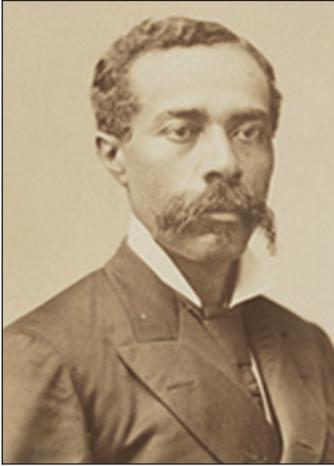
or only a few years before dying unexpectedly under questionable circumstances.

The elder Lumumba died less than a year after being elected as the Mayor of Jackson. On February 25, 2014, at the age of 66, he died unexpectedly and complaining of a cold. It was reported that he died from a heart attack but many believed he was killed and the circumstances surrounding his death were questioned as the coroner refused to perform an autopsy.

Many questioned the untimeliness of the elder Lumumba's death, including Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan and the National Conference of Black Lawyers who offered to pay for an independent autopsy. Despite their offer, Mississippi Hinds County coroner, Sharon Grisham-Stewart, refused to conduct an autopsy insisting that the elder Lumumba had died of a heart attack, a natural cause. Not satisfied, then County Supervisor, Kenny Stokes, made newspaper and broadcast news headlines when he himself asked, "Who killed the Mayor".

The younger Lumumba, during his run to take over his father's seat as the Mayor did not comment publicly on the rumors, instead choosing to focus on continuing his father's legacy. He ran a mayoral campaign making it clear that he was not running on his father's name but on his own credentials and he was committed to the needs of the people and the city of Jackson.

Lumumba was selected to serve on a Board created to look into the challenges of the Farish Street Development project. He also was selected to represent and protect the election of the first black sheriff in Hinds County. Lumumba is a member of Free Christian Ministries and serves the ministry in a leadership position and is married to Ebony Lumumba. Together, they have one daughter, Alake' Maryama.



## JOHN ROY LYNCH

...was born into slavery on September 10, 1847 on the Tacony Plantation located near Vidalia, Concordia Parish, Louisiana to Catherine White and Patrick Lynch. His mother was of mixed race and his father was an Irish immigrant and the overseer on the plantation. At that

time, any child born of a mixed race woman was considered a slave. Although officially a slave, Catherin and Patrick lived together in a common law marriage. Together they had four children, all boys.

Lynch's father had made arrangements to purchase the freedom of his mother and his brothers but before the transaction was completed, the owner of the Tacony Plantation sold it and Patrick lost his job as an overseer. Without the income, Patrick could was not able to pay the \$1,000 necessary bond required by the Louisiana State Legislature and the Emancipation Court for the freedom of his wife and children. The number of manumissions was restricted as well and Patrick was not able to obtain the freedom for his family. Heart broken and without money, Patrick died two years later. John Roy was only two years old.

Before his death, Patrick made arrangement with a friend, William G. Deal who worked on the plantation, to take title of his family as a way of protecting them. Unfortunately, Deal sold the family to Alfred Vidal Davis, a farmer from Natchez, Mississippi. The family was moved to Natchez. Learning of the agreement Patrick had made with Deal, new owner Davis allowed the family to stay together although he did hire out Lynch's mother to help her save money to buy her freedom. She was able to save enough to do so, however, by 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was passed and the entire family obtained their freedom. Lynch, by that time, was sixteen years old.

With his new freedom, Lynch was able to find work as a photographer's helper. A gifted and crafty learner, it was not long before he was running the entire photographic operations. He even oversaw the financial records of the company. While working at the photo shop, Lynch took night classes taught by Northern ex-abolitionist.

Not liking the Northern teachers teaching blacks any type of education, they were soon run out of Mississippi by white supremacist. Lynch studied by reading newspapers and books. He even eavesdropped at a nearby school, hiding by an open window, to further his education.

By 1867, at the age of twenty, Lynch had become active in the Republican Party and attended the state convention. He listened and learned as politicians argued over a new Constitution.

Taking what he understood from the convention he applied to his local community.

In 1869, Lynch was appointed by then Military Governor Adelbert Ames as the Natchez Justice of the Peace. That same year, he was elected, as a Republican, to the Mississippi State Legislature at the age of twenty-two. He was re-elected again the following year. In 1872, Lynch was elected as the Speaker of the House. He became the first African American to serve as Speaker of any House of Representative in the United States.

In 1872, Lynch was elected to the U.S. Congress representing Mississippi's 6th District. He was the youngest member to serve at that time. He would be the only African American elected to represent Mississippi for a century to come.

In 1877 at the conclusion of Reconstruction and federal troops withdrew from the South as a whole, Lynch began to publish four books. His writings centered on the political atmosphere in the Deep South during and after Reconstruction. His best writing, "The Facts of Reconstruction" wasn't published until 1913. In the book, he took the opposing viewpoints of white historian and conservative Dunning School, who chose to ignore the many contributions and achievements of African Americans during the Reconstruction Era. Lynch instead highlighted those achievements despite the suffrage they endured during that time.

In 1880, he was re-elected again to serve but not without a fight. It was discovered that more than 5,000 votes had been credited to his opponent and other ballots had been discarded claiming smudged or inaccurate filings. Lynch took his case before the Committee on Elections who awarded him his seat in the House.

In 1884, Lynch was nominated by future President Theodore Roosevelt as the Temporary Chairman of the 1884 Republican National Convention held in Chicago, Illinois. He was the first African American to lead a national convention. He remained a member of the National Committee for five years.

In 1889, Lynch was named as an Auditor of the Treasury to the Department of Navy. He served in that capacity for four years. He then returned to Mississippi where he took and passed the state bar. The following year, he returned to Washington, D.C. and opened his own law firm.

In 1898, the Spanish American war broke out and Lynch joined the fray by enlisting into the United States Army. Entering the Army, he was commissioned as a Captain before being promoted to Major. Then President William McKinley promoted him as the Paymaster over the troops serving in the United States, Cuba, and the Philippines. He served in the war for almost a decade.

After leaving the military in 1911, Lynch moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resumed his legal career and became involved in real estate. He married for the second time to Cora Williams, after having divorced his first wife, Ella Sommerville, with whom he had one daughter. Williams and Lynch would remain in Chicago until his death.

John Roy Lynch died on November 2, 1939. He was ninety-two years old.



## LORETTA ELIZABETH LYNCH

...was born on May 21, 1959, in Greensboro, North Carolina to Lorraine Harris Lynch and Lorenzo Lynch. Her mother was a librarian and her father a Baptist preacher.

Being raised in a household directly involved in the Civil Rights Movement, she spent hours in the Durham, North Carolina courthouse watching court proceedings with her father.

From those court proceedings, Lynch learned about the atrocities of the racist Jim Crow laws of the time. She witnessed unfair prosecutions and her interest in the law was compounded by stories of her grandfather, a sharecropper and pastor in the 1930s, who helped people escape southern discrimination and move to the northern United States.

After completing her high school studies, Lynch was accepted to Harvard College in 1981 earning a Bachelor of Arts in English and American Literature. She elected to continue her education at Harvard earning her Juris Doctor at the Harvard Law School in 1984. She became a member of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a chartering member of the Xi Tau chapter.

After passing the bar, Lynch's first legal job was with the law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel in New York City as a Litigation Associate. In 1990, she joined the U.S. Attorney's Office's Eastern District as a drug and violent-crime prosecutor. She served as Chief of the Long Island office from 1994 to 1998 handling several political corruption cases involving the government of Brookhaven, New York. She was the Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District Brooklyn office from 1998 to 1999.

President Bill Clinton, in 1999, nominated her to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. While there, Lynch oversaw the successful prosecutions of several New York City police officers in the Abner Louima abuse case. Lynch left the U.S. Attorney's office in 2001, becoming a partner at Hogan & Hartson (later Hogan Lovells), a multinational law firm co-headquartered in London and Washington, D.C.. During that time, Lynch also served on the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

In January of 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Lynch to serve once again as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. While there, Lynch has seen her fair share of high profile prosecution cases. She has overseen the prosecutions of Republican Congressman Michael Grimm and Democratic politicians Pedro Espada Jr. and William Boyland, Jr.. She investigated Citigroup over mortgage securities sold by the bank which resulted in a \$7 billion settlement by Citigroup. She was also involved in Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited's (HSBC) \$1.2 billion settlement over violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.

Lynch, while US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York has also supervised the investigation into senior FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) officials and their operations. Culminating in a 47-count indictment, fourteen senior FIFA officials and other sports marketing executives were brought to task. As gratitude for the work she performed in the FIFA case, Lynch, at a sold-out Highline Ballroom in New York City, was presented with the 3rd Annual "Golden Blazer" award given by soccer Roger Bennett and Michael Davies. The "Golden Blazer" is awarded annually to a person who has dedicated themselves to advancing the sport of soccer in the United States of America. All award recipients are voted on at a conclave of past winners.

In July of 2014, Lynch met with the family of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man who had died after being held in a choke hold by a New York City police officer. A choke hold is a police arresting procedure prohibited by federal guidelines. She wanted to discuss with the family any federal prosecution procedures possible that might hold the officers accountable.

In November of 2014, President Barack Obama nominated Lynch to succeed Eric Holder as the United States Attorney General. Confirmed by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 26, 2015, she was approved by the overall Senate on April 23 with a 56-43 vote to become the first African-American woman to hold the Office. She was the second African-American to hold the office after Holder, the first. She was the second woman to hold the office with Janet Reno being the first. Although ultimately confirmed, Lynch's nomination process was one of the longest in the history of the United States, taking 166 days to complete.

Lynch is happily married to Stephen Hargrove and has two stepchildren from Hargrove's previous marriage.





## JUDSON WHITLOCKE LYONS

...was born on August 15, 1860 in Burke County, Georgia. As a young boy, during the Reconstruction period, he worked on a farm, and along with another friend, they taught

themselves how to read. They used borrowed textbooks and would quiz each other while performing their chores.

Lyons' studies and hard work paid off as he earned enough money and had enough aptitude to enroll into the Augusta Institute in Augusta, Georgia. After graduating high school, Lyons entered the Atlanta Baptist College in Stockbridge, Georgia where he received his undergraduate degree in 1879. To pay his way through college, he taught at a night school teaching African-American women who wanted to pursue a higher education.

A year later, at the age of twenty, Lyons was selected to serve as a member of the Republican National Convention. He was the youngest to serve as a Delegate to the Convention at that time. He then moved north to Washington, D.C. to enter the Howard University School of Law where in 1884, he earned his law degree.

While earning his law degree at Howard, Lyons worked for the United States Internal Revenue Service. After completing his course studies at Howard, he returned to Georgia, took and passed the Georgia State Bar exam. In passing the bar exam, Lyons became the first African American attorney to pass the Georgia state bar.

Lyons became involved with the politics of Georgia. Aware of the civil strife and the racial discord and the fight for white supremacy, he became an outspoken critic of issues involving civil rights. He was a gifted orator and spoke often about the ills facing black Americans. He joined the Georgia Republican Party and soon ascended to become the Party's leader. He attended the Republican state and national conventions and served as a member of the Republican National Committee.

In 1898, Lyons was appointed by then United States President William McKinley as the Register of the Treasury. He was the second African-American to be named as Register, the first being Blanche Kelso Bruce. As the Register of the Treasury, Lyons became one of the highest-ranking African-Americans to serve in the United States government at that time, as it was his signature that

appeared authenticating U.S. currency, bonds, and treasury notes. He served at the Treasury until 1906.

Leaving the Treasury, Lyons left Washington, D.C. returning to Augusta, Georgia where he became the President of Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. Founded by Lucy Craft Laney, the high school served African American students at a time when there were not many schools for African Americans to attend. The chartered school held classes beginning in Kindergarten through Junior College.

Judson Whitlocke Lyons died on June 22, 1924. He was sixty-four years old.



## LUTIE LYTLE

...was born in Murfreesboro, Tennessee to two former slaves, John R. and Mary Ann "Mollie" (Chesebro) Lytle in 1882 during the U.S. Reconstruction Era. As a result of the mass migration of African-Americans from the "South", the Lytle family

moved to Topeka, Kansas.

Lytle's father worked several jobs before opening his own barber shop with the help of his son, Charles Clayton Lytle. Both became active in local politics as members of the Populist Party. John Lytle once ran for the position of Topeka City Jailor. Charles Lytle became a Chief of Detective with the Topeka Police, a Field Deputy in the Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office, and a Deputy Sheriff of Shawnee County, Kansas. Charles also owned a drug store in Topeka.

Lutie Lytle graduated from Topeka High School being described as an "apt pupil." Her father, John who was actively involved in politics wanted "something good" for Lutie. When the Populist Party swept into power in Kansas in 1891, John used his influence and got sixteen-year-old Lutie appointed as the Assistant Enrolling Clerk for the Kansas Populist controlled legislature.

While working in the legislature, Lytle wrote articles for the local African-American newspaper and worked as a compositor in the newspaper's printing plant. She read countless newspaper articles and came to realize the fact that for blacks, they were victims of legal ignorance. She vowed to study and work to correct this imbalance.

From her saved earnings, Lytle moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee to teach school. She then enrolled into Central Tennessee College in Nashville, Tennessee and in 1897 graduated as Valedictorian. Along with her Certificate of Graduation, she was given a Diploma that allowed her to practice law before any court in the state of Tennessee including the Criminal Court of Nashville.

In September of 1897, Lytle returned to Topeka. Opening a law practice there made her the first African American woman admitted to practice law in the state of Kansas. In 1898, she relocated back to Tennessee to become a faculty member of Central Tennessee College's law school's Faculty. This position made Lytle the first woman in the

United States to be a part of any law school faculty. She taught for one session, the spring of 1899.

For the next two years, Lytle traveled across the country delivering lectures on "Marriage and Divorce" ultimately landing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she met and married Alfred Cohan, a successful lawyer from New York. Now Lutie Lytle-Cowan, she moved to New York, passed the state bar exam and joined her husband's practice.

Lytle-Cowan became active in cultural and civic events in her Brooklyn, NY Neighborhood. She became the President of the Women's Civic Alliance and led protests against attacks on "the womanhood of the city." She gave talks to church congregations, women's groups, including the National Association of Colored Women, and participated in programs designed to help the plight of black women in America.

One of her most remembered stances was against the Editor of a small "colored" newspaper that had written an editorial that stated that, "the colored women of New York City were mainly responsible for the immoral conditions of the city." Lytle-Cowan, by now, the President of the Women's Civic Alliance led a protest against that attack on the womanhood of women in the city. The Editor made an attempt to defend himself and his writings but Lytle-Cowan was not satisfied. She instead pointed out that while there was truth that some women conducted "houses of ill repute", it was also true that those establishments were open and maintained at the behest and patronage of men. She declared that when women stood on street corners for men and it was done at the pleasure of men, noting that some of the men were of "moral character and conduct". Her suggestion was for the men of the city to set a higher standard for themselves to go by and not spend their time dragging women down, which would improve the conditions.

Lytle went on to become the first black woman to become a member of the National Bar Association, a professional organization for African American attorneys. She and her husband were the first married couple to participate as attorneys in the organization as well. Her husband died suddenly on September 1913. Lytle took over his practice and continued as a sole proprietor practicing law.

In 1916, upon her second marriage to the Reverend Stephen Alexander McNeill, a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Lytle gave up practicing law. After his death in 1934, not much is known about Lutie Lytle's life. She returned to Brooklyn, NY, served on a few political committees including the "Brooklyn Day" committee. It is not known exactly when she died, but it is thought to be in 1950.





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